

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

DAVID BECOMES KING

International Sunday School Lesson
For August 24, 1952.

Memory Selection: "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."—I Samuel 16: 7.

Lesson Text: I Samuel 18: 1-5, 14-16; 22: 1-2; II Samuel 5: 1-5.

Our lesson for today concerns the early years in the life of Israel's great king, David. Probably the three outstanding characters in the minds of all Jews are the historic figures of Moses, the liberator from Egyptian bondage, Samuel, the great judge and prophet, and David, the glorious king. Shortly after the final break between the king, Saul, and the old prophet, Samuel, the latter received a commission from Jehovah to anoint a new ruler. This alarmed the old prophet, who feared the wrath of Saul, but Jehovah authorized him to perform his task under the guise of offering a sacrifice.

So, Samuel proceeded to the town of Bethlehem, full of historic associations for the Jewish people. Here Jacob's beloved Rachel had died and not long before had occurred the romance of the Moabitess Ruth and Boaz. Samuel called upon Jesse to attend the sacrifice and to bring his sons. Jesse had alien blood in his ancestry, for he was descended from the harlot of Jericho. However, for three generations, his people were Jewish and that prevented any question of his ancestry.

So, the sons of Jesse were exhibited to the prophet Samuel. The first one attracted the prophet's attention, but the divine message came, rejecting him: "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for Jehovah seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance but Jehovah looketh upon the heart." What a timely warning this is to us in this year of political campaigns and important national elections!

From the sons of Jesse, Samuel selected the youngest—David, the shepherd boy. Realizing that it was he who was divinely chosen, Samuel anointed him as the future king. From then on, David's career became very interesting. As mentioned last week, he was summoned to the royal palace because of his skill as a musician, in order to soothe the troubled king.

Jonathan, the king's son, and Michal, the king's daughter, both fell in love with him. The friendship between Jonathan and David is a beautiful one to relate. Jonathan's devotion to this shepherd lad is superbly unselfish. David's behavior in the court of the King is described as being "wise" and was such that all of the people loved him. Saul, seeing this love, became insanely jealous and would have killed him, had not David escaped from him.

This jealousy of the king, which led to David's years in exile, were not futile years for him. Seeking refuge as an outlaw in the wild country west of the Dead Sea, David drew around him a motley crew of followers. They included his own brethren and "every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented." He became their captain. In all, there were about four hundred in his company. 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, during the intervening years between his call by God to the kingship of Israel and his actually assuming the throne upon the death of both Saul and the heir-apparent, Jonathan, God was preparing his man for the task to which he had been called.

Realizing the responsibilities of his position, David went to God, seeking guidance. God told him to go into Judah and make his headquarters at Hebron. David obeyed, moving his family and his large force of men there. Asked by the princes of Judah to accept the crown over their tribe, David accepted and was thus recognized as king by his fellow tribesmen, but by them only.

The result was that, although David's designation by Samuel to the kingship was generally known and he was a popular choice, yet, for seven and a half years, he ruled over only a small portion of the people of Israel. David's first act, 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 that, 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, the captain of the northern army, and for seven and a half years, there was a dual kingdom in Israel. Finally, representatives of the northern tribes came to Hebron and asked

(Continued On Page Two)



THE KEYS OF TOMORROW

Boys and girls like the two in this picture are the raw materials from which good citizens are made. They hold the keys of tomorrow and are the hope of America and the world.

As they grow older, they will acquire knowledge and receive training designed to fit them for the duties and responsibilities of life. They will realize that they have an important stake in government and in human society as a whole.

But they must be trained—and must train themselves—to meet these responsibilities as they develop. They must be taught that obedience to law and respect for the rights of others is essential to the common good.

There is no better training in the elements of good citizenship than is embodied in the teachings of the Church and the great principles of the Bible. They are the touchstone of good citizenship and the spiritual basis of our inherited faith.

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 the sake of his children and nation. (3) For the sake of his community and world. (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	Acts	5	25-32
Monday	Philipp's	2	12-18
Tuesday	I Peter	1	15-16
Wednesday	Matthew	16	13-20
Thursday	Matthew	16	21-28
Friday	Luke	11	45-52
Saturday	Revelation	1	10-15

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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
Colon Jackson, Jr., Pastor
Church services second and fourth 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
H. M. Jamieson, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:00 P. M.
Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. 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, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church, 7:00 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.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
James F. Burke, Pastor
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.
Sunday School 9:45 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.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Bennie Crawford, 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
No Pastor At Present
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Morning worship—11:00 A. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Caleb Goodwin, Jr., Pastor
Sunday School, 11 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

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.
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.

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