

Church news

God establishes covenant with Isaac; promises him a new nation for believers

Sunday School Lesson

THE PROMISE OF A SON (Read Genesis 15:2-18:15)

"My covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year." (Gene. 17:21)

A few months back I noted in this column a quote from a well know Christian leader who said that the Lord can hit a powerful lick with a crooked stick. The Scripture given for today's lesson gives us a very good example

of such a person. The point, of course, is that God uses imperfect people to accomplish His perfect will. Abraham was God's man, chosen for a particular service. He became known as a great man of faith and trust of the Old Testament. However, on at least two occasions, he appears to us as one with feet of clay. One such occasion is recorded in today's lesson, and concerns Sarai's maid Hagar. Abram and his family and

Lot and his family were at this time together, living, nomad lives in Canaan. Abrams herds and flocks were growing larger—so were his nephew Lot's. It was time to separate. Lot chose the area near Sodom—Abram made his headquarters in Hebron. Sodom and other cities of the plain were subject to Chedorlaomer, King of far-off Elam, east of the Tigris River. When Sodom and the other cities of the plain rebelled, King Chedorlaomer sent his armies to subdue them. The invaders took all the loot that they could transport, including the people, and started to return home. Lot, Abram's nephew, was among the captives. Abram, hearing of this catastrophe, gathered his forces, overwhelmed the invaders and brought back all the captive people and stolen goods (Gen.14) Abram refused any reward for his service from the King of Sodom. Our Scripture text for today picks up at this point.

Lord came unto Abram in a vision—(Vs. 1) We are not told what Abram saw in a vision, only what he heard. First the Lord said, "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield, and thy exceeding great reward." God had just given Abram victory over his foe—and Abram didn't need to be concerned about rewards from earthly kings. What a great principal teaching is set forth here for God's people. God says to us in essence, "if you are faithful and obedient to me, I will take care of all your needs." But Abram had a special problem: He and Sarai did not have children and, therefore, no heir. Who would inherit all that God had blessed him with? He asked the Lord, and the Lord replied that He would provide an heir to Abram—a son, literally and physically.

help the Lord in His plans, and speed up the process. God had promised Abram a son, an heir, but Sarai decided that by giving her Egyptian slave to Abram as a wife they would have an offspring, and an heir. Abram produced a son by Hagar and his name was Ishmael (meaning "God hears") Because Sarai and Abram wanted to do it "their way" there would be consequences down through the centuries, even today. Ishmael is the father of much of the people of the Mid-East today, and we are aware of the current problems there. Having patience to wait on the Lord is difficult for us sometimes. Yet, running ahead of the Lord can bring on unwanted consequences.

conceive and bear a son whose name was Isaac. (Isaac means 'laughter'—a child of happiness. God did something else. He changed Abram's name to Abraham (meaning father of a multitude) and Sarai's name to Sarah (meaning princess). It was God's plan that His covenant of redemption would be worked through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc.—through to His Son, Jesus, Who would be the final revelation of His will for mankind. What did God want from Abraham and Sarah above all else—the same as He wants from you and me: our faith and obedience.

Area church news

Revival scheduled

The St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church Revival will begin Sunday, October 11, 1987 at 2:30 p.m. with the Rev. Willie Moore, Pastor of Bagley's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Choir, Ushers and Congregation. The guest speaker beginning Monday night through Friday night, October

12-19 will be the Rev. J. H. London, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Hertford, N.C. There will be a different guest choir and ushers serving each night during the week.

The general public is invited to attend.

First Baptist Church schedule

The First Baptist Church School will be at 9:45 a.m. and Mrs. R. B. Gibbs will be in charge.

Morning worship is at 11 a.m. Pastor London will be preaching from the subject: The Word of Forgiveness, Luke 5:20. The Senior Choir will be singing under the direction of Sister Barbara Shannon, Organist. Holy Communion will be served.

This is the closing of our Fall Revival.

AIDS and social security

Aids, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, has been designated the number one priority of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Health officials have stated that no vaccine or cure is likely to be found in the near future, and the disease may continue to spread until the turn of the century.

The mysterious appearance of a new, transferable, and usually fatal disease has created an epidemic of fear in this country. Consumed by AIDS anxiety, many people have overlooked the human face of AIDS and its impact on our citizens. But at the Social Security Administration, we are committed to providing prompt, efficient and compassionate assistance to those afflicted with this terrible disease.

In addition to the pain and suffering of the disorder itself, AIDS victims often have to deal with severe financial difficulties that result from their inability to work and the large medical expenses associated with treating the disease. Very often, they must look to Federal, State, and local governments, as well as organizations in the private sector, to provide cash assistance and medical care to meet their needs. Social Security administers two different disability programs that can provide such assistance to AIDS victims.

