



SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 1:4; 39:1-9.

DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalms 103:1-4.

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 "see 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 living 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 pleadings 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.

RURAL CHURCHES

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

Unified Morning Services.
Sunday Church School, Thurman
L. Drew, Supt. 9:30.
Divine Worship, sermon subjects,
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 ser-
vice 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 dedi-
cate the new organ on Sunday
morning, April 18.

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

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

The soft coal dispute is over
pensions for the miners. Lewis de-
manded \$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.

Mr. Raymond Teeple, Supt.

The worship service will pre-
cede 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
circus at 7:00 p. m.

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