

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 July 4, 1993

SAMSON CATCHES THREE HUNDRED FOXES

After awhile, Samson began thinking about his wife. He wanted to see her, perhaps to tell her he was sorry for leaving her. So, about the time of wheat harvest, Samson decided to take her a gift. When he reached her house, her father would not let him come in.

"You went away angry so I thought you truly hated her," his wife's father told him. "I gave her to your friend, to be his wife. Her younger sister is even more beautiful. Take her to be your wife."

Now Samson was very angry. He felt the Philistines had done him wrong, so Samson went hunting. When he had caught three hundred foxes, he took two at a time and tied their tails together. Then Samson tied torches between the tails of each pair of foxes and lit them. When he let them go, the foxes ran wildly through the fields, the vineyards and the olive orchards. The dry fields were soon ablaze for miles around. The food that the Philistines were ready to harvest, was all burned up.

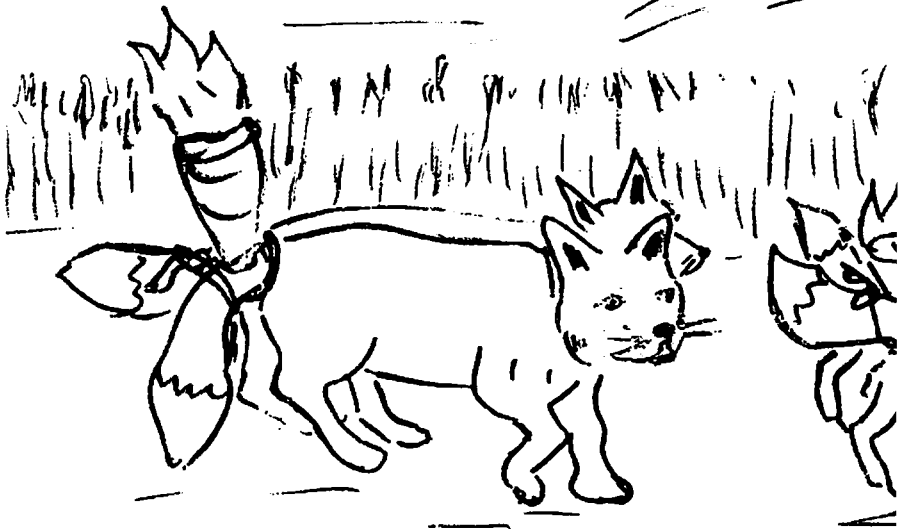
"Who did this?" the Philistines asked angrily.

"Samson did this," someone answered, "because his father-in-law gave his wife to his friend." The Philistines were so angry that they went to the house of Samson's father-in-law and set it on fire. Samson's wife and her father died in the fire.

When Samson heard that the Philistines had killed his wife and her father, he was determined to get even with them. Without waiting to ask anyone to help him, Samson charged among the Philistines fighting with all his might. All by himself, he killed many Philistines. After this, Samson went to live in the top of the rock Etam.

— Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And Samson went and caught three hundred
firebrand in the midst between two tails. (J)**



es,...and put a
s 15:4.)



Firecrackers

Pop! Pop! Pop! Firecrackers sounded in the air as American citizens celebrated Independence Day. Breathlessly, Jason ran into the kitchen where Mother was taking baked beans out of the oven.

"May I have some firecrackers?" he asked with excitement in his voice. "Jimmy has a whole lot! His daddy bought him blackcats, cherry bombs and bottle rockets, but I don't have any!"

"We will watch the city fireworks after dark," replied Mother. "Fireworks are dangerous, you know. Now go tell Daddy I am ready to load the picnic things into the car."

Jason hurried to his daddy but the picnic wasn't on his mind. "Daddy," he began to plead, "when you were a little boy, did you ever shoot firecrackers?"

"My parents didn't have the extra money to burn like that," said Daddy who was busy cleaning the car trunk. "If I earned any money, I certainly didn't want to waste it in a few bangs. Besides, we are going to see the city fireworks which will be noisy enough."

Jason was disappointed, but only for a short while. By the time his family reached the park, he was ready for the picnic lunch.

"Jason, come and see what I have," called his cousin, Greg. "We went to a firecracker stand where you could buy one firecracker and get another one just like it for free. Here are some firecrackers for you."

"Thank you, Greg! I wanted some firecrackers, but Mother said they were dangerous and Daddy said they were too expensive. Let's hurry and eat so we can shoot them!"

Soon the boys had lit punks and were setting off the firecrackers. On

one bottle rocket, Jason lit the fuse. He jumped back to let it fly off, but it didn't go. He bent back over the bottle to see what was the matter.

Zoom! Suddenly, the rocket screamed right into Jason's hair! His daddy saw what happened and knocked the rocket out of his hair just before it exploded.

Stunned, Jason touched the top of his head. "Why, it burned a hole in my hair!" he exclaimed.

Greg was laughing. "You looked like a candle!" he told Jason who smiled weakly.

"Mother was right—fireworks are dangerous!" Jason replied.

Later, on the way home, Jason told his parents, "Next year, I think I'll let the city do all of my fireworks. Anyway, thanks, Mother and Daddy, for the good picnic lunch."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. To whom did Samson take a gift?
2. Who would not let Samson come in?
3. What did Samson catch?
4. How many did he tie together?
5. What did he put between their tails?
6. What happened when he let them go?
7. Who set his father-in-law's house on fire?
8. Who killed many Philistines all by himself?
9. Who went to live in the top of the rock Etam?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 15:1-8.

(Answers: 1. His wife. 2. His father-in-law. 3. 300 foxes. 4. Two. 5. A torch. 6. They ran into the fields. 7. The Philistines. 8. Samson. 9. Samson.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 July 11, 1993

DELIVERED TO THE PHILISTINES

Now the Philistines were ready to make war with all of Israel because of everything that Samson had done to them. They gathered their army and pitched their tents in Judah near a place called Lehi.

The men of Judah saw the great army. They were alarmed. Hurriedly they sent messengers to the enemy camp. "Why have you come to fight against us?" the men of Judah asked. "We have come to capture Samson," the Philistines answered. "We are going to do the same to him as he has done to us." When the men of Judah heard this, they knew they must deliver Samson to the Philistines. Otherwise they might all be killed!

So three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam where they knew they could find Samson.

When they saw Samson they demanded, "Don't you know the Philistines rule over us? What is this that you have done to us?"

"I only did them wrong because they wronged me," Samson answered.

"We have come to tie you up so we can give you to the Philistines," the men of Judah told him.

"I will let you tie me up if you will promise not to kill me yourselves," Samson answered. When the men of Judah gave him their promise, Samson let them tie him up with two new ropes and lead him down from the rock to the enemy camp.

A great shout went up from the Philistines when they saw Samson being led into their camp. Now he was their prisoner! But when Samson heard the Philistines shout, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily giving him much strength. He broke the ropes that bound him as easily as if they had been burned off.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**And they said unto him, we are
come down to bind thee, that we
may deliver thee into the hand of
the Philistines. (Judges 15:12a.)**

Huge Dinosaurs

Have you ever been fascinated by dinosaurs? Scientists in many countries are so fascinated by these huge animals that they spend their entire lifetime studying dinosaur fossils.

Dinosaurs were huge animals which lived on the earth millions of years ago. Only God knows what became of them and how they disappeared. There are many signs of them in petrified rocks. Hard dinosaur eggs and baby dinosaur bones have been found in the northern United States and Canada. Many countries have dinosaur museums where entire bodies of dinosaurs are re-built. In Japan, scientists are busy building fake dinosaur bodies similar to the live dinosaurs which used to roam over the earth.

Some of these fake dinosaurs, made of steel and fiberglass, are remote controlled. They walk, turn and open their huge mouths filled with ugly, pointed teeth. Scientists believe these look and act just like the real ones which used to be so vicious and wild.

One fierce dinosaur was Tyrannosaurus or T-rex for short. He was 45-feet long and must have weighed seven tons. His big jaws full of razor sharp teeth, could bite through flesh and bones. T-rex had short front arms and walked upright on two powerful hind legs. The claws on his front arms were gigantic, capable of easily picking up 600 pounds. This dinosaur ate meat, and probably many animals ran and hid when he was in the neighborhood.

