

UNIFORM

Sunday School Lesson

REV. W. A. HUNEYCUTT
Pastor Black Mountain First
Baptist Church.
June 20, 1954.

HOSEA PLEADS WITH ISRAEL

Hosea 4:6-7:16

Hosea was a prophet with sentiment while Amos was a prophet of principle. Hosea reminds us of John the beloved in the New Testament. He was gentle, sensitive, affectionate, and filled with domestic and patriotic feelings. The home of the prophet seems to have been in the hill country between Bethel and Jerusalem. Here the religion of Jehovah God was kept in its pristine purity on

the border of the desert. It is probable that Hosea was a farmer for he takes great pride in the desert life; however, he was not a strict ascetic. The first three chapters of Hosea have to do with his tragic domestic family life. Perhaps the prophet wrote this in retrospect, and looking back upon his domestic life saw the hand of God leading him and out of it all he was enabled to see the sins of his people in the light of God's love.

I. The Social and Political Background.

The time does not differ from that of Amos. Jeroboam II was succeeded by a group of weakling kings, who came and went as they were man-made and man-murdered. Moral, social, and political decay had set in and the people were unable to understand the signs of the time. Israel had despised his birthright and had soiled himself among the nations through careless intercourse. "Ephraim hath mixed himself among the nations, Ephraim is a cake not turned." (7:8)

As the nation goes unheeding towards destruction, the priests rejoice in the sins of the people and make religion a large-scale racket. Religion ceases to elevate the morals of the people when her representatives live on the level of the worst sinners. One wonders what would happen in our world were it not for God raising up a prophet ever now and then to speak his message.

II. Hosea Pleads With the People.

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The emotional appeals of Hosea can be felt as one reads this book with the historical background in mind.

The prophet perceives that his people are perishing for lack of knowledge. Hosea calls religion knowledge of God. "My people perish for lack of knowledge." (4:6). "They know not Jehovah." (5:4). "Because thou hast rejected knowledge I will reject thee" (4:6). George Adams Smith says: "It is to know so as to feel the force of: knowledge not as acquisition but as an impression. To quote Paul's distinction it is not so much apprehending as being apprehended."

The prophet gives three basic misdeeds in Israel's life. They are: first, the nations seeks security in materials arms. "They go to Egypt, they go to Assyria" (7:11). They fail to understand that Jehovah is their saviour. The prophet sees the danger of depending upon military alliances and leaving God out of life. Second, the prophet sees the danger of the monarchy. There seems to have been a school of thought which opposed the monarchy from the beginning as an evil and Hosea seems to fall in this school of thought. He decries the principle in chapters 9:15; 10:3,9; 13:9-11. The third evil is idolatry. The nation in its youth walked with Jehovah and Jehovah protected the people, but now they have gone after other gods. They have become filled with "A spirit of whoredom" (5:4). They have become wedded to idols (4:17). They have received the gifts and privileges from Jehovah and now they have turned and given thanks to other gods, which are impotent to save. They have sinned against love. They have profaned the marriage vows (11). Hosea believed that God was a God of Holy Love and his loving heart was broken because of the sins of the people.

Hosea also taught the doctrine of repentance. To him the judgments of God were disciplinary and retributive. As a faithful husband he loved his wife and was willing to forgive her and buy her back to be his wife again because of his love for her. Forgiveness cost and cost tremendously. But God is willing to pay the price for sin and set the sinner free. He is willing to grant forgiveness to the sinner who is willing to repent and turn back to Him. Forgiveness was a reality to Hosea and he makes an emotional appeal for Israel to turn back to God. Israel refused to repent, but the prophet delivered his soul.

Thoughts On The Lesson.
1. Spiritual ignorance does not mean merely that man doesn't know the laws of God, for in our day people know but they do not abide by what they know. Intellectual knowledge is not enough; there must be a commitment to God.



Floyd P. Goodson, Jr., executive vice-president of JFG Coffee Company, Inc., Knoxville, Tenn., recently announced an outstanding achievement in the manufacture of instant coffee. Goodson described his company's installation of the newest, scientifically designed equipment to process instant coffee. He further stated their new, improved process is one of the first instant coffee plants in the Southeast.

