

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

DAVID'S RELIGIOUS CONTRIBUTION

International Sunday School Lesson For September 14, 1952.

Memory Selection: "Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing."—Psalm 100: 2.

Lesson Text: II Samuel 7: 18-19, 25-29; 23: 1-4.

As mentioned in our discussions of the life of David, one of the first acts, after he had succeeded in establishing himself and his people in his newly won capital, was to bring the ark to Jerusalem. Thirty thousand picked men were gathered from all Israel, and a great number of people, led by King David, went down to Kirjath-jearim, about 11 miles away, to bring the precious shrine back.

No doubt the beautiful 24th Psalm was written by David for use on this memorable occasion, one of the most eventful in the life of the Israelites. Recall some of the words: "Who shall ascend into the hills of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?" One can almost hear the antiphonal singing as one choir answers the other, "He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity; who hath not sworn deceitfully."

When the ark was first brought to Jerusalem, it was placed in a tent, or tabernacle, prepared for it, which probably resembled the one used in the wilderness wanderings. However, David was not satisfied. He thought of the richness of his palace and then thought of the ark of God "dwelling in curtains" and, consequently, conceived the plan of building a great temple worthy of the worship of Jehovah.

David had a fine sense of the fitness of things. We should all realize that there should be the right proportion between expenditures on ourselves and on religious objects. Many professing Christians today need to emulate David's example in this regard.

David went to the Prophet Nathan and told him of his plans. Nathan at first approved the plan but, during the night, God revealed unto him that it was not His will that David should build Him a house. The proper time for building the Temple had not yet come, because the time necessary for gathering the materials for the Temple would be better spent in enlarging and strengthening the kingdom, the task to which David had been assigned by God. Another reason God did not want David to build His house was explained in I Chron. 22: 8, that David was a man of war and it was not appropriate that bloody hands build the walls of worship.

Of course, David was deeply disappointed. It must have seemed to him that God had turned against him at the very time he was trying to do his best for God. But David did not sulk. He turned to God and God gave him several wonderful promises.

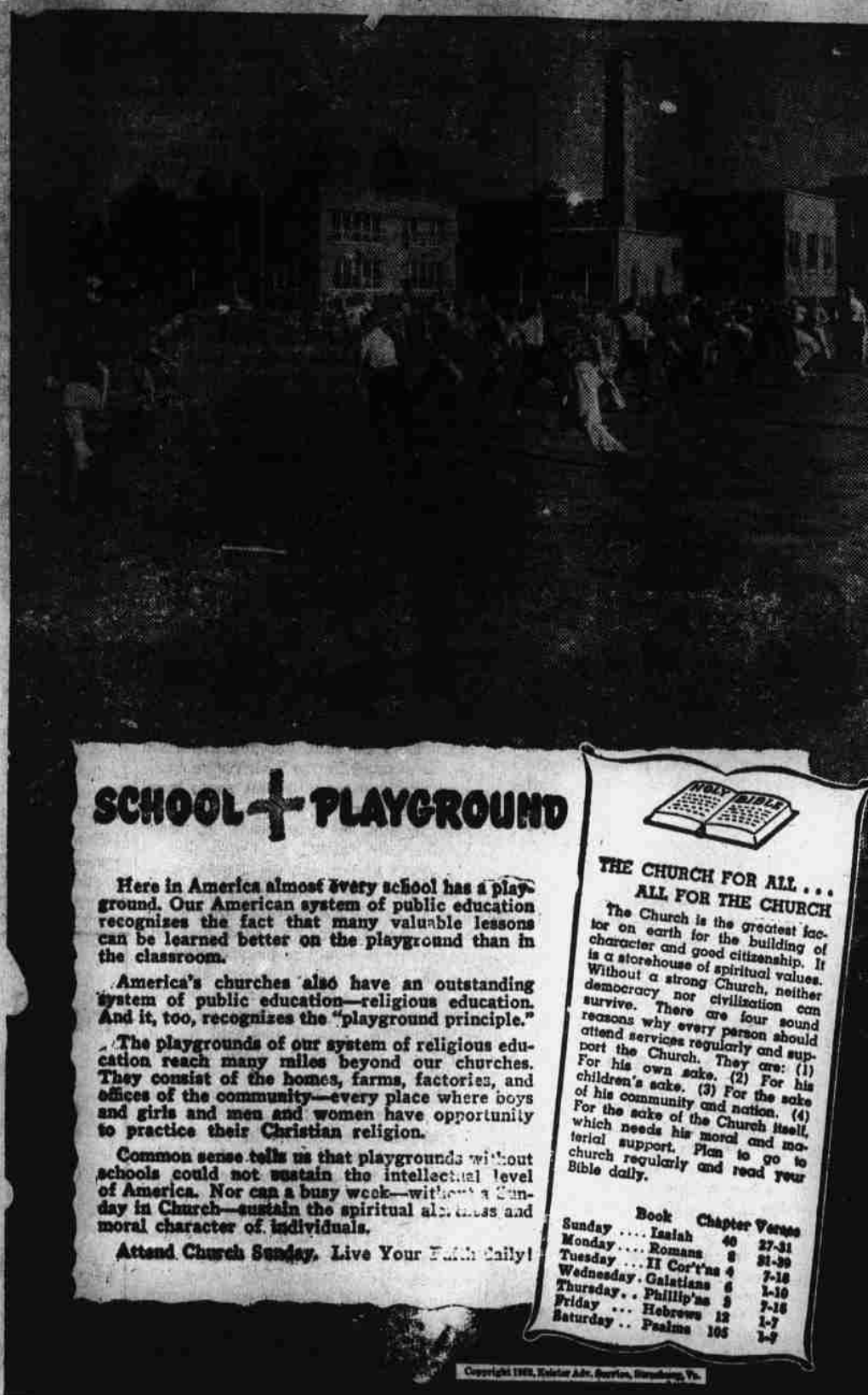
To David personally, He promised continued help, and to David's people a permanent peaceful possession of the land. His most wonderful promise, however, had to do with David's descendants. God promised that David should be the founder of a permanent dynasty, a descendant of his should build the Temple, and that a son of his should rule forever!

