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THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Jan. 3, 1993

A MEMORIAL

God wanted to make sure the children of Israel never forgot how He held the water of the Jordan river back so they could cross on dry land. He wanted them to tell their children about this great miracle. So God told Joshua, "Choose one man out of every tribe of Israel. Command each man to take a stone from the middle of the river where the priests stand with the ark. You will carry the stones across Jordan with you and leave them for a memorial in the place where you camp tonight."

So Joshua did as God said and commanded the men, "Every one of you, take up a stone on your shoulder. This will be a sign among you so when your children ask many years from now, saying, 'What do these stones mean?' then you will tell them, 'The waters of Jordan were cut off and the Lord led us across Jordan on dry ground'. These stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel for ever." So the twelve men each chose a rock and carried it with them as Joshua said.

Then Joshua set up another memorial of twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan river, where the priests stood with the ark while all the people crossed on dry land.

The children of Israel camped at Gilgal that night. There Joshua set up the twelve stones, saying to the people, "When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean?' Then you will let your children know, saying, 'Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. For the Lord your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until you were passed over, just like He did to the Red sea.' These stones are set as a memorial so that all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty and that you might fear the Lord your God forever."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

“Then ye shall let yo

Israel came over t

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children know, saying,
Jordan on dry land.”
(4:22.)



The Autograph Dog

"How does your leg feel this morning?" Mother asked David as she touched the white cast that encased his right leg.

"It feels much better," replied David. "The break in my leg isn't hurting like it did yesterday. Oh, Mother, how many more days do I have to keep this cast on my leg?"

Mother nodded toward a calendar hanging on the wall above David's bed. "According to your calendar, David, you have fifteen more days to go before the cast will be cut off." She sat down in a chair beside his bed.

"Let's read a few scriptures of encouragement from the Word of God. Now who have we been reading about?"

"Joshua," answered David. "That's why I named my autograph dog Joshua. It reminds me of how Joshua and Caleb believed God would help the children of Israel take the promised land."

"Very good," said Mother. Then she continued reading the story about Joshua as it is in the Bible. Afterwards they had prayer and asked the Lord to perfectly heal David's leg.

David had just finished his breakfast when the doorbell rang. It was the pastor and his wife.

"How is my wounded soldier?" asked Bro. Bill as he came over to David's bedside.

David grinned. "My leg isn't hurting today," he told them. "I know the Lord is helping it."

"Of course He is," agreed Bro. Bill. "There are so many prayers said for your leg that the Lord couldn't possibly forget about it."

"Sometimes it seems like long days," said David, "but when I have visitors it helps pass the time quicker. Have you signed Joshua?"

"I did the first day you got him," said Bro. Bill, "but I don't think my wife has signed him."

Sis. Judy put her name on Joshua's tummy. "Joshua says you have had many visitors," she told David.

"Yes, we have had twenty-eight visitors now. I would like to have 100 people sign Joshua."

Bro. Bill chuckled. "I don't know if little Joshua could hold that many names," he said. "Besides that, you aren't going to be in that cast too much longer."

After Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy left, David looked at Joshua. There was plenty of room for more signatures, he just didn't know if he would have that many visitors. Anyway, the Lord was with him and healing his leg. Suddenly, David picked up his pen and wrote GOD in big letters across the top of his dog's head. God's name was worth fifty other names for sure.

In a couple weeks David's cast was cut off and he began to walk again. A year later the only thing left to remind David of his healed leg was Joshua who laid upon his bed. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did God hold the water of Jordan back?
2. Who did God want the people to tell about this miracle?
3. Who did God tell to choose a man from every tribe?
4. What was each man to do?
5. Where did Joshua set up another memorial?
6. Where did the children of Israel camp that night?
7. Who set up the twelve stones in the camp?
8. Who had dried up the water of the Red sea?
9. The stones were set as a memorial so the people would fear whom?

LESSON TEXT: Joshua 4.

(Answers: 1. So the people could cross on dry land. 2. Their children. 3. Joshua. 4. Take a stone from the middle of the river and carry it with them. 5. In the middle of Jordan. 6. In Gilgal. 7. Joshua. 8. God. 9. God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Jan. 10, 1993

CANAAN AT LAST!

Their long journey was over. The children of Israel stepped out of the Jordan river into Canaan, the land God had promised them so many years before. Just ahead of them was the great city, Jericho. The two spies had visited this city and had hid in Rahab's house.

The king and people of Jericho had seen the great camp of Israelites just on the other side of Jordan, but they felt safe with the Jordan river between them and the children of Israel. They knew the water was deep and swift. They were sure that the Israelites would never be able to get across the river and harm them.

Then news reached Jericho that the children of Israel had walked right across the Jordan river without even getting wet! They learned that God had held the water back and made it pile up like a great wall so His people could walk across on dry land.

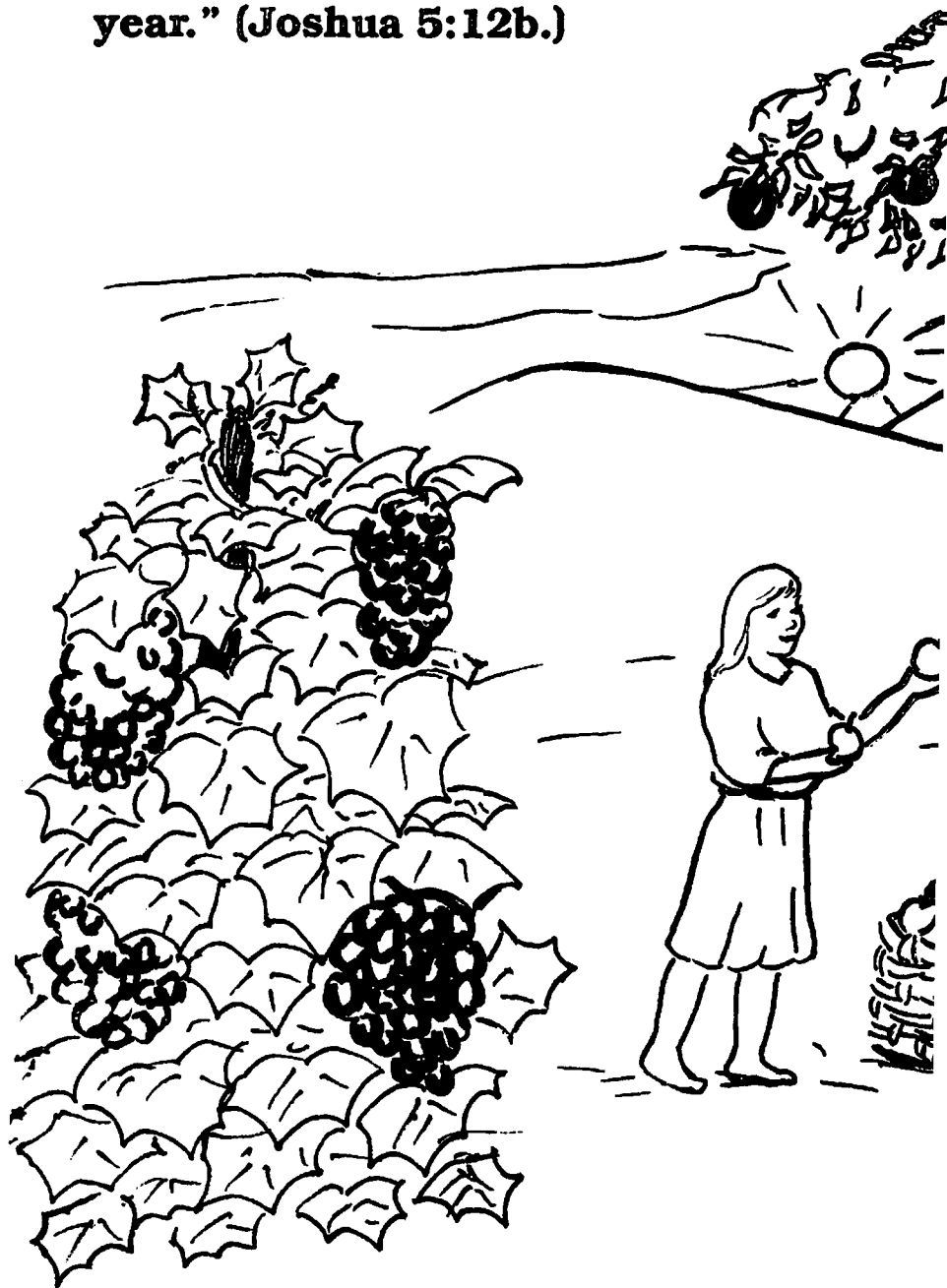
Soon all the kings of Canaan had heard about the great company of people that was invading their country. When they heard how God had made a dry path for them right through the Jordan river, all their courage left them. They knew they could never win a battle against people who had such a mighty God to fight for them.

But the Israelites did not go right out to fight the Canaanites. They waited for God to direct them. There at Gilgal the Lord commanded the children of Israel to be circumcised as a sign that they were His people and would always serve Him.

The people found much food to eat there in Gilgal. For forty years they had had nothing to eat but the manna which God had sent from heaven each day except the Sabbath. Now they didn't need manna any more. They had come to a good land where they could find plenty to eat so God never sent manna to them again.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

“...neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.” (Joshua 5:12b.)





Boots and Gloves

"Your feet are so cold, Arlene. I'm very sorry," Mother said as she helped her daughter out of her frozen cloth tennis shoes. "With my next paycheck, Honey, I intend on buying you a good pair of rubber boots."

"That's alright, Mother," said Arlene. "Winter will soon be over. First of all we must make sure there is money for food, rent, and our gas bill."

Arlene spoke and acted older than her nine years, because she had learned at an early age the responsibility of survival. Soon Mother would be leaving for her work as a waitress at a nearby cafe. Arlene would be expected to care for her two little sisters.

"Let's have a word of prayer before I go," said Mother. Obediently the girls knelt down and earnestly asked the Lord to protect them and to provide for their every need. Then Mother gave some last minute instructions. "I have some hotdogs, bread, and macaroni for your supper, girls. Always be careful with the stove, Arlene, and turn off a burner as soon as you are done with it. Remember to never leave this apartment unless you desperately need me. Then come to the back door of the Golden Griddle and ask for Cheryl Hopkins. Now kiss me good-bye, my three darlings, and be very good."

As Arlene kissed her mother good-bye she noticed her dry, chapped hands. "Mother, you need some good warm gloves to keep your hands from the cold," she said.

"Boots for you come first, my dear," replied Mother as she went out the door.

The silence of the cold room seemed to swallow the girls into gloominess. Finally Tina spoke in a quiet voice. "Could I have one of those hot dogs?" she asked.

"Okay, I'll fix you some supper," said Arlene. She went into the kitchen and cooked what Mother had said to cook. Arlene had cooked supper many times before on the gas stove and she

knew to respect the burner flame, but somehow a towel came too close to the flame and caused a fire.

"DeAnn! Tina! Quick, let's go to Mother," Arlene said as she hurried to get the girls out of the apartment. As they rushed down the street, they heard a firetruck coming. Neighbors across the street had seen the blaze at the window and called 911. By the time Mother was reached and they had hurried back to the apartment, the fire was already out. There was a big crowd watching and Arlene felt so embarrassed as Mother talked to the firemen.

Though the firemen were kind, Mother was crying. She was thankful her girls were alright and the stove would still work, but from now on she would cook the meal before she would leave. Two days later when Arlene came home from school, DeAnn and Tina were excited. "Look what the firemen brought to us!" they said, showing Arlene a box which held four coats, four pairs of winter snow boots, and four pairs of gloves. Once again the Lord had supplied their needs. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What land had God promised the children of Israel?
2. What city was right before them?
3. Who had visited this city?
4. In whose house had they hid?
5. Why did the king and people of Jericho feel safe?
6. What news reached Jericho?
7. Who else heard about the Israelites?
8. What did the people find in Gilgal?
9. What had they eaten for forty years?

LESSON TEXT: Joshua 5:1-12.

(Answers: 1. Canaan. 2. Jericho. 3. Two spies. 4. Rahab's. 5. They thought the Israelites could never cross the Jordan river. 6. The Israelites had walked across the river on dry land. 7. All the other kings of Canaan. 8. Much food. 9. Manna.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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A STRANGE BATTLE

One day Joshua left the camp at Gilgal to see the city of Jericho. He saw the great stone wall that surrounded the city. The city gates were locked because the people of the city feared an attack by the Israelites. As he walked, Joshua looked up and was surprised to see a man standing in front of him with his sword drawn. Joshua walked closer to him and asked boldly, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

The stranger answered, "I am the captain of the army of the Lord." Joshua fell on his face and worshiped, saying, "What does the Lord want me to do?" Then the Lord told him what to do. When Joshua returned to camp, he told the people. It was a very strange battle plan but the people were ready to obey.

So the people marched around the great city of Jericho the first day, as the Lord had commanded. On the next day they did the same. For six days the Israelites made one trip around the city without saying a word.

As the people of Jericho watched the strange procession they must have wondered what the people were doing. They had expected the Israelites to storm the city and try to take it by force.

On the seventh day the Israelites got up very early. Again they marched around Jericho as they had each day before. But this time they did not stop until they had marched around the city seven times. Then the priests blew loudly on their trumpets and Joshua commanded the people, "Shout; for the Lord has given you the city!" When the people shouted, the walls of Jericho fell down flat. The people were able to walk straight into the city and capture it.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**" ...Joshua said unto the people, Shout
the Lord hath given you the city."
(Joshua 6:16b.)**





Handling A Bully

"Leslie! What happened to you?" exclaimed Mother as her son walked into the kitchen after school. Leslie's left eye was blue and puffy and his lip was cut and bleeding. His clothes were dirty and his shirt was missing a top button.

"Tom is just a big, mean bully! That's all he is, and I wish I could knock him out forever!" exploded Leslie. Mother put her arms around him and drew him to the sink for a gentle cleaning.

Soon Leslie felt better, so he sat down with cookies and milk and told Mother about Tom, the newschool bully.

"He just came to school a few weeks ago and nobody likes him. He is rude to everybody. Two times now he cut in front of me in line at the water fountain and he does it to others too. He picked up the cinnamon roll off my plate yesterday and he has eaten other people's desserts also. Today he hopped on my bicycle when I laid it down for a minute and he wouldn't get off of it. The boys told me to whip the meanness out of him, so I tried."

"Leslie, how is Tom?" asked Mother.

"He might have some bruised legs but he grabbed me by the shirt collar and hit me with his fist a couple times before I could do much to him. I'll get him tomorrow—just wait and see!"

"No, Leslie, no, that isn't the answer," said Mother. "I believe I need to call the principal and report this to him. Tom needs to be punished by his authorities and not by you. Right now let's pray and ask the Lord to quickly heal your face and put forgiveness in your heart for Tom."

"I'll forgive Tom after I get even," mumbled Leslie.

"No, Leslie, you should feel sorry for Tom because he has a bad problem. He doesn't know how to get along with others. Perhaps his home life is unhappy or he isn't learning well in his lessons. Whatever the problem, Tom needs help from the Lord and you are the best person to show him God's love.

Fighting with Tom will only make him behave worse.

So Leslie prayed with his mother that Tom would change his ways. The next day at school, Tom was called into the principal's office and punished for his conduct. Tom came back to class looking sad and lonely. Suddenly Leslie felt sorry for him. As soon as school was out, he found Tom and handed him a couple of cookies.

"I'm sorry about what happened yesterday, Tom," said Leslie. "We could be friends if you want to be."

Tom looked surprised, then he smiled. "You want to be friends with me? I don't have friends."

Before Leslie knew what he was saying, he was inviting Tom to church. Mother was right—Tom did have a sad past and he needed the best Friend who had suffered on the cross for his sins. The black eye and cut lip seemed a small matter to forgive when Leslie thought of Jesus and His forgiveness.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What city did Joshua go to see?
2. What surrounded the city?
3. Why were the city gates locked?
4. Who was the stranger that Joshua met?
5. What did he tell Joshua?
6. How many days did the people march once around Jericho?
7. How many times did they march around the city on the seventh day?
8. Who blew loudly on their trumpets?
9. What happened when the people shouted?

LESSON TEXT: Joshua 5:13-15; 6:1-25.

(Answers: 1. Jericho. 2. A great stone wall. 3. The people of Jericho feared the Israelites would attack them. 4. The captain of the army of the Lord. 5. What to do. 6. Six. 7. Seven. 8. The priests. 9. The walls of Jericho fell down flat.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Jan. 24, 1993

ACHAN'S SIN

Joshua did not forget Rahab's kindness in saving the lives of the two spies he sent to Jericho. He told the two spies, "Go into Rahab's house, and bring out everyone in her house. They will be saved, as we promised her." Joshua then told the Israelites, "Take all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron from Jericho for the treasury of the house of the Lord. Do not take anything for yourselves, or you will bring great trouble on yourself and all the camp of Israel." Then, when the soldiers had taken the treasures for the house of the Lord and Rahab and her family were safe outside the city, they burned Jericho.

Next Joshua sent spies to Ai, a small town nearby. When the spies came back they told Joshua, "You will only need to send two or three thousand soldiers to capture Ai because it is so small."

So Joshua sent three thousand men to take Ai. But instead of capturing the city, they turned and ran. Thirty six Israelites were killed in the battle.

Joshua was so troubled by this defeat that he tore his clothes and fell on his face before the Ark of the Lord. He and the elders of Israel stayed there all day asking the Lord why they had lost the battle.

"Get up," the Lord commanded. "Israel has sinned by taking treasure from Jericho and hiding it with their stuff. I will not be with you any more unless you destroy the accursed from among you."

The next day Joshua searched for the man who had done this. He found that Achan had stolen a beautiful robe and much silver and gold. The stolen things were buried underneath Achan's tent.

God commanded that Achan and everything he owned be destroyed. He wanted the people to know that they must obey His commands.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**“ And Achan answered Joshua, and said,
God of Israel,**



**Indeed I have sinned against the Lord
(Joshua 7:20a.)**



The Big Candy Bar

Linda wanted that big candy bar. She had picked it up off the shelf as soon as she and Mother came into the store.

"May I have this candy bar?" she asked Mother.

"No, Linda," Mother replied. "I only have enough money to buy what I need. Please do not ask me again."

Slowly Linda laid down the candy bar and slowly she followed Mother, but Linda did not forget about the candy bar. It was the biggest chocolate candy bar she had ever seen! Oh, how Linda was hungry for chocolate!

"Linda, stay with me," said Mother. "I am in a hurry. We must shop and go home so we can have supper ready when Daddy comes from work."

Linda obeyed but she was still thinking about that candy bar. It was big enough for two people to eat.

While Mother was checking out her groceries, she saw Sis. Doris and began to visit. It was a perfect time for Linda to pick up that candy bar and put it in her purse. The store had plenty of candy bars—they shouldn't miss just one.

Linda followed Mother to the car and climbed into the back seat. Her purse felt very heavy. Linda sat on it so Mother couldn't see how fat it was. All the way home she was very quiet and she went into the house as soon as they arrived.

Where could she go to eat her candy bar without anybody finding her? Linda went into the bathroom and locked the door. She opened up a cabinet door and climbed inside. There on top of some towels she ate a whole pound of candy.

Knock! Knock! Knock! Mother knocked on the bathroom door. "Linda, are you in here? It is time for supper."

Linda rolled out of the cabinet and onto the floor but she did not feel like standing up. Her head was aching very badly. That candy bar had tasted so good, but now it made her feel sick.

Mother knocked again on the door. "Linda, are you alright? Open the door and come eat."

Linda obeyed but she did not feel like eating. Daddy looked at her pale face. "Do you feel alright?" he asked her.

Suddenly Linda couldn't hold that big chocolate candy bar in her tummy anymore.

"Oh, Linda, this is awful," said Mother as she helped her daughter clean things.

"You have eaten far too much chocolate," said Daddy. "Who gave you all that chocolate?"

Finally Linda told her parents about taking the candy bar and eating it all.

"You will have to pay for the candy bar the next time you are in the store," said Daddy. "Maybe this terrible experience will teach you two valuable lessons. Never take anything from a store without paying for it, and never be so greedy to eat this much candy at one time."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who had saved the lives of the two spies?
2. What was to be taken for the house of the Lord?
3. What would happen if the people took anything for themselves?
4. What did the soldiers do to Jericho?
5. Where did Joshua send spies?
6. Why did Joshua send only three thousand men to fight Ai?
7. How many men were killed in the battle?
8. What did Joshua do when he heard about the defeat?
9. Who had stolen treasure from Jericho?

LESSON TEXT: Joshua 6:21-27; 7.

(Answers: 1. Rahab. 2. Silver and gold, and vessels of brass and iron. 3. They would bring great trouble on themselves and Israel. 4. They burned it. 5. To Ai. 6. Because Ai was so small. 7. Thirty six. 8. He tore his clothes and fell on his face before the Lord. 9. Achan.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Jan. 31, 1993

AI DEFEATED

Joshua and the children of Israel had obeyed God and destroyed Achan and all he possessed. Now the Lord said to Joshua, "Don't be afraid or dismayed. Take all your soldiers with you and go against Ai. I have given you the king of Ai, his people, his city and all his land. You will do to Ai and her king as you did to Jericho. Only this time you may have the cattle and treasures for yourselves."

The Lord told Joshua just how to fight the battle. So Joshua chose thirty thousand strong and brave soldiers and sent them away by night as the Lord had said. "You must wait on the other side of Ai," Joshua told the men. "Stay close to Ai and be ready to fight. I will come with all the people to fight against Ai. When the soldiers come out to fight us, we will run from them as we did before. Then you will rise up from the ambush and take the city while they are chasing after us. The Lord your God will deliver the city into your hand, and you will set the city on fire as the Lord has commanded."

So the soldiers left the camp by night and went to lie in ambush as Joshua had commanded. Early the next morning Joshua and the people marched close to Ai and pitched their camp on the north side of the city. Then Joshua sent five thousand men to hide in a valley on the west side of Ai.

When the king of Ai saw that Joshua had come up to fight, he and his army got up early and went out to the battle. Soon Joshua and those with him made as if they were beaten and began to run from the army of Ai. When they were far enough away from the city, Joshua gave the signal for those waiting in ambush to enter the city and set it on fire. When the soldiers of Ai looked back, they saw they were surrounded by the Israelites with no way to escape. God gave a great victory to the Israelites that day.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**“And the Lord said unto Joshua, Stretch out the sword
hand.” (Joshua 8:18a.)**



What is in thy hand toward Ai; for I will give it into thine



The Cutting Knife

Matt slipped into the kitchen and looked around to see where Mother was before he pulled out a drawer. Quietly he reached in and drew out a sharp steak knife. He stuck it under his belt and then went outside before Mother would see him. His brothers, Luke and John, were waiting in the fort.

