

Services in the Churches

Creamed Comments on the Sunday school lesson, God's Love for His Children, Hosea 11:1-9, for Sunday, August 7.

Hosea took a long look backward and ahead as he spoke the prophecy contained in this lesson. He looks back to God's deliverance of the Israelites out of Egypt to the day when they will be conquered by the Assyrians. Hosea, more than any other Old Testament personality, stresses the tenderness and great power of God's love for

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Israel. This lesson illustrates the contrast between the love of God as a Father and the waywardness of his children who deserve punishment.

Vs. 1, 2. "When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt . . . As they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baalim, and burned incense to graven images." Israel was born in captivity when a few patriarchs who had gone down to live in Egypt were becoming a people. God showed his love for Israel by delivering them out of bondage, guiding them through the wilderness, and giving them the law. In spite of this, they soon forgot God, and after arriving in Canaan, many of them made sacrifices to Canaanite deities, including Baal, the god of vegetation and weather. They were indifferent to warnings of the prophets.

Vs. 3, 4. "I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them . . . I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them." Ephraim was the largest tribe in North Israel and hence the name was used to designate the whole nation. Hosea compares God's care of Israel to that of a father teaching a child to walk, taking him up in his arms, and healing him in time of illness. The Israelites were apparently not aware or indifferent to the fact that God was caring for them every step of the way. The prophet again likens God to a farmer who was careful to adjust the yoke of his animals, to rest them or to give them more comfort while eating.

Vs. 5, 6. "He shall not return into the land of Egypt, but the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to return . . . And the sword shall abide on his cities, and shall consume his branches and devour them, because of their own counsels." Hosea's tone changes as he predicts Israel's exile and destruction of her cities because they had failed to return to God. Having delivered them once from captivity to Egypt, God was not going to deliver them again from a captivity which they had brought on themselves because of their evil ways.

Vs. 7. "And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt him." Reverting to sin and idolatry was not an occasional diversion, but it had become a habit, a tendency which became more complete as time went by. Even when called to repentance by the prophets, they would not exalt God, but rather exalted their idols.

Vs. 8, 9, 10. "How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? How shall I deliver thee, Israel? How shall I make thee as Admah? How shall I set thee as Zebulon? Mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together . . . I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim; for I am God, and not man: the Holy One in the midst of them; and I will not enter into the city." This verse expresses the tender emotions of God as he considers giving up Israel to destruction. He shows His infinite love and mercy, far more than a father would show to a wayward son, and can continue to forgive men and seek their return to Him. God did eventually destroy the nation, but the destruction was not final, since God's justice was not final and there was to be a restoration from captivity. If Israel was conquered only by the Assyrians entering and taking over the city, it would mean the end of the nation, but not of the people and their covenant, as it would have meant if Jehovah had entered the city, resulting in full and absolute judgment.



Union Theological Seminary, New York, has received grants totaling \$550,000 from two philanthropic foundations to extend its program in psychiatry and religion.

Hawaii, the fiftieth state, has a Protestant population of 50,000 to 60,000, about 10 per cent of the total population. The Congregationalists have the largest membership, with Mormons, Episcopalians, and Methodists ranking next in that order. Catholics claim 25 per cent of the population. The area is a Buddhist stronghold. Ancient pagan sects are still strongly rooted.

The next World Institute on Christian Education will be held in or near Belfast, Ireland, in July 1962. The time was announced at the semiannual meeting of the World Council of Christian Education's North American committee. More than 200 Christian education leaders from 60 countries attended the last world institute at Kobe, Japan, in August, 1958.

The Lutheran Hour has completed arrangements for what is probably the only series of Protestant broadcasts ever to be put on the air by the state radio of Roman Catholic Spain. The messages will be in Estonian and will be beamed to eastern Europe, especially the Baltic area.

A Bible verse will appear on a new ten-cent stamp for overseas airmail to Latin America and the West Indies. The stamp will picture the Liberty Bell and its famous inscription, "Proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants," which is taken from Lev. 25:10. This inscription from the Bible was chosen by Isaac Norris, a Quaker who was speaker of the colonial House of Representatives in Pennsylvania when the legislature ordered the bell cast in 1776. It is the inscription which caused the bell to be known as the Liberty Bell rather than the fact that it was rung on July 4, 1776.



