

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 Jan. 1, 1995

Miracle on 25th Street

Jim hated to ride the city bus but his dad had forbidden him to take the family car in this neighborhood, and had warned him to keep a constant lookout for muggers. He stepped off the bus at 25th and Elm. Glancing quickly around him, he headed south on 25th. The area was every bit as gruesome as his dad had said. Large, old paint buckets, garbage cans and crumpled laundry baskets overflowing with trash adorned the curbs all along the rough street that wound through three and four story low-rent apartment buildings. He hurried on watching the house numbers, 1486, 1488, 1490. There it was, a massive concrete building, its corners chipped away by years of wear. Graffiti in red, black and green adorned the cement fence around the complex. "Apartment number 16-C, must be on the top floor," Jim mumbled to himself, as he swished past a bunch of boys sharing a cigarette.

On the second stairway landing, four small girls played a game of cards. One girl had three nickles, another two dimes. On the third level, two teen-age boys leaning over the balcony rail, called obscenities to girls on the balcony below. Jim looked straight ahead and acted like he knew where he was going; that is what his dad had told him to do. From the corner of his eye, he saw the number 16-C. Trembling, he prayed, "Lord give me courage." Then he knocked

on the door.

The door swung open and Jim was face to face with a huge, wild-looking young man. "What brought you here?" he blurted.

"I'm Jim Estan," Jim said, "I visit the sick and read to them. I was told that someone here might enjoy a visitor."

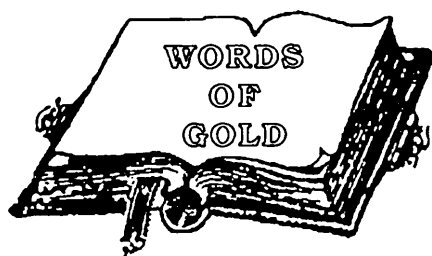
"Maw and me have no use fer folks like you," he said, cursing Jim. "And if ye don't head fer the street, I'll pitch you right over that railing to help ye on your way."

Jim turned immediately to obey, but as he stepped away, he heard a woman pleading, "Buck, Buck, let him in. Maybe he's got the book that tells about the blood."

Instantly Jim knew he must see the woman. Fearlessly he pushed himself past the big wild guy and into the dark filthy room. On a sagging couch lay a hollow-eyed, bony woman. The thin sheet covering her body moved up and down with each laborious breath. "Does your book tell about the blood?" she asked as Jim stepped close.

"It does," he said. "It tells about Jesus, who loved people so much He gave His blood to save them from sin."

"That's what I want to hear about!" she exclaimed. As she began coughing, Jim found a rickety chair, tested its strength and sat down. When she finally stopped coughing and had taken a drink of water from the glass sitting on the floor, she explained. "I have been a bad woman. I was born to cursing par-



God Speaks Through Prophets

New words: 1. *Whoredom* is unfaithfulness to God's love, or to a spouse's love. 2. *Residue* is all that is left.

Hosea 1:1-11

1 The word of the Lord that came unto Hosea,...

2 The beginning of the word of the Lord by Hosea. And the Lord said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the Lord.

3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son.

4 And the Lord said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel.

5 And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.

6 And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name Loruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away.

7 But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the Lord their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.

8 Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and bare a

son.

9 Then said God, Call his name Lo-ammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.

10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.

11 Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

The Message: Although Israel had rejected God, they would find mercy in Jesus when He established the Church.

Questions:

1. To whom did the Word of the Lord appear?
2. What sin had Israel committed?
3. On which kingdom would God have mercy and on which would He not have mercy?
4. Why was Hosea's daughter named Loruhamah?
5. Why was his son named Loammi?
6. Why would God build again David's tabernacle?
7. How many will be in this spiritual Israel?
8. Who did Christ say were Jews? (Memory Verse.)
9. Who is the head of spiritual Israel today?

Verse to Memorize

But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit,...whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Romans 2:29.

Let's



Talk . . .

We have just finished studying about the Church of God in its beginning. Christ taught His Church to obey God's spirit and not follow the ideas of men. Sometimes people in the Church find it hard to understand spiritual things. That is the problem with most people. In the Old Testament times people had the same problem. God sent prophets to help the people understand a godly, spiritual life. Many times the prophets' messages were rejected because the people were only seeing things from a natural point of view and not from a spiritual viewpoint.

When we read the New Testament we find many phrases like, "that it might be fulfilled," and "as it was written." These phrases are telling us that God's Word which the prophets had forecast was being fulfilled. Years before Christ was born many different prophets told about His birth and ministry. You have probably read many prophecies of His birth on Christmas cards, or in Christmas articles and stories. If the scripture text is from a book of the Old Testament, you will know it is a prophecy.

I hope you find it interesting to study prophecies. We will begin studying the 12 minor prophets. As we study, we will notice that the prophets had a good taste for spiritual things. They also understood the Church of God to be a spiritual, everlasting kingdom.

Prophecy occupies about one third of the whole Bible. There are 17 books of prophecy. The events in these 17 books happened at the same time as those in the 12 books of history. They are classed as Major Prophets and Minor Prophets by the length of the book, not by the importance of the prophet or his message. Some prophets lived a

long time and prophesied a lot, but wrote very little.

The descendants from ten of Jacob's sons called their kingdom Israel. The descendants from Jacob's other two sons called their country Judah. Each country had its own king, but they were all Jews. Hosea prophesied for about 60 years to Israel. The main point of his prophecies was, "You are rejected because of your sins." Hosea used many different methods to get God's message to the people. First he married a woman whose name signifies *corruption*. Then he named his children Jezreel, Loruhamah, and Loammí. Each of these names added meaning to his prophecies. Jezreel, the first, means, *God will scatter His beloved, Loruhamah, without mercy, and Loammí, you are no longer my people.*

In verses 10 and 11, he says, "I will call them my people who were not my people." In Romans 9:23-26 Paul tells us these prophecies were completed when Christ formed spiritual Israel, the Church of God. This Israel is as impossible to number as the grains of sand on the sea shore. (Verse 10.)

—Charlotte Huskey

Blankenbaker, *What the Bible Is All About For Young Explorers*, Regal Books, Ventura, p. 142-146. *Adam Clark's Commentary*, One Volume Edition, p. 706-708.

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Wagner S. Huskey, President 9/19/74

ents, cursed my way through life and have raised a cursing boy. No one knows how bad I've been nor how much I'm suffering, partly because of my wickedness. One morning I passed a church and went in. At first I just enjoyed the singing. But when the man started preaching, I began looking around. Then is when I saw all the saintly looking people and felt so ashamed that I hurried out. But I did hear the preacher say something about a blood that cleans from sin."

She was out of breath so stopped talking. Then Jim said, "Would you like for me to read to you about that blood?"

"Oh, yes, yes, don't you see I'm dying," she almost screamed, "and I have so many sins. I'm afraid to die and face God's judgment. Is there any hope?"

"There sure is," Jim assured her. Then opening the Bible he had taken from his pocket, he read, "The blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin." This is true, for God said it, and God can not lie."

"But what must I do?" she asked, sobbing.

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

"I do believe," she said, "But I have been so bad."

"God says, 'Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,' and 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'" Presently Jim remembered the wild man who had met him at the door, and recalled his Dad's warning to keep a sharp eye for muggers. Hearing a strange noise, he turned quickly and saw the big man crying while he was fleeing into the other room.

"Read more, read more," the sick woman begged. Jim read to her the story of Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and resurrection.

"What love He had for us sinners," she cried.

Then he read, "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you." "You see, my sins have been forgiven, and your's can be, too."

"But you are a good young man, you haven't lived bad like me," she protested.

"God is love," Jim read, "He sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him." And "herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment." "You need not fear the judgment," Jim said, "Jesus paid the price for your sins."

"Yes, yes," she cried, "I am sorry for my sins and believe God has forgiven them. How happy I am that you came to read with me. Will you please come again?"

"I will come tomorrow after school," Jim promised. She smiled. Jim thought he noticed a smile on Buck's face as he peeked from behind the bedroom door.

Jim flew down the stairs and to the bus stop, forgetting all about muggers and sluggers that surrounded him.

Every day after school Jim visited 1490 S. 25th Street. Sometimes Buck opened the door before he knocked. Sometimes he was waiting on the balcony.

Six weeks later at his mother's funeral, Buck said to Jim, "I want to do what you are doing. Jesus did so much for me and Maw that I want to spend the rest of my life helping others to know Him."

—Charlotte Huskey

[Answers: 1. To Hosea 2. Great whoredom (They worshiped idols. The Golden Calf was a national god.) 3. God would have mercy on the kingdom of Judah, but not on the kingdom of Israel. 4. Because God would no more have mercy upon the country of Israel. 5. Because Israel was no more God's people. 6. So all men could seek after the Lord. 7. As many as the sand of the sea. 8. Those who have been circumcised in the heart and spirit. (Circumcision of the heart means cleansed of sin). 9. Christ.]

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Ashley's Reward

Ashley Fuerte lay on her back in a field of golden buttercups imagining the clouds overhead were warriors of God on white horses. She could hear the water in nearby Stony Creek splashing against the rocks that obstructed its path. The romantic aroma of orange blossoms filled the air crowding out any fragrance from the almond, apple, peach and pear trees. The silence was broken by her sister's shrill voice. "Come, let's play hide-and-seek; Aurora and her brothers are here," called Hether.

Ashley scrambled to her feet. Then hesitated to labor a while for her breath. Her asthma had been steadily growing worse, but she did wish to join them. Hether loved the game, and Ashley wanted to be friendly to Aurora. For Aurora had left all her friends in far-away Canada when her family moved here to the Sacramento Valley.

"This will be the base. Everybody run and hide," Hether announced and began counting.

Ashley crept behind the nearest oak tree.

Todd, her little brother, was brought in first so after everyone was caught, he had to stay on base while the others ran to hide again. They were so busy playing that they didn't notice a man stopping his vehicle in the dusty road and going into their house.

At lunchtime when the children went into the house, they saw three small, thick books laying on the table. They were blue, brown and black. "What are these?" asked Ashley taking one in her hand to examine it.

"That is God's Book," explained her mother, Mrs. Fuerte. "It is not like any other book. God speaks from its pages."

"God speaks out of this book?" Ashley exclaimed, holding the brown Bible to her ear. She felt tingly strange inside. It was like the awesome feelings she had when she studied the sky, or wondered how water was made or why the buttercups were yellow. As she carefully touched its pages, it seemed as if a friend was waiting inside to tell her something.

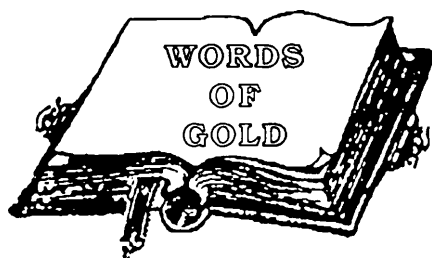
"Always obey what that book says and God will bless you," Mother said.

"Where did you get money for three books?" Hether asked. "Whenever I ask for money, we never have any."

Mother looked with sharp eyes at Hether, then said calmly, "We can hardly make payments on this ranch and buy necessities. Just be thankful for what you have."

"Okay, okay, but the books?"

"A man came this afternoon and talked to me about God. I told him that we do not get to go to church since your dad is not a Christian. Then he said, 'It is very important that children



Hosea Tells of God's Faithfulness

Hosea 2:6-10, 12-13, 15, 19-20, 23

6 Behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths.

7 And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now.

8 For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal.

9 Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax given to cover her nakedness.

10 And...none shall deliver her out of mine hand.

12 And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees,....

13 And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the Lord.

15 And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

19 And I will betroth [*promise to do all the duties of a husband*] thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in

judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

20 I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord.

23 And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.

Hosea 3:4-5

4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image,...

5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days.

The Message: God promises a new covenant not only to the Jews, but to every person who will accept it.

Questions:

1. Why did God hedge up Israel's path with thorns?
2. Name five things that God will take from Israel.
3. Would anyone be able to deliver Israel?
4. For what were earrings used?
5. Why was Achor called the valley of hope?
6. In what ways would God betroth His people under the new covenant?
7. What would God say to those who were not His people?
8. What would Israel do in the latter days?
9. Who was David their king?

Verse to Memorize

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel...saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:...

Hebrews 8:10.

Let's



Talk . . .

To show Israel their condition before God, Hosea uses a rebellious wife to represent Israel and a loving husband to represent God. After she left him, He put a hedge of thorns around her so she would suffer and return to him. These thorns were the loss of material things; corn, oil, wool, etc. Did Israel come back to God? We will find out as we study through the book of Hosea.

Does God sometimes put thorns around His loved ones today? Yes. Often times when someone of the Church starts straying away after things of the world, God causes troubles to come into their life. Sometimes this will cause the person to wake up and re-consecrate himself to God. Sometimes people will just stiffen their neck and become bitter against God. I heard about one man whose wife left him to marry another man. He prayed for God to put a hedge of thorns around his wife. God did. She broke up her relationship with the other man and returned to her first husband. Are you praying for someone to be saved? Try praying a hedge of thorns around them.

Although this rebellious wife had decked herself with earrings and went after her lovers (idols), God spoke comfortably to her. He then gave her the valley of Achor for a door of hope. The valley of Achor was where Achan confessed his sin of stealing clothes and gold and burying them under his tent floor. After Achan confessed and was punished, God gave Israel victory over a pursuing enemy. The Church of God, (spiritual Israel), is

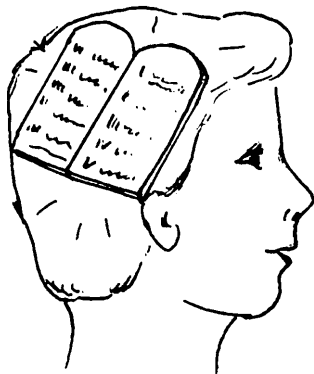
made up of people who have confessed all sin, even secret ones, and dutifully turned to God for salvation. Now they sing hymns of hope and deliverance as Israel did after they escaped from Egypt.

The last part of chapter two promises security from every evil to ALL who have made a covenant with God through faith in Jesus. All nature and the God of nature are united to make the people of God happy.

In chapter three, Hosea tells Israel that they will be without a king or any religious activity for many days. But in the latter days many Israelites would turn from their sinful ways and again seek God. (They were without a king or priest for over 400 years.) Then Christ came and multitudes of poor Jews did turn from evil and followed Him. Thousands were added to the Church on the Day of Pentecost. Read about it in Acts, chapter two. In chapter one, Hosea refers to these multitudes being in number as the grains of sand on the sea shore. Although Israel rebelled against God, God continued to love Israel and would draw them back again.

—Charlotte Huskey

Adam Clark's Commentary One Volume Edition, p. 709-710. The Matthew Henry Commentary, New One Volume Edition, p.1107-1109. Halley Bible Hand Book, p. 316-317.



have a Bible of their own. Do yours have Bibles?' 'No', I answered. Then he left a Bible for each of you."

"Wow! He must be rich," exclaimed Hether. "I hope I marry a rich man."

"You don't have a Bible either, do you Mother?" Ashley asked feeling sorry for her mother.

"Yes."

"You do?" Ashley asked in surprise.

"But I never seem to find time to read it," Mother answered. "I can hardly keep up with the housecleaning, cooking and sewing."

"Will he come back and tell us the stories in this book?" Ashley asked.

"I hope he will."

"Preachers and Sunday School teachers know them all, don't they?" Ashley asked.

"Yes, they study so they can teach others how to live," Mother answered.

"That's what I want to be when I grow up."

"Now let's eat, then you girls wash the dishes and run back out to play. Ashley, you need all the fresh out-door air you can get."

That night Ashley took her Bible to bed. She laid it over her heart and imagined it was saying, "I am so glad you love me, I hope you will always love me, and will read me often." Ashley thought there must be many interesting stories written on its pages. She remembered hearing about little David killing a big giant and God talking to Samuel in the night. "I'll read some of those stories tomorrow," she promised as she yawned and closed her eyes.

The next morning as soon as her work was finished, Ashley ran with the new book to her favorite place in the meadow. There was a big stone just right for a stool, near the creek where she could hear the lapping of the water. "This book must hold the mysteries of the force that made Mt. Lassen

explode years ago," she said looking far away to the semi-active volcano towering above a field of orange California poppies. Ashley rubbed her hands lovingly over its soft brown cover, then she kissed it. "I'll always love You and obey what You say," she promised.

Then she began reading, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." "What a strange earth," she said. Then continued reading. She read and read until she finally finished the first chapter. "This book is harder to read than my big second grade books," she said rubbing her eyes. Then she heard Hether calling, "Time to eat."

"God must be big and powerful to make everything in the world," she told her mother. "I want to know Him better."

(To be continued next week.)

—Charlotte Huskey



(Answers: 1. So Israel would return to Him. 2. Any five of these: corn, wine, oil, silver, gold, wool, mirth (happiness), flax, feast days, solemn feasts, vines and fig trees. 3. No. 4. To deck themselves and worship idols. 5. Because Israel had hope in this valley after Achan confessed his sin and was punished. 6. In righteousness, in judgment, in lovingkindness, in mercies, and in faithfulness. 7. "Thou art my people." 8. They would seek their God, and David their king, and fear the Lord and His goodness. 9. Jesus, the Son of David.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Ashley's Reward

(Continued from last week.)

"I'll wash and dry the dishes tonight if you will read my Bible to me," Ashley told Hether.

"Okay. Only so I won't have to do dishes," Hether answered. "You know I hate to read."

Hether perched on a tall stool and read the second chapter of Genesis to Ashley while she cleaned the kitchen.

Saturday was housecleaning day. Although they seldom went to church, they always cleaned and cooked on Saturday, so Sunday could be a day of rest. Ashley worked hard hoping to have time to read her Bible, but the day was too full.

Sunday morning Todd went fishing. Hether played with Aurora. Ashley took her Bible and went to her favorite place in the meadow. She read, "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made."

"Just what is a serpent?" Ashley questioned. "Is it a dragon, a big ugly dragon? I'll find out," she said and continued reading. "And he said unto the woman, Yea hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, —"

"Hey, this woman is talking with a dragon. I didn't know dragons could talk," Ashley said scratching her head. "Mm-m-m but maybe they did when God first made them," she commented and began reading again.

That evening when Ashley, Todd and Hether were eating roastbeef sandwiches made from dinner leftovers, Ashley said, "Those new Bibles do have some really funny stories. Today I read about a dragon and a woman that talked to each other, and a man and woman so dumb they didn't know they were naked."

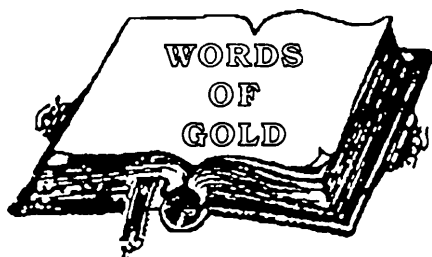
Hether laughed.

Todd said, "Ah-m-m-m you're telling a lie. Mother is going to spank you."

When Mother found out what Ashley had said, she explained, "The serpent is the evil spirit, we call the devil. This spirit comes to everyone and tries to get them to disobey God. Someday it will come to each of you putting evil thoughts into your mind."

"Like what?" Hether asked Mother.

"Thoughts to disobey one of God's commandments like the one that says, 'Honor your father and your mother,'" she answered.



Hosea Rebukes Israel

Hosea 4:1-3, 6, 10, 12-19

1 Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

2 By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

3 Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

10 For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the Lord.

12 My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them (divination using rods); for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.

13 They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof is good: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery.

14 I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots:...

15 Though thou, Israel, play the harlot, yet let not Judah offend;...

16 For Israel slideth back as a back-sliding heifer: now the Lord will feed them as a lamb in a large place.

17 Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.

18 Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers with shame do love, Give ye.

19 The wind hath bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

The Message: Israel will be destroyed because of her sins, but Christ will come from Judah.

Questions:

1. Why did God have a controversy with the people?
2. What were the people doing?
3. Why were the people destroyed?
4. From whom were they seeking counsel?
5. Where did they sacrifice and burn incense to their gods?
6. What was happening high on the mountains in the dark shadow of these trees?
7. Why would God not punish the daughters and spouses?
8. To what animal did God compare Israel?
9. What were the favorite words of the rulers?

Verse to Memorize

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God,...

I Peter 3:18.

Let's



Talk . . .

The kingdom of David had divided into two nations about 200 years before Hosea began prophesying. Israel, the larger northern kingdom, made the golden calf its official national god. During the following years the nation grew in power and riches. They adopted the sinful customs of the nations around them. They intermarried with the other nations, and worshipped their idols: Baalim, Ashtoreth (goddess of fertility and love), the gods of Zidon, of Moab, of Ammon and of the Philistines. In the worship of idols, they committed sins too horrible to describe. Besides all the sins connected with worshipping idols, they were swearing, lying, killing, stealing and committing adultery. They were guilty of breaking each one of the Ten Commandments. There was no truth, knowledge nor mercy left in the land. Murder was so common, Hosea described it as blood touching blood. This wretched condition started when men decided to go *their own way and not follow God.*

While they were continually breaking God's laws, they built more and more places of worship. The nation began with only two golden calves, one at Dan and one at Bethel. Now there were altars at Samaria, Gilgal, Sichem, Beersheba, and upon Tabor and the mountains of Gilead. A multitude of gods were worshipped. They chose places upon the tops of hills and mountains, foolishly imagining that the height of the ground gave them some advantage in their approach to heaven. Around the temples and altars were well-tended, beauti-

ful gardens of oaks, poplars and elms. Many had lean-to sheds used for public prostitution. Girls and women consecrated themselves to this awful sin to please the evil spirits of the idols. Much wine was drunk in these ceremonies which deadened the conscience and sin was the natural result. The rulers encouraged this sinful worship, for it brought more money into their treasury. Their favorite words were, "Give me."

To awaken the people God would send a famine so severe that the land would mourn. There would not be enough grass for the wild animals, fruit for the fowls, nor water for the fish. What a price to pay! Imagine how everyone would suffer.

God had already sent the prophets Elijah, Elisha, Jonah and Amos. But their warnings had fallen on deaf ears, as the Israelites sunk deeper and deeper in their sin.

In each of the foregoing chapters, Hosea gave hope for the day when Christ would bring power and grace to men so they could conquer sin and wickedness that had so enslaved Israel. In this chapter he only says, "Judah must not offend." Why? It had been prophesied that Christ would come from David's family which was the royal family of Judah. Christ did come, and now every Christian can have power over sin.

—Charlotte Huskey

Adam Clark's Commentary, One Volume Edition, p. 710-711. The Matthew Henry Commentary, New One Volume Edition, p. 1110-1111. Halley Bible Hand Book, p. 316.



One evening in November Todd obeyed the serpent. He came home from Stony Creek shivering cold. "I told you not to get in the cold water," Mother stormed, "Now you're going to be sick."

The next day, Todd was very, very hot with fever. Ashley hoped she would never listen to the devil and disobey Mother.

"Please sit by Todd's bed and fan him," Mother said. "Hether and I must finish her birthday dress today." Ashley happily took the palm leaf fan from Mother and sat down by Todd's bed. She waved her arm back and forth, back and forth, back and forth, for what seemed like hours. Todd hadn't even opened his eyes.

"This sure is boring," she said. "Mother, can you tell us some Bible stories?"

"I don't know the Bible stories," Mother answered.

"Then maybe you could help me find one, and I could read to Todd," Ashley suggested. "I don't want to read where I've been reading. There are too many words I don't understand."

"I haven't time right now. Get your Bible and read wherever it falls open. It's all good."

Ashley lovingly took the Bible from under her pillow, where she kept it. Sitting down again beside Todd's bed she let it fall open. It fell open to I Chronicles 24. "Now these are the di-vi-si-ons of the sons of A-a-ron. The sons of Aaron; Na-dab, and A-bi-hu, El-e-a-zar, and Ith-a-mar. But Na-dad and A-bi-hu died before their father, and had no children: therefore El-e-a-zar and Ith-a-mar ex-e-cut-ed the priest's office." Ashley looked up. Her eyes were stinging, her tongue was tired.

"That's too hard to read," she complained.

Ashley reluctantly laid the Bible down and started singing. Then Todd smiled as she sang:

"We shall stand before the King,
With the angels we shall sing,
By and by, by and by;
Walk the bright and golden shore,
Praising Him for evermore,
By and by, by and by."

The Bible lay open on Ashley's lap. She liked the tingly feeling she felt when touching it. If only she could read and understand its message, she thought she would be the happiest girl in the world.

(To be continued next week.)

—Charlotte Huksey



(Answer: 1. Because there was no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. 2. They were swearing, lying, killing, stealing and committing adultery. 3. Because they rejected God's knowledge. 4. From their stocks and their staff. 5. From the tops of mountains and hills, under oaks, poplars, and elms. 6. Their daughters were committing fornication and their spouses adultery. 7. Because the men allowed them to sacrifice alongside of whores and harlots. 8. A backsliding helter. 9. "Give ye.")

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 Jan. 22, 1995

Ashley's Reward

(Continued from last week.)

Ashley threw down her jumping rope and listened carefully. Mother had just said, "The Bible says." Ashley wanted desperately to know what the Bible did say. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain," she heard Mother saying to Todd. "Now don't ever say those words again. That is using God's name in vain. Maybe I shouldn't allow you to play with those new neighbors."

"Please, Mother, please. They are the only boys in the neighborhood," Todd pleaded. "I won't say that again, I promise."

"Better keep your promise," Mother threatened.

"Maybe I can find that commandment," Ashley said to herself, running to get her Bible.

She looked here and there reading a little on each page, but couldn't find it. Then she remembered hearing Mother say to Hether, "The Bible says, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' Dancing leads to adultery, so you can not go to the school dance."

Ashley began hunting for that commandment. After a long search she exclaimed, "Wow! You are a BIG, little book, with many, many pages

and you hide your messages."

Ashley obeyed carefully every commandment that she knew, and felt it her duty to help others obey them. One day she decided maybe she could help the new neighbors. She worked almost all day writing to Aurora. When she finally finished the letter, it said:

Dear Aurora,

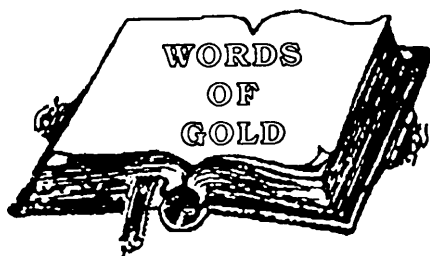
Mother kept me out of school today 'cause I am sick. I've been thinking about your brothers. It makes me sad 'cause they swear and use God's name in vain. This is an awful sin and if they die, they will go to hell. They must stop their wicked ways so they can go to heaven when they die.

Will you pray with me for them?

Your friend, —Ashley

She looked over her letter again. It looked pretty good this time. Todd was already home, so she had him take it to Aurora.

Ashley had heard that there are special verses in the Bible just for children. She had looked and looked, but hadn't found one. Her Bible reading was becoming tiresome and uninteresting. But she struggled on for a whole year, then another year. One evening after trying again to read, she closed it tenderly and gave this parting message, "You are God's great book but I can't understand you. Someday I hope to know the meaning of your words and messages."



God will Withdraw Because of Sin

Hosea 5:1-15

1 Hear ye this, O priests; and hearken, ye house of Israel; and give ye ear, O house of the king; for judgment is toward you, because ye have been a snare on Mizpah, and a net spread upon Tabor.

2 And the revolvers are profound to make slaughter, though I have been a rebuker of them all.

3 I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled.

4 They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the Lord.

5 And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them.

6 They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the Lord; but they shall not find him; he hath withdrawn himself from them.