"I got the knife," Matt told the others.

"Good!" said Luke. "Now we can sharpen some sticks and hunt a raccoon. Dad says there has to be a 'coon around here 'cause he saw the tracks."

"We can cut some sticks from this bush right here," said John. "Here, let me see that knife."

"No, I got the knife so I get to do the cutting," replied Matt. He began to saw on the bush branch that John was holding. The branch was green and not cutting straight and smooth.

"You boys don't know how to do it," Luke told them. "Let me sharpen this dry stick. It will make a good poker." He reached to grab the knife from Matt who quickly jerked it away.

"Matt, you almost cut me!" exclaimed Luke. "Please let me cut my own stick."

"Okay, we can each cut our own stick," said Matt, handing the knife to Luke who began to sharpen his stick. Soon the stick had a point that Matt could not resist touching.

"Matt, don't put your hand there while I'm still cutting the stick—I could have cut you!"

"I'm sorry," said Matt. "Please let me sharpen a stick." So Matt sharpened a stick and then John did.

"You had better put the knife back in the drawer," Luke said. "We don't want Mother to know we had it."

"Why don't we hunt the 'coon first," said John. "We might need the knife to butcher the 'coon."

"I will carry it in my belt because I got it," said Matt who put it under his belt.

The boys began their earnest hunt for the 'coon. They were running through some underbrush when Matt tripped and fell. "Ouch! My leg," he hollered. "The knife stabbed my leg!"

"Now you've done it," said Luke. "You've cut a hole in your pants and broke the knife blade. Mother will find out you took the knife now."

"You are going to be in trouble right now," said John, "because here comes Mother."

"Boys, what are you doing with the steak knife?" Mother asked in a very displeased voice. She took the knife and helped Matt with the small cut on his leg and little tear in his pants. The she punished all three boys because they had all disobeyed in using the knife. Punishment will come to those who disobey.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who told Joshua not to be afraid?
2. What city did the Lord tell Joshua to go against?
3. Who told Joshua how to fight the battle?
4. How many soldiers did Joshua send away by night?
5. Who came out to fight Joshua and the people?
6. Who ran from the army of Ai?
7. What did the soldiers do when they entered the city?
8. Who saw that they were surrounded by the enemy?
9. Who gave Israel a great victory that day?

LESSON TEXT: Joshua 8.

(Answers: 1. God. 2. Ai. 3. God. 4. Three thousand. 5. The king of Ai and his army. 6. Joshua and those with him. 7. Set it on fire. 8. The soldiers of Ai. 9. God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Feb. 7, 1993

TRICKED BY STRANGERS

Not far from Ai was a city named Gibeon. The people who lived there soon heard what Joshua had done to both Jericho and Ai. They knew that the Israelites would soon surround their own city. They were sure they were no match for the great God who fought for Israel, so they planned how they might save themselves.

First they put old sacks on their donkeys. Then they took old leather bottles that were torn and patched and bread that was dry and moldy. After putting on clothes and shoes that were worn out, they went to find Joshua at Gilgal.

"We are from a far country and have come to make peace with you," they told Joshua and the men of Israel. "How do we know you are not our neighbors?" the Israelites asked. "How can we make a treaty with you?" "We have come from a far country," the men answered. "We have heard about your God. We were afraid we would be destroyed like the other kingdoms, so our elders told us to come to you to make a treaty."

"See, we took this bread hot out of the ovens but now it is dry and moldy. These leather bottles were new, but now they are old and torn. We have come so far that even our clothes and shoes are worn out."

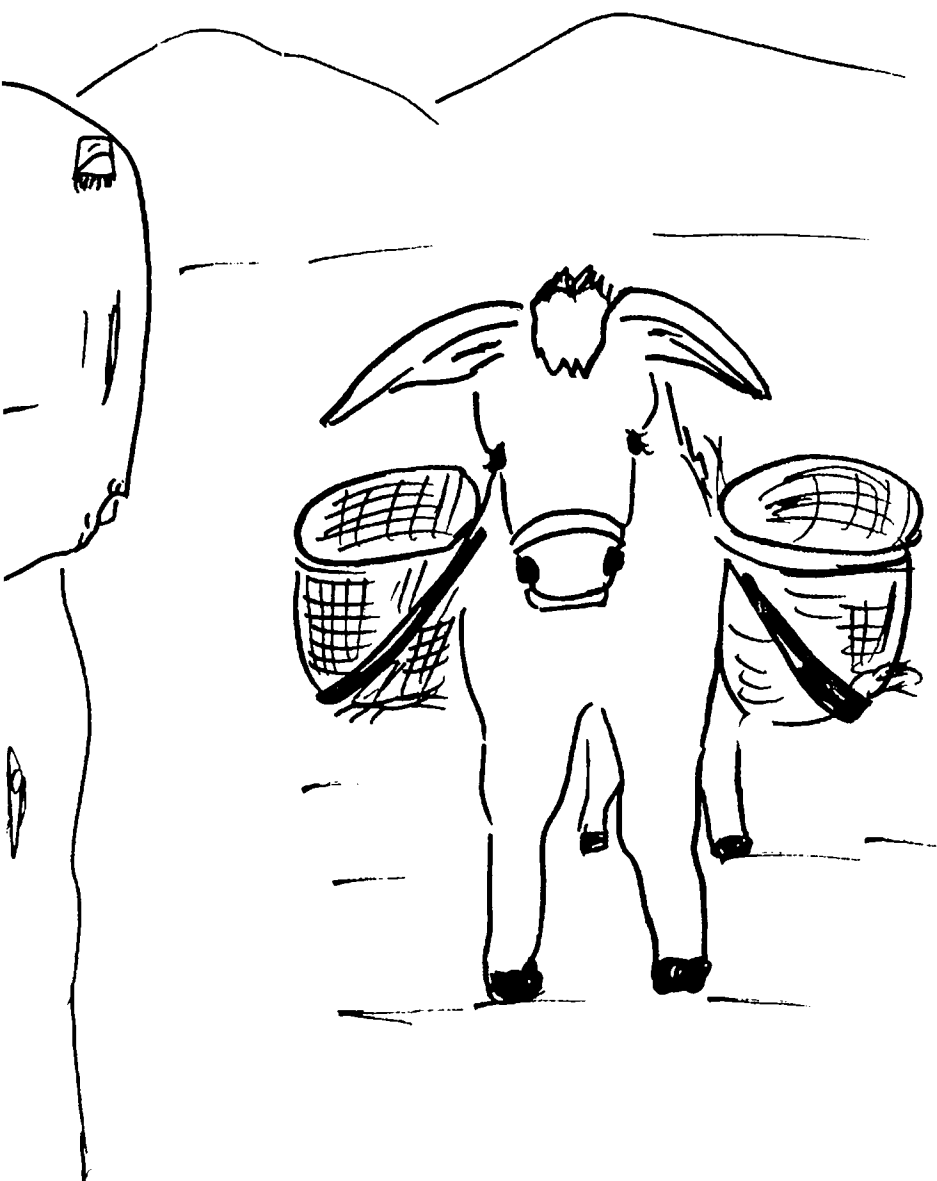
Joshua and the Israelites felt sorry for these poor people who had come so far. They were so sure that they told the truth, they did not ask God what to do. Instead Joshua promised not to destroy these men and their people when they came to their country.

Just three days later, Joshua learned that these men of Gibeon were close neighbors. The Israelites could not destroy them because of the treaty they had made. Instead, they made the men of Gibeon their servants.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**And they said unto him, From a very
far country thy servants are
come..." (Joshua 9:9a.)**



The Truth Set Him Free

"Give this money to the monk," Mrs. Luther told her son, Martin. Obediently, Martin Luther did as he was told. "Be respectful to these men," said his mother, "because they pray for your soul."

Young Luther watched the monks dressed in long gray robes. He would feel afraid when they would tell about the devil and his demons who took heathen men and women screaming to purgatory because they had not paid their indulgences while living.

"In order to obtain grace and favor with God and go to heaven, you must pay the Catholic Church," he was told and young Luther believed this until one day God revealed the Truth to him.

It started in 1505 when Luther was at the German University of Erfurt where he first studied to be a lawyer. He was walking across the college grounds during a terrible thunderstorm. Rain was pouring down and Luther was in a big hurry to reach his dorm safely as he was already soaking wet. Suddenly a bolt of lightning flashed across the sky and struck him to the ground.

Luther thought he was going to die and he called on God for mercy. Then he said, "Lord, if you will spare my life, I will join the order of the monks."

God did spare Luther's life and he did become a monk living in a small, cold, black cell at the big monastery where only single men lived.

To thank God for sparing his life, Luther went without food sometimes for days and he prayed many hours on his knees. He wanted so much to be close to God and he was told that he must punish himself to do so.

All of Luther's fasting and prayer gained favor for him with the Catholic officials but not with God. Though Luther felt very far from God, he earned a high position as a Doctor and professor in the Catholic order.

Luther was a very sad man. He knew the Catholic leaders were not

telling the people the truth, yet he himself did not know what the real truth was. He did not want to live a lie so he prayed for God's presence in his life.

One day while Luther was crawling up the steps that Jesus was said to have climbed, God spoke to Luther and said very plainly, "The just shall live by faith." A great rush of joy flooded Luther's soul as the real truth set him free from the lies of the old Catholic doctrine.

No longer did Luther cry, fast, and pray every week for his sins—they had been forgiven by God because he now understood that Jesus had died for his sins. He could feel God's presence in his life because the Holy Spirit lived in his heart. Luther was so happy to know the truth that he shared this good news with thousands of other people.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What had the people of Gibeon heard?
2. Who did they go to find at Gilgal?
3. Why did they want to make peace with Israel?
4. What did they do to show that they had come a long ways?
5. Who felt sorry for these people?
6. Why didn't they ask God what to do?
7. What did Joshua promise?
8. What did Joshua learn three days later?
9. What did they do to the men of Gibeon?

LESSON TEXT: Joshua 9.

(Answers: 1. What Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai. 2. Joshua. 3. They knew they were no match for the Israelites because God fought for them. 4. They carried old bottles and moldy bread and wore old clothes and shoes. 5. Joshua and the Israelites. 6. They believed the men. 7. Not to destroy the men and their people. 8. The Gibeonites were close neighbors. 9. Made them their servants.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Feb. 14, 1993

THE SUN AND MOON OBEY JOSHUA

The king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had destroyed Jericho and Ai. Then when news reached him that the great city of Gibeon with all her mighty men had made peace with the Israelites, he was afraid this great army might soon come and take Jerusalem.

So the king of Jerusalem sent word to neighboring kings. "Come up and help me! We must destroy the people of Gibeon because they have made peace with Joshua and the children of Israel."

The kings came as they had been asked, and gathered together against Gibeon. Together the five kings then surrounded Gibeon and made war against it.

The men of Gibeon knew they must have help so they sent a message to Joshua at Gilgal. "Hurry and help us; we are your servants. You must come and save us because all the kings of the Amorites that live in the mountains are come together against us."

Joshua gathered all his warriors and his mighty men and went to help the people of Gibeon. On the way the Lord said to him, "Don't be afraid of these kings. I have delivered them into your hand."

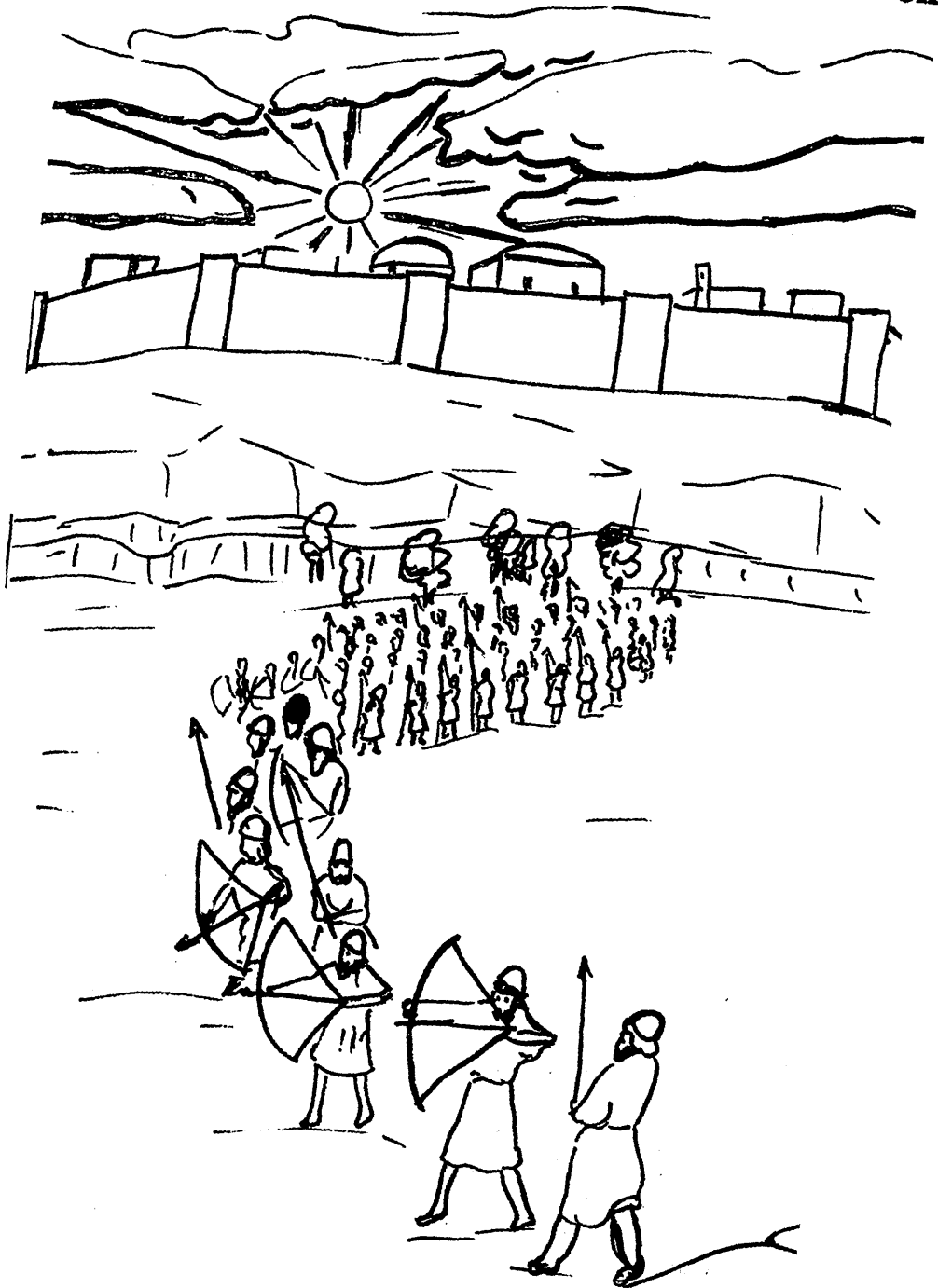
After marching all night, Joshua and his army surprised the enemy and killed many of them. Others turned and ran. As they ran, many were killed by great hailstones which the Lord sent from heaven. More were killed by the hail than by the sword of the Israelites.

As the enemy scattered, Joshua knew the day would not be long enough to overcome them all. So he commanded, "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and you, Moon, stay in the valley of Ajalon."

The sun stood still and the moon stayed, just as Joshua commanded, until the people had overcome all their enemies. There had never been a day before like that day when the sun stood still for about a whole day.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**" And the sun stood still, and the moon stay
their en**



until the people had avenged themselves upon
es." (Joshua 10:13a.)



Lasting Love For The Bible

In 1523, William Tyndale was busy in his cold, stone room in the castle of Sir John Walsh. He was translating the Bible into English and all his work was done by hand under candle light. Though it was hard work, Tyndale loved every second of his labor.

He was dedicated to a vow that he had made to some lazy monks who were telling lies about the Bible to poor peasants. He had said, "If God spare my life, ere many years pass, I will cause a boy that driveth the plough to know more of the Scriptures than thou knowest."

In England during Tyndale's time, it was against the law for a common man, woman, or child to read a Bible. First of all, the Bible was not written in English so that they could read it, and second, they were told only the Roman Catholic leaders could read and interpret God's Holy Word. Therefore, the poor people paid lots of money to the Catholic leaders who were to tell them what the Bible said and pray for them.

Tyndale knew what the Bible said in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, and he did not like the lies that the Catholics were telling the people. He loved the real Bible truth and he wanted *every* man, woman, and child to know and love it also. God inspired him to translate the Bible into English and in 1525, he had his first Bible translation printed.

This made Pope Clement VII very angry. He did not want people to know the truth and be saved directly by the blood of Jesus, as the Bible teaches it. He had King Henry VIII to send soldiers to arrest William Tyndale and put him in prison.

Though they hindered Tyndale's work, they did not stop his English Bible from spreading over the country to the hungry people who were eager to read God's Word for themselves. In

1535, it was against the law to have one of Tyndale's English Bibles; however, people were willing to hide them and risk their lives because they loved God's Word so much.

Tyndale suffered many things, somewhat like Apostle Paul. He suffered shipwreck, loss of his writings, was followed by secret spies, and betrayed by friends. Through all of this, Tyndale was faithful to God and to His Word.

In 1536, Tyndale was taken to the stake and burned. His final words were: "Lord, open the king of England's eyes." He wanted everyone to know the truth in God's Word.

Almost one hundred years later, King James I came to the English throne. He wanted the Bible printed in English so all his people could read it for themselves. Guess what Bible he had the translators follow? Yes, William Tyndale's sacrifice and love for God's Word is even blessing us today when we read our English Bible.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What king heard that Joshua had destroyed Jericho and Ai?
2. What city had made peace with the Israelites?
3. Who did the king of Jerusalem send word to?
4. How many kings gathered together?
5. Who sent a message to Joshua?
6. What did the men of Gibeon want Joshua to do?
7. Who told Joshua, "Don't be afraid of these kings"?
8. What did the Lord send from heaven to kill the enemy?
9. What did Joshua command the sun and moon to do?

LESSON TEXT: Joshua 10-12.

(Answers: 1. The king of Jerusalem. 2. Gibeon. 3. The neighboring kings. 4. Five. 5. The men of Gibeon. 6. Come and save them. 7. The Lord. 8. Hailstones. 9. To stand still.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Feb. 21, 1993

TAKING POSSESSION OF CANAAN

Joshua was now an old man. He had led Israel to many victories and much of the land of Canaan had been conquered. But God had promised all the land of Canaan to the children of Israel. He told Joshua, "You are old and yet there is much more land to be possessed." Since Joshua was too old to go out to battle, God told him to divide the country among the twelve tribes of Israel. Each tribe could then go in and drive the enemy out of their portion.

So Joshua and the high priest, Eleazar, with the help of the elders from each tribe, divided the land as God had commanded. Since the tribes of Rueben and Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh had chosen their possession on the other side of Jordan, Canaan was divided among the other nine and one half tribes.

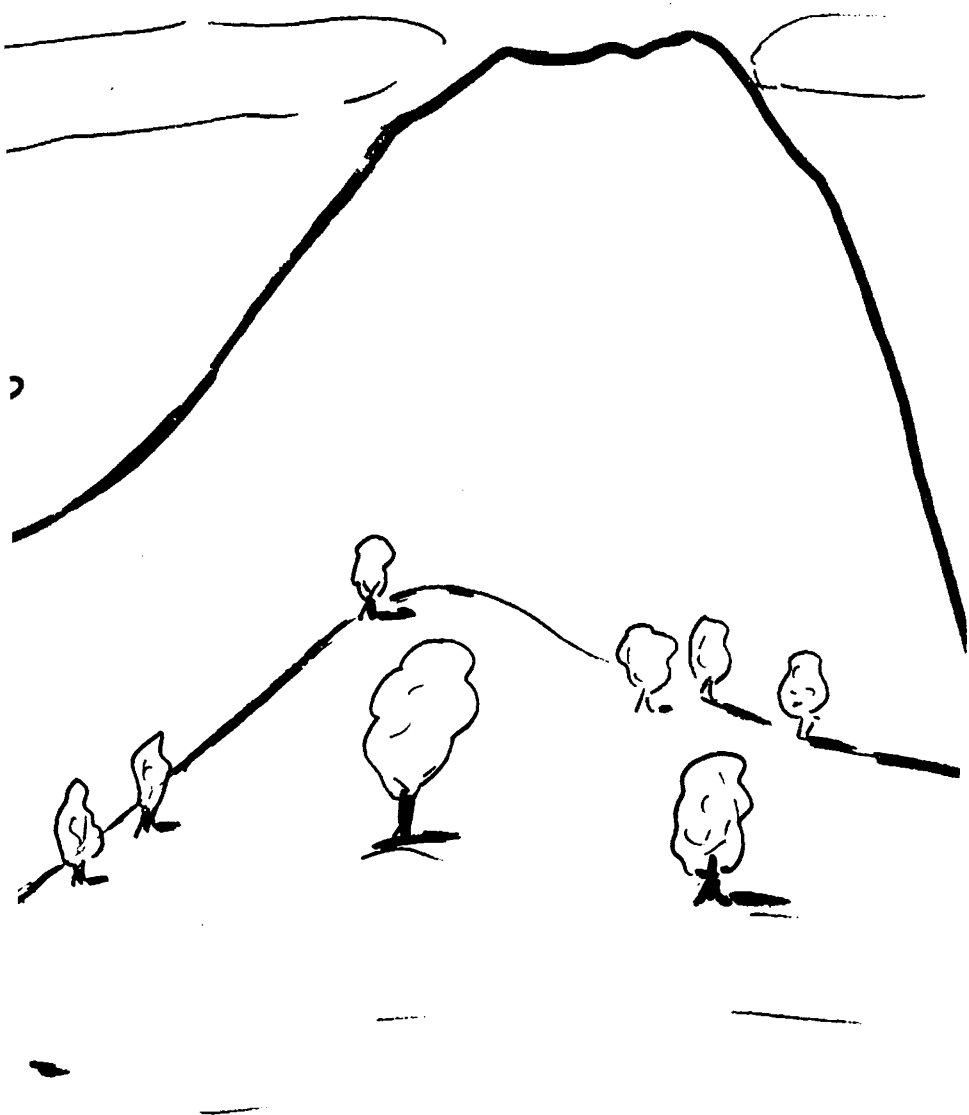
Then the children of Judah came to Joshua. Among them was Caleb, one of the twelve spies Moses had sent to the land of Canaan. "You know what the Lord said to Moses about me," Caleb reminded Joshua. "I was forty years old when Moses sent me to spy out the land. I wholly followed the Lord my God in bringing back a true report of Canaan. Moses promised me that day that the land I had walked over would be my inheritance and my children's forever, because I had wholly followed the Lord.

