

## The Sunday School Lesson

By Bessie Wilbon  
INTRODUCTION

Each of the four Gospel writers becomes something of a specialist in recording events surrounding the Lord's resurrection. Among them they preserved the reports of those who were there. Each participant tells what happened as he or she saw it.

Matthew deals particularly with the experience of certain women at the tomb, and with God's angel who instructed them, and with the appointment in Galilee where Jesus met and commissioned His disciples.

Mark's account is similar, but adds that the account of an evening session with the apostles in Jerusalem!

Luke tells of the women at the tomb, then adds details from two disciples who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus, an evening with the disciples in Jerusalem, and the Lord's ascension from the Mount of Olives.

John elaborates on the account of Mary Magdalene; tells of Peter and John at the tomb, recounts two of Jesus' meetings with His disciples in Jerusalem, one with Thomas absent and the other with him present, and details the Lord's morning meeting with seven of His disciples at the Sea of Galilee.

No one writer tells all that happened; and much obviously went unrecorded. The fact, however, fall into place as we combine the testimony of all. The Gospel writers simply told it like it was and trusted us to understand the telling.

### THE LESSON

The next day, which was a Sabbath, the chief priests and the Pharisees met with Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember that while that liar was still alive he said, 'I will be raised to life three days later.' Give orders, then, for his tomb to be carefully guarded until the third day, so that his disciples will not be able to go and steal the body, and then tell the people that he was raised from death. This last lie would be even worse than the first one." "Take a guard," Pilate told them, "go and make the tomb as secure as you can." So they left and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and leaving the guard in watch." (Matthew 27:22-68). (Read the remaining Scripture for today - Matthew 28:1-10).

The Jewish Council suspected Jesus' disciples of being like themselves: inclined to schemes and deception. How poorly they judged their opposition! Even after Jesus arose from the dead the apostles did not use His resurrection in promoting the gospel until after seven weeks had passed. Then, directed by the Holy Spirit, they made the resurrection central in their preaching from Pentecost onward.

Pilate also wanted this matter concerning Jesus to be ended and forgotten as quickly as possible. So he gave the Jewish rulers a band of soldiers, and told the rulers to secure the tomb to their satisfaction. The soldiers were posted to prevent any trespassing. The council's elaborate precautions against grave robbery provide strong evidence that the emptying of that tomb was not grave robbery, but resurrection.

Luke 24:4 speaks of two men standing by in shining garments when the women entered the tomb. The angel, then, was in the form of a man reflecting the glory of God. The description reminds us of Jesus at His transfiguration. "His face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light." (Matt. 17:2). The angel did exactly what he soldiers were there to prevent, but faced with that situation, brave men might well find their knees first knocking together and then turning to liquid as they fell to the ground, perhaps in a faint.

It seems that the guardsmen had gained control of themselves and had left before the women arrived at the tomb. Thus while the women were soon on their way with good news for the disciples, some of the guards were going into the city with bad news for the high priests. After due counsel, and a substantial pay-off, the soldiers spread a silly yarn about disciples coming while they slept and stealing Jesus' body. Having been assigned to guard the tomb against any such tampering, they were now paid to say they had blown their assignment. "Go quickly and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead!" Isn't the gospel story addressed to unbelievers, to persuade them that Jesus is the Christ in whom they must be saved? Why tell the disciples? Why, when Jesus had told them many times that He must die and rise again? But they didn't understand, or they forgot. Tell them!

Tell Peter, who has wept bitterly over his own failure, that the Lord he denied is risen from the dead and calls for him. Tell John, who took the Lord's mother from the tragic scene of the cross to his own home. Tell the bereaved ones that Christ has conquered the grave. Tell Thomas, who talked of going to Jerusalem and dying with Jesus. Tell the disciples despondent in a hopeless world that Christ has rescued hope in rising from the dead.

Run to tell His disciples -- all His disciples - that He is risen and His resurrection belongs also the them (us).  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

## Why Does The Heathen Rage

### Part II

By J. M. Little

All over the world men are in rebellion against God as never before. Your heart attitude is: "We will not have this Man to rule over us." Now that is why our governments, churches, schools, and community organizations are grappling with drugs today. The drug problem is out of your control. You'll never control it. This generation today has been given over to a strong delusion. "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." (II Thess. 2:11). Literally, it means believe The Lie, the Antichrist. The Antichrist has spread his lie all across the world and poor, blinded humanity has believed him. The world is in the strong delusion today because you will not have the Lord to rule over you. It is the belief of a lie that causes a soul to turn away from the truth. The truth is: you are a lost, guilty, totally depraved, and hell-deserving sinner. But your belief of Satan's lie; that man is an evolutionist with some good in the worst of men has caused you to turn away from God's truth. Therefore God has sent you a strong delusion/What a tragical state the whole world is in!

