

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON



SUBJECT: The New Covenant
October 11, 1981

LESSON
In Days To Come
To Each His Own
A New and Improved Covenant

Jeremiah 31:27, 28
Jeremiah 31:29, 30
Jeremiah 31:31-34

Background Scripture
Jeremiah, Chaps. 30-31

LESSON BACKGROUND

Jeremiah has been known as the "weeping prophet" because he is thought to be the writer of the book of Lamentations, but he was also a prophet of hope. When he was called by God to prophesy Judah was in a state of political and religious crisis: the Assyrians had conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C. but Jeremiah lived to witness their collapse. Now the Babylonians dominated Judah, and were about ready to destroy Jerusalem.

The prophet Jeremiah appeared on the scene when King Josiah was in the process of leading a reform movement: he urged the people at God's command to surrender to Babylon in order to save their own lives as well as the destruction of the city. As a result of his action he was considered a traitor. He was confronted with succeeding kings thereafter, especially when he was led by the Spirit of God to describe His judgment on the people for their wickedness.

Verses 15-20 of this chapter, the Lord is seen comforting His children. Rachel pictured as weeping because her children, Joseph and Benjamin, had been carried away captive. She symbolized all parents who had been separated from their children. Then Jeremiah revealed his dream about hearing Ephraim (the Northern tribe) repenting to God. Jeremiah realized that his behavior was embarrassing to himself, so he beat on his thighs as a sign of distress. Verse 20 shows God's compassion on His chosen people.

Amid the bleakness of this period, Jeremiah issued the welcome news that God would some day supplant the Sinai Covenant with an inner covenant of the heart.

LESSON EXPLAINED

Jeremiah announces God's promise of a new day, revealing a sovereign God who created all things according to His will. And a God who may also destroy in Holy wrath when people disobey His will. The new covenant blessings to Israel still await fulfillment until the future reign of the Messiah. Among other things God promised to build up and restore land. The promise includes a renewal of fertility and productivity in the land of Palestine during the Kingdom age and the reign of the Messiah. (Ezek. 34:27; Joel 3:18).

Sinful Jews had put the blame for their harsh circumstances onto their ancestors refusing to accept blame; but verse 30 says that everyone shall die for his own iniquity. (Read Ezekiel chapter 18 for more details.)

In verses 31-34 the prophet is making a transition from the Old covenant of law to the new covenant of grace. The Old covenant was with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not with the church which is made up of redeemed people from all nations under the economy of grace, as compared to a nation governed by the Mosaic law. Dwight Pentecost explained that "there is one new covenant with a two-fold application: one to Israel in the future and one to the church now." Under this idea, the covenant was made with Israel through the blood of Christ, the only sacrifice that has been made or will ever be made to inaugurate the covenant. (Rom. 4:3-18).

Jeremiah concludes his prophesy by explaining that because of the fact that the new covenant of internal change had replaced the Old covenant of outward sign and rules, it would no longer be necessary to teach people to know God; because the knowledge of Him will be widespread, for His law will be planted in their hearts instead upon stone tablets.

TRUTHS TO LIVE BY

1. God's new covenant or contract with His people involves restoration, responsibility and an inward relationship with Him.
2. Although influenced by others, we're personally responsible before God for our sins.

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Antioch Will Observe Its 95th Homecoming Sunday

The 95th anniversary and Annual Homecoming will be celebrated at Antioch Baptist Church Sunday, October 11, at 3 p.m.

Choirs and the congregation of Salem Baptist Church, Rev. Anthony L. Jinwright, pastor, will be guests for this service. Salem's choir will render the music.

Dr. Leon C. Riddick, pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, will deliver the anniversary-Homecoming sermon.

During the afternoon service a Homecoming Rally for church expansion will be held. The homecoming committee includes William Tolbert, Teresa Tolbert, Dicie Neal, and Doris Simpson.

The Annual Fall Revival will be held at Antioch October 11-16. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly.

The opening sermons Sunday night, October 11, will be delivered by a former member of Antioch, Rev. James Hester, now pastor of the Rock Hill Baptist Church No. 1 of Greenville, S.C.

Rock Hill's chorus and congregation will accompany him and render musical selections.

Monday through Friday, October 12-16, will feature Rev. Dr. Nilous M. Avery, pastor of the Hill Street Baptist Church, Asheville, for 30 years.

Dr. Avery is a graduate of Shaw University. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) from Shaw Divinity School.

Wednesday night is "Youth Night." At 6 p.m. a "Youth Forum" (Rap Session) will begin.

The public is cordially invited to attend any or all of these services. The church, pastored by Rev. Dr. Preston Pendergrass, is located at 232 Skyland Ave. (Grier Heights).

MYERS TABERNACLE
Annual Homecoming services will be held Sunday, October 11, at 3 p.m. at Myers Tabernacle AME Zion Church.