Part of these promises was fulfilled when Solomon was permitted the privilege of building the beautiful temple which came to be known as "Solomon's Temple." The promise of an eternal dominion, which was emphatically repeated three times, goes far beyond the life of David. As we read these words, we realize that there is only one whose kingdom is from everlasting to everlasting and that this promise was completely fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Nowhere does David appear to better advantage in his acceptance of God's refusal. He believed in God's wisdom and goodness and promises. His contributions to the Temple and its services were numerous. While Solomon had the privilege of building God's house, it was David who projected it, who transmitted the plans for the building in all of its details, and who amassed materials and treasures for it. He also arranged for the song and music for the Temple services and, while there is no way of knowing just which of the Psalms were undoubtedly his.

David recognized the importance of worship in the individual and collective lives of his people. Man is by nature religious and must worship something and the people who recognize this fact and practice this truth are the really great people of any time. While it is possible to worship God anywhere, at any time, God himself emphasizes the necessity of a special day of worship by setting aside the seventh day and by blessing the churches we places for the combined worship of believers. As a nation and as individuals, we should be more faithful in our worship of God.

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SCHOOL + PLAYGROUND

Here in America almost every school has a playground. Our American system of public education recognizes the fact that many valuable lessons can be learned better on the playground than in the classroom.

America's churches also have an outstanding system of public education—religious education. And it, too, recognizes the "playground principle."

The playgrounds of our system of religious education reach many miles beyond our churches. They consist of the homes, farms, factories, and offices of the community—every place where boys and girls and men and women have opportunity to practice their Christian religion.

Common sense tells us that playgrounds without schools could not sustain the intellectual level of America. Nor can a busy week—without a Sunday in Church—sustain the spiritual altitudes and moral character of individuals.

Attend Church Sunday. Live Your Faith Daily!

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) Which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Leviticus	40	27-31
Monday	Romans	8	28-39
Tuesday	II Cor. Th's	4	1-10
Wednesday	Galatians	6	1-10
Thursday	Philipp's	3	1-7
Friday	Hebrews	12	1-7
Saturday	Psalms	108	1-7

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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
D. Virgin Pike, Pastor
Church School 10 A. M.
Morning Worship 11 A. M.
Young People's Meeting 7 P. 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 8 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.

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 Services 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