"The Lord has kept me alive these last forty-five years and now I am eighty-five years old. I am as strong today as I was the day Moses sent me as a spy and still able to go to war. Now, give me this mountain. Even though giants live there and have great fenced cities, if the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord has said."

Joshua remembered Moses' words, so Joshua blessed Caleb and gave him Hebron for his inheritance. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**“ Hebron there
because he wh
(Joshua 14:14.**



**... became the inheritance of Caleb...
followed the Lord God of Israel."**

In Canaan Land Today

"Please come quickly, Bro. Warner," said Bro. Wolfenberger. "Our little boy is lying sick with a high fever and the doctors do not expect him to live. Could you please come quickly and pray for him? We believe God hears your prayers."

It was a Wednesday morning, June 13, 1887. Bro. Warner and his company were eating breakfast when this worried father came riding to his neighbor's house asking for prayer. Right away Bro. Warner and his company rode to Bro. Wolfenberger's house. The five-year-old boy had only eaten a bite of apple since the past four days and he was burning with fever.

"Do you have this child in God's hands?" Bro. Warner asked the parents. They said that the doctor and his medicine was not helping their son. They were willing to trust only in God. "Then let us pray," said Bro. Warner.

After he had prayed for their faith to increase and for God's favor, Bro. Warner anointed the child's head with oil, like the Bible tells his people to do, and they agreed in prayer that God would heal this boy.

Soon after prayer, the fever broke and the little boy opened his eyes. "I want a cookie," he weakly told his mother. She rejoiced and praised the Lord as she gave him a cookie, and then another cookie.

"We want to draw closer to the Lord," said the father as he wiped tears from his eyes. "Please pray with us that the Holy Spirit of God will sanctify my soul. I want to give God everything for his goodness to my family."

During prayer the Holy Spirit blessed the father with his sweet peace and assurance. They were rejoicing in the Lord when the sister came

home from school, having been notified that her brother was dying. When she saw the wonderful works of the Lord, she rejoiced and told the family that she had found the Lord while pleading for her brother's life.

"Oh, praise God for his goodness!" exclaimed Sis. Frankie Miller who was part of the prayer circle with Bro. Warner. "We are rejoicing with the angels in a little bit of heaven right now! Jesus is just the same today and his miracles are witnessed in the Church of God. Let us sing about Canaan Land and the wonderful benefits of God."

So they sang songs of victory because the Lord was so merciful. Then Bro. D. S. Warner and his company of gospel workers traveled to another town to hold a revival meeting there. In this way, Bro. Warner was used of God to spread the Truth about Holiness to thousands of people. Even today we are blessed by the songs he wrote in the Evening Light Songs and benefit from his labors.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was now an old man?
2. Who had promised all the land of Canaan to Israel?
3. What did God tell Joshua to do to the country?
4. What did Eleazar, the priest, help Joshua do?
5. Who came to Joshua?
6. Who was forty years old when Moses sent him to be a spy?
7. How old was Caleb that day?
8. Who lived on the mountain Caleb asked for?
9. What was the name of the place Joshua gave Caleb?

LESSON TEXT: Joshua 13-19.

(Answers: 1. Joshua. 2. God. 3. Divide it among the twelve tribes. 4. Divide the land. 5. Caleb. 6. Caleb. 7. Eighty-five. 8. Giants. 9. Hebron.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Feb. 28, 1993

CITIES OF REFUGE

After the land had been divided among the tribes of Israel, the Lord told Joshua, "Tell the children of Israel to pick out certain cities as cities of refuge, as I instructed Moses."

The Israelites had always believed that the relatives of a dead person had a right to kill the one that caused their relative's death, even if the death was accidental. But God wanted every one to have a fair trial. No one would be put to death in a city of refuge unless they had killed someone on purpose.

If a person accidentally killed someone, they were to run as fast as they could to one of the cities of refuge. The keeper of the gate would let that person enter, but not those who chased him. The person would be given a trial and, if he was found not guilty, he could live in the city of refuge without being afraid of death.

As the Israelites scattered from Gilgal to go to the land that had been given them, they needed some way to always be reminded of God's commandments. For this reason the tribe of Levi was not given a separate inheritance as the other tribes.

The heads of the Levite tribe came to Eleazar the priest and to Joshua. They told them, "The Lord told Moses to give us cities to live in with the surrounding country as pasture for our cattle."

So each tribe gave the Levites cities out of their own inheritance. In this way the Levites were scattered through all the tribes. There they could teach the people how to serve and obey God.

After this the Lord gave the Israelites rest from war. There was no enemy to come against them, because the Lord had delivered all their enemies into their hand. The Lord did not fail to do anything that He had promised the Israelites. He gave them every good thing that He had promised.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**“There failed not ought of any good to
house of Israel;**



**g which the Lord had spoken unto the
(Joshua 21:45.)**

A Worthwhile Sacrifice

Fred Pruitt came into the small kitchen that warm June day in 1913 and sat down to a tasty supper his wife had lovingly prepared. After prayer, the young father looked at his two young boys, his little girl, his baby girl and then at his wife who was patiently serving the children.

"Well, wife, have you received an answer from the Lord concerning our move to Guthrie?" he asked.

Mary Ann replied slowly. "I have been praying about it, Fred. This farm here at Clovis has become a nice home for our family. It seems foolish to leave this farm without any guarantee of something better yet as I was praying, the Lord seemed to comfort and assure me that it would be his will for us to move."

Fred smiled at his wife and reached over to pat her hand. "We will live in town which I know will be hard to adjust to," he told her. "But you have always been so good to make home a pleasant place no matter where we live. I will prepare right away for an auction to sell our farm, animals, and equipment. I know we have no guarantee of a money salary but I know the Lord will bless us because it is his will that we move and help Bro. and Sis. Janes with the printing work."

So it was on June 13, the Fred Pruitt family of six members arrived in Guthrie, Oklahoma to help print the gospel. They rented a small, four-room house. Later, after twin babies were born to the family, they bought a bigger house and then built a building beside it for the Faith Publishing House and the printing machinery.

Now Bro. Pruitt had another burden concerning the work of the Lord. "Wife, I feel that we should print a monthly newsletter informing the saints of the coming camp meetings, inviting sinners, and encouraging those who are without a nearby congregation or pastor. Let us pray about it."

"Yes, we need to pray about it," replied Sis. Pruitt. "That will mean we need enough paper every month to send out the....what will you call the paper?"

"It will be the *Faith and Victory* paper," he informed his wife. "Let us pray that the Lord will supply the paper so we can print the *Faith and Victory* soon."

The Lord was faithful to answer their prayers and in March, 1923, the first issue of the *Faith and Victory* was published and mailed. It has been printed and mailed every month since then, except for the month of August.

"Wife, I want to let you know how much I appreciate your help with the print shop," Bro. Pruitt said one night after supper. "Though we have been through some dark hours and severe trials, we can truthfully say God has dealt graciously with us. Praise the Lord!" —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of cities were the people told to pick out?
2. If a person killed someone accidentally, where could they run?
3. What would the person be given in this city?
4. As the people scattered, what did they need to be reminded of?
5. What tribe had not been given a separate inheritance?
6. Who told Moses to give the Levites cities to live in?
7. What could the Levites teach the people?
8. Who gave the Israelites rest from war?
9. What did the Lord give the Israelites?

LESSON TEXT: Joshua 20-21.

(Answers: 1. Cities of refuge. 2. To a city of refuge. 3. A fair trial. 4. God's commandments. 5. The tribe of Levi. 6. Moses. 7. How to obey and serve God. 8. The Lord. 9. Every good thing that He had promised them.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Mar. 7, 1993

THE NEW ALTAR

When all the tribes of Israel had been given the land they were to live in, Joshua called the men from the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh. He told them, "You have done every thing Moses commanded you. Now that your brothers have rest from their enemies, you may return to your possession which Moses gave you on the other side of Jordan. But be very careful to do the commandment and the law which Moses charged you."

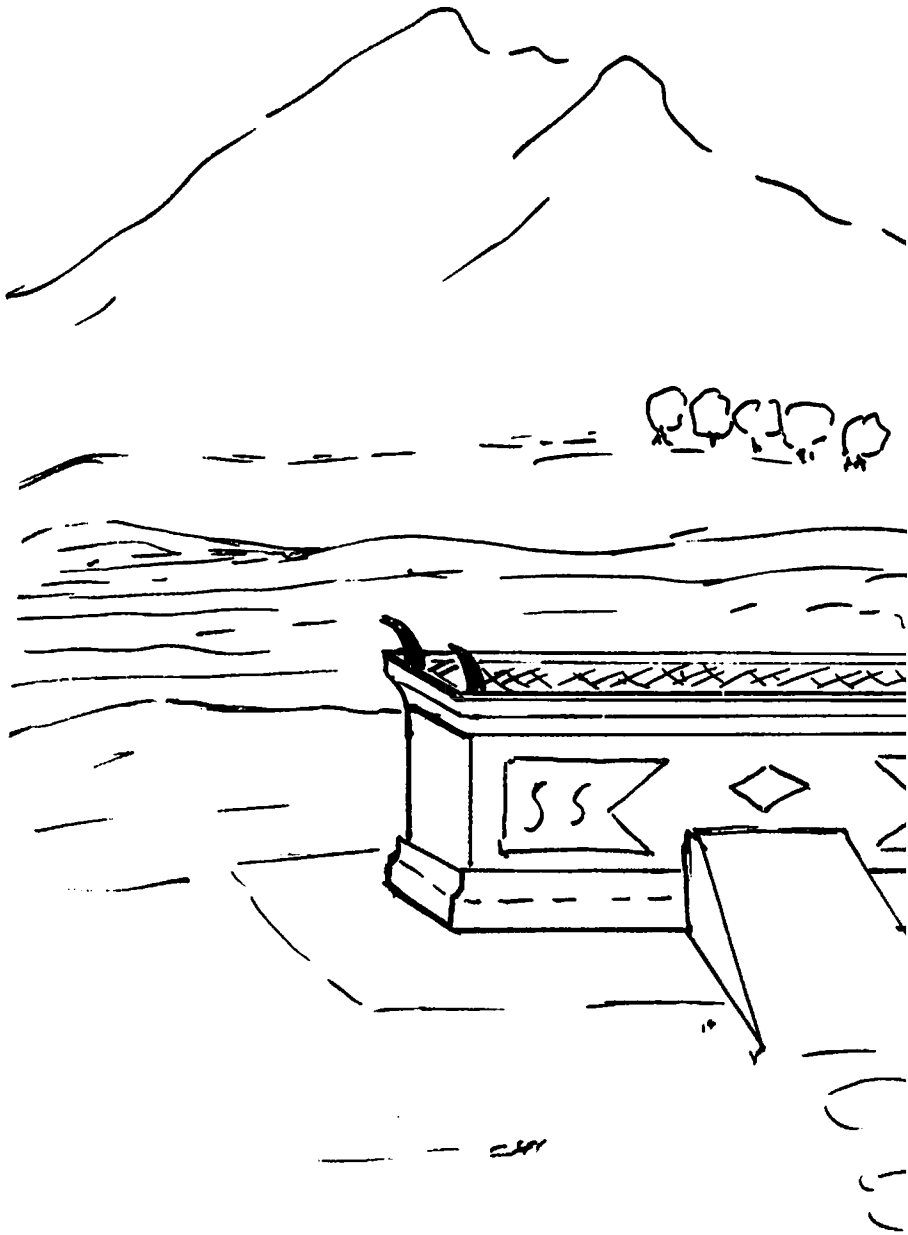
So the men started for their own homes. But as they were about to cross the Jordan river, they thought about being separated from the rest of Israel by this great river. They did not want to be cut off from the worship of the one true God. So they built an altar there on the banks of the river like the true altar at Shiloh. After this they went to their own homes.

When the men of the other tribes of Israel heard about the new altar, they were angry. God had commanded that sacrifices could only be offered on the altar at the tabernacle in Shiloh. They thought the men had built an altar in disobedience to God's command. They were afraid all of Israel would be punished if any of them disobeyed.

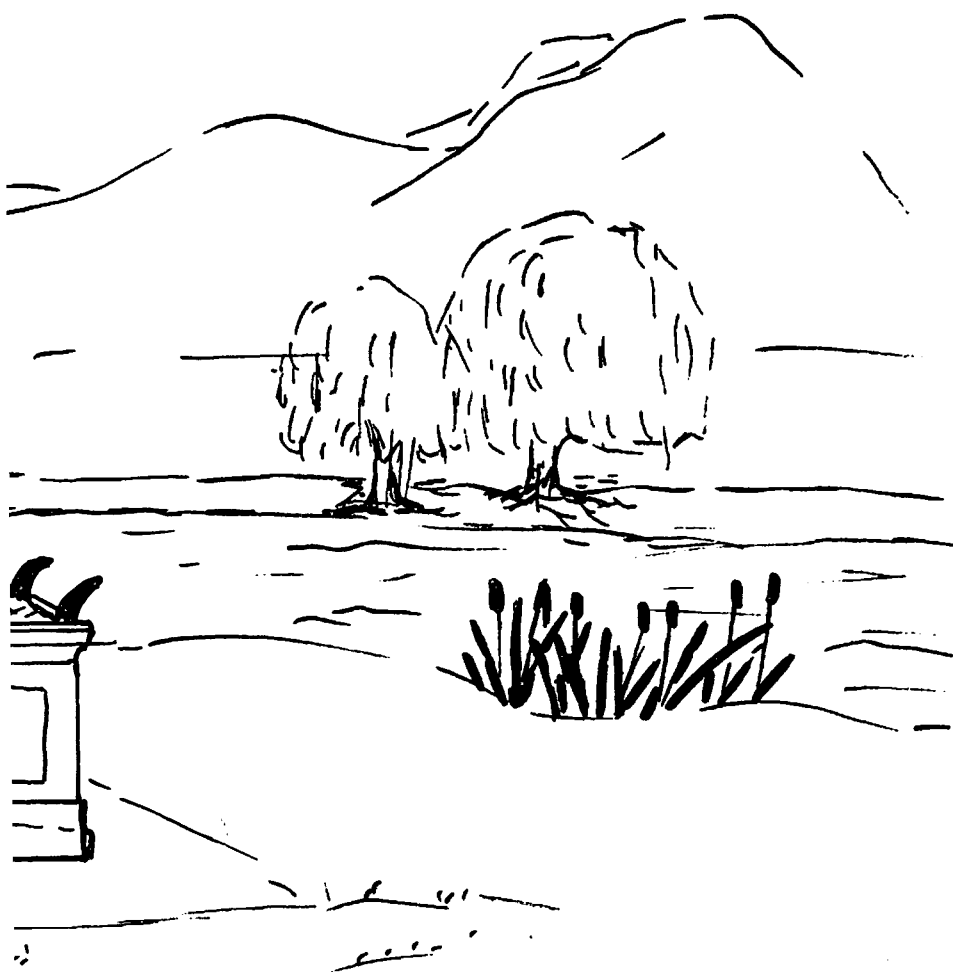
So the people sent Phinehas, the son of Eleazar the priest, and ten princes to speak to the tribes on the other side of Jordan. "Why have you sinned by building another altar and rebelling against God?" they asked them. The men explained, "We built this altar like the one at Shiloh to prove that the tribes on the east side of Jordan worship the true God just as you do at Shiloh."

When Phinehas and the princes returned with this news, all Israel was glad. Now they knew the tribes on the other side of Jordan wanted to always serve the true God just as they did.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**“ And the children of Reuben and
for it shall be a witness between us**



**children of Gad called the altar Ed:
t the Lord is God." (Joshua 22:34.)**

Sweet Old Stories

"Daddy, what are we going to read about tonight in family worship," asked Karen as she climbed up on her daddy's knee. "I want to hear some more stories about Jesus and how he healed little children."

"That sounds good to me," replied Daddy, kissing his little girl on the cheek.

"Oh, I don't want to hear those stories any more," said Jerry. "I've heard them so much I know them backwards. Let's read something with a little more adventure like about cowboys and Indians."

"During worship service?" questioned Mother who was clearing the table from supper.

"Well, there were men who were missionaries to the Indians," said Daddy. "We could read about them and their great adventures. However, I don't think the stories of Jesus are that boring. I'm much older than you, Son, yet every time I read about Jesus, I see something else great and interesting in his life or ministry. I don't like to know that you are tired of hearing about Jesus."

"Well, I'm not really tired of hearing of Jesus," mumbled Jerry. "It's just that, well, I like to hear of new things that Jesus did and not hear the same stories over and over again."

"Okay," said Daddy, "I'll tell you what we will do. Since Karen is younger than you, she likes to hear these stories because some of them are new to her. So tonight, you can tell us a story about Jesus from the New Testament. Then tomorrow night we will have a story about one of God's missionaries. Fair enough?"

Jerry nodded with a grin. So in family worship that night, Jerry told about the woman of Canaan who came to Jesus and desired him to heal her daughter of an unclean spirit. At first Jesus would not listen to her, and he said, 'It is not for me to help anyone but

an Israelite.' But she pleaded and worshiped Jesus. Then he said, 'It is not right to take God's children's things and give them to the dogs.' So she humbled herself, and said, "Truth, Lord, but the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from the masters' table." Jesus told her she had great faith and He healed the daughter.

"That was very good, Jerry," said Daddy. "What does that story teach us?"

"We must humble ourselves to get an answer from God," he replied.

"Yes, and repeating over and over often gets results," said Daddy. "Did the little girl get healed, Karen?"

"Yes, and I'm glad," said Karen.

"Good," Daddy agreed. "Children, when you grow up to have homes of your own, I want you to tell these stories to your children because they will be new to them. The stories of Jesus grow sweeter each time they are told."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who called the men from the tribes of Ruben, Gad and Manasseh?
2. Who gave these tribes land on the other side of Jordan?
3. What must they be careful to do?
4. What did the men build on the banks of Jordan?
5. Where was the true altar?
6. Who was angry when they heard about the new altar?
7. Who had commanded that sacrifices be offered only at Shiloh?
8. Who was Phinehas?
9. Why did the men build the new altar?

LESSON TEXT: Joshua 22.

(Answer: 1. Joshua 2. Moses 3. The commandment and the law. 4. An altar 5. At Shiloh 6. The other tribes of Israel 7. God 8. The son of Elcazar the priest 9. To prove that they also worshipped the true God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Mar. 14, 1993

JOSHUA SAYS GOODBYE

Joshua and the children of Israel had enjoyed many years of peace. Joshua knew he would soon die. He called all the people of Israel together so he could speak to them once more.

The people were glad to come and hear their faithful leader. They had always honored Joshua and never refused to obey his commands. Joshua told them he was old and no longer able to lead them as he once had. He reminded them of all that God had done for them; how He had driven out the other nations and given them the good land of Canaan for their possession.

"Be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses," Joshua told them. "Keep away from the nations that worship idols. Stay with the Lord your God, as you have until today. Then you will always overcome your enemies, because it is the Lord your God who fights for you, as He promised."

"But if you marry those who worship idols, you can be sure that the Lord will not fight for you any more," Joshua warned.

"Now, fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth," he urged. "Choose today whom you will serve; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," Joshua assured them.

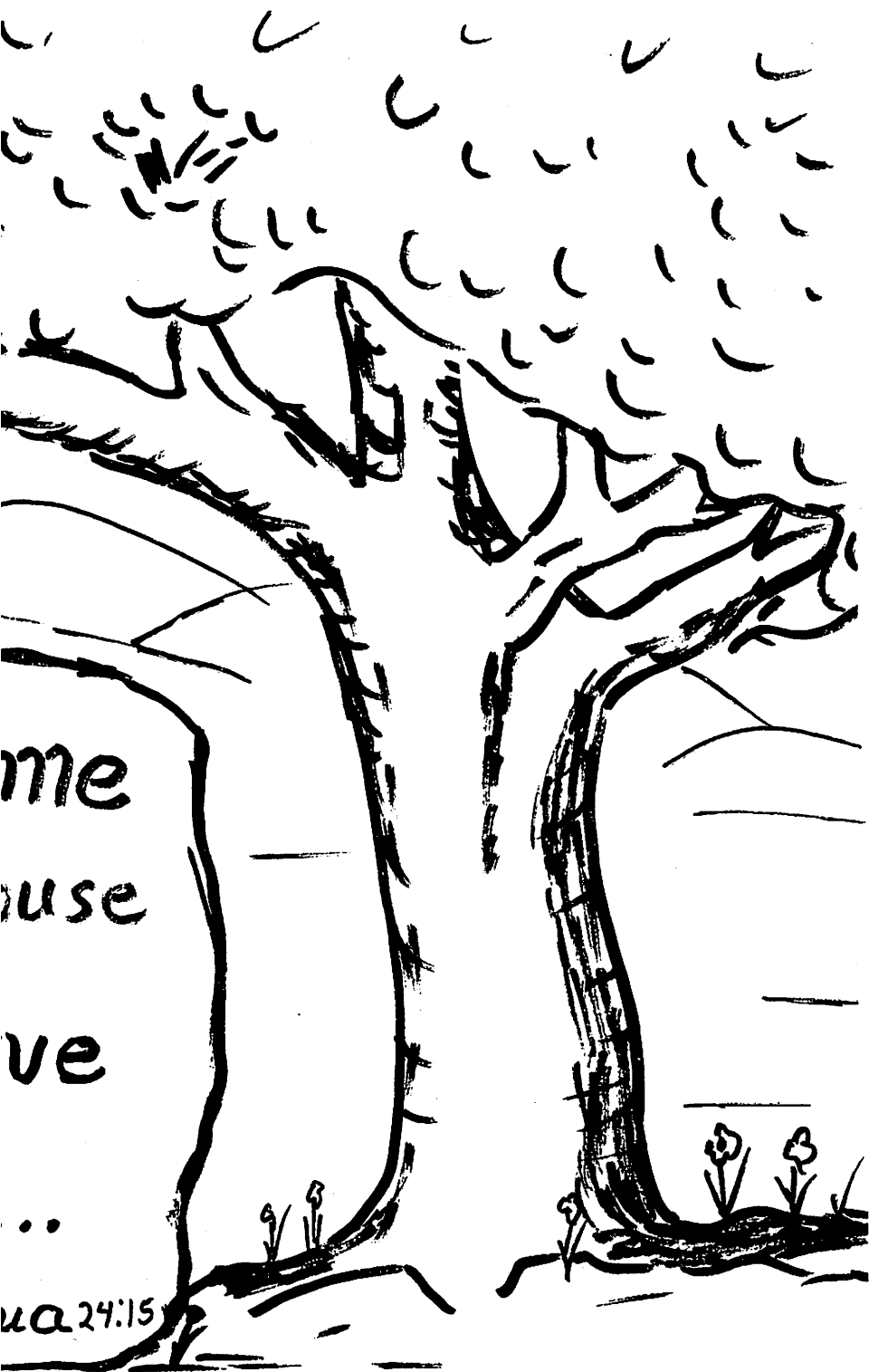
All the people answered, "We will serve the Lord our God and we will obey His voice." Joshua wanted the people to be reminded of their promise after he was gone, so he wrote it in a book. Then he set up a great stone under an oak tree at Shechem. Afterward, whenever the people saw that stone, they remembered their promise to God and to Joshua.

