

# CHURCH

## Sunday School lesson

### THE HARVEST OF UNBELIEF

Micah 7:1-7

Today's Bible study continues in the book of Micah. The present series of studies from the books of both Amos and Micah give us an insight into God's character. These lessons have been primarily about justice and judgement. It is not a popular subject for most people. It wasn't popular during the ancient times of Israel, and it isn't popular today.

These lessons are both timely and timeless. God is constant

and unchanging. He is the same, yesterday, today and forever, the Scriptures tell us. Therefore, God is God of history. When God calls forth people to preach and teach His messages He expects them to deliver to the people the unpopular, as well as the popular.

Indeed he holds His messengers responsible for so doing, nevertheless, there is a thread of truth which runs squarely through Holy History. When people and nations ignore God's laws and commands there

comes a point in time when God says "enough is enough" and judgement comes.

We should always keep in mind however, another of God's truths. While He is a God of justice and judgement, He is, also, the God of mercy and forgiveness. He always stands ready to forgive and restore repentant people and nations.

### THE EFFECT OF DEPRAVITY

Micah 7:1-4

In this concluding lesson from Micah we see the bitter fruit of persistent sin. Despite God's re-

peating pleas and warnings through His prophets, the people of Judah waxed worse and worse. They had become professional in their evil ways. The prophet Micah was devastated. After all his preaching he could see no good results. He thought he had failed.

Micah said, "Woe is me!" The proclaimers of God's word cannot fail. Those who proclaim God's message are not responsible for results. They are responsible only for their faithfulness to God.

Micah searched Judah and Jerusalem for a good man, and found none. About a century after Micah, the Lord told Jeremiah that if he could find one man in Jerusalem who acted justly the city would be spared. He found none.

In verses 2-6 of our Scripture, Micah describes the conditions that existed in Judah. The picture which he paints in gruesome indeed. It was a complete moral breakdown of a nation; it's society and it's families.

Apparently Micah was speaking not only of the conditions of his day, but prophetically through the Lord's eyes to the future when Babylon would lay siege to Jerusalem and Judah. Note the phrases Micah used to describe the conditions in Judah. "They all lie in wait for blood." People willing to kill—to commit murder to get what they desired.

Micah's society had turned into a violent one where human life was unimportant. Not only were men greedy and ruthless in pursuit of evil gain, "They did it with both hands ear-

nestly." (Verse 3) They would catch their own brother and turn him over to the enemy for self-preservation.

### UNTRUSTWORTHY PEOPLE

Micah 7:5-6

When God removes His guiding, protecting hand from the affairs of nations evil reigns. The government officials and the judges ask for bribes. They didn't move until they were paid. The wealthy and powerful let them know what they wanted and it was done. Bribery became a way of life.

Micah says that the best of these people is like one being caught in a briar patch and thorn hedge. Micah paints the saddest picture of all in verses 5-6. The total breakdown of family and community life. There was no trust or loyalty between

family members, not even the wife to her husband, nor son to father. Any member would sell out another for survival—it was every person for himself.

In short, Micah pictured a cannibal society feeding upon themselves. We can see what sin does to a society and it's people. Finally, (vs.7) Micah was able to get it all into perspective. At that moment Judah's prospect for salvation looked dismal, but there was hope. Micah said, "Therefore, I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me." (Micah 7:7.)

(Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons.)

## Area engagements

### PIERCE—BOYCE

Mr. and Mrs. Billy L. Pierce of Route 2, Hertford announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter,



CHRISTY PIERCE

Christy, to Eric Boyce, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Boyce of Route 1, Belvidere.

The bride-elect is a 1985 graduate of Perquimans County High School and is currently employed by Pro-Gro in Elizabeth City.

The prospective bridegroom is also a graduate of Perquimans

County High School and is employed at the Newport News Shipyard.

The wedding is set for July 14 at 3:00 p.m. in Woodland United Methodist Church. Friends and relatives are invited to attend.

### PERRY—PARR

Mr. and Mrs. Zack D. Robertson of Elizabeth City announce the engagement of their daughter, Jane Kathleen Perry, to Ronald Gene Parr, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Parr of Newport News, Va.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Salem College with a degree in music education.

The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Bluefield College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, N.C. He is the associate pastor at Blackwell Memorial Baptist Church in Elizabeth City.

The wedding is planned for July 27 at three o'clock in Blackwell Memorial Baptist Church in Elizabeth City. A reception will follow in the church social hall. Friends and relatives are invited to attend.



JANE KATHLEEN PERRY

## Health Dept. schedule

The following is the Perquimans County Health Department clinic schedule for the month of July.

- 1st—Maternity, a.m.; Family planning, p.m.
- 3rd—Pediatric clinic, p.m.
- 5th—General Clinic, p.m.; WIC, all day.
- 8th—Teen clinic, a.m.; Toddler seat, p.m.
- 9th—Prenatal recheck, a.m.
- 10th—Child health, all day.
- 12th—X-rays, a.m.; General clinic, p.m.
- 15th—Maternity, a.m.; Family planning, p.m.
- 17th—Child health, p.m.
- 19th—General clinic, p.m.; WIC, all day.
- 22nd—TB Skin Test readings, p.m.
- 23rd—Prenatal recheck, a.m.
- 24th—Eye clinic.
- 25th—Adult health, all day.
- 26th—General clinic, p.m.; WIC, all day.

### Clifton & Clifton Monuments, Inc.



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## Cards Of Thanks

I would like to thank each one of you who sent cards and flowers during my stay in Norfolk General Hospital and since my return home. Also a special thanks for the prayers. May God bless you.

Thurman Harrell

The family of Wilma V. Brabble would like to acknowledge our sincere appreciation for your kind expressions of sympathy shown to us during the loss of our Daddy. Your comfort during this time will always be remembered. May God richly bless each of you in a very special way.  
Varina, Lee and Families

Dear Friends,

I am most grateful for this opportunity to express my thanks for every act of kindness shown me during my recent illness. I am most appreciative of the cards, letters, visits, food, beautiful flowers, and every kind thought. To the church groups, for your cards and remembrances, my sincere thanks.

Thanks for your concern. I shall always have a special place in my heart for the people of Perquimans County.

Sincerely,  
Thelma Elliott

Thank you for the prayers, visits, flowers, food, cards and phone calls that expressed your sympathy in our recent bereavement. Your many acts of kindness will always be remembered.  
The Family of Gailey L. Chappell

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### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

An honorably discharged Veteran may receive the following from the Veteran's Administration towards funeral expenses: \$150.00 towards grave space allowance (except when buried in a National Cemetery), the flag to be draped over the casket, and a Veteran's Marker; either granite, marble or solid bronze. If the family choose to not use the marker usually furnished, they will receive an amount towards the purchase of a marker of their choice.

If the death is ruled to be service connected, an additional amount, determined by V.A. is then available.

In certain cases, a widow or dependent children may be eligible for monthly benefits, to be determined by V.A.

John Beers, your Perquimans County Veterans Officer and our funeral home will assist in making these applications.

Respectfully,

*Mama Swindell*

## Swindell Funeral Home



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