7 They have dealt treacherously against the Lord: for they have begotten strange children: now shall a month devour them with their portions.

8 Blow ye the cornet in Gibeah, and the trumpet in Ramah: cry aloud at Beth-aven, after thee, O Benjamin.

9 Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke: among the tribes of Israel have I made known that which shall surely be.

10 The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: there-

fore I will pour out my wrath upon them like water.

11 Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment, because he willingly walked after the commandment.

12 Therefore will I be unto Ephraim as a moth, and to the house of Judah as rottenness.

13 When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound.

14 For I will be unto Ephraim as a lion, and as a young lion to the house of Judah: I, even I, will tear and go away; I will take away, and none shall rescue him.

15 I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

The Message: Every thought and action must come inside the protective framework of God's laws.

Questions:

1. To whom was the prophet speaking?
2. Had God already rebuked them for their sins?
3. What kind of spirit was among them?
4. What would Israel not do to their actions?
5. Who was to fall in their iniquity?
6. Were they able to find the Lord?
7. What had God done?
8. How would Israel be destroyed?
9. When would the people seek God?

Verse to Memorize

I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face...

Hosea 5:15.

Let's



Talk . . .

When Hosea prophesied in the 8th century B.C., idolatry was universal. Every nation had a national god or gods, and performed diabolic sacrificial services to them. In the eyes of the world, Israel was not an evil, sinful people. But in the eyes of a holy God, the things they were doing were terrible. Within the framework of idol worship, ungodly sex acts were committed. This is called whoredom. When people worship "things" instead of the Creator of things, it is spiritual whoredom. Both nations were guilty of spiritual and physical whoredom.

We would not expect God to answer our prayers if we prayed to an idol, but Israel's children did. They had watched their parents praying to idols for as long as they could remember. King Jeroboam set up the idol to protect his kingdom. Perhaps he felt justified in this because other kings before him had worshipped idols, and years before, Aaron had made a golden calf.

People often try to justify sin because "everyone is doing it." Does that make it right? When we have a desire to do something sinful, or even just questionable, we must discipline ourselves and submit to the laws of God. This is what Israel would not do. Hosea said, "They will not frame their doings..." (Verse 4.) God's laws are like a protective framework. Every thought and activity must come inside this framework just as a picture is inside its frame. Framing a picture protects it and keeps it from flopping when the wind blows. Submitting to

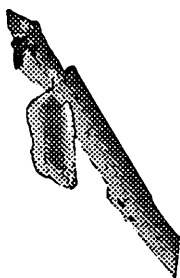
God will keep us stable. We will not be flopping up and down, or back and forth according to what others do or say. If we are disobeying God's laws, we are like the Israelites.

What was going to happen to Israel because of their wild, uncontrolled lifestyle? The spirit of whoredom would work among them as a destroying moth. Many moths are beautiful, but the larvae (caterpillars) of many are very destructive. Slowly and silently they do their deadly work of destroying trees, food crops, plants and things made from wool. Not all moth larvae are destructive, and neither is marriage sinful. But whoredom is a sin that can have the worst consequences of any sin. If given a chance to work, the spirit of whoredom will quickly destroy a young person, a home, a community, a congregation or a nation.

Israel saw they were crumbling, but instead of turning to God for help, they went to the Assyrian king. Would he be able to get them out of this trouble or would they return to God?

The last verse of this chapter tells us that God left them with their problems. He took away His care and protection with the confidence that after they had suffered the consequences of their sins, they would turn from their multitude of idols and again seek Him. —Charlotte Huskey

Adam Clark's Commentary, One Volume Edition, p. 711-712. The Matthew Henry Commentary, New One Volume Edition, p. 1111-1112. Halley Bible Hand Book, p. 318.



Although Ashley did not read her Bible, she tried hard to do what she thought would please God. One day while she and Todd were fishing in Stony Creek, she heard her mother calling. Quickly handing Todd her fishing pole, she hurried toward the house.

Mother was standing in the doorway, wiping her eyes with a corner of her apron. "We have a special guest," Mother said crying and laughing at the same time. "This man knows all about the Bible."

This was too good to be true.

"He just prayed for me and I feel like a new person! He also read to me where Jesus healed all the sick who came to Him, and he says that Jesus is still healing today. I told him you had asthma and he wants to pray for you to be healed. Ashley, do you believe that Jesus will heal you?"

Ashley nodded her head, "Yes." She studied this strange man. He must be a very, very good man, she thought, to be able to understand God's book.

He took Ashley's hand and drew her close. Then placing his hand on her shoulder he looked her in the eyes and said, "Jesus loved people. Years and years ago, He left God's beautiful heaven. He came to earth and suffered a death on the cross for you and for me, and for everyone. Don't you think we ought to love Him?"

Again Ashley nodded her head, "Yes."

"Jesus wants to make us good, so we can go to heaven to live with Him. He also wants us to be well while we are living here. Isn't that great? Are you living for Jesus?"

"I do want to please Jesus, so I try to be good," Ashley answered.

"Let me tell you something that will help you. The Bible gives a special commandment to children. It says for

children to honor and obey their parents. You must obey this commandment to please Jesus. If you will obey it, living for Jesus will be much easier. And," he said with a twinkle in his eye, "God has a special promise for children who will obey their parents."

"I will obey them," Ashley promised very seriously.

"I am sure you will," said the minister. "Now let me read you some Bible verses. 'Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil...and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him'" How happy Ashley was to hear the Bible being read.

"You believe that?"

"Yes," Ashley answered warmly.

He laid down the Bible, took a little bottle of oil from his pocket and put a little oil on Ashley's forehead. Closing his eyes, he simply asked God to heal her and to help her always live for Jesus.

While the Christian man was praying, Ashley silently asked God to forgive her sins and to make her His own child.

(To be continued next week.)

—Charlotte Huskey

[Answers: 1. To the priests, the king and all Israel. 2. Yes. 3. A spirit of whoredom. 4. They would not frame their actions. 5. Israel, Ephraim and Judah. 6. No. 7. He had withdrawn Himself to his place (Heaven). 8. Slowly and silently, as a moth destroys. 9. While suffering in their affliction.]

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 Jan. 29, 1995

Ashley's Reward

(Continued from last week.)

"That ugly old wart is gone!" Ashley shouted, running to her Mother. "Look, my thumb is pretty again."

"I told you God would heal it," Mother said smiling. "And you haven't had another asthma attack either, right?"

"All gone," Ashley said holding her arm wide and showing Mother how deeply she could now breathe. "I outran Todd yesterday," she bragged.

"Wonderful!" Mother exclaimed. "And you have been keeping your promise to obey me. Why, yesterday you came running when I hadn't even called."

"Oh, Mother, I do want to please Jesus. He's so good to me."

A few weeks later when she and Todd came racing in from school, there was a letter for her laying on the table. "Who is it from?" Todd asked breathlessly.

"Zinn" Ashley read. "I don't know who that could be."

Opening the letter, she found it was from the minister who had prayed for her healing.

"Honor thy father and thy mother:... Exodus 20:12." was written across the top of the letter. Ashley read it again and again until she had it memorized, then she read the letter.

"Dear Ashley,

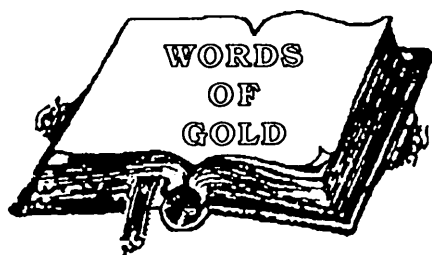
I am glad to have met such a fine girl. I beg you for Jesus' sake to always honor and do whatever your parents wish. You will find as you grow older that all they ask of you is only for your own good. This special commandment is like the foundation of a building. The foundation makes the building stronger and last longer. It will make you stronger in years to come. And remember there is a special promise to those who obey this commandment."

God has a great plan for your life. Follow Him and do not follow after the world. There are many treasures in God's storehouse for those who serve Him..."

Ashley promised herself again that she would always obey this commandment. She did for almost another year, and then one Friday she was greatly tested.

All the girls in the school where Ashley and Hether attended wore their hair in braids or in tight curls. Coming to school with hair hanging loose was like coming without clothes. Ashley had long, thick hair as straight as a pencil, which she had not learned to braid.

It was Friday, May 6. Ashley awoke to the sound of a clanging cow bell. Looking out of the window, she saw her mother running back and forth shoos their brown cow and her calf out of the garden. This made breakfast late and when Todd finally brought in the milk he tripped over the broom that had fallen across the door. Out



Israel's Goodness Vanishes as the Dew

Hosea 6:1-11

1 Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

4 O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, (the northern part of the country) what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.

5 Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth.

6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

7 But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me.

8 Gilcad is a city of them that work iniquity, and is polluted with blood.

9 And as troops of robbers wait for a man, so the company of priests murder in the way by consent: for they commit lewdness.

10 I have seen an horrible thing in the house of Israel: there is the whoredom of Ephraim, Israel is defiled.

11 Also, O Judah, he hath set an harvest for thee, when I returned the captivity of my people.

Matthew 24:16-22

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

The Message: Israel was not ready to make a long-term commitment to do what was right.

Questions:

- 1.** Why did Israel talk of returning to God?
- 2.** To what did God liken their goodness?
- 3.** How had God slain them with His mouth?
- 4.** What does God desire more than sacrifice and burnt offerings?
- 5.** With what is Gilcad polluted?
- 6.** What is set for Judah after the return of the captivity?
- 7.** In what country would the destruction take place? (Matt. 24:16.)
- 8.** Of what magnitude would the tribulation be?
- 9.** Why would the days of this tribulation be shortened?

Verse to Memorize

**Ye shall seek me, and find me,
when ye shall search for me
with all your heart.**

Jeremiah 29:13.

Let's



Talk . . .

The people are showing signs of repentance. They say, "Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days (a short time), He will revive us, and on the third day we shall live again, so let us seek Him."

God answered: "What shall I do with you for your goodness goes away as quickly as the morning dew. I have hewed (chopped) you by the prophets; and slain you by my words.... But you have broken your promise to me over and over again."

Israel's repentances were like the morning clouds which often deceive us into thinking there will be rain. But by nine or ten o'clock they are gone and the ground is still as parched.

God continued speaking: "You have turned Gilead into a city of blood."

Gilead was one of the cities of refuge. These cities were set up for the peace and justice of the country. Gilead was built at the place where Jacob and Laban made their covenant to be peaceful with one another. They set up a heap of stones and called it Galeed. It is believed that years later, Israel worshipped this heap of stones at Gilead. When Jacob and Laban made their promise, there was a seed of idolatry in Rachel. She had stolen Laban's Syrian gods and had them hidden in her stuff.

The most religious Israelites lived in Gilead. But they had transformed it into a city of robbers. Instead of protecting the innocent who fled there for refuge and serving justice on

murders, the priests took bribes and let the guilty go free. Also they formed themselves into companies and guarded the roads and mountain passes. They robbed and put to death any person who was leaving Israel to worship God at Jerusalem. The king approved of all this violence, for he feared his subjects would revolt against him and return to Judah to live.

We wonder why the priests and king thought that God would not hold them accountable for their evil. But the same problem exists today. Many hope that God will not hold them accountable for their evil. Preachers, counselors, teachers and others are guilty of destroying innocent believers. Young people and children are very often given counsel that causes them to be discouraged and give up trying to live for God. In this way they are being spiritually murdered. When I was in high school, my English teacher frightened me with her counsel. "I worked many years as a counselor at the Oregon State Mental Hospital," she told me. "Most of the patients were there because of religion. You are too serious about religion. You must have fun and enjoy the world, or you too, may end up in such a place." She will have to give account to God for such advice.

Everyone will give account to God for their actions. If you are following the ways of the world, as Israel did, turn again to God. But do not come and be saved for only a while, lest He say to you as He did to Israel, "Your goodness is as the morning dew." Come with a determination to give God the rest of your life.

—Charlotte Huskey

Adam Clark's Commentary, One Volume Edition, p. 712. *The Matthew Henry Commentary*, New One Volume Edition, p. 1112-1113. *Halley Bible Hand Book*, p. 318.

went the milk onto the kitchen floor. Ashley had to clean it up. Now it was time to leave for school, and her hair was still hanging loose around her face.

"I'll make you a quick bun," her mother said.

"Oh, no," moaned Ashley. "I don't want to look like an old woman."

"That is the quickest way to fix it," Mother said as she began twisting her hair.

"Oh, no, Mother, please don't, please don't," Ashley begged. "Please take it down. Please, Mother. Everyone will laugh at me."

"If you could fix it yourself, it would already be done," Mother snapped, as she pinned the bun securely in place.

"I -I can't go to school looking like this," Ashley wailed.

"You have too," Mother insisted. "Just leave it alone and hurry or you will be late."

Tears streamed down Ashley's face as she ran to catch up with Hether and Todd. "Oh, how I wish I could do my own hair," she said over and over as she went along.

"What's your hurry?" Todd asked as she hurried past them.

"I can't be late, I just can't," she moaned. "And I have to sit in front of the class with my hair like this."

Ashley wanted to please God more than anything in the world. To not steal, or lie, or swear didn't seem hard, but to wear her hair like an old grandma just to obey her mother seemed ridiculous. Then she thought of a great idea. She would take her hair down, and get some of her friends to braid it.

Then a battle began in her mind.

"Mother said to leave it alone."

"Mother doesn't really care."

"It would be disobeying her."

"No it wouldn't." And so the battle raged all the way to school.

Just before entering the school yard, Ashley wiped the tears from her

face and told herself. "I don't want to disobey (and take a chance of losing my good record of obedience), so I'll wear it this way."

The children were lined up to go inside when Ashley, Hether and Todd arrived. All eyes turned to her. They were like burning torches. The girls covered their mouths and snickered. The boys stared as if she was someone from outerspace. Ashley bit her lips to keep from crying and took her place in line.

She knew it was going to be the most horrible day of her life. At break-time she stayed in her classroom where she felt a little protection against cutting remarks. She tried to avoid everyone, but one girl caught her standing alone in the hall at lunch time. She asked, "Why do you have your hair combed like an old lady?"

"My mother wants me to wear it this way," Ashley answered. The girl laughed and went back outside. All day Ashley managed to stay away from the other children. Only when she was leaving some boys called her *bun head*. Thank God the day was finally over!

At the supper table, Mother apologized. "I'm sorry I forced you to wear your hair up in a bun. I promise to never do it again."

"Oh, thank you, Mother! I'm sorry for complaining so much."

(To be continued next week.)

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. Because God would heal and bind up. 2. To the morning clouds and early dew. 3. By the strong words of the prophets. 4. Mercy and knowledge. 5. Blood. 6. A harvest (Great destruction—this happened after Jesus was crucified). 7. In Judea. 8. It would be greater than any from the beginning to the end of the world. 9. So some flesh will be saved and for the elect's sake.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Feb. 5, 1995

Ashley's Reward

(Continued from last week.)

"Once again we come to thy house oh Lord, to unite our songs in praise," sang Ashley with all the volume she could muster.

Hether nudged her, "Don't sing so loud," she whispered. "Everyone is looking at us anyway 'cause we are new."

"But this is fun," Ashley retorted. "We haven't been to church in a long, long time."

"You can sing like that in churches that use lots of music. But no music is used in this church, and every voice is heard."

Todd frowned. "I wish we were back on the ranch," he grumbled, "where church wasn't so convenient. I miss the wide open fields and fishing in Stony Creek."

"Sh-sh" Mother cautioned, placing her finger to her mouth.

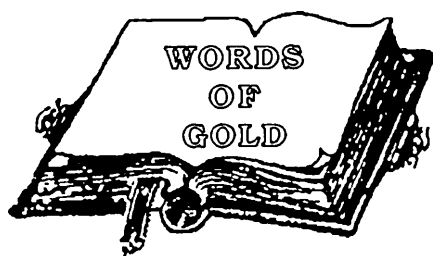
Ashley loved living near the Church of God on the corner of Oak and 9th Street. It filled the emptiness she had for the ranch, although she did miss Aurora and the stone near the creek. She was at last getting to hear Bible stories.

In a short time, the church was occupying most of Ashley's free time. There was Sunday School and two

worship services on Sunday, prayer meeting on Wednesday, and young people's meetings on Friday night. She was one of the youngest of the young people, but they accepted her well because she was a quiet, serious girl.

Of course there were sinful attractions in town that she had never met while living on the ranch. These she gladly rejected. Sometimes however, she wanted to go places with her new friends and her mother would say, "No." Although she felt she was being treated like a baby, she obeyed and kept those feelings hidden.

One day she was walking home from the store when she heard what she thought was the most beautiful music in the world. Immediately it cast a magic spell over her. Following its sound she came to a nice large building. The big double doors were opened. Inside she saw beautiful young ladies in the arms of handsome men gliding gracefully back and forth across a shining wood floor. "I love this!" Ashley told herself. "I want to go in and learn to dance." But she knew she would be disobeying if she went in. She had not disobeyed her parents in three years and she did not want to ever disobey them.



Israel's Heart Is Not Right

Hosea 7:1-3, 5, 7-11, 13-16

1 When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim [a group of people in Israel] was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: [the western part of Israel] for they commit falsehood; and the thief cometh in, and the troop of robbers spoileth without.

2 And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face.

3 They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies.

5 In the day of our king the princes have made him sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorners.

7 They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges [the prophets]; all their kings are fallen: there is none among them that calleth unto me.

8 Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned.

9 Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not.

10 And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the Lord their God, nor seek him for all this.

11 Ephraim also is like a silly dove

without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria.

13 Woe unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me.

14 And they have not cried unto me with their heart, when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, and they rebel against me.

15 Though I have bound and strengthened their arms, yet do they imagine mischief against me.

16 They return, but not to the most High: they are like a deceitful bow: their princes shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue: this shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.

The Message: Israel's idols kept them from seeking God from the heart. Idols will also keep us from seeking God from the heart.

1. What happened when God was ready to heal?
2. What had the Israelites not considered?
3. Who was glad for their wickedness?
4. What kind of king did Israel have?
5. What had Israel done to their judges?
6. Who had devoured Ephraim's strength?
7. Describe how the people were praying.
8. Was Israel willing to return to God?
9. Where would their princes fall by the sword?

Verse to Memorize

...Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart,...I the Lord will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols.

Ezekiel 14:4.

Let's



Talk . . .

The kings of Israel erected a golden calf thinking it would make their kingdom more secure. At that time, I am sure that women filling their water pots at Jacob's well were troubled and whispered one to another, "God, said, 'Thou shalt have no other gods before me,' and 'Thou shalt not make any graven image.'" No doubt some righteous men refused to let their families bow to the idol. But as weeks passed into months and months changed into years, one by one each began bowing until everyone was bowing to the calf.

Leaven spreads through dough and causes it to get bigger. So that evil spirit of idolatry spread throughout the country. As the leaven of idolatry grew, the people became more and more violent. They broke all laws, human and divine. They removed all bounds, leaped over law's enclosure and scaled all the walls of righteousness. Hosea described their love for wickedness as *hot*, like an oven.

"For all this wickedness, Israel is near the end," Hosea said, "but they don't realize it. Woe unto them, for destruction is at hand. Their princes shall fall by the sword in the land of Egypt, where they went to find help when they should have turned to Me for help."

Although we would think it strange to pray to an idol, the devil is still trying to get the spirit of idolatry into hearts. Ezekiel 14 speaks of setting up idols in the heart. An idol in the heart is anything a person loves more than he loves God. Sensual pleasure is the idol of many young

people. Watching TV or videos, even good videos, reading novels and hundreds of other things, can quickly become an idol. Reading, playing games, or watching videos is not sin unless it absorbs time and love that should be for God. This kind of idolatry can spread rapidly in a congregation of God's saints. If it continues to grow, it will choke out spirituality.

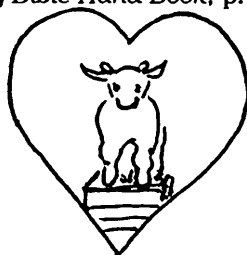
Do you love having fun more than spiritual activities? Do you like to go to church only to see your friends? Do you read or write notes during song service and snore while the minister is preaching? If you answered, "Yes," to any of these questions, idolatry has a root in your heart.

Idols in our hearts will keep God from answering our prayers. God has only promised to answer prayers that come from the heart. Unless we are willing to give up whatever we love more than God, we cannot call on Him from the heart. Even praying at the church altar will not bring victory unless we call on Him with all our heart.

Children, be careful and don't allow yourself to feel secure when you have idols in your heart. The kings of Israel felt secure because their people were staying in their own land. They did not realize their kingdom was crumbling from within, just as you will do unless your heart is clean.

—Charlotte Huskey

Adam Clark's Commentary, One Volume Edition, p. 712-713. *The Matthew Henry Commentary*, New One Volume Edition, p.1113-1114. *Halley Bible Hand Book*, p. 318.



She stood watching for a long time as if held there by some strange power. Then she thought she heard someone say, "There is nothing wrong with going in if you don't dance." She looked around to see who had spoken. Many teen-age boys and girls stood around the door laughing and talking, but none of them were speaking to her. Then she chuckled as she remembered reading in the Bible about the serpent talking to the woman. "So the serpent is talking to me," she thought, and she ran for home.

The next four years Ashley felt like she was riding on a roller coaster. Sometimes she got permission to do what she wanted, but many times Mother said "No." Ashley wondered why sometimes Mother seemed so agreeable and other times she was so, so negative. But she rode out the waves and never once rebelled and disobeyed her parents.

The pastor, Bro. Smith, was having cottage prayer meetings in homes across the city. One evening Ashley asked, "Mother may I go to the cottage prayer meeting tonight?"

"Yes, you may if you hurry and get ready. You'll have to catch the six o'clock bus to get there on time."

"I'll hurry."

"It will be late when you return, so be careful. I'll have Todd meet you at the bus stop. And don't be friendly to any strange men or boys."

"Okay," Ashley promised. She stretched herself up to her full height and hurried along the sidewalk in long strides. At long last Mother wasn't treating her like a baby. She had been wanting to go alone on the bus to the other side of the city for a long time. Mother had at last given her consent. It was like a breath of fresh air.

A block away from the bus stop, she saw the bus coming. Gone were the days when asthma kept her from running. She lowered her head to gain speed and shot ahead. Unknown to her a redwood fence was being built across the vacant lot she had to across. She hit the fence with a bang and went down in a cloud of dust. Instantly she grabbed her nose to see if it was broken. She looked around to see if anyone was watching. She saw the bus was pulling away from the bus stop. "I'm not grown up enough to get to the bus stop," grumbled Ashley, looking at her songbook, open face down in the soft dirt. What a shame!

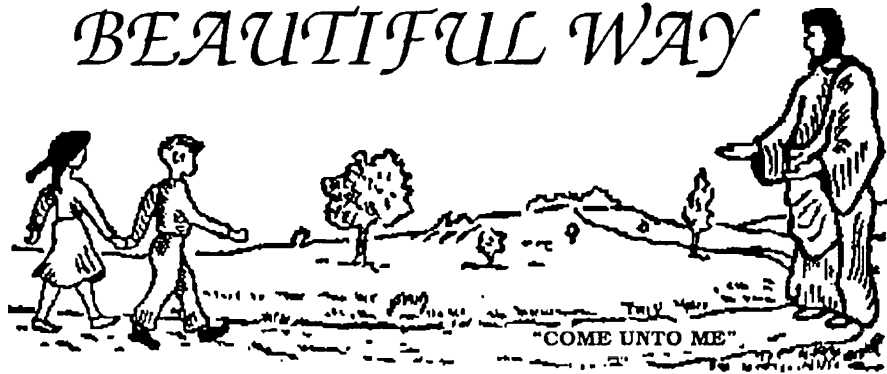
(To be continued next week.)

—Charlotte Huskey



(Answers: 1. The iniquity of Ephraim and the wickedness of Samaria were discovered. 2. That God remembers all their wickedness. 3. The king. 4. One who drank wine and was friends with scorners. 5. They had devoured them. 6. Strangers. 7. They were howling on their beds but not praying from their heart. 8. No. 9. In Egypt.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Feb. 12, 1995

Ashley's Reward

(Continued from last week.)

Ashley's face hurt badly all night and was still hurting Friday morning. "How ugly I am!" she exclaimed as she looked into her dresser mirror. "Two black eyes, and a huge red nose. I'll watch for fences the next time I run," she said. Saturday her face was still sore and her nose had turned a bluish black. Sunday it was not hurting but her nose was still big, dark and ugly.

As her mother was getting ready for church she called, "Ashley you had better hurry. I'm almost ready to go."

"I'm not going with a face like mine," Ashley answered calmly.

"Please go. I don't want to go alone. Todd is helping his daddy; Hether is gone."

How selfish, Ashley thought. "Would you go looking like me?"

"This can be a test of humility. Are you going to let pride keep you away from worshipping the Lord today?" questioned Mother.

"I can worship Him here at home," Ashley protested. "Doesn't the church teach that we can worship God anywhere?"

"Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together," Mother quoted.

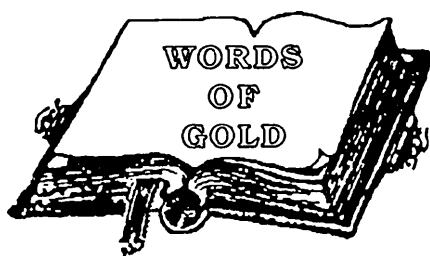
Mother's Bible quotes, which often sounded like music, felt like a whip today. "I-I-I- can't go. I look hideous. What would the people on the bus think of me? Those at church might understand, but I think they, too, will laugh. After all, I do look like a circus sideshow freak."

"But if you go it will prove to them that *you* are a humble child of God, and are dead to pride."

Ashley looked at herself again in the mirror. This is too much, she thought. It's worse than when she forced me to wear my hair in a bun on top of my head. "Mother, I'm 17, and old enough to decide when I am able to go to church," she protested meekly. "And surely it isn't pride to stay home when one looks as ugly as I do. Look at me. I look horrid, simply horrid."

"I think you should go," Mother insisted as she slipped on her boots.

Then Ashley remembered, "Honor your father and your mother." "I haven't broken that commandment for eight years. Why should I break it now?" Ashley asked herself. I do want the blessing God gives to those who keep this commandment. "All right, Mother," she said. "I'll go." She chose a dress to which she had a matching hat. Then finding a veil,



A No Trespassing Zone

Hosea 8:1-14

1 Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the Lord, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.

2 Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee.

3 Israel hath cast off the thing that is good: the enemy shall pursue him.

4 They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off.

5 Thy calf, O Samaria, hath cast thee off; mine anger is kindled against them: how long will it be ere they attain to innocency?

6 For from Israel was it also: the workman made it; therefore it is not God: but the calf of Samaria shall be broken in pieces.

7 For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.

8 Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein is no pleasure.

9 For they are gone up to Assyria, a wild ass alone by himself: Ephraim hath hired lovers.

10 Yea, though they have hired among the nations, now will I gather them, and they shall sorrow a little for the burden of the king of princes.

11 Because Ephraim hath made many altars to sin, altars shall be unto him to sin.

12 I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted

as a strange thing.

13 They sacrifice flesh for the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat it; but the Lord accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt.

14 For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.

Matthew 7:22-23

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

I Corinthians 13:3

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

The Message: God could not help Israel because they had trespassed against His laws.

Questions:

1. Why did Hosea say, "Set the trumpet to thy mouth?"
2. How would their enemy come?
3. What would Israel cry?
4. List five of Israel's sins?
5. For what was Israel's gold and silver used?
6. What would happen to the calf of Samaria?
7. Who did Ephraim hire?
8. Did God receive their sacrifices?
9. What was to devour Judah's palaces?

Verse to Memorize

...Then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matthew 7:23.