Joshua didn't live very long after this. He was one hundred and ten years old when he died.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



As for
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the Lord
Ja



An Indian Missionary

Tonight we get to hear a new and exciting story in family worship," said Jerry as the family gathered in the living room at evening time.

"I'm going to tell you a story about a man who you may not have heard about before," said Daddy. "He didn't live very long, died in his early twenties, and there aren't many things written about him yet he loved the Lord and did quite a bit of missionary work in our own country. Jerry, did you say last night you wanted to hear about cow-boys and Indians?"

"Are you going to tell us about them?" Jerry was interested now.

"I'll tell you about a man who helped the Indians before our country became the United States in 1776. This man, named David Brainerd, felt the call of God to tell the heathen Indians about God and his Son, Jesus. Down along the Appalachian Mountains David rode alone on his horse to different Indian tribes. At first the Indians did not like David and they threatened to kill him. They were tired of fur trappers cheating them of furs and killing wild game on their tribal grounds. The Indians thought David was just another fur trapper."

"How did he make them understand that he was their friend?" asked Jerry.

"He spoke softly to them and he prayed for them and they somehow understood he meant them no harm. One time while David was camped alone in his tent and writing in his diary, several Indian braves circled his camp. One Indian quietly walked to David's tent and slipped a poisonous snake beside David. Just as quietly, David did not stir but let the snake slither out of his tent. Then the Indians thought he had some special power and that tribe wanted to hear his gospel message. He had slowly learned their language and he told them about the true God who had made them and sent His Son for their sins."

"Did all the tribe get saved?" asked Jerry.

"No, sorry to say, the Indians just shook their heads and turned away. David felt so badly. He wasn't well in his body either. He was suffering from consumption but he was determined to reach as many Indians as he could before he died. The fur traders did not like David because he was teaching the Indians. They wanted the Indians to stay ignorant so they could continue to cheat them. When the Indians realized David was more their friend than the fur traders, they began to listen to him. Before he died, he had a few Indians who believed in Jesus."

"Oh, it's too bad that he died so young," said Jerry. "Maybe more of the Indians would have been saved."

"His brother, John Brainerd, took his missionary route and did see more Indians saved," said Daddy. "Men like David Brainerd are wise in that they quietly fight their battles with the Word of God."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who knew he would soon die?
2. Why did Joshua call all the people together?
3. What did Joshua remind the people of?
4. Who were the people commanded not to marry?
5. Who did Joshua choose to serve?
6. Who said, "We will serve the Lord our God?"
7. Who wrote this promise in a book?
8. Why did Joshua set up a great stone?
9. How old was Joshua when he died?

LESSON TEXT: Joshua 23; 24.

(Answers: 1. Joshua. 2. So he could speak to them once more. 3. All that God had done for them. 4. Those who worshiped idols. 5. The Lord. 6. All the people. 7. Joshua. 8. So the people would remember their promise to God. 9. One hundred and ten years old.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Mar. 21, 1993

THE ISRAELITES DISOBEY

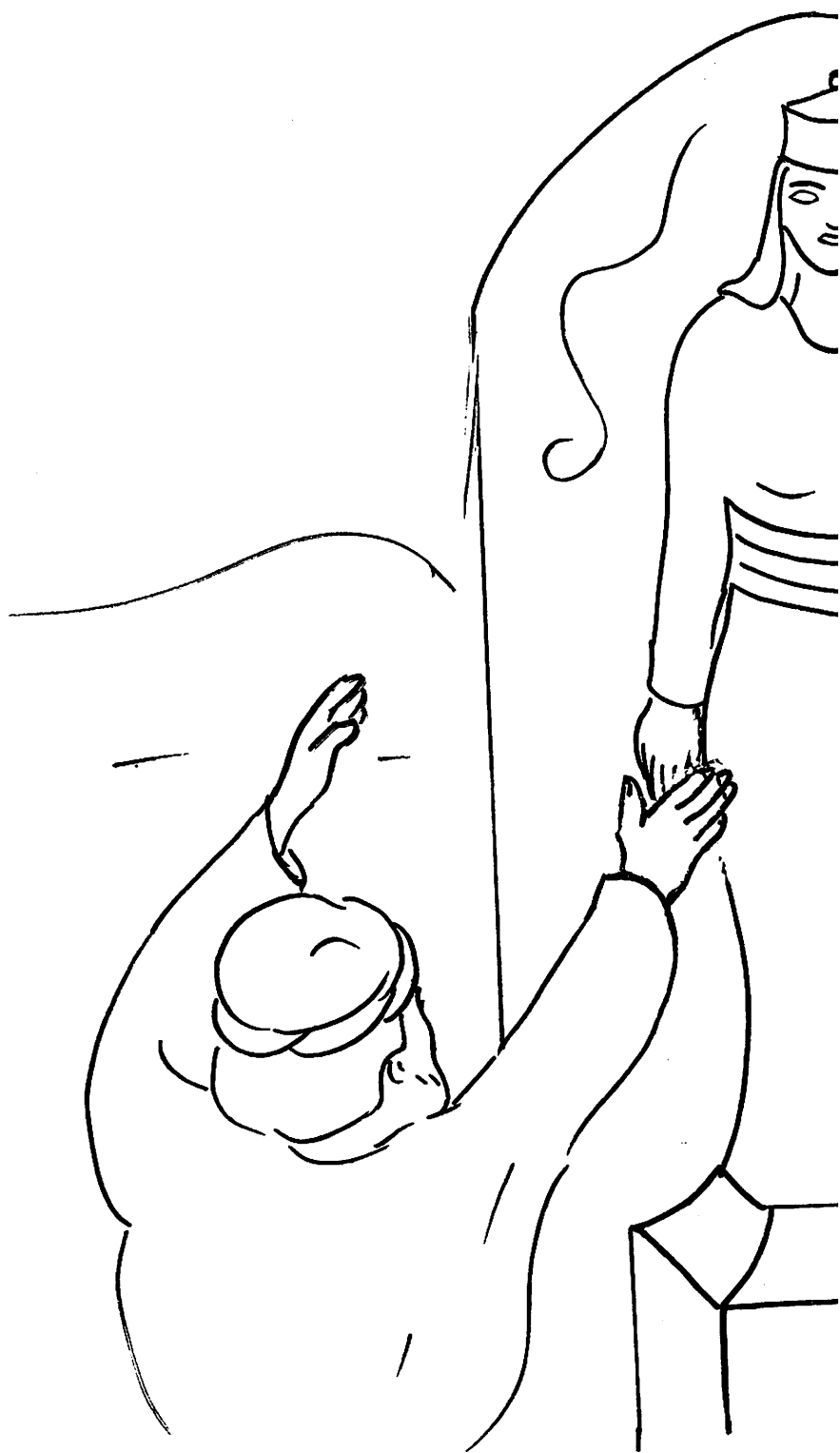
The children of Israel were careful to obey God's commandments as long as Joshua led them. They continued to serve Him as long as the elders who had served Joshua lived. But after all these leaders had died, the Israelites quit fighting the Canaanites to take possession of the land Joshua had given them. They allowed the Canaanites to live and be their neighbors.

Before long the Israelites were learning the wicked ways of the Canaanites. Soon their children were marrying Canaanites and learning to serve the idols that they worshiped. The Israelites had forgotten their promise to always serve and obey God. But God did not forget. He sent a messenger who told them, "I brought you out of Egypt to this land which I promised to your fathers. I promised to never break my covenant with you if you would not make peace with those who live in Canaan. I commanded you to throw down their altars. Why haven't you obeyed me?"

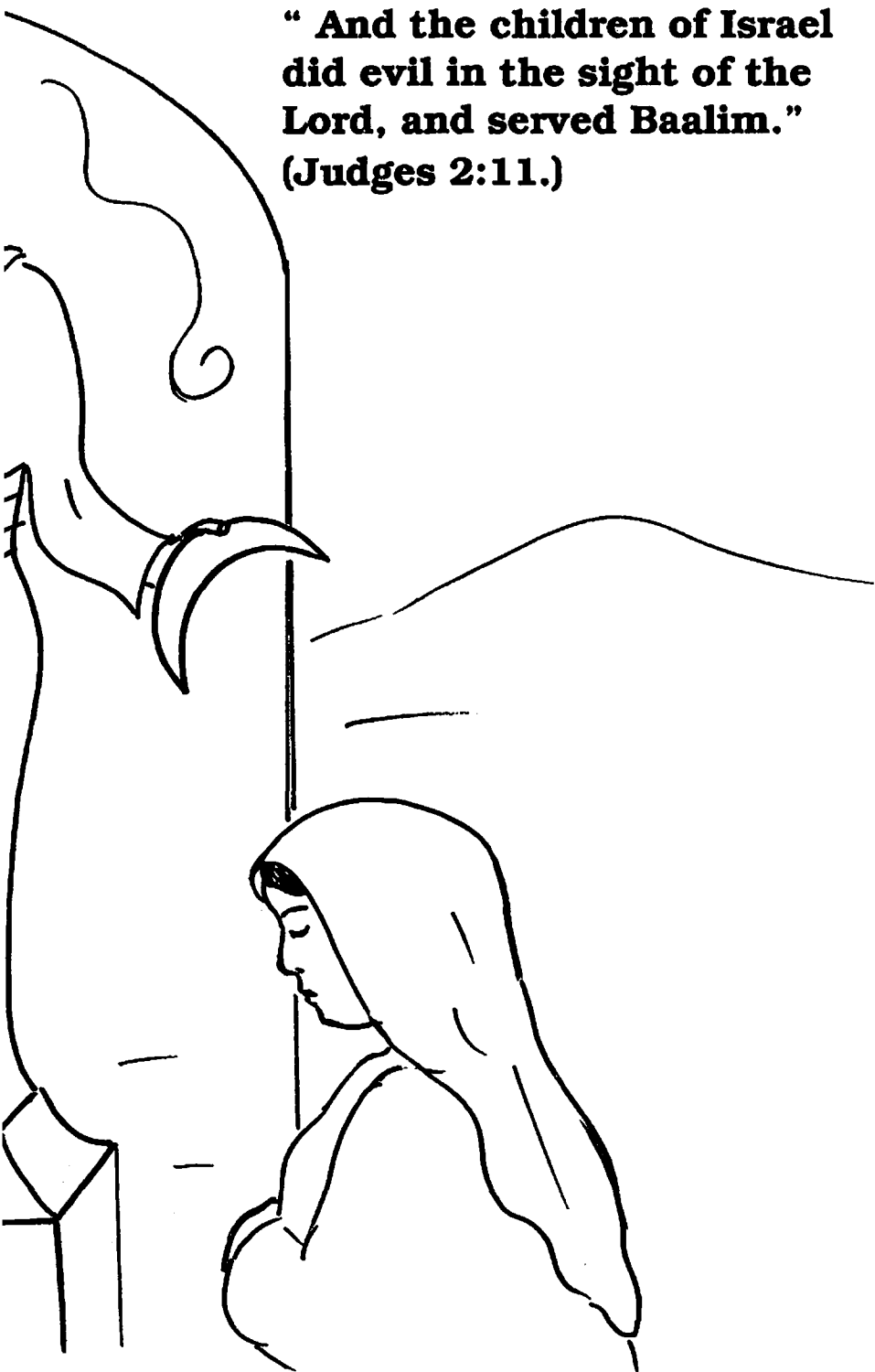
The children of Israel cried when they heard the words of the messenger. They knew they had not obeyed God. The people even offered a sacrifice there to show God they were sorry for disobeying. But before long they were again doing as their wicked neighbors did.

When the Israelites began to worship idols, God would no longer fight their battles. When the king of Mesopotamia fought against the Israelites, he won the battle and made them his slaves. After eight years of slavery, the people cried to the Lord. They remembered how God used to give them victory over their enemies.

Although the people had disobeyed Him, God had mercy and heard their prayers. He sent Othniel, Caleb's nephew, to lead the people against their enemies. Once more God fought for the Israelites and set them free from their bondage. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**“ And the children of Israel
did evil in the sight of the
Lord, and served Baalim.”
(Judges 2:11.)**



Karen's Temptation

"Mama, may I go to Janet's house to play?" asked Karen as she skipped into the kitchen where Mother was making supper.

"I need your help right here," said Mother. "I want you to set the table."

"Okay," said Karen. She climbed on the step stool to get the dishes from the cabinet. "After I set the table may I then go to Janet's?"

"No, I need you to do other things after you set the table. You may not go to Janet's until after supper. Please hand me the big platter for the fried chicken."

Karen did as she was told but her thoughts were really outside playing with her friend, Janet. She ate her supper in a hurry, not very grateful for the lovely meal her mother had so carefully planned and cooked.

As soon as they were finished eating, Karen said, "Now may I go to Janet's?"

"And leave your mother with all these dirty dishes?" said Daddy. "No, you may not go to Janet's until all the dishes are washed, put away, and the kitchen is tidy again."

Karen sighed but began to clear the table. Why didn't they understand that she was in a hurry to play with Janet?

"I know why Karen wants to go to Janet's house to play," said Jerry. "Janet told her they could watch the Little Mermaid on TV and it starts soon."

"Oh, dear," said Mother. "I don't mind if you play with Janet after your work is done, but I never like for you to watch television. It has very little value to it and that is why we do not have one in our home. Why don't you ask Janet to play here at our house?"

"Because Jerry is here and he is always bugging us," said Karen. "We want to play dolls where it is quiet and we can be alone."

"That sounds alright," said Daddy who had been listening to what was said. "I don't mind you playing dolls with Janet, but I do not like you watch-

ing television while there. Do you know that the Little Mermaid has witch practices in the movie? That witch dressed in black actually casts evil spells. Besides, the characters are so undressed and move so ungodly. Do you think Jesus would enjoy watching that movie?"

"Well, no, but he isn't a girl," said Karen.

"That means Jesus is really a strong character you need to follow," replied Daddy. "He was a grown man and could choose what he wanted to do, say, or see, yet he did nothing sinful. Jesus can give a little girl like you just that much strength in character if you will only ask him."

"Well, I won't watch Little Mermaid but Mother said I could play with Janet after supper," said Karen.

Just then there was a knock on the door. It was Janet who came to play dolls with Karen. Her mother had to go to the store so Janet came over to Karen's house to play.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did the Israelites obey as long as Joshua led them?
2. After the leaders died who did the Israelites quit fighting?
3. Who forgot their promise to serve and obey God?
4. Who did God send to the people?
5. What did the children of Israel do when they heard his words?
6. What did they do to show they were sorry?
7. What did the Israelites begin to worship?
8. What did the king of Mesopotamia do to the Israelites?
9. Who did God send to lead the people against their enemies?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 1:1-3:11.

(Answers: 1. God. 2. The Canaanites. 3. The Israelites. 4. A messenger. 5. They cried. 6. They offered a sacrifice. 7. Idols. 8. Made them slaves. 9. Othniel.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Mar. 28, 1993

EHUD DELIVERS ISRAEL

When Othniel died, the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of God. This time the Lord sent Eglon, the king of Moab, to fight against them. The Israelites lost the battle and were again taken as slaves. They served Eglon eighteen years.

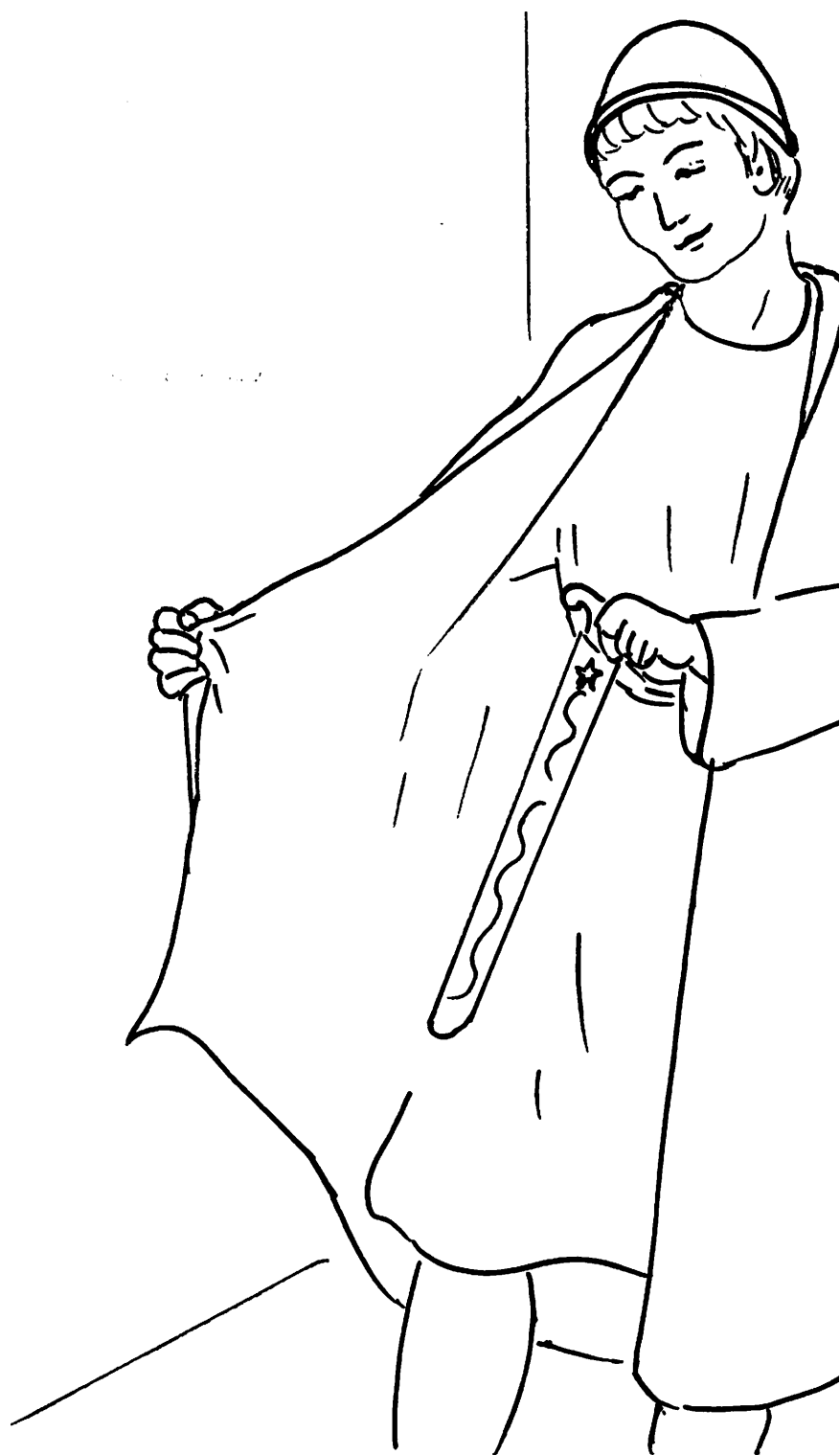
But when the children of Israel cried to the Lord, the Lord raised up another deliverer for them. His name was Ehud. Every year the children of Israel had to bring fruit, grain, and cattle as a gift to king Eglon. Ehud made himself a two-edged sword and hid it under his clothes where he could reach it easily, then he went with the other men to take the present to king Eglon.

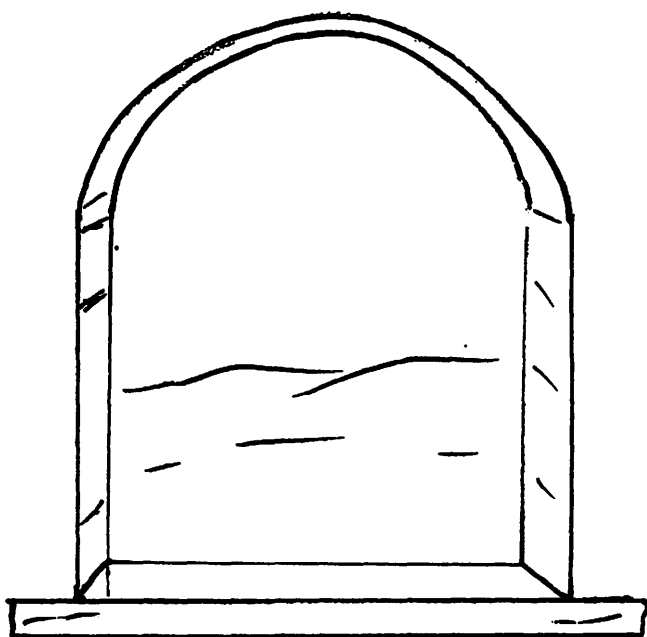
After the king had received their gift, he sent Ehud and the men away. When they had gone just a little way, Ehud sent the other men on home, but he returned to the king's house.

"I have a secret message for you, O king," Ehud told Eglon. "Keep quiet," the king said. Then he made everyone else leave the room. "I have a message from God for you," Ehud said. At the same time he pulled out the sword and killed the wicked king. Then Ehud quietly left the room and locked the door behind him. When the servants saw Ehud leave, they wondered why the king did not call for them. Since the door was locked they decided he must be resting. They waited and waited but still the king did not unlock the door. Finally they forced the door open. There they found their king, dead.