The Social Security Disability Insurance program can provide monthly cash benefits to AIDS victims provided the individual has worked long enough under the program to be insured. Although the amount of work required varies, depending on an individual's age, it can be as little as one and a half years. Monthly cash benefits begin follow-



By Dorcas R. Hardy, Commissioner of Social Security

ing a 5-month waiting period. In addition, health insurance coverage under the Medicare program is available after monthly checks are received for 24 months.

The Social Security Administration also administers the supplemental security income (SSI) program, which makes monthly cash payments, financed not by Social Security tax dollars but through general revenues, to 4 million individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled and have limited income and resources. For any AIDS victim eligible for this Federal, needsbased program, immediate cash payments can be made for up to 3 months while a formal medical decision is being made on the claim. Persons eligible for these payments normally qualify for Medicaid, a Federal-State program that pays medical bills for low-income people who otherwise couldn't afford the costs of their medical care.

During past medical epidemics and national tragedies, the American people have tapped vast reserves of understanding. The ways in which the medical profession, government agencies, social agencies, educators, and the general public respond to this disease will reflect our capacity to care as a Nation. The American public can be assured that Social Security's proud, 50 year tradition of compassionate service lives on!



One second of the sun's energy is 13 million times the annual mean electricity consumption of the United States.

VOTE FOR


CARLYN L. BROWN

HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

November 3, 1987

Your Support is Appreciated.

Paid for by Carlyn Brown



Dear friends,



Death is as natural as birth. Yet most families shy away from the subject. It may be wise for the elderly to discuss it openly — with reference to investments, a will or trust fund, benefits due, disposition of personal effects, funeral preferences, and ways for the survivors to cope after losing a loved one. Other important matters will likewise surface for discussion.

Respectfully,

Larry Swindell

**Swindell
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509 Dobbs Street
Hertford, N.C.
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"PUT THAT ON MY MY ACCOUNT"

Rev. Joseph L. Wills, Pastor
Poole's Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Philemon 1:17-18

These two verses taken from the epistle of Paul to Philemon, give a perfect illustration of imputation. "receive him as myself. Philemon, reckon to Onesimus my merit; receive him as you would receive me. Think of him as you would think of me. If he has wronged you, if he owes you anything, put it on my account. Mark down his demerit to me, and put my merit to HIS credit. Give him credit for all good that you see in me, and put to my account whatever he had done against you or whatever he owes you".

That is exactly what Jesus did for us. 1. Our SIN was put to the account of Jesus: We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. There is none righteous, no, not one. There is not a just man upon the earth that doeth good and sinneth not. All we like sheep have gone astray.

O/T God thundered out, "The Soul that sinneth, it shall surely die". N/T He proclaims, "The wages of sin is death. When sin is finished, it bringeth forth death". All men are in the same category, from the standpoint of being incapable of presenting themselves to God. Mankind is lost, doomed, and without hope. But Jesus took our place as having to do with S-I-N.

(Rom. 8-1) states There is therefore Now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus..." The law could not do it, no one could do it but Jesus. God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh (Rom. 8:2:3) SIN singular, not SINS, plural. SIN singular describes the adamic nature. . . we are born in sin and shaped in iniquity. SINS plural, are the fruits produced by the Adamic nature, Drinking, gambling, murder, adultery, lying, stealing — these things are the fruits of SIN.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; He (Jesus) who knew no sin, Put it all to his account. All the price has been paid. God put our sin to the account of Jesus.

SIN . . . is the transgression of God's law. Sin is overstepping the divine boundary between good and evil, between righteousness and unrighteousness. Sin is failing to meet the divine standard. Sin is exercising self-will, rebelling against divine authority. Sin is lawlessness and unbelief. "Whatever is not of FAITH is SIN"

Sin is an act in which we violate the law of God and refuse to be obedient to HIS revealed will. SIN is taking matters into our own hands, etc.

God has not changed HIS mind about SIN HE still hates SIN. Our failures were put to the account of Jesus: Our weaknesses were put to the account of Jesus: God put all of our CARES on the Account of Jesus: Our Sorrows have been put on the account of Jesus: Our DEATH was put on the account of Jesus. Live accordingly.

Cards of Thanks

I can't find words to describe the many good deeds shown to Dorothy and me while I was in Norfolk General Hospital and since I've been home. To my many friends, relatives, church organizations and clubs, I wish to say thank you for the lovely flowers, cards, gifts, visits and the many prayers that were said for me. I will always remember you and may God bless each of you with good health.

J. B. Perry

The Family of Ida Stallings wishes to thank each and every one for their kindness show us with the food, flowers, cards, visits and phone calls. It all meant so much. May God richly bless each of you.

Brothers & Sisters

We would like to thank our many friends and neighbors for the comfort and support given to us in our time of sorrow. Also a very special thanks to Dr. Lane.

The Harold Hurdle Family

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