

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

**THE KINGDOM STRENGTHENED AND ENLARGED**

by Rev. R. C. Todd  
 LESSON . . . 2 Sam. 5 to 9; 11, 12  
 Following Saul's death in battle against the Philistines, some element in Israel remained loyal to Saul's family, and it took David seven years of ceaseless war to subdue these elements and rule over a united Israel. This accomplished, he laid siege to the stronghold of Jerusalem which was in the hands of the Jebusites, and captured it. Thereafter, Jerusalem became the political and religious capital of a united kingdom.  
 Probably the Philistines had exercised overlordship during the seven years it took David to consolidate his rule, and they regarded him as their vassal. Noting how strong he was becoming, they grew alarmed, and thought it necessary to attack him. The result was several terrible battles which brought about the defeat of the Philistines, in which once and for all they were driven from Hebrew territory. Besides consolidating the Hebrew tribes, David won numerous victories over neighbouring states, and brought them under his rule. In fact he built up quite a little empire. During his reign, Hebrew power reached the greatest proportions ever attained in the history of that people. The latter years of his reign are darkened by a series of rebellions, the first of which was an attempt made by his son Absalom to gain the throne while his father was still living. The rebellions arose partly through tribal jealousy and partly through political intrigue in the royal court. In a later era of the nation's history, divisions among the tribes was destined to split the kingdom into two separate nations. David, however, through his life time, succeeded in retaining control over all his empire. While the rebellions were symptomatic of underlying conflicts, on the whole, Hebrew national unity and power reached its all time high under the rule of David.  
 That this unity and power were due to David's dynamic leadership cannot be gainsaid. What was there about this man that made it possible; and why is he commended in the Bible and looked upon by the Hebrews as a type of the Messiah? It was certainly not because of his purity and perfection of character. He was far from being the saint of modern popular conception of saintliness. Generosity and selfishness exist side by side in him. Willfulness is combined with submissiveness to God. His affectionate nature is shown in his love for Jonathan. And yet he could be so scrupulous to attain his personal ends and desires that he could murder a loyal follower — the incident of his murder of Uriah the Hittite to obtain Uriah's wife. But even an incident such as that is revealing in another direction. For when David was shown his sin by Nathan the prophet, David sorrowfully repented, both of murder, and adultery. The Bible makes no effort to gloss over David's faults or to magnify his virtues. It simply represents him as he was; and in that presentation, selfishness is as prominent as virtue. What the Bible does bring out, is that there was a certain integrity in David's life and career, a certain perseverance in faith, even through sin and failure. Sinner though he was, he somehow lived towards God, and governed his people with a sense of responsibility to God. He had the boldness of the man of faith. He poured out his heart in praise of God, as well as in confession of his faults, as in some of the Psalms. When he sinned, he knew he had sinned, and he repented of his sin. The fear of the Lord was the beginning of his wisdom.  
 It is always faith which inspires great leadership — the sort of faith which is conscious of God's sovereign power, and is submissive to his will, willing to confess its faults and go on in faith. In our own time, we need such leadership. People are concerned about the creation of a better order of things in the world. The desire for it is real; yet the dynamic power and leadership which might bring it to pass seems to be sadly missing.  
 David was a leader with power because the Lord was with him; and his heart, despite his sins, was with the Lord. He ruled greatly, and his rule brought prosperity to the people because he was a man of faith. To bring order out of chaos, as David did, because he is a man of great faith; that is the mark of a good statesman. We who are witnessing so much social chaos nationally and internationally in our present day, cannot be expected to be delivered from our modern distresses until the hearts of governors and peoples; of prime ministers, legislators and voters are turned again toward the Lord God. Without faith, a moral force which leads to political integration manifests itself. For the Christian, of course, any kind of faith is not enough; only Christian faith will suffice. What faith is a revolutionary faith, for it is the faith which "overcometh the world" and looks towards a new heaven and a new earth.

**Municipality of Georgetown NOMINATION MEETING**

A meeting of the Municipal Electors of the Town of Georgetown will be held in the

PUBLIC LIBRARY,

**MONDAY, APRIL 21st**

1947, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. for the purpose of nominating a candidate to fill a vacancy in Council for Ward 2. In case more than one candidate is proposed and seconded and a poll is demanded, said poll will be opened at 8 o'clock in the forenoon and remain open until 7 p.m. on Monday, April 28th, 1947, at the residence of T. F. Grievie, Queen Street.

