

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE UNITED KINGDOM

International Sunday School Lesson for May 6th, 1951.

Memory Selection: "One thing I asked of Jehovah, that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of Jehovah all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of Jehovah, and to inquire in his temple." Psalm 27: 4.

Lesson Text: II Samuel 5: 1-5; 8: 15; I Chronicles 22: 17-19.

After the anointing of David by 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, those that he spent as the "Court musician," where he became accustomed to courtly ways and gained some knowledge of the affairs of state and the needs of the nation. Even the years he spent in exile, because of the jealousy of King Saul, were not futile years for David. Seeking refuge as an outlaw, he 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, in the intervening years, God was preparing his chosen man for his chosen task—king, of God's chosen people.

Realizing the responsibilities of his position, David went often in prayer to God. God told him to go into Judah and make his headquarters at Hebron. Obeying, David moved his family and a large force of men there. He 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, at that time. The result was that, although David's designation by Samuel to the kingship was generally known, yet for seven and a half years, he ruled over only a small fraction of the people of Israel.

It is noteworthy that 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.

However, the men of Jabesh, together with all the other northern tribes, united with Abner, 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, but David took no part in the rebellion. He defended himself when attacked but that was all. He was waiting on Jehovah to act and, relying upon God, he became stronger all the while.

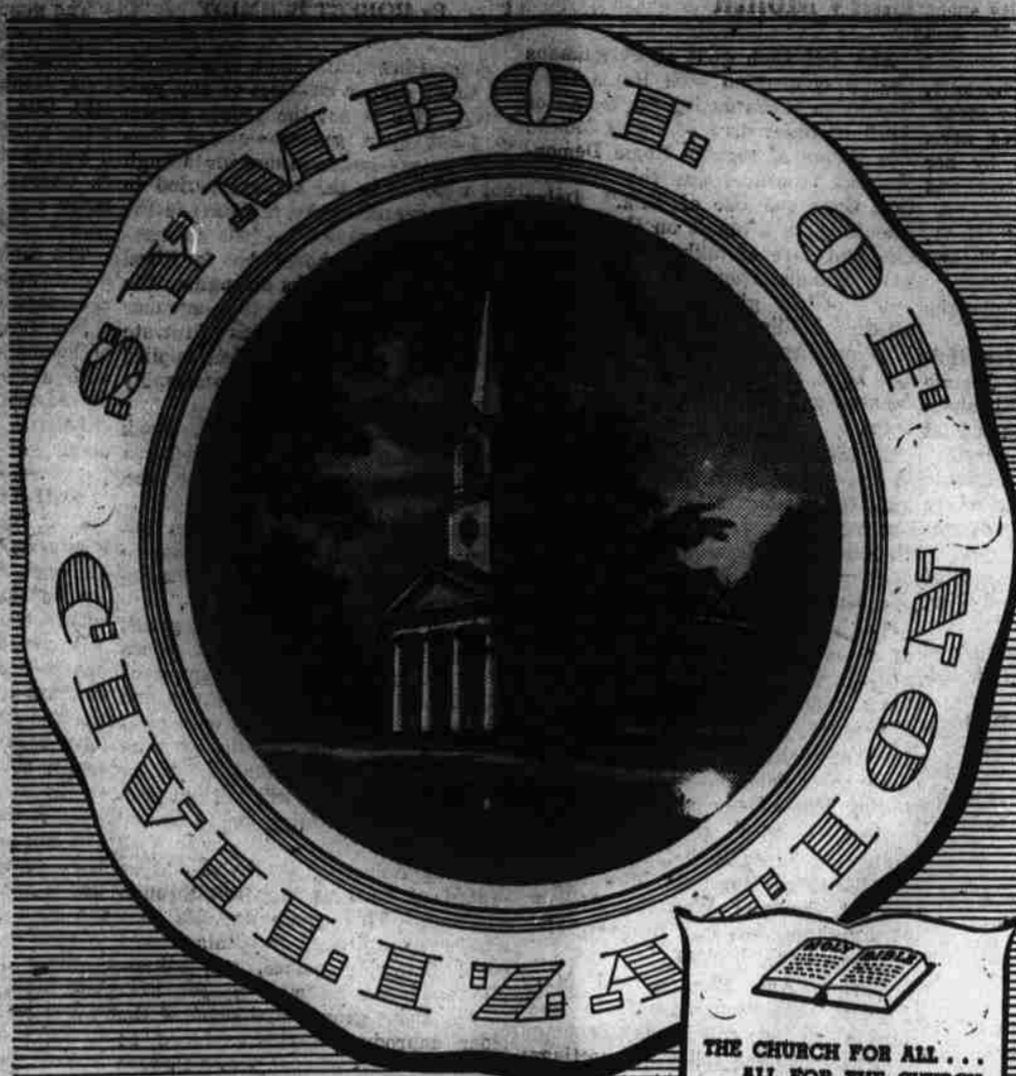
Finally, representatives of the northern tribes came to Hebron and asked David to become King of all Israel. The reasons they gave for desiring David make interesting reading. David was gracious in his acceptance and "made a covenant with them . . . before the Lord." This covenant laid down the rules for the new kingdom, the duties of both king and people, and it was sealed with the anointing of David as King over united Israel. It is important to note that it was the leaders of the people who did the anointing of David, not the priests.

As Hebron was too far south for the capital of the united nation, David selected a site more centrally located—Jerusalem (or Jebus), and proceeded to take it from 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.

Wise, David made Jerusalem not only the seat of the government, but also 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 aside for it and made definite plans for building a temple for the worship of Jehovah. Because of a great sin he had committed, God would not permit David to build the temple but gave this privilege to David's son, Solomon.

David's name has come down to us as the greatest king that Israel ever had. It is apparent that he never could have brought this about but for the fact that he had his heart faith, hope, and love toward God and his fellow men. He was a man of deep and genuine piety and, although not perfect, he was "A man after God's own heart."

BE A BETTER
CITIZEN!
GO TO SOME
CHURCH
NEXT SUNDAY



THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Book	Chapter	Verse
Sunday . . . Matthew	5	1-8
Monday . . . Mark	7	14-23
Tuesday . . . Luke	6	26-45
Wednesday . . . John	8	31-36
Thursday . . . Psalms	43	1-5
Friday . . . Proverbs	3	1-7
Saturday . . . II Timothy	3	14-17

Inasmuch as spiritual development embraces the enduring qualities of our existence, the Church can truly be called the symbol of civilization.

History proves that the most highly civilized nations are those which encouraged and promoted the life of the mind and spirit. Buildings have crumbled, cities have disappeared, and great states have become as legend, but the revelations of God remain eternal.

That is why the appearance of a church is a sign of progress, whether it be in a vast metropolis or in a country village. For the Church represents man's quest for immortal Truth.

When you support the Church you will be contributing to the progress of civilization. You will enrich and enjoy your only imperishable possession—your soul.

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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 CHURCH OF CHRIST
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor
First Sunday
11 A. M. and 8 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.
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES
J. S. Craffin, Paston
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:30 P. M.
Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.
Woodland Church, 7:30 P. M.
Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:30 P. M.
Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. 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.

ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH
R. M. Gradeless, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Carl Bjork, Pastor
Sunday School, 11 A. M. every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 8 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.
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH
Carl J. Yow, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Morning worship—11:00 A. M.
Youth Fellowship, 6:30 P. M.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
G. M. Singletary, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M. on first and third Sundays and 2:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.
Church services, 8:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
A. L. Chaplin, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, 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, 6:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Charles F. Wolf, Rector.
10:00 A. M., Church School, Every Sunday
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion
1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer
2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion
Third Sunday

BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. 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