Many of you will admit the world is in an awful state, but when I call upon you to repent and turn to Christ, you will not repent. Friends, it's repent or perish! Turn or burn! When an individual has accepted Satan's lie, he'll preach that repentance is not for us today. Any man that tells you that repentance is not for us today is a deluded dupe of Satan and he is an enemy of your soul! That man us wrapped up in the strong delusion that has engulfed the world today. Oh, may the Holy Spirit so open your heart today that you'll see your lost and undone condition and flee to Christ. Christ and Christ alone is your only hope.

There is no safety out of Christ. You are not safe in a church or denomination. Christ and Christ alone is salvation. Do you know Christ? That is an eternal question, don't run from it. Ask the Lord to discover your soul to you. It won't be an easy thing if the Lord awakens you to your lost condition, but it will be grace upon grace if He awakens you to your lost condition. Every soul, get this: every soul is going to be awakened to his lost condition, here or there! Which will it be in your case? You can laugh and make fun of these messages if you want to, one day soon you'll be looking back in regret.

Back in the early 60s a noted preacher spent a week in our home along with another preacher. This noted preacher (if I'd call his name practically everybody would know him) was presented some messages by my late pastor, along with the other preacher. The noted preacher raged against the messages, he would not have the truth. He died in rebellion. There was a great preacher, counted by the world, and pastoring a prestige church not many miles from here. Let me tell you something, friend; you can't win fighting against God. Over the years I've watched as souls rose in rebellion against God and His anointed servants. Every rebellious soul has always gone down. When a soul

goes away fro, the truth, they always go down. You are defeated to begin with. You may succeed in killing God's servant, but you won't win b doing that, you'll only seal your soul for Hell. Herod's illegal wife and daughter thought John had won by cutting off the head of John the Baptist. John the Baptist would not exchange places today with anyone. At the Great White Throne Judgment the most ungodly scream will be heard; "Mama, look, there's John the baptist! We cut his head off but look he has it back on like we didn't do it!" And, oh, the destruction that will be set off in hearts of those two wicked women. Yes, they thought they had killed John by cutting his head off. They didn't know Christ would put John's head back on.

There will be no words to describe the remorse of their souls. Friend, there will be no words to describe the sorrow of your hearts either if you go on in your rebellion against God. Many souls here in this state have gotten a big bang out of persecuting this servant of the Lord. I would not be in your places for ten million worlds. / If you could just see that I'm on the winning side in Christ and you are on the losing side in Satan. You can rage and pitch and snort all you want to, but you cannot change one iota of what the Lord has done for me in salvation. When I have been in Heaven with Christ ten thousand years, you will have been in Hell and the Lake of Fire with Satan ten thousand years.

My hope is beyond this life which is filled with disappointments and vanity and vexation of spirit. My hope is Christ and His soon coming. So let the heathen rage and imagine a vain thing, Christ is coming soon.

We are coming down to the very end of this age. Every two thousand years of man's history has seen a great event take place that altered the entire course of man's history. From Adam's time until the flood was a period of about 2,000 years. From the flood until the coming of Christ as a babe in Bethlehem was about 2,000 years. We are almost at the end of another 2,000 years. The next great happening that is to occur that will change the entire course of man's history will be the Second Coming of Christ. I'm looking for Him to come. His coming is my Hope. You can laugh and mock all you want to, but I praise the Lord He singled me out for salvation in Christ here in the last days. In the story of the good Samaritan the Lord told us He was coming back in two days. A thousand years is one day with the Lord. That means the two day period is almost up. The Lord will do exactly as He promised.

I say to every believer, our redemption is nearer than we think. I believe I will be living when Christ comes. I want to know what it means to cross over without having to pass through death. Don't you? My prayer is that the Lord will turn you unto Himself, and you'll be watching, praying, and longing for Him to come as I am. The grace of God rests upon you. Amen!  
The Prophet's column is a paid advertisement.

