

Sunday School Lesson

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black days of exile is Babylon another prophet dreamed of a great new exodus across the wilderness to Jerusalem. (Isaiah 55:12)

Eventually Israelite thinkers interpreted their entire history in terms of the Exodus faith. The forefathers of the nation (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) had received the divine promise that from them would come a nation, the people of God's own possession. (Genesis 12:1-7;

Joshua 24:2-4; Acts 13:17) The covenant with the forefathers foreshadowed and foretold the greater covenant with the nation.

Within the framework of the national covenant a third covenant was formed. God chose the family of David to rule his chosen people forever. (2 Samuel 7:12-16; Psalms 132:11-12; Acts 13:22) In bitter days of persecution Israel hoped not only for a new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34) but also for a new David.

Jesus Christ Fulfills
The New Testament writers

believed that Jesus Christ fulfilled and completed the three Old Testament covenants. In him, as in the Exodus, God had acted to free the people from bondage—this time from bondage to their own weakness and self-will.

The new covenant in Christ created a new people of God, the Christian church. It was not a racial group; it had no limitations except those set by faith. (Galatians 3:28)

Like the Abrahamic covenant, the new covenant in Christ was made with those who received the Word in belief and obedi-

ence. (Genesis 12:1-7; 15:6; Acts 13:38-39; Romans 4:1-3)

Jesus Christ fulfills the Davidic covenant by establishing the kingdom of God. He does so, not by victory over hostile armies, but by overcoming the inward enemies that dehumanize and enslave man.

Thus the theme of God's redemptive acts in history, beginning in the Old Testament and running on to its climax in the New, holds the Testaments together.

What the Scripture Says to Us
The Bible is a unity in its understanding of how God re-

veals himself. He makes himself known in the realm of human life and experience — in what we call history. The Bible, however, is interested not in world history but in the history of the people of God. It views this special history in a special way—as a record of the saving acts of God toward his people.

In Deuteronomy 28:7-9; Joshua 24:3-8; Acts 13:17, 23 the subject of the verbs is always God. He and he alone does the acts of deliverance that give direction and meaning to his people's history.

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What makes the Piedmont great



A riding accident in the 1830's left Ann Pamela Cunningham of Laurens County, S. C., an invalid. But it didn't leave her helpless. In fact, through great strength of purpose, Ann Pamela Cunningham made a significant contribution to the history of the Piedmont and the nation.

One evening in 1853 Ann's mother passed by Mount Vernon, the home of our first president. What she saw appalled her. The historic plantation was rotting away. She told Ann something had to be done. And Ann responded. She started with a letter to a Charleston newspaper, calling upon the women of the South to help save Mount Vernon.

The response came. It came first from the women of Laurens County. The fight was on.

Ann organized the Mount Vernon Ladies Association and became its first regent. The association needed \$200,000 to purchase the plantation and give it to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Ann Cunningham's gift to the Country

When the money began to come in, the association then prepared a charter and presented it to John Washington, the owner. But Washington refused to sell. He was unsure of the intentions of the association.

Ann Cunningham would not quit. Then the Northern press joined her cause. And the movement became national. Another charter was prepared for Washington. Another refusal. And the contributions dwindled. Ann then asked Virginia to buy it and promised to pay the state back. But Virginia wouldn't take a chance on her.

At this point, John Washington relented. He realized that the intentions of Ann Cunningham were honorable and he respected her valiant fight.

Mount Vernon was saved for the nation.

Ann Cunningham and the women of Laurens County exemplify the spirit that made this area great.

And it is in that spirit that Duke Power is working today for an even greater Piedmont.



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