

Scripture—1 Kings 11:1-12:24



As punishment for his transgressions, the Lord tells Solomon the kingdom will be divided, and incites the kings of Edom and Syria against him.—1 Kings 11:1-25.

Solomon puts Jeroboam, a former rebel, in charge of the forced labor battalions. After stirring up more trouble he is exiled to Egypt.—1 Kings 11:26-43.

Rehoboam succeeds Solomon and the people petition for a redress of grievances. Ignoring the counsel of the elders, Rehoboam makes the yoke heavier.—1 Kings 12:1-14.

With this, the ten northern tribes separate themselves, calling the new nation "Israel" with Jeroboam as king.—1 Kings 12:15-24.

MEMORY VERSE: "And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand."—Mark 3:24.

TWO SELFISH RULERS

Nation Led To Deterioration

(Editor's note: The following material relating to tomorrow's Sunday School lesson is based on copyrighted outlines produced by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches in the U. S., and is used by permission.)

By R. H. RAMSEY

Solomon stands out on the pages of history as one of the most learned men who ever lived. He was a poet, writer, ruler of a vast kingdom, a man of outstanding talent with everything the human heart could desire. He had asked God to give him wisdom, and though generally highly praised for his wisdom, Solomon actually lacked it. Instead he had learned information and facts on a wide variety of subjects, but not the ability to use his knowledge, which is the crux of wisdom.

Solomon's reign, was, in general, peaceful, and he strengthened the peace by taking daughters and sisters of neighboring rulers as wives until he had the largest harem in the Orient, the support of which eventually became an intolerable tax burden upon his people.

Further, Solomon allowed his many wives to bring their foreign gods into the city and worship them, resulting in a rebellion of idolatry. Though Solomon himself never openly or wholly apostatized, continuing to worship Jehovah and making perfunctory triannual offerings in the Temple, he allowed his wives to "turn away his heart after other gods."

For his folly the Lord tells Solomon that the kingdom will be divided and most of it given to another line of kings. God punishes Solomon further by inciting the kings of Edom, and Syria to rebel against him, ending the peaceful reign of Solomon.

After reigning 40 years, Solomon died and was succeeded by

Rehoboam, his son by an Ammonite woman. The people, impoverished by heavy taxation, and worn out with forced labor, came to the new monarch asking relief from their heavy burdens. Spokesman for them was Jeroboam, who had been forced to flee to Egypt during Solomon's reign, and had now returned. There was nothing unjust or rebellious in their request; it was one of the few instances in history where human liberties have been asserted in the face of tyranny; they simply wanted redress of their grievances.

Initially, Rehoboam consulted with the older men about him who had been serving the state and his father for years. They counseled him to "be a servant unto his people," comply with the request and speak good words to them. But Rehoboam rejected such good advice, turning instead to young men in the court with whom he had grown up, mere lads who had been

raised in luxury, totally ignorant of the true situation of the common people who supported them and the necessities and responsibilities of rulership. To the petitions of his people the foolish, heartless, insolent youngster on the throne replied that no matter how heavy the yoke his father, Solomon, had laid upon them, he would make their burdens even heavier.

Thus, the folly Solomon combined with Rehoboam's tyranny and lack of feeling for the common people to set the stage for the enactment of a huge and tragic drama, one destined to play a large part in the future history of the Hebrew people. In his arrogance, the foolish Rehoboam had worked out the ordained judgment of God.

Infuriated, the ten northern tribes separated themselves from the southern tribes, and established their own kingdom, called Israel, with Jeroboam as their king, and Shechem as the capital city.

Strangely, the only voices raised in support of Christ in the period of His condemnation, a full execution came up from His closest

allies, but from those outside His following. This Easter article about those dissenting outsiders and leonclaus concerns a Jewish scholar who defended Christ in His time of crisis, when His usual advocates failed Him.

By GEORGE CORNELL, AP Religion Writer

The wind is against you, old man. Why fight it? Give in. Be sensible and heed the ruling pressure of the day. It's polite. It is approved. It bears the sanction of the crowd and crown, of Caesar's power and majesty.

And yet you bridle at this course! What ails thee, Nicodemus, a great old rabbi, learned teacher, sage of Israel?

