

# Church

## Sunday School Lesson

### Bible's existence is evidence of worth

**GOD'S WORD VERSUS THE KING**  
(Jeremiah 36:4-8; 27-31)

"They shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee." (Jeremiah 1:19)  
Edwin V. Hayden, writing for the Standard Publishing Co., In-

ternational Sunday School Lessons Commentary, makes an important statement about God's Word, the Bible. "Beyond all human calculation—that is the only way to state the value of God's Word. The very fact of its existence is evidence of its worth.

Not as many books a hundred years old are still in demand, but here is a Book, some of which is more than three thousand years old, and it has survived the ravages of time.

Not only has it survived; it remains even today, in this sophisticated age, the Book more in demand than any other, a perennial best seller. This Book has withstood all the assaults of its enemies who have sought to destroy it, Condemned, criticized, banned and burned, the Book stands; its detractors pass from the scene." Unquote)

The written word of God didn't just happen. God caused it to be written. It is part of His divine revelation, given by His divine inspiration. The Apostle Peter

noted that "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:21) Abraham Lincoln considered the Bible to be "the greatest gift God has ever given to man."

No doubt this is true, excepting the gift of His only Son, Christ Jesus. Sometimes God's word comes in conflict with kings and earthly rulers. Such is the case in our lesson today.

**PARTNER IN PROCLAMATION**

(Jeremiah 36:4-6)  
Jehoiakim, King of Judah, tried to hinder the preaching of God's message by disallowing Jeremiah in the temple area. Jeremiah was ostracized from the Jewish community, in fact, his movements were restricted. But that did not stop him from getting God's message to the people.

He called one Baruch to record all the words of his message on a scroll, and then to go to the temple and read Jeremiah's message to the people. In football jargon that might be called a

pass play. What we see in Jeremiah's actions is a man so accurately aware of his calling, so zealous in his responsibility to God and so strong in his feeling for the people who were facing God's judgement; he must not fail.

We have said it before and it is worth saying again, God does not hold His messengers responsible for results, only their faithfulness in delivering His truth.

**GOD'S WORD SURVIVES—JEHOIAKIM PERISHES**  
(Jeremiah 36:27-31)

When King Jehoiakim learned of Baruch and the scroll, he ordered the scroll brought to him and he destroyed it. He then ordered both Baruch and Jeremiah be arrested and the Scriptures tell us, "but the Lord hid them."

Jeremiah and Baruch take another scroll and again write the words of his message upon it. He knew that in doing this he was defying the king. His courage reflected his conviction that this was God's doing—it was God's Word. Jeremiah was acting under assurance of God's protection.

King Jehoiakim was playing a dangerous game with God—and he would lose. It is a dangerous thing to do to defy God and attempt to thwart His will and purpose. The Scriptures record many such attempts and their results. Verses 30-31 tell us what happened to King Jehoiakim as a result of his action.

"His dead body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost."

Thus the king who sought to destroy God's Word was himself destroyed.

(Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons.)



**BACK TO SCHOOL?** Many local children have headed back to school this week, Vacation Bible School that is. These active youngsters were spotted Monday morning behind the Hertford Baptist Church as they took a break from their busy schedules. (Photo by Jane Williams.)

**Dear friends,**

The U.S. government provides for the care and disposition of the remains of deceased personnel of the Armed Forces who die while in an active duty status. Military authorities will usually arrange for these services within amounts allowed by the government. Or the next of kin may make their own arrangements, if desired, and claim reimbursement in the amounts allowable.

Respectfully,  
*Larry Swindell*

**Swindell Funeral Home, Inc.**  
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## Church News

### Women's Aglow to meet

The Elizabeth City Chapter of Women's Aglow meets Saturday, June 21st, 9 a.m. at the Providence Ruritan Club building on 17 North. Our speaker will be one of our former presidents, Edith Killmon of Hertford. A brunch will be served. The public is invited to attend.

### St. John Day slated

The Annual St. Johns' Day for the 7th District Prince Hall Mason Lodges and 5th District Eastern Star will be held at the Mt. Lebanon AME Zion Church, Elizabeth City, N.C. The Rev. John H. London is preaching; the Rev. A.V. Simon is host pastor. All members of the Perquimans County Fellowship Union are asked to be present. The time is 4:00 p.m.

### Deacons, Trustees Day set

The First Baptist Church Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. with R.B. Gibbs, superintendent, in charge. Morning worship starts at 11:00 a.m. Pastor London is preaching from the subject "When Christ Comes To Your House", Mark 1:20. The senior choir is singing under the direction of Mr. Robert Thomas.

The deacons and trustees of First Baptist Church will celebrate Deacons and Trustees Day, Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. The Rev. John E. Trotman and the Cornerstone Baptist Church will be the special guest.

The public is invited to attend.

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## YOU AFFECT OTHERS

By Rev. Rendel L. Cosand  
Up River Friends Meeting  
Whiteston

Near my boyhood Ohio home there was a creek, dammed up to make a small pond. As boys do, I played around that pond. Occasionally I threw pebbles or stones into it. Each stone made a splash and then disappeared. But from that spot went circles of small waves, extending even to the edge of the pond.

Life is like that. Each person makes a "splash" and then is gone. But from that person go out "waves" of influence till death, and even afterwards. You influence other people. So do I.

In the Bible (Genesis 3) mother Eve disobeyed God and ate the one fruit which God had said, "Don't!" She sinned, but not alone. She influenced her husband. He also ate.

Even after Jesus' resurrection the Apostle Peter was still yet "carnal" and confused. One day (John 21) he announced, "I am going fishing." He spoke Greek, and the verb that he used was the "ongoing" tense, meaning "I am going fishing and keep on fishing." He was returning to the fishing business. This was not God's plan. He also influenced six other apostles to go with him. No wonder God in His providence kept the fish away from their nets that night.

But I read about a Spirit-filled man, Stephen. By his witness he infuriated some of his countrymen (Acts 7). They threw stones to murder him. In his dying moments he didn't curse, nor call them bad names, nor throw stones back. Instead with love and no resentment he prayed for their forgiveness by God. Watching this, young zealous Saul was greatly impressed, and convicted. The result—Saul soon became converted to Christ, through Stephen's holy influence. Saul became Paul the Apostle and missionary. Paul's work and his writings in the Bible have come all the way to you and me. Stephen's good influence has come a long way.

Only Christ can make one's influence to be fully good. Let Him become your Savior and Lord. We at Up River Friends Meeting would like to help. Call us at 297-2442. Or fellowship with us and attend Sunday worship here at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday School is at 10 a.m. The Meeting house is on Road 1208 twelve miles north of Hertford.

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