Discussion questions on the Sunday school lesson, "God's Love for His Children," for Sunday August 7.

1. If God loves us, why does he let us suffer?

2. What were four ways in which God manifested His love for Israel?

3. What were three ways in which Israel's ingratitude was shown?

4. What should the Fatherhood of God mean to us today?

5. What is the relationship between God's justice and His mercy?

ment. God's judgment became an act of love as well as of justice because it was an act of chastening, having as its purpose Israel's greater glory.

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Young peoples' meeting will be at the home of Rodger and Ellen Frey, R.R. 3, at 5 p.m. Sunday evening. Refreshments will be served, after which all will attend the evening service together.

Evangelistic service at 7:30 p.m. The pastor will preach from the subject, "The Young Man Who Started Early."

Missionary service, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

District camp meeting begins at the district center near Marion at 7:30 p.m. Friday, August 5, and continues through August 14. Workers will be the Revs. Paul and Ted Martin, of California, Dr. Paul Updike, and Prof. and Mrs. Dwight Meredith.

It's "Bright lights on Sunday nights" all summer in the Church of the Nazarene.

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Sunday masses

6:00 a. m.
7:30 a. m.
9:00 a. m.
10:30 a. m.

Weekday masses

6 a. m., 7 a. m., and 8:15 a. m.
Thursday — 5:30 p. m.

FIRST METHODIST

West Monroe at Fifth Street

F. Hazen Sparks, minister

9 a. m., church school. Don Boroff, superintendent, will be in charge of our church school where classes are provided for each member of the family. Supervised nursery and kindergarten classes are available for pre-school children and a lullaby room for infants. Bring your entire family and come to the church school.

10 a. m., divine worship. Rev. Sparks will preach this Sunday on the topic: "A Man Made New."

The double trio, Mrs. Clyde Butler, Mrs. F. Hazen Sparks, Mrs. Asa Pollock, Miss Bernice Nelson, Mrs. Charles Chew and Mrs. Walter J. Krick, will sing: "Beside Still Waters" by Hamblet. Mrs. Harry Dailey will play for her organ selections: "Thanks be to God" by Handel; "Under the Leaves" by Thome and "Postlude" by Nordman.

The prayer service will be held Wednesday, 7 p.m. in the chapel.

The parsonage family will be leaving this Sunday afternoon for northern Wisconsin. The pulpit will be supplied for the next three Sundays as follows: Rev. E. B. Negenty, August 7th, Rev. Robert Ochsner, August 14th and Rev. E. B. Negenty on August 21st.

Rev. Negenty will be available should any emergency arise during the pastor's vacation and any needed services of a minister are asked to call Mrs. Krick at the church office.

The pastor and his wife are vacationing in Wisconsin.

Thursday, 24 p.m., the fellowship hour for children of grades 1-6. Mrs. Paul Bevelhimer in charge.

Thursday the W. S. W. S. units will meet as follows: No. 1, 2 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Henry Adler.

No. 2, 7:30 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Fred McConnell. No. 3, 7:30 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Everett Huker. No. 4, 8 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Carl Sheets.

Friday, 7:30 p.m., Evening Service.

The pastor's message is entitled "Life's Altar".

Wednesday 7:30 p.m., Prayer Service.

Divine worship services at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday school meets at 9:15 a.m.

Holy communion will be celebrated in both services.

The pastor's sermon will be "It's Great to be a Christian". Rom. 6:9-23.

The board of education will meet Monday, Aug. 1, 7:30 p.m.

The Needle Club will meet Thursday afternoon at 1 p.m.

Rev. Edwin Nergert, synod's world relief chairman, presents the Christian viewpoint on foreign aid today in the fifth Lutheran Hour "Platform for Christ" broadcast on WOWO at 8:30 a.m. and WKJG at 12:30 p.m.

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R. C. Ludwig, pastor

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