

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE KINGDOM STRENGTHENED AND ENLARGED

International Sunday School Lesson For April 20

Golden Text: "David waxed great and greater; for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him."—II Samuel 5:10.

Lesson Text: II Samuel 5:3-7; 9-11; 7:8-13.

Our lesson for this week shows the part David played in the plan of God for Israel. The book of II Samuel is a continuation of the first and is the record of David's kingship.

After David's anointment at the hands of Samuel, the prophet, there was a long period of preparation during which God's hand can be definitely seen. There were the years which the young king-to-be spent as a shepherd lad, during which he communed with nature, deepening his poetic temperament and his religious fervor, not to mention the effect the outdoor life would have on his physical well-being. There were also the years which the young man spent in the palace as the "court musician," where he became accustomed to courtly ways and gained some knowledge of the affairs of the state and the needs of the nation.

The jealousy of the king, Saul, led to his years in exile, which were not futile years for David. Seeking refuge as an outlaw in the wild country west of the Dead Sea, David drew around him a motley crew of followers. His ability to keep this group in order and to win them to loyalty to him gives proof of his great power of leadership.

Thus, during the intervening years between his call by God to the kingship of Israel and his assuming the throne upon the death of both Saul, and the heir-apparent, Jonathan, God was preparing this man of his choice

for the task to which he had been called.

Realizing the responsibilities of his position, David went to God asking for guidance. God told him to go into Judah and make his headquarters at Hebron. David obeyed, moving his family and large force of men there. David was asked by the princes of Judah to accept the crown over their tribe and thus David was recognized as king by his fellow tribesmen, but by them only. The result was that although David's designation by Samuel to the kingship was generally known, and he was a popular choice, yet for seven and a half years he ruled over only a small fraction of the people of Israel.

The first act of David, upon ascending to the throne of Judah, was to send thanks to the men of Jabesh-Gilead for their kindness in burying King Saul. This was an act of thoughtfulness and also one of tact, because, by this act, he expressed his real appreciation to them, but also hoped to gain their friendship and allegiance to himself. It should be pointed out here that, although he had been persecuted by Saul, David loved and respected his king. This is evidenced by his beautiful funeral ode to Saul and Jonathan. Forgetful of his personal wrongs, David eulogized the king and his son in words of deepest sorrow and affection.

However, the men of Jabesh, together with all the other northern tribes, united with Abner the captain of the northern army, and for seven and a half years there was a dual kingdom in Israel. Continual feuds broke out between the rival generals, Abner on the north and Joab on the south. David took no part in the rebellion. He defended himself when attacked but that was all. He was waiting on the Lord to act and relying upon God, he became stronger all the while.

Finally, representatives of the northern tribes came to Hebron and asked David to become king of all Israel. The reasons they gave for desiring David as their king are interesting. David was gracious in his acceptance and "made a league with them . . . before the Lord." As Hebron was too far south for the capital of the reunited nation, David selected a site more centrally located, Jerusalem (of Jehus), and proceeded to take it from the hands of the occupants, although it was strongly fortified. Having captured it, he changed its name to "city of David," to commemorate the importance of the conquest.

Wisely, David not only made Jerusalem the seat of the government of Israel, but he also made it the center of the religious life of the people. He had the ark of the covenant brought into the city and placed in a tent set aside for it and made definite plans for the building of a temple. Because of a great sin he committed, God would not permit David to build the temple, but gave this privilege to David's son, Solomon.

David's name has been brought down to us as the greatest king that Israel ever had. It is apparent that he never could have brought this about for the fact that he had in his heart faith and hope and love toward God and toward his fellow men. He was a man of deep and genuine piety. He was "a man after God's own heart."

QUESTIONABLE GRATITUDE

Goshen, Ind.—A transient who was fed and lodged at the Salvation Army citadel, left a note on the basement wall which read: "I've fixed your light meter so it won't register." His "kindness" was not appreciated so much, however, because his "fixing" had blown all of the fuses out.

TAYLOR THEATRE

EDENTON, N. C.
SHOWS CONTINUOUS EVERY DAY EXCEPT SUNDAY

Today (Thursday) and Friday, April 17-18—

Fred MacMurray and Paulette Goddard in "SUDDENLY IT'S SPRING"

Saturday, April 19—

Johnny Mack Brown and Raymond Hatton in "RAIDERS OF THE SOUTH"

Sunday, April 20—

Edward G. Robinson and Len McAllister in "THE RED HOUSE"

Monday and Tuesday, April 21-22—

Walt Disney's "SONG OF THE SOUTH"

Wednesday, April 23—

Double Feature Wallace Beery in "THE BOWERY"

Kirby Grant in "GUNMAN'S CODE"

—Also— "JESSE JAMES RIDES AGAIN"

Coming April 24-25—

Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour in "MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE"

Uncle Sam Says



"Where on earth did my money go?" How often have you voiced this question, half in wonder, half in dismay! It's so easy to fritter away ready cash. A dollar here—and a dollar there—and in the end nothing to show for it. And yet saving for the things you want—a new home, travel or future security—is easy and effective simply by allotting a portion of your income either through the payroll savings or by arrangement with your bank for the systematic purchase of United States Savings Bonds. Dollars go, your bonds grow. When you buy Savings Bonds regularly, you are building the nest-egg for whatever you've set your heart on.

