

C R E A M E D C O M M E N T S O N
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON,
GOD'S PROMISE OF PEACE,
Zechariah 7:8-12; 8:4-8,12,13,
for Sunday, September 20.

Zechariah uttered the words of prophecy indicated in this lesson about 517 B.C. when he and the stronger of the Hebrew people were allowed to leave their exile in Babylon and return to Jerusalem. They found Jerusalem in a state of desolation and, to strengthen their morale, Jeremias urged them to rebuild the temple that had been destroyed and restore the city. In this particular lesson is recorded Jeremiah's reply to a delegation



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COME TO CHURCH



who had come to seek his counsel regarding keeping a certain fast. The purpose of the lesson is to help us realize that true security is always based on righteous living.

Vs. 8-10. "And the word of the Lord came unto Zechariah, saying: 'Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassion every man to his brother: ... And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.' Zechariah felt as did the prophets that the words he spoke were not his own but those of God speaking through him. When the spirit of the law was forgotten and mere formal religious rites resulted, the prophets felt the need of reminding the people that God is interested, not in rituals, but in ethical living, turning from heartless legalism to mercy, and from coldness to compassion.

Vs. 11,12. "But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. ... Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the Lord of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the Lord of hosts." Zechariah reminds the people of their willful rejection of the words of the prophets in earlier times. Their stopping their ears was an insult to God and the prophets. The result of their rejection of the prophets was the overthrow of both North Israel and Judah and the captivity of the people.

Vs. 4-6. "Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. ... And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. ... Thus saith the Lord of hosts: If it be marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvelous in mine eyes? saith the Lord of hosts." Only the physically strong were able to make the long journey back from exile so there were no old people or children. The prophet envisions a time when the city will be normal again with happy, playing children and old people living to a ripe old age. In the ideal city the prophet envisions the greatness of a city is determined not by its size or its buildings but in the happiness of its people, old and young. Such a dream can be realized through the power of God.

Vs. 7,8. "Thus saith the Lord of hosts: Behold I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country: ... And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness." The east country may refer to Babylon and the west to Egypt. This gathering together is in contrast with the former dispersion of the Hebrews. The blessedness of the new era described is based on the fact that God will deal truly and righteously with them, but they must deal truly and righteously with God. God will be faithful if they will be righteous. The prophecy's fulfillment is seen today in the establishment of the nation of Israel.

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
Nuttman Ave.
Wayne A. Smith, Minister
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Lawrence Michel, superintendent. Sunday School for all ages. The lesson for this week is: "God's Concern for All People." The message that should be preached should be the message of God and not the message of man.

Morning Worship service, 10:30 a.m. Message, "Choose, Man Must."

Christian Endeavor, 7 p.m. Topic: "How to Read the Bible."

Evening Gospel service, 7:30 p.m. An inspirational song service followed by the pastor's message, "I Believe in God."

The Hour of Power, our Mid-week Prayer service will be held Wed. at 7:30.

The YPMB group will be out in the community selling Christmas greeting cards.

We extend a warm welcome to every one who does not have a church of your choice to come and worship with us.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Mercer Avenue at Five Points

Harold J. Bond, Minister

9:15 a.m. Sunday School classes for all ages and each member of every family. New Sunday school attendants should meet the pastor at the front door for direction to the proper class and department. Grow in spirit and the knowledge of God's Word.

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship. The pastor will speak upon the theme "Behold My Hands."

5:30 p.m. Westminster Youth Fellowship will meet for election of officers. All Junior and Senior Hi Youth should attend.

Tuesday evening Program Planning conference for ALL officers and leaders of our church. This is a must meeting for all church officers, elders, deacons, trustees, officers of the church school, men's and women's organizations and youth, as well as teachers and interested members.

Wednesday, Sept. 16. Our Church Choirs will resume their regular weekly rehearsals. The Westminster Youth choir at 6:30 p.m. and the Chancel choir at 7 p.m. Those who have previously sung with the choir are urged to find their places again. New members will be warmly received.

Saturday, Sept. 19—Mariners get acquainted meeting at the Manse at 7:30 p.m. Those couples whose combined ages total less than 81 are especially invited to attend this time of fellowship.

Whosoever Will, May Come.

The minister reserves each day for confidential interviews with those who wish counsel in spiritual matters. Private, Christian and sympathetic counsel is available to anyone who seeks it. Appointments may be arranged by calling the church office, 3-2522.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
221 South Fourth Street

Stuart H. Brightwell, Pastor
"Back-to-Church Sunday."

9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour.

John Mays, Supt. We have a graded school with a class for every age with dedicated teachers.

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship service. "The Cart Before the Horse" is the sermon topic. The church choir will sing, "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" in a special arrangement. Mrs. Stuart Brightwell is choir director. Mrs. Eugene Lehman is church organist.

6:30 p.m. Baptist Youth Fellowship.

7:30 p.m. Evening service with the pastor speaking.

Church Calendar

Wednesday —

7:00 p.m. Midweek Hour of Prayer.

8:00 p.m. Church choir rehearsal.

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Dynamic Builders class party.

On this "Back-to-Church Sunday" we urge the members and friends of our church to begin a faithful attendance at the services of our church. Why don't you enter wholeheartedly, and with dedication, into the service of Christ through your church? You will be happier for it.

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Wayne A. Smith, Minister

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Morning Worship service, 10:30 a.m. Message, "Choose, Man Must."

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V. Rev. Simeon Schmitt, Pastor

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6 a.m.
7:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses

School days: 6 a.m., 8:15 a.m.
and 11 a.m.
Non-school days: 6 a.m., 7:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.

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Westminster Avenue at Five Points

Harold J. Bond, Minister

9:15 a.m. Sunday School classes

for all ages and each member of

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attendants should meet the pastor

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Grow in spirit and the knowledge

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The pastor will speak upon the

theme "Behold My Hands."

5:30 p.m. Westminster Youth

Fellowship will meet for election

of officers. All Junior and Senior

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Tuesday evening Program Plan-

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officers, elders, deacons, trustees,

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Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Mid-

week Prayer service will be held

at 7:30 p.m. by the pastor.

Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Evening

Worship service over.

Friday at 7:30 p.m. Evening

Worship service.

Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Evening

Worship service.

Sunday at 7:30 a.m. Sunday

Worship service.

10:30 a.m. Sunday School.

12:30 p.m. Sunday School.

1:30 p.m. Sunday School.

2:30 p.m. Sunday School.

3:30 p.m. Sunday School.

4:30 p.m. Sunday School.

5:30 p.m. Sunday School.

6:30 p.m. Sunday School.

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