

Sunday School Lesson

HOPE FOR A BETTER DAY

Micah was called of God to denounce the terrible evils blighting his people — oppression of the poor, unscrupulous use of power, lack of integrity, scorn of religion, and greedy corruption in both the religious and political circles. Micah stressed that one's religion should manifest itself in godly living.

Micah also denounced the sins of the princes, the priests and the prophets. They had failed to honor God because they were seeking their own advancement. God was not pleased with conformity with the outward forms of worship when the eternal principles of right and wrong were disregarded. For all their offenses against God and their fellowmen they were to be punished.

Micah did not limit his description of conditions as they were in his day, but he portrayed them as they will be at the end of this age. After warning the people that their rejection of God would bring sorrow and judgment, he prophesied of the glory that is to come during the future reign of the Prince of Peace. The phrase, "in the last days, refers to the time when the people shall go up to Jerusalem to hear God's Word, to seek His will, and to learn to walk in His ways. Micah visualized multitudes from different nations, who had previously walked in their sinful ways, journeying to Jerusalem, which will be a city of exceptional beauty and brilliant splendor, in search of instruction from the Lord.

Corruption kept Jerusalem from being the kind of place that God wanted it to be in Micah's time, and the prophet was a glorious day in the future when sin and idolatry shall be abolished. The Messiah shall reign, nations shall be blessed, and war shall no longer menace the world. Micah's age, like our own, was characterized by materialism, but this coming age is to be characterized by spirituality. It will be a time of peace, safety, and satisfaction. War will be abolished, and the weapons of destruction

will be converted into instruments of usefulness. Men will give themselves to peaceful pursuits, and there will be a personal and universal prosperity. Want and poverty will be banished, and there will be perfect contentment.

"They shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree" refers to the fruitfulness of the ground. When peace becomes permanent, fear will disappear. Micah made it clear that God's Kingdom will be supreme, universal, Christ-centered, peaceful, and prosperous.

This beautiful passage is one of the most remarkable predictions in the Old Testament. Micah referred to Jesus Christ who would be born in Bethlehem, a little village in one of the divisions of Palestine. This prophecy, which was made seven centuries before the birth of Christ, identified the exact place making the prophecy and its fulfillment a testimony to the inspiration of the Bible. There is none other who can fulfill Micah's prediction than Jesus Christ who was born at Bethlehem, was crucified on Calvary, was raised from among the dead, and was received back into heaven, from whence He will come again to reign in righteousness, governing with equity, justice and truth. Christ Jesus will rule without fear or favor and will administer justice to all. His rule will be characterized by stability, strength, compassion, and justice.

The Sunday school Lesson is sent in each week by the Clear Creek Baptist School and is based on copyrighted outlines produced by the committee on the Uniform series and is used by permission.

CARD OF THANKS

I would like to thank my many friends, neighbors & relatives & churches for their prayers, food, visits, phone calls, taking care of my livestock and any other acts of kindness while I was in Albemarle Hospital and since I returned home. May the Good Lord bless & keep you.

W. Savage Jolliff

For Your Information

Dear friends,

That glorious time of the year! The crisp, invigorating air - perhaps the whiteness of new snow - the sparkle of cheer in most everyone's eyes - the excitement of the children - the uplifting Christmas music - the joy of giving and receiving. Yes, it's that wonderful time of the year!

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Obituaries

WILLIAM COE BARCLIFF

CHAPANOKE — William Coe Barcliff, 82, died Thursday in the Albemarle Hospital after a lingering illness. He was the son of the late William H. and Martha E. Love Barcliff.

He was a native of Perquimans County and a retired farmer. He was also a member of the Porter's Chapel AME Zion Church and its Trustee Board. He was an Army veteran of World War I.

He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Turner of Chapanoke, Mrs. Mary Riddick and Mrs. Alverta Evans both of Elizabeth City; five sons, Rev. Sherman Barcliff of Petersburg, Va., William C. Barcliff Jr. of Chapanoke, Harry Barcliff, Augustus Barcliff, and Roosevelt Barcliff all of Elizabeth City; five brothers, Charlie H. Barcliff of Chapanoke, Irvin R. Barcliff of Gatesville, Edgar Barcliff of Newark, N.J., Bertrand Barcliff and Melvin Barcliff both of Elizabeth City; one sister, Mrs. Beatrice Fair of Asheville; 41 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; three foster grandchildren; one foster great-grandchild.

A funeral service was held Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. at Porter's Chapel AME Zion Church, Chapanoke, with Rev. L. Brown, delivering the eulogy and Rev. A. Hathway, pastor of Porter's Chapel AME Zion Church, assisting. Interment was in the church cemetery with full military rites conducted by the Linton J. Sutton American Legion Post 223 in charge.

Lowe & Stallings Funeral Home, Elizabeth City, had charge of the arrangements.

MRS. MARTHA P. CHESSON

Mrs. Martha Parker Chesson, 89, of Winfall died Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 12:05 p.m. in the Albemarle Hospital following an extended illness. A native of Chowan County, she was the daughter of the late Luther Wood and Mrs. Ellen Simpson Parker and the widow of Jesse Pyron Chesson Sr.

She was a member of the Hertford Baptist Church and the Mattie Macon Circle.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Thomas (Mamie) Small of Edenton and Mrs. Carlton (Marjorie) Chappell of Winfall; two sons, J.P. "Jake" Chesson Jr. of Winfall and Luther Chesson of Hertford; 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Friday at 3 p.m. in the chapel of the Swindell Funeral Home by the Rev. Charles Bullard, pastor of the Hertford Baptist Church. "Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow" and "Abide With Me" were sung by the Men's Chorus of the Hertford Baptist Church accompanied by Mrs. Larry Knox Jr., organist.