How stubbornly you fret. They drink the wine of violence! So the prophets often warned—in vain. Be realistic. It is fruitless to object. The thing is set, the order sealed and duly authorized. The man will die.

You tread on dangerous ground, gray-bearded one, and few will stand beside you in this hour. As a member of the temple court, the sanhedrin, you already have felt the lash of scorn for sympathizing with the rebel Nazarene.

Now the insinuating gale blows even stronger. And who could move against it, who resist? Even the apostles of Jesus, His closest companions, had scattered into hiding, silence and fear. One, Judas, had sold Him out, and another, Peter disavowed Him. None of the others raised a voice in protest.

In His crisis, only a strange, mixed handful of individuals are stated by scripture to have demonstrated support for him. An odd lot they were—some women, a thief, a soldier, and two ranking Pharisees.

Outside Voices Supported Christ



How wonderful to see God through the eyes of a child. The wonder of bright blue eggs in a nest of twigs, the path of the wind through tossing treetops, moonlight dancing on a lake. All these are to him the fingerprints of God.

Too often we are caught up in a world of worry and concern. Worrying how to make ends meet, we forget to stop and see God in the world around us. Jesus said, "Whoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein."

Your church offers you moments of worship and inspiration, so that you may see all things bright and beautiful and find for yourself the Kingdom of God as He reveals it daily through the beauty of His earth.

Copyright 1968 Keltor Advertising Service, Inc., Strasburg, Va.

Table with 7 columns: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Each column contains a date and a small icon.

THIS FEATURE IS CONTRIBUTED TO THE CAUSE OF THE CHURCH BY THE FOLLOWING INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

- List of names and addresses: JOHN W. MacKENZIE, R. NELSON GOOD, WOOD CONVALESCENT NURSING HOME LTD., H. T. JAMES, MOORE & McLEOD LTD.

ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE READ THE CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THIS PAGE FOR TIMES OF SERVICES

The lonely minority, the deviants, the brave. TOOK RISK

The pair of Jewish leaders had the most to lose. Their titles, fortunes, reputations. Why risk it all? How much safer and discreet to acquiesce.

Yet you balk, Nicodemus. You remember that night, a year ago, when you talked with this Galilean.

In his responsibility, as an eminent instructor in the academies of Jerusalem, he had visited Jesus privately to determine, fairly and openly, just why some of his colleagues were so disturbed by the ways of the newcomer from the north.

Nicodemus had addressed the Nazarene as a fellow teacher. "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

Jesus, dismissing the outward wonders, had said that what mattered chiefly was man's inner condition, that he must renounce his self-righteous pride, recognize his moral inadequacies and become dependent on God as a little child.

"Truly," he said, "You must be born anew."

Then he spoke even more puzzlingly of His being of

ferred up, a light to the world, not to condemn it but save it. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Two months ago, Jesus had been ordered eliminated as an incendiary, fomenting unrest.

PROTESTS DECISION When the decision was put before the sanhedrin, meeting in the chamber of hewn stone adjoining Pilate's apartments at the fortress Antonia, Nicodemus had protested against prejudging the man, without deliberation of evidence.

Other Pharisees on the council, including the venerable Gamaliel and Joseph of Arimathea, also were tolerantly disposed toward the nonconformist Jesus, but only Nicodemus is recorded as having dared to declare his dissent openly.

Finally, Jesus was taken before Pilate for sentencing. An ancient non-biblical document, called variously the Gospel of Nicodemus or Memorials of Pilate, dating back to the first three centuries of Christianity, says the erudite old Nicodemus visited Pilate and egged him to spare Jesus.

It was useless. The gospels record that

Treasury Bills Prices Quoted

OTTAWA (CP)—New 91-day Government of Canada treasury bills auctioned Thursday: \$110,000,000 at an average price and yield of 98.744 and 5.10 per cent (last week, 98.734 and 5.09 per cent). 182-day bills: \$30,000,000 at an average price and yield of 97.414 and 5.32 per cent (last week, 97.402 and 5.32 per cent). OIL RAISES SIGHTS Per capita income in oil-rich Libya has risen from \$40 a year in 1961 to \$425 today.

