

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

GOD'S MESSAGE TO A PEOPLE IN EXILE

International Sunday School Lesson For April 11

Golden Text: "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you."—Ezekiel 36:26.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 18:1-4; 34:11-16; 36:25-28.

As pointed out in the lesson for last week, the Kingdom of Israel perished at the fall of Samaria and the people who were carried into captivity became Assyrians and the Northern Kingdom was heard of no more. The Southern Kingdom—the Kingdom of Judah—perished at the fall of Jerusalem, and never became again an independent nation. The Jews, however, who were carried into exile by the Chaldeans were settled in one place, kept their old customs and religion and, while they ceased to be a kingdom, they became a church.

The change from the kingdom of Judah to the Jewish Church was made during the exile, under the leadership of Ezekiel. Ezekiel and Jeremiah were contemporary prophets, although Jeremiah was much the older of the two. During the eleven years of Zedekiah's reign, both were busy, the one in Jerusalem and the other in Babylon, proclaiming practically the same truths—the sins and coming punishment of Judah, the folly of opposing Babylon and seeking help from Egypt and the certainty of the destruction of Jerusalem. Both foretold the ultimate restoration of the exiles.

The message which God gave to Ezekiel to deliver to the people at this time was that if they would avoid the consequences of their sin, if they would escape eternal spiritual death, then the wicked must turn from their wickedness and turn back to the Lord and they would die.

This is the message which Christians must give to the world today. The only way that one can hope to live eternally is to turn from his wickedness and turn to the Lord. If we fail to give this message to the unsaved, then their blood is on our hands. If we faithfully deliver the message of salvation to the lost we come in contact with and they refuse to accept the salvation offered, then we will not be held responsible for that soul's damnation.

Since the people had come to realize that their condition was due to their own sins, they began to pity themselves and to conclude that they were a lost generation and that there was nothing they could do about it. They blamed their disaster upon their forefathers and refused to accept any responsibility in their exile.

Ezekiel rebuked them for the attitude and reminded them that God deals with individuals one by one, that the individual is the object of God's care and reward, and that everyone receives the just recompense of his deeds. Too often today we are prone to blame conditions and customs on our fathers and forefathers when we, if not entirely responsible, could do much to better the

# THE CHURCH

HAS SOMETHING FOR YOU . . . .  
AND YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR  
**THE CHURCH**

"PEACE OF MIND IS YOURS THROUGH LIFE WHEN YOU MEDITATE REGULARLY IN WORSHIP WITH YOUR FELLOW-MAN."



STONEWALL JACKSON

PERHAPS as a youngster, with so many other things to do, regular church attendance was an allegiance not of your own choice. Now you are far enough along the highway of life to realize more clearly the comfort and peace to be found in His word. There is strife and hatred the world over. Your own responsibilities and cares may have increased many fold. Find the hope, the composure you seek in your church this Sunday. No doubt, you were planning to attend. But we would like this message to achieve another purpose, too: More frequent attendance at your church to find the guidance and encouragement you want.

state of affairs.

The religion of Jesus emphasizes individual responsibility and personal accountability before God. He who tries to live up to the Christian ideals of life tries his best to keep his life and conduct on the highest plane possible. Regardless of what the crowd does, he will do what he believes is

right. He also has a deep concern for the spiritual welfare of those he comes in contact with. We must shoulder the responsibility for our own conduct and use our influence to help guide others into this way.

An article in The Youth's Companion emphasizes this truth. It says: (Concluded on Page Two)

Be a Better Citizen! Go to Some Church Next Sunday

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH  
D. L. Fouts, Pastor  
Church School, 9:45 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.  
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.  
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.  
Choir rehearsal Saturday, 8:00 P. M.

## Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH  
C. W. Duling, Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.  
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM  
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor  
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Young People's Meeting, 6:00 P. M.  
Evening Worship, 7:00 o'clock.  
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
W. H. Marler, Pastor  
Church services first and third Sundays at 3:00 P. M.  
Christian Union, 7:30 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH  
Rev. J. R. Byerly, Pastor  
Church services first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.  
Burgess and Bethlehem Churches hold Christian Union together on second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES  
E. B. Edwards, Pastor  
First Sunday:  
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Oak Grove Church, 3:00 P. M.  
Second Sunday  
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Cedar Grove Church, 3:00 P. M.  
Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.  
Third Sunday  
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.  
New Hope Church, 7:00 P. M.  
Fourth Sunday  
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Woodland Church, 3:00 P. M.  
Winfall Church, 7:30 P. M.  
Fifth Sunday  
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church at 7:30 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
E. T. Jilson, Rector  
Holy Communion, 9:00 A. M.  
Every Sunday except first Sunday at 9:00 A. M.  
Church School, 10:00 A. M.  
Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 o'clock.  
Holy Communion first Sunday at 11 A. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH  
Elizabeth White, Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
Church Services, 11 A. M.  
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH  
Rev. Harry F. Bean, Pastor  
Sunday School, 11 A. M. every Sunday except first Sunday.  
Sunday School first Sunday, 2 P. M.  
Church services every first Sunday at 3 P. M.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS MEETING  
Bertha V. Smith White, Minister  
Bible School, 10 A. M.  
Meeting for worship, 11 A. M.

# Go To Church -- Your Church -- Any Church -- But Go

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