

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

The Hope For The Messiah

International Sunday School Lesson
For June 20, 1948

Golden Text: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."—Isaiah 9:6.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 34:23-28; Daniel 7:13, 14; Zechariah 9, 10; 12:10; 13:1.

As we realize, the Bible is the story of redemption, from Genesis to Revelation. Sin spoiled the intimate relationship that existed between man, God's crowning creation, and the Creator. The curse pronounced on the serpent, sin, carried with it a promise of blessing for the human race. In the perpetual fight between mankind and evil, both would be wounded, but the final victory would be in favor of the seed of the woman, who would bruise the serpent's head.

God renewed his covenant with Abraham, who was selected to be the father of a chosen people, the Jews. Through them God would bless the whole world and this has been literally true. The Jews have been the teachers of religion and morality to the world all through the eons of time.

Throughout the history of the Jews, as recorded in the Old Testament, the guiding hand of God can be seen. They prospered when they kept close to him and were punished when they forgot him. All through the years, the hope for a deliverer runs like a bright thread. In our Scripture lesson for this week, we are given some of the messianic prophecies from the people who suffered exile from their homeland.

Ezekiel, a priest, was one of those carried away with King Jehoiachin. He continued his prophecies while living among the captives in lower Babylon. His messages before the fall of Jerusalem were full of denunciation of sin and warnings of the coming destruction of the city. After the final fall of Jerusalem, his messages became messages of promise of deliverance.

Ezekiel portrayed the coming Messiah as a shepherd of God's flock, Israel. The former kings he described as evil keepers who were selfish and not interested in what happened to their sheep. The flock had been attacked by wild beasts—heathen nations—but God would judge the evil shepherd and would eventually claim the flock for his very own, giving them a new Shepherd of the House of David. The new Shepherd would feed them in peaceful and rich pastures where they would be unmolested by the beasts of prey. In John 10, Jesus stated: "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep. . . I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."

Daniel, about whom we studied several weeks ago, also prophesied of (Concluded on Page Two)



The BIBLE CONTAINS

'The mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter.

Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.

CHRIST is its Grand Subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end.

It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully.

It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure.

It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and will be remembered forever.

It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents.

Be a Better Citizen!
Go to Some Church Next Sunday

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.

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

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
D. L. Fouts, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 7:15 P. M.
Evening Worship, 8 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 8 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, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 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.

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

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. E. G. Willis, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.

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

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
A. H. Outlaw, Pastor
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.
Sunday School at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

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

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