T. F. HARRISON, Returning Officer.

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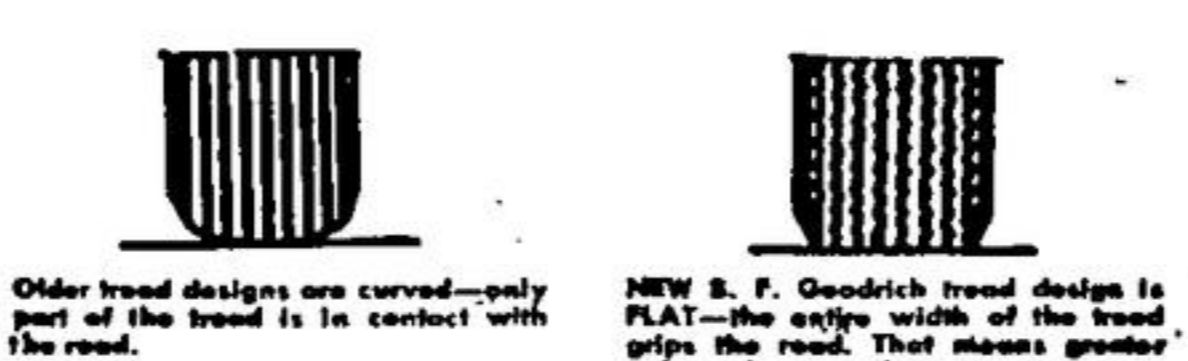
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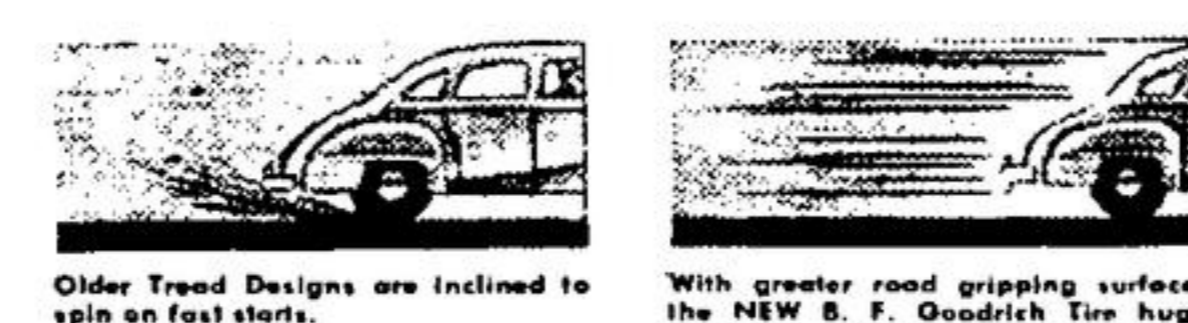
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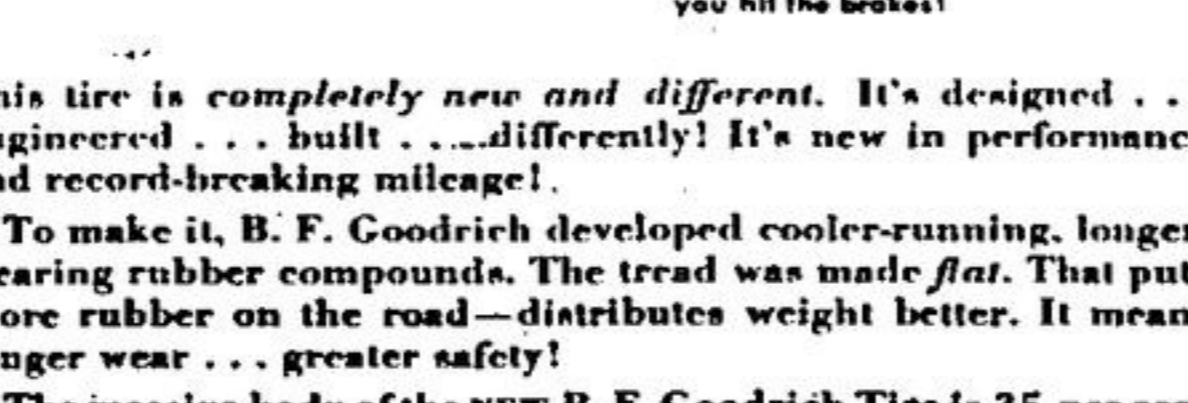
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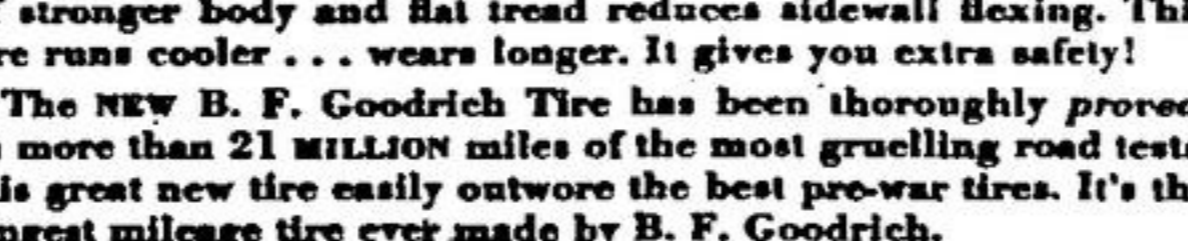
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