

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

## THE RESTORATION OF JERUSALEM

International Sunday School Lesson for June 3, 1951.

Memory Selection: "They that wait for Jehovah shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."—Isaiah 40: 31.

Lesson Text: Ezra 1: 2-3; 6: 14-16; Nehemiah 4: 6; 8: 1-3.

Three men had leading roles in the life of the Jews at this period in their history. They were Cyrus, King of Persia; Ezra, the scribe, who, during the exile of the Jews in Babylon, preserved the Jewish Law; and Nehemiah, the engineer, builder and patriot, who led the returned exiles in the building of the wall around Jerusalem.

Cyrus of Persia had conquered Babylon, where the Jews had been taken captive after Nebuchadnezzar had captured Judah and destroyed Jerusalem. Seeing little to be gained in keeping the Jews captive any longer, he issued a decree that they should return to their homeland and "build the house of Jehovah, the God of Israel (he is God), which is in Jerusalem." Cyrus did even more, he ordered that the sacred vessels which Nebuchadnezzar had removed from the Temple be restored to the Jews, for use in the Temple they were to rebuild. However, a majority of the Jews living in Babylon, having become settled, prosperous and content, decided to remain there. They saw no reason to change their new comfort for the irksome and arduous task of rebuilding Jerusalem. They made contributions, however, the minority to help them in their journey.

We are told that the first thing the returned exiles did, after throwing up temporary dwelling-places for their families, was to build a shelter for their altar. On the very spot where the great brazen altar had once stood in Solomon's Temple, they set up a new altar and prepared for the Feast of Tabernacles in their first year after the Exile. This building, of course, was just a shelter, as the rebuilding of the Temple came some years later. It is well to remember that the Exiles returned in three groups: the first started home in 537 B. C.; Ezra and his priests, in a caravan of some 772 men, left Babylon on April 1, 458 B. C., and others left with Nehemiah in 445 B. C.

When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, a sorry sight met his eyes. The city was still in ruins, with little done in the way of clearing up the rubble. It was defenseless, since the wall had been totally destroyed. Nehemiah, being an engineer and builder, was much disturbed and went out in the middle of the night and, looking at the condition of his beloved Jerusalem, wept. Then, he got up from his weeping and "took a spear in one hand and a trowel in the other," and, summoning the people, he placed each man in a given task. Together, in fifty-two days, they built the wall around the city, for "the people had a mind to work."

With the wall built, Nehemiah felt safe to leave his people for a while and he went back to Babylon to ask more help from King Cyrus. He was gone for twelve years and when he returned, with other exiles, he found a bad situation within the walls. The people had become lazy, were intermarrying with non-Jews, the Sabbath was being desecrated and the priests and Levites were in rags. Nehemiah, the practical layman, realized that there was only one man in the city who could do what needed to be done. That man was Ezra, the scribe.

So Nehemiah had a high platform built, just inside one of the gates and on it sat Ezra, and the Levites and scholars and interpreters of the Scripture. Ezra brought forth a copy of the Law, which he had preserved all during the Exile, and from early morning until noon, they read and interpreted God's word to the assembled people. Interpretation was necessary because Ezra was reading from a record written in ancient Hebrew, which was not familiar to the Jews of his day, who were familiar with Aramaic, which they had acquired during the Exile.

The effect of the reading was remarkable. The people wept—in shame at their forgetfulness of God. However, Nehemiah and Ezra urged them to stop weeping and get to work, following God and obeying His Law! It is still true that no man can read or listen to the Bible, being read, without being inspired and having ideals for his life and conduct. Thomas Jefferson declared: "I have always said, I shall always say, that the studious perusal of the Bible will make better citizens, better fathers, and better husbands."

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY BE A BETTER CITIZEN!

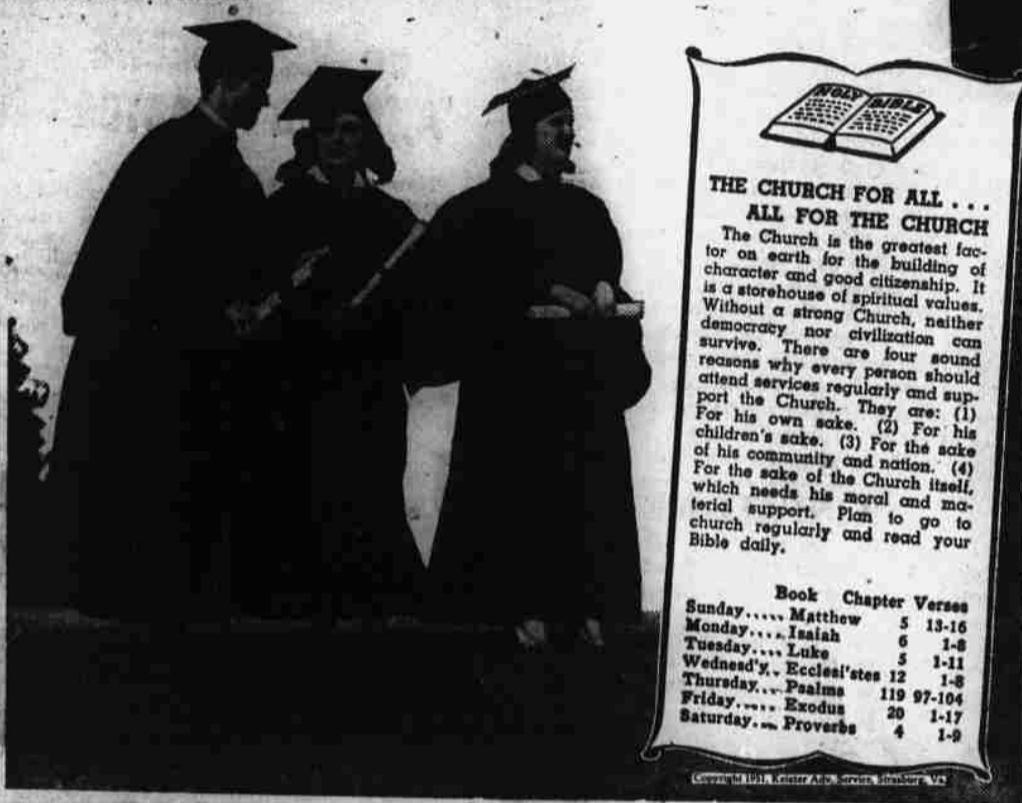
# Graduation Day

It's an exciting moment not soon to be forgotten—the strange feel of the cap and gown, the presence of family and friends with eyes on you, and finally, the receipt of the diploma and the handshakes.

Excitement, yes, a great deal of it, but there is mixed with it a sort of melancholy for the graduate. He knows that a happy era has just ended, and there is uncertainty ahead in the life that he has not yet tried.

But there are fewer doubts, fewer misgivings in the mind of a young person if he has had proper religious training. If he can enter his career equipped with strong moral and religious convictions, the road ahead will much more likely lead to success and happiness.

This offers a challenge to every parent and patriotic citizen. For every child should have the opportunity to acquire the spiritual stamina so needed to meet the responsibilities of life. Let's make every child in the community a "child of the Church," and thus a better citizen.



**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	5	13-16
Monday	Isaiah	6	1-8
Tuesday	Luke	5	1-11
Wednesday	Ecclesiastes	12	1-8
Thursday	Psalms	119	97-104
Friday	Exodus	20	1-17
Saturday	Proverbs	4	1-9

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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. Craftin, 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 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**  
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. 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