

By Bessie Wilbon

Sunday School Lesson



LESSON BACKGROUND

The reign of Solomon, which began on such a promising note and reached such glorious heights, ended on a tragic and sorrowful one. To enhance his power, Solomon had entered numerous alliances with the surrounding nations. As was common in those days, these alliances were often sealed by the marriage of the king to the daughter of the neighboring king. We are told that before his death Solomon had accumulated 700 wives and 300 concubines. Solomon's foreign wives brought with them their pagan deities, and he foolishly built high places where his wives could worship them. (Read 1 Kings 11.)

Other problems were brewing. Solomon's lavish lifestyle of living placed a heavy burden of taxes on the people and forced many of them into his service. In Jereboam the people found their champion against their oppression. Jereboam had distinguished himself as a capable young man in the service of Solomon.

Discovering that Jereboam had become a dangerous rival, Solomon sought to have him killed. But Jereboam fled to Egypt and found refuge there until Solomon's death.

When Solomon's son, Rehoboam, ascended the throne, northern tribes sent for Jereboam to lead them in their request for an erasing of their burdens. It did not take the arrogant young Rehoboam long to provide an occasion for the fulfillment of Abujoh's prophecy.

THE LESSON

"The king ignored the advice of the older men and spoke harshly to the people, as the younger men had advised. He said, My father placed heavy burdens on you; I will make them even heavier. He beat you with whips; I'll flog you with bullwhips!" It was the will of the Lord to bring about what he had spoken to Jereboam on top of Nebat through the prophet Anijah from Shiloh. This is why the king did not pay attention to the people. When the people saw that the king would not listen to them, they shouted, "Down with David and his family!" "What have they ever done for us? Men of Israel, let's go home! Let Rehoboam look out for himself!" So the people of Israel rebelled leaving Rehoboam as king only of the people who lived in the territory of Judah. When the people of Israel heard that Jereboam had returned from Egypt, they invited him to a meeting of the people and made him king of Israel. Only the tribe of Judah remained loyal to David's descendants." (1 Kings 12:13-17, 20).

When Rehoboam went to Schechem for his coronation, he was met by the people of the northern tribes, who asked him to lower their taxes and relieve some of the burdens that Solomon had imposed on them. Rehoboam asked for three days to consider their request before giving them an answer. First he consulted his older counselors, men who had served under Solomon. They wisely suggested that he listen to the people and give serious consideration to their petition. But Rehoboam was not satisfied with this advice, and turned to his friends, younger men without practical experience or wisdom. They advised that Rehoboam make the people's burdens even heavier than those which Solomon had laid upon them.

Solomon must certainly share some of the blame for his son's actions. It seems obvious that Rehoboam had been spoiled as he grew up as the son of a powerful potentate. In all likelihood none had dared to cross him, and his every whim had been satisfied. Such pampering ill prepares one for a position where he must listen to and relate to others. How can anyone who has never borne any burdens of his own understand the burdens others are carrying?

Rehoboam's tragic example should sound a warning to every parent today. Many had to struggle to gain the success they now enjoy. Some of the parents have been overly generous toward their children, hoping to spare them the struggles they themselves had. As a result, many of the younger generations take for granted the physical blessings they enjoy, and feel little sympathy for those who are not so blessed.

When a person makes his first wrong decision, the door is left open for the second, third and the fourth wrong decisions, until he finds himself sliding down an increasingly steep slope.

Guest Speakers Help Honor Rev. Anderson

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through Sunday, November 2. Guest speakers are as follows: Monday, Rev. LeVerne Spears, lead singer for the Original Carolina Singers; Tuesday, Rev. D. Feemster, pastor of Miracle Tabernacle, Kings Mt.; Wednesday, Rev. M.N. Kelly, pastor of Green Oaks Missionary Baptist Church; Thursday, Rev. Walter Pegues, pastor of Zion AME Zion Church, Belmont, N.C.; Friday, Rev. Mrs. Willie M. McKinney, pastor of Good Hope FBH Church, Lexington, N.C.; and Sunday, Elder Samuel Wright, pastor of St. James United Holiness Church.

The public is cordially invited to all services.

The church is located at 600 Jordan Place.

GALILEE

Annual fall revival will be held at Galilee Baptist Church beginning on Sunday, October 25, lasting through Friday, October 31, with meetings commencing at 7:30 each night.

Rev. John F. Baxter and the congregation of Mt. Zion AME Zion Church, Catawba, S.C., will open the revival on Sunday.