CALVARY TEMPLE PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA

Upper Prince Street Rev. Cyril Clarke, Pastor 9:15 a.m.—Radio Broadcast, Summerside Station 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School Classes for All Ages 11:00 a.m.—Worship and Communion Service 7:30 p.m.—Evangelistic Service You will find a warm welcome at Charlottetown's Full Gospel Church.

LET'S GET IT STRAIGHT! The Bible Is The Word Of God

It is written of Christians at Thessalonica, "When ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the Word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh in you that believe. And ye have become followers of us and of the Lord." I Thess. 1:5-7. Surely we must do the same in order to rightly call ourselves Christians. You are invited to hear the Word of God each Sunday in the Montague Bible Chapel at 7:30 p.m.

BIRCHWOOD FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Birchwood St. near Longworth Ave.) Minister: Rev. W. R. Underhay, B.A. 11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship 7:00 P.M.—Evening Worship VISITORS WARMLY WELCOME.

Christian Reformed Church

155 Mt. Edward Road (The first church in Sherwood) Rev. M. Dornbush, Minister 10:00 a.m.—Morning Worship (English) 11:15 a.m.—Sunday School 2:30 p.m.—Afternoon Worship (English) A Warm Welcome Awaits You

Sherwood Christian Bible School

(Meeting in Sherwood Elementary School) A Sunday Bible School for all ages. Classes each Sunday 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Wednesday night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting in homes of members. A WARM WELCOME TO ALL

First Baptist Church

Corner of Prince and Fitzroy Streets Rev. Malcolm F. Herlow, B.A., B.D., Minister Mrs. V. L. Dingwell, Organist and Choir Director 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages 11:00 a.m.—"THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION" Anthem: "They Have Taken Away My Lord" Male Octet: "Only A Touch of the Hand Dear Lord" 7:00 p.m.—"THE ROAD HOME" Anthem: "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth" Wednesday 7:30—Prayer Meeting A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU

SPRING PARK UNITED CHURCH

Kirkwood Drive Minister: Rev. Clayton C. Lewis Organist and Director of Choirs: Mrs. J. B. Herdman, L.R.A.M. 9:45 a.m.—Senior, Intermediate and Juniors 11:00 a.m.—Nursery, Primary and Kindergarten 11:00 a.m.—"DEVOTION UNLIMITED" Choir: "Now, Let The Heavens Be Joyful"—French 7:15 p.m.—Adult Study Group "A WELCOME AWAITS YOU"

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Charlottetown, P.E.I. Ministers: Rev. John G. E. Ball, B.A., Rev. Gerald G. Wyrwas, B.A., B.D. Organist and Director of Choirs: Mr. J. B. Herdman 9:45 a.m.—Senior, Intermediate and Juniors 11:00 a.m.—Primary and Kindergarten 11:00 a.m.—Crib Room and Nursery up to two years (Social Hall) 11:00 a.m.—"OUR MORAL PREDICAMENT" (Rev. G. G. Wyrwas) Anthem: "Lift Up Your Hearts" (H. A. Chambers) 7:00 p.m.—"FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN TO THE GARDEN OF EASTER"—Rev. J. G. E. Ball "A WELCOME AWAITS YOU"

St. Paul's Anglican Church

Established 1769 by Royal Foundation The Rev. F. Louis Elias, L.S.I., Rector Organist and Choir Director George A. Thompson, F.R.C.O., (CHM.) A.R.C.M. THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER 8:30 a.m.—HOLY COMMUNION—Celebrate The Right Rev. W. W. Davis, D.D. 9:15 a.m.—SUNDAY SCHOOL: Junior, Senior and Bible Classes 11:00 a.m.—SUNDAY SCHOOL: Crib Nursery, Primary and Beginners Classes (Please bring Lenten Boxes) 11:00 a.m.—THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY CONFIRMATION Preacher: The Right Rev. W. W. Davis, D.D. Bishop of Nova Scotia 7:00 p.m.—EVENING PRAYER AND SERMON Sermon by The Venerable A. F. Bate, M.A., D.Ch. WEDNESDAY: APRIL 20— 10:00 a.m.—HOLY COMMUNION in the Chapel YOU ARE CORDIALLY WELCOME TO ATTEND ALL OUR SERVICES