Let's



Talk . . .

In former times, trumpets were used to make announcements. Certain blasts from the trumpet meant danger was near; men must prepare a defense. "If a trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?" Apostle Paul said. Prophet Hosea said, "Set the trumpet to thy mouth, the enemy is coming as an eagle, because Israel has transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law."

Years ago God had warned that this would happen. He had said, "If you do not keep my laws, the Lord shall bring a nation against thee... as swift as the eagle fleeth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;...which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young." Deut. 28:49-50.

The bald eagle is a swift bird of prey. He can see a fish or rabbit from a mile away. He dives at over 100 miles per hour. After spying his prey from his lofty perch, in less than a minute he can be piercing his powerful claws into it.

Each of us have probably seen a sign which read, NO TRESPASSING. That means "stay out." But Israel had passed over God's warning signs and were meddling with evil spirits. They were in a NO TRESPASSING ZONE making them an easy prey for their enemy.

When Hosea announced that this swift enemy was about ready to pounce, they cried out, "My God, we know Thee, we have kept Thy laws." Then Hosea listed their sins. 1. You threw away good customs. 2. God

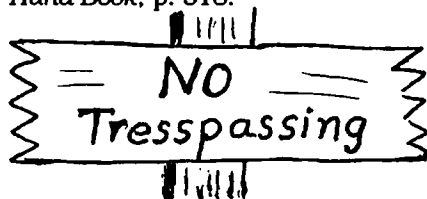
chose David's family to be your kings, yet you have set up other kings. 3. You made idols from gold and silver that God has given you. 4. You refused to be bound by God's laws. 5. You went to great expense to make friends with the heathen, when God had commanded to make none. 6. You built altars to sin all over your country. 7. The great things of God's laws you counted as ridiculous. "I remember all these sins, I will not accept your sacrifices," God said. "Your great temples, nor Judah's fenced cities will protect you from this enemy." (Verse 14.)

Children, young people and adults are passing over God's laws and finding themselves in traps of the devil. They wonder why. It's because they went into a NO TRESPASSING ZONE, making themselves an easy prey. Some follow spiritual leaders who do not speak the truth. Others set up idols in their hearts such as sensual pleasures, love for the world, ungodly friends, immodest clothing, etc. Some try to justify their actions. They do works of charity and give much money to the church, but their heart is not right. Unless they repent, Jesus will say to them, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

At the end of the world "when the trumpet shall sound," Christ will come even quicker than the swift enemy which came on the Israelites.

—Charlotte Huskey

Adam Clark's Commentary, One Volume Edition, p. 713-714. The Matthew Henry Commentary, New One Volume Edition, p. 1115. Halley Bible Hand Book, p. 318.



she cleverly draped it around the hat so it hung down over her nose.

Ashley found a seat near the front and to one side, where few people would see her. She tried singing, but her face was stiff and sore and the veil tickled her nose. She tried to concentrate on the sermon, but her eyes kept flashing back and forth to see if people were laughing at her. When the long, long service finally ended, Ashley hurried to get away.

"Wait, wait," called Sis. Smith, wife of the pastor. "We'd like for you to come and spend a few days with us now that you are out of school. Would you like to bring your clothes to service tonight and stay?"

"I'd like to come sometime, but maybe—maybe after my face is well."

"Oh, your face is all right. Everyone has already seen you now."

Everyone? Ashley hoped not.

"I'd love too, I'll see what my parents say," she promised.

Ashley waited for her mother a half block away from the church. On the way home she told her mother what Sis. Smith had said. "That is wonderful!" Mother exclaimed. "They must believe you are a very good girl, for those are the only kind they invite to live around their children. What if you hadn't come this morning?"

"Mother, it always pays to obey you."

Alongside of the Church of God chapel was a mission home. It was a home for young people who felt called of the Lord to give full-time service to Him. Here they dedicated themselves to studying the Bible and going with older ministers to hold meetings.

One day when Ashley had just finished washing the supper dishes, the pastor asked, "Would you like to live at the mission home and work full-time for the Lord?"

"I'd love to," she said delightedly, "But what could I do?"

"You can do housework we know," Sis. Smith interjected.

"Yes, there is always plenty of that to be done. You can visit the sick and read to them, and help in cottage prayer meetings," Bro. Smith continued.

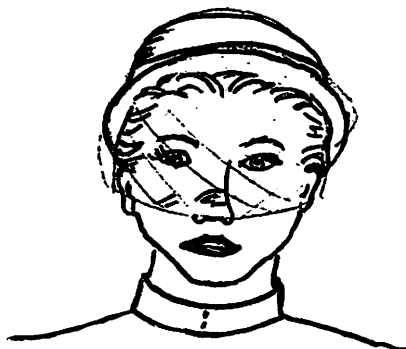
"Read what?" she asked, remembering her struggles reading the Bible. Although she hadn't found the courage to read it, she had obeyed all the commandments that she knew.

"Things to encourage them, the Bible, maybe sometimes a poem or testimonies."

"This sounds like a great opportunity! I've always wanted to work for Jesus. If my parents agree, I'll join your group."

(To be continued next week.)

—Charlotte Huskey



(Answers: 1. Because an enemy was coming. 2. As an eagle. 3. "My God, we knew Thee." 4. Any of the following: Casting off good things, setting up wrong kings, making idols, worshipping in vain, (sowing to the wind), going to Assyria, hiring lovers, setting up altars, or counting God's law ridiculous. 5. To make idols. 6. It would be broken in pieces. 7. Lovers. 8. No. 9. Fire.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Feb. 19, 1995

Ashley's Reward

(Continued from last week.)

"I'm so glad you were selected to live at the mission home," Mother said as Ashley was packing her suitcase.

"I'll enjoy working full-time for the Lord," Ashley said. "I've always wanted to be a Sunday School teacher, or a preacher."

"I know, and you'll make a good one," Mother said as she was hurrying back to the kitchen to finish dinner.

Now where is my Bible? That little brown Bible that I loved so well. I can't work for God without His Book, Ashley thought, as she searched her room.

"Poor deserted Book," she muttered as she hunted in the family bookcase. "You've been tossed here and there. But I'll find you, for I can't leave without you." Finally she went back to her room and found it in the bottom of a box where she had packed it when they moved from the ranch three years ago.

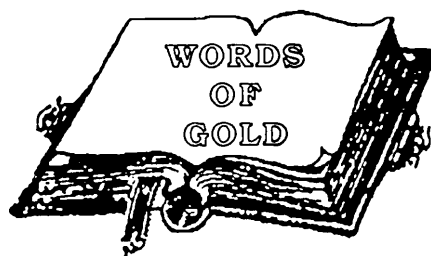
At the mission home, Ashley began reading her Bible. She began in John. "Those stories are even more fantastic than I imagined when I was a little girl," she said. When she finished reading John, she read Acts, then Romans. She loved the way

Christ said things, so simple and to the point. She loved His great messages of only one or two verses. Who else could preach a sermon in such a few words. Some of these she memorized.

After finding that she could understand the words in the New Testament, she had courage to begin again to read in the Old Testament. She had learned that the Ten Commandments were in Exodus, so she began reading Exodus chapter one. It took almost two weeks to read the first 20 chapters. But they were really interesting—about Moses, the plagues in Egypt and the marvelous escape from the land of slavery. Finally she found the Ten Commandments. They were just as her mother had quoted. "Here is the one that caused me so much work," she said. "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

"Being obedient has brought me to this place. What if I had not obeyed that last time?"

She read the verse again, "And there is the promise the minister told me about," she exclaimed. "That thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." "So someday, I may be a grandma or maybe a great-grandma. I want my



Israel Rejects God

Hosea 9:1-4, 6-9, 11-17

1 Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as other people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God,...

2 The floor and the winepress shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail in her.

3 They shall not dwell in the Lord's land; but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean things in Assyria.

4 They shall not offer wine offerings to the Lord, neither shall they be pleasing unto him: their sacrifices shall be unto them as the bread of mourners; all that eat thereof shall be polluted: for their bread for their soul shall not come into the house of the Lord.

6 For, lo, they are gone because of destruction: Egypt shall gather them up, Memphis shall bury them: the pleasant places for their silver, nettles shall possess them: thorns shall be in their tabernacles.

7 The days of visitation are come, the days of recompence are come; Israel shall know it: the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred.

8 The watchman of Ephraim was with my God: but the prophet is a snare of a fowler in all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God.

9 They have deeply corrupted themselves, as in the days of Gibeah: therefore he will remember their iniquity, he will visit their sins.

11 As for Ephraim, their glory shall fly away like a bird, from the birth, and from the womb, and from the conception.

12 Though they bring up their children, yet will I bereave them, that there

shall not be a man left: yea, woe also to them when I depart from them!

13 Ephraim, as I saw Tyrus, is planted in a pleasant place: but Ephraim shall bring forth his children to the murderer.

14 Give them, O Lord: what wilt thou give? give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.

15 All their wickedness is in Gilgal: for there I hated them: for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more: all their princes are revolvers.

16 Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay even the beloved fruit of their womb.

17 My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations.

The Message: Israel had not followed God, therefore they became wanderers among the nations.

Questions:

1. Why was Israel not to rejoice?
2. Into what two nations would they go?
3. What would happen to their places for silver?
4. What would grow in their tabernacles?
5. What would happen to the glory of Ephraim?
6. What would happen to Israel's children?
7. Where was all (the worst) of Israel's wickedness?
8. Why had God cast Israel away?
9. What would become of the people in Israel?

Verse to Memorize

**The people of thy holiness have possessed it but a little while: our adversaries have trodden down thy sanctuary.
Isaiah 63:18.**

Let's



Talk . . .

In this chapter Hosea says, "Rejoice not, your doom is almost in sight. You have gone far from God and done the same sins as your fathers." Many sins of their fathers began when men and boys yielded to the temptation of pretty women and girls. Besides being sinful, these relationships led the men into the worship of idols. However the majority of the Israelites in years past did not approve of these sins. But when Hosea lived, the whole country was doing them. One thing we must always remember is that idol worship is accompanied by immorality, for the spirit of idolatry is an evil spirit. There is also much sadness and heartache connected with it.

The natural consequences of any sin is heartache, so be careful, children, and don't rebel against God's spirit. God may let you go and the devil will scheme until he has led you much farther into sin than you had planned. One step away from God leads to another. When king Jeroboam set up the golden calf, he only planned to protect his kingdom. The people may have thought the golden calf wasn't so bad, for the kingdom was prospering. God may also allow a rebellious child to be attractive, to get good grades, to be a sports hero, a cheerleader or a beauty queen. These things will make a person happy and they may drift on and on until they are trapped. Then is when sin becomes bitter.

"It is impossible to serve two masters," Christ said. "You will cleave to one and hate the other." Israel tried it. They set up altars for God alongside the golden calf and their other gods. They offered many sacrifices on these altars, but their heart was full of sin. Some activities connected with idol worship were more enjoyable to the flesh. Soon

these pleasures took the place of repentance and seeking God's spirit. At the very places where God had once communed with them, they were now worshipping and serving only the evil spirits of the idols.

Gilgal was one place where God had often met and communed with His people. Golgotha in the Syriac language is Gilgal in Hebrew. Golgotha is the place where the Jews crucified Jesus. This of course was the greatest sin of the Jewish nation. Hosea said, "All their wickedness is [seen] in Gilgal." What was in their heart showed up at Golgotha. It often happens that people who have had close connection with God (such as the saint's children), when they turn away from God, get into worse sinful pits than others who have not been taught much about God.

The verdict given to Israel was, "My God will cast them away, and they shall be wanderers among the nations, because thy did not hearken unto Him." The Jews had held together for more than 3,000 years; now they are scattered over the world. They have been abused and persecuted in almost every nation. By the end of 1945, six million of the eleven million Jews in Europe had been slaughtered. Not only in Germany, but in Spain, Poland, Prussia, Lithuania and Russia the Jews have been roughly treated. Even in the U.S. they have suffered prejudice and discrimination. Persecution is only part of the "doom" which the Jews have suffered. Christ, however, offers salvation to the Jews as well as any other person, so there is hope for the individual but not for the nation.

—Charlotte Huskey

(Judges 19:1-21:4 and Numbers 25:1-3 are two stories of the sins of the Jews.)

Adam Clark's Commentary, One Volume Edition, p. 714-715. *The Matthew Henry Commentary*, New One Volume Edition, p. 1116. *Halley Bible Handbook*, p. 319. *World Book Encyclopedia*, Vol. J-K, p 98-103 and Vol. I, p 388-389.

children to look just like Michael," she said, dreaming of the good-looking boy she had met at the camp-meeting in June.

Just then Sis. Smith knocked at the door. "You all want to go with us to the prayer meeting?"

"Sure," Ashley answered, opening the door.

"I thought you were talking to someone."

"Just myself," she said hoping that Sis. Smith hadn't heard the last statement.

"Your eyes look red. Do they hurt?"

"Just a little."

It was hard for Ashley to read while at prayer meeting because her eyes were so tired. Before going to bed Ashley prayed, "Lord, I thank you for my little brown Bible. Just having it has been a great blessing to me. But now I must study Your Word to be able to teach it. Please, Lord, would You give me a Bible with large letters. And Lord I need one with a concordance, too. Amen."

Two days later Ashley went to visit sick Sis. Lumbark. When she returned, there was a package on her bed. It was a big, new, self-pronouncing Bible with a concordance. A card inside it read: "To a wonderful young lady, who loves to obey God's Word. —From Bro. and Sis. Smith"

She picked up the Bible and hugged it just as she had done her little brown Bible. But things were different now. She knew that mysterious Person that she had felt was hidden inside the first Bible. She talked with Him everyday. Never, no never would this Bible be thrown here and there, or be left stored in a box. It would be read everyday. It was her best friend. She would find out a lot of things about God from this Bible.

Immediately she looked up the word, **children**, and found Eph. 6:1

and read it. Then, Hether popped in the door. "Just thought I'd come and spend the night with you," she said. "What are you doing tonight?"

"I just got a new Bible and thought I would read it awhile," Ashley said, showing her the new Bible.

"My that is an expensive Bible! Who bought it for you?"

"Bro. and Sis. Smith."

"Oh, I thought maybe some boy did. Say Ashley, I've just got to tell you all about Jim." She chattered on for a good while, then asked, "Do you have a boyfriend yet?"

"No, I think I'm still too young."

"Too young, at 17? You don't want to be an old maid do you?"

"Might not hurt, 'cause I'm going to live a long time."

"Ashley, you're not getting nutty because of religion are you?"

(To be continued next week.)

—Charlotte Huskey



(Answers: 1. Because they would not dwell in the Lord's land (verse 3). 2. Egypt and Assyria. 3. Nettles would possess them. 4. Thorns. 5. It would fly away as a bird. 6. They would be murdered. 7. In Gilgal. 8. Because they did not hearken to God. 9. They would be wanderers among the nations.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Feb. 26, 1995

Ashley's Reward

(Continued from last week.)

"I'm not getting nutty," Ashley told Hether. "I have a promise from the Bible that I'll live a long time. I'll read it to you." She read, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord;...Honor thy father and mother;...that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest live long on the earth.' So you see I will live a long time, 'cause I always obeyed Mother and Daddy. Or at least I think I did. Some day I'm going to ask Mother if she thinks I did."

"You obeyed a lot better than I. Say, did you know that Bro. Smith said he chose you to come here because he saw how well you respected Mother? So obeying has already paid off for you. I'd love to live here around all the good-looking guys."

"Ah, Hether, that's not what makes this place so wonderful. It's the chance to learn about God and to help others know about Him. Tomorrow we are going on the East side of town and pass out tracts and tell the people about Jesus."

"Who wouldn't like to do that with a bunch of guys? But I think I better get married. I may not be able to claim that promise."

"Is Jim a Christian? You wouldn't want to get in the same mess Mom did."

"I don't know, he acts like one, and I think he goes to church someplace."

"Why don't we see what the Bible says about marrying," Ashley suggested.

"Sounds like a great idea, after all, I do still love God."

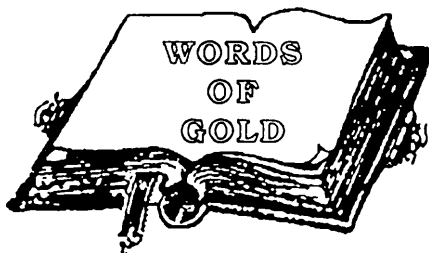
Ashley found **marry** and **marriage** in the concordance and they started reading the verses. After Ashley found the scripture, Hether read I Timothy 5:14, "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house,... See I told you I ought to get married," she said.

Ashley read Matthew 5:32 "... whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.' So we must not marry anyone who has already been married."

"Oh, I wouldn't do that," Hether promised. "Now where did you say the other one is?"

"I'm trying to find it. Here it is in I Corinthians 7:39. Again she handed the Bible to Hether.

"The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." "Whee," Hether said, wiping her hand across her forehead. "I sure better be careful. I'd hate to be stuck with some yucky guy all my life."



Israel Causes Their Own Suffering

Hosea 10:1-10, 12-15

- 1 Israel is an empty vine,...
- 2 Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images.
- 3 For now they shall say, We have no king, because we feared not the Lord; what then should a king do to us?
- 4 They have spoken words, swearing falsely in making a covenant: thus judgment springeth up as hemlock in the furrows of the field.
- 5 The inhabitants of Samaria shall fear because of the calves of Beth-aven:...
- 6 It shall be also carried unto Assyria for a present to king Jareb: Ephraim shall receive shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel.
- 7 As for Samaria, her king is cut off as the foam upon the water.
- 8 The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.
- 9 O Israel, thou hast sinned from the days of Gibeah: there they stood: the battle in Gibeah against the children of iniquity did not overtake them.
- 10 It is in my desire that I should chastise them; and the people shall be gathered against them, when they shall bind themselves in their two furrows.

12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

13 Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men.

14 Therefore shall a tumult arise among thy people, and all thy fortresses shall be spoiled, as Shalman spoiled Beth-arbel in the day of battle: the mother was dashed in pieces upon her children.

15 So shall Bethel do unto you because of your great wickedness: in a morning shall the king of Israel utterly be cut off.

The Message: Israel brought agony on themselves by breaking many of God's righteous principles.

Questions:

1. What happened to the heart of Israel?
2. What was used to illustrate Israel's judgments (the justice system)?
3. How would the king of Israel be cut off?
4. What would cover the altars of Aven?
5. To whom would the calves of Bethel be given?
6. What did God wish to do for them?
7. God said that it was time to do what?
8. What had Israel reaped for plowing wickedness?
9. Why had Israel lied?

Verse to Memorize

Sow to yourselves in righteousness,... for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Hosea 10:12.

Let's



Talk . . .

Israel's land had produced abundant crops for many years. Men built luxurious homes in which the women served feasts and together they glorified the gods of gold and silver. As their riches increased they built more altars and more impressive idols.

When they made great sacrifices to these gods they drank, danced and committed fornication and adultery. This caused strife, envy, jealousy, hatred and murders. The cities were controlled by greedy princes and priests who took bribes and let the offenders go free. The throne was occupied by one wicked king after another until the people cried out, "We have no king." True, they had no king who would look after the interest of the people. There had been six kings within twenty years, four were assassinated. The kings swore falsely, promising the people needed changes. Their justice system was so corrupt that Hosea likened it to poisonous hemlock. Now the country that had lived in sinful pleasure was feeling the sting of its sins. As their riches increased so did their evil acts and their troubles.

In desperation, men, women and children wished for death to relieve them from this horrible life. "Fall on us," they cried to the mountains and hills on which they had worshipped. They had forsaken the God who had power over the mountains and who held life and death in His hands. Israel had suffered many things because of her sins. At one time the men from the eleven tribes of Israel almost wiped out the tribe of Benjamin be-

cause of their terrible sins. Things had changed. The same sins were now rampant in the land. The consequence was a "living death," an infectious condition from which they could not escape.

There are universal laws that we cannot escape and that must be respected. Two of these are the *law of force* and the *law of gravity*. If a person steps out in front of a speeding eighteen-wheeler truck he will suffer for not respecting the law of force. If a person jumps from a fourteen-story building, he will suffer the consequences of not respecting the law of gravity. Who of us would think God was responsible for their suffering?

Yet often God is blamed when people suffer for breaking God's moral laws. People cannot escape these moral laws. They are principles that, when broken, have unpleasant consequences. Those who tell lies must endure the trouble they get into. Those who are caught stealing must suffer the penalty prescribed by the authorities for the crime. Those who commit fornication must suffer the remorse of abortions or the trouble of raising children. Drunkards suffer the life of a drunkard. (The examples are endless.) The point is that people bring trouble upon themselves when they disrespect God's moral laws just as they do when they disrespect His natural laws. The people of Israel broke God's moral laws and brought trouble upon themselves.

—Charlotte Huskey

Adam Clark's Commentary, One Volume Edition, p. 715. *The Matthew Henry Commentary*, New One Volume Edition, p. 1117. *Halley Bible Hand Book*, p. 319.



"I think we ought to let God pick the man we marry," Ashley said.

"But what if I didn't like the guy God picked?"

"I think God would pick one to our liking. Say Hether, you like the guys around here, come to young people's meeting Friday night. I'm to give a lesson; it'll be my first time."

Hether came to young people's meeting. Pastor Smith led the singing, and after they had prayed, Ashley started the lesson.

"Tonight we shall study about our responsibility toward our parents," she said. "To begin the lesson, I have chosen several verses from Proverbs. I will write them on the board and whoever wishes may find one and read it." She began writing.

Leah, who always found the scriptures first, jumped up and began reading, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck. Prov. 1:8-9."

"Prov. 3:1-2," read John in his heavy, grown-up voice. "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."

Tall Phil stood up right under the chandelier. His head was almost touching it. "My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother," he read. "Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee." Prov. 6:20-22."

"These scriptures mean just what they say," Ashley said. "Our duty is to obey them. Now let us discuss characters in the Bible who were examples of obedience. Who will be first?"

"I will," said Robin. "Samuel was a perfect example of obedience for a small child, for us young people and for adults. He was obedient all his life, first to his parents, then to Eli and then to God."

"I think Isaac was a good example of obedience," Chris remarked. "He let his father put him on the altar. That would be awfully hard to do."

"It surely would be," John agreed. Then he said. "Joseph was another good example. He must have honored and obeyed his father or his father would not have loved him so much."

"Of course his older brothers thought he was pretty bratty," Chris added. "But that is the way most older brothers feel about their smaller brothers."

"I think we should all do like Timothy," Regina said. "He loved the Bible and was obedient to his mother and grandmother."

"Listen to this verse in Lev. 19:3," John said. "'Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father....' I didn't know men had to fear their mother and father."

"In the Bible, the words to *fear*, mean to *respect*," Bro. Smith explained.

While they were eating cookies and visiting, Hether told Ashley, "I'll try to come next Friday. It was interesting, but I didn't know the Bible said so much about obeying our parents."

(To be continued next quarter.)

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. It was divided. 2. A poisonous hemlock plant. 3. As foam upon the water. 4. Thorns and thistles. 5. To King Jereb. 6. To chastise them. 7. To seek the Lord. 8. They reaped iniquity. 9. Because they trusted in their own ways and in their mighty men.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Mar. 5, 1995

Not For Sale

(Continued from last quarter.)

"What a busy summer we have had!" exclaimed Mrs. Bustin, kicking off her shoes and plunging into her Lazy Boy rocker.

"I knew you were in great demand in India, but I never dreamed you'd get so many calls in America."

"I like it this way," Jaya responded. "It keeps me from getting so homesick."

"Oh, that reminds me, you have a letter from home." Mrs. Bustin dug in her purse that she'd let drop beside her chair and brought out the letter.

Jaya hurriedly excused herself and rushed into her own room. She liked to be alone when she read a letter from home. Hastily she opened the letter and began reading:

"My dearest Jaya,

Your family that loves you dearly was very happy to get your letter, and to know that you are well and having many opportunities to speak for Jesus. Everyone here misses you. When I go here and there holding meetings, many people ask about you. Always remember that your loving family and many other Christians are praying for you daily.

"I and your mother have been very busy talking with parents interested in their son marrying Vijaya. Jaya, you always said that God would not let His children be put to shame. Well, concerning your sister getting married, God surely has blessed abundantly. Over 100 Christian fathers have contacted me, and we are getting more letters and visits everyday. What other girl has that many pursuers? Each is willing to break the old India custom requiring the older daughter to marry first. I have several picked out who would make Vijaya a good husband. They are educated and Christians. We'll let her get acquainted and see which one she prefers.

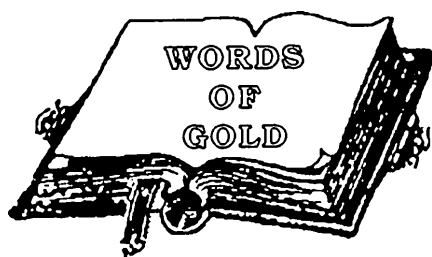
"Let me know when you decide to get married and I'll make arrangements for you to come home and meet some of these nice young men..."

Nineteen year old Jaya, felt herself blushing. "My dear daddy," she said to herself, "has he forgotten that I want to always work for Jesus and not get married?"

After taking a nap, Jaya answered her father's letter.

"Dear Daddy, Mother and All,

"Jesus has been very good to me. I thank God that He has had mercy on me



Hope For Israel

Hosea 11:1-12

1 When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

2 As they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baalim, and burned incense to graven images.

3 I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them.

4 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.

5 He shall not return into the land of Egypt, but the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to return.

6 And the sword shall abide on his cities, and shall consume his branches, and devour them, because of their own counsels.

7 And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt him.

8 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 Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together.

9 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 thee: and I will not enter into the city.

10 They shall walk after the Lord: he shall roar like a lion: when he shall roar, then the children shall tremble from the west.

11 They shall tremble as a bird out of Egypt, and as a dove out of the land of

Assyria: and I will place them in their houses, saith the Lord.

12 Ephraim compasseth me about with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit: but Judah yet ruleth with God, and is faithful with the saints.

Matthew 2:13-15

13 And...the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word:...

14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

The Message: The sword would abide in Israel's cities until they were scattered, but their was hope for Israel in Christ.

Questions:

1. What did God do for Israel when it was a child?
2. Who besides Israel was called out of Egypt?
3. Why would the Assyrian king rule Israel?
4. Where would the sword abide?
5. How did God feel about letting Israel suffer?
6. What are Admah and Zeboim?
7. Would God execute His anger on Israel?
8. When would Israel walk after the Lord?
9. Whom would God place in their houses?

Verse to Memorize

The...Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.

Isaiah 61:1.

Let's

Talk . . .



The French Foreign Legion is world famous for its sense of responsibility and spirit of union. Its motto is: "If I falter—push me on. If I stumble—pick me up. If I retreat—shoot me!" How different Israel would have been if they had been so determined to serve God. When they first came into political existence, God led them step by step, as a parent does a child just learning to walk. He gave them laws for healthful, peaceful living and showed them how to form a government. He rained manna from heaven, gave water from a rock, healed their diseases and supplied all their other needs. For many, many years, He drew them with cords of love.

After doing all that, these ungrateful people refused His laws and ignored His plan for government. Trouble was the natural consequence. Wars began at the latter part of the reign of Jeroboam the Second. His son Zechariah reigned only six months and was slain by the rebel Shallum, who reigned only one month. He was assassinated by Menahem. Pekahiah succeeded his father, Menahem, and reigned two years. He was murdered by Pekah who took the throne. Pekah joined Rezin, the king of Syria, in war against the Jews in Judah. Judah got help from the Assyrian king who defeated Pekah. Then one third of the Israelites were carried away captive into Assyria. ("The Assyrian shall be his king." Verse 5.) Pekah was assassinated shortly afterward. So it happened as Hosea had said, "The sword shall abide on their cities, because of their own counsels." (Verse 6.)