Not all dinosaurs ate meat, but some ate plants like the Brontosaurus. This 70-foot long dinosaur must have shook the ground when he walked about eating on tree leaves.

Though dinosaurs were big and powerful, they did not survive a long time. We do not see any huge dinosaurs today—only the bones and fossils. Do you wonder why they didn't survive even though they were the biggest, strongest creatures on the earth?

People will never know all the answers but God knows all these mysteries. Bigness and powerfulness does not impress God because He created all living things. If you want to please God, love and obey Him. Children of God are only "big" when the heavenly Father blesses them.

— Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was ready to make war with all of Israel?
2. Who saw the great army and were alarmed?
3. Why had they come against Judah?
4. How many men went to find Samson?
5. What did the men want to do to Samson?
6. What did Samson ask them to promise?
7. What did the Philistines do when they saw Samson?
8. What came upon Samson, giving him much strength?
9. What did Samson do to the ropes that bound him?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 15:9-14.

(Answers: 1. The Philistines. 2. The men of Judah. 3. To capture Samson. 4. Three thousand. 5. Tie him up and give him to the Philistines. 6. That they would not kill him themselves. 7. They shouted. 8. The Spirit of the Lord. 9. He broke them easily.)

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BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 July 18, 1993

SAMSON TAKES THE GATES OF GAZA

As soon as Samson broke the ropes off, he grabbed the jawbone of a donkey that he saw laying on the ground. Swinging it right and left, he ran toward the Philistines. Before he was through fighting, one thousand of his enemies lay dead.

Afterward Samson was extremely thirsty. There was no water nearby. He knew he must have a drink soon, so he called on the Lord. "You have saved me from my enemies," Samson prayed "but if I die of thirst I will fall into the hands of the Philistines after all."

God heard Samson's prayer. He knew how much Samson needed a drink, so He made a well nearby and filled it with water. Thankfully, Samson drank his fill of the cool fresh water. Now he was revived and his strength returned to him.

Sometime later Samson again visited the Philistines. The men of Gaza saw Samson enter their city and go into a certain house. They knew they must be very careful if they were to capture him.

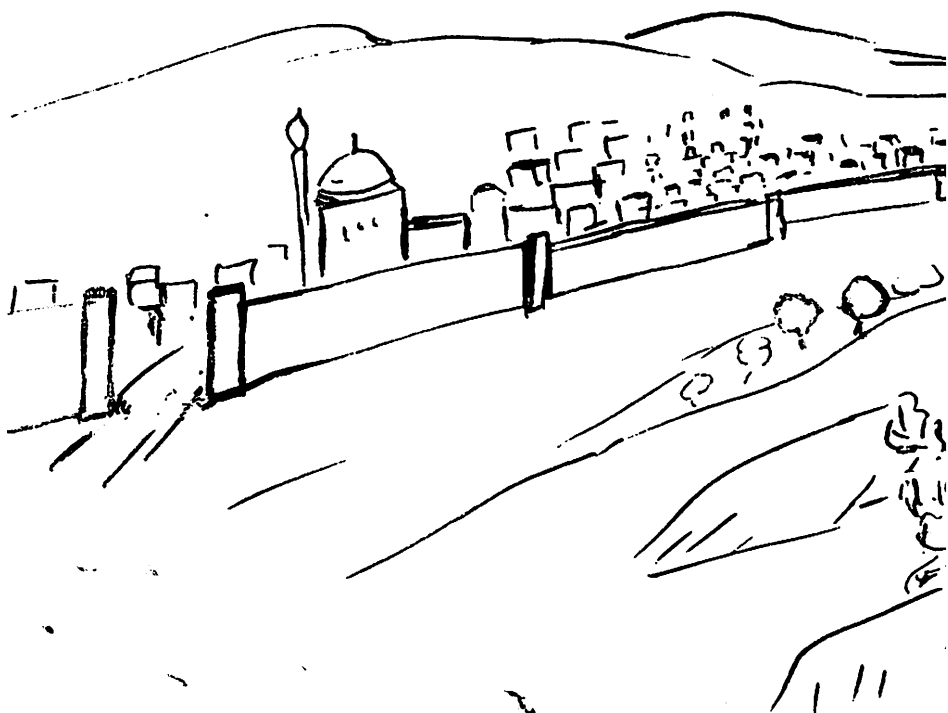
They decided to lock the city gates and bar them shut. Then, if Samson tried to leave during the night he would not be able to escape. When it was light, they could capture him.

About midnight Samson did decide to leave. Coming to the city gates, he found them closed, locked, and barred shut. So Samson lifted the great gates, pulling their posts from the ground. Putting them on his shoulders, Samson carried the gates to the top of a hill and left them there.

The men of Gaza awoke early the next morning. They were sure Samson was their prisoner inside the city since he could not get out. How surprised they were to find that Samson had left Gaza and had taken their great city gates with him!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And Samson...took the
doors of the gate of the
city,...and carried them
up to the top of an hill...
(Judges 16:3.)**





Campmeeting Time!

The Jones family was getting ready for a trip. Mother was packing suitcases and getting the other things she needed ready to go. Daddy was checking over the car to make sure the tires, oil and engine were in good shape to travel. Tim and Lisa were excited and ran back and forth between Mother and Daddy.

"When are we going to leave?" asked Tim once more.

"Pretty soon," said Daddy again.

"You just keep saying 'pretty soon' every time I ask," declared Tim. "When will you say, 'right now'? We can hardly wait to get to Monark Springs! I want to see all my friends I played with last year at Monark. It's going to be a wonderful week!"

Soon the family was all loaded in the car and headed for the Monark Springs camp meeting at Ncosh, MO.

"I can't wait to see our cabin again," sighed Lisa. "It will probably be dirty but after Mother and I get it cleaned, I can have my friends come see me."

"Children," began Daddy. "I am glad you want to see your friends, but do you realize what the national camp meeting is really all about? People from all over the United States and from other countries come for salvation, sanctification, baptism, encouragement, and for healing. It is a time to check over your life and draw closer to God, and not just a time to play with your friends." "It is a very important meeting," continued Daddy. "That's why you must sit still in the services so that the Holy Spirit can talk to your heart and to everyone else's heart. We are meeting with God—not just with friends."

"We will be quiet," promised Tim and Lisa. "We don't want to make noises and cause anyone to miss hearing the messages."

Finally, the Jones family arrived at Monark. Once again, Tim and Lisa dashed to the drinking fountain for a drink of cold water. People were gathering under the big, open tabernacle for service; and everyone was so friendly as they passed by.

"It's even better than I remembered it!" exclaimed Tim.

"Yes," said Lisa, "hear the locusts singing in the trees!"

"I hear the saints singing under the tabernacle," said Daddy. "Children, I'm glad you like to come here. There is spiritual strength here in the presence of God's people."

— Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How many of his enemies did Samson kill with a jawbone?
2. Who was extremely thirsty?
3. What did God make nearby?
4. What city did Samson visit?
5. Why did the men lock the city gates?
6. When did Samson decide to go home?
7. How did Samson get out of the gates?
8. Where did he carry them?
9. What did the men of Gaza find the next morning?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 15:15-16:3.

(Answers: 1. One thousand. 2. Samson. 3. A well. 4. Gaza. 5. They wanted to capture Samson. 6. About midnight. 7. He carried the gates away. 8. To the top of a hill. 9. They found that Samson had escaped and had taken their gates with him.)

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Vol. 44, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 July 25, 1993

DELILAH

Samson met a Philistine woman named Delilah. Samson loved Delilah and would go to visit her often. Soon the Philistine leaders noticed him coming and going from Delilah's house.

The Philistines were still determined to capture Samson. They knew they must first find the secret of his great strength, so they came to Delilah. "You must get Samson to tell you why he is so strong. If you help us capture him, we will give you 1100 pieces of silver," the men promised her.

Now Delilah loved money more than she loved Samson. The next time he visited her she said, "I beg you, tell me where you get your great strength. How could you be captured?"