Rev. Donnie Kent, pastor of the New Mowing Glad AME Zion Church will be the guest speaker during this occasion.

Choirs from New Mowing Glad and combined choirs of Myers Tabernacle will provide the music.

Also on Sunday, October 11, at 7:30 p.m. the Annual Fall Revival Services will commence.

Dr. Alton C. Hunnicutt, pastor of Greenville Memorial AME Zion Church, will be the evangelist for the week, Sunday through Friday.

Choirs from church in Charlotte have been invited to come and uplift the name of Jesus through song.



Rev. Preston Pendergrass
Revival host

Rev. Carnell C. Thompson is pastor of Myers Tabernacle, located in the Cherry community, 509 Cherry Street.

SAINT PAUL BAPTIST
It is rare that you receive something for nothing these days. But often God opens doors for no admission.

Sunday October 25 at 6 p.m. the Spiritual Choir of Saint Paul Baptist Church will present its annual concert.

Valerie Woodard is program chairman of the Spiritual Choir and Rev. Paul W. Drummond is pastor. No admission will be charged for this program. The public is cordially invited to attend.

SECOND CALVARY BAPTIST

On Sunday, October 11, the Laymen's League will celebrate its Annual Day with musical program. The singing and rejoicing will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The Missionary Society of Second Calvary will celebrate their Annual Day Sunday, October 18, at 11 a.m.

Guest speaker will be Mrs. Paul Drummond of St. Paul Baptist Church. During this service the ladies of Second Calvary are asked to wear white.

On Sunday, October 25, the pastor, choirs and men of Second Calvary will worship with Temple Baptist Church. This 2:30 p.m. service will be in recognition of Men's Day.

Rev. J. M. Kennedy is interim pastor of Temple Baptist.

Ordination service for Deacon designates will be held Sunday, November 15. Rev. Lemar Foster is pastor of Second Calvary Baptist Church, 114 Nelson Avenue.

MATTHEWS-MURKLAND
It started October 7... a full-time nursery and day care center at Matthews-Murkland United Presbyterian Church, located at 7001 Old Providence Road.

The Matthews-Murkland Community Outreach Center, Inc., as the day care is officially entitled, cares for 60 one to five year olds from 6:45 a.m. until 6 p.m. Helen Turner, a graduate



Helen Turner
Day care director

of Jonsson C. Smith University is the director of this center.

Ms. Turner graduated with a degree in Education. She studied graduate level courses at the City College of New York in School Administration and School Personnel.

She presently holds a valid North Carolina Teaching and New York State Teacher's certificates. She also has obtained an In-Service Training certificate in Special Education for Pre-schoolers.

A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the American Society of Professional and Executive Women, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League and many other affiliations, Ms. Turner has proven that she is concerned not only about children's well-being but also about the entire community's progress.

Her various experiences in the education of young children has firmly formed her philosophy: "The growth and development of the whole child is essential in preparing the child for the real world."

Carolyn Sullivan, a dietitian concerned with nourishment, will prepare the children's meals.

For more information about the center, contact the church at 365-2578.

LITTLE ROCK AME
Little Rock AME Zion Church will hold its Homecoming and Annual Revival Sunday, October 11, at 5 p.m.

The Rev. Kevin W. McGill and members of the Rockwell AME Zion Church will be the Homecoming guests.

The Annual Revival Service will be held Monday through Friday at 7:30 p.m.



Carolyn Sullivan
Day care dietitian

Dr. Milton A. Williams pastor of the Shaw Memorial AME Church, Buffalo, New York, will be the evangelist for the week.

Dr. Williams is noted as a dynamite leader and preacher. The public is cordially invited to attend. Little Rock, pastored by Rev. William White, is located at 403 North Myers Street.

GREATER GETHESEMENE AME ZION

Add these talented youth to the six who have already been named in recent articles who will participate in the Gethesmane Youth Recital Sunday, October



Rev. Jeremiah Robinson
Second anniversary

11, at 6 p.m.

Joseph Daniel Herron Jr. and Tonya Lynette Rorie will display their talents on this special day and you are invited to witness the special beams of joy these young ladies and men will emit.

Joseph Herron, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Herron will play a saxophone solo. He is 11 years old and a sixth grader at Huntersville Elementary School.

He is a student in the Gifted and Talented Program. Active in church he is a member of the Children's Choir, Sunday School and the Buds of Promise. His hobbies include bas-

ketball, art, tennis, biking and swimming.

Tonya Lynette Rorie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Rorie. This fifth grade Lincoln Heights Elementary School student will play her violin.

Her hobbies are baton twirling, swimming and reading. Her goal in life is to become a nurse. She is active in the Children's Choir and the Usher Board.

The public is cordially invited to attend. Rev. George E. Battle Jr. is pastor. The church is located at 531 Campus Street. Waynette Bullard and Thelma Ladd are chairpersons for this program.

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