

CHURCH

Interdenominational Sunday School lesson

**God's Case
Against His People**
Isaiah 1:2-4; 18-20

Let us begin this lesson for today by considering this question. If you were God of heaven, and had created the whole cosmos, and had created humans in your own image and placed them on the earth and supplied them with everything they needed, but these people forsok their

creator, became disobedient, became idol worshipers, practiced all the sins of the flesh, became evil, corrupt and rotten to the core — what would you do with them?

Speaking humanly, we would probably destroy them all and start over again. That would be our inclination, at least. But not God's. He wanted to bring these people back into harmony with Him for He is a

loving, merciful and forgiving God.

God's Case Stated
Isaiah 1:2-4

"Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the Lord has spoken." (Isaiah 1:2). God had an indictment to bring against the people of Jerusalem because of their sins. Isaiah was appalled at the actions of the people in his day.

They were religious in a fashion

but they had no inclination to live rightously and justly in their land.

God had kept His word with Israel to keep covenant with them only to see ingratitude, rebellion and repudiation of His will. The Lord must condemn evil yet He pleaded with His people to abandon the sins that were about to destroy them. (Ezekiel 33:11)

There was no charge of ignorance to the people of Jerusalem; moreover, they were a sophisticated people who's sins were committed because of a lack of knowledge of God and a lack of fellowship with Him.

To know God is to know His ways, delight in them and walk in them. The Lord, realizing that His people had forsaken Him, leveled and indicted. "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: They have forsaken the Lord, they are gone away backward." (Isaiah 1-4)

Why did the people of Israel continue to rebel, even after the Lord had allowed foreigners to plunder and destroy their land?

Could they not see the errors of their ways? Restoration was possible

if they would turn to God once again. The disposition of their case still lay in the balance.

Disposition of the Case
Isaiah 1:18-20

The people of Israel pleaded that they were religious and faithful. But since they were not sincere, their worship was a mockery.

"When you make your prayers, I will not hear: Your hands are full of blood." (Isaiah 1-15) So, what must these people do in order to be forgiven? They must cease to do evil, learn to do good, seek justice, reprove ruthlessness, defend the orphan and plea for the widow.

In other words, their disposition would depend on their response to God's call to repentance. Our problems will begin when we allow our sins to alienate us from God. No matter how deep rooted our sins are, if we are willing to repent our sins and reason together with the Lord, we shall be cleansed and forgiven.

"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." (Isaiah 1-19) If ye be willing. This is a conditional clause. It is apparent that if this condition is not met, the promise cannot be claimed.

If ye be obedient. The language is clear. Obedience is not just a response to a good feeling, but required in the gospel of Christ. It is a response to the unbounding mercy and grace of God.

As in the case of Jerusalem, we, too, stand in the judgement of God — the disposition of our case is, also, determined by the response that is made to God's invitation.

Church news

Chappell Hill Baptist Church

The Annual Watch-Night Service will be observed at Chappell Hill Baptist Church Saturday night, December 31. The service will begin at 9:30 p.m.

After a short song service, a film entitled "God's Prison Gang" will be shown. This film was made behind the walls of New York's Attica prison and is hosted by Art Linkletter.

Telling their stories will be such notorious gangsters as George Meyer, a close associate of Al Capone, and Floyd Hamilton, the last of the Bonnie and Clyde Gang, as well as others.

The film shows how the International Prison Ministry, of a man known as Chaplain Ray, has led

many prisoners to a life in Christ instead of a continued life of crime.

Mr. Hubert Conners, a local Christian layman, who has spent many years of Bible study and has acquired an outstanding knowledge of Bible prophecy, will also be showing slide of his latest trip to the Holy Land including Petra, the prophesied refuge from the Jews during the tribulation period.

A special time of fellowship will also be enjoyed by those who attend as the sup together during a social time sponsored by the Church Training Group.

Rev. Billy Old, Pastor, invites those in the community to come and share in this special service of prayer, as together the congregation pray out the old year and pray in the New Year.

January Bible Study will be held each Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. at the church. It will cover such topics as: Salutation and Thanksgiving, Concerning Conditions in the Corinthian Church, Concerning Divisions and Party Spirit, Concerning Scandals, Marriage, Christian Liberty, Woman's Dress, The Lord's Table, Spiritual Gifts, The Gospel, Parade of Resurrection, Program and Pattern of Resurrection, and Power of Resurrection.