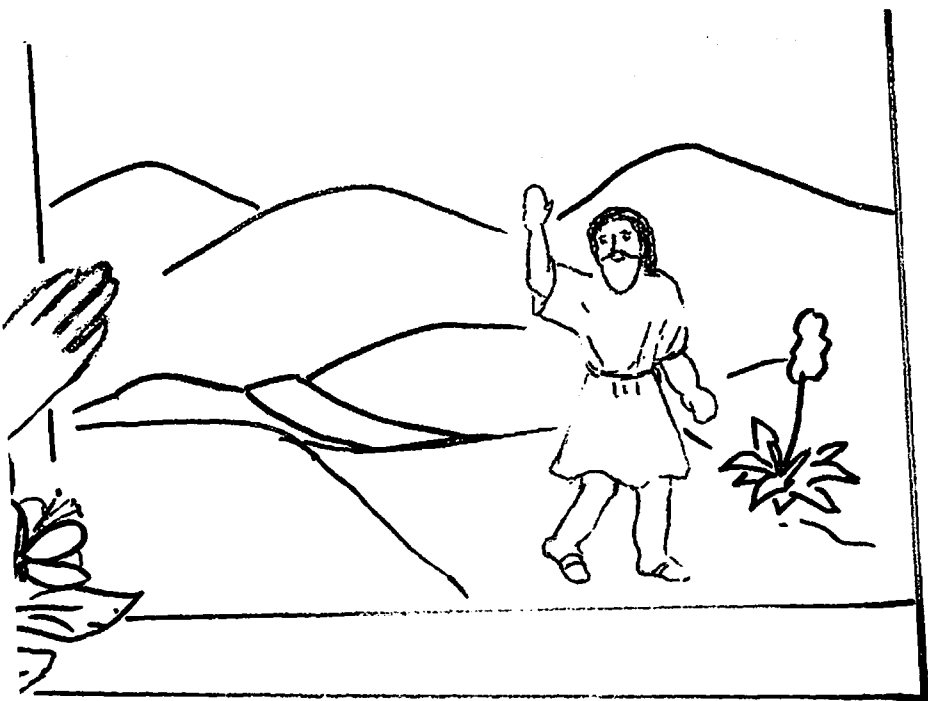
"If they bind me with seven green cords, then I will be as weak as any man," Samson told her. When Delilah told the leaders this, they brought her seven green cords. Then some of the Philistines hid in Delilah's house.

Samson let Delilah tie him up with the seven cords. Then she said, "The Philistines are here to capture you, Samson!" At that, Samson broke the seven cords as easily as if they had been burned thread. Delilah knew he had not told her his secret.

"You have mocked me," Delilah said to Samson. "Now tell me how you can be bound." "If they bind me with new ropes, then I will be as weak as any other man," Samson told her. So Delilah tied Samson with new ropes but he broke them as easily as if they had been thread. Next Samson told her he would become weak if his hair was woven into a loom. While he slept, Delilah wove Samson's hair in a loom and fastened it securely. But when he awoke Samson was still as strong as ever.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**...He loved a woman in the valley of
Sorek, whose name was Delilah.
(Judges 16:4.)**

What To Give

Dad was relaxed on the couch reading the newspaper when the telephone rang. Since it was nearby, he answered it.

"Hello, Mr. Thomas speaking...Hi, Nancy, how are you?...Yes, I am fine...You want to speak to David?...Okay, I will call him."

Then Mr. Thomas put down the phone and called his son, but David did not answer. Finally, Mr. Thomas got up from the couch to see where David was. He found him in the bedroom.

"David, did you not hear me call? You are wanted on the telephone."

"Is it a boy or a girl?" asked David, rolling his eyes upward at the mention of a 'girl'.

"What difference does it make—show respect by answering me when I call and by speaking to someone when he or she calls you."

"It is probably Nancy inviting me to her birthday get-together," sighed David as he followed his dad to the telephone.

"Be polite," Dad told David who slowly picked up the receiver. Soon the conversation was over, David consenting to go to Nancy's birthday get-together that night.

"Oh, brother," he said to Dad. "What do you get a girl for her birthday, anyway?"

"Well, most all girls like candy or flowers," replied Dad over the top of his newspaper.

"Candy or flowers—Dad! I don't like the girl—I'm just being nice to her. Everybody will think the wrong thoughts if I gave her candy or flowers!"

"Okay, son, so you're right. It's best for you not to show any one girl special attention until you are older. It is very

serious who you choose to marry. It can make a difference in your relationship with God."

"Dad," groaned David, "some girl just calls and you are talking about marriage! Maybe I'd better not go to her birthday deal."

"Yes, you go, David, and be nice to everyone, boys and girls included."

"Okay, Dad, I hear you," said David as he turned to leave the den. Suddenly, they heard footsteps in the hall.

"Oh, Mother, maybe you can help me," said David. "You see, I need a small birthday gift for this girl..."

David's voice trailed off as Dad went back to his newspaper. He was glad his son had found a "girl" to help him solve this problem of the proper gift to give.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who would Samson often visit?
2. Who noticed Samson visiting her house?
3. What did they want to do to Samson?
4. What secret did they want to find out?
5. Who did they ask to help them?
6. How much did they offer to pay Delilah?
7. What did Delilah love more than Samson?
8. Who hid in Delilah's house?
9. What did Delilah do to Samson's hair while he slept?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 16:4-14.

(Answers: 1. Delilah. 2. The Philistine leaders. 3. Capture him. 4. The secret of his strength. 5. Delilah. 6. 1100 pieces of silver. 7. Money. 8. The Philistines. 9. She wove it in a loom.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Aug. 1, 1993

SAMSON TELLS HIS SECRET

"How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me?" Delilah demanded. "You have mocked me three times. You still have not told me the secret of your great strength," she told Samson.

Day after day Delilah begged and pressured Samson to tell her his secret. Samson was tired of her constant nagging, but he knew he must never tell the secret of his strength. Yet he kept coming back to see Delilah until finally he told her his secret.

"My hair has never been cut, because I have been a Nazarite unto God from the day I was born," Samson explained to Delilah. If I were to be shaved, then my strength would go from me and I would become weak and be like any other man."

Delilah was sure Samson had told her all his heart this time. She sent for the lords of the Philistines. "Come up once more," she told them. "This time he has told me his secret."

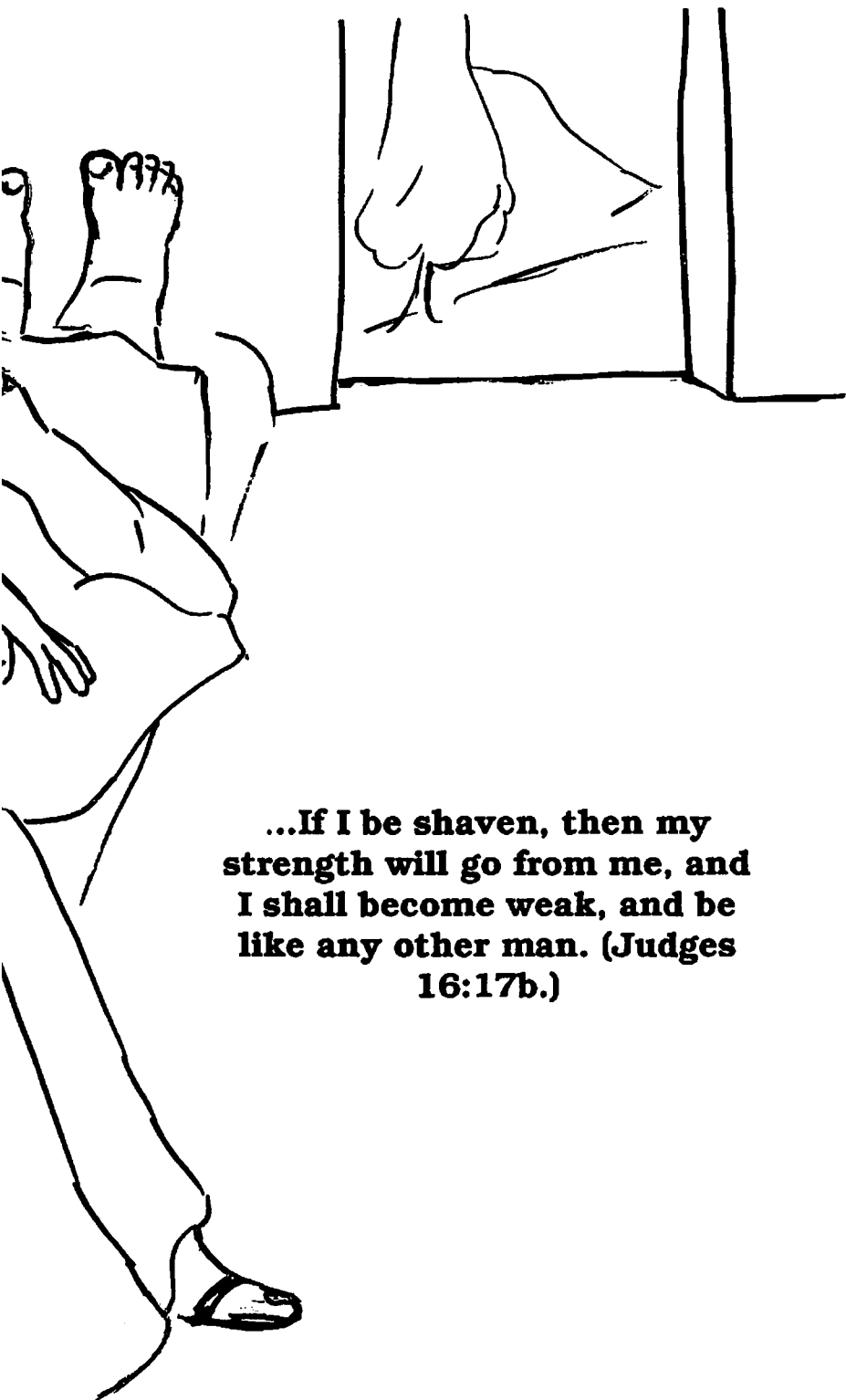
So the lords of the Philistines came to her house again. This time they brought the 1100 pieces of silver with them to pay Delilah. They hid themselves in Delilah's house and waited.