The pall was made of pink carnations, baby's breath, and fern. Pallbearers were Wesley Chesson Jr., W.P. Goodwin, Jack Gray, W.A. Wells, Floyd Mathews and Tommy Byrum.

Burial followed in Cedarwood Cemetery.

MRS. LILLIE MAE R. LANE

BELVIDERE — Mrs. Lillie Mae Raiford Lane, of Belvidere, died Tuesday morning at 4:45 in her home after a six-month illness.

A native of Ivor, Va., she was the widow of the late Jesse

Lane and was a member of the Piney Woods Friends Meeting and its Missionary Society. She was a former school teacher in the Perquimans and Chowan Counties' school system.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Hinton (Catherine) Rountree of Rt. 2, Elizabeth City and Mrs. Estes (Deborah) Copeland of Belvidere; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held today (Thursday) at 2:30 p.m. in the chapel of the Swindell Funeral Home by the Rev. Ken Spivey. Burial will be in the family cemetery.

The family will be at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Estes Copeland of Belvidere.

EUGENE T. WHITE SR.

Eugene Talmadge White Sr., 89, of Rt. 1, Belvidere, died early Saturday morning in the Chowan Hospital following an extended illness.

A native of Perquimans County, he was the son of the late Joseph Thomas and Mrs. Elizabeth Miller White. The husband of Mrs. Della Winslow White, he was a retired farmer and also a retired seed corn dealer for the Pioneer Co. He was a Methodist.

Surviving besides his wife are two sons, Eugene T. White Jr. of Chesapeake, Va. and Watson White of Homestead, Fla.; one daughter, Mrs. Harry (Mary Ellen) Wiles of Richmond, Va.; two sisters, Mrs. J.W. Nowell Sr. of Belvidere and Mrs. Addie Twine of Norfolk, Va.; 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday at 2:30 p.m. in the chapel of the Swindell Funeral Home by the Rev. E.C. Alexander, the Rev. C.M. Wilson, and the Rev. Mrs. Mary Ellen Wiles. "Abide With Me" and "I Won't Have to Cross Jordan Alone" were played during the service by Mrs. Walter Nowell, organist.

The pall was made of white chrysanthemums, lavender chrysanthemums, and palm. Pallbearers were Jimmy White, Bobby White, Tommy White, Loland White, Clifford Winslow, and Donald Winslow.

Burial followed in the Nowell-White family cemetery.

MINFORD WHITE

HERTFORD — Minford White, 74, died Monday morning in the Chowan Hospital, Edenton, after a lingering illness. He was the son of the late John and Betty Davis White.

He was a native of Perquimans County and lived at 310 Covert Gardens, Hertford.

He is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Mattie Mebane of Hertford, Mrs. Addie Sherrod and Mrs. Fannie Lee White both of New York, N.Y. and Mrs. Mary Marsh of Charlotte, N.C.; six sons, Wilson White of New York, N.Y., Johnnie White of Freeport, N.Y., Lemuel White in the Army station in Korea, Wendell White, Walter White, and Darrell White all of Hertford; two brothers, Luke White of Hertford and William White of Brooklyn, N.Y.; 26 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. at Lowe's Memorial Chapel, Hertford, by the Rev. J.H. London, pastor of the First Baptist Church, with burial in the Dozier's Thicket Cemetery.

Lowe & Stallings Funeral Home, Hertford, had charge of arrangements.

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In The News

Mr. and Mrs. Don Chesson and family of Raleigh were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Chesson.

Mrs. H.C. O'Sullivan of Norfolk, Va. spent a few days last week with Mr. and Mrs. V.N. Darden.

Charlie Harrell of Chapel Hill spent the weekend with Mrs. Charles Harrell.

Dr. Malene Irons of Greenville was a guest of Mrs. Charles Harrell on Sunday.

Mrs. Sue Hunter of Tarboro and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hunter of Wilson were guests of Miss Jo Hunter and Mr. and Mrs. Jim on Sunday.

Mrs. H.A. Whitley returned home Monday after undergoing treatment for a few days at Chowan Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Bunch of Cary were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lindsey Bunch at Belvidere.

Mrs. Don Roberts and children of Virginia Beach, Va. were guests of Mr. and Mrs. N.W. Chappell at Belvidere.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hendricks of Chesapeake, Va. spent the weekend with Mrs. T.R. Winslow at Belvidere.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrell Thach are spending the Holidays at St. Pauls with Mr. and Mrs. Lewis McNeill.

Miss Elizabeth Tucker is spending the Holidays in Iowa with friends.

Mrs. J.R. Futrell is spending the Holidays in Raleigh with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Futrell.

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Woodard and family spent the weekend at Warm Springs, Va.

Mrs. John Coston spent Monday in Kinston.

Dr. Isa Grant of Raleigh was a guest of Mrs. Charles Harrell on Sunday.

Mrs. S.F. Pollard of Columbia and Mrs. Bill Pollard of Sanford were guests of Mrs. J.R. Futrell on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Divers spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ross in Raleigh.

Mrs. Reba Owens spent the weekend with her mother, Mrs. Kenyon Bailey, in Elizabeth City.

Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Bunch of Windsor were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Noah Gregory on Sunday.

Mrs. T.B. Sumner is spending the Holidays in Raleigh with Mrs. T.B. Sumner Jr. and family.

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