



By Mrs. Bessie Wilbon

... Just what determines destiny? Some people believe that life follows the domino theory of events. When applied to life, the domino theory declares that every human action is the inevitable consequence of prior conditions. In effect, such philosophy holds that whatever a person says or does he could not have done differently under the circumstances. Under the domino theory of life, man is considered to be an automaton. He does not really "decide" to commit a dastardly crime nor do the heroic act; his deed, good or bad is inevitable. But the Bible indicates that man can make choices and that he is responsible for the choices he makes. Furthermore, those choices have a great part in determining destiny, not only for himself but for others. Man does have a will, and ultimately the exercise of that will especially in regard to his relationship to God, determines destiny.

Our lesson today deals with what happens to a nation that chooses evil and scoffs at God's way. It should serve to warn us of the fate that awaits any people who persist in ungodliness.

"The Lord has sent his messengers and prophets to warn Israel and Judah: 'Abandon your evil ways and obey My commands which are contained in the Law I gave to your ancestors and which I handed on to you through my servants the prophets. But they would not obey; they were stubborn like their ancestors who had not trusted in the Lord their God. They refused to obey instructions, they did not keep the covenant He had made with their ancestors, and they disregarded His warnings.'" (2 Kings 17:13-15).

God did not let His people rush madly down the road to destruction without attempting to stop them. He warned them repeatedly against wicked practices not only by the enactment of the law, but also by the special messages of the prophets through the centuries. However, the people would not listen but hardened their necks in determined rebellion against Him. This obstinacy was particularly terrible when one considers how powerfully attested some of these prophets had been. They had called down fire from heaven, blinded armies, raised the dead, healed lepers, and foretold catastrophe; and yet their pleas were in vain. The people broke the covenant that God had made with their fathers at Sinai.

"They sacrificed their sons and daughters as burnt offerings to pagan gods; they consulted mediums and fortunetellers, and they devoted themselves completely to doing what is wrong in the Lord's sight, and so aroused his anger," (2 Kings 17:17).

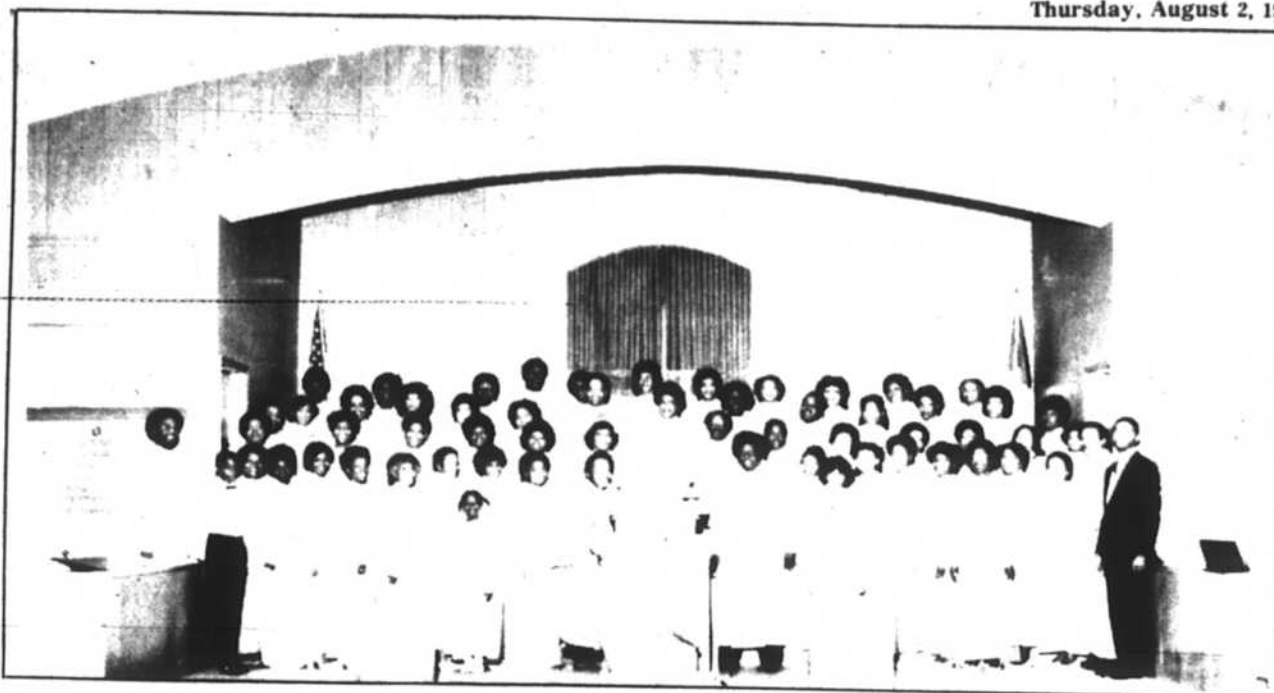
Several of the nations surrounding Israel sacrificed babies by cremation as part of their worship of the god Molech. God had severely warned His people against this practice. That the Hebrews caused this to happen is a horrifying revelation of the depth of their apostasy. We are not surprised, however, that the Hebrews, having turned from God, turned to such practices.