U. S. Treasury Department

Spawning Areas Closed To Fishing

Waters which will be closed to fishing during May and June as spawning areas for warm-water species of game fish were announced today by the Division of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Establishment of these spawning areas is carried out under authority granted by the State Board of Conservation and Development last July when it abolished the closed season on warm-water species. In setting up year-round fishing, the board specified that the division could select waters to close as spawning areas for protection of these species.

Mountain trout now are the only game fish on which there is a closed season. The trout season will remain unchanged—April 15 through August 31.

The streams closed as warm-water spawning areas will be posted. They will be closed to all fishing from May 1 through June 30.

The list of spawning areas in this county includes the Perquimans River from State Highway 37 bridge to head of river.

Fewer Turkeys This Season Is Predicted

North Carolina turkey growers have expressed their intentions to produce four per cent fewer birds in 1947 than last year, the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service says in its first turkey report of this season.

Based upon reports from many turkey growers, only 380,000 turkeys will be raised this year as compared with 396,000 raised in 1946. This number, however, is 68 per cent greater than the five-year (1939-43) average production of 242,000 birds. The trend in turkey production in this State has been increasing for several years.

In the nation, turkey growers anticipate reducing turkey production in 1947 by 16 per cent. This will be the second successive reduction since the peak production year of 1945. If growers carry out their intentions, the number of turkeys raised this year will be about 34,500,000 turkeys, compared with 41,000,000 in 1946. The 1947 crop would be 23 per cent smaller than the record crop of 45,000,000 in 1946. The 1939-43 acreage number was about 33,500,000 turkeys.

Rotation Of Pastures Aids Livestock Health

Before turning livestock out to pasture this spring, farmers should remember the value of pasture rotation as a means of controlling parasites. This word of advice is issued by the Veterinary Division of the State Agriculture Department, which points out that much parasite infestation can be avoided by alternating cattle pastures with those pastures used by swine, sheep or horses.

These other steps were also suggested as part of the same program: Clean, fresh water supplies should be provided. Stagnant ponds and pools should be drained or fenced off. Bonemeal in the ration helps discourage the eating of dirt, which often contains parasite eggs. Clean bedding is vital, and young stock should be kept away from refuse piles. Many of the most troublesome dis-

FABULOUS STORY OF FAMOUS KING OF SWAT!

The life of Babe Ruth, famous baseball player, is a success story that is traditionally American. Read about the Baltimore boy who became the most popular player in baseball with a salary greater than that of the President of the United States. One of many fascinating articles in the April 27th issue of

THE AMERICAN WEEKLY
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cases known to veterinary science are caused by parasites, this authority declared, and a spring parasite control program should be basic in any 1947 livestock program.

ONE MINUTE SPORTS QUIZ

1. What is Hans Wagner's professional position?
2. Where is the Masters tourney played?
3. What golfer came out of retirement this year to try for his third Masters triumph?
4. How did the United States fare with Australia in the last Davis Cup matches?
5. Did Kentucky lose any basketball games this year?

- Answers
1. He is coach with the Pittsburgh Pirates.
 2. In Augusta, Georgia.
 3. Byron Nelson.
 4. The U. S. team made a clean sweep, 5-0.
 5. Yes. The final in the National tourney at Madison Square Garden.

Not every unnoticed birthday has been overlooked, or forgotten.



SHE'S A SMOOTH NUMBER... ARE YOU?

High on anyone's list of favors—He people are the boys and girls who play fair with their friends and neighbors. Telephone-wise teenagers know it's smart to give party line neighbors a square shake... and use only their fair share of telephone time. These party line pals are smooth numbers... are you?

The Norfolk & Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company

Hard Lines

Rolls-Tinpan's still mad over the theft of his flivver, even after they

caught and convicted the thief. Spin—That's 'cause the jury convicted him of petty larceny.

Notice!

Bring us your Peanuts for shelling.

We will begin operation of our mill about April 15 and will continue every day thereafter.

Shelling at the same old prices. Bring bags to catch them in and don't wait.

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ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.



The World Needs Another Record

Reports by world authorities indicate that another record harvest is needed this year if the people of the globe are to receive sufficient food to stave off starvation.

We know that the American Farmer is planning to do his share toward raising this crop. His efforts in the past have kept the American public the best fed in the world and contributed much toward the high standard of living enjoyed here

in America. He will continue to work toward better living conditions, not only for himself but for all the people. He will keep his products filling the consumers' market in order that all can be satisfied.

Today the Farmer is seeing to it that he gets more from his land than ever before . . . he is constantly planning improvements for his soil, knowing this is a must if he is to raise a great crop.

Farmers, a record crop depends on several conditions but an important one is the FERTILIZER you use to place your soil in proper condition. We suggest this year that you try SCO-CO FERTILIZER as many others have done before. Your friendly SCO-CO agent is again ready to help you produce a great crop.

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