Soon Samson came again to visit Delilah. Delilah made him comfortable and soon he was fast asleep on her lap. Silently she motioned for a man to come and shave the long hair off Samson's head. After it was all shaved off, Delilah began to bother Samson until she woke him up. Then she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!"

"I will escape as easily as I always have," Samson thought sleepily. But Samson did not realize that his hair was gone and the Lord had left him. When he was fully awake, he tried to escape from the Philistines who had hidden in Delilah's house; but now he found he was no match against his enemies. Without the Lord's help, he was as weak as any other man.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**...If I be shaven, then my
strength will go from me, and
I shall become weak, and be
like any other man. (Judges
16:17b.)**

Secret Strength

(A True Story)

John is from the Bluefields in eastern Nicaragua on the Caribbean coast. He was born to Christian parents who taught him the ten commandments and lived by them. When John grew up, he became a teacher, or professor, at a college. With other college professors, John established a club to teach the young people respect for each other and for God.

Then in the late 1970's, civil war broke out. Families were separated, many people were killed and most people were starving. John's family included. The new government told him he could not teach any more if he did not use their new books. John knew their books would not tell his young people about God or how to live a good moral life. When he refused their books, they moved him to another part of the country.

One day some officers came to John's house. They handcuffed him and took him to jail. John and the other prisoners were told not to pray. Guards were kept by John to keep him from sleeping.

After one week without sleep, John was extremely tired. Then the guards began to question him and tell him the Bible was a lie. John did not believe their lies and he stayed true to God.

Later, a government official had John eat lunch with him. He thought by now John would be so tired of jail that he could be persuaded by bribes to leave God. No, John would not forsake God who gave him daily strength to endure the hardships he was suffering.

So the guards put John in a dark, underground cell guarded by well-trained German Shepherd dogs. John lost track of time and could not sleep

well. Then he was moved to another jail where six men had to share two beds in one cell. Through it all, John prayed in his heart to God.

Next, John was moved to a bigger jail where the prisoners could be together and even talk among themselves. There John found thirty Christians who were worshipping God together every morning. They began to tell others about their services and within a year, seven hundred out of four thousand prisoners were Christians.

Of course the government didn't like this so they took all the Bibles and sent the Christians to other jails. This only spread the gospel more. Finally, John was released from jail in 1981 because he was a trouble maker—he taught prisoners about God. Now, John shares his secret of endurance.

QUESTIONS:

1. How many times did Delilah say Samson had mocked her?
2. What did Delilah beg Samson to tell her?
3. What did Samson finally tell Delilah?
4. What had never been cut?
5. What had Samson been since the day he was born?
6. Who did Delilah ask to come once more?
7. Where did Samson fall asleep?
8. What did they do to Samson's hair?
9. Who had left Samson, leaving him weak as any man?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 16:15-20.

(Answers: 1. Three. 2. The secret of his strength. 3. His secret. 4. Samson's hair. 5. A Nazarite. 6. The lords of the Philistines. 7. On Delilah's lap. 8. They shaved it off. 9. The Lord.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Aug. 8, 1993

CAPTURED!

When the Spirit of the Lord left Samson, the Philistines easily captured him and took him prisoner. They tortured him, putting both his eyes out, then they bound him and took him to Gaza. When Samson had visited Gaza before, he was so strong, he was able to carry the gates of the city away. Now he was a weak, blind prisoner of the cruel Philistines.

Day after day, as Samson ground corn in the prison mill, his hair grew longer and longer. One day the Philistine lords and many people gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon, their idol god. They wanted to rejoice because Samson was their prisoner. "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hand," the Philistines said.

As the people celebrated, they said, "Send for Samson so he can entertain us." A young man was sent to the prison to lead Samson before the huge crowd.

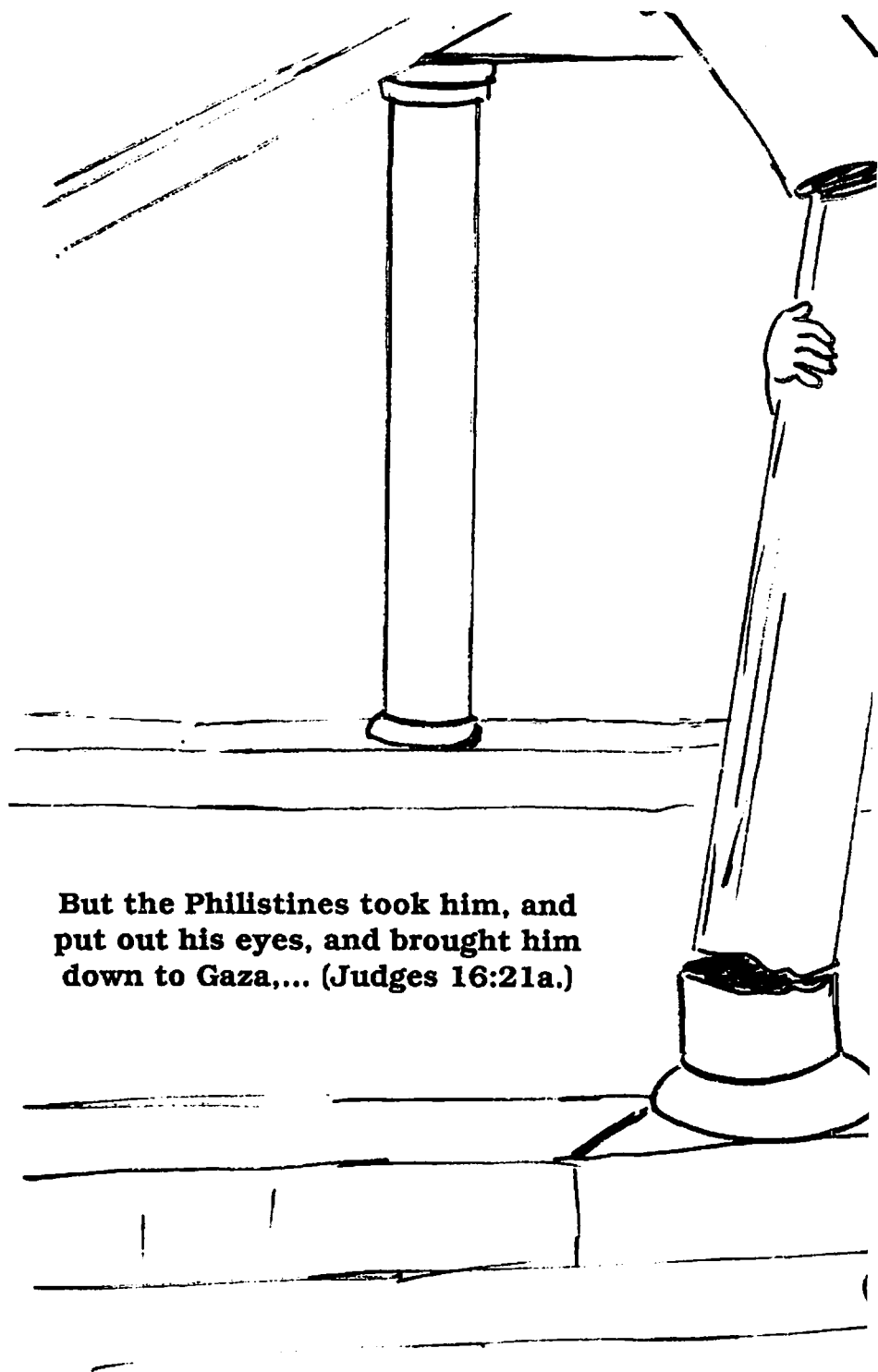
As the people made fun of him, Samson told the young man who led him, "Lead me to the great pillars that hold the house up so I can lean against them."