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BUCKEYE AND JIMS BRANCH

Mrs. Clyde Pickens
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Thursday, June 10.

Rev. J. H. Black, pastor of Buckeye Baptist church, left on Sunday, May 30 and returned Monday June 7 from the Southern Baptist convention in Saint Louis. James Isley of Black Mountain, brought the evening message at Buckeye on Sunday, May 30. Rev. J. B. Grice of Asheville, the morning message on Sunday, May 6, and Donald Gant, ministerial student from Furman University the evening message.

The vacation Bible school of Buckeye church held preparation day on Friday, June 4, with 35 being registered. After the worship service and registration the group had a parade around the cove and a picnic at Mrs. Maude Rogers home. The school began on Monday, June 7 and will run through June 18. The faculty for the school with the pastor, Rev. J. H. Black are principal, Mrs. Clyde Pickens; superintendents—nursery, Miss Barbara Barnes; beginners, Mrs. Carl Franklin; primary, Mrs. Curtis Hall; junior, Miss Wilma Rice and intermediates, Wesley Hawkins. Teachers are Miss Frances Morgan, Miss Eunice Calahan, Mrs. J. H. Black, Mrs. Arlie Peck, Mrs. Zeb Early, Mrs. Geo. Penley, Mrs. Albert Richardson, Mrs. Maude Rogers and pianist, Miss Clara Ann Pickens.

100,000 NEW CHURCHES WILL BE NEEDED IN U. S.

An increase in church population to some 120 million people by 1975 is seen probable by Warren J. Taussig, a director of Church-Industry Relations for the National Association of Manufacturers, and he cautions that this 28 million increase over 1952 will bring about the need for over 100,000 new churches at a cost of nearly \$8 billion.

Writing in the current issue of The Christian Herald, Mr. Taussig

and grocer for many years, passed away suddenly Sunday afternoon, June 12, after a heart attack. Mr. Fremont Martin was called back from Salisbury, from where the family had just moved. Mr. Cecil Martin just recently starting a business in Florida and Mr. Jack Martin, who flew to Miami on Saturday were expected home on Monday. Another son, Allen, lives in Hawaii and a daughter, Mrs. Wesley Hawkins of the home and the widow, Mrs. Mable Martin survive. We offer sincere condolences to the family from the entire community.

Mrs. J. C. Burgin is much improved after being very ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Merrill and sons of Salisbury visited with Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Merrill on Sunday afternoon, June 12.

The Woman's Missionary society of Buckeye Baptist church met on Tuesday, June 8. Mrs. J. E. McElrath had devotionals followed by sentence prayers. After a brief business period Miss Elizabeth Hall and Miss Clara Ann Pickens with Mrs. Curtis Hall, program chairman, presented the topic program "Proclaiming the Saviour in Formosa."

Mrs. Billie Crawford and son, and Faye Pender visited with the vacation Bible school on Friday. Mrs. Crawford is the director of this school at Azalea this year, with their school beginning on Monday, June 14.

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MRS. EUGENE BAUER IS GUILD SPEAKER

"Students in Today's World," given under the direction of Mrs. Eugene Bauer, was the theme of the program of the Wesleyan Service Guild Monday evening June 7, in the fellowship room of the Methodist church. Mrs. Worth Burgess and Mrs. C. L. Norman assisted on the program.

A business session with Mrs. John Bumgarner, president, presiding was held. Refreshments were served by the hostesses, Mrs. Cortez Gaskins and Mrs. L. H. Gregory.