Have you ever had a pet that got hit by a car? Although the pet may have broken his chain, or dug under his protective fence, you hated to see your pet suffer. That is how God felt about Israel. He asked, "How shall I give thee up? How shall I make thee as Admah, or Zebolm?" (These were two cities which were destroyed with Sodom and Gomorrah.)

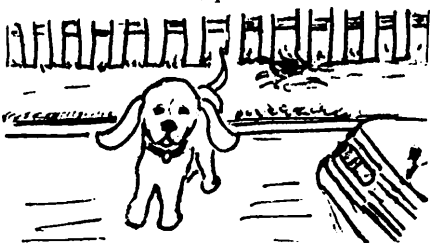
In verses 9-12, God promised not to execute the fierceness of His anger. He has all power to make the natural consequences of breaking His law of none effect. The law says, "The wages of sin is death." Everyone has sinned, but God will not execute this penalty of death on those who trust in Jesus.

The gospel message was frightening like a lion's roar. It caused people to tremble with conviction. (Verse 10.) Then they flew as a bird out of sin and into the safety of Christ and became a part of the great Church of God.

The first verse is a prophecy of Jesus coming from Egypt after being hidden there for protection from King Herod. Matthew 2:15 says, "...That it might be fulfilled which was spoken...by the prophet [Hosea], saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Every prophecy in the Bible will be fulfilled, so let us of the Church have the sense of responsibility and spirit of union that the French Foreign Legion had. —Charlotte Huskey

Adam Clark's Commentary, One Volume Edition, p. 716. The Matthew Henry Commentary, New One Volume Edition, p. 1118-1119. Halley Bible Hand Book, p. 319.



and let me meet unique Christians and share with them the good news of Jesus' salvation. I do love Jesus and I know that He loves me.

"The Christians here do not have the same unity as the Christians there. You know over there all Christians gather together to hear the Gospel preached, regardless of who preaches it. In the conventions here, most of the attendants are members to that denomination

"Leaders from several different churches have asked me to join their organization. One very large rich church offered to build many big children's homes and churches in India, if I would work for them. Another one promised to build 200 churches, and big orphanages.

"Daddy, I know my answer will please you. We need church buildings and orphanages in India and I do trust God will supply for them. But I just couldn't promise to work for only one group. So when anyone makes an offer, I say, 'I am not for sale, because Jesus already bought me. He purchased me with His blood. I must go where He sends me and work among whoever He chooses. I can only work to build up the Church of which Jesus is the head.'

"People often don't understand me. The brother who offered to build 200 orphanages must have thought I was strange when I told him, that I loved social work, but that my main desire was to preach the Gospel. Oh, Daddy, I do want others to experience God's great love, and I know no better way to help them than to tell what Jesus has done. How sad that my dear people sacrifice so much to worship the Cobra, bathing in dirty water and lying in

their wet clothing before the idol for hours and hours. It is a wonder they don't get sick and die from it. Daddy, please continue to preach so the people in darkness can see the Light.

"The people here are not in that kind of darkness, but many doubt the God that loves them. I am doing what I can to show them that He does love them. Please always pray for me.

"I am sorry my letter is so long, but I had so much to tell you.

Your loving daughter, —Jaya.

Jaya continued preaching and teaching in the United States for ten years. In 1978 she returned to India.

(To be continued next week.)

—Charlotte Huskey



(Answers: 1. He called Israel out of Egypt. 2. Jesus. 3. Because Israel refused to return to God's ways. 4. On the cities. 5. God did not want them to suffer. 6. Cities which were destroyed with Sodom and Gomorrah. 7. No. 8. After Christ came. 9. Some of the captive Israelites.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Mar. 12, 1995

Healed Of Cancer

(Continued from last week.)

"Oh, Daddy, things have surely changed while I was in America."

"Yes, things do change in nine years."

"I am anxious to walk around over my beloved India like I did when a child. Shall we go somewhere today?"

"Certainly, I want you to meet Sanghoshama. Let's go visit her." Jaya laughed. "Why are you laughing?" he asked.

"I was just thinking how difficult it would be for an American to pronounce that name. They would probably call her Sang or Shama."

"Well, let's go see Shama," he said.

As they walked along, Jaya said, "I went out early this morning to see the orphanage. I stood gazing over the rice thinking of those childhood days when I prayed so often in that very spot. I am happy that needy children can find refuge in the same place where I found refuge when I was a little girl."

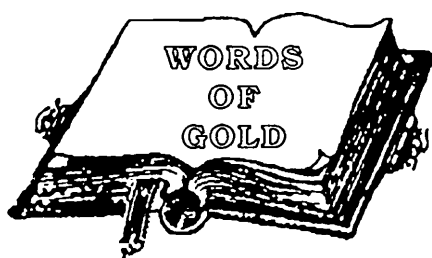
When they arrived, they found Shama lying on a cot under the shade of a big mango tree. She arose and greeted them with the usual tender courtesy of the people in Andhra Pradesh.

"This is my daughter, Jaya," Mr. Kollipara said. "I want her to hear your testimony. Do you feel like telling her?"

"Yes, I do. I am getting stronger everyday. Let's see. Where shall I start?" She thought a few moments and then began. "Several years ago, I began having a lot of pain. The pain was so severe that I could not do my work. I went to a doctor. He thought an operation would solve the problem. The operation didn't solve all the problems. Later I had another operation, and another. There were four in all. At last my doctor prescribed Cobalt treatments. These added immensely to my discomfort. But hoping to be cured of the fatal cancer, I kept taking the treatments until I had taken 18. I was in and out of the hospital for years. Finally the doctors lost all hope for me and sent me home to die. I could not eat, nor drink, nor sleep.

"My poor mother was so sad. She had prayed to all the Hindu gods, given offerings and sought different healers, but I only grew worse. One day while working in the rice field, a friend asked about me. Mother said, 'She is dying. My only daughter is dying.'

"I've heard people say that Jesus heals," the friend said. "Tonight the



Israel Uses Deceitful Weight

Genesis 28:10-15

10-12 And Jacob...tarried there all night,...And he dreamed, and behold a ladder:...and the top of it reached to heaven:...

13 And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said,...the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth,...and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

15 And, behold, I...will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land;...

Genesis 32:28

28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel:...

Hosea 12:1-14

1 Ephraim [Israel] feedeth on wind, and followeth after the east wind: he daily increaseth lies and desolation; and they do make a covenant with the Assyrians, and oil is carried into Egypt.

2 The Lord hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him.

3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God:

4 Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us;

5 Even the Lord God of hosts; the Lord is his memorial.

6 Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

7 He is a merchant, the balances of

deceit are in his hand: he loveth to oppress.

8 And Ephraim said, Yet I am become rich, I have found me out substance: in all my labours they shall find none iniquity in me that were sin.

9 And I that am the Lord thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast.

10 I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.

11 Is there iniquity in Gilead? surely they are vanity: they sacrifice bullocks in Gilgal; yea, their altars are as heaps in the furrows of the fields.

12 And Jacob fled into the country of Syria,...and for a wife he kept sheep.

13 And by a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved.

14 Ephraim provoked him to anger most bitterly: therefore shall he leave his blood upon him, and his reproach shall his Lord return unto him.

The Message: God is merciful to those who repent.

Questions:

1. What was Israel following?
2. What did Israel carry to Egypt?
3. Were both Judah and Israel included in this prophecy?
4. What kind of merchants were Israel and Judah?
5. About what did Israel brag?
6. How had God spoken to Israel and Judah?
7. To where did Jacob flee?
8. How was Israel brought out of Egypt?
9. Who provoked God's anger most bitterly?

Verse To Memorize

Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight,...

Deuteronomy 25:13, 15.

Let's



Talk . . .

Hosea reminded Israel of how God had dealt with Jacob. This was to help them understand that He would deal with them as he had dealt with Jacob. Their actions were much like those of Jacob, so let's talk about him. Jacob was a selfish boy. He took advantage of his brother, Esau, and got the birthright. Then he followed the deceitful counsel of his mother and got the special "First-born Blessing" that belonged to Esau.

Suffering consequences of these sins, he fled for his life. While alone in the wilderness that night, he repented. God forgave his sins and promised to always be with him. God was always with Jacob, even while he was a servant under Laban the Syrian. This changed Jacob from a selfish, deceitful, proud young man into one who trusted in God. Then he was continually blessed even though Laban cheated him in many different ways. After living with Laban for many years he followed God's guidance to return home. But he feared for his life when he heard that Esau was coming to meet him. During that night he wrestled with God for protection. Just before morning, God blessed him and changed his name from Jacob, the *supplanter*, to Israel, a *prince with God*. (A supplanter is a person who must supersede others.)

The Israelite people, to whom Hosea prophesied, were the descendants of Jacob. They were called by his new name. The promise was for Jacob and his seed, so it was for the Israelites. But they were a selfish, dishonest, proud people and would

not go to God for help. They followed the evil counsel of their friends.

If the Israelites would have repented as Jacob had, they too could again have had God's blessings. For in God there is mercy. Israel, however, did not repent. When Hosea accused them saying, "The balances of deceit are in your hands," they only bragged about the riches they had gained using false balances. These deceitful balances were used with an equal-arm balance scale. The object being weighed was placed in one pan. Weights of known quantity were placed in the other pan until the two pans balanced. Dishonest merchants had weights that were not true. A weight marked five pounds might have weighed almost six pounds another marked five pounds might have weighed eight ounces less than five pounds. The heavy one was used in buying, the light one in selling.

It seems natural for people to feel proud when they get gain by outwitting someone. Some children think that it is being smart, especially if their friends feel the same way. It is easy to try to justify sins if others agree that these sins are not wrong. An action that breaks one of God's laws is sin, even if the whole world thinks it is not. Have you ever talked someone into letting you cheat him? Some people think it isn't cheating if the person being cheated is agreeable. Esau agreed to sell Jacob his birthright, but Jacob was not innocent. Be careful! Jacob and the people in Israel were both punished for cheating. Jacob's suffering was not as much because he repented. The Israelites, however, were too proud to repent and their nation was completely destroyed.

—Charlotte Huskey



Burning Bush people will be having a meeting. Maybe she ought to go.'

"I did go, and made a covenant with Jesus to live for Him, if He would heal me. I've been feeling better ever since. As soon as I am strong enough, I want to tell others about Jesus."

The next time Jaya visited with Shama, she was well and was just returning from visiting a friend to share with her what Jesus had done. "I am surprised that my family does not want me to be a Christian," she told Jaya. "My husband and his parents are very angry. Last night he told me that he was going to send me away if I didn't quit telling others about Jesus. He said the Hindu gods were good enough for anyone. Our son feels the same way."

"Oh, Sister, I don't know if I can keep quiet or not. Jesus has healed me and given me such peace in my heart, I want to tell everyone in the whole wide world," she said spreading her arms wide. "Tell me, how can I be still?"

"I know how you feel," Jaya said. "My family used to tell me the same thing."

"What did you do?"

"Me, why I prayed a lot, and kept talking to people about Jesus. I think I might have burst if I had kept quiet."

"That's how I feel."

"Then you'll have to keep talking. But listen, Shama, if they kick you out, come and stay with us. My mother will be glad to have you."

One day when Jaya was praying, God showed her that Shama's mother was going to try to murder her. She hurried to Shama's home. "Did your mother send food today?" she asked, breathlessly.

"No. Why do you ask?"

"God showed me that she will poison it," Jaya whispered in her ear.

Jaya hurried away as quickly as she had come, for Shama's husband did not like Christians.

Later when Shama met Jaya, she hugged her tightly and exclaimed, "Thank you, thank you for warning me that day. My mother,—my own mother, who once loved me so dearly, did send me poisoned food. I - I - I still can't believe that she did. But Jaya, the dog ate it and he died." She laid her head on Jaya's shoulder and sobbed like a baby.

"Don't cry so," Jaya said. "You are suffering for Jesus. He died for you. Your family loved you before you became a Christian."

"Yes, they would do anything for me, and now..."

"Come home with me."

"I really think I should. I can't give up Jesus and my husband says I must. I promised Jesus to live for Him if He would heal me. He did His part, I must do mine."

For many months Shama lived in the Kollipara home. There she learned much about her beloved Jesus. She had freedom then, and went from home to home telling the story of Jesus. There were occasions when she talked with her husband and son. Every day she prayed that they would love her Jesus.

Then one day it happened. Her husband and son became believers. Shama joyfully returned home. There the family prayed together. Shama became a preacher, and her son a godly young prayer warrior.

(To be continued next week.)

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. The east wind, which was destructive counsel. 2. Oil. 3. Yes. 4. Deceitful. 5. About beoming rich. 6. Through visions and His prophets. 7. To Syria. 8. By a prophet. 9. Ephraim (Israel).

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Mar. 19, 1995

A New Friend

(Continued from last week.)

The service was over and the people were quietly filing outside. Jaya was reaching for her purse and Bible when she heard a pleasant voice saying, "My name is Emanuel Bandela."

"I'm Jayapradha Kollipara," Jaya answered.

"Jayapradha Kollipara, that name sounds familiar," the handsome man said.

"I don't believe we have met, but I have known of you for a long time," Jaya answered. "When I was a little girl, your father asked me to keep praying for you until I knew that you were saved."

"Oh, then you must be the child evangelist that my dad spoke about?"

"The Lord has used me to His glory," Jaya answered shyly.

"Thank you, Miss Kollipara for praying for me. I am sure that your prayers and those of my father are the reason that I am a Christian today. I was very, very proud. I didn't want to humble myself and let Jesus rule my life. I wanted to have my own way, to do my own thing."

"Then when my dad was stabbed for preaching the gospel. I began to question, 'Why did God let him die? Why should a man whose only fault was *working too hard for the Lord*, suffer such a death?' Of course, I didn't

know how to trust God's wisdom at that time."

"I have been faithfully praying for 17 years. Now that you are saved, shall I quit?" Jaya asked.

"Oh, no, keep praying until you know I am in heaven," Emanuel paused for a moment then added, "Speaking of heaven, didn't you once die and go to heaven?"

"You heard about that?"

"My dad talked often of you. Why don't we just sit down here and you tell me about it."

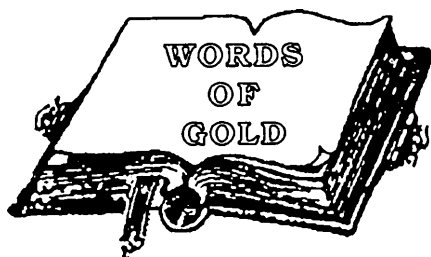
"Okay," Jaya agreed.

Jaya picked nervously at the corner of her sari. She didn't like to talk about herself. She was just a lowly servant of God.

"Go ahead, I'm anxious to hear about it."

"It was a great experience! It has spurred me to keep preaching at those times I have been discouraged. I was 15, and in great demand for revival meetings. I was laboring for the Lord fasting, praying, counseling and preaching. Dad and I were holding a revival meeting about 200 miles away from home in another part of Andhra Pradesh. A few days before the meeting ended, I told Dad that God was leading me to Delhi.

"Delhi is a huge city!" he exclaimed, "full of staunch, fanatic Hindus who would love to get their hands on you."



Sinning Has Destroyed Israel

Hosea 13:1-16

1 When Ephraim [Israel] spake trembling, he exalted himself in Israel; but when he offended in Baal, he died.

2 And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves.

3 Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth away, as the chaff that is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney.

4 Yet I am the Lord thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no saviour beside me.

5 I did know thee in the wilderness, in the land of great drought.

6 According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me.

7 Therefore I will be unto them as a lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe them:

8 I will meet them as a bear that is bereaved of her whelps, and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild beast shall tear them.

9 O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.

10 I will be thy king; where is any other that may save thee in all thy cities? and thy judges of whom thou saidst, Give me a king and princes?

11 I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath.

12 The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is hid.

13 The sorrows of a travelling woman shall come upon him: he is an unwise son; for he should not stay long in the place of the breaking forth of children.

14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

15 Though he be fruitful among his brethren, an east wind shall come, the wind of the Lord shall come up from the wilderness, and his spring shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up: he shall spoil the treasure of all pleasant vessels.

16 Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.

The Message: The people whom God loved so dearly had sinned away their chance to repent and find God's mercy.

Questions:

1. When did Israel die?
2. What had Israel done more and more?
3. What four things were used to illustrate Israel's quick destruction?
4. How long had God been their God?
5. Who was responsible for Israel's destruction?
6. What was hidden from their eyes?
7. What would happen to Samaria?
8. Why would Samaria become desolate?
9. What would happen to the infants?

Verse to Memorize

Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword...

Hosea 13:16.

Let's



Talk . . .

Many years ago Abraham followed God away from his idol-worshipping family into the land of Canaan. There he served God by right living. Then God chose Abraham's family to be a blessing to all the world. Through the following years his family grew very large and they were called the Israelites. Years later they became known as the Jews. From Abraham came Moses, to whom God gave His laws. Thus the Jews were God's special people. By righteous living they were to show the rest of the world how they should live.

The land of Canaan had fertile soil, plenty of water and a climate suitable for abundant crops. Soon they were a rich nation. Then they became careless about God's principles. God worked diligently with them. He disciplined them with droughts, crop failures, wars, disease, etc. Then they would return to righteous living. As long as they lived according to God's standards, He did miracles for them. Other nations saw this and they, too, respected the God of the Jews.

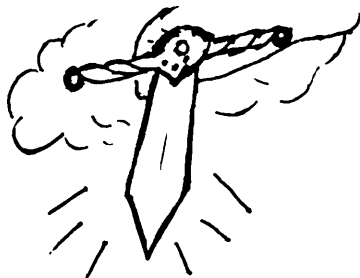
God worked many years with the Jews. Then seeing they were stiff-necked and would not obey, He let them go their own way. They divided into two countries, Israel and Judah. Judah struggled to retain God's laws, but Israel refused them. They set up idols and evil spirits soon dominated every part of their lives. In a few years, they were a wicked nation where violence reigned. It was Hosea's duty to tell Israel what would happen to them if they continued in their sins.

From youth to old age, Hosea went from city to city, using many illustrations to show the people their errors and beg them to repent. Hosea was confronted not only by masses of rebellious people, but by hundreds of destructive priests and some false prophets.

Jeroboam, Israel's first king, did a great evil by setting up the golden calves. However, he still trembled at God's Word. Sometimes when he needed advice, he sought counsel from the prophets. But the spirit of idolatry corrupted the whole nation under his reign and the reigns of the two kings who followed him. Then came Ahab and his wicked wife Jezebel, who loved the god, Baal. Elijah once confounded Jezebel and her 500 prophets of Baal. Hosea's work was many years later, but he said the nation had died during Ahab's reign. (Verse 1.)

Israel sank deeper and deeper in sin, until God cried out, "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself." Hosea used the morning cloud, early dew, chaff and smoke to illustrate Israel's quick destruction. All these things are very easily driven away. He said the fierceness of the enemy would be as a lion, a leopard, an angry bear and a destroying east wind. Because "she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces." (Verse 16.)

Those whom God had chosen as His special people would be consumed by their enemies because they refused to live right. —Charlotte Huskey



"Dad had to leave the meeting before it ended, so to discourage me from going, he took all my things except one change of clothes.

"I didn't want to go against my dad, nor to disobey God. I began fasting and praying. It became clear that I should go to Delhi. But I had no ticket money nor train reservation, no bedding, no clothes, nor other traveling gear. Neither could I understand or speak Hindu nor did I have a place to stay. Going there did seem impossible, but if God was sending, I knew He would make all the arrangements.

"Unknown to me there was a couple from Delhi at the meeting. They invited me to their home. The couple and a friend had reservations in the sleeping car for their three day return trip. The morning before they were to leave, the friend decided not to go, so they offered me his reservation. That same day I received a letter from a friend 500 miles away. It contained enough money for the ticket. I was ready to go!

"God had supplied chaperones for the trip, a place to stay and everything I needed. The last few days of the meeting, many people had given me gifts, a blanket, towels, several dresses and other things.

"In Delhi God healed several people and revealed to me the history of some who came for counseling. This news spread rapidly and people began coming to the meeting. Soon we had outgrown the building and moved into another. The crowds grew until we had to build a large pandal (a temporary shelter from the sun).

"I was there when Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru died. Some Christians took me to the airport to view his body. That evening, we went to another home for dinner. While coming down their high stairway, I tripped and fell, knocking myself out. They say I was dead for five hours. It was early morning before I knew what had happened.

"When I fell, I felt myself flying, up, up, up until I came to a most beautiful place. Oh, Emanuel, you should have seen it! It was glowing brightly, but did not hurt my eyes. There were luminous angels everywhere, multitudes of people singing, and Jesus, my blessed Jesus, more royally splendid than I had ever imagined. I realized that my greatest hope had come true. I was in Heaven! Image how you would feel, Emanuel, to know you would have no more troubles, no more stonings, no beatings, nor criticism, nor hunger, nor thirst, nor rejection of any kind. I was happy beyond words, yet I was shouting praises. And then Jesus spoke to me. I don't remember the exact words He said, but the message was this: He asked, 'What about the millions on earth who are living in darkness and have not heard about Me and this beautiful home?'

"Dear Jesus, I said, 'I know there are many, but I am so weary and this is so wonderful. Please let me stay.'

"You can return later and stay with Me forever,' He said kindly. 'Now I want you to go back to earth and tell the multitudes of My love. Tell them of this place that I have prepared for all those who love and serve Me. If you stay here many will die in their sins and never come to this place.'

"Oh, Emanuel, it was so beautiful I want everyone to go there."

(To be continued next week.)

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. When they offended by worshipping Baal. 2. They had sinned more and more. 3. The morning cloud, the early dew, chaff blowing in a whirlwind and smoke. 4. Since He brought them from Egypt. 5. The people who continued in sin. 6. Repentance. 7. It would become desolate. 8. Because she rebelled against her God. 9. They would be dashed in pieces.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 Mar. 26, 1995

A New Challenge

(Continued from last week.)

"I enjoyed your sermon," Emanuel told Jaya as she started out of the meeting house. "Do you have time — I mean, could we visit a while again?"

"I have time," Jaya answered.

"I-I really enjoyed our last visit," he said nervously. "And I've been thinking a lot about some things you said. Mind if I ask a few questions?"

"No, go right ahead."

"My first question is: How did you feel when you were in heaven, and Jesus told you to come back to earth? That must have been terribly disappointing."

"Well, yes it was. It surely was disappointing. I would have loved to have stayed. But there was something about seeing the glories of heaven, and my dear Jesus, that filled me with a desire to endure anything to help others to be able to someday see Him and enjoy heaven. Emanuel, heaven is real. When a person dies, they aren't reborn to live another life on this earth. Oh, no, Emanuel."

"Yes, I believe that. But our people are in such darkness. They strive to live good, hoping to be born into better circumstances in their next life. Jesus has something so much better for them. But, Jaya, how submissive you are, how willing to do

God's will whatever it costs you. You have already suffered a lot and done much for India."

"Not me, Emanuel, Jesus has changed hearts in India."

"Well, yes, but you did more than your part, just like my daddy."

"I could never compare with your father."

"I think you do. I think you are the most wonderful girl in the world," Emanuel said. Then he put his hand to his mouth as if he had let something slip.

Jaya lowered her head and picked at the mat on which she was sitting.

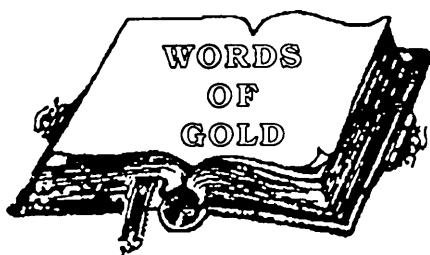
After a long silence, Emanuel continued. "The other thing I don't understand is: How did falling on a stairway cause death? Did you hit your head very hard or were you sick at the time?"

"I don't know. Maybe I was weak. I had been fasting. Perhaps God let it happen because He knew I needed a boost at that time."

"Do you fast and pray a lot, like my dad did?"

"I pray several hours every day. When there are special needs, then I fast and pray," she answered.

"My dad used to fast and pray for weeks, even months. Did you do that when you were a child-preacher?"



Hope For Scattered Israel

Hosea 14:1-9

1 O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

2 Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.

3 Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.

4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

5 I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

6 His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon.

7 They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon.

8 Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.

9 Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

Romans 10:6, 9-13

6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise,...

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

The Message: God gave individual Israelites an opportunity to be saved although their nation was destroyed.

Questions:

1. What did God ask Israel to do?
2. Why had Israel fallen?
3. Where would the fatherless find mercy?
4. What would God do for their backsliding?
5. How would Israel grow after God healed their backsliding?
6. In whose ways would the just walk?
7. What must a person do to be saved?
8. Is the Lord rich unto all that call upon Him?
9. What is promised to those who call upon the name of the Lord?

Verse to Memorize

I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

Hosea 14:4.

Let's



Talk . . .

To understand this last chapter of Hosea, we must think about the prophecies in the other chapters. In the first chapter, Hosea gave prophetic names to his children. Jezreel meant, *God will scatter His beloved*; Loruhamah, *without mercy*; and Loammí, *you are no longer my people*. (Hos. 1:4, 6, 9.) His wife left him for another man and he prayed a hedge of thorns around her so she would suffer until she came back to him. (Hos. 2:6-7.) Later God withdrew from Israel, saying, "In their affliction they will seek me." (Hos. 5:15.) Then Hosea warned that the enemy was coming like an eagle, (Hos. 8:1) and that the golden calf would be taken as a gift to the king of Assyria. (Hos. 10:5-6.) In Hos. 13:14 God says, "Repentance shall be hid from mine eyes." Again He said, "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help." (Hos. 13:9.)

The Assyrians destroyed Israel in 721 B. C. and took the stronger Israelites to Assyria as captives. The Assyrian ruler then forced the people from eastern Assyria to settle in the region of Samaria. The new settlers brought their own religious ideas, but also sought to please the "god of the land." Many of them intermarried with the remaining Israelites. People with this mixed ancestry and mixed religion came to be called Samaritans.

They were disdained by almost all people. Almost 100 years later, when the Jews struggled to rebuild the temple, they would not accept help from the Samaritans. In Jesus' time

the Samaritans were still hated by the Jews.

All the ten northern tribes which made up Israel were either destroyed or married into other races of people.

The great love and mercy of God is described in chapter 14. It was written so the scattered Israelites would know that they were welcome to come to God, for God had said, "They will seek me in their affliction."

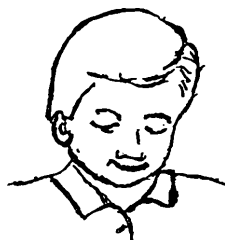
God not only invited them to return, but gave them a prayer to pray. They had for many generations sacrificed to idols. They would now have to learn how to pray a prayer acceptable to God. How should they pray? They must ask God to: 1. Take away their iniquities (their sinful acts and bad attitudes), and to receive them. 2. They must bring words of praise and confession, not sacrifices of calves, oil, etc. 3. They must denounce all false gods, and admit they were as helpless orphans and promise to trust only in God to save them.

Then God promised that He would:

1. Love freely.
2. Take away the burden of guilt.
3. Heal the backsliding.
4. Send blessings as the dew.
5. Give growth.
6. Beautify their lives.
7. Give stability.
8. Make them fruitful.

God gives the same promises to those who will seek Him today. He also expects us to pray the same kind of prayer. —Charlotte Huskey

Adam Clark's Commentary, One Volume Edition, p. 718. *The Matthew Henry Commentary*, New One Volume Edition, p. 1121-22. *Halley Bible Hand Book*, p. 316-319. *World Book Encyclopedia*, 1976, Vol. 17, p. 75.



