

By Mrs. Bessie Wilbon



# Sunday School Lesson

"A New Day For God's People"

Isaiah 2:2-4 December 4, 1983

## INTRODUCTION

The prophet Isaiah was no blind optimist. He suffered no delusions regarding the degeneration in the society of his day. He was painfully aware of the evil in Judah and Jerusalem and did not hesitate to speak out against it. But Isaiah did not despair. Dishonesty, injustice, irreligion, and immorality were everywhere evident, and the prophet did not see much to inspire hope in the future. Would it be different if he lived in our day? In this fabulous age man has technical know-how to make of the earth a

veritable garden of Eden, but seems determined instead to turn it into a hell. It was not much different in Isaiah's day and since he had never heard of evolution, his confidence was not based on some theory that man would just naturally become better and better. Rather, when he spoke of the future with assurance, it was an assurance rooted and grounded in God. Isaiah was aware of the evil about him, but he also knew of the power of God to bring reality a new kind of life for His creation. He knew that the new day would be the Lord's doing, not man's.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Isaiah received his call to the prophetic ministry "in the year that King Uzziah died", (Isaiah 6:1), about 740 BC. Uzziah had been a good king, in general, but the spiritual, moral and ethical life of the nation had begun to deteriorate even before he died. This decline continued during the reign of his son Jotham. The latter "did that which was right in the sight of the Lord," but the people worshipped pagan gods, (2 Kings 15:34-35) and were corrupt (2 Chronicles 27:2).

**The Kingdom Will Be Established** (Isaiah 2:2) "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." The mountain of the Lord's house is a reference to the Kingdom of God, the church, the antitype of the existing Zion. This figure is made clear in one of the prophecies of Daniel in which a stone "cut out without hands" became a "great mountain, and filled the whole earth," (Daniel 2:34-35).

(V. 3) "And many people shall go and say, Come ye and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob: and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." This coming kingdom will include not only the Jews; people from all nations will be attracted to it and accepted.

Note the joy and evangelistic fervor of these people as expressed in their words, "Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord." Their enthusiasm seems to equal that of the man of whom Jesus spoke, who found a great treasure hidden in a field and sold all that he had in order to possess it. Even today there are those who share this eagerness for the Kingdom of God. Are we among that number?

The new day of which Isaiah spoke was to be a day when justice would be practiced, and men would no longer make war against one another. Instead of resorting to force to settle differences and difficulties, or even relying on international law, those of all nations who have responded to the word of the Lord will seek to settle their problems according to His will.

**Zion's Future Glory** (Isaiah 62:1-3). This Scripture is taken from the last part of Isaiah. God's promise of Isaiah 2 would be fulfilled, but it would be accomplished in part by severe judgment upon Israel for her sins. The passing years would seem to bring despair. Yet even for such a time as this Isaiah had a word of comfort. There was a hope for the future that resided in the power of God to bring into being a kind of life different from the present one. The promised glory would certainly come.

Isaiah was not content that Israel forever remain in sin and darkness. Neither God nor His prophet would cease to labor until the glory promised to Zion would be realized.

We can share the confidence of Isaiah. More than that, we can rejoice in the fact that through Christ the new day of which Isaiah spoke has come - a day of light and not darkness, a day of new life and hope. With the psalmist we can declare, with a confidence not even he could have known, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it," (Psalm 118:24). Those of us who consider this lesson today should be able to go forth with renewed confidence in the way of the Lord and with a determination to walk in fellowship with Him in that way.

"It Was The Power Of God Working Through Me!"

# Mrs Miller: "It Wasn't Me Helping That Baby!"

By Teresa Simmons  
Post Managing Editor  
The baby lay motionless...even a small whimper at this late hour would have satisfied the fearful mother. But there she lay listless with a frown of defeat upon her little face.

Prayers had been exhausted but not the mother's faith. She still had enough of that to believe God worked through people. So she picked up the telephone and called Beulah Miller.

"Mrs. Miller can you come and see about my baby, please?" the mother asked.  
"But my brakes on my car are no good. I'll come as soon as I can tomorrow," Mrs. Miller replied sympathetically.

But just as Mrs. Miller placed the phone on the receiver and started washing the dishes again she heard a voice say, "Go now." Mrs. Miller jumped in her car, ignoring the bad brakes, and started her journey to the mother's home. There she observed a motionless baby... "something is wrong with its legs," Mrs. Miller thought.

Pity wasn't the answer. There was something stronger within the heart of Mrs. Miller, as if she was once again becoming an instrument of God to help others. Mrs. Miller placed her hands over the baby's legs praising God for His power. "It wasn't me who helped that baby," Mrs. Miller will tell you. "It was the power of God working through me."

Mrs. Miller left the baby and mother sleeping peacefully.

The next day the laughter rang throughout the house. The baby was perky, the mother was joyful simply because Mrs. Miller had obeyed the voice she had heard for over 40 years. God beckoned to Mrs. Miller through her dreams. The message was



Beulah Miller, 71, has been teaching the Word of God faithfully for over 40 years and founded the Home Mission Prayer Band. (Photo By Teresa Simmons)

to spread His Word. "I was about 29 then and I was in the world and I wasn't ready...I was running. I didn't think I was qualified. But I was lying on my bed of affliction. Everyone thought I had died but during that time I saw God across a big ditch and He was asking me, 'Why don't you do what I tell you to?'" I said, "Oh, Lord, if you just let me up I'll do what you tell me to do." He then said "Go home and teach the Word of God. See whom you can help."

"I woke up and asked my family if they had seen God and they said no. The next morning I felt better and I got up." That same day Mrs. Miller started the organization of the Home Mission Prayer Band. At first family and friends did not take Mrs. Miller seriously. But then when she began to organize the Home Mission Prayer Band, which is now 40 years old, those around her began to respect the commitment she had made to God and many decided to become involved.

Her husband Joe Miller has been with the group since its conception and has been the hymn leader. Her sister joined later.

Others who have been with the Prayer Band for numerous years include Lizzie Jennings, mother of the Band, and Rosetta Odum, leader.

Presently there are about 20 active members. "Our mission is to go from one home to another and pray. We help the sick and needy and have sent money nationwide to those who need it." More importantly Mrs. Miller and the Prayer Band, which has numbered as many as 40, gains souls for the Lord.

Today Mrs. Miller is 71 and her husband 74. They recently celebrated 54 years of marriage. They have two daughters, 12 grands and 21 great grands and are active members of James Chapel Baptist Church near Fort Mill.

On most Mondays Mrs. Miller still visits the sick. Her special gifts from God have become sort of a legend and people often call her on the phone to pray for them or to use her healing hand.

Tuesday evenings are meeting times for the Prayer Band: "We report on how people in the hospital or sick at home are doing and we take up

money from ourselves for them."  
The dreams that worried Mrs. Miller at the age of 29 contained a special message: "I was among a crowd of people and I would see God standing before me. In reality I went to an older lady who said there was something God wanted me to do and she said that I'd better get ready to do it."

The dreams have come true. The crowd of people are those Mrs. Miller have come in contact with throughout the past 40 years. Those who have been touched by the power

of God.  
And as for God's presence in Mrs. Miller's dreams the interpretation is clear. He is never far away from an open heart. "I can't do a thing until God tells me to do it."

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