The house was packed full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there. On the roof about three thousand people looked down on Samson.

As Samson held the two middle pillars, he prayed, "O Lord God, remember me, I beg you, and strengthen me one more time. O God, let me be avenged of the Philistines for putting out my two eyes."

Then Samson leaned against the pillars with all his might. "Let me die with the Philistines!" Samson shouted as he pulled the pillars down. The house fell flat, crushing Samson and killing more Philistines than Samson had killed in all his life.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**But the Philistines took him, and
put out his eyes, and brought him
down to Gaza,... (Judges 16:21a.)**



Hungry Crocodiles

Deep in the heart of Africa, close to the equator, the Grumeti River crawls with huge, ugly crocodiles. Nearly one thousand crocodiles live in this river.

Some of the big grand-daddy crocodiles have lived here for 70 years or more. They weigh a ton and measure 18 feet long! Because crocodiles have big, crooked mouths with many sharp teeth, baboons and warthogs stay far away from the crocodiles. Even though crocodiles look lazy as they stretch on a rock in the sun, they can move like lightning!

When the summer becomes hotter, many little lakes and pools dry up, leaving only the Grumeti River with water for the animals to drink. That is when the large herd of wildebeests or gnus come to the river side. A wildebeest looks like an ox in the face with his big, sturdy horns but he has a mane and tail like a horse and slender legs like a deer.

The old wildebeests know that crocodiles live in the river. Nervously, they stand on the river bank and look at the water. The crocodiles see the wildebeests and they slyly duck under the water. The only part of the crocodile showing is his little, cold eyes staring at the thirsty wildebeests.

Now if the wildebeests would be careful and only sip water at the edge of the river, the crocodiles might need to find another meal. However, the wildebeests become forgetful that the crocodiles are watching. They feel so thirsty. Suddenly, one old bull dashes into the river for a long drink. He is followed by the rest of the herd with the little calves going first because they do not know that crocodiles are there.

This is what the crocodiles are waiting for. Quickly, quietly, they swim toward the herd. Jump! Grab! The huge crocodiles drag bleating calves deeper into the river. Soon the little calves drown and become a meal for the crocodiles.

Those crocodiles are just like the devil. Any time the devil finds someone careless toward sin, he quickly grabs that person. Then if he can, the devil will pull him farther and farther into sin. It is a miracle for a soul who is lost deeply in sin to ever escape the deadly grip of the devil. It is wise to not go near the devil's wicked ways.

Remember to never smoke anything nor drink beer or liquor. Be careful who your friends are, that they do not lead you into temptation. Can you think of other wicked things to guard against?

— Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What left Samson?
2. Who captured him?
3. What did they do to Samson?
4. Where did they take Samson?
5. What happened to Samson's hair day after day?
6. Who did the Philistines offer a sacrifice to?
7. Who did the people call to entertain them?
8. Where did Samson ask to be led?
9. How did Samson kill so many Philistines?

LESSON TEXT: Judges 16:21-31.

(Answers: 1. The Spirit of the Lord. 2. The Philistines. 3. They tortured him and put out his eyes. 4. To Gaza. 5. It grew longer and longer. 6. Dagon, their god. 7. Samson. 8. To the great pillars. 9. He pulled the pillars down and the house fell flat.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Aug. 15, 1993

RUTH AND NAOMI

A man named Elimelech with his wife, Naomi, and their two sons sadly packed up their belongings. There was a famine in Bethlehem. They must move somewhere else to find enough food. Leaving their home, they travelled until they reached the land of Moab. There was no famine here so they made Moab their new home.

More sorrow came to Naomi when her husband, Elimelech, died. By now Naomi's two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, were grown men. They took two young women from Moab to be their wives, named Orpah and Ruth.

Then both of Naomi's sons died. Naomi felt empty and alone in a strange land. She decided to return to Bethlehem. Naomi had heard that the Lord had visited His people and had given them bread. There was no longer a famine in Bethlehem.

So Naomi started back toward Bethlehem. Ruth and Orpah, her two daughters-in-law, walked along beside her. Suddenly Naomi stopped. "Go, return to your mother's house," Naomi told her daughters-in-law. "May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have been kind to me and to my sons." Then, tearfully, Naomi kissed both young women.

"Surely we will return with you to your people," Orpah and Ruth both assured her. When Naomi insisted, Orpah kissed her, then returned to her home in the land of Moab. But Ruth refused to go back.

"See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her own people and to her own gods. Return with her," Naomi urged Ruth.

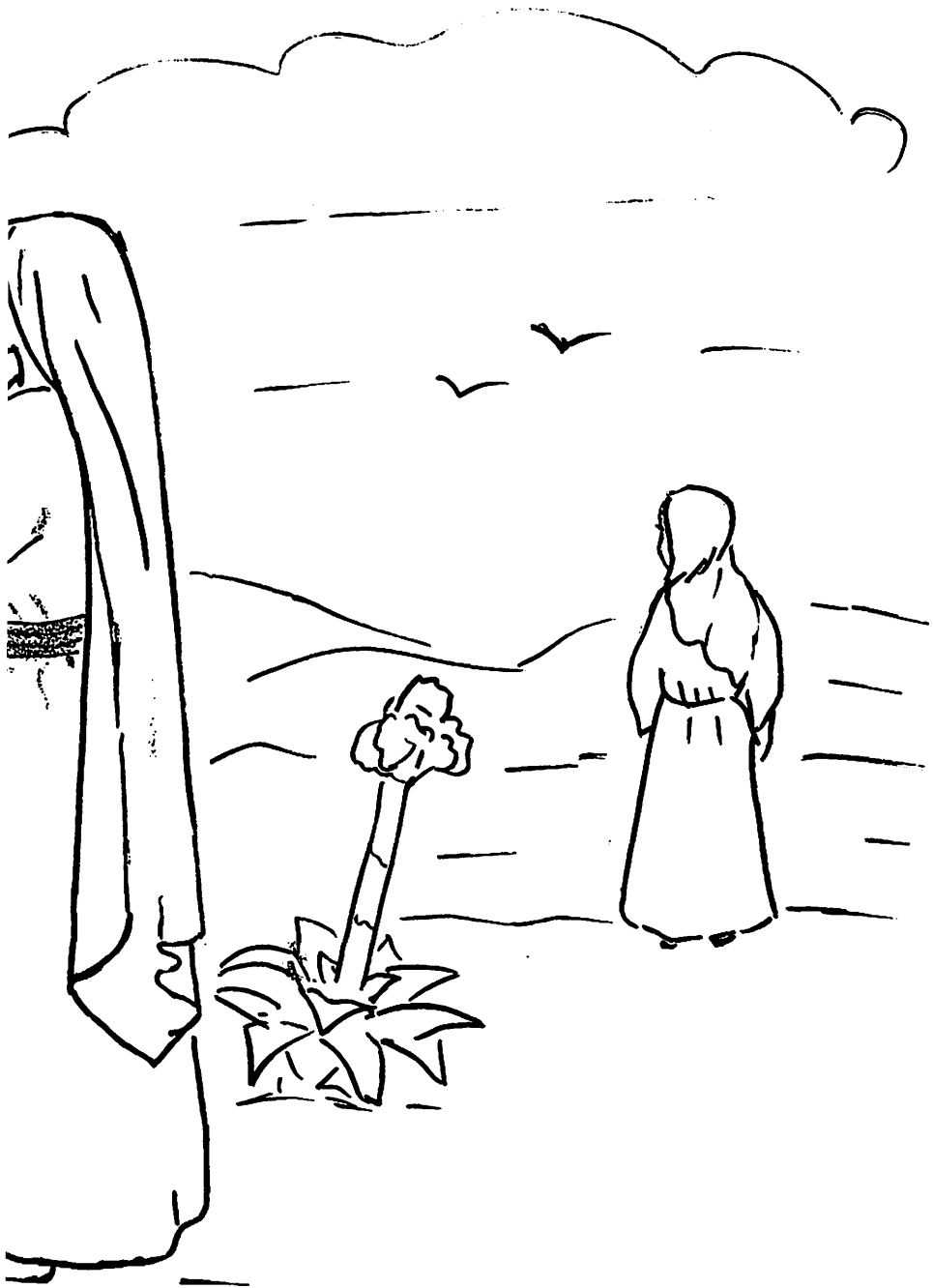
But Ruth answered, "Entreat me not to leave you, or to return from following you. Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people shall be my people and your God my God. Nothing but death shall part us."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And Rut



