

# Sunday School Lesson For Sunday, May 6

By Dr. Paul Caudill

Topic: "The Hebrew Monarchy at Its Height"  
 Readings: I Kings 9:1-7, 26; 10:26-28

There is perhaps no more interesting study of monarchies in the history of the world than that of the Hebrew nation. At its height there was a glory and splendor seldom beheld in the life of a nation. The first king of Israel was Saul, chosen by the people, a man of striking appearance, fine physique, and comely



dom on a firm foundation, he prepared the way for the building of the Temple by Solomon, his son. The hand of David was felt by Israel as the hand of the potter is felt by the clay. It was for Solomon, however, to engage in the actual construction of the Temple. It was for him to realize the fulfillment of the desire that inhered in his father, David.

**A Hallowed Achievement**  
 The building of the Temple by Solomon was indeed a hallowed achievement. The event from beginning to end was consecrated unto the will of God and unto his glory and was surrounded by constant manifestations of his grace. It is said that in the building operations 150,000 Palestinians were employed. The workers were employed in relays. It has been estimated that the total cost of the undertaking may have amounted to the equivalent of more than a half billion dollars of our money. Even the foundations of Solomon's own house were of "costly stones." The work went forward under the assistance of Hiram of Tyre, and the work throughout was wrought by hands of expert craftsmen. Gold and silver and all manner of precious stones were manifest throughout the Temple in great abundance. It is too bad that the ravages of time have made it impossible for this magnificent piece of handiwork, dedicated unto the glory of God, to be available for posterity. For, undoubtedly, it represents one of the greatest achievements, from a material standpoint, on the part of the children of Israel throughout their long history.

"And Jehovah said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there forever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually." It has been a holy undertaking. The enterprise had been surrounded by an halo of divine presence from the beginning.

**A Holy Covenant**  
 Upon the completion of the building of the house of Jehovah and the king's house, Jehovah appeared to Solomon the second time. "As he had appeared unto him at Gibeon." "And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and will keep my statutes and mine ordinances, then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom over Israel forever, according as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fall thee a man upon the throne of Israel. But if ye shall turn afar from following me, ye or your children . . . then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a by-word among all peoples."

Someone, in reading this passage recently, commented, "You can just see in reading this what has happened. The Temple was destroyed." Yes, like in many other passages of the holy Scriptures, there has been fulfillment of divine promise unto the uttermost. God had promised Abraham that he would bless him and bless

## Serves in Germany



Cpl. Willard A. (Bill) Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Davis, of Wilkesboro, writes from Germany that he is getting along fine and often thinks of his friends and relatives back in North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro. Davis is shown at left.

his children, but they in turn were to be a blessing; they, too, had a mission to perform. The blessings were to be two-way. There are so many people in life who desire to enjoy divine blessings without giving anything in return. They desire to reap but are unwilling to sow. As in the story of the little red hen, there are plenty of individuals who are willing to eat the bread providing they do not have to share in its production. Jehovah had wondrous things in store for Israel, but Israel had a charge to keep. If those blessings were to be enjoyed.

**Wealth and Splendor**  
 The royal bounty of Solomon was almost beyond human comprehension. We are told that the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was "six hundred threescore and six talents, besides that which the traders brought, and the traffic of the merchants, and of all the kings of the mingled people, and of the governors of the country." There was the great throne of ivory overlaid with finest of gold; and all the king's drinking vessels were of gold, "and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold." None of them were of silver. Moreover, the king had at sea a navy of Tarshish with the navy of Hiram and "once every three years came the navy of Tarshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks." In the words of the ancient writer, "so King Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom."

Of his chariots and horsemen, one might almost say they were without end. Twelve thousand there were of horsemen that he bestowed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem. "And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he to be as the sycamore-trees that are in the lowland, for abundance." Such munificence would have excited the vanity of any oriental monarch. Indescribable splendor reigned on every hand. Even the queen of Sheba was lured to his court by the report of Solomon's fame. And she came "to prove him with hard questions."

**Broken Vows**  
 It would have been wonderful had Solomon possessed the strength of character with which to have remained steadfast in his relationship with God. But he did not. The covenant between him and the Lord was soon forgotten; it was snapped by the pressure of his sinful doings as a reed in a whirlwind. "For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not perfect with Jehovah his god, as was the heart of David his father." Jehovah had expressly forbidden the children of Israel from mingling with the "foreign women." He had warned the people that their hearts would be turned away from the true God by such associations. Nevertheless, "Solomon clave unto these in love."

With the turning of Solomon's heart away from Jehovah in violation of divine command, words of ringing condemnation came from Jehovah forthright, "Wherefore Jehovah said unto Solomon, For as much as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant."

Even so, those of our own days who fall to live in accord with divine command will find, sooner or later, themselves confronted by the stern judgments of a just and righteous God. The wages of sin is death. It has ever been so; it ever will be.

Cattle can get tuberculosis from man. Knowledge of the kind of TB a human patient has is helpful to veterinarians in tracing the source of infection when healthy cattle become tubercular.