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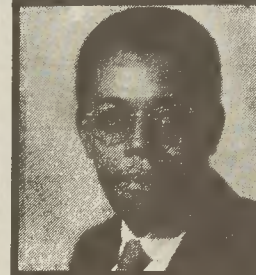
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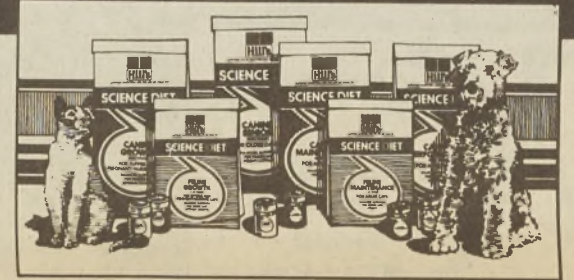
### County Commissioner District #2

Voter Education + Voter Registration = Political Determination in District #2.

Paid For By James Baldwin For County Commissioner District #2.

## Ask Your Veterinarian

Q: Does it really matter what I feed my pet?



A: Yes! Some pet foods contain too much fat, salt and other minerals which can be a real barrier to your pet's good health. If you're interested in pet nutrition you owe it to yourself and your pet to ask a pet professional about balanced nutrition. And why we stock and recommend Science Diet® dog and cat foods.

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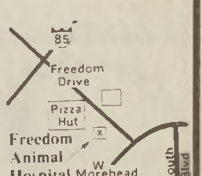
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The Gastonia Chapter of Las Amigas celebrated Founders Day in conjunction with Black History Month at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church. Pictured left to right: Jeanne Holtzclaw, Dora Mason, Father Pharr and Versie Craig.

## Easter Sunrise Service

The fifty-second annual community ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service will be held on Sunday, April 3, at 6:30 am at the Freedom Park Bandshell. United Methodist Bishop L. Bevel Jones will preach. Special Easter music will be sung by the Covenant Choir of Eastern Hills Baptist Church. Also participating will be The Reverend Smith Turner, III, AME Zion Charlotte District Superintendent and The Reverend Terry Hamilton, Queens

College Chaplain. In the event of rain, the service will be held at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, 1113 Fordham Road (off West Boulevard near I-77).

Reverend Samuel Poore, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, is in charge of planning.

Nearly one thousand people attend the service each year, which is sponsored by The Charlotte Area Clergy Association.

## Give Your Child A Head Start

Beginning Monday, March 28, 1988, the Social Services component of the Bethlehem Center Head Start Program will be taking applications for the 1988-1989 school year.

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program for low-income pre-school children ages three, four and some five year olds who were born after October 16, 1983 and are still too young for public kindergarten. Head Start serves the handicapped child regardless of income.

To apply, a parent must provide (1) proof of income, such as a copy of your 1987 - 1040 income tax return, a copy of your 1987 W-2 tax statement, a verifiable statement from your employer, Veterans Benefits, Social Security Benefits or Aid to Families With Dependent Children award letter. In addition to the income verification, parents will need to bring (2) the child's shot card, (3) immunization record, (4) birth certificate, (5) social security card and (6) Medicaid card, if applicable.

Registration will extend throughout April. All eligible applications received by May 6, 1988 will be given priority during selection.

Parents are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Check the schedule below for the location nearest you. For further information, call 376-9401, 376-9404 or 333-0203.

### SCHEDULE

All Times are 9 am - 12 pm unless noted otherwise.

March 31 -Hidden Valley Elem. (Cafeteria) 9 - 11:30 am, Pence Rd. Apartments.

April 11 - Southside Homes Rental Office, Meadow Oaks Apartments.

April 12 -Belmont Regional Center., Naomi Drenau Grayson Park Center.

April 13 - Sunridge Apartments, Leafcrest Apartments.

April 14 - Double Oaks Community Center, Belvedere Homes Center.

April 15 -Alexander Street Center, University Garden Apartments.

April 18 - Greenville Center, Earle Village Recreational Center.

April 19 - Thomasboro Elementary School, Coliseum Drive Apartments.

April 21 - Gladedale Apartments, Mallard Ridge Apartments.

April 22 - Dalton Village Rental Office, Live Oak Apartments (Office).

April 25 - New Zion Baptist Church (Todd Park).

April 26 -Boulevard Homes Recreation Center, Dillehay  
See Head Start On Page 8B.

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