Meanwhile Ehud had escaped. As soon as he got home he called all the children of Israel and told them, "Follow me. The Lord has delivered your enemies into your hand!" The Lord went with them and delivered them from their enemy.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**“ But when the children of Israel
cried unto the Lord, the Lord
raised them up a deliverer,...”
(Judges 3:15a.)**

The Rude Neighbors

Jerry and Karen watched the new neighbors move into the house across the street.

"I wonder if they have any children," Karen said. The children watched and watched but they never saw any sign of a child. It was just an older couple and their big black dog.

"I wonder if they like children," said Karen. "I want to go and visit them as soon as Mama lets me."

"Oh, just leave them alone," said Jerry. "They probably don't want us to pester them."

In a day or so, Mother and Karen took over some cookies to the new neighbors. As they stepped on the porch, that big black dog came to the backyard gate and growled.

"He certainly isn't very friendly," remarked Mother just as the neighbor lady opened the door.

"Hello, my name is Ruth Alton," said Mother. "We are your neighbors across the street and we wanted to come and welcome you to our neighborhood."

"Oh, thank you," mumbled the neighbor lady. "My husband and I can't eat cookies but Rhett will enjoy them. Thank you." Then she shut the door leaving Mother and Karen to quietly walk back home.

"I don't like that lady," Karen said to Mother. "She wasn't very friendly."

"She wasn't very friendly," agreed Mother, "but we must still like her. Maybe she isn't well or has terrible problems in her life. Whatever the case, we must keep ourselves free from bad attitudes."

A few days later, Karen and Janet were playing jump rope down the front sidewalk. The big black dog growled and circled his pen. Suddenly he jumped right over the fence and raced toward the girls. Janet screamed but Karen just froze with fear. With a few long leaps, the dog was upon the girls when Jerry came running from the garage where he had seen the dog charge.

Within a moment, Jerry had Karen's jump rope wrapped around the dog's neck and head. About that time, the new neighbor lady saw their dog was out."

"Rhett! Rhett! Come here, boy," she called to him. The dog obeyed, taking Karen's jump rope with him. The girls were so shaky that they went inside to relax while Jerry went across the street to get Karen's jump rope.

"I'm sorry about what happened," the neighbor lady said. "Rhett is not used to children and he was just wanting to play. However, I will have our son make that fence higher when he comes to visit. My husband is so weak and frail that he can't do hardly a thing any more. Tell the girls I am sorry."

Jerry was polite and said he would. Later, the new neighbor came to visit Mother. As time went by, they became friends because Jerry and Karen were taught to overcome rudeness with politeness.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did God send to fight against the Israelites?
2. What happened to the people after they lost the battle?
3. How long did they serve king Eglon?
4. Who did God raise up to deliver them?
5. What did the Israelites take to the king every year?
6. What did Ehud hide under his clothes?
7. What did Ehud tell the king he had for him?
8. What did Ehud tell the children of Israel to do?
9. Who went with them and delivered them?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 3:12-31.

(Answers: 1. Eglon. 2. They became slaves. 3. Eighteen years. 4. Ehud. 5. Fruit, grain and cattle. 6. A sword. 7. A message from God. 8. "Follow me." 9. God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 April 4, 1993

HERE COMES THE KING!

Every road leading into Jerusalem was crowded with people. It was the same this time every year as people flocked to the city to celebrate the feast of the Passover. But this year there was another reason for coming. Many had heard about Jesus and the wonderful things He had done. They heard how He had recently raised Lazarus from the dead. They hoped to see Jesus while at the feast, and maybe Lazarus too.

Jesus and His disciples were also on their way to Jerusalem. As they were about to enter Bethphage, a village near Jerusalem, Jesus called two of the disciples to Him. "Go into the village. Right away you will see a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it to me. If anyone asks why you are taking it tell them, 'The Lord hath need of it.'"

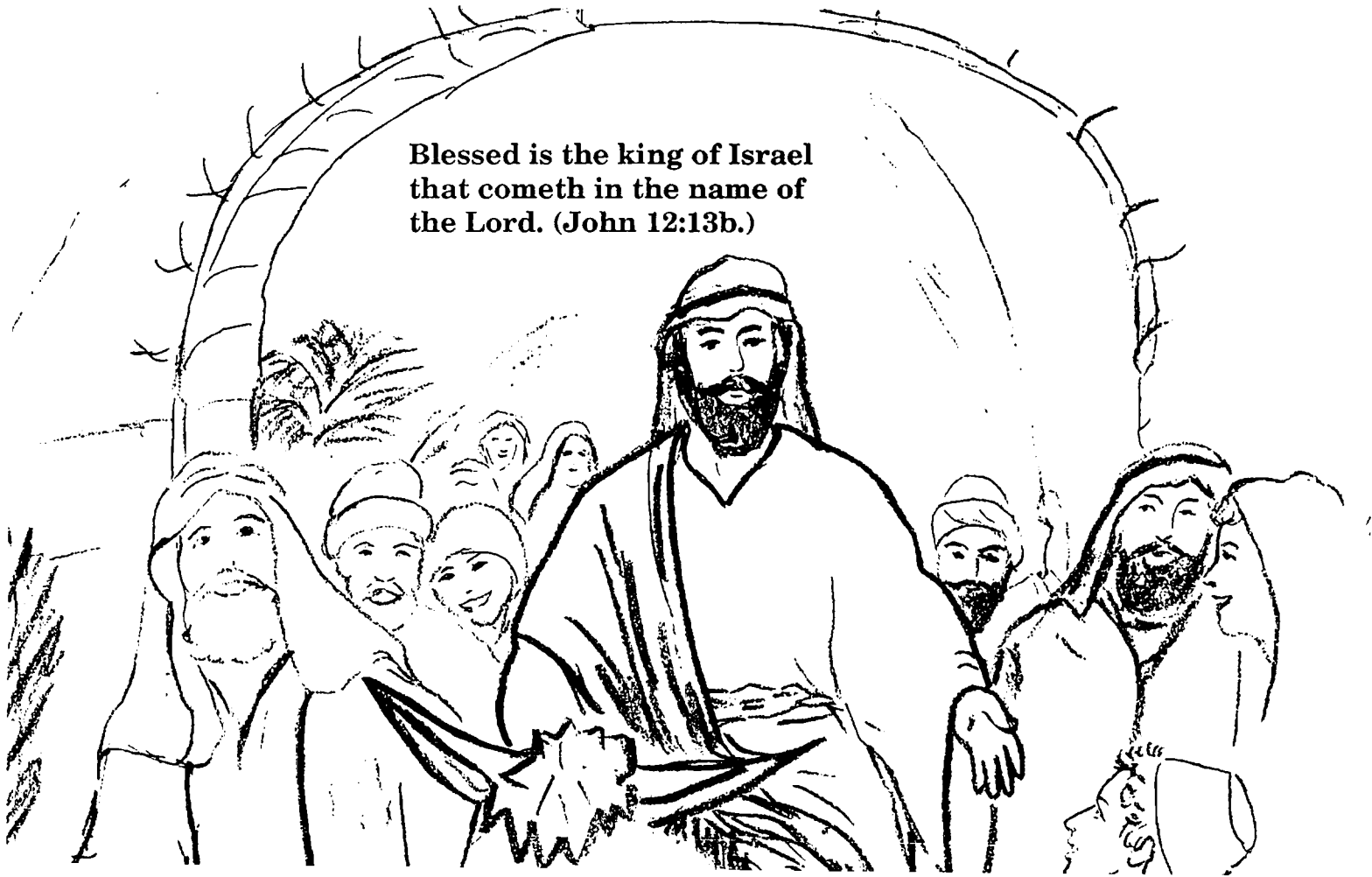
The disciples did as Jesus said. Then they spread their coats over the colt's back for Jesus to sit on. Soon word spread that Jesus was coming into Jerusalem. A crowd rushed out to meet Him. As Jesus rode along, the people took off their coats and spread them on the road ahead of Jesus. Others cut palm branches and waved them as they shouted, "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!"

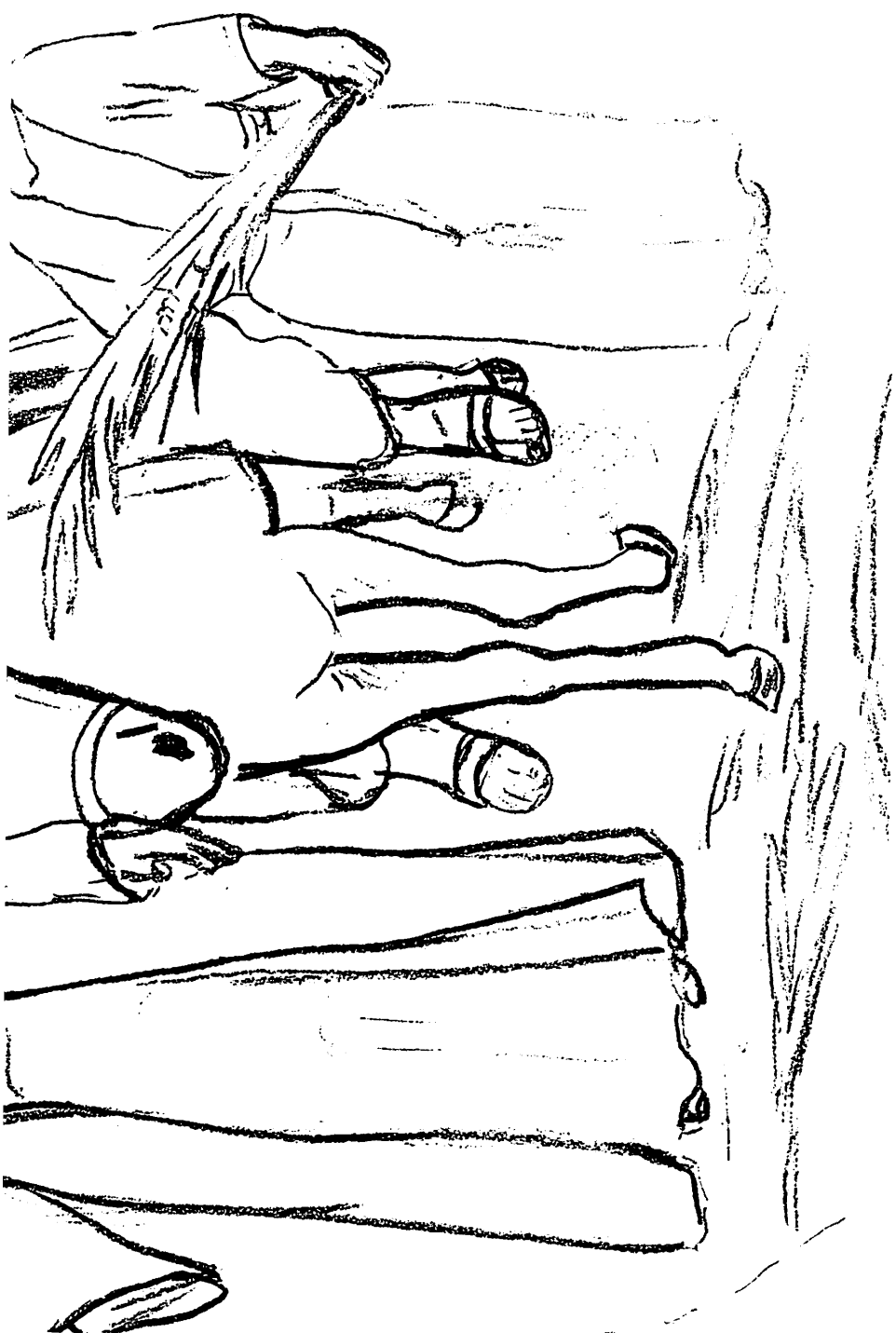
When the noisy crowd reached Jerusalem, those in the city rushed out to see who was coming. "Who is this?" they asked when they saw Jesus surrounded by the great crowd. The people told them, "This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee."

The proud priests and Pharisees watched as the people shouted and waved palm branches. They had done all they could to keep the people from following Jesus. "The whole world has gone after Him!" they told each other. Angrily they began to make more plans how they could kill Jesus.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**Blessed is the king of Israel
that cometh in the name of
the Lord. (John 12:13b.)**





To Suffer And To Reign

(A true story)

Life is very hard for a Christian living in the big land of China. Most of the millions living there do not know about Jesus Christ or do not like Him and His followers. One little boy, named John Li Wan, was born to Christian Chinese parents. As soon as he could talk, John learned Bible verses and songs.

John's father had Bible studies in their home until one day, the police knocked on their door. His father hugged him tightly, told him to always love Jesus, and was led away by the police. John never saw his father again. Later, he was told his father was shot because he told other prisoners about Jesus.

One day as John was walking home, some neighbor children grouped around him and pushed him into the alley. They hit, kicked, and spit on him. They told him he had a Christian name and they hated him for it. John was only four years old when this happened.

Because John's grandfather and father had been Christians, he was given the worst places to sit in school. His teachers spoke harshly to him for no reason and often judged against him when he was not to blame. The school children called him names and no one would be his friend. John was very lonely.

Even though John made good grades in school, the government would not let him go to high school. John had wanted to be a scientist but instead the government told him he had to work long hours in a factory. That is where John is still working today. The boss makes John work harder and longer hours because he does not like Christians. John is not given any money for his work because he works for the government.

John's brother was tricked by the government and forced to move from his home city of Xian because he had church services in his home. When this happened, John planned church services somewhere else. One day in 1981, some overseas Chinese Christians came to Xian. Police followed John every where he went so John hurried through alleys and jumped on the bus at the last minute. He did not want the police to find their meeting place and arrest the visitors. At church that day, they sang praises to God for sending them more Bibles through these visiting Christians.

Though John suffers scorn from the outside world, he is happy on the inside. Jesus reigns in his heart as King of kings and Lord of lords. John belongs to the Kingdom of God and some day, he wants to reign in heaven with Jesus. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What feast were the people going to celebrate in Jerusalem?
2. Who had Jesus raised from the dead?
3. Who did the people hope to see at the feast?
4. Where were Jesus and His disciples going?
5. How many disciples did Jesus call to Him?
6. What did He tell them to bring Him?
7. Who rode on the colt?
8. What did the people spread on the road ahead of Jesus?
9. Who began to plan how they could kill Jesus?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 21:1-11, John 12:12-19.

(Answers: 1. The feast of the Pass-over. 2. Lazarus. 3. Jesus and Lazarus. 4. To Jerusalem. 5. Two. 6. A colt. 7. Jesus. 8. Their coats. 9. The priests and Pharisees.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 April 11, 1993

"HE IS RISEN!"

The hours dragged by slowly for the soldiers as they guarded the grave where Jesus' body had been placed. No one had even come near the grave. The door into the tomb was covered by a huge rock and sealed. It seemed foolish to be standing guard.

But suddenly there was a great earthquake as the angel of the Lord came down from heaven. Going to the door of the tomb the angel easily rolled the huge rock away and sat down on it. The soldiers tried to look at him but his face was like lightning and his clothes were as white as snow. The soldiers were overcome by fear and fell to the ground, shaking and helpless. As soon as they were able, they ran to the city to report what they had seen to Jesus' enemies.

When the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought sweet spices to anoint Jesus' body. Very early in the morning the first day of the week, they went to the tomb. On the way they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the door of the tomb for us?"

When they got close enough to the tomb, they saw that the stone was already rolled away. As they entered the tomb they saw the angel. How frightened they were! "Don't be afraid," the angel told them. "You are looking for Jesus. He is risen. He is not here."

"But go tell Jesus' disciples and Peter that He will meet you in Galilee, just as He told you."

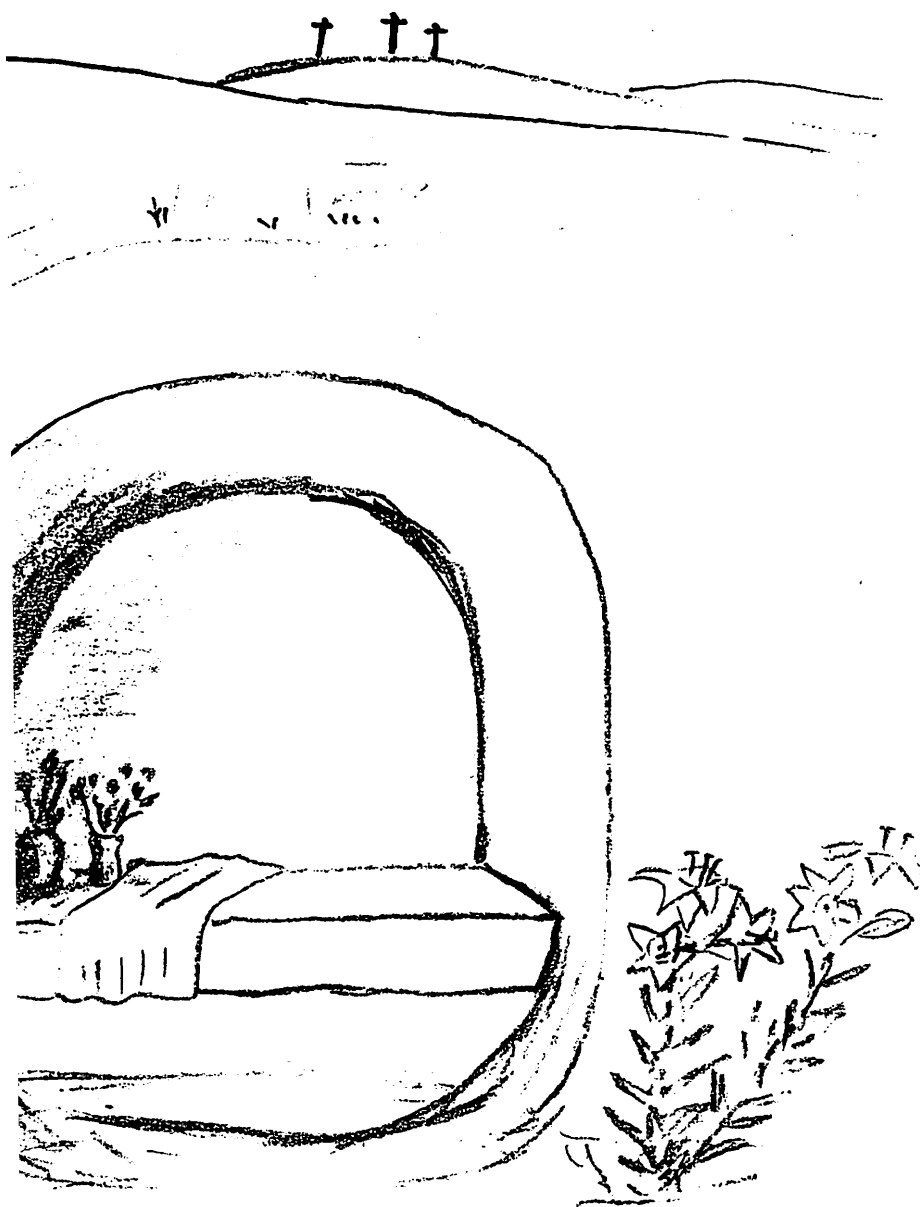
Shaking with fear, the women left the tomb and ran to tell Peter and the other disciples what they had seen and heard. The disciples could hardly believe the good news. Peter ran to the tomb to see for himself. Sure enough, the tomb was empty!

Soon Jesus Himself appeared to the disciples and other believers. Now they were sure that Jesus had risen from the grave.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**"He is risen; He is not here:
behold the place where they
laid Him." (Mark 16:6)**



Good "Untouchables"

(A true story)

Vishal is a Christian missionary who lives in India. Most of the people who live in India belong to a religion called Hinduism. In this religion, they believe that anyone who is not a Hindu is unclean or an "Untouchable". Since Vishal knows the Truth about God and His love, no Hindu is allowed to visit his home. If a Hindu does, he is "Untouchable".

One day Vishal and his father were walking in the village. They came upon a Hindu who was sitting in a tree cutting down a branch.

"Hello, Durjan," said Vishal. "Meet my father, who is a good man."

"Hello," said Durjan with a laugh. "I am a bad man."

"If you are a bad man, you must become a good man," replied Vishal's father. Durjan laughed again and turned away.

However, Durjan could not forget what Vishal's father had said and in a few days he knocked at Vishal's door.

"I am a bad man," he said, "How can I become a good man?"

Vishal took Durjan into his home and told him all about Jesus Christ who had died for his sins. He explained how Jesus arose from the grave on the third day and now sits on the right hand of God listening to the prayers of believers.

"Do you believe Jesus Christ died for your sins and that He loves you?" Vishal asked Durjan who said he believed. They prayed and Durjan became a Christian.

As a Hindu, Durjan had stolen often from the people. Now as a Christian he did not steal but he was called an "Untouchable" by the other Hindus. People in the village would not speak to him. One day some men came and burned down his boundary fence, his house, and all his store of food. The

police would not punish the men who did it because Durjan was a Christian.

Durjan still loved Jesus but this put a fear in others to become a Christian.

"If they could only feel what it is like to have their sins washed away," Durjan told Vishal. "They would feel more love in their hearts, also."

"I know," replied Vishal. "I will continue to talk to them about Jesus and you continue to live the Christian life."

Slowly, one by one, other people in the village came knocking at Vishal's door to ask about Jesus Christ. Soon, in the village, there was a little community of "Untouchable" Christians.

Then the village men burned down all the houses in the Christian community. Though the government would not help them, Christians from overseas sent money to Vishal to help rebuild their houses. "This is like my life," said Durjan. "Jesus rebuilt my life over the old ashes."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was guarding Jesus' tomb?
2. What covered the door of the tomb?
3. Who came down from heaven?
4. Who rolled the huge rock away from the door?
5. Who fell to the ground shaking and helpless?
6. Who did the women see in Jesus' tomb?
7. Where would Jesus meet His disciples?
8. Who ran to the tomb to see if what the women said was true?
9. Who appeared to the disciples and other believers?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-14.

(Answers: 1. Soldiers. 2. A huge rock. 3. An angel of the Lord. 4. The angel. 5. The soldiers. 6. The angel. 7. In Galilee. 8. Peter. 9. Jesus.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 April 18, 1993

DEBORAH AND BARAK

The children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, when Ehud was dead. This time the Lord let Jabin, king of Canaan, overcome them. This king had nine hundred chariots of iron. The captain of his army was Sisera. For twenty years Jabin oppressed the Israelites.

Deborah was a woman in Israel who loved the Lord and kept His commands. She told the people the words of the Lord and judged Israel at that time. One day Deborah sent for Barak, a brave soldier. "The Lord commands you to take ten thousand men and go to mount Tabor. There you will fight Jabin's great army. The Lord has promised to deliver our enemies into your hand."