**id, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from
following after thee:... (Ruth 1:16a.)**



Forsaking All For Jesus

(A True Story)

In the small country of Nepal, located northeast of India, Tirtha Thapa was born and raised. Since his country is in the Himalayan Mountains, he learned early in life how to climb and survive on rocky ground.

Tirtha was taught to be a Hindu like everyone else in his country. As a Hindu, he worshipped hundreds of idols each of which was supposed to have some special magic of its own. Through all of Tirtha's childhood, he was taught to fear idols made of wood and stone.

Wanting to be an obedient boy, Tirtha did as his parents taught him but he really never saw any good from worshipping those cold idols.

Since Tirtha was a smart, obedient boy, he was able to go to college in the big city of Kathmandu, Nepal's capital. There he met someone who was a Christian.

"Here, Tirtha, take this New Testament and read the Word of God for yourself," said the Christian.

"The Word of God?" questioned Tirtha. His mind could not imagine those lifeless idols speaking, much less writing a book.

The Christian smiled. "The God who spoke these words is alive. He made the earth and all that is in it. He made us and when we put our faith in Him, He will talk directly to us in our minds and hearts. Read this book and see!"

So Tirtha opened the New Testament and read in Romans, chapter three, that all men are sinners and fall short of God's standards. This idea made Tirtha angry. Did he not obey his parents? Was he not religious? Then Tirtha went with his

friend to a Christian church and the preacher read the same verses.

That night in bed, Tirtha prayed to the Jesus. "If you are really real," he prayed, "show me that I am a sinner like the New Testament says." All night long, Tirtha could not sleep. God reminded him of his childhood and when he had disobeyed. God showed him his bitterness, anger, pride and selfishness. By morning, Tirtha was reading his New Testament to learn how to be saved from sin. Oh, the cleansing power that Tirtha felt when he did get saved from sin!

He was so excited that he went to tell his family about Jesus. They would not listen. In fact, they would not let him come into the house because he was no longer a Hindu.

After many prayers and much patience, Tirtha won his family to the Lord. Now all the strange idols are out of their house and they only pray to the true God who answers prayer.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Elimelech's wife?
2. Why did the family leave Bethlehem?
3. Where did they move?
4. Who died first?
5. Who did Naomi's two sons marry?
6. Who else died in Moab?
7. Where did Naomi decide to go?
8. Who walked along with Naomi?
9. Who refused to go back home?

LESSON TEXT: Ruth 1:1-18.

(Answers: 1. Naomi. 2. To find food. 3. To Moab. 4. Elimelech. 5. Orpah and Ruth. 6. Naomi's two sons. 7. Back to Bethlehem. 8. Orpah and Ruth. 9. Ruth.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Aug. 22, 1993

RUTH WORKS IN THE FIELDS

It had been ten years since Naomi left Bethlehem. "Is this Naomi?" people asked, looking at one of the two women walking through the city gates.

"Don't call me Naomi (which means pleasant), but call me Mara (bitter)," Naomi answered her old neighbors. "The Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full but the Lord has brought me home again empty."

It was the beginning of barley harvest. Ruth wanted to help get food, so one morning she said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and glean."

"Go, my daughter," Naomi answered.

Ruth walked until she came to a field where the reapers were gathering grain. She went into the field and asked if she could pick up the grain which dropped. It so happened this field belonged to Boaz, a very wealthy man who was kin to Elimelech, Naomi's husband.

When Boaz came from Bethlehem to check on his reapers, he noticed Ruth. "Who is this?" he asked his foreman.

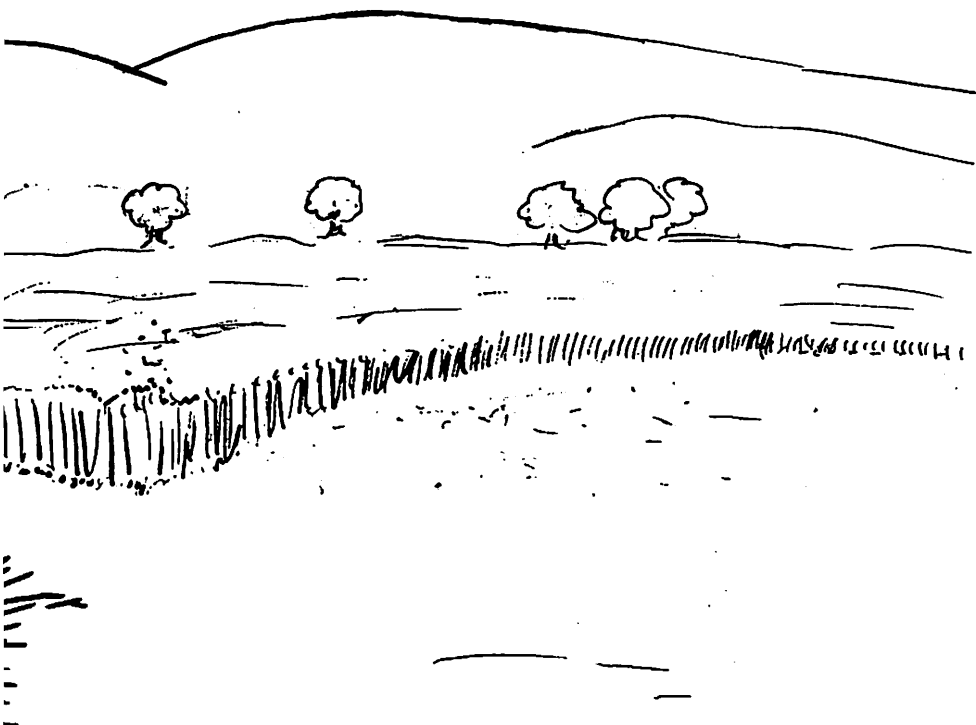
"This is the young woman from Moab who came back with Naomi. She begged me to let her glean and gather up the grain the reapers drop. She has been gleaning ever since this morning."

Going over to Ruth, Boaz said, "Don't glean in any other field, my daughter. When you are thirsty feel free to drink with the young women who work for me and at mealtime come and eat with us."

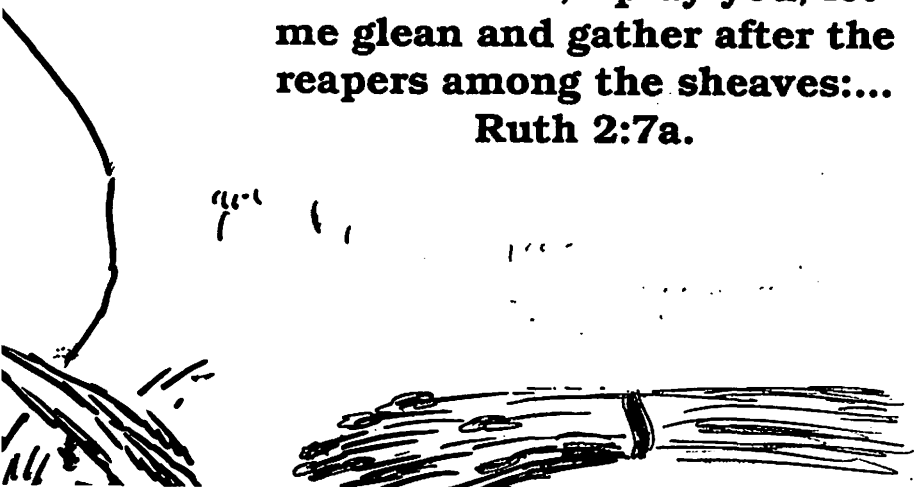
Ruth fell on her face before Boaz. "Why have I found favor with you?" she asked. "I am a stranger."