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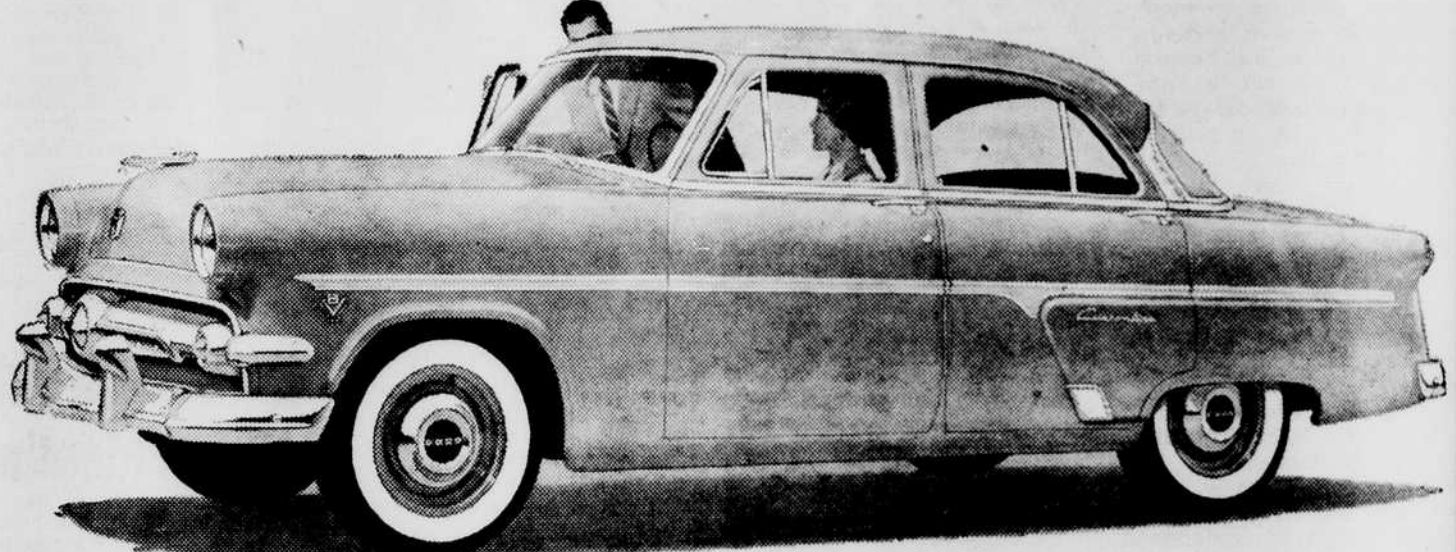
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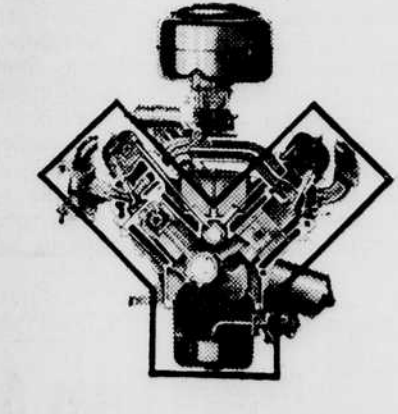
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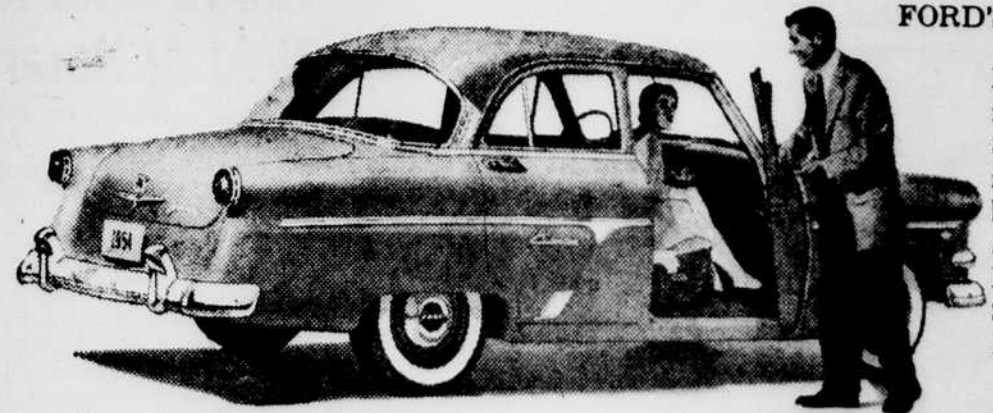


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Having this day qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of Thomas J. Hunter, deceased, late of Buncombe County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned, duly verified, on or before one year from the date hereof, or else this Notice will be plead in bar of recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 14th day of May, 1954.
Mrs. Agnes W. Hunter,
Administratrix,
Swannanoa, N. C.
May 20, 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24.