

CHURCH

Sunday School lesson

A New Day For God's People
Isaiah 2:24; 62:1-3

With today's lesson we begin a series of studies in the book of Isaiah, which will continue through February. It should prove to be a very interesting series of studies for many reasons. Primarily, Isaiah belongs at the head of all lists of the Prophets.

In him prophecy reaches its perfection. H. I. Nester (Heart of Hebrew History) likewise states that "the book of Isaiah stands at the head of all books of prophecy. It is noblest in prophetic literature of all the Old Testament."

Isaiah served as God's prophet to Judah during the years extending from 750 to 698 B.C. He stood firm against idolatry and every other sin

which threatened the Kingdom during his years. In today's lesson we shall see him as he announces "a new day for God's people."

God's Promise
Isaiah 2:2-4

The prophet Isaiah dwelled in a time spiritually much like our own. A society which once stoutly proclaimed the righteousness of God is seen today by many as having backed off the cutting edge and permitted a lowering of moral standards, and even evil to flourish.

For Christian people, these are indeed trying times in which we live. In addition to all else, we are experiencing a time when nuclear war is a constant threat and worry.

But in these verses (2-4) Isaiah brings God's promise of a new day

for His people. Instead of society seeking answers to the great questions of the day through politics, philosophy and technology he will make it evident that the solutions rest solely with God, the Word of the Lord.

The Lord's house shall be established on a mountain for all nations to see, and He shall teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His path.

So many question God's interest in the world today. "If He cares, why doesn't He help?" God does care. He does answer prayers He's still in charge. Society is just looking in the wrong places for answers.

God's promise is for a new day, recorded in verse 4, "And He shall judge among nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plow shares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

There shall be peace then. There cannot be peace as long as war is in hearts and minds of men. My youngest son says that peace cannot be achieved through disarmament — but disarmament can be achieved when men commit themselves to follow God's will and the Gospel of Christ will change men's hearts. We

need to be zealous in spreading the Gospel. Amen.

Zion's Future Glory
Isaiah 62:1-3

These last three verses of Scripture in today's lesson not that Isaiah will not be content for Israel to remain in total darkness. Neither God nor Isaiah would rest until the glory of God's promise would be realized and Zion would burst forth as a shining light.

That would come later, after Israel's punishment for idolatry and transgressions. God would preserve a remnant of people and through them His promises would be fulfilled. Zion was now in the shadows but their future would be bright.

Christ, the Messiah, is not mentioned here but it would be through Him that their fullness would come. God's chosen would also be expanded to include the Gentiles as well. Old Israel tried to live by the law.

The new Israel would include people of all nations and races, and God's commandments would be called by a new name as noted in verse 62:2. Most people believe that the new name referred to here in Isaiah is "Christians."

Acts records that in the first century the saved people were referred to as Christians first at Antioch. They would be proud to bear that name.

The glory that would come to Zion would not be due to man's intellectual achievement, but is in the

Lord's hand.

*The children of
Mr. and Mrs. Joe
W. White, Sr.
Invite you to share
In the celebration of
Their fiftieth
Wedding Anniversary
At the home of
Their parents on
Sunday,
December 11, 1983
From three to five
600 Dobb Street
Hertford,
North Carolina*

Baptist to sponsor television special

To Southern Baptist no missionary is better known than Lottie Moon, a 19th century woman who served in China and literally inspired an entire denomination to support a worldwide mission program. A special television program on her life will be broadcast on December 5 at 7:30 p.m. on WNCT, Channel 9, Greenville.

The special program, "Journey Home: Lottie Moon of China," is a 30-minute film produced jointly by the Foreign Mission Board and North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union.

Each Christmas Baptists conduct a

Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and a Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Nationwide, the church group hopes to collect \$60 million, with \$6.6 million of that amount coming from North Carolina churches.

Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions will be observed December 4-11. With the addition of five countries to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission field this year, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds are reaching into 100 countries, where almost half the world's population lives.

"We want our own people to know more about the person under whose name we collect millions of dollars each year for foreign missions," commented Nancy Curtis, executive director of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union.

There are approximately 3,400 Southern Baptist churches in North Carolina, most of which participate in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis each year.

Church news

Great Hope Baptist Church

Christmas gifts are to be reflections of God's greatest gift to the world: Our Lord Jesus Christ. One person who risked her life sharing the gospel of Jesus was Lottie Moon.

She inspired an entire denomination to give to foreign mission fields. Great Hope Baptist invites you to view a film on Lottie Moon's life in China at 7:30 p.m. on December 4.

Bay Branch

A.M.E. Zion Church

Bay Branch A.M.E. Zion Church Sunday School begins at 10 with Mrs. Esther Hunter in charge. Morning worship begins at 11:30. The Senior Choir will furnish music. Mrs. Barbara Shannon is organist.

At 4 o'clock the Young Adult choir will observe their anniversary.

It's strategy, though not etiquette, to walk between your wife and shop windows.

Allen Winslow
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Cards of Thanks

We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to our relatives, friends and neighbors for the flowers, food, memorial donations, cards, visits, phone calls, prayers and other kind expressions of sympathy shared with us during the recent death of our loved one, Wallace H. Morgan, Sr. All your thoughtfulness, concern and support made this time easier for us and will always be remembered.

The Family of Wallace H. Morgan, Sr.

We deeply appreciate your sharing our sorrow in the death of our brother, Julian Blanchard (Showboat) White. Your thoughtfulness in flowers, food, visits, cards and calls were appreciated and will be remembered.

Walter C. White and Virginia White Transeau

The members of the family of the late Miss Willie T. Riddick will long remember and cherish the many acts of kindness extended. Surely God will bless each of you.

The Family

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A word from . . . Mt. Sinai

December already! What am I going to get for so and so? It's much to early to think about giving gifts until we get something to give. One tough question is which credit card to put it on.

The greatest gifts are those that come from the heart. Suppose you could decide what you wanted and someone was able to satisfy every want and desire. How happy would you be?

God does not satisfy every desire because he loves you. What he gives us is out of love and for his glory. Many of our desires are selfish and misdirected.

This year as we consider what we are going to give to others maybe we should consider our motive for giving. Are we trying to out give someone else, or seeking a favor from the recipient, or are we giving because we love?

"Follow after love, and desire spiritual gifts . . ." (1 Cor. 14:1)

Answer last week, 12.
When is carpentry first mentioned in the Bible as a distinct occupation?

You may join us for a gift of love Sunday morning 10:00 and 11:00 and Wednesday night at 7:30.

George Wilmore, Pastor
Mt. Sinai
So. Baptist Church

In loving memory of our dear brother,
William (Tennie) James,
who departed this life two years ago
November 29, 1981.

A precious one from us has gone,
A voice we love is still,
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.
Katie Bragg, Beatrice Rumber,
Minnie White

*You are invited to share
In a joyous celebration honoring
Mr. & Mrs. Ervin A. Turner on
Their Golden Wedding Anniversary
December fourth
Nineteen hundred eighty-three
From two to four in the afternoon
At Durants Neck Community Building.
Your love and friendship are
Cherished gifts, therefore
We respectfully request no others.*

For Your Information

Dear friends,

Many more deaths are occurring away from home and posing unexpected problems of funeral arrangements. Should this unfortunate experience befall your family, we suggest that you promptly phone your local funeral director, who can then relieve you of many involved problems of transportation and burial.

Respectfully,
Mason E. Swindell

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