"One time when I was only a little girl, I fasted (eating only one scant meal a day) for eight months."

"Wow! That is a long time. Jaya, why do people fast?"

"There are many reasons why I fast. Emanuel, I have a great desire to see people saved from the blinding darkness of Satan. I fast while begging God to free them. Sometimes God's will is not clear. Fasting seems to bring me more into God's presence."

"Why would you seek more of God's presence? It surrounds you all the time."

"It is wonderful how His angels minister to me. But I am unworthy, so unworthy of these blessings."

"When you fasted for eight months were there severe difficulties in your life, Jaya?" he asked tenderly.

"My younger life was constant difficulties. On every side, I was persecuted and made fun of, even my own parents didn't understand me. My uncles and grandparents thought no one would ever marry me and that would disgrace the family. After I turned twelve, they stirred up so much trouble that I had to pack all my things, leave my home, and go out on my own to find a place to stay."

"That was mean!" Emanuel said, looking lovingly at Jaya. Then he added, "And why would anyone think you wouldn't get married?"

"Who would want me without any education? They thought Daddy would have to pay a terribly high dowry to get anyone to take me. But by the time I was 15, I was loved and greatly respected by my family and thousands of other people. My biggest problem those years was keeping up with all the preaching engagements. I did not know how to preach. I had to pray much, so God would speak through me. And He surely did."

"Yes, I know. Thousands of people have been brought out of darkness because of you."

"Thanks be to God," Jaya said reverently. Then added, "The popularity and fame of this world might have blinded my spiritual eyes if I had not seen the glories of heaven."

"I'm sure glad God didn't keep you in heaven," Emanuel said, "but I must go now. I hope to talk with you again before this revival meeting is over."

Toward the end of the meeting while Jaya was seeking God about what to do next, she thought Jesus said, "Emanuel is the man you should marry."

"But Jesus," Jaya protested, "I love You. I just want to continue working for You."

"You are to be the answer of his father's prayers. You must help Emanuel get to glory."

"Dear Jesus, I've always tried to do whatever You told me, but this will be a real challenge. How can I travel and preach with a husband and maybe a family?"

Jaya began fasting and praying just to be sure she was not confused about what Jesus wanted her to do. When she was sure of God's message, she accepted the challenge.

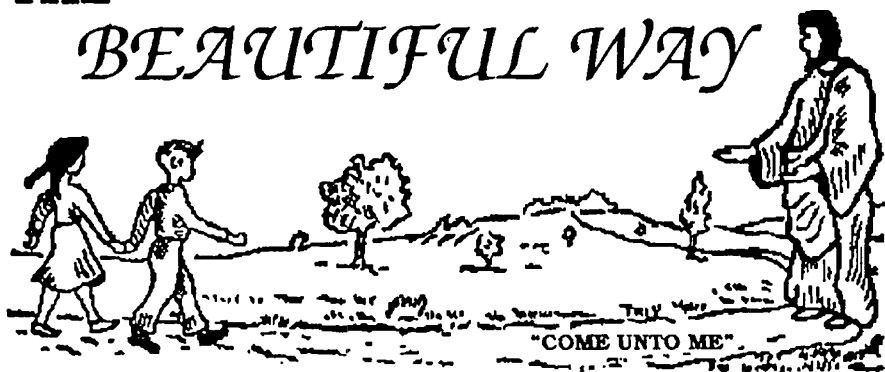
(To be continued next quarter.)

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. To return to Him. 2. Because of their iniquity. 3. In God. 4. He would heal it. 5. As a lily. 6. In the ways of the Lord. 7. They must confess with their mouth and believe in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. 8. Yes. 9. They shall be saved.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 April 2, 1995

Ashley's Reward

(Continued from Feb. 27, 1995.)

It was one of those cloudy, gloomy days that penetrates to the bone. Everything had gone wrong. Even the Smith's dog and cat, who usually were companions, found reasons to growl and hiss at each other. Ashley wished the day's work would hurry and end, so she could curl up in her bed, forget everything and drift off into a pleasant dream.

Then it happened. Bro. Strong called. Sis. Strong had climbed into a chair to clean the chandelier and the chair gave way under her ponderous weight. Now she couldn't walk and the five little Strong's were needing supper and baths. He needed to leave in an hour and would be away on business for the next two days.

When Mr. Smith, director of the mission home, said, "You're the only one who could manage them, can you go?" she really wanted to shout, "No!" But she had earned other blessings by helping the needy, so she took the challenge, hoping the blessing would chase away the gloom; and it did.

This was Ashley's life, always busy helping others, praying, going in the heat, rain or snow to cottage prayer-meetings, to visit a shut-in, or change babies' diapers. Helping with the

Young People's Meeting was really fun, and the Bible was her favorite book.

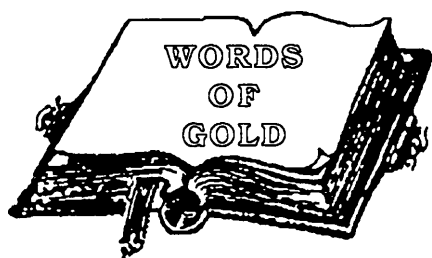
Heather was still attending Young People's Meeting, doing her best to find a good husband. Ashley committed this area of her life to God, and continued to obey her parents and all authorities in her life. In due time God gave her a good husband. His name was not Michael, however; it was Jim.

The following year Ashley and Jim had a cute baby girl whom they named Esther. When Esther was four years old, God gave them a fat little boy, Abraham. What a happy, busy mother and wife.

Having a family kept Ashley at home most of the time. She attended church regularly, helped with the Young People's Meeting, and visited whenever possible. But often she felt guilty because she was not helping others like she did before her marriage.

Depressing thoughts such as, "Your life is worthless; you don't do anything for Jesus, and what you did in the past hasn't helped anyone," kept coming to her mind.

Every day the thoughts pounced on Ashley. She tried hard to shake them off. She asked God to take them away, but they kept hounding her. Then one day Ashley remembered



Tell The Children

Joel 1:1-5, 7-8, 10-14, 16-20

New Words: 1. *Cankerworms* are moth larvae which are serious pests of trees. 2. *Palmerworm* is a caterpillar that suddenly appears in great numbers devouring vegetation.

1 The word of the Lord that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

2 Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?

3 Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.

4 That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.

5 Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl,...

7 He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree; he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.

8 Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth.

10 The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine [juice] is dried up, the oil languisheth.

11 Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished.

12 The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered:...

13 Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar:

come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God.

14 Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord,

16 Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God?

17 The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered.

18 How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.

19 O Lord, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and...burned all the trees of the field.

20 The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

The Message: We must tell the next generation of God's severity to the disobedient and His mercy to the obedient.

Questions:

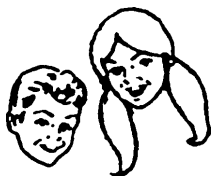
1. Who is the author of this book?
2. Who is to hear the Word of the Lord?
3. Why should the children be told?
4. What had eaten the crops?
5. What were the drunkards to do?
6. Who was to be ashamed?
7. Name the trees and plants that had withered.
8. What were the ministers to do?
9. Why were the beasts and cattle groaning?

Verse to Memorize

Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.

Joel 1:3.

Let's



Talk . . .

Prophecies of the Bible have three messages: 1. A message for the prophet's own time. 2. A message of coming events. 3. A message of eternal principles of right and wrong for all people, including us today.

We have finished the prophecies of Hosea. Now we will study the prophecy of Joel who spoke to the people of Judah. Do you remember that the descendants of two of Jacob's sons lived in the southern part of the land and called it Judah? The descendants of the other ten called their land Israel. They lived in the northern part.

Joel is known as one of the minor prophets. The prophets who wrote less are called minor prophets, but their message is just as important as the major prophet's. The books of the minor prophets are found in the last part of the Old Testament.

We must always remember that the books of the Bible are not arranged in order as they happened. Joel prophesied during the reigns of kings Joash, Amaziah and Uzziah. The stories of their reigns are found in II Kings, chapters eleven through fifteen. The books of the Kings are about the center of the Old Testament. Joel is toward the end. In my Bible they are 715 pages apart. But what is recorded in the two books took place at the same time.

The message to the people of that time was that they would suffer for their sins. Let us see what eternal message is in this first chapter of Joel. Did you find an eternal principle in verses two and three? It says, "Hear this," and "tell your children, that they may tell it to another generation." All people of all ages must hear the Word of

God and tell it to their children, and those children tell their little ones.

What were *they* to tell their children? We know from reading the Bible that God's people are to tell their children about His marvelous works, His great and good laws, and the curses placed upon those who disobey these laws. In this chapter, however, they were instructed to tell their children that because of their sins the worms and locust had devoured every food-bearing plant or tree in the land and drouth had burned up their pastures and dried up their rivers.

There had been famines in the land before. Joseph's brothers came to Egypt because of a famine, and there was a plague of locusts in Egypt when Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go. I am sure those parents did not want their children to suffer; neither do your parents want you to suffer. For this reason, they do not allow some things that you desire. Christian parents know that the result of sin is suffering. Be careful to obey them, and commit yourself to teach the Holy Word of God to your children.

Maybe you have already had a bad experience as a result of doing wrong. You can share this with some other child, and it may keep them from the same trouble. You need not wait until you are old to help others. Joel prophesied under King Joash. Joash was only seven years old when he became king. Although very young, he encouraged the people to turn away from idols. God sent pests and drouths, and Joel helped them understand why God dealt so with them, and Joash led them in the truth. The three working together helped the people to again serve the true God for a few years.

—Charlotte Huskey

Clarke's Commentary on the Bible, p. 718-722. *Matthew Henry's Commentary*, Vol. IV, p. 1202-1223. Frances Blankenbaker, *What the Bible is all About for Young Explorers*, Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1986, p. 142-146, 178-180.

she had found in the Bible the answers for all her other problems.

She finished kneading the bread, and while it was rising, she put Esther and Abe down for their naps. Then she looked for the word **depression** in her concordance. It wasn't there. She looked for **depress**, nothing; **depressed**, nothing. What is the opposite of depression? It must be joy, so she looked up **joy**. Then Ashley read in I Peter 4:13, *But rejoice, in as much as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.* I Peter 1:8, *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom.... ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.* I John 1:4, *And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.*

There was her answer! She didn't need to be always busy for the Lord to be happy. She just needed to be thankful to be a part of His suffering. Now she had a weapon to fight against this guilt feeling.

A few days later, she received a letter that helped in her battle. Opening it, she read:

My Dear Friend,

Since I was a very little girl, I have wanted to write to you. You see, the way you lived helped my mother to live better. She loved you and that's why I'm named Ashley. She wants me to be just like you, and so do I.

My mother died last year. Before she went to heaven she asked me to always live for Jesus. And that is what I am trying to do.

Pray for me, and write to me if you can.

Love, —Ashley

Well, well, so my past life has helped others. The devil is always lying. Now I have something to do for Jesus right here at home.

Ashley tried to imagine how little Ashley felt without her dear mother.

In her letter she tried to comfort and encourage Ashley and say what Jesus might say if He were writing to her.

Within a week, she received another letter from the little girl. It said:

Dear Sister Ashley,

I got your letter, and I was so glad.

I know it is the best letter any little girl ever got. I kept it and read it over and over again. It will help me be good.

I love you and hope to get more letters from you. —Ashley

In the next letter Ashley told little Ashley about the fifth commandment. "This one has a reward," she told her. "Always obey your father and those who are caring for you and God will give you a long life. This is the only commandment that I knew for many years. I have received many blessings from obeying just this one."

After that when the devil brought gloom over Ashley, she would use the weapons God had given her. Sometimes she would sing a song of praise. Sometimes she would list things she had suffered for Jesus and thank Him that she could do so. At other times she would snatch a pen and write an encouraging letter to little Ashley or someone else.

(To be continued next week.)

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. Joel. 2. Old men and everyone. 3. So they can tell the other generations. 4. Palmer worms, locust, cankerworms and caterpillars. 5. Weep and howl. 6. The husbandmen. 7. The vine, the fig, pomegranate, palm, and apple trees and the corn. 8. They were to lie all night in sackcloth, set a fast, and gather the elders into the house of God and cry unto the Lord. 9. The rivers and pastures had dried up.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 April 9, 1995

Ashley's Reward

(Continued from last week.)

"How would you like to travel back east for a revival meeting?" Jim asked Ashley.

"I'd love it. You know I love revivals, or any of God's work."

"Then get the warm clothes packed. January in the east is much colder than here in California."

One afternoon during the meeting, Ashley took a nap. She dreamed that slowly and quietly the door opened. Hearing the slight noise, she looked up, and there was Mr. Death. She trembled, but said not a word. He pointed his long bony finger at her and said, "You will die in a few years!"

"No! No, I'm not!" she shouted jumping out of the recliner. "You can't have me!" she screamed.

"I will take you," he stormed, and reached his hand out to take her.

Ashley pulled back. He missed her. Now the fight was on! For a long time they struggled. Finally Ashley pushed him out the door and held it closed. "I'll get you in a few years," he shouted. "You'll see." She was pushing the door with all

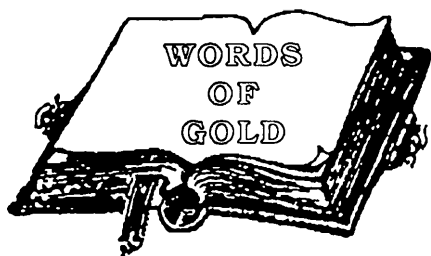
her might when she awoke. Her heart was racing, she was trembling and wet from perspiration.

"Does this mean I shall soon die?" she asked herself. "Isn't my reward for obeying my parents coming?" Down on her knees she fell and began praying. "Oh my Lord, I have tried hard to always obey the authorities in my life. I really want to stay in the world and work for you.... And, Lord, I wish to raise Esther and Abe. Life would be awfully hard for them without a mother, and how lonely Jim would be without me.... Please Lord, give me my reward."

She tried hard to shake the horrid feeling, but it haunted her all afternoon. Toward evening she prayed again, "Lord, please lift this gloom so I can be a blessing in the revival tonight. I cannot revive anyone when I'm buried beneath fears of a dream."

God made her a blessing, but the dream stayed in her memory.

She tried hard to believe the promise of long life which she thought God had given her. But try as she did, she expected any day to get deathly sick or die from an accident. She jumped easily at



God Hears Prayers From the Heart

Joel 2:1-4, 6-7, 9-17

1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

3 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.

4 The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.

6 Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.

7 They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:

9 They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.

10 The earth shall quake before them;...

11 And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

12 Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart,

and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

14 Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him;...

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

17 Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

The Message: God will bless those who are broken-hearted when they repent for disobeying one of His laws.

Questions:

1. Why was the trumpet to blow?
2. Was this to be the most horrible day for many generations?
3. Describe the change in the land.
4. How will the earth respond to this day?
5. What did the Lord tell the people to do?
6. Instead of rending their clothes, what should they rend?
7. Describe God's character.
8. For what was the trumpet to blow the second time?
9. Who was to gather to pray?

Verse to Memorize

...Rend your heart...turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Joel 2:13.

Let's



Talk . . .

Let's review the three kinds of messages that prophecy contains: 1. A message for the prophet's own time. 2. A message of coming events. 3. A message of eternal principles of right and wrong for all people, including us today.

Joel tells about the destruction of Judah. He called it the *Day of the Lord*. *The Day of the Lord* can have different meanings. In the New Testament it seems to be referring to the end of time, the day when God will judge the world, as in II Peter 3:10, and I Thessalonians 5:2. In the Old Testament it was very often a time when God allowed suffering as a consequence for sin. The locusts came in over Judah in great swarms until the sky was darkened. It is recorded in history that one locust swarm was twelve miles long. Another could be heard six miles away. About 200 years after the destruction of the locust, God allowed the Babylonian army to capture Judah and drive the people away to Babylon. This warning of destruction was for the present and also the future.

Now let us name some eternal principles we have discovered in this scripture: 1. God's Word is always true. (He said the Babylonians would capture Judah. They did). 2. People always suffer the consequence of breaking God's laws. 3. God is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, of great kindness and hears prayers from a broken heart.

Some people like to think only of the tender, caring part of God's love.

Love however, must sometimes control the curious or discipline the wayward to avoid them bringing trouble on themselves. We also know there are moral laws, just as there are physical laws, that must be respected to avoid suffering. When these laws are not respected, trouble follows. The wise will learn from these experiences.

In the Bible we read of Sodom and Gomorrah being destroyed by fire. Since Bible days earthquakes, floods, fire, volcanos or disease have destroyed people and cities. God has a master plan for the world, but when men refuse to follow this plan they must suffer the consequences of their own sin. That is why Judah was taken captive.

When God was ready to punish Judah for its rebellion, Joel told the people to, "Turn to God with a broken heart, with fasting, and cryings, for God is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and full of kindness." He told the ministers to gather the adults and the children, to weep and pray in repentance. In the olden days it was a custom to tear one's clothes when they were very sad, but God says we must tear our hearts instead.

An attitude of godly sorrow and repentance always gets God's attention. Each of us should remember this so if we break one of God's laws, we will know how to get God's favor again. This is another eternal truth that is good for all people.

—Charlotte Huskey



Clarke's Commentary on the Bible, p. 718-722. Matthew Henry's Commentary, Vol. IV, p. 1202-1223. Frances Blankenbaker, *What the Bible is all About for Young Explorers*, Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1986, p. 142-146, 178-180.

strange noises, or sudden movements, thinking death had come.

The meeting was over and they went home. Ashley kept busy cleaning house, cooking, attending to her children and husband. As days, weeks and months went by and she was still well, she gradually overcame the fear the dream had left.

Two more Januaries passed. Gray clouds covered the sun adding to the sadness inside, where Ashley lay sick. The old doctor, who had known her from childhood, thought she might not live long. Hot tears streamed down her white face as she prayed, "Lord who will care for my tiny baby? Esther's not old enough. Who will train my children to fear and respect God? Wouldn't life be too cruel, too hard? Might they become bitter and be lost for lack of a mother's care? I only want to live for the sake of my family and others. How about those who need to hear about Jesus through my ministry? Lord, you know I'm not afraid to die, it's just....Ashley covered her face with her white bony hands and sobbed for a long time.

Finally she submitted. "But if it is not Your will to heal, then I say 'amen.'"

Wanting to be clear of any guilt when God judged her, she began searching her Bible for any commandment which she might not have obeyed. In all this studying she did not read any of the scriptures that promised her long life. Neither did she remember them.

As she grew worse and worse, she began writing notes to her family and friends. Jim became alarmed and called the brethren in to pray

for her. "Ashley has given up hope for healing," he told them.

They read promises from the Bible to her about her healing, but not one mentioned the promise of long life for the obedient. While the ministers were around her bed praying, Ashley thought she saw a strange angelic being enter the room. It came to the foot of her bed and looked tenderly at her and then at those who were praying. Suddenly she shouted, "Jesus is here. See Him there. He's come to make me well!" This increased Ashley's faith. She rested well.

Later the dream about death came back to her mind and she fell into doubting. Within a few days she had again given up all hope of getting well. She called Jim to her bed, "I feel so sad to leave you and the children. I know it will be so hard for you, but if God wants to take me home, He will surely take care of all of you." Then her voice broke.

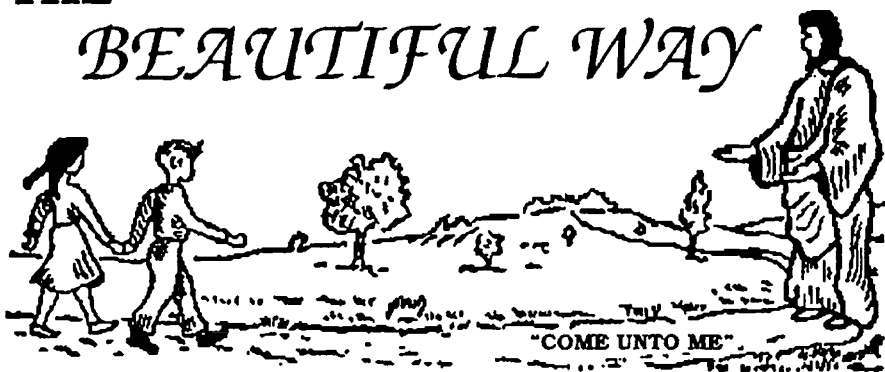
(To be continued next week.)

—Charlotte Huskey

(Answers: 1. The day of the Lord was near. 2. Yes. 3. It was as Eden before their enemy and behind the enemy it was like a desolate wilderness. 4. It will quake. 5. To turn to Him with their heart. 6. Their hearts. 7. He is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, of great kindness, and repenteth of evil. 8. To call a fast and solemn assembly. 9. All the adults, children and babies.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 April 16, 1995

Ashley's Reward

(Continued from last week.)

Jim tenderly took his wife's face in his hands. Looking into her sad eyes he said, "Ashley, take courage. God is still living. He can do anything." Then he drew her into his strong arms, and they both fell into sorrowful crying, each trying to be strong for the other.

Finally Ashley said, "I've tried to believe I will get well, but I'm just too weak to live. Jim, I must tell you how I wish my funeral; it will be my last time to help anyone. I also want to talk with Abe and Esther, as soon as she gets home from school." She paused, breathing hard.

"Have my funeral in the chapel. Ask Bro. Smith, who was pastor at the mission home when I lived there, to preach to the young people using the text: 'Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.' Have him tell them how I so gladly loved and served God when I was a child and young person, and that I have had a wonderful life serving Him." She paused again. Jim could not speak.

"I want Esther to have my Bible," she said looking lovingly at the dear Book which had brought joy in troubled times, given answers to

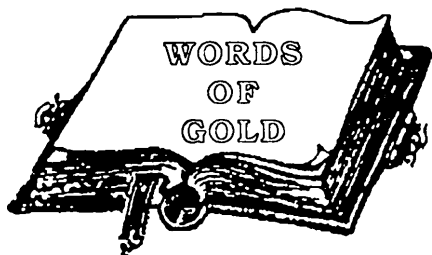
problems, guided her through questionable situations, and given strength in weakness. She felt a strange sorrow in leaving it, yet she would not need it in heaven, a place filled with only good; and there she would see in person her blessed Saviour whom it told her about.

Jim left her to rest for he knew it would take courage and strength to say "good-bye" to the children.

After saying "good-bye" to Abe, she rested a while. Then Esther came in and sat on the bed near Ashley's pillow. She picked up her mother's white arm and clung to it while her mother spoke. "You must submit my going away to God, and trust His wisdom as well as His power to heal. Take good care of sad little Abe and the baby who will know only you as her mother." Tears flowed down both faces and Ashley could say no more.

In the next room, Ashley's mother tried desperately to quiet the screaming baby. Jim stood motionless holding Abe, whose face was buried on his father's shoulder. One chubby hand clinched his father's jacket, with the other he rubbed his eyes.

When all was quiet, the weary mother spoke again. "You're only eight, but you will make a good mother. Grandma will help you. See



The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Joel 2:21-29, 32

21 Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things.

22 Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.

23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the canker-worm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

26 And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

27 And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

Acts 2:16-18, 21

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

The Message: Joel forecasted the Day of Pentecost about 800 years before Christ came.

Questions:

1. Why was the land to rejoice?
2. Why should the beasts not be afraid?
3. What is meant by restoring the years that the locust and worms had eaten?
4. Who is to never be ashamed?
5. How will people know that God is in the midst of His people?
6. What will God do in the latter days?
7. What will happen after God's spirit is poured out?
8. Where is deliverance found?
9. Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord shall _____. (Acts 2:2.)

Verse to Memorize

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh;...And... whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered:...

Joel 2:28, 32.

Let's



Talk . . .

King Joash was hidden in the innermost rooms of the house of God from the day his maid escaped with him from the palace. That was the day of the massacre! Soldiers, clad in iron coats, went from home to home, murdering all the royal family. Athaliah, Joash's grandmother, ordered the massacre so she could be queen. He was the only survivor of the royal family.

Joash was crowned king during a well-organized, heavily guarded ceremony, and wicked Queen Athaliah was then put to death. He ruled Judah well while he followed the advice of priest Jehoiada. Those were the years when God so bountifully blessed Judah. He sent rain and abundant crops. So abundant were the crops that they restored the losses from the locusts, worms and drought.

God blessed the people for their obedience. The prophet Joel encouraged them to rejoice and praise God, and not fear, for the blessings would remain. Then he added a prophecy of an even better day, a time toward the end of time, when God would not only pour out blessings of rain and food for the body, but a day when His great Holy Spirit would be poured out on the people.

During Joel's time, only the priest, prophets and a few other men received the blessings of the Holy Spirit. It came only at certain times when God saw it needful, but did not continually stay with them. Joel told of a time to come when the Holy Spirit would be poured out on all believers! Girls and boys, young people, and old men and women would feel the presence of the

Holy Spirit. This happened on the day of Pentecost, fifty days after Jesus was crucified.

Another blessing for those latter days would be that all who called upon the name of the Lord would be delivered. We learned from Joel 2:12-13, that a call which God hears must come from a broken heart. Why would those who pray be delivered? Because in Zion and Jerusalem, God would place a delivering power. This is the remnant whom the Lord shall call (Joel 2:32), known today as the Church of God.

This lesson is from a book of prophecy and we see it contains the three messages that all prophecies contain: 1. A message for the prophet's own time. 2. A message of coming events. 3. A message for us today—eternal principles of right and wrong.

What is the message for us today? There are several. I believe the two most important are, "All who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved," and "He will pour out His Spirit on His servants and handmaids." An eternal principle is that God blesses those who are obedient to Him, just as the people in the beginning of King Joash's reign were obedient.

—Charlotte Huskey

Clarke's Commentary on the Bible, p. 718-722. Frances Blankenbaker, *What the Bible is all About for Young Explorers*, Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1986, p. 142-146, 178-180.

Holy Spirit, Be My Guide

By the promise of the Father,
Comes the Spirit from on high,
Into hearts redeemed from evil,
By His power to sanctify

Power to overcome He gives us,
Power to reign through Jesus' grace,

Holy boldness in each conflict,
Entrance to that heav'nly place.

(Page 338 in *Evening Light Songs*.)

that Abe wears his coat and shoes, and always share your treats with him. I know you will." The mother weakly patted her daughter's leg. The daughter clung more tightly to her mother's arm. "We will all meet again in heaven."

There are no words to describe the sorrow of those moments. Death could not be worse. Seeing that Ashley was fading, Jim took the children away.

Ashley folded her hands across her chest and closed her eyes. "I am ready," she whispered. She could hear Jim trying to comfort the children. How dreadful to leave them in such bitter sorrow. It aroused a new desire to fight for life. She tried hard to convince herself that she would get well, but just could not believe it. Finally all was quiet. But she could not sleep. Keenly she listened for any sound from her family. There it was, a sneeze from the baby's room, Jim's heavy footsteps, Abe scooting his car across the wood floor, Esther talking to Tuddy the cat.

She looked at the clock. An hour had passed. "I am so weary. My head is heavy. Breathing is like doing a hard day's work. Jesus are You coming for me?" She dozed.

Another hour had passed.

"I am ready and willing to go now that I think it is God's will." She waited, watching the clock as its hands moved around the hour. The hour was long. "Strange that He hasn't come for me," she said just as Esther came into her room.

Esther tiptoed to her mother's side and whispered, "He's not coming for you! Remember how you loved, honored and obeyed your mommy and daddy. You have the promise of a l-o-n-g life. You have

often told Abe and me to obey so we could have the promise. Surely you haven't forgotten it?"

"How could I forget?" Ashley questioned. "How could I? Esther get my Bible, let's find that promise. Hold the Bible close to my hand, I'll find it. There, read it to me."

