

Prophet Among Exiles

Lesson for April 4, 1948

THIS quarter we study the Captivity and Return of the Jews, using the Books of Ezekiel, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. Sunday's lesson is found in Ezekiel 1-4 and 33:1-9.

It would be well for us to read again the history of this most interesting man Ezekiel—how he came to be among the captives by the river Chebar. He is one of the most attractive personalities in the Old Testament—a man of surpassing culture and charm—and yet enabled to "sit where they sat."

A MESSENGER OF GOD
EZEKIEL could never have adapted himself to the role of ministering to the captive slaves apart from the knowledge that he was the messenger of God—the messenger of God's hope to broken, beaten souls.

God spoke to his people through Ezekiel. He speaks to his people today through chosen messengers—parents, teachers, the Bible, the Holy Spirit. God may be speaking to you today.

HEAR YE THE WORD
EZEKIEL's approach to the Jews in captivity was by the authority of God's direct message to them through him. Ezekiel was faithful to God's appointment and mission. He knew that what he had to say to the Jews meant their hope of release and return.

He studied their plight. He studied their mood. And then he spoke to them. But not only did he speak to them, telling them what God wanted them to know, but he moved among them. He loved them.

He had God's message, and he went in God's mood of compassion. We cannot help people until we understand them and love them.

GOD'S WATCHMAN
EZEKIEL reminded the people that he had been sent from God as a watchman, and he told them what terrible responsibility was upon him in warning them to repent and return unto God. Read Ezekiel 33:1-9.

If the watchman faithfully warns the people, and they refuse to heed the warning, their blood will not be on his hands; but if he fails to warn the people, their blood will be on his hands. Here is a lesson for every teacher and preacher and parent today.

And in this same 33rd chapter, Ezekiel goes on to declare God's attitude toward all sinners. "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live—turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?"

A WATCHMAN UNTO EXILES
"SON of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel," Ezekiel 3:17.

This was the explicit commission of God to Ezekiel. And grandly did Ezekiel accept and execute to the limit of his ability that commission.

The Jews were far from their beloved home. They were driven by hard masters. They could not sing the song of the Lord in a strange land. They had hanged their harps on the willow trees.

With a sensitive soul, Ezekiel comes to them with the word of hope. He reminds them of the goodness and mercy of Jehovah to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He lifts their drooping spirits with clear and ringing words of promise. He pleads with them to confess their sins and claim the pardoning mercy of a loving God.

He used numerous means of gaining their attention—symbols of their former communion with God. Patiently he traced the dealings of God with them and their fathers before them.

They listened, and all who heeded the pleas of the faithful watchman were saved and restored to faith in the goodness and mercy of God.

We, too, are watchmen among exiles. Let us learn the high art of Ezekiel in our ministry as watchmen.

The churches will fail if the lessons of Sunday are forgotten on Monday and are laid aside for special observance on only one day of the week.—Wayne Morse, U. S. senator from Oregon.

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RURAL CHURCHES

Union Chapel
Evangelical United Brethren
D. H. Pellett, Minister
Dent School House

Unified Morning Services.
Sunday Church School, Thurman I. Drew, Supt. 9:30.

Divine Worship, sermon subject: The source and outlets of Faith, 10:15.

Youth Fellowship and Adult Study meeting separately, 6:45.
Evening Evangelistic service, subject, What is Baptism? 7:30.
Council of Administration after the evening service.

Prayer service and Choir rehearsal Wednesday 7:30.

This church is in the community for God's glory and for your good; you are invited to share in every service.

United Brethren in Christ
Willshire Circuit
Duane A. Reahm, pastor
St. Paul (CST)

Tues. 7:00—Prayer and Bible study.
Sun. 9:15—Bible school.

Winchester (CST)
7:30—Revival services each night through April 11.

Sun. 9:30—Bible school.
10:30—Morning Worship.

Willshire (EST)
Wed. 7:30—Prayer meeting.
Sun. 9:30—Unified Worship service followed by Bible school.

Pleasant Mills Baptist
Gilbert Swenson, pastor
9:30 a. m.—Sunday school with Donald Burkhardt, supt.

10:30 a. m.—Worship service with sermon by the pastor.

Monroe Methodist
W. L. Hall, minister
Morning worship 9:30.

Sunday school 10:30
M. Y. F. 6:45
Evening service 7:30

Mid-week service Wednesday 7:30 P. M.
Choir practice at 8:15

The Rev. J. J. Davis, for more than 25 years a missionary, will speak on Friday evening April 16.

Dr. A. P. Teter, Fort Wayne district superintendent, will dedicate the new organ on Sunday morning, April 18.