"I have been told about your kindness to Naomi," Boaz answered. "May the Lord repay your kindness and a full reward be given you of the Lord God of Israel whom you have come to trust." Then Boaz told his men to let extra grain drop for Ruth to gather. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**And she said, I pray you, let
me glean and gather after the
reapers among the sheaves:....
Ruth 2:7a.**



Patience Is A Virtue

One morning in late fall, Pat woke up and looked at the clock. It was late! She jumped out of bed and hurriedly got dressed. She usually read a whole chapter in the Bible, but since it was late, she read just one verse. She picked up her Bible, opened it, and read, "Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:4.

On the way to school, Pat and her mother had to stop and wait while dairy cows crossed the road to be milked. Pat sat in the car fuming until they could get by.

During morning devotions, the teacher talked to the class about patience. She read the same verse Pat had read that morning. The teacher talked on and on. Pat sat and frowned. She was in a hurry to do her work.

At last, devotions were over. Pat went into the Learning Center and started her math but she ran into a problem she couldn't figure out. Finally, Pat raised her flag for help. While she was still waiting, the teacher called her to the computer.

Pat hurried to the computer and flopped into the chair. She saw it was Spellicopter and knew it would take a while. The first word was patience. The sentence that went with it was the Bible verse she had read that morning.

After working several minutes, Pat finished the last question. She went back to her office and raised her flag again for help with her math. Finally a teacher came to help her. Then the bell rang for break.

After break, a teacher called her to Reading. At the reading machine, her eyes got nearly as big as saucers. The story was ten pages long! It was about a girl who was impatient. She read the story and answered the questions. The answers she couldn't re-

member, she guessed at because she was in a hurry to finish. She gave the papers back to the teacher and went to her seat.

Then Pat got out her English Pace. On the first page there was a rule she needed to read aloud, so she raised her flag. The longer she waited, the more she stewed. Suddenly, she saw that the memory verse for that Pace was James 1:4.

So it went this way the whole day long. Pat would get impatient and then this verse would come before her. After school and after supper, Pat and her family went to a revival meeting. Guess what the preacher's sermon was about? He used the very same verse that had been coming to Pat's mind all day! Suddenly, she got a feeling that the Lord wanted to get something across to her.

"Lord, help me to be more patient," Pat prayed.

—Amy Gentry

QUESTIONS:

1. How long had it been since Naomi left Bethlehem?
2. What does 'Naomi' mean?
3. What did Naomi tell her neighbors to call her?
4. Who wanted to help get food?
5. When Ruth went into the field, what did she ask to do?
6. In whose field did Ruth glean?
7. Who told Ruth to not glean in any other field?
8. Who fell on her face before Boaz?
9. What did Boaz tell his men to drop for Ruth to gather?

LESSON TEXT: Ruth 1:19-2.

(Answers: 1. Ten years. 2. Pleasant. 3. Mara. 4. Ruth. 5. Pick up the grain that dropped. 6. It belonged to Boaz. 7. Boaz. 8. Ruth. 9. Extra grain.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Aug. 29, 1993

RUTH AND BOAZ

All during the harvest Ruth gleaned grain only in the field that belonged to Boaz. When the grain had all been gathered, Boaz made a feast of thanksgiving. Naomi told Ruth to go to the feast and told her just what to do. "I will do as you say," Ruth answered. So Ruth got ready and went to the feast.

Late that night Boaz recognized Ruth. "May the Lord bless you, my daughter," he said. "You have not followed after the young men. Everyone in this city knows that you are a good woman."

Ruth knew that it was the custom for her husband's nearest relative to marry her and care for her and Naomi. She listened as Boaz continued, "I am related to your husband that died, but there is one man more closely related than I am. Tomorrow I will speak to him. If he will give up his right to marry you, I promise to make you my wife."

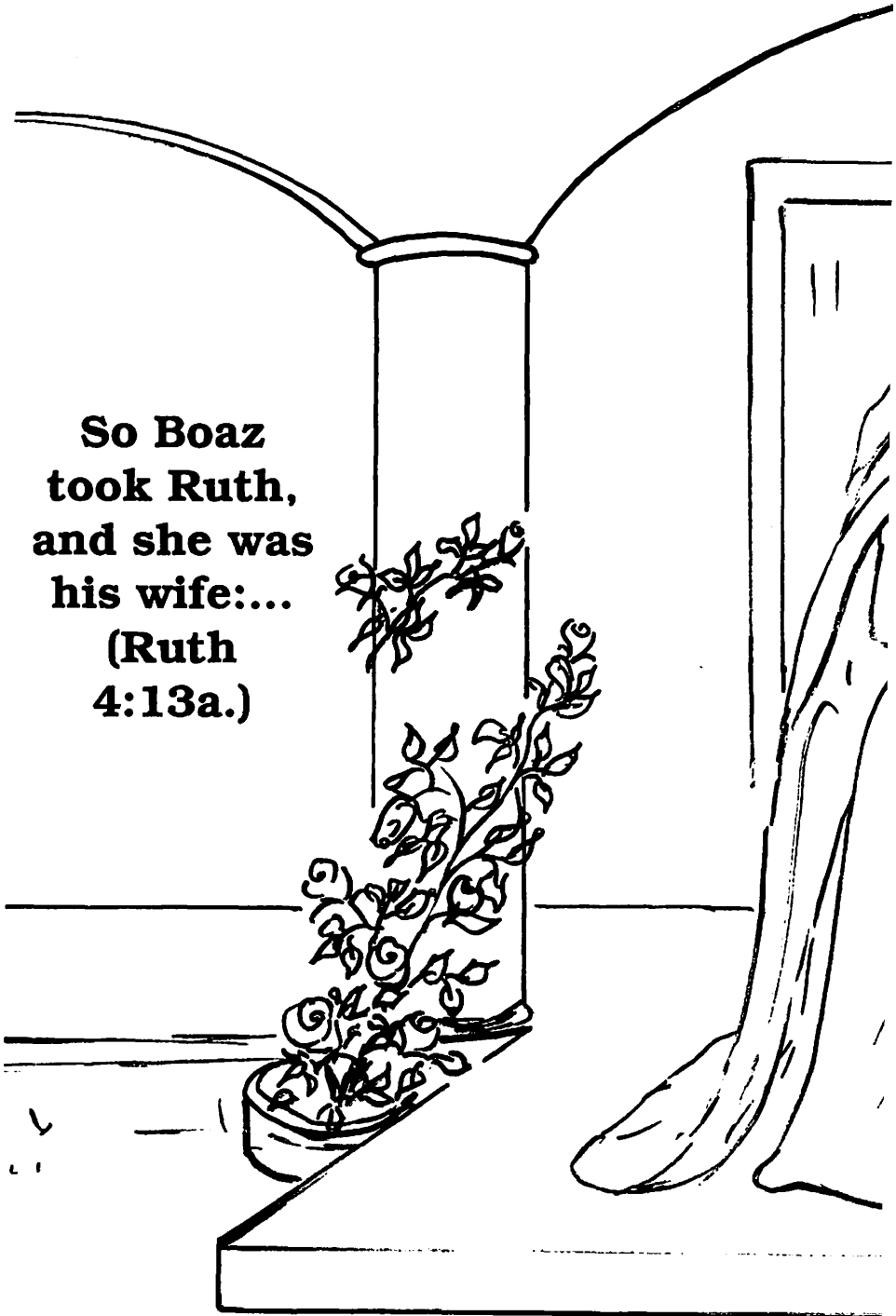
Early the next morning, Boaz gave Ruth a gift of food to take to Naomi. When Naomi saw the gift she assured Ruth that Boaz would do as he had said.