"If you will go with me, then I will go," Barak answered. "But if you will not go with me, then I will not go." "I will go with you but you will not get the honor for winning this battle. By the help of the Lord, a woman will capture Sisera, the captain of the enemy army." Saying this, Deborah got up and went with Barak to the place appointed for the battle.

Soon Sisera heard that Barak and an army of soldiers had gathered at mount Tabor. Quickly Sisera gathered all his chariots and his whole army and marched out to fight.

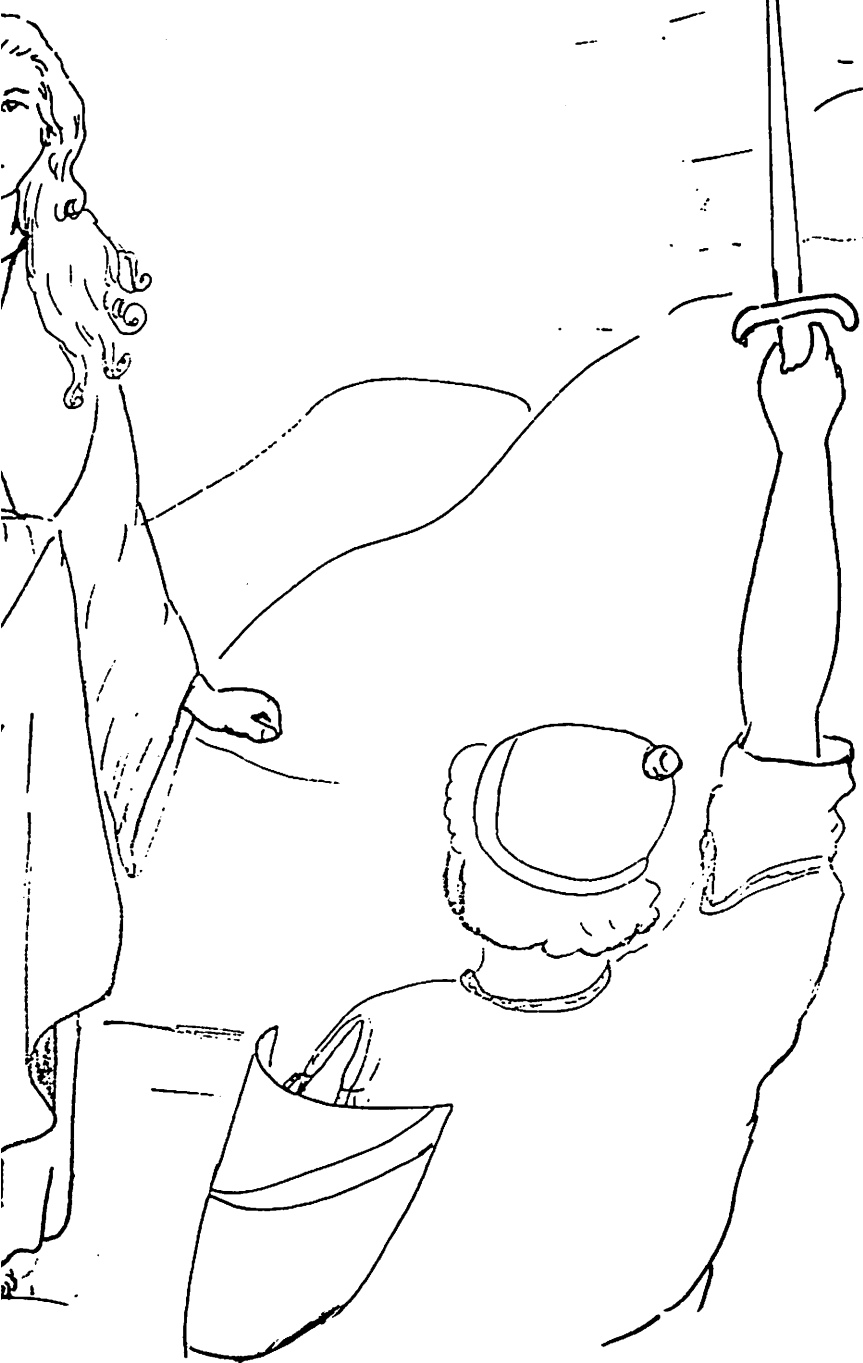
As the armies began to fight, the Lord helped the Israelites. Sisera could soon see that his army was being defeated so he jumped out of his chariot and ran away. Not far away Sisera saw a tent where he hoped to hide. As he ran toward it, Jael, the woman who lived there stepped out and invited Sisera to hide in her tent.

Sisera felt safe after Jael covered him with a blanket. He was so tired he soon fell asleep. When Jael saw that he was sound asleep, she killed him because he had been so cruel to the Israelites.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**rd shall sell Sisera into the hand of
a woman.... (Judges 4:9.)**



Olden Took The Bullet

(A true story)

Olden is a husky German Shepherd dog trained in the highest level of protection dog training. When he entered the police force at Altus, OK, he became Danny Miller's partner and rode alertly in the back seat of his patrol car.

One night while they were quietly driving down a dark business street, the patrol car headlights shone on a figure breaking the lock on a building. Miller stopped his car and shouted, "Go!" to Olden. In a flash the dog bounded through the car's open window. The robber attempted to run but Olden nipped the seat of his pants. Growling, Olden pinned the robber against the wall until Miller came with handcuffs to arrest the man.

"Good work, Olden," said Miller. He patted Olden's head. Miller remembered what the dog trainer had said about Olden. "You may have to send Olden to his death to save someone's life—maybe yours—so don't get too close to him." He appreciated Olden but he did not spoil him.

One night Miller received a call on his radio that gun shots were heard at a certain house. When Miller and Olden arrived, the gunman was driving away. Miller chased the man who ran through red lights and down the roads at 90 mph. Finally the man's car stopped, out of gas, and the man took off running. As Miller and Olden gave chase through alleys, the man drew a gun. He meant to shoot the policeman, but Olden jumped in Miller's defense and Olden was shot.

Miller, with the help of other officers, stopped the man and put handcuffs on him. Olden was taken to a veterinarian who immediately did surgery to remove the bullet and sew

the wounds. When the vet handed Miller the bullet, he looked quietly at it.

"This bullet was meant to kill me," he thought, "but Olden took the bullet for me." He prayed that Olden would live.

Day after day, Miller cared for the dog. Soon it was clear that Olden would live. However, the dog trainer doubted Olden would be good as a police dog any more. "He may not want to defend now that he was hurt once. You will need to send Olden through a mock gun firing test before he can report back to duty," said the dog trainer to Miller.

On the day of the test, Olden followed all orders, running down a long hall and jumping out a window. When a heavily-padded, running officer fired mock shots at Olden, Miller gave his attack command and Olden obeyed.

Today, Olden rides in the back seat of Miller's patrol car, and they are very close partners indeed.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Jabin?
2. How many chariots of iron did Jabin have?
3. Who was the captain of Jabin's army?
4. Who judged Israel at that time?
5. Who did Deborah send for?
6. Why did Deborah go to the battle?
7. Who helped the Israelites in the battle?
8. Where did Sisera run?
9. Who killed Sisera?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 4.

(Answers: 1. The king of Canaan. 2. 900. 3. Sisera. 4. Deborah. 5. Barak. 6. Barak would not go without her. 7. The Lord. 8. To Jael's tent. 9. Jael.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 April 25, 1993

AN ANGEL VISITS GIDEON

When the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord again, He delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years. The Midianites were so cruel to the Israelites that they hid in dens and caves for safety. Whenever it was time for the Israelites to gather their crops, the enemy would come and take away all their food and animals. The Israelites had nothing left except what they could hide.

The people were in such great trouble they cried to the Lord because of the Midianites. God sent a prophet who reminded them how He had delivered them from Egypt. He let them know that they were in bondage and trouble now because they had not obeyed God.

One day a man of Israel named Gideon was threshing wheat in a secret place. As he worked, an angel appeared to him saying, "The Lord is with you. You are strong and brave."

"If the Lord is with us, then why are we in such trouble?" Gideon asked. The angel answered, "I will send you to save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. I will be with you." "Don't leave until I bring an offering to set before you," Gideon begged. "I will wait," the angel assured him. When Gideon returned with his offering, the angel told him just how to offer it. When everything was in order, the angel touched the offering with the end of his staff. Immediately fire came out of the rock and burned up the offering. Then the angel disappeared.

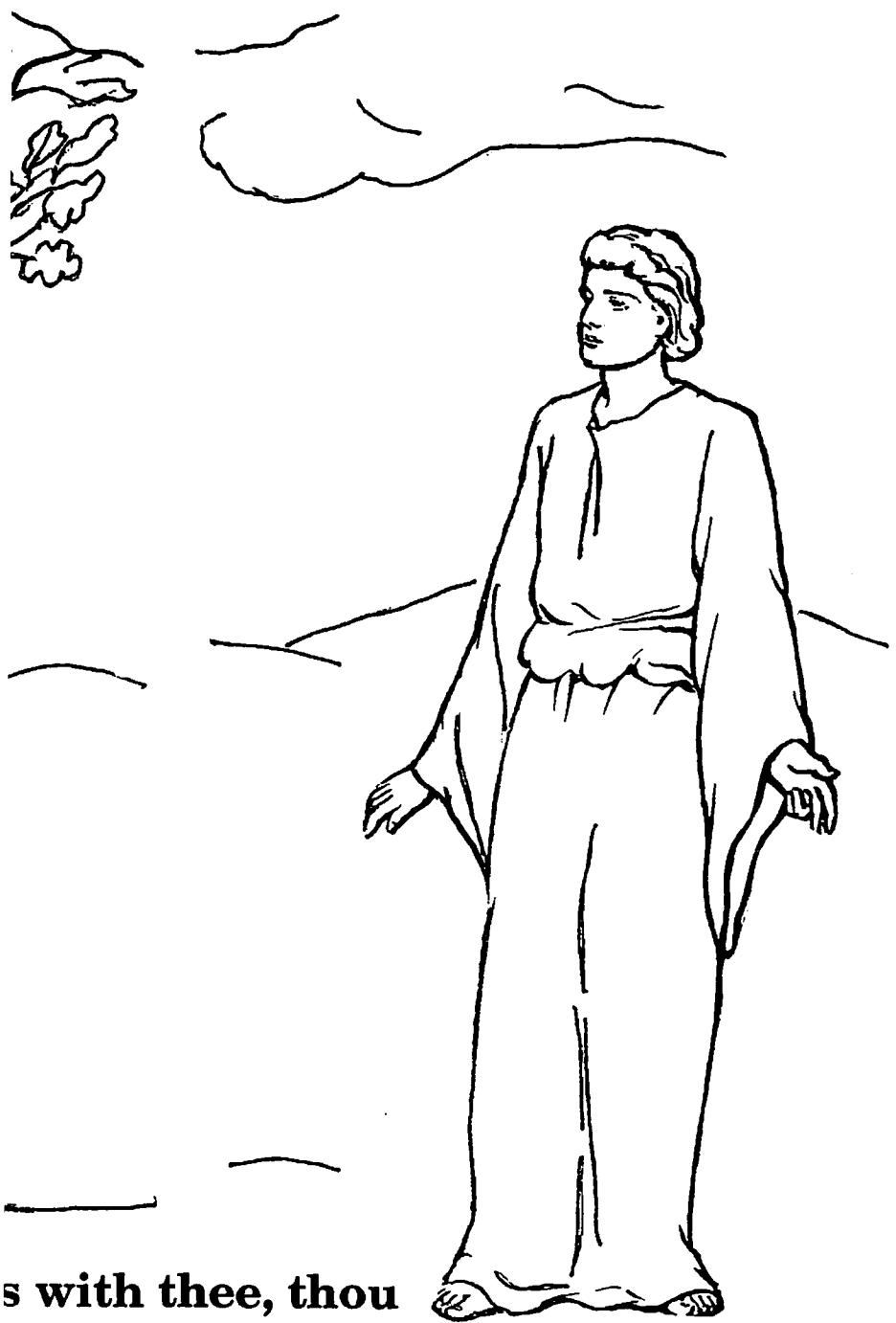
Now Gideon knew he had been talking with an angel! He was sure he would die. But God told him, "Don't be afraid. You will not die."

Then God commanded Gideon to destroy the altar of Baal and build an altar to the true God instead. That night Gideon took ten men and did as God had commanded and offered a burnt sacrifice on the altar.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



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(Judges 6:12.)**

Beautiful Music

(A true story)

Early one warm June morning of 1987, Jeriel's mother heard music. At first she thought the radio was playing in one of the four children's bedrooms, but as she laid in bed and listened, she realized the music was special. It was beautiful. Quietly, she climbed out of bed and checked each child's bedroom.

Mother found her two-year-old Jeriel wide awake and kneeling by his bedroom window.

"Jeriel, what are you doing?" she asked softly.

He turned toward her, his blue eyes shining. "Mommy, I hear songs," he said. "Listen—listen to the boo-le-full music!"

Mother knelt beside Jeriel and he gently pointed her face in the direction of the music. Together they looked out over the family's back yard. Because they were upstairs, they could see their three leafy tree tops outlined by the full moon. They could see the evenly cut hedge growing by the chain-link fence which marked their back yard boundaries. Silently, the roses by the back porch were drinking in the moonlight. The water in the back yard swimming pool was crystal clear and motionless.

"Mommy, do you hear the music?"

Mother nodded. "Yes, Sweetheart, I hear the music. It is beautiful guitar strumming and a choir is singing."

"Who is singing? Where are they?" Jeriel asked.

"I-I don't know," Mother sighed. "Sweetheart, let's go back to bed." As Mother carried Jeriel to his bed and lovingly tucked him in, she wondered if they had heard angels singing. Surely both of them were not dreaming.

Mother went to wake up Daddy but he was so tired. He said he did not

hear the music and he did not want to get out of bed. Mother tip-toed back to Jeriel's bedroom where the music sounded more clearly. The music sounded louder and then stopped. A lovely high-pitched voice began to sing and Jeriel's mother clearly heard the words:

"In all things give Him praise,
In all your days give Him your praise.
He alone is worthy of your praise.
Though you be racked with pain,
Still proclaim He is Lord
And give Him praise..."

The angels were singing a special message to Jeriel's mother. They knew that within two months, Jeriel would come be with them. Jeriel's mother would miss him very, very much but Jeriel would be happy singing with the angels. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How long did the Lord deliver Israel into the hand of Midian?
2. Where did the people hide for safety from the Midianites?
3. Who sent a prophet to the people?
4. Who was threshing wheat in a secret place?
5. Who appeared to him as he worked?
6. Who was the angel going to send to save Israel?
7. What happened when the angel touched the offering?
8. What did God command Gideon to do?
9. How many men helped Gideon do as God commanded?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 6:1-32.

(Answers: 1. Seven years. 2. In dens and caves. 3. God. 4. Gideon. 5. An angel. 6. Gideon. 7. Fire came out of the rock. 8. To destroy the altar of Baal and build an altar to the true God. 9. Ten.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 May 2, 1993

GIDEON AND THE FLEECE

A great army was gathering in the valley of Jezreel. All the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were coming to fight against the Israelites.

The army was much too great for the Israelites to conquer. But as Gideon looked out over the enemy, the spirit of the Lord came upon him. He remembered the angel's visit. The Lord had told Gideon then that He would be with him. God had promised to help him save Israel from the hand of the Midianites.

So Gideon blew a trumpet to call the men to fight the enemy. He sent messengers to those further away and the men came to join in the battle.

Looking out over his own army of men that had gathered, Gideon knew he still could not overcome the Midianites unless the Lord fought for them. So Gideon told God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as You have said, let me prove it. Tonight I will put a fleece of wool on the floor. If it is wet with dew while everything around it is dry, then I will know that You will save Israel by my hand."

So Gideon put a fleece on the floor that night. The next morning he got up early to look at the fleece. The ground was dry but the fleece was wet with dew. Gideon picked it up and wrung a bowl full of water out of it. God had assured him He would help him fight.

But Gideon needed further proof. He said to God, "Don't be angry with me but let me prove once more that You will be with me. Tonight I will again put the fleece down. But this time let the fleece be dry and the ground all around wet with dew."

God answered Gideon's prayer and did as he had asked. The next morning when Gideon felt of the fleece, it was dry but dew covered the ground all around the fleece.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



But the spirit of the Lord came up



Gideon,... (Judges 6:34a.)

Three Dreams

(A true story)

Ayub Zahir lives in the country of Afghanistan where a bloody civil war is raging even today. The Communist government wants to lead the country but Islam followers do not want them to. In Afghanistan, it is illegal to be a Christian so Ayub does not have many Christian friends.

At first Ayub did not like Christians and would throw stones at them like other people did. Ayub and all five of his brothers and sisters went to school, had a good education, and respected jobs. Ayub had studied and learned the Islam religion very well and he prided himself in being so knowledgeable. He thought Christians were poor and foolish.

One day Ayub heard about a new Christian missionary in the area who was teaching people about the Bible. Ayub went to the missionary's house and told him he was a deceiver. In order to prove the Bible was false, Ayub took one home and began to read it so he could point out its mistakes.

For two years, Ayub studied the Bible. He learned that he had been told many lies about the Old Testament. The convicting words of Jesus Christ pierced his heart. Ayub realized his sins were many and bad. He knew he would not be able to enter heaven; therefore, he would go to hell when he died. Jesus spoke to his heart and said:

"All the world's medicines cannot prolong your life past 100 years and that is but a minute compared to long eternity."

Ayub wanted to believe Jesus but he knew all his family and friends would not like him if he did. So Ayub prayed and asked God to give him a dream about Jesus.

That night Ayub dreamed he was a student in a Bible class, which is against the law in his country. He was correctly answering questions which startled him awake. Then Ayub went back to sleep and dreamed that a snow white dove came to him and alighted on his shoulder, just as one had done to Jesus when he was baptized by John. Next he dreamed that he was lying in the middle of a crossroad, afraid a car would hit him. A lady came and took him by the hand. She lead him across the road, then told him, "Now your way is straight, just go right ahead." When Ayub awoke from these three dreams, he knew God had spoken to him and Jesus Christ was real. Ayub became a born again Christian.

Now Ayub asks that we pray for him because he and his wife, who is also a Christian, suffer much from angry neighbors who live in darkness rather than light.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was a great army gathering in the valley of Jezreel?
2. What came upon Gideon?
3. Whose visit did Gideon remember?
4. Who had promised to help Gideon save Israel?
5. Why did Gideon blow a trumpet and send messengers?
6. Gideon knew that who must fight for them?
7. What did Gideon put on the floor?
8. What did Gideon wring out of the fleece the next morning?
9. What was wet with dew the next time Gideon put the fleece down?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 6:33-40.

(Answers: 1. To fight against the Israelites. 2. The spirit of the Lord. 3. The angel's. 4. God. 5. To call the men to fight the enemy. 6. The Lord. 7. A fleece. 8. A bowl full of water. 9. The ground.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 May 9, 1993

GIDEON'S ARMY

When Gideon was sure that God would go with him to fight the Midianites, he got up early and gathered his army together. Then they marched until they came to the well of Harod. Here they pitched their camp. To the north of them the great army of the Midianites spread out over the valley.

Gideon's army looked very small compared to that of the enemy. But the Lord told Gideon, "The people that are with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands. If they should win the battle they would say they won it without My help. Now, go out and tell the men that whoever is afraid may go back home."

When Gideon made this announcement, twenty two thousand men were glad to turn their back on the enemy and go back to the safety of their own homes. They did not believe that God would deliver the Midianites into their hand. They were sure the Israelites would be defeated and were afraid they would be killed.

When Gideon numbered his army, he found he only had ten thousand men left to fight the great enemy. How surprised he was when the Lord spoke to him again and said, "The people are yet too many. Bring them down to the water and I will show you which ones I have chosen to fight this battle."

So Gideon led his men down to the edge of the water. The thirsty men began to drink the water. Then the Lord told Gideon, "Every one that laps water with his tongue like a dog laps, set him apart from those who get down on their knees to drink."

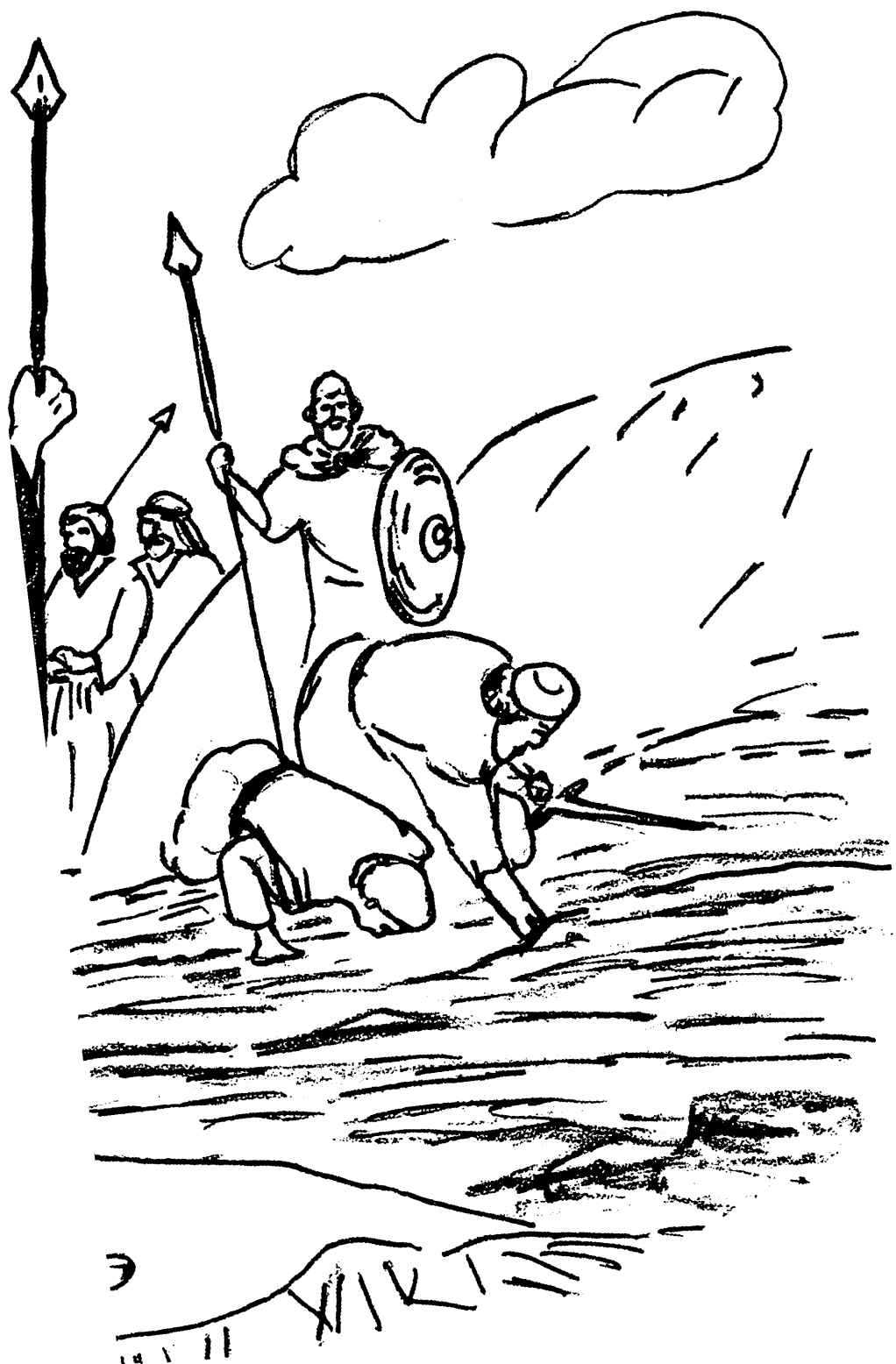
When Gideon did as the Lord said, he had three hundred who had lapped the water from their hand. The Lord then told him, "By the three hundred I will save you. Send all the other men home."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



And the Lord said unto Gideon,
By the three hundred men that
lapped will I save you,...