Rev. David Miller of Bethesda AME Zion Church, Mooresville, N.C., will be evangelist for the week. Everyone is invited.

The church is located at 2933 Shady Lane. Rev. Fred A. Griffin is pastor.

LADY OF CONSOLATION

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church will hold its semiannual Barbecue on Friday and Saturday, October 24-25.

The BBQ will last from 10 a.m.



Rev. Nathan J. Anderson
...To be honored

until 7 p.m. on Friday and from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Saturday. For \$3.50 you can get a BBQ plate consisting of baked beans, cole slaw, pork or beef BBQ or three pork or beef BBQ sandwiches. Tea will be \$50.

Your support is needed to help make this a successful fundraiser.

The church is located at 2301 Statesville Ave.

TEAMERS

The Alumni Association of the Teamers School of Religion will present its first Alumni Fellowship Program. Rev. Robert Young, pastor of St. Paul Community Baptist Church will be the speaker.

The fellowship program will be held at the Cosmopolitan Community Church at 2600 Newland Rd., Charlotte, Sunday, October 26, at 3

p.m.

All alumni, students, friends and the community are cordially invited to attend. Dr. James Teamer is founder of the school. Rev. David M. Cook is President of the Alumni Association.

WALLS MEMORIAL

Walls Memorial AME Zion Church will observe its annual Homecoming on Sunday, October 26, beginning with the 11 a.m. worship service. Wall's pastor, Rev. J. Tyrone White will deliver the morning message. The J.T. White Singers and the Church Hymn Choir will provide the music.

The annual Homecoming dinner will be served immediately following the morning worship hour.

At 3 p.m., Rev. McCullough, a member of Walls Memorial and pastor of Steele Creek AME Zion Church in Charlotte, will bring the special Homecoming message. He will be accompanied by his choir and congregation.

As is traditional, Walls will hold its Fall Revival the week following Homecoming. "Committed to the Commission: Feed My Sheep" is the theme for the week. Rev. W. Milton White, pastor of Little Rock AME Zion Church, will deliver the message.

Services will be held Monday through Thursday, October 27-30, and will begin nightly at 7:30 p.m.

Come worship with the Walls church family for this Homecoming celebration and revival services.

The church is located at 2722 Bancroft St., Charlotte.

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Governor Appoints

Two To Board

Raleigh - Governor Jim Martin has appointed James L. Padgett of Arden and Wanda Lewis of Charlotte to the N.C. Board of Architecture. Padgett replaces Lloyd Walter Jr. of Winston-Salem and will serve until April 1, 1991. Lewis replaces Harold Barnes of Elizabeth City and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

A graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology with a bachelors of architecture degree, Padgett, 51, is the president of Padgett and Freeman Architects, P.A. He has served as past president and member of the State Board of Architecture from 1975-1981, past director of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and member of the Governor's Advisory Panel on Design and Construction in 1976.

Lewis, 38, is co-owner of 'Scapes Alive landscape company with her husband, specializing in design and installation. She received a bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a masters in urban and regional planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an MBA from Whorton.

The N.C. Board of Architecture licenses and regulates architects in the state of North Carolina.

Vanessa Haygood

Dr. Vanessa P. Haygood has received a joint appointment to the Guilford County Department of Public Health and the faculty of the Greensboro Area Health Education Center at Moses Cone Hospital.

Her position with the Health Department is medical director of Family Planning-Maternity Division Greensboro. A native of Charlotte, Dr. Haygood is a graduate of Duke University, where she completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology.

Blacks

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any back into the black community. Several companies in Charlotte that would go out of business if it were not for Black customers refuse to spend money with Black merchants. They refuse to employ

Blacks in meaningful positions. Yet, we can't wait to rush down and give them our money. This is why we are the trailing minority and this is why we are getting further behind. We can't expect the Government to help us, when we can't help ourselves. Look, we aren't in slavery any more and the massah ain't gwan sav ya. Get off of your tail and save yourself. Help the brothers and sisters in business make it. Help other brothers and sisters willing to risk getting in business make it. Do this and watch a community resurrect itself.

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Michael A. Sheely

Charlotte resident for more than 15 years, University of Massachusetts and UNC Law School Graduate. More than 14 years experience in extensive Federal and state court trial and appellate work.

Michael L. King

Rowan County Native, North Carolina Central University Honors graduate North Carolina Central University Law School Honors Graduate, Published in legal and Non-legal periodicals practicing law after experience as a school teacher.

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