Esther read Ephesians 6:1-3. *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*

"Hand me a pencil," Ashley said. In the margin of the page beside the promise, she wrote, MINE. "Yes, this promise is mine! I have to live! God's promises are always true. He is faithful!" Exhausted she sank into her pillow and was soon asleep.

The battle with Mr. Death was over. The promise had won! Esther, Abe and Baby would have a mother, and Jim would still have his wife. Yes, Ashley would live many more years.

She did.

(The End)

—Charlotte Huskey

(This story is based on *Mary's Reward*, by Hazel G. Neal, Warner Press, Anderson, Indiana.)

(Answers: 1. The Lord will do great things. 2. There will be rain and the pastures and trees will grow. 3. There will be bountiful crops to make up for the loss. 4. God's people. 5. By seeing God's blessing on them. 6. God will pour out His spirit. 7. People will be saved and delivered, then prophesy. Young men shall see visions, and old men shall dream dreams. 8. To those who call upon the name of the Lord. 9. Be saved.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 April 23, 1995

Special Notice

For lack of information, the stories of *Jaya* will be discontinued at this time, but will be continued after *Only A Servant*. I am very sorry to disappoint the readers who are looking forward to stories about her. Lord willing, there will be more.

—Charlotte Huskey

Only A Servant

"The Son of man [Jesus] came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." (Matt. 20:28.)

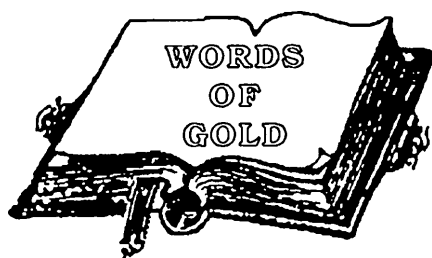
Just when farmer Ondrasik needed help most and had no idea where to find someone, there came to his house a man, uninvited and unexpected.

It was on a Sunday evening in the middle of the harvest. Ondrasik (called Ondra for short) sat under the apple tree in front of the house resting his head, heavy with care, in the palms of his hands. Suddenly in the yard the dog, Fidel, began barking. Looking up, the tired farmer saw a healthy young man, decently clothed. After an exchange of greeting, he said that he was looking for work.

Ondra was not one of those who would take just anyone to work for him; but this young man somehow appealed to him and he needed a laborer urgently. His wife was sick in bed. His sons-in-law had left him—one last year, the other in the spring—to go to America, and their wives followed them. Only the youngest daughter, about sixteen years old, remained with him at home. He had a cowboy, but he had been badly beaten up in a fight with some other fellows and was lying ill at his mother's home. Another laborer was nowhere to be found. Therefore Ondra accepted this young fellow. "Anyway," he thought, "it will not cost me anything to try him; I will take him at least until Andrew (the cowboy) gets well." The daily pay that he should get during the threshing time was agreed upon.

Ondra slept better that night than he had for a long time; and his wife, though she could not sleep, at least did not have to worry about how her husband would manage with all the work.

The Ondrasik family was quite satisfied with the new laborer, except for his curious name. He was called Methodius Ruzansky. It was



A New Jerusalem

Joel 3:1-3, 9-10, 12-14, 16-21

1 For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat [the valley of judgment], and will plead with them there for my people...

3 ...They have...given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.

9 Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men,...let them come up:

10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down: for the press is full,...for their wickedness is great.

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

16 The Lord also shall...utter his voice from Jerusalem;...but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

17 So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

18 And it shall come to pass in that day, that...all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the Lord, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

19 Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.

20 But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.

21 For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the Lord dwelleth in Zion.

The Message: God will avenge the innocent and erect a holy Jerusalem which shall last from generation to generation.

Questions:

1. Where will God bring all nations?
2. What does God want the mighty men to do?
3. What should become of the plowshares and pruninghooks?
4. Why are multitudes in the valley of decision?
5. Who is the hope and strength of the children of Israel?
6. Will any stranger pass through holy Jerusalem?
7. From where will a fountain come forth?
8. Why will Egypt and Edom be a desolate wilderness?
9. How long will the Holy Jerusalem last?

Verse to Memorize

In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

Zechariah 13:1.

Let's



Talk . . .

This prophecy has three messages: one for the people of Joel's time, one for future events and one for an eternal truth that affects us today. It was written in the Hebrew language as a beautiful poem to comfort the distressed Jews and give them hope of better times. Joel describes how the heathens have abused the innocent and says that God will bring worse trouble upon the abusers.

It uses places and things to give a message, somewhat like a fable. Bringing all nations into the valley of Jehoshaphat, meant to the Jews that He would judge all men for their sins. It is true that a boy was given for a harlot and girls for drink, and those who did it were going to pay for the evil. Such child abuse is being done right here in America today, and those guilty ones will be judged by God and receive just punishment.

A large portion of this prophecy is calling righteous men from every nation to gather themselves to stage a battle against evil. God is saying, "If you are a farmer exchange your farm equipment for whatever is needed to war against evil."

The spiritual war described in this chapter is to take place after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, for in the chapter before He tells of pouring out His Spirit; then he says, "In those days, I will." It means, At the same time that I pour out My spirit, I will also do the things I will now mention." That was about 800 years after Joel prophesied.

After Christ came and poured out His Spirit on men, His Spirit worked awesomely. All nations were called to repent of their evil. The proud, the deceitful, the self-righteous, the thief, the filthy, were convicted. They could no more "give a boy for a harlot, nor sell a girl for a drink" and not give account to God for this evil. When God's Spirit was working, "Multitudes and multitudes were in the valley of decision." The harvest for souls was ready. The disciples went and taught all nations. They "put in the sickle."

In this time God refused Judah as His special place to work. He created a spiritual Judah, His church. This new Jerusalem is holy and no strangers shall pass through it. Only God's holy people are there. In this spiritual city is a "fountain open for sin and uncleanness." This fountain will satisfy all who come to Jesus. Joel said that it would water even the valley of Shittim.

Shittim was on the other side of the Jordan River from Judah. Any water from Judah would naturally flow into the river and none into Shittim valley. This is a symbol of how the fountain of Christ can do the impossible and save the vilest of sinners.

Joel ends his prophecy saying that countries enslaved to sin shall be a desolation; that is, they will not have God's blessing. But this new Judah and Jerusalem shall last forever, from generation to generation. Everyone who is saved is a part of this new Jerusalem.

—Charlotte Huskey

Clarke's Commentary on the Bible, p. 718-722. *Matthew Henry's Commentary*, Vol. IV, p. 1202-1223. Frances Blankenbaker, *What the Bible is all About for Young Explorers*, Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1986, p. 142-146, 178-180.

the name of the former apostle to the Slovaks who used to live in Nitra. There he preached the Word of God to the people. The Slovak farmers did not usually give their sons such names. Occasionally one of the Catholics did, but Ondra was of an evangelical (protestant) belief.

People get used to most anything; so the farmers became accustomed to the name Methodius. He was the only one with that name. As they were gathering the grain from the fields, they said one to another, "Ondra got hold of a good laborer!"

Ondra knew that better than anyone else. Method, as most people called him, did not drink; therefore, he would not be fighting with the other fellows. He did not smoke; therefore there was no danger of setting fire to the barn. During the week he worked from morning till night while Sundays he spent reading. He did not use bad language and always had a good attitude. When Dorka, Farmer Ondra's daughter, spoiled some food and her father was angry, he excused her and praised her instead.

All this pleased the Ondrasiks very much, and therefore, they asked him to stay as a full-time servant. He was to begin the day after Halloween, on "All Saints' Day."

"Very well," agreed Methodius, "I will stay with you and serve you, if you will take me for a term of two years, and permit me to fix myself a room in the attic above the workshop." The farmer wondered what kind of a living room that would be. "If you can make use of it, when I leave you can repay me my cost. If

it does not suit you, I shall take it apart and sell the materials."

Ondra agreed readily, and as soon as the rainy days came and Methodius could not work, he brought in some boards and spent only two days, besides doing the regular chores, to build up his room. When it was finished, he brought in the farmer and his daughter, Dorka, to see it. Ondra laughed.

"Just look what a fine room he will have, better than ours! And how will you manage in the winter-time?"

"I can sleep just as well in a cold room, and during the day when I am not working you will surely allow me to warm myself in your room."

From the remaining boards Methodius made himself a small table, a cupboard in the corner and a clothes closet. The bed and chair he bought ready made. The room was surprisingly cozy; especially when later he built in dormer windows, which gave him a beautiful view of the fields and meadows round about, the woods beyond and the sometimes beautiful sky. Now it was often obscured with the fog and clouds of the autumn.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1 Into the valley of Jehoshaphat (judgment). 2 To prepare for war. 3 The plowshares are to become swords; the pruninghooks, spears. 4. Because they must answer for their evil doings. 5 The Lord. 6. No. 7. Out of the house of God. 8. Because of the violence against the children of Judah. 9. From generation to generation.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 April 30, 1995

Only A Servant

(Continued from last week.)

The Petrash family were the nearest neighbors to the Ondrasiks. They had a son twenty years old, a good-looking and decent young man but he was crippled. Although they were a fairly well-to-do family, he could neither read nor write. He moved slowly about the house, attending here and there to little things, but was not able to go to school.

Mrs. Petrash loved her Sammy above all her children. His father was not very good to him; he was displeased that such a big son was unable to work in the fields, and would always be a burden.

If it had not been for the mother's love, the young fellow would have fared rather badly in his home. A dreary future lay before him. And, as usual, in such a case, those who are not able to move freely dream of achieving great things in this world. Sam also talked of great plans.

One Sunday afternoon he hobbled out to the orchard and was sitting all alone. The others had gone away—some to dance, some to the dramshop (the bar) and some to the meadows. As he was sitting thus, lost in thought, his head rested on the palms of his hands. Suddenly the servant,

Method, stopped before him, holding some kind of a book.

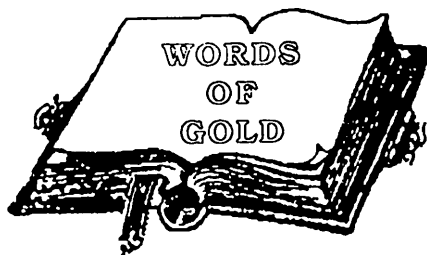
A mingled feeling of sadness and jealousy gripped Sam. "He is only a servant and knows how to read, and I am so ignorant." He barely responded to the friendly greeting.

"Since you are sitting here all alone, surely the time must be very long for you," said Methodius. "I brought you a book." Sam blushed deeply and frowned. "What good is a book to me, not knowing a single letter?"

"Forgive me, I did not know," kindly answered the servant. "If it's alright with you, I will stay and we shall read together."

This began the friendship of the new neighbors.

Leaning on the fence of the Petrash property was the hut of the Jew, David. He lived there all alone. He had two goats and spent the whole day taking care of them; and when he had no work with the goats, he was sorting old rags and whatever else the housewives brought to him. He traded them for threads and needles. In his younger days he followed this business in all the surrounding territory, but now went only as far as was necessary for the care of the goats and himself.



Be Careful To Obey

Jonah 1:1-17

1 Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

3 But Jonah rose up to flee...from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it....

4 But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

5 Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship;...and was fast asleep.

6 So the shipmaster came to him, and said...What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

7 And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

8 Then said they unto him, Tell us,...What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?

9 And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.

10 Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord,

because he had told them.

11 Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us?

12 And he said unto them,...cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm...for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea...was tempestuous against them.

14 Wherefore they cried unto the Lord, and said, We beseech thee, O Lord, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O Lord, hast done as it pleased thee.

15 So they...cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

16 Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows.

17 Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

The Message: All who dare to disobey God will suffer the consequences for their actions.

Questions:

1. What did God tell Jonah to do?
2. Why did Jonah flee to Tarshish?
3. What did God send?
4. What did the mariners do?
5. Where was Jonah while the tempest howled?
6. How did the mariners decide Jonah was the guilty man?
7. How did the men feel after the tempest was calm?
8. What did the men do after the storm quieted?
9. How did God save Jonah?

Verse to Memorize

...If thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord...to do all his commandments and his statutes...all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Deuteronomy 28:15.

Let's



Talk . . .

Jonah is a Bible story that many of you already know. But have you read the Bible book named for Jonah? Did you know that Jonah was one of the Old Testament prophets? His message contains the same three things that every prophecy does: A message for his own time, one for the future, and a message of eternal principles of right and wrong for all ages.

We learn many eternal principles from the story of Jonah. I am sure you can name several. This first chapter shows that God, who created the sea and the dry land, is very powerful. He is to be feared and obeyed, and those who dare to disobey will suffer.

Although Jonah is grouped with the minor prophets, he had a great job to do. Hosea and Joel prophesied to the descendants of Abraham and Jacob. These were people who knew God but were sometimes disobedient. Jonah was sent by God to people whose ancestors did not know God. He was sent to Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian empire. It was one of the most ancient cities of the world. The tenth chapter of Genesis says that Asshur built Nineveh a few generations after the flood. In Jonah's time, about 1400 years later, it had grown into a wicked but awesome city. Its walls were said to have been 100 feet high, and so wide that three chariots would run side by side upon them.

Archaeologists have discovered it had many temples and palaces. A system brought water into the city from the mountains miles away. The

largest palace had 71 rooms. All of this is evidence that it was a powerful city.

This powerful enemy had taken advantage of both Judah and Israel many times. Sometimes there was war between Assyria and these countries.

The last chapter of Jonah tells us that Nineveh had 120,000 people who did not know their right hand from their left. Bible teachers believe this means children too young to know the difference between their left hand and their right hand. Computing very moderately that would make at least 600,000 people. Think how frightened Jonah must have been to warn such a powerful enemy that they were doomed! Surely they would put him to death, or might torture him until he wished he could die.

Well, Jonah's fear so discouraged him that he took a boat to a city in Spain, about 3,000 miles west of Nineveh. Exhausted from the mental struggle, he fell asleep in the hole of the ship, and slept soundly during a terrible storm.

The sailors tried many things to combat the storm and keep the ship afloat. Finally seeing all was in vain, they sought God for an answer. The solution was to throw Jonah into the sea, and into the water went Jonah. God however, was watching out for him and had a great fish swimming alongside the ship. His great mouth was opened and into it Jonah fell! Now you have heard the story of Jonah again! —Charlotte Huskey

Clarke's Commentary on the Bible, p. 731-733. *Matthew Henry's Commentary*, Vol. IV, p. 1278-1280. Frances Blankenbaker, *What the Bible is all About for Young Explorers*, Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1986, p. 142-146, 188-191.

No one remembered ever having seen old David smile; though he was a kind, gentle man. Many were the wrongs he had to suffer, but he bore them all quietly.

It was commonly known that he had a wife in his youth, before he came to the village Hradova and that somebody took her away from him. Who knew whether it was true or not?

The neighbor on the upper side of Ondra's property was a shoemaker, by the name of Martin Podhajsky. This neighbor caused a great deal of annoyance because he was such a drunkard. Everybody preferred to keep out of his way. Only his mother and his children lived with him. His wife, when she could stand it no longer, preferred to work as a servant for strangers. She was sending clothing and shoes for the children, because otherwise they would have to freeze in winter. She also sent something to her mother-in-law for taking care of the children, and in the beginning, also sent shirts to her husband at times. Since he wasted all, she was disgusted and stopped sending them.

If it happened that Ondra met Martin on the way and he was drunk—he was never sober—he turned aside, so as not to meet him. Methodius once found him lying in a mud puddle dead drunk, just about to suffocate. His mouth, nose and ears were full of mud. It was a hard job to pull him out. Just then a Gypsy passed by, and Methodius asked him to help.

They carried the wretched drunkard into Ondra's workshop and laid him on the straw. Method warmed some water and washed him thoroughly—excuse the comparison—like a pig when it is already in the

trough. In the beginning the drunkard tried to resist. But after he sobered up, he stopped cursing; and when Methodius also cut his hair, shaved him and cut his long fingernails, he said, "Thank you."

From that time on, Method had a great influence over the drunkard and could do with him what he wanted. He gave him an order to make a pair of shoes and Martin had to promise that he would not drink until he had finished that pair of shoes. He kept his promise. To help him pass the long evenings, Methodius visited him and read to him from his mother's Bible and songbook, and out of newspapers which he took with him.

Since it was now November, the farmers did not have much to do in the evenings. Methodius read these newspapers to Ondra's family. Even Andrew, the cowboy, loved to listen. Ondra was very glad that his servant took a newspaper; he never thought of such a thing in his life and yet it was a good thing. It was a very good newspaper; it gave lessons about the Scriptures as well as information about things happening in the world.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. To cry against Nineveh, for their wickedness had come up before God. 2. He was fleeing from the presence of God. 3. A great wind and mighty tempest in the sea. 4. They cried to their gods and lightened the ship. 5. Asleep in the sides of the ship. 6. They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. 7. They feared God exceedingly. 8. They gave sacrifices to God and made promises to Him. 9. He prepared a great fish, which swallowed Jonah.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 May 7, 1995

Only A Servant

(Continued from last week.)

Gazdina, the sick wife of Ondrasik, praised their new servant, Methodius. "He takes care of me like a son. He persuaded Ondra to let him put up a stove in the kitchen. Dorka cooks in there now, and the steam and odors do not bother me. In order that my husband would not be angry about burning too much wood, Method brought two wagon loads of fuel from the forest all by himself. Other servants barely do what they are told to; this one does the needed things without being told."

One evening as they were reading, Martin brought the boots. They invited him to sit down, for he was not drunk. From that time Methodius did not go to Martin's to read, but Martin came to the Ondrasik's and they were all benefited by it.

Often in the twilight before supper, Methodius would go to the neighbor, Petrash. It soon was known among the women that he was teaching Sam to read. Once he asked if he could bring Sammy to their house.

"Why not?" agreed sick Gazdina. "It would be a good pastime for the poor fellow."

In this manner the long, cold winter evenings passed very beautifully. While Method read, the others stripped down the quill for featherbeds. An-

drew, the cowboy, did not run around with the other fellows anymore. Ondra also stopped going to the tavern. Instead he whittled wooden tools and taught Sam to do the same.

Once while they were thus sitting, Dorka mentioned that old David was ill and that it must be cold in his hut. "Who knows if he has fuel to make a fire?" That evening Methodius just finished the book they were reading, told them "good night" and went away.

"Just watch and see—he will go help that Jew," said Andrew.

"Sure he will," said Sam, "more than once I saw him bringing in water."

"Go, Andrew, and look through the window. See if he's there," said Dorka, "and see what he is doing." Andrew went and it was quite a while before he returned.

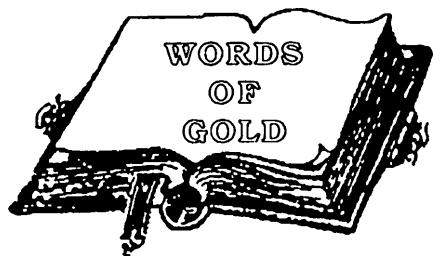
"Did you see him?" asked Sam.

"Yes I saw him. The Jew was lying on the bed. First Methodius cooked some kind of tea for him, and now he reads to him out of a book."

"But how does he read to him? David understands only German and that - that - Jewish language, Yiddish. He told me once when I asked him."

"What language he reads I do not know, only it is not Slovak. But the old man listens very attentively and does not take his eyes from him."

"He is a strange kind of a fellow. Nobody is too repulsive for him to



Receiving God's Blessings

Jonah 2:1-7, 9-10

1 Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly,

2 And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction....out of the belly of hell cried I,...

3 For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas;...all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

4 ...I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

5 The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.

6 I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord my God.

7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee....

9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed....

10 And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Jonah 3:1-10

1 And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

2 Arise, go unto Nineveh,...and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

3 So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh,...Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

6 For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

7 And he...published through Nineveh...saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water:

8 But...cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.

9 Who can tell if God will...turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

10 And God saw their works that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

The Message: God is full of compassion and mercy toward those who humbly repent and turn from sin.

(Look for "Questions" on page 3.)

Verse to Memorize

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Psalms 86:15.

Let's



Talk . . .

The awesome city of Nineveh grew rich through trade, and plunged deeper and deeper into sin. The Prophet Nahum said there was no end to its store of silver and gold. Torch-lighted chariots jostled against each other as they raced through its streets and horsemen's bright swords and glittering spears flashed in the sunlight. Families and nations were brought under the power of witchcraft. Lustful men and women were free to carry on unholy sex as the people of Sodom did. So wicked was this powerful city that it was called the bloody city. Prophet Nahum said the people stumbled over the corpses in the streets. Do you wonder that Jonah did not want to preach inside its walls?

The condition of Nineveh was not important to Jonah as he struggled among the seaweeds, the water and who knows what else inside the great fish's belly. "Oh, God help me out of here," he prayed. "I know I have believed in lying wonders and tried to escape your call. I praise you that I am still alive, and I promise to obey from now on, for I know that Your power alone can save me."

When Jonah was through repenting, the fish vomited and he was again on dry land.

Then the Lord said, "Arise, go unto Nineveh and preach the preaching that I bid thee."

This time Jonah made no excuses. He hurried away to Nineveh, and as soon as he entered the city, he began crying, "In forty days Nineveh shall be overthrown." The peasants

in the fields heard it, the merchants selling wares heard it, the women cooking and cleaning heard it, the school students listened as Jonah continued walking and crying, "Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown." Someone carried the news into the inner rooms of the big, big castle. The king trembled. He threw off his royal robe and put on the rough, camel-hair sackcloth and sat down in ashes. "I will not take food today," he told his servant. Then he and the nobles sent an announcement throughout the city that everyone should turn from evil and violence. They should cry to God, and no person or beast should eat or drink.

You know the rest of the story. God saw they turned from their evil, and He turned from the evil He planned to bring upon them and saved the great city of Nineveh, which was no longer wicked.

—Charlotte Huskey

Clarke's Commentary on the Bible, p. 731-733. *Matthew Henry's Commentary*, Vol. IV, p. 1278-1280. Frances Blankenbaker, *What the Bible is all About for Young Explorers*, Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1986, p. 142-146, 188-191.

Questions:

1. From where did Jonah pray?
2. How did God show His compassion to Jonah?
3. Can you name at least two eternal principles shown in this chapter?
4. What was God's second command to Jonah?
5. How many days would it take Jonah to walk across Nineveh?
6. What did Jonah say to the people?
7. How did the people react to Jonah's message?
8. Did they include the animals in the fast?
9. How did God react to their humble attitude?

help," sighed Martin, who had come for the usual evening's reading."

"Strange fellow indeed; but it is good that he came," added Gazdina. "Since he has been with us, we know how our children in America fare. Before we had not heard for months. None of us like to write; however, he writes everything just as I tell him. The children are very happy that they hear so much from us and they write to us also. Only when I told him to write about himself, he did not want to. 'I will not speak about myself,' he told me."

The winter passed so quickly that spring came before the people realized it. One Sunday Ondra and Methodius were standing at the end of the orchard. In front of them lay a swamp and beyond a hill, sparsely covered with grass and a few bushes.

"Listen, Boss," said Methodius, "this is a disgrace to your heirs. Why don't you buy this hill?"

"I? What good would it be to me?" The farmer wondered why his sensible servant would say something like that.

"Well, that hill could be leveled. Out of the clay you could make good bricks and with the balance fill in this swamp."

"I don't need any bricks and I also have sufficient land. What would I do with that mound?"

"I'll tell you what to do; you buy it for me, and I will then buy it from you. I like it very much. I have a few hundred dollars in cash and in my spare time, I will build me a cabin and will be your neighbor."

Ondra smiled at what he thought was a joke. But it was no joke; Methodius gave him no peace until Ondra bought it, and sold it to his servant. They made an agreement—as long as there was not much work he could use three hours a day, and if there was much work he would use only two hours a day to work his own land.

Well, when the planting was finished, Methodius said, "Listen Master,

for two or three weeks we shall not have much work to do; let Andrew and me work these weeks on my property. I will work for you a quarter of a year only for my food; will you agree to that?"

"Well I don't care. I will even help you myself because I would like to see just what you will achieve. But if you have some money, I believe you should buy a hut for yourself somewhere."

"But that would be only a hut and I shall have a house!" laughed Method. "You will see that my God, in whom I trust, will help me."

Even the neighbors came to see what Ondrasik's servant was doing. He hired Martin and his mother. Besides these, he and Andrew, and off and on, Dorka, and even the master himself, helped to dig on the hill and fill in the swamp. They dug down so much soil that the swamp was not only filled, but even raised above the level of the road and leveled off like a garden.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The fish's belly. 2. He heard his prayer, although Jonah had disobeyed. 3. Answers will vary. Here are a few: God is compassionate, or merciful. God can hear prayers from any place. God's mercy is obtained through repentance. People are under God's control at all times. God loves people of every nation and desires to help them. He loves the wicked as well as the good people. 4. Go to Nineveh and preach what I told you before you got into this mess. 5. Three days. 6. "In 40 days, Nineveh will be destroyed." 7. They believed God's Word. They stopped doing evil and began fasting and praying. 8. Yes. 9. God repented of the evil, that He had said that He would do unto them; and He did it not.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 May 14, 1995

Only A Servant

(Continued from last week.)

Methodius, Ondra's servant bought some dwarf fruit trees in a nursery and planted three nice rows in the swamp which he had filled with earth from the hill. Everyone in the village was surprised to see the trees growing in the summer. Afterwards they began to make bricks. When the urgent farm work called the others away, Martin stayed and worked until the time of harvest.

"Who could have told that Ondrasik's servant would give us such an opportunity to earn something!" said Martin's mother, blessing the young fellow. "God Himself sent him to us. Martin does not drink any more. It seems as if he is not the same old fellow—he is so quiet. He regrets his evil life and prays God to forgive his sins."

It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon; as usual none of the villagers were working. Many took the opportunity to walk in the fields to view the coming harvest. Farmer Petrash was putting on his hat to go out, when Methodius, the new servant of Ondra, entered.

Petrash was a proud farmer and was sorely displeased that his son must remain so ignorant; therefore Method's visits were very pleasing to

him. During the long winter months, Methodius had taught Sam to read and write fairly well. His pride caused him to appear unconcerned, but now was the time. He thought that the visit was intended for his son, but he wanted to talk with Methodius also. He offered him a seat and seated himself.

"Sammy will come soon," he said to excuse his son's absence. "He went out somewhere and you know it takes him a long time to return."

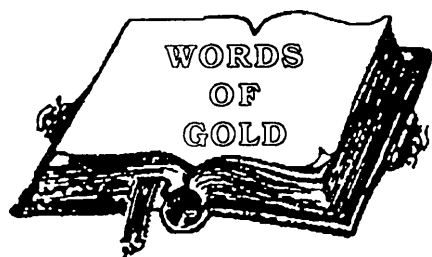
"It is better anyway," smiled the young man. "It pleased me very much to find you alone, and that he is not here. Let us discuss something that has been on my heart for a long time."

The farmer wondered what the young fellow wanted to discuss with him. "Well then, what do you want?"

"Have you considered what will become of your only son in the future?" The man shrugged his shoulders.

"A beggar!" he exclaimed dryly. "Can I help that? I shall leave him his portion of the farm, but what will he do with it? He will never be able to farm."

"No, he will not. I have also heard that you want to take a son-in-law into the house. As long as Sam has his mother and you, his life will be endurable, but after that, he will be



An Unholy Attitude

Jonah 3:10

10 And God saw their works that they [the people of Nineveh] turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

Jonah 4:1-11

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

2 And he prayed unto the Lord, and said, I pray thee, O Lord, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

3 Therefore now, O Lord, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

4 Then said the Lord, Doest thou well to be angry?

5 So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city.

6 And the Lord God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd.

7 But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered.

8 And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun

beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.