(Judges 7:7a.)



Mother's Scissors

"Mother, where are your scissors?" Jerry asked Mother as she walked into the kitchen where he was trying to open a box of cereal.

"I don't know where my kitchen scissors are," sighed Mother. "You children do not put them back where they belong and sometimes I cannot find them when I need them."

"Linda probably has them. I'll go look in her bedroom," Jerry said as he skipped out of the kitchen.

He was back in a minute, the scissors in his hand and Linda close behind.

"Mother, Jerry just came into my bedroom without asking and took off with these scissors. I was using them and he didn't even ask to borrow them."

"Now wait a minute," said Mother with her hands up to stop the fuss. "Jerry, you should have been more polite when asking for the scissors. Linda, you didn't even ask me about them; besides, I don't want these scissors out of the kitchen because I need them so much and they belong in my kitchen. If you have craft things to cut, use your own scissors."

"But I can't find mine!" wailed Linda. "That's why I had to borrow yours!"

"I'm sorry, but I don't want mine lost either. Do not take these scissors out of my kitchen again. Do you both understand?" Each child nodded 'yes' then Linda went to look for her scissors and Jerry opened his cereal box.

Later that day, Grandma came by to visit. "Linda and Jerry, would you like to go with me for awhile?" she asked them. Of course they were ready to go and raced to Grandma's car.

"Where are we going?" Jerry asked.

"Tomorrow is Mother's Day," said Grandma. "I thought we would shop for your mother."

The children were excited as they looked at different things a mother would like. Finally, they came upon a ceramic holder for scissors.

"I want to get her this!" exclaimed Jerry. "Mother always likes her scissors put back in the same place after we use them. She can hang this holder in the kitchen."

"I will get her another pair of scissors," said Linda.

The next day on Mother's Day, the children were anxious for Mother to open their gifts.

"Oh, a pretty scissor holder!" exclaimed Mother. "And new scissors to put in my holder. Thank you!"

"The good thing is that we will always put your scissors back in the holder after we use them," said Jerry.

"Yes," said Mother as she hugged her children, "that is a good thing."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

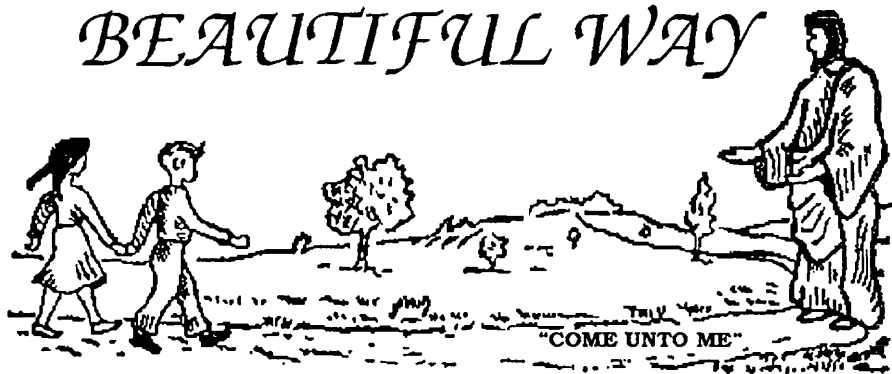
QUESTIONS:

1. When Gideon was sure that God would go with him, what did he do?
2. What great army spread out in the valley north of them?
3. Who said that the people with Gideon were too many?
4. Who could go back home?
5. How many men went back home?
6. How many men did Gideon have left?
7. Why did Gideon lead the men to the water?
8. How many men lapped water like a dog?
9. What did Gideon do with all the other men?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 7:1-8.

(Answers: 1. He gathered his army together. 2. The army of the Midianites. 3. The Lord. 4. Anyone who was afraid. 5. Twenty two thousand. 6. Ten thousand. 7. So the Lord could show him which ones He had chosen to fight. 8. Three Hundred. 9. He sent them home.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 May 16, 1993

GIDEON IN THE CAMP OF THE ENEMY

Gideon and his little band of three hundred men were left alone to face the enemy. It was dark now. All the rest of the Israelites had returned to the safety of their homes. They looked down on the great army of Midian filling the valley below them. They knew that they must have the Lord's help to face this great multitude of enemies.

That night the Lord again spoke to Gideon. "Get up and go down and fight against the enemy; for I have delivered them into your hand," the Lord told him. "But if you are afraid to go down, take your servant and go down to the enemy camp. Listen to what the enemy says. Then you will feel strong enough to go down and fight."

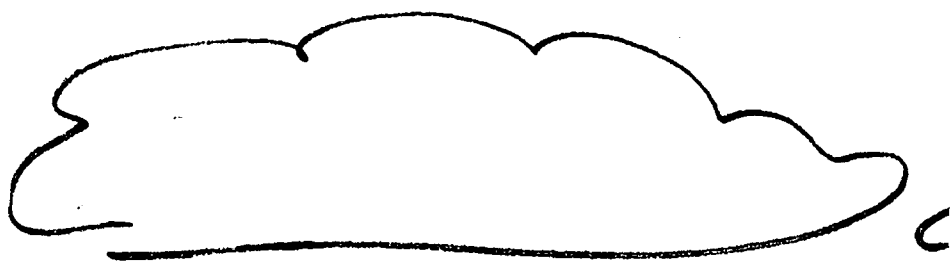
So Gideon took his servant and crept to the edge of the enemy camp in the darkness. As they got closer they could see that the whole valley was filled with enemy soldiers. There were so many that they lay along in the valley like grasshoppers. Their camels were more than they could count, like the sand by the sea side.

Silently Gideon and his servant slipped closer to a tent of the enemy. Inside they could hear two men talking. One man was telling the other about a dream he had. "I dreamed that a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian and came to a tent and hit it and overturned it, causing it to fall flat," the man said.

"This is nothing less than the sword of Gideon, a man of Israel," the other man answered. "God has delivered Midian and this whole army into his hand!"

When Gideon heard the dream and the interpretation of it, he worshiped God. He knew for sure that God was with him and had delivered Midian into his hand. Now he was ready to go back to his own camp and prepare for the battle.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**And it was so when Gideon heard the t
the interpretation thereof, that he wor**



g of the dream, and
ped,... (Judges 7:15.)

No Red Scarf

(Based on a true story)

Teresa lives in Cuba, an island country in Latin America. She lives with her parents, two big brothers, and one sister on the second floor of a two-story house. Their apartment is very small and worn-out. They only have cold running water in their house and their small, old refrigerator holds very little food.

However, Teresa does not fret about the earthly things she does not have. She puts her trust in Jesus to take care of them. She was saved at an early age and she knows Jesus will take her to Heaven some day. She believes in the Bible and loves to hear her father preach on the promises of God.

Since Teresa is a Christian girl, she did not join the Young Pioneers, a communist youth party that says there is no God or Jesus. The Young Pioneers wear a red scarf around their neck to show that they belong to this club. At school, everyone wears a red scarf but Teresa, her family and one or two other Christians.

One morning a new teacher of Teresa's class called her before the other students. As Teresa looked into the face of this teacher, she could see cold hatred in her eyes.

"Teresa Fuentes, you are not wearing your red scarf today. Because of this, I want you to write fifty times on the black board, 'I am sorry I did not wear my red scarf.'"

Teresa was stunned. "But-but I do not have a red scarf," she stammered.

"Then you must get one," retorted the teacher.

"But I can't," said Teresa with her head down. She could feel all her classmates staring at her.

"Why will you not?" demanded the teacher.

Suddenly Teresa felt a peaceful strength relax her nerves and courage steady her heartbeat. She knew the Lord was with her, how could she deny Him?

"Because I am a Christian," Teresa quietly told everyone. "Christians can not belong to the Young Pioneers."

Jesus put these words in Teresa's mouth and they stopped the teacher's roar. She allowed Teresa to go back to her desk but she never let Teresa answer any questions, and she often made bad comments about Christians.

Teresa told her family about it and they all took it to the Lord in prayer. Teresa knows that suffering on this earth is for a short time, but when Jesus takes her to heaven, she will live happily forever and ever.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How many men did Gideon have with him?
2. What great army filled the valley below them?
3. Who spoke to Gideon that night?
4. Where did God tell Gideon to go?
5. Who did Gideon take with him?
6. What did they hear when they crept close to an enemy tent?
7. What was one man telling another man about?
8. What did Gideon do after he heard the dream and what it meant?
9. What was Gideon ready to do now?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 7:9-15.

(Answers: 1. Three hundred. 2. The Midianite army. 3. The Lord. 4. To the camp of the enemy. 5. His servant. 6. Two men talking. 7. His dream. 8. He worshiped God. 9. Go back to his camp and prepare for battle.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 May 23, 1993

A GREAT VICTORY

"Get up! The Lord has delivered the host of Midian into your hand!" Gideon shouted to his men. He had just returned from the enemy camp. He knew the Lord would deliver the Midianites into their hand. It was time to attack!

Gideon first divided the men into three companies of one hundred men each. Then he gave each man a trumpet and an empty pitcher with torches inside them. In one hand the soldiers were to carry their trumpet and in the other hand they were to carry the pitcher with the torch inside.

Then he told the men, "Watch me and do whatever I do. When I and the men with me blow with the trumpet, then do the same and say, 'The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.'"

So Gideon and the three companies of men surrounded the enemy camp just as new watchmen took their places. Suddenly Gideon blew loudly on his trumpet and broke the pitcher with a crash. Immediately all the men did the same. Then, holding the torches in their left hands they shouted, "The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon!" The men did not move from their places, but the enemy soldiers ran wildly. While Gideon and his men blew their trumpets the Midianites, Amalekites, and those with them drew their swords and began killing each other. Those who were not killed in the camp ran away.

Gideon and his brave men followed the Midianites. Many other Israelites gathered to help drive their enemies away. The Midianites lost many men, their princes, and two of their kings in this battle.

After this battle, the Midianites never troubled the children of Israel. The people begged Gideon to rule over them, but he refused. "I will not rule over you, nor will my son. The Lord will be your ruler," Gideon told them.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And they cried



sword of the Lord, and of Gideon. (Judges 7:20b.)



The Race

(A true story)

Carla had just sat down with her school friends at their lunch table when David and his friends came walking by. David's hand quickly swatted Carla's dangling pony tail.

"Why do you always wear your hair in a pony tail?" he sneered. "Why don't you get it cut like the rest of the girls?"

"Because she doesn't want to," replied Patty in Carla's defense. "Why don't you boys go outside and leave us girls alone."

"Okay, we will leave you silly girls alone," said David as he made a face to make his friends laugh.

After the boys had gone out to the playground, Debbie turned to Carla. "Why do you wear long hair and never cut it?" she asked.

Carla blushed and looked down at her plate of food. She felt all her friends looking at her and she didn't know what to say.

"I guess it is really your parents that want your hair long, huh, Carla?" Debbie prompted.

"I never have thought of my hair style," said Carla slowly. "All the girls at my church never cut their hair."

"So it is a religious reason?" questioned Debbie.

"Well, we keep our hair long because it pleases God," Carla felt the words come from her lips before she had even thought them. This answer seemed to satisfy Debbie and the other girls. Carla sighed with relief.

That afternoon in P.E. class, Mrs. Newman said, "Let's have a race. Everyone line up by this fence and get ready to run across the playground and back."

All the children took off at a fast pace. Carla, who was swift at running, quickly passed by all the other

children except one boy who was one step ahead of her. As they touched the second fence and raced back, Carla sped past the lead boy, David.

Just before she reached the finish mark, Carla felt a hard jerk on her pony tail. It was meant to pull her back, but she had already touched the fence a split second before David. The jerk had broke the pony tail holder and Carla's soft hair shone in the afternoon sun.

"Oh, Carla, what happened to your hair?" asked Patty. "May I comb it for you—it is so long and beautiful!"

Some of the other children and even Mrs. Newman admired Carla's hair. David looked away, embarrassed or ashamed. He never said any more about Carla's hair; for the Lord let Carla win that day.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How many companies did Gideon divide his men into?
2. What did he give each man?
3. What did Gideon tell his men to do?
4. Who surrounded the enemy camp?
5. What did Gideon do with his pitcher?
6. What did the men shout?
7. What did the enemy do when they heard the trumpets and shouts?
8. How many kings did the Midianites lose?
9. Who did Gideon say would be the ruler?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 7:15-25; 8.

(Answers: 1. Three. 2. A trumpet and a pitcher. 3. To watch him and do whatever he did. 4. Gideon and his men. 5. He broke it with a crash. 6. "The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon". 7. Ran wildly and began killing each other. 8. Two. 9. The Lord.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 May 30, 1993

ABIMELECH MAKES HIMSELF KING

After Gideon died, Abimelech, one of his sons, remembered that the people had tried to make his father their king. Although his father had refused, Abimelech wanted to rule over Israel. He knew he would need the help of many people, so he went to his relatives and got them to help him.

Abimelech was afraid his brothers might also want to be king. He felt he must have them all out of the way so he killed them. Jotham, his youngest brother, was the only one who got away. He hid in the mountains where Abimelech could not find him.

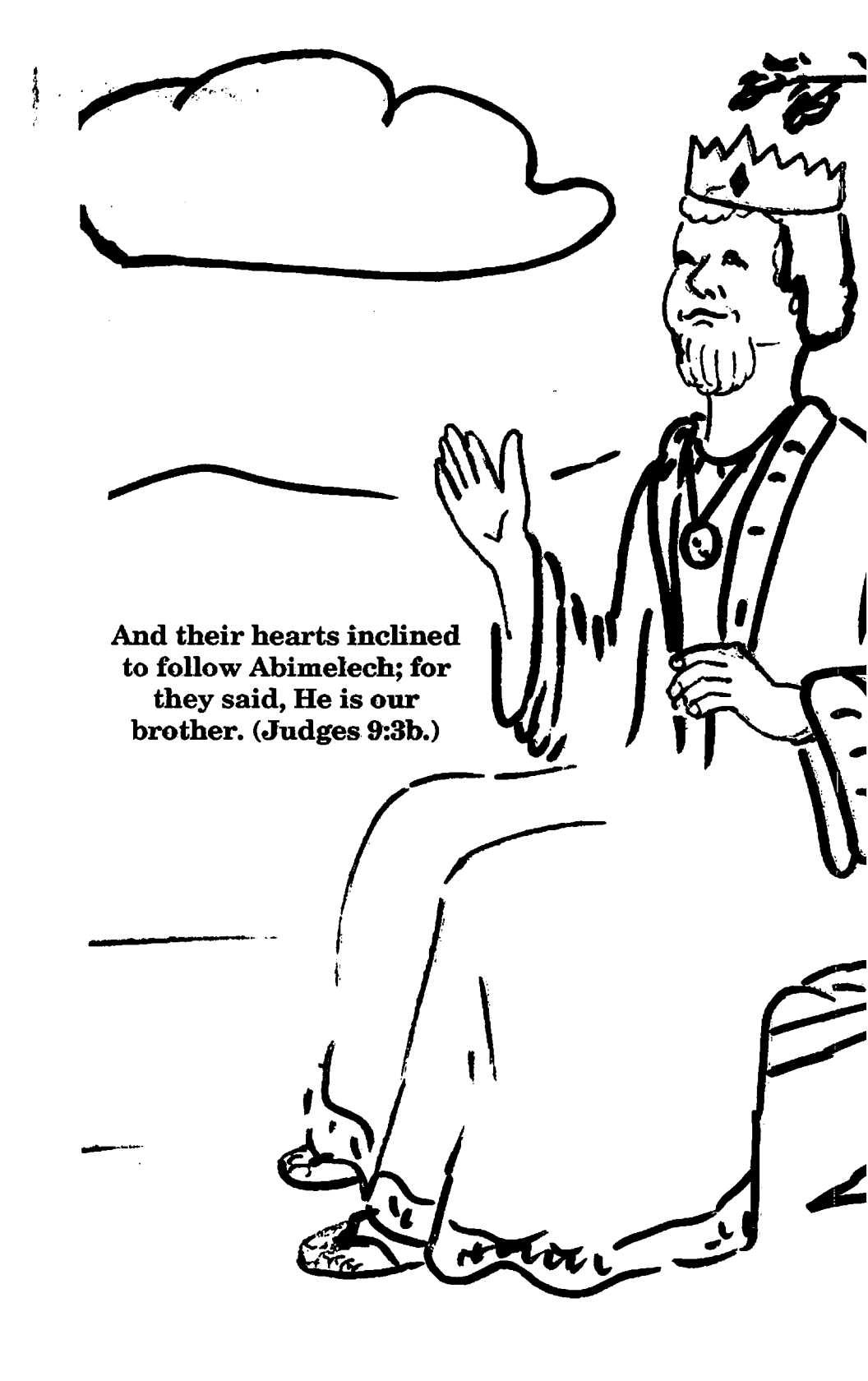
After this Abimelech returned to Shechem to become king. The men of the city took him out into the country and crowned him under an oak tree. They knew he had killed his brothers but still they wanted him to be their king.

When Jotham heard that Abimelech was king, he knew God was not pleased. He knew Abimelech and the people of Shechem had done evil.

So Jotham climbed a mountain near Shechem and called out loudly, "Listen to me, you men of Shechem." While the people in the valley below listened, Jotham told them a story about the trees. When Jotham finished his story, he told the people what it meant. He said, "The men of Shechem are like the trees that wanted a king to rule over them. Abimelech is like the bramblebush, sharp and prickly. He will cause much sorrow and ruin. He will destroy you just as fire destroys trees." Then Jotham ran away to a safe hiding place.

Abimelech ruled as king for three years. When trouble came up, the men of Shechem planned to kill him. Instead, Abimelech led an army against Shechem and destroyed it. Later he was killed. So all that Jotham said came true because God was not pleased with Abimelech.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**And their hearts inclined
to follow Abimelech; for
they said, He is our
brother. (Judges 9:3b.)**



Having The Love Of Jesus

(Based on a true story)

Ashnu Adeshta lives in Nigeria, a country in Africa. He was born into a Moslem family who taught him strict superstitions about Ali, the supreme god who they worship. He was told that anyone not a Moslem was an enemy and to be hated. If someone did him harm, he was to hurt them back. He lived by the Koran, Prophet Mohammed's book. Then one day he was given a Bible by a Christian missionary in Nigeria. The Bible changed his life and Ashnu became a believing Christian. Not only did he forsake the Moslem teachings but he changed his name to Thomas.

Thomas's family did not want him to become a Christian. His father asked the other Moslems not to kill his son but to let him talk to Thomas.

When Thomas came to visit his parents, his father was very cold. "I will make you become a Moslem again," he said. Thomas's father took a slate and with chalk wrote some words from the Koran. Then he washed off the chalk, put a herb in the chalky water, and handed it to Thomas to drink. "You must drink of the Koran for truth," said his father.

To satisfy his father, Thomas drank the chalky liquid. Then he quietly talked to his father about Jesus who gives the spiritual drink of everlasting life. "Jesus Christ satisfies the soul, Father," said Thomas. "We love everyone, even those who do us wrong. We don't fight with people for earthly wealth because we have our treasures hid in heaven with Jesus Christ."

Thomas's father listened for a short time then told his son to leave his house. "I will pray for you, Father," said Thomas, "and I will always love you, no matter what happens."

These were strange words to the older man who feels love is only for those who agree with you. However, Thomas has been able to prove his love to his family over and over again.

They do not want him to come into their home any more, but he has told them they are very welcome to come to his home. He pays for his parents to have things nicer than they would have it otherwise though they never thank him for it.

Thomas is sad that his family does not live for Jesus Christ, but he hopes that they will some day melt by the love Jesus has put in his heart.

"The true love of Jesus Christ will help you get along with anyone," says Thomas, "even those who do not like you and cause you much suffering. I want to always love others as Jesus loves."
—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Abimelech?
2. What did he want to do?
3. Who helped Abimelech?
4. What did Abimelech do to his brothers?
5. Who escaped?
6. Where did he hide?
7. Who told the people a story about the trees?
8. How long was Abimelech king?
9. What did Abimelech do to Shechem?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 9.

(Answers: 1. Gideon's son.
2. He wanted to rule over Israel. 3. His relatives. 4. He killed them. 5. Jotham. 6. In the mountains. 7. Jotham. 8. Three years. 9. He destroyed it.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 June 6, 1993

JEPHTHAH BECOMES LEADER

The anger of the Lord was hot against Israel. They had again done evil by turning from Him and worshipping idols. So the Lord sold them into the hands of the Philistines and the Ammonites. These enemies gave the Israelites so much trouble that in their distress the children of Israel cried to the Lord, "We have sinned against you, because we have both forsaken You and also served Baalim."

"Go and cry to the gods which you have chosen," God answered. "Let them deliver you in the time of your trouble." The people knew the idols could not help them. They knew if God did not help they would be destroyed. So they turned away from their idols and again served the Lord. God saw they had changed and were sorry for their sins. He still loved His people. He was grieved because they were in such misery.