Rivarre Circuit

U. B. Church
L. A. Middaugh, pastor
Mt. Zion

9:30 a. m. Sunday school.
10:30 a. m. Preaching service.

7:00 p. m. Christian Endeavor.
7:00 p. m. Wednesday, prayer meeting.

Pleasant Grove
9:00 a. m. Sunday school.
10:00 a. m. Class meeting.

7:00 p. m. Christian Endeavor.
7:30 p. m. Preaching service.

7:00 p. m. Wednesday, prayer meeting.

Mt. Victory
9:00 a. m. Sunday school.
10:00 a. m. Class meeting.

7:30 p. m. Christian Endeavor.
7:30 p. m. Preaching service.

7:00 p. m. Wednesday, prayer meeting.

Mt. Tabor Methodist Circuit
Clifford C. Conn, Minister
Mt. Tabor

Church school 9:30
Worship service at 10:30 with class leader in charge.

Prayer meeting on Thursday evening 7:30 p. m.
M. Y. F. this Sunday eve. at Mt. Pleasant 7:00.

Mt. Pleasant
Mr. David Cook, Supt.
Church school at 9:30.

The circuit M. Y. F. will meet at 7:00 p. m.
Let us rally to the M. Y. F. We've been letting down.

Pleasant Valley
Mr. Raymond Teeple, Supt.
Church school at 9:30.

Worship service at 10:45.
The sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed at that time.

M. Y. F. meets of Mt. Pleasant at 7:00 p. m.
Beulah Chapel

Mrs. D. C. Shady, Supt.
The worship service will precede the church school session at 9:30 a. m.

Spring is in the air; is it in your heart?
M. Y. F. at Mt. Pleasant for the circuit at 7:00 p. m.

Reducing feed to hens reduces egg output and increases the cost of production far beyond any saving in feed cost, poultrymen say.

The U. S. Marine Corps was founded Nov. 10, 1775, in Philadelphia. Its first commandant was Maj. Samuel Nicholas.

Bond Approved for Collection Agency

Other Action Taken in Circuit Court

A bond of \$2,000 filed by Lester E. Lehman for a collection agency was approved today by Earl B. Adams, judge of the Adams circuit court.

A suit to recover money loaned was filed by Rozantha Ross against Lester Essex. The demand is \$375.

Nathan C. Neisen is plaintiff's counsel and filed the action.

In the note suit of John Joseph against Raymond C. Keller, Ed A. Bosse entered an appearance for the defendant, who was ruled to answer.

In the divorce action of Loyd against Viola Oser, a citation was ordered issued against the plaintiff to the sheriff of Steuben county returnable April 10.

In the suit of William and Harold Bachelder against Ivan Hough and Robert Burkholder, appearance for the defendant's was entered by DeVoss & Smith.

WORKERS STRIKE

"The interests of the public are no longer being protected," he said. "The investor is in danger of sustaining losses due to the fact that sales are not being reported in their proper sequences."

Keefe said his union was perfecting plans for a general strike of its 5,000 members. He refused to predict when it would begin.

EXPECT INJUNCTION
(Cont. From Page One)

be forced to shut down, including some steel mills and railroads." He said coal supplies have reached a "dangerously low level" and something will have to be done.

The soft coal dispute is over pensions for the miners. Lewis demanded \$100 a month pensions for all miners over 60 with 20 years' service. The mine industry trustee on the multi-million dollar health and welfare fund, which would pay the pensions, has rejected Lewis' plan as unsound.

FOREIGN AID

(Cont. From Page One)

military advice.
3. China—A one-year plan to send \$463,000,000 in assistance to the nationalist government of Chiang Kai-Shek. It includes

\$125,000,000 that may be used for military aid to bolster Chiang's forces against communist troops already controlling about 25 percent of China.

4. Children — A \$60,000,000 American authorization for the care and feeding of children in war-ravaged Europe. The aid is to be administered by the United Nations' international children's emergency organization.

The bill simply authorizes the various spending programs. Not a nickel of hard cash is provided; this must come later in congressional appropriations. But as a token of American food faith, the Reconstruction Finance Corp. was ordered to advance funds for China, Greece and Turkey.

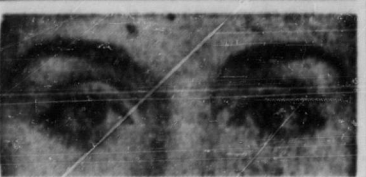
Local Couple Fined, Given Jail Sentence

Dewey Shaffer and Emma Shaffer, both of Decatur, were fined \$50 and costs and sentenced to serve 30 days in the Toledo, O. workhouse, when they were arraigned in Mayor L. L. Morris city court at Van Wert, O. yesterday.

