

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

International Sunday School Lesson
for May 13, 1951.

Memory Selection: "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people."—Proverbs 14:34.

Lesson Text: 1 Kings 12: 20, 26-30; 16: 23-28; Amos 6: 1-6.

First Kings takes up the record of the Hebrew people from the point where II Samuel stops, beginning with the old age of David and recounting the glory of the reign of David's son, Solomon. Solomon's era was one of outward greatness but it contained seeds of dissension. Solomon married hundreds of wives, many of them being foreign princesses with heathen outlooks, who set up their pagan shrines and turned the people of Israel from their allegiance to Jehovah.

The construction of temples, palaces, cities and other public structures made the burden of labor and taxation very heavy and, toward the end of Solomon's reign, there were signs of the discontent and dissatisfaction of the people.

Following the death of Solomon, the twelve tribes of the Israelites assembled to crown his son, Rehoboam, king. Before crowning their new king, however, the people asked Rehoboam to give them some assurance of ease from their burdens. Asking for three days to consider their request, Rehoboam wisely went to some of the older counsellors of his father, and they advised that he heed the people's request. He then consulted some young men, with some he had been reared, and they counseled him thus: "Say unto them, whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions." Thereupon he lost the greater part of his kingdom.

Ten of the twelve tribes, instead of accepting Rehoboam as their king, chose Jeroboam, a member of the tribe of Ephraim, industrious and able, who had been promoted by Solomon to a position of leadership among the many engaged in various public works. The result was a division of the kingdom, Jeroboam becoming king of the northern ten tribes which inherited most of the sacred places of the nation, but Judah retained the immense advantage of the location of the great city of Jerusalem, with its Temple.

Naturally, there was much rivalry between the two kingdoms and there was constant war between them. Jeroboam, fearing to allow his people to go to Jerusalem for their religious feasts and rites, established two shrines—one in the northern part, at Dan, and the other at Bethel, each having a golden calf to serve as an outward symbol of Jehovah to the people. Thus, Jeroboam committed two great sins—he sinned in permitting the people to worship an image and he further sinned in selecting men to be priests who were not of the tribe of Levi, dedicated by God for the priesthood. Not only did Jeroboam sin, but the scripture declares, he "made Israel to sin."

During the two hundred and ten years after Solomon's death and the complete ruin of the Northern Kingdom, nineteen different kings reigned—some for only one or two years. It is impossible for us to consider each, but among them there were several righteous men, who tried to lead the people back to God. As a whole, however, these kings were wicked men.

There were men of God in the kingdom all during these years, who tried to point the people to God and to his worship, but the people failed to heed their warnings. Among them was Amos, the prophet, who came out of the desert of Tekoa to condemn the rulers and princes and rich men of Israel for their corruption, their lives of ease at the expense of the poor, who were literally starving to death. He called for repentance, but they only laughed at him. Amos died; they died; and Israel died.

The downfall of Israel has a lesson for us today. Moral and spiritual decay ate away the heart of Israel and it will eat away the heart of America. Israel collapsed inwardly before it collapsed outwardly. What about America today?

BE A BETTER
CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME
CHURCH
NEXT SUNDAY

Johnny had a little lamb

It was a wonderful day for Johnny when Father took him down to the South Meadow and gave him this lamb. It was to be his very own, to care for and to love.

Johnny promised himself he would rear his pet with the best of his ability and would keep it always—even when he grew up.

But Johnny, in his enthusiasm, did not realize that what he thought was his greatest possession would not live forever.

And so our most treasured goods last but for a limited span of years; we sometimes overlook the fact that we must some day part with them.

But there are treasures which may never be taken from us. The good deeds we do, the happiness we bring, the blessings we bestow, the duties we perform; these are with us always, and will bring us happiness forever.

All of us can possess more of these treasures. By attending the services of our Church and by reading the Holy Word, we will come to possess more gifts of lasting value, gifts which we can prize always, and will take with us into eternity.



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.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Matthew	12	9-14
Monday	Luke	2	41-52
Tuesday	Colossians	4	1-6
Wednesday	Luke	1	46-55
Thursday	Matthew	12	46-50
Friday	II Corinthians	4	1-10
Saturday	Matthew	6	19-24

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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, 3:00 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. Wulf, 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

BERRA 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