The Ammonites came to make war against Israel. They were determined to drive the Israelites out of the land. The children of Israel gathered their army and set up their camp in Mizpeh, but they had no one to lead them in the battle.

Then the elders remembered Jephthah who was famous for his brave deeds. When they found Jephthah they said, "Come, and be our captain." They promised to make him ruler over Israel if he would lead their army. Finally Jephthah agreed to go with them and be their captain.

Jephthah was brave but he knew he must have God's help. Before he went to battle, he begged God to go with him and defeat his enemies.

Jephthah first tried to reason with the king of Ammon. But the king was determined to fight. Finally Jephthah told him, "You do wrong to war against Israel. May the Lord be judge this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon." Then Jephthah led his men against the Ammonites and the Lord delivered them into his hands.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty
man of valour,... (Judges 11:1.)**

A Leader For Jesus

(Based on a true story)

Peter Dugulescu was born in Romania where children are taught socialism. This means that everyone must share all that they have, their time, and their family in order for the whole country to prosper. The problem with this theory is that a few greedy people take control and make government slaves out of everyone else.

Peter grew up feeling empty and useless in life. He had been told God was not real and heaven was a dream. He was told people only lived on earth and then died and that was the end. Though he and his family worked very hard, they felt hopeless and lost.

When his loving grandfather died, Peter was so broken-hearted. Would he never see his grandfather again? Peter began to think, 'Surely there is more to life than just hard work and death.' Secretly, he searched for a church that could tell him about God, Jesus, and heaven.

One pastor showed Peter kindness and was willing, at the risk of his life, to answer Peter's questions. Peter did not know anything about God and the creation story. He did not know about Jesus and his death on the cross. The pastor had a cherished Bible in which he pointed out different scriptures and explained how to be saved.

In time, Peter believed in Jesus Christ and asked Him to wash away his sins. He was 21 years old when he got saved. Today, twenty years later, he still rejoices in the love of Jesus. He is so happy now that he knows the truth about God. He believes there is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun.

Because Peter wants others in Romania to share the peace and happiness he has found in Jesus, he preaches to many people, including young people. The government does not like Peter doing this.

"You will have a car accident soon," a policeman told Peter. "That should stop you from traveling and preaching."

Later, Peter was driving his little car down a one-way street when a big bus turned the corner and raced toward him. Peter stopped his car but the bus purposely hit Peter's car where he was sitting. It broke Peter's arm in two places but God had protected him from death.

Kind brothers in the Lord helped Peter repair his car so that he could again drive it to churches. However, when the police decided to report the accident, they took Peter's driver's license and would not return it for several months.

Many people in Romania have believed in Jesus because of Peter's preaching and example of faith. The Lord loves and protects those who are faithful to Him. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS

1. Whose anger was hot against Israel?
2. Why was God angry?
3. Who did the children of Israel cry to?
4. What did God tell them to do?
5. Who came to make war against Israel?
6. Who was famous for his brave deeds?
7. Who did the elders ask to be their captain?
8. What was the king of Ammon determined to do?
9. Who delivered the Ammonites into Jephthah's hands?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 10:6-11:32.

(Answers: 1. God's. 2. The Israelites had turned from Him and worshipped idols. 3. God. 4. Go and cry to the gods they had chosen. 5. The Ammonites. 6. Jephthah. 7. Jephthah. 8. To fight. 9. The Lord.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 June 13, 1993

AN ANGEL'S VISIT

There were still those in Israel who loved the Lord and obeyed Him even though all about them the people had turned to idols. Manoah and his wife were among those who still served God. They lived in Zorah and had no children.

One day the angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah's wife. "You will have a son," the angel told her. "You must not drink wine nor any strong drink and you must not eat anything that is unclean. Your son will be a Nazarite unto God. He will begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of your enemies, the Philistines."

The woman rushed to her husband. "A man of God came to me. He looked like an angel of God! I didn't ask where he came from nor did he tell me his name. But he told me that we would have a son who would be a Nazarite to God from the day he is born."

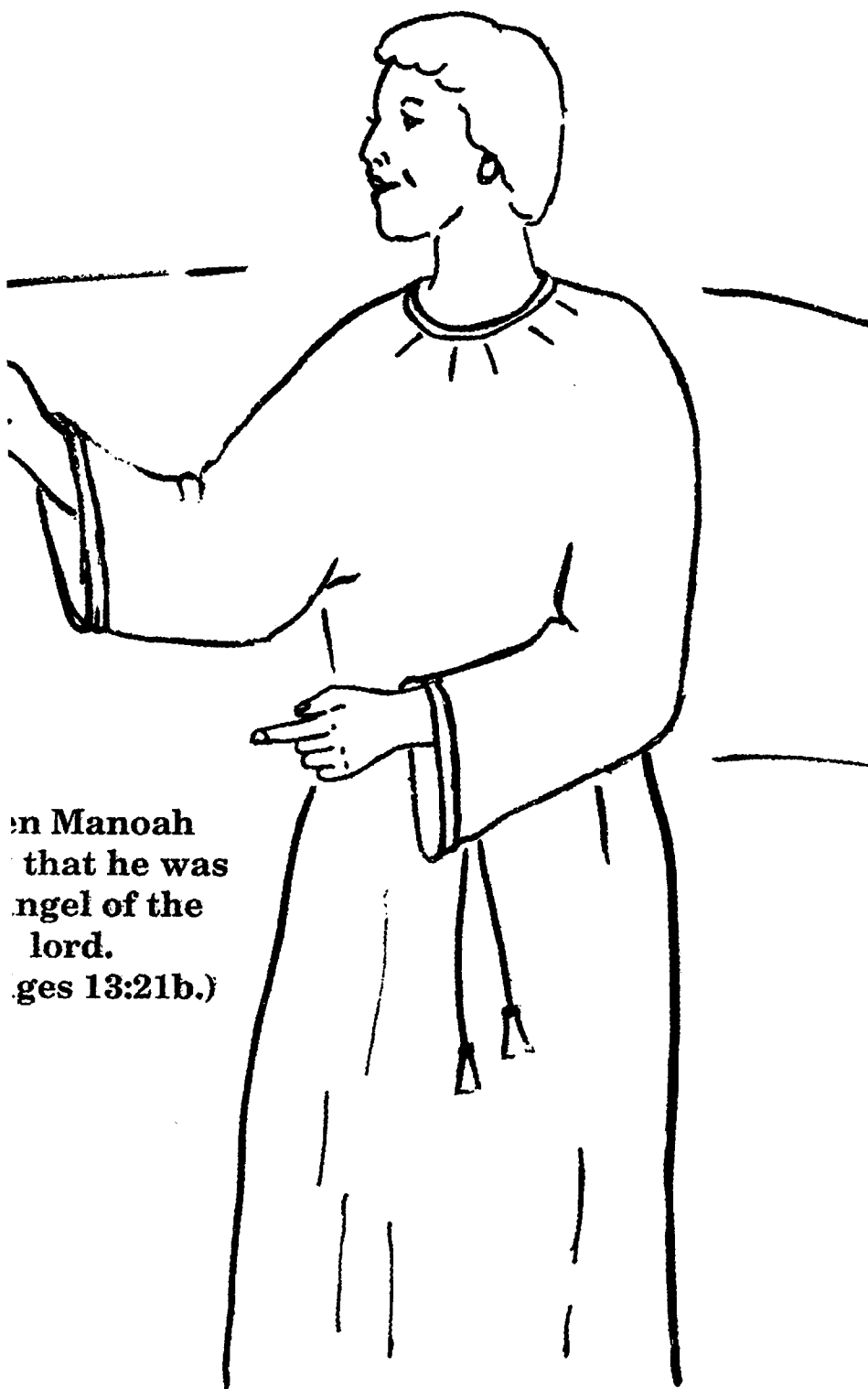
When Manoah heard these words, he prayed and begged the Lord, "O my Lord, let the man of God come to us again. Let him teach us what we shall do to the child that shall be born."

So God sent the angel to the woman again while she was alone. She ran to get her husband. "The man has appeared to me that came to me the other day!" she told him excitedly. Manoah followed his wife to where the angel waited. He asked the angel, "How shall we care for the child that you have promised?" The angel told him again the things he had told his wife.

Then Manoah begged the angel, "Stay here while we prepare an offering for you." The angel told them he would wait but the offering must be to the Lord alone. When the offering was ready, Manoah put it on a rock and set fire to it. Manoah and his wife watched as the flames grew brighter. Then, as the flames went up toward heaven from off the altar, the angel suddenly disappeared in the flames.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





en Manoah
that he was
angel of the
lord.
(ges 13:21b.)

A New Surprise

"Ronnie, come and see what we have at our house," Timothy called excitedly.

"Why? What is it?" asked Ronnie as he came running over to his neighbor's house early one June morning.

"It came in the night while I was asleep," continued Timothy. "Daddy woke me up this morning and wanted me to see it before he went to work. I guess we will be having a lot of company come for the next few days."

"Well, let me see it," panted Ronnie. "Is it in the living room?"

"I don't think so," said Timothy as he brought Ronnie into the front entrance hall. "Mother, Ronnie is here. He wants to see what we have new. Is it okay if I show him?"

"Just a minute," Mother called from the bedroom.

Right then a car drove into the driveway and Timothy rushed outside to greet his grandmother. Ronnie watched from the doorway as Grandma hugged Timothy. They both were smiling and seemed so happy. Now Ronnie's curiosity was really stirred.

"Timmy, hurry up!" he called. "At least you can tell me what it is!"

Mother opened her bedroom door. "Okay boys, you may come in," she said. "Be very quiet."

"We will," said Timothy. "Here it is, Ronnie, asleep on Mother's bed. This is my new baby brother!"

"Oh, he's so little!" exclaimed Ronnie. "People sure do start out small don't they?"

"I know," said Timothy, "but isn't he cute? He has a fuzzy bit of hair, a bump for a nose, and these two cracks are his eyes when he is awake. Right now he is quiet, but when he opens his little mouth, a great big noise comes out. I'm going to teach him to

talk as soon as possible so he doesn't have to cry for everything."

By now Grandma was bending over the baby. "Oh, let me see this big fellow," said Grandma. She picked up the baby as the boys watched.

"He looks kind of little to me," said Ronnie.

"He isn't little for a newborn," said Grandma. "Every new baby is a miracle from God. According to the scriptures, each one is planned by God and has a special place to fill in life. You two boys are special. Some day each of you will grow up to be a man God will want to use. Now, Timothy, what is your baby brother's name?"

"He is Titus Monroe," replied Timothy. "You know Titus comes right after Timothy in the Bible."

Grandma laughed. "Yes," she said. "And you must set a good example, because Titus will always follow Timothy."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was among those who still served God?
2. How many children did they have?
3. Who appeared to Manoah's wife?
4. What did he tell her?
5. Who begged the Lord to send the angel again?
6. What did the woman do when the angel came again?
7. What did Manoah ask the angel?
8. What did Manoah put on a rock?
9. How did the angel leave them?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 13:1-21.

(Answers: 1. Manoah and his wife. 2. None. 3. An angel. 4. That she would have a son. 5. Manoah. 6. Ran to get her husband. 7. "How shall we care for the child?" 8. An offering. 9. He disappeared in the flames.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 June 20, 1993

SAMSON

When Manoah and his wife saw the angel go up to heaven in the flame from off the altar, they knew that an angel had appeared to them. Manoah feared they would die because they had seen an angel.

Then one day the angel's words came true. A baby boy was born to Manoah and his wife. They named him Samson. They were careful to do as the angel had told them. Because Samson was a Nazarite, they never cut his hair nor allowed him to drink wine. As the child grew, the Lord blessed him. When he became older the Spirit of the Lord began to lead him from place to place.

Samson grew to be a very strong man, but he did not always use his great strength wisely. His parents taught him about the true God and how to serve Him. But when Samson was old enough to marry, he did not choose a wife from God's people. Instead he visited the Philistines. There he saw a woman that he wanted for his wife.

Samson's father and mother tried to get him to choose a wife from among his own people, but he would not listen. Finally, they agreed to go with him to meet the woman. On the way Samson went into a vineyard. There a lion came roaring out ready to kill him. But the Spirit of the Lord came on Samson so mightily that he was able to tear the lion apart with his bare hands.

Samson was determined to marry this Philistine woman, so plans were made for the wedding. When it was time for the wedding Samson and his parents again started for Timnath where the woman lived.

On the way, Samson remembered the lion he had killed. He decided to go and look at it and found that a swarm of bees had made honey in the skeleton. Taking the honey in his hands, Samson walked back to his parents and shared it with them. Samson said nothing to them about the lion he had killed nor where he got the honey.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...But he told not them that he
can



11

taken the honey out of the
of the lion. (Judges 14:9b.)

A Strong Man For Jesus

(A true story)

Aljabar grew up in the country of Morocco, Africa, where there is much darkness. As a small boy, he met some Christian missionaries who told him about Jesus Christ. When he became a teenager, he wanted to know more about Jesus. One day, a foreign Christian told Aljabar about a Christian conference that would be held in Egypt, a country to the east of Morocco. "If you can come, you will learn how to read the Bible and how to be saved," he was told.

So Aljabar earned enough money, bought a passport, and went to Egypt with nine other young people. At the conference, or meeting, Aljabar was saved. He went back to Morocco to finish school and when he graduated, he wanted to be a missionary for Jesus Christ. He decided to attend another conference in Egypt and learn more about the Bible.

When Aljabar and his friend, Ali, arrived in Egypt, they shared an apartment with two other men. Everything went smoothly until one week, the two other men did not come back to the apartment. Aljabar was making a telephone call about them to his teacher when the police banged on their door. As Aljabar opened it, three policemen burst into the apartment.

The police took all their Bible papers, Christian books, legal papers and valuable items. Then they took Aljabar and his friends to jail. All they had to do to be released from jail was to deny Jesus Christ and promise never to study the Bible again.

"I love Jesus Christ too much to deny Him," said Aljabar. He was slapped in the face by an Egyptian policeman.

"Do you like Christian people?"

"Yes, they are my friends," Aljabar replied. He was slapped in the face again.

"Why do you read the Bible?"

"I want to understand God's Word and will for my life."

This time he was slapped and kicked. The police questioned Aljabar and his friends for three days like this without feeding them or letting them sleep. Then a group of policemen, a new group, began the questioning. Finally Aljabar and his friends were put in prison to eat filthy, wormy beans and rice. Through all this suffering, not one of these four men denied Jesus Christ.

After several months of persecution, news about their condition reached the United States. Congressmen wrote the Egyptian government and demanded Aljabar and his friend's release. Now these four men live in France where they tell others about the love of Jesus which has helped them forgive even the Egyptian police. Aljabar is a strong man for God.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Manoah afraid they would die?
2. What did Manoah and his wife name their baby boy?
3. Why didn't they cut Samson's hair?
4. Who blessed Samson as he grew?
5. What kind of man was Samson?
6. What came roaring out ready to kill Samson?
7. What did Samson do to it?
8. What did Samson find in the skeleton?
9. Who was Samson determined to marry?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 13:22-14:9.

(Answers: 1. They had seen an angel. 2. Samson. 3. He was a Nazarite. 4. The Lord. 5. A strong man. 6. A lion. 7. Tore it apart with his bare hands. 8. Honey. 9. A Philistine woman.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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THE WEDDING

Samson was determined to have the Philistine woman for his wife. So his parents went with him to Timnath for the wedding. After the wedding, Samson made a feast for the guests, as that was the custom. This feast lasted a whole week. Thirty young Philistine men came to the celebration. During the week Samson and the young men entertained themselves by asking riddles.

"I will give you a riddle," Samson told them. "If you can answer it within these seven days, I will give you each a new suit of clothes. But if you cannot answer it, you must give me thirty suits of clothes."

"Then tell us your riddle," the young men answered. So Samson told them his riddle, "Out of the eater came forth meat and out of the strong came forth sweetness." The young men thought and thought. "What can this riddle mean?" they wondered. Three whole days had passed and they still could not figure it out.

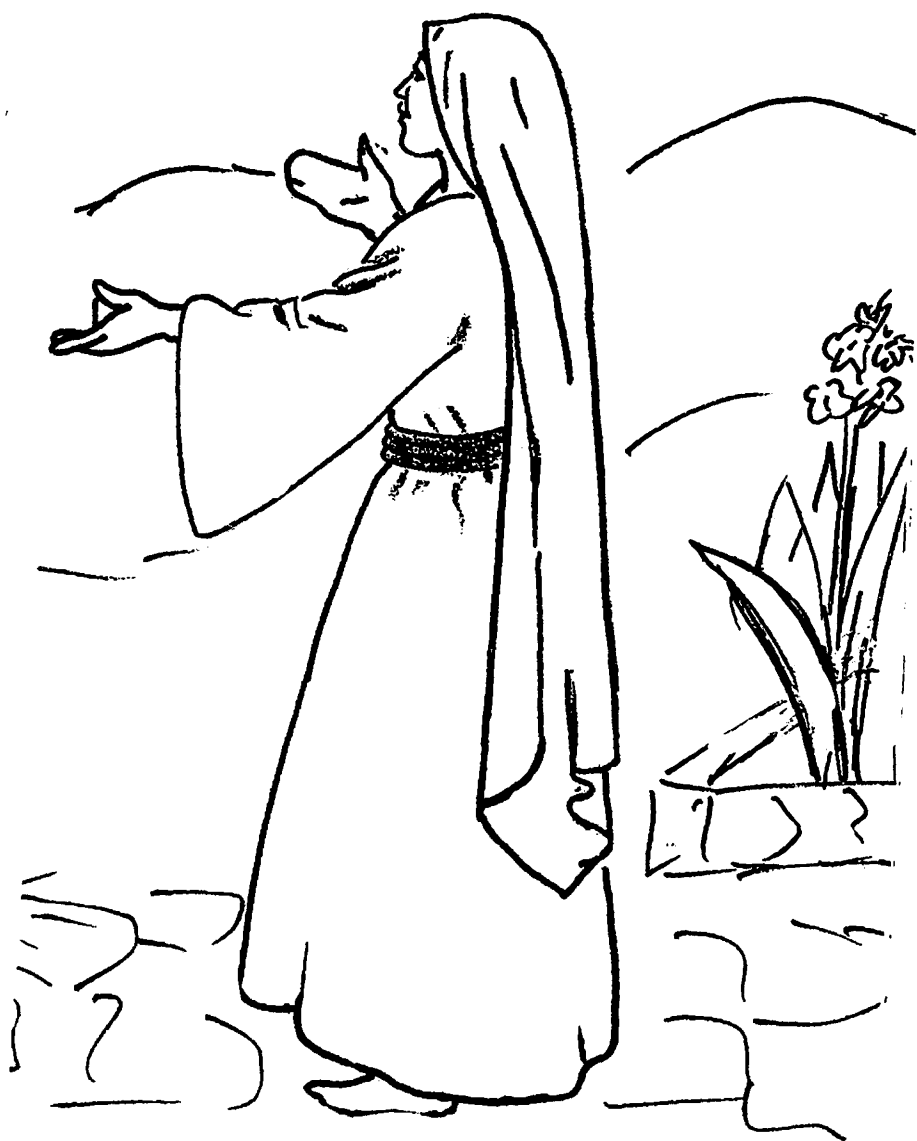
On the seventh day the young men were desperate to find the answer to Samson's riddle. They went to Samson's new wife. "Make your husband tell you the answer to his riddle or we will burn your father's house down," they threatened.

So Samson's wife begged and cried until Samson finally told her the meaning. Then she told the young men. On the seventh day the young men came to Samson. "What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion?" they told him. Samson knew they had gotten the answer to his riddle from his new wife. He was so angry he went out and killed thirty Philistines and gave their clothes to the young men. Then he left his new wife and went back home.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And he went down, and
talked with the woman; and
she pleased Samson well.
(Judges 14:7.)**





Boyfriend/Girlfriend

Debbie came into the kitchen where Mother was washing vegetables for supper. "Mother," she said as she picked up a potato peel, "how old were you when you had a boyfriend?"

"Well," said Mother slowly, "my parents did not encourage me to have special boyfriends when I was young. It is best to be friends with everyone and not claim one person a closer friend than another. Why do you ask?"

"The neighbor boy, Jimmy, says he wants to be my boyfriend. I don't know if I want to be his girlfriend or not."

"Did he tell you what he thinks 'a boyfriend' is?"

"Oh, Mother, that means you write notes to each other, hold hands, and..."

"Wait a minute," said Mother, "that violates the six inch rule of staying apart. Don't hold hands with any boy whether he is a boyfriend or not."

"That's why Jimmy wants to be my boyfriend—so we can hold hands. I just don't know if he is a very nice boy."

"What do you mean by that?" asked Mother as she put sliced carrots on the stove.

"Sometimes he likes to tell bad jokes and he says dirty words and..."

"And you are asking me if he can be your 'boyfriend'?" finished Mother for Debbie. "Honey, you tell me, do you want a friend who tells bad jokes even if others are cheap enough to laugh at him? Do you want to sell your reputation so cheaply? I will let you decide if you want Jimmy for a boyfriend or not."

Debbie was quiet as she helped Mother finish supper. She watched her parents at the supper table, how her daddy was so thoughtful and pleasant without saying one bad word or dirty joke. Mother and Debbie were

washing the dishes when Debbie spoke of Jimmy again.

"I don't think I want to be Jimmy's girlfriend," she said. "I really don't like his sick jokes anyway."

"That sounds good to me," replied Mother. "We can pray for Jimmy, that he will give his heart to Jesus, but being his girlfriend will only hurt you and not change him. It is better for you to not worry about boyfriends and just let God take care of that some day when you are older. Right now, play with others, be kind to all, remember the six inch rule at all times, and be happy. Most importantly, live for Jesus and He can give you a clean, saved boyfriend."

"Mother, may Andrea come over to play tomorrow? She is so good and nice."

"Yes," said Mother, "you may call her right now." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was determined to have a Philistine woman for his wife?
2. What did Samson make for the guests after the wedding?
3. How long did it last?
4. How many young men came?
5. What did Samson and the young men do to entertain themselves?
6. What did Samson promise to give them if they guessed his riddle?
7. Who told the young men the answer?
8. Where did Samson get the thirty suits of clothes?
9. Where did Samson go?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 14:8-19.

(Answers: 1. Samson. 2. A feast. 3. For a whole week. 4. Thirty. 5. Ask riddles. 6. Each a suit of clothes. 7. Samson's wife. 8. He killed thirty Philistines. 9. Home.)