9 And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death.

10 Then said the Lord, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night:

11 And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

Luke 9:52-56

52 And...they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him.

53 And they did not receive him....

54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them....

The Message: We must ask God to help us keep good attitudes, for bad attitudes will get people into much trouble.

(Look for "Questions" on page 3.)

Verse to Memorize

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

Mark 7:21.

Let's



Talk . . .

It was the third day since Jonah entered Nineveh. He was weary of walking and preaching. The hot sun scorched his head, so he began rigging up a shade. When that was finished he sat down to watch God destroy this powerful enemy of his people.

Jonah's attitude was much different than that of Abraham. Years ago when God spoke of destroying wicked Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham pleaded, "Oh please don't, some righteous people would be destroyed with the wicked." As Jonah trod wearily through the streets of Nineveh, he surely saw the fasting multitudes wrapped in sackcloth and praying, and the hungry children crying for food. Sympathetic mothers hugged their sad children and explained, "Our terrible sins have come up before God and He plans to destroy us. We must not eat, nor drink, only plead that His anger will turn away." Jonah's pride kept him from having a caring attitude.

God looked with compassion and mercy on the Assyrians as they turned from their evil and prayed unto Him. At the same time God felt compassion on Jonah. He knew Jonah was struggling with hatred, pride and self-pity. The hot sun made things seem worse, so God let a large gourd plant grow rapidly up over Jonah's booth, making a much better shade.

Jonah was happy for the shade, but after enjoying it for only one day, a worm destroyed it. Then Jonah was angry and pitying himself said, "I wish I could die."

Then God asked, "Is getting angry the right thing to do?"

"Yes, it is," Jonah answered bitterly.

"If it's okay for you to be angry about a gourd dying which is only a few days old, then it is fine for me to spare Nineveh, especially the thousands of innocent children."

The Bible does not tell us if Jonah's attitude changed, but I think it did. Jonah had a bad attitude when God first called him to preach to Nineveh. Many of the people in his time felt proud, believing that God only communicated with people in Judah or Israel. Because of this belief, Jonah thought if he got into a heathen country, God would not again molest him with the command to go to Nineveh. He did not hope that the people of Nineveh would repent, for he did not love them. Therefore he was disappointed and sat down to pout.

(In the books of Daniel and Ezekiel God appeared to people in other nations.)
—Charlotte Huskey

Clarke's Commentary on the Bible, p. 731-733. *Matthew Henry's Commentary*, Vol. IV, p. 1278-1280. Frances Blankenbaker, *What the Bible is all About for Young Explorers*, Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1986, p. 142-146, 188-191.

Questions:

1. Why was Jonah angry?
2. What kind of attitude did Jonah show?
3. What was his complaint to God?
4. His desire to die showed what kind of attitude?
5. What kind of attitude was shown by his gladness for the gourd?
6. Did Jonah justify his bad attitudes?
7. What kind of attitude did God show in sparing Nineveh?
8. How many people were spared?
9. What is the attitude of Jesus toward all men?

left to the good and bad graces of the others. They may not treat him well; and he is your firstborn son, your only son."

"Why do you tell me that?" the farmer leaned his head in the palms of both hands. "Do you think it does not torment me? Why is he in this world?"

"He did not ask to come into the world!" answered Methodius seriously. "A father has the least right to ask that. But since God gave him life, He surely has some kind of work for him on this earth. But you also gave it to him; therefore it is your duty to help him do some work."

"It is easy to talk since you are healthy; but what shall I do with him?"

"If you want to do something for your son, I would like to give some advice."

"Gladly; just tell me." The man gripped the hand of the young fellow in his own.

"You live here on the highway. All the people from the surrounding territory pass by. Build an addition on yonder room for him and let him start a small store. He can sell fat, flour, and the like. You go often to the city anyway; thus you can easily bring for him what he may need. Investing a few hundred dollars in this business, you will secure a future for your son. As long as you live, you can give him a home; in the meantime he will become independent. Being a handsome lad and not otherwise sickly, some decent girl will gladly take him when she knows that he will be able to support her.

"By the help of God I have already taught him to read," continued Methodius while the farmer shook his head in surprise. "I have already spoken to old David; he is willing to teach Sam how to keep accounts and

to sell. You know that nobody can match a Jew in business. Consider this plan without letting Sam know. He's coming now, I shall take him into the woods for a walk."

Before the farmer realized it, he was alone in the room and had forgotten what he was going to say to the servant. Through the window he saw how Methodius put his arm around Sammy and took him through the orchard until they disappeared from sight.

"How happily they talk together," he mused. "Now what was it he told me? How he does speak! Just like a book! Who would have thought of anything like it? What wondrous things the young man thinks of, like filling up the swamp. Sammy says that he must have travelled over much of the world and had great experience. But he is right. I, myself, would be glad if something could be made out of my boy."

The farmer hunted up his wife and asked her to go with him to the fields. They saw very little of the crops. They talked about the plan from all angles. She fairly grew young in the hope that here was a chance that her darling might get on in the world after all.

(To be continued next week.)

[Answers: 1. Because God did not overthrow Nineveh. 2. He showed an attitude of hatred toward Nineveh. 3. "I knew You would do this, that is why I fled to Tarshish." 4. It showed he was self-centred and proud. 5. It showed he was only concerned for his own comfort. 6. Yes. 7. He showed a caring, loving, merciful attitude. 8. 120,000 children, maybe 600,000 in all. 9. He has a helping attitude.]

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 May 21, 1995

Only A Servant

(Continued from last week.)

Sam and Methodius sat in the nearby oak grove, surrounded by a group of children. Methodius was sharing with them a lively story.

He was already known by all the children in the village. As the saying goes, children and dogs soon find out who is their friend and follow him. He had dug out a hole in the creek behind his property so they could swim there. He often helped the shepherd boys out of trouble, and he also dammed up the creek so the children had a better chance to catch fish. In the spring when he had a bit of time in the evening, he cut willow rods and made whistles out of them. Out of the elderberry branches he made squirt pipes and guns. Now he was making crickets out of nut shells; he always had his pockets full of things and divided them among the youngsters who were always ready to receive gifts. They followed him everywhere, like puppies, through the village or through the fields. You could always hear the call, "Uncle Method! Uncle Method!"

Often when Ondra's wife gave him a lunch of bread and cheese to take to the fields, he would divide it with the poor geese herder. The chil-

dren had a royal time when they could sit at his feet and listen. It seemed to the children that no one else in the world could tell such stories as Uncle Method. That was the common feeling among them.

The goats and cows were feeding in a nearby meadow, tied to posts, and the children, quiet as mice, listened even now to a story. One of the boys had found a dead swallow.

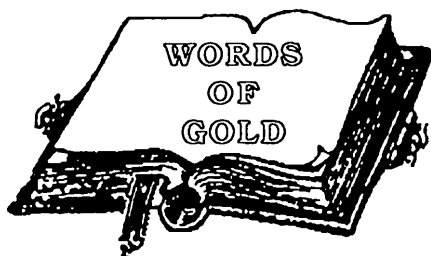
"If you like, I will tell you something about swallows," said Uncle Method, and the children cried with joy, "Yes, yes, about swallows!"

"Listen, I will tell you: *How The Swallows Returned Home.*

"Far, far away, where at Christmastime the trees bloom and the fruits ripen, where there is much beauty and such flowers as we do not dream of—but also many snakes, that grip a man in horror—there in far away Africa, the swallows had a great gathering and council.

"It was a beautiful gathering. All the swallows had previously washed in the dew and brushed up their coats like velvet, black eyes, rosy little vests, white breasts and skirts with a long train—like some great ladies.

"They flew to this gathering from far and wide, by the hundreds, yes,



Punishment For The Disobedient

Amos 1:1-15

1 The words of Amos, who was among the herdmen of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

2 And he said, The Lord will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither.

3 Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have threshed Gilead with threshing instruments of iron:

4 But I will send a fire into the house of Hazael, which shall devour the palaces of Ben-hadad.

5 I will break also the bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the plain of Aven, and him that holdeth the sceptre from the house of Eden: and the people of Syria shall go into captivity unto Kir, saith the Lord.

6 Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they carried away captive the whole captivity, to deliver them up to Edom:

7 But I will send a fire on the wall of Gaza, which shall devour the palaces thereof:

8 And I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, and him that holdeth the sceptre from Ashkelon, and I will turn mine hand against Ekron: and

the remnant of the Philistines shall perish, saith the Lord God.

9 Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Tyrus, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, and remembered not the brotherly covenant:

10 But I will send a fire on the wall of Tyrus, which shall devour the palaces thereof.

11 Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he did pursue his brother with the sword, and did cast off all pity, and his anger did tear perpetually, and he kept his wrath for ever:

12 But I will send a fire upon Teman, which shall devour the palaces of Bozrah.

13 Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border:

14 But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour the palaces thereof, with shouting in the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind:

15 And their king shall go into captivity, he and his princes together, saith the Lord.

The Message: Those who inflict suffering on others, will themselves receive suffering.

(Look for "Questions" on page 3.)

Verse to Memorize

Whoso sheddeth man's blood,
by man shall his blood be
shed: for in the image of God
made he man.

Genesis 9:6.

Let's



Talk . . .

Amos came from the little town of Tekoa, south of Jerusalem, in the country of Judah. There is no good proof, however, that he was a native of this place. It is believed that Amos was born in Israel, and his mission from God was mainly to them. But early in his ministry, he prophesied at Bethel against the sins of Israel's people. His prophecies angered Amaziah, the high priest, so he accused Amos before King Jeroboam, and got Amos sent out of the country.

After this trouble Amos lived in Judah. He continued, however, to prophesy, both to Israel and Judah, and many other nations, but most of his prophecies were directed to Israel.

This first chapter tells about things that will happen in Damascus, in the Philistines' cities, in Tyrus, in Edom, and to the Ammonites. It does not mention Israel's sins. Hazael murdered Ben-hadad and took his throne. Amos said God would send a fire on his house and devour the palaces. Gaza was the place where blind Samson, while in prison, ran machinery for a mill. They too were to suffer.

Amos prophesied of many things. Later these things happened. His communication with God gave him assurance and boldness. Although he suffered much persecution, he did not draw back nor run from his duty as Jonah did. The

people in his time were like people today. They did not want to hear that punishment was coming to them because of their sins, but it did, and it will today.

We learn from this lesson that God's Word is true and cannot be broken. What He speaks will always happen, and those who cause others to suffer, will themselves also suffer. There is also another principle which is very important. It is that God chooses whom He will to do His work. He says that the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the wisdom of men is foolishness to God. Often He chooses humble, uneducated persons. Amos and King David were shepherds. Elisha and Gideon were plowing when God called them. Samuel was a small child. Each of us have a job to do for God. He will qualify for what ever job He gives, just as He did Amos, the herdsman.

—Charlotte Huskey

Clarke's Commentary on the Bible, p. 723-724. *Matthew Henry's Commentary*, Vol. IV, p. 1224-1228. Frances Blankenbaker, *What the Bible is all About for Young Explorers*, Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1986, p. 142-146, 181-184.

Questions:

1. What was Amos' occupation?
2. Who was king of Judah?
3. Who was king of Israel?
4. Why was Damascus to be punished?
5. What would happen to the people of Syria?
6. Why was Tyrus to be punished?
7. For what was Edom to suffer?
8. What wickedness had the Ammonites done?
9. How would the palace in Rabbah be destroyed?

by the thousands. As soon as they were all there, the meeting opened. They began with song and prayer. Whoever will not believe that the swallows pray, just let him ask them, and let him look it up in the Word of God. I know for sure that they pray and obey God, their Maker.

"Well then, they began with song and prayer. When all were quiet, they were told that since it was time to leave Africa and return to their old home, they would now have a consultation as to what day and hour the expedition should start, and that exact laws and directions would be given about how they should behave on the way.

"First of all, with one accord, the swallows selected elders and managers from among all, and then they were quiet again to listen to them.

"Tomorrow when people say it is the first of the month, all of you must come to the yearly place of gathering. All who are late, must stay in Africa.

"First we shall fly over beautiful landscapes till we come to the great water—that water is called The Sea. Let all keep exactly the place assigned to them, because all that will not keep together, will not be safe from birds of prey. Those robbers are afraid of thousands of swallows, but one or two are easily scooped up.

"While we are still flying over the beautiful countries, you must obediently watch every command and often take long rests together. And if there are ever so many flies all around you, you must not overeat, and become fat and be too heavy.

"At the seashore we shall have another meeting—there we shall commend ourselves into the hands of God, because there will begin the dangerous part of the trip. For a long time you will see under you only

water—nothing but water—and you must not stop flying, because there will be no place to sit down.

"It is all arranged by our Maker. Only those swallows who pray much and obey the laws given us by God will be able to fly across the sea. Let us pray now also."

"Well then they prayed, sang and the gathering ended.

"On the following day the shores of a great and beautiful river were black, because of all the swallows. First came hundreds, then thousands, then five thousand, then ten thousand, then a hundred thousand, and then there were so many that no man could count them. It looked like some army camp. Among these crowds flew gray swallows, keeping order—they were named the leaders. There were also white swallows, so white and clean, that it seemed as if no earthly dust came upon them. They flew among the divided groups and admonished them to pray and obey the Holy Creator, the living God.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. He was a herdsman. 2. Uzziah. 3. Jeroboam. 4. Because they threshed Gilead using instruments of iron. 5. They would go into captivity unto Kir. 6. Because he remembered not the brotherly covenant, but delivered up the whole captivity of Edom. 7. Because he pursued his brother with a sword and did cast off all pity, and he kept his anger forever. 8. Because they ripped up the women with child. 9. By fire.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 May 28, 1995

Only A Servant

(Continued from last week.)

Sam Petrash and Methodius sat in the oak grove on the Petrash farm. They were surrounded by the village children listening to Methodius continuing his story, *How the Swallows Returned Home*.

"Among the swallows at the swallow convention were boys and girls also. The boys played with each other, measuring their wings to see who had the longest and would be able to fly farthest. They calculated that to fly over the sea was nothing; they had no idea of the extent of the sea. They got acquainted with each other and even fought together, presumably to know how to fight the robbers.

"Don't do that," admonished an old gray leader. 'It is not for us to fight; you just have to ask God's protection, believe and fly. If you fight with every bird of prey, you will never reach the goal.'

"The girls whispered among themselves about the kind of dress each had, which one had the smoothest combed head, whitest breast and longest skirt train.

"A white swallow flew among them and said gravely, 'You better think of God and the long trip ahead of you. Beauty will not keep you from perish-

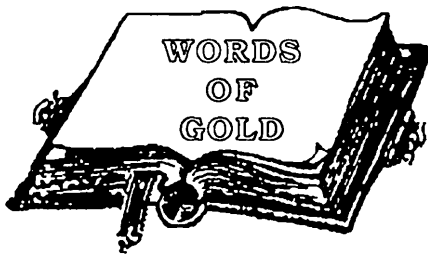
ing, and if any of you fall into the sea, she will perish with all her beauty.'

"The old swallows flying around looked over their particular groups of boys and girls, doing for all what was necessary. When that was finished, they had a prayer, a song and then 'Good-bye Africal' sounded from thousands and thousands of throats.

"The sun was darkened by the black cloud that rose from the shore. The people stopped working and looking at the cloud said, 'The swallows are returning home.'

"How lovely was that trip over the beautiful countryside going to the sea. The many new acquaintances which the swallows made amongst themselves added to the interest of the trip. At the command of the leaders they had to rest often and long; therefore, almost none of the swallows felt tired. Finally they came within view of the sea. Again the command to rest! Many would rather have gone ahead at once, but the leaders would not let them; they needed the rest for their wings and they needed strengthening in united prayer.

"The leaders looked over the whole assembly. Anyone that had only a small scratch or some feathers damaged, or was in any way sickly was to



The King Over Amos

I Kings 12:28-29

28 ...The king...made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel,....

29 And he put one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.

I Kings 13:1-10, 33-34

1 And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the Lord unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

2 And he cried,...O altar, altar, thus saith the Lord; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

3 ...This is the sign which the Lord hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent [torn], and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out.

4 And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God,...that he put forth his hand..., saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.

5 The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the Lord.

6 And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the Lord thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored....And the man of God besought the Lord, and the king's hand

was restored him again, and became as it was before.

7 And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me,...and I will give thee a reward.

8 And the man of God said..., If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not...eat bread nor drink water in this place:

9 For so was it charged me by the word of the Lord, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.

10 So he...returned not by the way that he came to Bethel.

33 After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way....

34 And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it from off the face of the earth.

The Message: God showed love and mercy to King Jeroboam, but he continued on in sin and his family was destroyed.

Questions:

1. What was the king's name?
2. From where did the man of God come?
3. What was worshipped at the altar in Bethel?
4. What was to be burned on this altar by Josiah?
5. What sign was to prove his words were from God?
6. What happened to the king when he tried to catch the prophet?
7. When did the altar break?
8. Did God heal King Jeroboam's hand?
9. What happened to Jeroboam because he continued in sin?

Verse to Memorize

**He, that being often reprov'd
hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly
be destroyed, and that
without remedy.**

Proverbs 29:1.

Let's



Talk . . .

The land in Judah and Israel was very fertile and the climate moderately warm so crops grew well and cattle thrived on the rich pastures. Many were rich and proud and did not feel their need of God.

The people were all from Jacob's family and for years had enjoyed religious feast days in Jerusalem.

Israel's king, Jeroboam, feared his subjects would again join the country of Judah if they continued worshipping in Jerusalem. So he organized a system of worship using the Golden Calf as an idol. The system was very much like that in Jerusalem. There were prophets, priests and an altar for sacrificing animals to God. The first two centers of worship were at Dan and Bethel.

In Judah lived a holy man whom God sent to cry against this evil way of worshipping. God had said, *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

The prophet reproved the king and priest for disobeying God. Then he said that someday men would be sacrificed on that same altar. For proof that the message was from God, he said the altar would be torn apart and the ashes spilled. King Jeroboam was at the altar and heard the accusation. He did not believe that what he thought to be just a small variation from the truth would

become as corrupted as it did, but God knew that disobeying one commandment is just the beginning of a downward plunge.

King Jeroboam reached out to harm the man of God and his arm stayed in the outstretched position. He jerked, pulled and tugged his arm, but it stayed outstretched and as stiff as a board. While he was struggling with the stiff arm, suddenly the stone altar tore apart and the hot ashes tumbled to the earth.

Then the king's attitude toward the man of God changed. He began begging for prayer. God answered prayer and the arm became normal again.

The king, however, did not have a change of heart toward God, so he continued disobeying God's commandments until it was accounted as sin. One by one all his family died; not one child, grandchild, or great-grandchild lived. This was the punishment for those who worshipped images, for God had said, *I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.*

We are studying about the minor prophets who prophesied in Israel and Judah. Jeroboam was king of Israel when Amos prophesied at Bethel. He was accused by the high priest, and King Jeroboam sent him out of the country. The man of God in our story today was not Amos. The next lesson will show that. It will also help us understand the corruption in the proud, rich, religious leaders of Israel.

—Charlotte Huskey

Clarke's Commentary on the Bible, p. 347.

confess it, and the assembly would wait for him until he became quite well. Some of them acknowledged it, but others did not ascribe great importance to a little scratch, thinking it would heal on the way. Others—the disobedient ones—kept gulping and gulping the many flies that were buzzing around. The white swallows admonished, "Only those who know how to deny themselves and control their desires will be able to fly over the sea." They let the advice in by one ear and out by the other. Those grew so fat in the few days that the assembly rested by the sea, that they slumbered wherever they sat down. When they did not slumber, they just chased after the flies again. They also slumbered during the great prayer meeting, and when they all prayed, one could not hear their voice and even when they sang with the others, their thoughts were on the flies.

"Now then, in the name of our Creator, let us go!" sounded through the whole assembly.

"Good-bye Africa! Good-bye Africa!" sounded from thousands of throats. 'Over the sea, over the sea, we are going home!' and the echo sounded: 'Home! Home!'

"Some young swallows back on the river bank were saying, 'Never mind the sea.' Now they began to understand how great the sea was—how great! For a long time they flew and nothing was to be seen but water, water, water—their wings were weary, their heads drooping with faintness, and their eyes looked out longingly for a place of rest; but the leaders just commanded: 'Fly on, fly on!'

"Those that on the shore did not take care of their bruises and damaged wings, fell one after the other into the water. If one of the healthy

ones fell, the water carried her for a while, and then, with renewed strength, she rose again.

"But the disobedient ones could not rise again, so drowned and perished.

"Some that fattened themselves on the flies began to lose speed, one after the other, first just a little, then more and more as their strength was leaving them. 'Wait for us! Wait for us!' they cried and begged—but in vain!

"The command of the leaders was: 'Fly on, fly on!' It was the command of God. For God Himself had given each obedient swallow sufficient strength to fly over the sea, but with each moment, that strength diminished, therefore one must not drag.

"Those poor disobedient swallows, who did not control their fleshly desires, were now too heavy to keep on flying. The result of their greediness was, that their weight drew them toward the sea. Suddenly there came also a storm, wind and rain. Hundreds and hundreds of swallows fell into the sea. But those that were obedient and knew how to pray, were renewed with courage and rose after the storm. Of the disobedient ones not a single one rose up again. For their disobedience they died in those terrible depths. They would not see their home nests again. Never, never would they come home!

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Jeroboam. 2. From Judah. 3. The Golden Calf. 4. The bones of the priest. 5. The altar was to break open. 6. His hand became stiff and he could not bring it back. 7. While Jeroboam's hand was stretched out stiffly. 8. Yes. 9. His house (family) was cut off the face of the earth.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 June 4, 1995

Only A Servant

(Continued from last week.)

"For many days the migrating swallows had been flying over the great sea. Just when their tired wings could flap no longer, they saw a ship in the distance. They lighted on it wherever they could find a place. Oh that was joy! The sailors of the ship did not like it very much. But the passengers, especially the children, were very happy. When one group had rested on the ship, others sat down, and then others. In this way they were all refreshed.

"Another storm pelted the birds, and others fell to their death. It seemed as though the swallows were crying. 'It is impossible, we shall all perish!'

"We shall not perish!" shouted the white leaders. 'Just believe, obey, and God will strengthen us!'

"Land, land!" cried the first thousands. The whole company cheered. The birds gathered their remaining strength with the exception of those who in the last moment lost confidence in God's sustaining grace. Their strength left and they fell and perished at the very shores of Europe. The remaining swallows all reached land safely and spread themselves for a long, peaceful rest.

"That is how the swallows returned home," ended Method. "And how will

you reach home someday? Or do you think that you are already home, that you will live here forever?"

"We will not," said the children thoughtfully, "we have to die."

"And where do we go then?"

"To heaven!" called others.

"Yes, heaven is our true home. But will each one get to heaven? What did those swallows do on the way?"

"They prayed, they obeyed," said one little fellow, "and did not eat too many flies."

"Well, you see, if you want to go to heaven, you also have to obey what the Lord says, and must not do that which He hath forbidden. Now repeat the verse which I taught you."

"The Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost."

"Do you still remember who is this Son of man?"

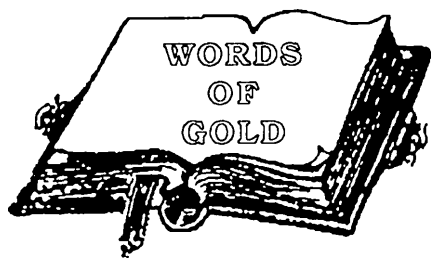
"The Lord Jesus Christ!" cried the children.

"And whom did He come to seek?"

"All of us."

"Yes, for us. He came and died on the cross for your and my sins, and He is seeking us. Whoever believes on Him, and follows Him, does not have to die for his sins. He needs only to obey, just like those swallows. The Lord Jesus will lead him to His home in heaven; there will be great joy.

"But now it is time for you to take care of your cattle. Do not forget, be



A Deceitful Prophet

I Kings 13:11-12, 14-26, 28-29

11 Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king....

12-14 And their father...went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am.

15 Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread.

16-17 And he said, I may not...For it was said to me by the word of the Lord, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there....

18 He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me...saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him.

19 So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water.

20 And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the Lord came unto the prophet that brought him back:

21 And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed...

22 But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place,...thy carcase [dead body] shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.

23 ...After he had eaten...he saddled for him the ass [donkey]...

24 And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him:...

25 And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcase cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcase: and they came and told it in the city....

26 And when the prophet...heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the Lord:...

28 And he went and found his carcase....and the ass and the lion standing by the carcase: the lion had not eaten the carcase, nor torn the ass.

29 And the prophet took up the carcase of the man of God,...and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him.

The Message: Be careful to not let other "Christians" influence you to disobey God.

Questions:

1. Where did the old prophet live?
2. What did the prophet say that God had told him?
3. How did the old prophet convince the prophet from Judah?
4. What was to be the punishment for disobeying?
5. What did the old prophet give to the prophet from Judah?
6. Where did he find the donkey?
7. What proved his death was not an accident?
8. Where was the body of the prophet found?
9. Where was the prophet from Judah buried?

Verse to Memorize

Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous,...He that committeth sin is of the devil:

I John 3:7-8.

Let's



Talk . . .

The last lesson told about the prophet from Judah pronouncing a curse against the altar of the Golden Calf in Bethel. When the angry king reached out to capture the prophet, God caused his hand to stiffen and he could not move it. After the prophet asked God to loosen his hand, the king wanted the prophet to come to the palace and eat with him.

"I cannot," the prophet answered, "for God said I must not eat nor drink in this place."

Unknown to the prophet some boys were watching and listening to all that was said. They hurried home to tell their father. He was also a prophet.

I must meet this man, thought the Bethel prophet, so he had the boys saddle his donkey and he started out to find him.

He found the prophet from Judah resting under an oak tree, and invited him home for food. "God has said I cannot eat or drink in this city," he told him.

But the old prophet persuaded the prophet from Judah that an angel showed him it was all right. The prophet from Judah went along with the idea and was cut off for his disobedience.

One of the basic eternal truths that we find in the Bible is that everyone must answer individually for his or her actions. No one can blame another for their sins

and disobedience. Some children and young people seem to think that being unsaved makes them not as responsible for sins. Some excuse themselves saying, "I am not saved."

Those who are saved do have more understanding. They should be better examples. However, all who disobey God will suffer for their disobedience. God ordained a law to cover ignorance, but there is nothing to excuse willful disobedience. Numbers 15:28, 30 reads: *And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly,...and it shall be forgiven him. But the soul that doeth aught presumptuously [willfully],...that soul shall be cut off from among his people.*

The prophet from Judah told both the king and the Bethel prophet that God said, "Do not eat and drink in this place." He let the Bethel prophet influence him to willfully sin, and he was cut off.

The Bethel prophet was ungodly. The king was against the truth, and the high priest that accused Amos did not want to hear the truth. By this we see that the rulers and religious leaders were both corrupt. Amos fled the country but God sent him back again and again to prophesy to these ungodly people. God also showed signs to prove that the prophecies were really from God, but the sinful people turned a deaf ear.

—Charlotte Huskey

Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

Proverbs 4:14.

obedient like the swallows and you will make it home."

The children scattered over the meadows to look after their animals, and Method and crippled Sam sat on the ground thinking.

After thinking a while, Sam said, "Listen Method, that story is just the picture of our journey to heaven, and we in this village of Hradova have not gotten started yet."

"Do you think so, and why?"

"Well, those swallows got ready to go and began everything with prayer; but we live just as if we were to live here, forever, and yet we have a cemetery in the village. We don't start anything with prayer."

"And why don't you? Isn't God good? Isn't He worthy to be praised? Isn't He so mighty that you could ask Him for anything?"