They were charged with being drunk and disorderly. The workhouse sentence was imposed because they resisted arrest. Sheriff Roy Shaffer of Van Wert county, charged they were creating a disturbance on East Court street Wednesday afternoon and that they resisted arrest and continued resistance after being taken into custody.

Failure to pay their fines will add about 15 days to their sentence in the workhouse, officials declared.

Trade in a Good Town — Decatur



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COLUMBUS HARD

(Cont. From Page One)

"Columbus may be without necessary coal to provide water for its 20,000 population in 10 days," he wired the president and Sen. Capehart.

He said "critical health, sanitation, and fire hazards" would result.

GRACE COFFEE

(Cont. From Page One)

Active in Red Cross
In addition to her extra curricular work in the schools, including the direction of many class plays and presentations, Miss Coffee was an active civic worker.

Foremost among these were her duties as chairman of the Junior Red Cross. First named to the position during World War II years, she was instrumental in enrolling every school in the county, from one-room buildings to the high schools, in the Junior chapter of the Red Cross.

Under her personal supervision, the program of the Junior chapter had been efficiently carried out since she was first appointed. Some 200 gift boxes had already been packed and made ready for shipment next Christmas due to her efforts. She had maintained

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Swiss Steak, lb. 55c
Round Steak, lb. 58c

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Veal Roast, lb. 37c & 39c
Veal Steak, lb. 52c & 55c

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the 100 percent enrolment in the Junior Red Cross throughout her years as chairman.

A member of the St. Mary's Catholic church, she was active in the St. Agnes sodality and the National Council of Catholic Women. She was also a member of the dramatic section of the Woman's club and directed a number of its presentations, and was a member of the Third Order of St. Francis.

Native of County
Miss Coffee was born in Adams county July 22, 1880, the daughter of Timothy S. and Johanna Meehan-Coffee. She was never married. Surviving are three sisters and a brother: Mrs. Clem Vogelewe, Decatur; Edward L. Coffee, of Crystal Lake, Ill.; Mrs. Albert Terstege of Indianapolis, and Mrs. Francis J. Schmitt, also of Decatur. Three brothers are deceased.

Funeral services will be held Monday morning at 9 o'clock at the St. Mary's Catholic church with the Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Seimetz officiating. Burial will be in the Decatur Catholic cemetery.

The body was taken to the Zwick funeral home and may be viewed there after 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon until time for the services.

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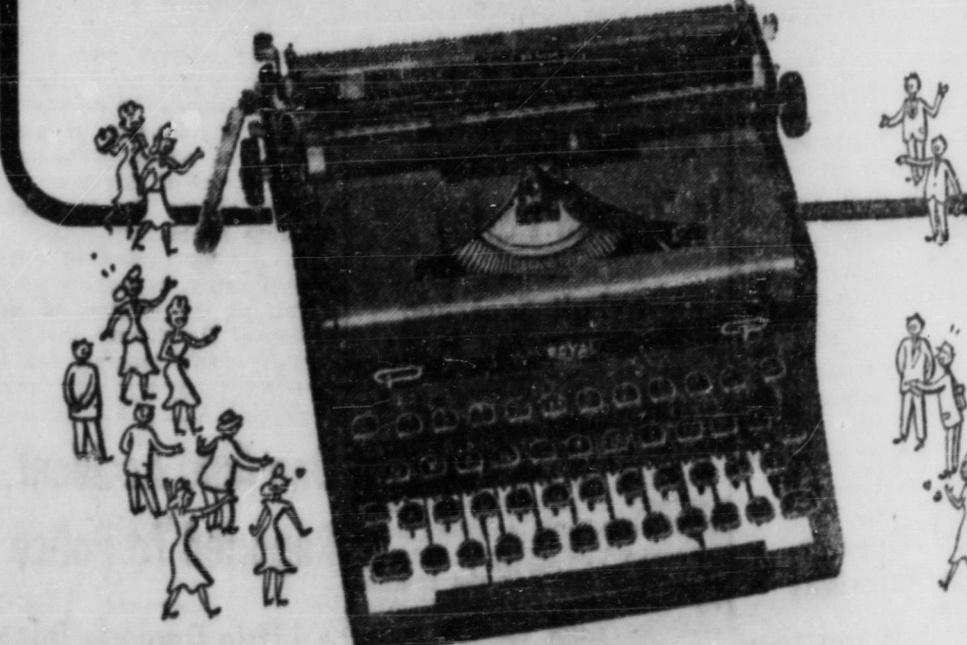
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