Scripture passages from 1 Corinthians will be used.

The public is invited to attend each and every service.

Sanders receives divinity degree



STEPHEN O. SANDERS

Stephen O. Sanders of Strawberry, S. C., has completed the requirements for graduation from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, and has been awarded the Master of Divinity degree at Commencement Exercises on December 17.

Sanders, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney L. Sanders who live at Strawberry, S. C. is a graduate of Berkeley High School and Clemson University.

Sanders is married to Beth Winslow Sanders of Belvidere.

FEELIN' GREAT!

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weight.

A growing number of health-conscious people are learning that regular planned exercise coupled with a well-balanced diet is the winning combination for both a healthy mind and body.

A regular, moderate exercise program not only increases muscle strength and endurance, but improves the functioning of the heart and lungs. Exercise also is beneficial in releasing mental and physical tension and in maintaining ideal body

A word from . . . Mt. Sinai

'Twas the morning of Christmas and all through the house.

Every creature was stirring, including my spouse. . .

We've had a wonderful first Christmas at Mt. Sinai. I shall always cherish it.

It seems quite appropriate that after Christmas we should have a new beginning, a time for a new year to start. It is certain to have its surprises. There will be new frontiers to challenge us as the year begins and all its pages are blank and silent.

This would be a good time to have a new beginning with Jesus Christ, and maintain the Christmas joy for eternity.

" . . . if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; all things are passed away; behold all things are become new." (II Cor. 5:17)

Answer last week, Luke 1:31-33
Who was Abraham's second wife?

Celebrate New Year's Eve as if your life depended on it and go to church Sunday morning.

George Wilmore, Pastor
Mt. Sinai
So. Baptist Church

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**ARMY RESERVE.
BE ALL YOU CAN BE.**

Clifton & Clifton Monuments

I am very pleased with the advice and the service that Anzie Wood Rendered when I went to purchase a cemetery memorial at Clifton & Clifton Monuments for my husband. She was helpful in giving me suggestions and making sure I got exactly what I wanted. Anzie and Clifton & Clifton Monuments went to great lengths to make sure that the memorial was layed exactly as I had described to them. This was one of the many services that meant so much to me. Anzie was of service throughout the entire purchase and setting. She went that extra mile, even observing the memorial being set in the cemetery. I recommend that you see Clifton & Clifton Monuments before you make your memorial purchase.

Anzie Wood - Sales Rep.

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In loving memory of our dear father, William H. Burke who passed away three years ago. December 23, 1980

Those we love can never be more than a thought apart, for as long as there is memory, They'll live on in the heart.

His Children
Nellie Daughtry
Evelyn Zachary
Marie Moore
Wealtha Davis
Ross & Willie Burke

For Your Information

Dear friends,

Each of us cheerily wishes his friends a 'Happy New Year' altho we know each year has its frustrations and sorrows. The secret of true happiness is wholesome work and a loving family and friends, which builds a reservoir of contentment and inner peace that transcends the disappointments of life.

Respectfully,
Marian Swindell

SWINDELL FUNERAL HOME

HERTFORD, N.C. 426-7311



Cards of Thanks

We express our heartfelt thanks to each individual and church organization for the cards, gifts, flowers, food, visits and most of all prayers, during the illness and death of our mother.

The Family Of Carrie Spivey

You may have sent some flowers, Or offered a prayer or two, Just each thought meant so much, We sincerely thank you. For all the visits and cards, The food, gifts and calls, We appreciated each and every act of kindness From Everyone and all.

The Family Of Harry Lee Spruill

I wish to thank everyone who remembered me in their prayers, for the visits made to see me, for the cards, flowers, and gifts sent to me; and all acts of kindness shown me during my recent stay in the hospital and since my return home.

Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

Pete Howell

We wish to express to our friends and relatives our sincere thanks for the deeds of kindness shown us, the cards, food, flowers sent at the death of our loved one, Skinner Waff.

Anne Swain Waff, Wife And Family

<p>Member FTD DOZIER'S FLORIST Harris Shopping Center Day Phone 426-5721 Night 426-7592</p>	<p>WOODLAND Dress Shop 108 S. WOODLAND HERTFORD 426-5620</p>
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