"Sammy, those swallows had prayer meeting before they started home. It would be right for your whole village to come together in prayer and ask God to take you safely over the *great sea of life* to the shores of eternal salvation. Well, since they will not do it all at once, why don't we begin and do it here, just now?"

"Just now? Right here? Perhaps that should be done in the church!"

"We are now in a church, a church built by God. He is in every place, don't you think so?"

"That is true," Sam answered, "but I don't know how to pray."

"Do you want the birds to put you to shame? The swallows know how to tell their Creator what they need, why not you? He is like a father, a good father. Thank Him for what He has given you today. Ask His forgiveness because you have not been thinking about Him, and ask Him to help you from this day to live so that you may someday go Home."

It was quite late that evening when the two friends returned.

Sam was so deep in thought, he did not notice how happy his parents were and how kind they were to him. He noticed above the gateway a nest and the birds flying back and forth. "Thus the swallows came home. Thus the swallows came home," kept sounding in his mind.

"Oh," he sighed from the depth of his soul, "They have been here every year and I did not know that the Lord was sending them to me as a living reminder that I will take a trip someday and should prepare for it."

"Read the Word of God in your home and you will find Christ. He will save you and teach you how you can fly all the way Home, by the help of His Spirit!" Method had said as they parted.

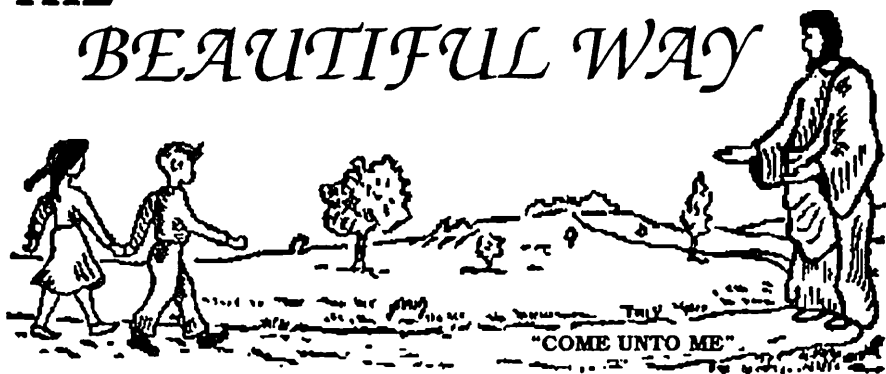
Sam wanted to obey and read God's Word, but only for himself because he did not know yet how to read very well. Later, when he had learned to read better, others would listen to him also.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. In Bethel. 2. To eat no bread nor drink water there. 3. By saying he was also a prophet and an angel had said to bring him back that he might eat bread and drink water. 4. He would die before reaching his family, so his body would not be buried with them. 5. His donkey. 6. Beside the road. 7. The donkey and the lion guarded the dead prophet. Usually the donkey would have run when the lion attacked the prophet; the lion would have dragged away his prey when people passed on the road. He did not eat either the donkey or the man. 8. Beside the road. 9. In Bethel.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 June 11, 1995

Only A Servant

(Continued from last week.)

In front of his house, under the spreading nut tree, sat the Jew, old David, and with thin fingers he crumbled bread for his tame chickens. The moon shone on the uncovered head of the lonely man—a man who had no relatives in the whole world.

He had his little house, a small orchard beside it, and the bench under the nut tree was his. This was not his homeland. He was a stranger among strangers, with whom he could never speak in his native language. He grew old in this village but had not become a part of the community. There was nothing to bind him. The people got used to him and he got used to the people, but the acquaintance never brought any bonds of love.

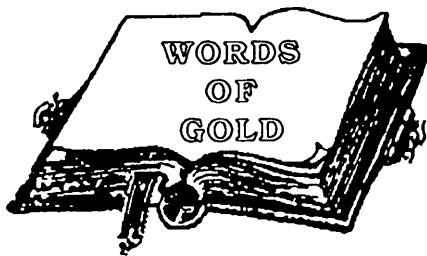
In the winter when he was sick, the neighbors knew that he was ill but did not come to see him. Who would be going to a Jew? Only one went; only one and he was going faithfully and taking care of him. He did not shun him.

The aged Jew had to think of this one continually; he was thinking of him now. To this aged man, near the grave, something unexpected hap-

pened. His heart, which he considered buried long ago, began to be warmed up in love to this strange young fellow, and that young fellow was a Christian.

David had suffered many snubs among the (so-called) Christians, so he watched with the suspicion of a real Jew at the uncommon behavior of the stranger, who so suddenly appeared as when a sunbeam suddenly shines out from behind a cloud.

None of the neighbors had yet noticed a difference between themselves and Method, but David saw it long ago. He saw it from the moment the strange young man brought him water from the well the first time and sat down in the miserable kitchen and chatted so kindly as if he loved old David. Yes, David, whom nobody loved, and whom even the nearest ones forsook. Suspiciously the old man watched the young fellow to see if he would not do the sins that other "Christians" did. His search was useless; up to this day he found no spot in Method's actions. He did not drink, he did not curse, he knew God's commands given to the Jews on Mount Sinai and obeyed them day by day. The Jew noticed that this young Christian loved God, and that he really loved people.



Hazael's Sin

Amos 1:4

4 But I will send a fire into the house of Hazael, which shall devour the palaces of Ben-hadad.

II Kings 8:7-15

7 And Elisha came to Damascus; and Ben-hadad the king of Syria was sick; and it was told him, saying, The man of God is come hither.

8 And the king said unto Hazael, Take a present in thine hand, and go, meet the man of God, and inquire of the Lord by him, saying, Shall I recover of this disease?

9 So Hazael went to meet him, and took a present with him, even of every good thing of Damascus, forty camels' burden, and came and stood before him, and said, Thy son Ben-hadad king of Syria hath sent me to thee, saying, Shall I recover of this disease?

10 And Elisha said unto him, Go, say unto him, Thou mayest certainly recover: howbeit the Lord hath shewed me that he shall surely die.

11 And he settled his countenance stedfastly [Hazael fixed his gaze], until he was ashamed: and the man of God wept.

12 And Hazael said, Why weepeth my lord? And he answered, Because I know the evil that thou wilt do unto the children of Israel: their strong holds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children, and rip up their women with child.

13 And Hazael said, But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this thing? And Elisha answered, The Lord hath shewed me that thou shalt be king over Syria.

14 So he departed from Elisha, and came to his master; who said to him, What said Elisha to thee? And he answered, He told me that thou shouldest surely recover.

15 And it came to pass on the morrow, that he [Hazael] took a thick cloth, and dipped it in water, and spread it on his face, so that he died: and Hazael reigned in his stead.

II King 12:17-18

17 Then Hazael king of Syria went up, and fought against Gath, and took it: and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem.

18 And Jehoash king of Judah took all the hallowed things...and all the gold that was found in the treasures of the house of the Lord, and in the king's house, and sent it to Hazael king of Syria: and he [Hazael] went away from Jerusalem.

II Kings 13:22

22 But Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz.

The Message: God is just, and the unjust will be visited by God for their transgressions.

Questions:

1. Where did this story take place?
2. Who was king of Syria?
3. What did he want to know?
4. From whom did the king seek advice?
5. Why did Elisha cry?
6. What would Hazael do to Israel?
7. How did Hazael become king?
8. What did Judah's king give to get Hazael to leave Jerusalem?
9. Did Hazael oppress the people of God?

Verse to Memorize

To me [God] belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand...

Deuteronomy 32:35.

Let's



Talk . . .

Amos prophesied that God would punish the city of Damascus and King Hazael. We shall read today of the sins of Hazael. It may help us to understand that although a punishment from God may seem hard, it is due and God is just in His actions.

Elisha, the man of God, happened to be in Damascus when King Ben-hadad was very sick. Ben-hadad knew that Elisha could talk with God, so calling a trusted man to his side, he said, "Take a present and go meet with the man of God. Ask him to inquire of the Lord if I shall recover from this disease."

Hazael began gathering some of every good thing in Damascus and packing it into camels bags. When he was finished, forty camels were needed to carry it! These he gave to Elisha.

Standing reverently before Elisha he said, "Thy son, Ben-hadad, king of Syria, sent me to ask if he would recover from his disease."

Elisha answered, "Go tell him that he shall die, but not from his disease."

This answer struck a secret in Hazael's heart. His countenance settled and he fixed his eyes on Elisha. As if unable to control himself, he stared until he was ashamed. At last Elisha began crying and the spell was broken.

"Why are you crying?" Hazael asked.

"Because I know you will set fire to Israel's forts, kill their young war-

riors, dash their children and rip up the women."

"Am I a dog, that I would do such things?" Hazael asked.

Elisha calmly answered, "God has showed me that you will become king of Syria, and that is what you will do during your reign."

Hazael returned to the palace and told King Ben-hadad that Elisha said he would recover.

The very next day, when Hazael went in unto the king, he dipped a heavy cloth in water and smothered Ben-hadad to death. The other servants heard no sound for help, nor did they see the struggle, so why should they not think that the king had died from his disease.

Hazael took the kingdom, and did just as Elisha had said he would do. Soon he began destroying city after city in the land of Israel. Then he headed for Jerusalem to capture it. Judah's king, Jehoshaphat, paid him off with the gold and hallowed things of the temple, which should have never been done.

II Kings 13:3 tells us that *the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael, all their days.* What Hazael did to Israel was judgment for their sins. Later God sent fire on the house of Hazael and his son who was also named Ben-hadad.

God's eternal principle is that men respect and care for one another. When men break this law and abuse others, they will suffer for it. Although we do not always see it, God is just and men receive what is due them. —Charlotte Huskey

Clarke's Commentary on the Bible, p. 367.

Secretly he asked the neighbors about him. Well, in the whole surrounding country there was not a neighbor whom Method had not helped. The old night watchman told David that while he was carrying a bundle of wood last winter, he was overtaken by Method with a wagon load of dried leaves. Method stopped at once, lifted the old man's bundle, laid it on the wagon and gave him his own seat. Then Method walked beside the wagon until they came to the watchman's hut.

In the spring when they were digging a ditch around the field of Ondrasik, Method also spaded the adjacent field of the old unfriendly widow, Hlinarka. Until that very day, *everybody* was afraid of the old woman. She was so very free with many nasty words that nobody helped her, except this young stranger.

It was nothing great which he did for the people. How could he? He was only a servant. But one thing is sure: if it was in his power, he helped all those he saw in need. Yes, he did it out of a pure heart, as if he could not help but do it.

The aged Jew also watched to see what kind of servant Method would be, if he would become lazy after a while. It was more than a year since he came into the village. It was already noticeable that nobody had taken as good care of Ondra's property as this servant. He improved everything that he could, whether in the house or on the farm. He gave Ondra good advice in everything. Not even Eleazar could have been more faithful to Abraham than Method was to this ignorant farmer.

The Jew considered Ondra ignorant because often he saw that in-

stead of the farm prospering, it was going to ruin. But David would not give that heathen advice. Why should he? He despised Ondra just as Ondra despised him. David had noticed that Method was wiser than his master, but he heard the young man speak only with great respect and love for him.

Everything in that young man's life was clean. He was young and Ondra had a daughter, Dorka, and the Petrash's had two. The village well was in front of David's windows. He watched to see if Method would do what other young fellows did. The people jokingly called it "the weakness of youth." Often the old man saw all three girls at the well and Method only drew water for them and talked in a friendly way as if he were a brother to all three.

The Jew could not help but to compare Method with Joseph in Egypt. Though Petrash's girls were quite flirtzy, they were always decent in behavior towards him. Since he was visiting their brother, Sammy, they were becoming more respectful.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. In Damascus. 2. Ben-hadad. 3. If he would get well. 4. From Elisha, the man of God. 5. Because he knew the evil Hazeel would do to the people of Israel. 6. He would burn their stronghold [fort], kill their young men, dash their children and rip up their women. 7. He murdered King Ben-hadad. 8. All the gold and the hallowed things from the temple. 9. Yes.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 June 18, 1995

Only A Servant

(Continued from last week.)

For a long time old David had been desiring to repay Methodius by doing something for him. How happy he was last week when Method asked him to help Sammy. He said, "Sammy's future could be improved if you would take interest in him and not only teach him to figure, but also advise him how to start a business."

Perhaps for nobody in the world would David do that favor, but when Method asked, he agreed readily. Then he asked "Why do you care about that neighbor? Isn't he a stranger to you? Why don't you let him alone? He has parents and family, let them take care of him." While he was talking the aged man was watching Method's expressions and listening to see if he would say something disrespectful about the Petrash family.

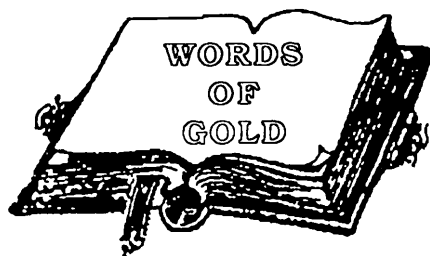
"You know, neighbor," said the young man, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and thy neighbor as thyself. If I were lame, I would be happy if someone would help me in this way. The parents love Sammy, but have not planned anything for him. I must do it, because God gave me that thought.

I believe it will be very agreeable to them."

Ah, for all this, David, the aged Jew, had to admire and love the young Christian, but for one thing he almost hated him. It was because he did not give him any peace about that Christ of his. As he read to David, he found in almost every chapter of the Old Testament something about Christ, and every discussion ended with: "He loves you."

Old David would not have been thinking about those discussions if he could have forgotten them. Even now he would have put them out of his mind, but he could not. Just why did he allow Methodius to read the history of that One whom he claimed was the seed of the woman, and had crushed the head of the devil, and that He was that seed of Abraham in whom all the generations of the earth would be blessed. He also said that He was the Son of King David, the Messiah. His teaching was very, very good. It was the teaching of love and it stole into the heart of the aged Jew, tormenting because of injustices, at the same time healing its wounds.

Until now, if David had heard the teachings of Christ, he would have just smiled coldly. For not one of the Christians who lived around him



Samson at Gaza

Amos 1:6

6 Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they carried away captive the whole captivity, to deliver them up to Edom:

Judges 16:20-31

20 And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times...And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him.

21 But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

22 Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.

23 Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god,...

24 And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy,...

25 And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they...called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport [entertainment]; and they set him between the pillars.

26 And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.

27 Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the

Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.

28 And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God,...

29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood,...the one with his right hand, and the other with his left.

30 ...And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein....

31 Then his brethren...buried him...in the burying place of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years.

The Message: God punished both Samson and the Philistines for their sins.

Questions:

1. Who had left Samson?
2. Where was Samson put into prison?
3. What did he do while in prison?
4. For what had the Philistines gathered?
5. What did the people say when they saw blind Samson?
6. How many people were in the building?
7. To whom did Samson look for his strength?
8. How long did Samson judge Israel?
9. Why was God to punish Gaza?

Verse to Memorize

For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

Isaiah 48:11.

Let's



Talk . . .

Amos prophesied that God would send a fire on the wall of Gaza, which would devour the palaces there. Now just where was Gaza and who were the people who lived there? Gaza was a city on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, near to Egypt, on the west border of Israel. The people who lived there troubled God's people almost continually. These people were the Philistines. Can you think of other Bible stories about the Philistines?

They served the god, Dagon. The historian, Diodorus Siculus, describes Dagon as having the head and hands of a woman and the rest of the body resembling that of a fish, perhaps somewhat like a mermaid. In I Samuel 5:1-7, there is a very interesting story about Dagon.

At the time that Samson broke the pillars from the building, 3,000 Philistines had met to make a great sacrifice and worship Dagon. They praised Dagon for having captured Samson. This stirred Samson. Although he had failed God, he knew it was a terrible sin to give God's praise to an idol. Samson knew that God had allowed him to be captured because of his own sin. Dagon had not helped them to do it. Dagon had no power.

Worshipping Dagon not only stirred Samson, but God Himself was stirred. Samson was a judge among God's people, and he had disobeyed God's law. If he disobeyed and went unpunished, many others would soon be following his footsteps. God had to bring Samson down in humility so that he and the people of Israel would not drift into other sins.

All the Philistine's Lords were there. Many died. They did not trouble Israel

for many years. But when Samuel was a judge they were again invading Israel. Many years later, when Amos lived, God had enough of His people being abused by the Philistines. He pronounced a punishment for Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Ekron, four Philistine cities. —Charlotte Huskey

Matthew Henry's Commentary, Vol. IV, p. 1226. Clarke's Commentary on the Bible, p. 282-283. Frances Blankenbaker, What the Bible is all About for Young Explorers, Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1986, p. 65-68.

Which Way Are You Leading?

Twasa SHEEP, not a lamb, that strayed away,

In the parable Jesus told:
A grown-up sheep that had gone astray,
From ninety and nine in the fold.

Out on the hillside, out in the cold,
Twasa sheep the Good Shepherd sought;

And back to the flock, safe into the fold,
TWAS a sheep the Good Shepherd brought.

And why for the sheep should He earnestly long,
And earnestly hope and pray?
Because there is danger, If they go wrong,
They will lead the lambs astray.

For the lambs will follow the sheep, you know,
Wherever the sheep may stray;
When the sheep go wrong, it will not be long
Till the lambs are as wrong as they.

And so with the sheep we earnestly plead,
For the sake of the lambs, today;
If the lambs are lost, what terrible cost
Some sheep will have to pay?

followed the teachings of Christ. They cursed, they bore false witness, they fought and did not forgive each other. But they attended the churches although they did not do as they were told to do in the sermons.

In the village were two churches: Catholic and Evangelical (protestant). They hated each other. They spoke scornfully about the faith and teaching of the other, and at the same time pretended to believe and worship God who commanded love and mercy. If any one of them would have come to tell David about Christ, it would have raised only an ugly laugh in the heart of the aged Jew. He would have told the "Christian" to compare his own life with Christ's teaching. However, this good, strange young man really lived as Christ commanded. He loved and obeyed his Christ. Yes, he did, and since he could, why couldn't the others? Why was there such a difference between him and the others?

The old man ceased his thoughts; there was no one to answer his questions.

"Good evening," he heard, and there facing him stood the very one of whom he had to think so much, and for whom he was impatiently awaiting.

"I almost didn't get to come and see you."

"I too had given up hope that you were coming."

Over the wrinkled face of the aged man passed a gleam of joy. When one has no friend for a long time, and then begins to love somebody this deep strong feeling usually shows on the face.

"Sit down!" Readily David moved over, making room for Method on the bench. "I am waiting to hear what

Farmer Petrash had to say about me teaching Sammy."

Methodius sat down and told him all about it.

"I am not sure, I am not sure," the Jew shook his head doubtfully, "whether Petrash will change his mind."

"I am hoping for the best. Just now I asked God to help our plan to be successfully carried out. I believe that my prayer will be answered."

They talked about it for awhile. Even the aged man made plans to show how the Petrash's could get started. The heart of the old businessman had warmed up.

"Neighbor," suddenly said Method, "you knew how favorable this place is, why have you not started a business yourself? Why did you bother with these old clothes?"

The young man grasped the aged man's hands in his own and with a friendly smile looked into David's face. Suddenly a shadow of a deep sorrow covered it.

"Of what benefit would a business have been to me? Who would have taken care of the other things? I am all alone in the world, like a post in a deserted land. I had to do something because without work I would have died in sorrow and loneliness; thus I did what I could to make a living. But why do you remind me?"

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. God. 2. Gaza. 3. Grind. 4. To offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god. 5. Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy. 6. 3,000 were upon the roof. 7. God. 8. 20 years. 9. Because they carried His people away captive and delivered them to Edom.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 June 25, 1995

Only A Servant

(Continued from last week.)

Almost roughly the old Jew pulled his hands away from Methodius, covered his face with them and rested his elbows on his knees.

For a while he sat there crumpled up, wholly overcome with the pain he remembered. The young man looked at him with heartfelt sympathy. Then suddenly he put his arms around the aged man and drew that wrinkled, gray head to his young breast. It had been a long time since the aged man had been hugged. Long ago he had felt that joy. Long ago when he was still young he also knew, yes, he knew the bliss of love. Later when it all passed away forever, he reached his empty arm out but no one was there. Then is when his longing heart almost died. He had hardened his heart so long that it seemed to him that he had cast out all human feelings, that it was now only a rock. However, his freindship with Methodius had proven that it was not so. His feelings had only lain dormant. His icy heart melted when the sun shone upon it.

The aged man trembled in the arms of the young fellow, as when the wind shakes an old tree. Wild sobbing burst from his bosom, and for the first time in years, l-o-n-g years, tears ran over the wrinkled face.

Methodius did not try to stop the crying of the aged man, he leaned his young head against the old, gray one, his eyes moist with tears. David's dropped hands covered his face no more, so Methodius wiped the tears from his eyes and cheeks.

"Let me alone," uttered the aged one between broken sobs. "Why do you bother with an old Jew? Everybody shuns me, why don't you leave me alone?"

"Because I love you, my dear neighbor."

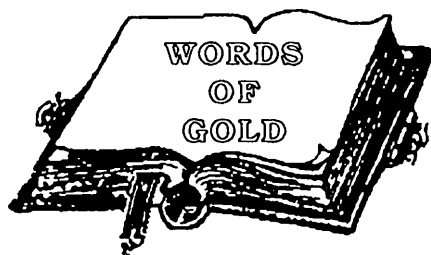
"Why should you love me?" cried the Jew, "It is a long time since anyone loved me—once it was my mother, then I thought that she—but it was deceit!"

"What was decelt?"

"Let me go," the man struggled to get away. "Do not ask me." Strong Method let him go.

"Believe me, neighbor, it would be much better for you if you would tell someone what is crushing you these years. I am a stranger here and have nobody to whom I could betray you. If you can trust in me, tell me. I love you."

"Well, I don't care." The Jew straightened up. New light sparkled in his eyes. "You have done me very much good, because you did not shun this old man. You are good and the



Judah and Israel are Disobedient

Amos 2:1-16

1 Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime:

2 But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kiriath; and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet:

3 And I will cut off the judge from the midst thereof, and will slay all the princes thereof with him, saith the Lord.

4 Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the Lord, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked:

5 But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.

6 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes;

7 That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: and a man and his father will go in unto the same maid, to profane my holy name:

8 And they lay themselves down upon clothes laid to pledge by every

altar, and they drank the wine of the condemned in the house of their god.

9 Yet destroyed I the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars, and he was strong as the oaks; yet I destroyed his fruit from above, and his roots from beneath.

10 Also I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and led you forty years through the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite.

11 And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites. Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the Lord.

12 But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not.

13 Behold, I am pressed under you, as a cart is pressed that is full of sheaves.

14 Therefore the flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself:

15 Neither shall he stand that handleth the bow; and he that is swift of foot shall not deliver himself: neither shall he that rideth the horse deliver himself.

16 And he that is courageous among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day, saith the Lord.

The Message: Those who despise God's laws will be cut off just as Judah and Israel were.

(Look for "Questions" on page 3.)

Verse to Memorize

Because he hath despised the word of the Lord, and hath broken his [God's] commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.

Numbers 15:31.

Let's



Talk . . .

Amos continues to forecast what shall happen to those who disobey God. In the first chapter he spoke to the wicked nations around Israel and Judah. In this chapter he begins describing the punishments of Moab.

The land of Moab lay to the east of the Dead Sea. They were descendants of Lot, the man who escaped death when Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed by fire and brimstone. Many years later Naomi and her husband went to live in Moab because of a severe famine in the land of Israel. One of their sons married Ruth, a girl from Moab. In our lesson today, Amos prophesies that Moab shall be destroyed because of its wickedness. It was taken by storm which was followed by a total slaughter of its inhabitants.

The country of Judah had despised God's law, and disobeyed his statutes. Instead of following the prophets whom God sent, they followed false prophets who led them to serve idols. Amos said, "God will devour Jerusalem with a fire." Years later, King Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem. The war ended with a great vandalism and burning of Jerusalem and its palace, the temple.

A destruction is also pronounced against the country of Israel. The following is a list of their sins: 1. God's plan was that the judges live by faith. Their judges were unjust and worked only for wages. 2. The

people were unmerciful to the weak and cruel to the poor. 3. They led immoral lives. 4. They drank unlawful wines and gave it to the Nazarites. Nazarites were to never drink wine.

All this breaking of His commandments was pressing on God. He had chosen Judah and Israel for His very own people, and had blessed them in numerous ways. Larger countries had feared and respected them because God had worked in awesome ways for them. After taking them out of Egypt, leading them through the wilderness, and giving them the fertile Canaan land, they had turned from Him to serve the Golden Calf, Babel and other idols. They brought doom on themselves and their children by disobeying God and allowing their children to do the same.

—Charlotte Huskey

Clarke's Commentary on the Bible, p. 724-725. Frances Blankenbaker, *What the Bible is all About for Young Explorers*, Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1986, p. 142-146, 181-184.

Questions:

1. What country besides Judah and Israel was to be punished for sin?
2. Name some of Judah's sins.
3. What punishment would Judah receive?
4. Name some of Israel's sins.
5. Name some things God had done for Israel.
6. How had they treated the Nazarites and prophets?
7. How did God feel about the sins of Israel?
8. Would the mighty, the horseman, or runners be able to deliver themselves?
9. What would the courageous of Israel do?

world is evil. Perhaps if I tell you my misfortune, you may be more careful than I and save yourself from harm.

"If you look at my bent-over form, the wrinkled old face and the half-blind eyes, it is hard to believe that I have been young, good-looking and stout like a tree in the grove, just as you are today," began the aged one. He rested his feeble form against the tree but held Method's big strong hand in his feeble one.

"I inherited a good business from my parents, though I was not rich. I had faith that if the God of my fathers would bless me I would prosper. Nevertheless, I had other riches; I had a wife like a flower on Mount Lebanon, and a child, oh, a child! Even Moses could not have been more lovely to the daughter of Pharaoh when she found him. When I think of that happiness, the bliss of long ago, I know, I know that even Adam in Paradise could not have been happier; but it all passed away.

"How am I to tell you all? I used to be away from home very often. That unfortunate business kept taking me away and I did not know that somebody else had eyes also.

"Once I was coming home, full of joy and hope. I came; the house was empty."

The old man drew his hand through his hair. "Another came and took the treasure of my eyes and the joy of my heart. If it had been an heathen—but it was one of our own—our own!

"I despaired; I ran like a crazy man; went to the courts; did everything, but in vain. I had to give her a bill of divorce, and the law gave her the child also.

"He was in a higher position than I—a government official. Everywhere they pushed me, the poor Jew, away. Nowhere could I find justice, not even

with God. They did just as they pleased until they disappeared from the country. I never heard from them anymore, nor where my child is and what has become of it.

"Oh, Method, oh Method, when I think of it, I would ask, like Job, 'Where is God, that I may go till I stand before Him and there present my charge?' He only knows what has become of my daughter, Esther; what has become of her and my wife. She left me, and betrayed me; but I just cannot believe that she was guilty. She was very, very young when we married. He was a good-looking fellow, a great lord; he misled her. If she would have come back, I would have forgiven all, would have received her—oh, how gladly! But they did not let me see her, and perhaps they told her that I would be cruel and hard. She was afraid and believed them, and so all was lost, all lost."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Moab. 2. They despised God's law, would not keep His commandments, and followed the lies their father had followed. 3. A fire shall burn Jerusalem. 4. Sold the righteous for silver (were unjust), the poor for shoes (took advantage of the poor), abused the meek, led immoral lives, were unmerciful to those who borrowed, drank wine in God's house. 5. God had destroyed the giant Amorites, brought them out of Egypt, led them through the wilderness, raised up their children for prophets and Nazarites. 6. They gave the Nazarites wine to drink, and commanded the prophets to not prophesy. 7. God felt like a cart ready to break. It was so full. 8. No. 9. Flee away naked.)