Central Christian Church

519 Kent Street MORNING— 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship and the Lord's Supper Sermon: "THERE GO THE SHIPS" Duet: Misses Nancy and Norma MacKinnon 7:00 p.m.—Evening Service Sermon: "THE CHURCH OF CHRIST" (A Chart Sermon) Junior Choir: "All The Happy Children" Minister: Mr. W. O. Weale Organist: Mrs. Helen MacRae, A.R.C.M. WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO ALL

The Salvation Army

Great George Street Capt. Ray Nelson Sunday: Directory Class—9:30 a.m. Sunday School—10 a.m. Holiness Meeting—11 a.m. Services conducted by— The Ladies of the Home League Salvation Meeting—7 p.m. Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Home League (Public meeting) Thursday, 8 p.m.—Prayer Meeting. A WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT THE ARMY

PARK ROYAL UNITED CHURCH

19 Christie Drive, Parkdale Rev. J. H. Tye, B.A., B.D., Minister Mr. Leslie Nicoll—Organist and Director of Choirs MORNING: 9:45 a.m.—Junior, Intermediate and Senior Church School 11:00 a.m.—Nursery and Kindergarten Classes 11:00 a.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP Sermon: "FIT TO BE TIED" Anthem: "Now Let Every Tongue Adore Thee"—Bach 11:15 a.m.—Prayer Church School 7:00 p.m.—EVENING WORSHIP Sermon: "AS WE FORGIVE OTHERS" Anthem: "Ponder My Words O Lord"—Walmsley (Intermediate Girls' Choir) YOU ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP WITH US

The Kirk of St. James

Minister: The Rev. Malcolm A. McCuaig, J.A., B.D. Director of Music: Christopher Gledhill, M.A., B. Mus., ARCCO 11:00 A.M. Sermon: "Christ's Cure For Honest Doubts" Anthem: "In Faith I Calmly Rest"—Bach 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School 11:00 a.m.—Churchtime Nursery 11:30 a.m.—Children's Corner 7:30 p.m.—Fellowship You Are Invited To Worship With Us

Charlottetown Bible Chapel

225 Cumberland St. at Longworth Ave. 11:00 a.m.—Sunday School 11:00 a.m.—"THE HUMILITY OF LOVE" 7:30 p.m.—"WHAT ABOUT THE SABBATH?" followed by a baptism Speaker: JAMES A. STAHR, B.Sc., M.Th. "The Old Book . . . the New Birth . . . the Precious Blood . . . the Blessed Hope."

Zion Presbyterian Church

Corner Prince and Gratton Streets The Rev. Donald A. Campbell, B.A., Minister Miss Roberta Shaw, Deaconess Mrs. Harvey MacKinnon, L.M.S., B.Mus. Organist and Choir Director 9:45 a.m.—The Church School, Classes for all ages 10:00 a.m.—Bible Class. 11:00 a.m.—Nursery School 8:00 p.m.—Young Peoples' Bible Class 11:00 a.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP AND THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Sermon: THE GARDEN OF GOD Solo: O Lord Most Holy—C. Franck Miss Vicky Robertson 7:00 p.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP Sermon: SIGNPOSTS OF THE SOUL Anthem: All in The April Evening—Robertson A CORDIAL WELCOME TO ALL

St. Peter's Cathedral

Rochford Square Anglican Church of Canada Ven. Archbishop J. R. Davies, M.A., Rector Rev. Canon E. M. Malone, B.A., D.D. Honorary Assistant Priest Miss Suzanne Breton, L.R.C.M., Organist Mrs. B. W. Patterson, Choir Director April 17—The Octave Day of Easter 8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 8:45 a.m.—Matins 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School (11 a.m.—Infants' Class) 11:00 a.m.—Procession, Choral Eucharist and Sermon 7:00 p.m.—Evensong and Sermon Visitors are cordially welcome at all services.

PRINCIPLES OF THE BAHAI WORLD FAITH

- 1. The Oneness of Mankind 2. Independent Investigation of Truth 3. The Foundation of All Religion Is One 4. Religion must be the Cause of Unity 5. Religion must be in accord with Science and Reason 6. Equality between Men and Women 7. Prejudice of All Kinds must be Forgotten 8. Universal Peace 9. Universal Education 10. Spiritual Solution of The Economic Problem 11. Universal Language 12. An International Tribunal Given by Baha' U'Llah Over 80 Years Ago.