The ultimate cause of Israel's ruin was her persistent rejection of God. The Hebrews had always been a small people in comparison with Egypt. They had always been in a stretch between the great poles of power in the ancient eastern Mediterranean world. But in spite of all this, they had been delivered again and again and had flourished. God was their refuge and strength. He had rescued them from Egypt and had led them into the promised land. He was a greater resource than all the armed might of their attackers. However, when they turned from God and became followers of the cruel deities of the peoples around them, they lost their sense of uniqueness, their identity and their power. In time the Lord became very angry with them. God's patience with His people was monumental, but not inexhaustible. At long last, the tumult and terror, the inescapable judgment was executed.

We don't worship calf gods of gold today, but we do "worship" bonds, stocks, or real estate. We make deities of power boats, fine homes, or extensive collections of clothes. We make great efforts and go to great expense to erect huge shrines to athletics and amusement. It is so easy to forget the admonition of Jesus, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. These attitudes we have are the same as those of the Hebrews which led to their ultimate destruction.

God seeks only good; He wants only to bring us to life abundant. The Messiah has come - Jesus has lived among us, has been crucified, and has risen from the dead. His Spirit lives in mighty power in His Church - in the lives of His people. In Him we find weapons for our warfare that can pull down strongholds of evil. How terribly tragic if Jesus should have to say to us what He had to say to those who rejected Him, "Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life," (John 5:40).

The only reason God can't help us is that we refuse to let Him.



The Interdenominational Mass Choir

...Will be in concert, August 5 at West Charlotte High

Jackson Will Lead Prayer Outside Republican Convention

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Las Times Herald last week, "I think you can say he's assured the ACORN people who worked on his campaign that he would be in Dallas. He did make that personal commitment." ACORN did not endorse Jackson's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, but some local ACORN organizations endorsed and worked with local Jackson campaigns across the country.

Confirmed speakers at a march and rally scheduled for Saturday evening, August 18, are former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, activist Dr. Benjamin Spock, and Texas nuclear freeze activist Cissy Farenthold. Performers Ronnie Gilbert and Holly Near were invited to perform.

Participants from across the country will pitch tents in a Dallas park for the weekend, to dramatize

Harris Joins Rams

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remaining on the schedule. "I've made many friends at J.C. Smith during my six-year stay on the westside campus," he recalled, naming Otis Stroud, Haskell Patton, Ronald Armstrong, Horace Small, Eddie McGirt, Kenny Powell, the remainder of Johnson C. Smith faculty and staff and the JCSU alumni and friends." Harris said he would continue to make his home in Charlotte and would continue his involvement in the Westside Optimist Club, the Shriners and the Masons organizations.

CHS Schedule

Community Health Services will be offering the following services for August:

Thursday, August 2, Alzheimer's Support Group will meet at noon at St. John's Baptist Church, 300 Hawthorne Ln., Lynn Chambers, RN, will share fund raising techniques from the Statesville group.

Thursday, August 2, Alzheimer's Support Group will meet at 7 p.m. Community Health Services Building, 1401 East Seventh Street. This will be a meeting for small group interaction.

Monday, August 6, Diabetes Problem Solving and Support Group will meet at 12:30 p.m. at Diabetes Services Office, 1401 East Seventh Street. Sheryn Northey, Clinical Social Worker, is facilitator of the group. Bring your own lunch, beverages will be provided. For more information, call 375-0172.

Tuesday, August 7, 14, 21 and 28, High Blood Pressure Management Program will meet at 7:30 p.m.,

Community Services Building, 1401 East Seventh Street. Celeste Hubbard, RN, will discuss ways to control blood pressure and the role nutrition.

Trichology Corner



Mr. Charles, R.B.

QUESTION: I use a curl activator and oil spray in my curl but it gets real oily and sometimes starts running. Can this be helped?

ANSWER: Yes. Remember that curl activators and glycerine sprays are heat activated. When you are home or in a cool place the hair will appear much dryer as you are applying these conditioners. Then as you move about in the sun, humidity or other heat, the hair gets very oily to combat dryness. As you build up oil in you hair between washings use a little less to get the desired effect.

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Contracts Approved

For County

Raleigh - Among the contracts approved by the state Board of Transportation at its monthly meeting this week were two affecting Mecklenburg County.

The first contract calls for two bridges and retaining walls on I-277 in Charlotte. The bridges will be located over Eldridge Street and Southern Railway and over Morehead and Mint Streets.

The contract is the third in a series of seven to be let on I-277 between I-77 and east Third Street in Charlotte.

Construction will begin in August and is scheduled for completion in June, 1986. The contract was awarded to Lee Construction Co. of Charlotte for \$5,441,325.54.

The second contract calls for the paving of 2.7 miles of Harris

Boulevard from Bob Beatty Road (Secondary Road 2483) to NC-115 and from east of NC-115 to David Cox Road (Secondary Road 2485) in Charlotte.

This is the last in a series of contracts to upgrade Harris Boulevard from I-77 at Reames Road to I-85.

Board of Transportation member J. Q. Burnette of Charlotte said that construction will begin in August and is scheduled for completion in December.

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- 5. 5348 Independence Boulevard
- 6. 5933 South Blvd. (K Mart Plaza)
- 7. Belmont Abbey Plaza (Hwy 273), Belmont
- 8. Matthews Plaza (Hwy 74 & 51), Matthews

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