## I Speak for God

My message is not my own but God's. I preach the Bible, God's Book. I beg men to accept His authority, seek His will, and go His way.

My preaching assumes that man is a moral being; he can choose right—he is responsible for doing evil. He can be persuaded to act. HE CAN CHOOSE GOD.

I do not induce awe by the pageantry of a ritualistic service, nor do I threaten with the power of an ecclesiastical system. I appeal for a decision of the will based on an enlightened mind.

- I convince men of
- The folly of sin
  - The wisdom of godliness
  - The love of God

- I implore men everywhere to
- Turn from sin
  - Turn to God
  - Accept His pardon offered through Christ

Necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel.—1 Cor. 9:16



It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.—1 Cor. 1:21

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## SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

Under and by virtue of an order of the Superior Court of Wilkes county, made in the special proceeding entitled W. A. Bauguess, executor of the estate of Mattie Bauguess vs. W. A. Bauguess, J. J. Rhymer et als, the same being No. — upon the special proceeding docket of said Court, the undersigned Commissioner will, on the 21st day of May, 1945, at 12 o'clock, Noon, at the courthouse door in Wilkesboro, North Carolina, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash that certain tract of land lying and being in North Wilkesboro township, Wilkes county, North Carolina, adjoining the lands of Boyd Daniels and others, and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at a stake on the east side of the Mulberry road 75 feet northwardly from W. W. Spear's corner, running eastwardly parallel with Spear's line 140 feet to a stake; thence north 4 degrees east 100 feet to a stake; thence south 89 deg. west 140 feet to a stake on the bank of the Mulberry road 175 feet north of Spear's corner; thence southwardly along the east side of Mulberry road 100 feet to the point of beginning, and being lots numbers 9 and 10 and fronting 100 feet on the Mulberry road and of that width running eastwardly 140 feet as shown on the Map of Fairplains Development Co.

This 20th day of April, 1945.  
 J. H. WHICKER,  
 Commissioner

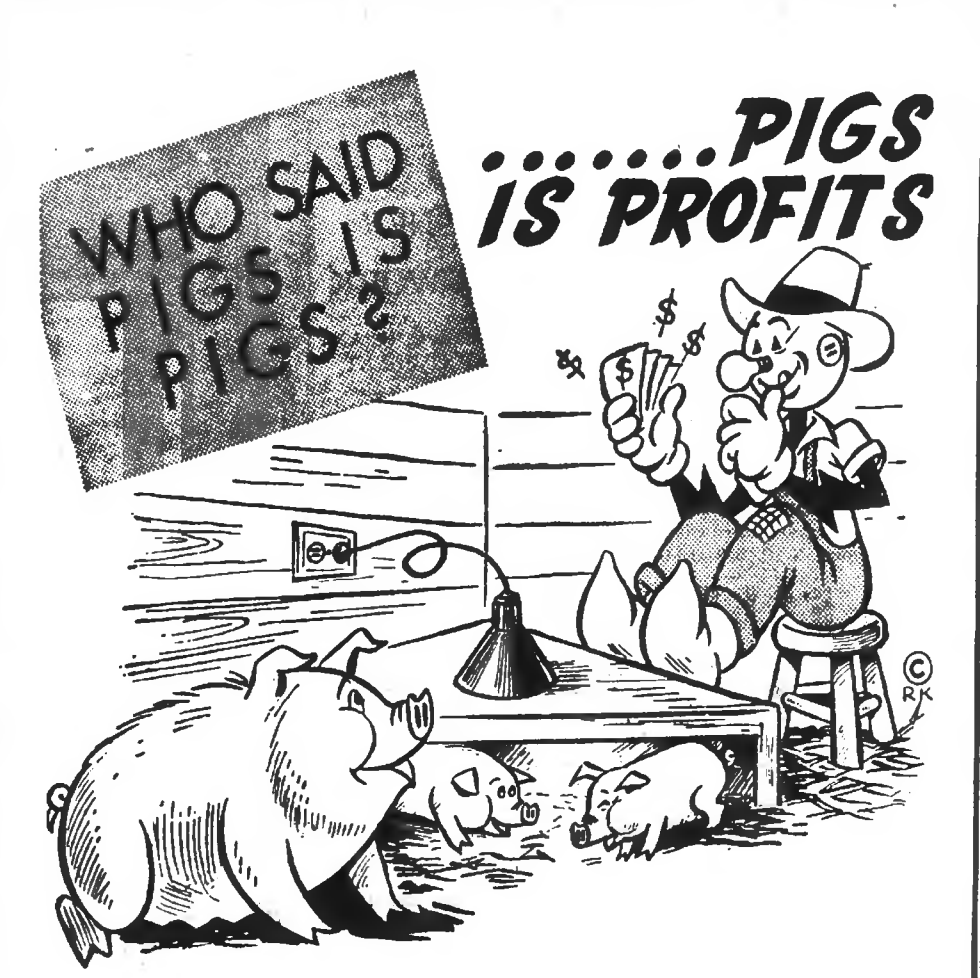
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