That morning Boaz sat down at the city gate. When the kinsman came by, he called him aside and told him about Ruth and Naomi. "You may redeem my right for yourself," the kinsman said. "I cannot marry Ruth and care for Naomi."

"You are witnesses today," Boaz told those who were listening. "I have purchased Ruth to be my wife." "We are witnesses," the people answered. "May the Lord bless your marriage." So Boaz took Ruth to be his wife. The Lord blessed them with a baby boy named Obed. Now Naomi was very happy. She loved little Obed and became his special nurse.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**So Boaz
took Ruth,
and she was
his wife:....
(Ruth
4:13a.)**





Needing A Help Mate

At the ripe age of 42, Martin Luther was tired from the spiritual battles he had been engaged in for the last ten years. He was weary with hiding, distressed at the people's ignorance, and concerned over the pope's control of the church.

The Lord had his hand upon this zealous reformer, daily giving him strength, but Mr. Luther also needed human help. His physical health was not so well and at times he needed nursing and extra care.

By now he was overseer of a men's dormitory in one part of his huge house and also there was a women's dormitory. Those who came to live at his house were fleeing from the false doctrines of the Catholic church.

"Brother Luther," would say a monk, "I know you are right about the Bible. May I come to live with you until I can find my new place in life?"

"You are welcome, brother."

Then Bro. Luther would sigh. He wanted to do all he could for God and help these needy souls, but he needed help.

Monks and nuns were never to marry anyone but to stay single for God's service all their lives. Bro. Luther knew this was a false teaching because 1 Tim. 4:2-3 plainly speaks about doctrines of devils which speak lies and forbid to marry. In 1 Corinthians 7:9, it says to let them marry, so when an ex-monk and ex-nun wanted to marry, Bro. Luther would perform the marriage.

Then Bro. Luther began to think about marriage himself. In fact, a young sister living in the women's dormitory had already caught his attention.

"Have you ever considered marriage?" he asked Sis. Katherine von Bora who was nearby one afternoon. Sis. Katherine's cheeks flushed. "I

would only consider marrying one man," she replied.

"Oh, who could that be?" he asked but even as he spoke, he knew that 'one man' was himself. Soon they were married. Sis. Luther was such a good nurse and great help to her husband.

"I don't know how I made it without you," he told his wife. "You have organized my living quarters, cleaned the kitchen, and arranged the dormitory space wisely. Thank you, dear wife, thank you!"

"You are quite welcome, husband," she replied. "Thank you for teaching me the truth of God's Word."

Mr. and Mrs. Luther had six children of their own besides caring for many nieces, nephews, and other young people who left the Catholic church to learn the Truth. The Luther's had a happy, busy home.

— Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who gleaned grain in the field that belonged to Boaz?
2. Who made a feast of thanksgiving?
3. Who told Ruth to go to the feast?
4. What was Naomi's nearest relative expected to do?
5. Was Boaz Naomi's nearest relative?
6. Who purchased Ruth to be his wife?
7. How did the Lord bless their marriage?
8. What was the baby's name?
9. Who was his special nurse?

LESSON TEXT: Ruth 3, 4.

(Answers: 1. Ruth. 2. Boaz. 3. Naomi. 4. Marry Ruth and care for Naomi. 5. No. 6. Boaz. 7. He gave them a baby boy. 8. Obed. 9. Naomi.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Sept. 5, 1993

HANNAH'S PRAYER

Every year Elkanah stopped all his work and took his family to Shiloh. Elkanah loved the Lord and was thankful for His many blessings. He and his family went to Shiloh to worship the Lord and to offer sacrifices to Him.

This year as they travelled to Shiloh, Hannah, Elkanah's wife, was sad. Hannah had no children. With all her heart she longed to have a baby boy. Elkanah noticed that Hannah had been crying and didn't want anything to eat. He knew how badly she wanted a son.

Trying to comfort her, he asked, "Hannah, why are you crying and so sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?" It was true, Elkanah was a kind, loving husband, but Hannah still longed for a son.

As soon as she could get away, Hannah went to the temple to pray. Tears flooded her eyes as she begged the Lord to give her a son. There she promised that if He would give her a son, she would give him back to the Lord to serve Him all his life. Tears ran down Hannah's face and her lips moved as she prayed, but she said nothing out loud.

Hannah had not noticed Eli, the priest, sitting nearby. Eli watched her crying and praying and wondered what was wrong. When he spoke to Hannah, she told him how sorrowful her heart was. "Go in peace and the God of Israel grant you your petition that you have asked of him," Eli told her.

Hannah believed Eli's words. Now she could eat and be happy. She knew the Lord would answer her prayer. When her baby son was born, Hannah named him Samuel, which means, 'asked of God'. Hannah loved Samuel and nursed him carefully but she never forgot her promise to give him back to God.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**And she was in bitterness
of soul, and prayed unto
the Lord, and wept sore.
(I Samuel 1:27.)**

Early To Pray

"Mama, we need a memory verse for Sunday school," Karla said as Karen nodded her head in agreement.

"Our teacher said she would give us a little 'Jesus Loves Me' cup if we will say memory verses four Sundays in a row," Karen said, holding up four fingers for her mother to see.

"Well, let's get the Bible and find you girls a verse," said Mother. "It is good to seek out scriptures in the Word of God."

"Seek?" asked Karla, wrinkling her nose. "Do you mean hide-n-seek?"

Mother laughed. "You could think of it that way," she said. "Seek means to hunt or search. When you play hide-n-seek, you are hunting, searching or seeking for someone. When we seek for a Scripture, we are hunting for it in the Bible."

"When I play hide-n-seek," said Karen. "I like to be found soon. I get so tired of hiding."

"That's why I don't like to hide with you," said Karla. "You always tell where we are!"

By now, Mother had her BIBLE open. "Girls, here are some good verses to remember. Proverbs has many words of wisdom that will help us in life."

"Have you found the right verse for me to say?" asked Karen anxiously.

"Yes, I have found a good verse in chapter 8, verse 17 that says: 'I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.'"

"That has the word 'seek' in it!" exclaimed Karla happily.

"It sure does," agreed Mother. "Now say the verse with me. 'I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.' Very good! Would you like for me to ex-

plain this verse?" Since both girls eagerly nodded, Mother continued, "When you love someone, you want to be with them as much as possible, right? Well, one way to be with God is in prayer. Early each morning, seek a quiet place to pray and there you will find God. You are old enough to have a quiet time of prayer all alone."

"The Lord will always answer our prayers, too," said Karla. "I remember some prayers He has already answered for me!"

"I do too!" agreed Karen. "He healed my cut finger and helped me find my doll!"

"Did you thank Him after He answered prayer?" asked Mother. "After you have a prayer answered, remember to say a thank-you prayer. Then there is the prayer of love. The Lord likes for us to tell Him we love Him. That is a good way to start the day."

"That's what I will do," said Karla. Karen said, "I like that verse. Let's say it again."

— Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who took his family to Shiloh every year?
2. Why did they go to Shiloh?
3. Who was sad?
4. What did she long to have?
5. Who noticed Hannah had been crying?
6. Where did Hannah go to pray?
7. Who saw her praying?
8. Why was Hannah happy now?
9. What did she name her son?

LESSON TEXT: I Samuel 1:1-23.

(Answers: 1. Elkanah. 2. To worship the Lord. 3. Hannah. 4. A baby boy. 5. Elkanah. 6. To the temple. 7. Eli. 8. She knew the Lord would answer her prayer. 9. Samuel.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Sept. 12, 1993

HANNAH'S GIFT TO GOD

Samuel was only a tiny baby when it was time to go to Shiloh again to worship God. "I will not go to Shiloh until the child is old enough to serve in the temple," Hannah told her husband, Elkanah. "Then I will take him to live in the temple to serve the Lord all his life."

So each year Elkanah and the rest of the family went to Shiloh to worship God and offer a sacrifice, but Hannah stayed home with little Samuel.

Year after year Samuel grew taller and stronger. Now Hannah knew he was old enough to serve the Lord in the temple. As the time drew closer to go to Shiloh, Hannah began to get things ready for Samuel to stay. Carefully Hannah packed his clothes.

When they reached Shiloh, Hannah took Samuel and a sacrifice to Eli. The sacrifice was to be offered to the Lord in thanksgiving for the son God had given her.

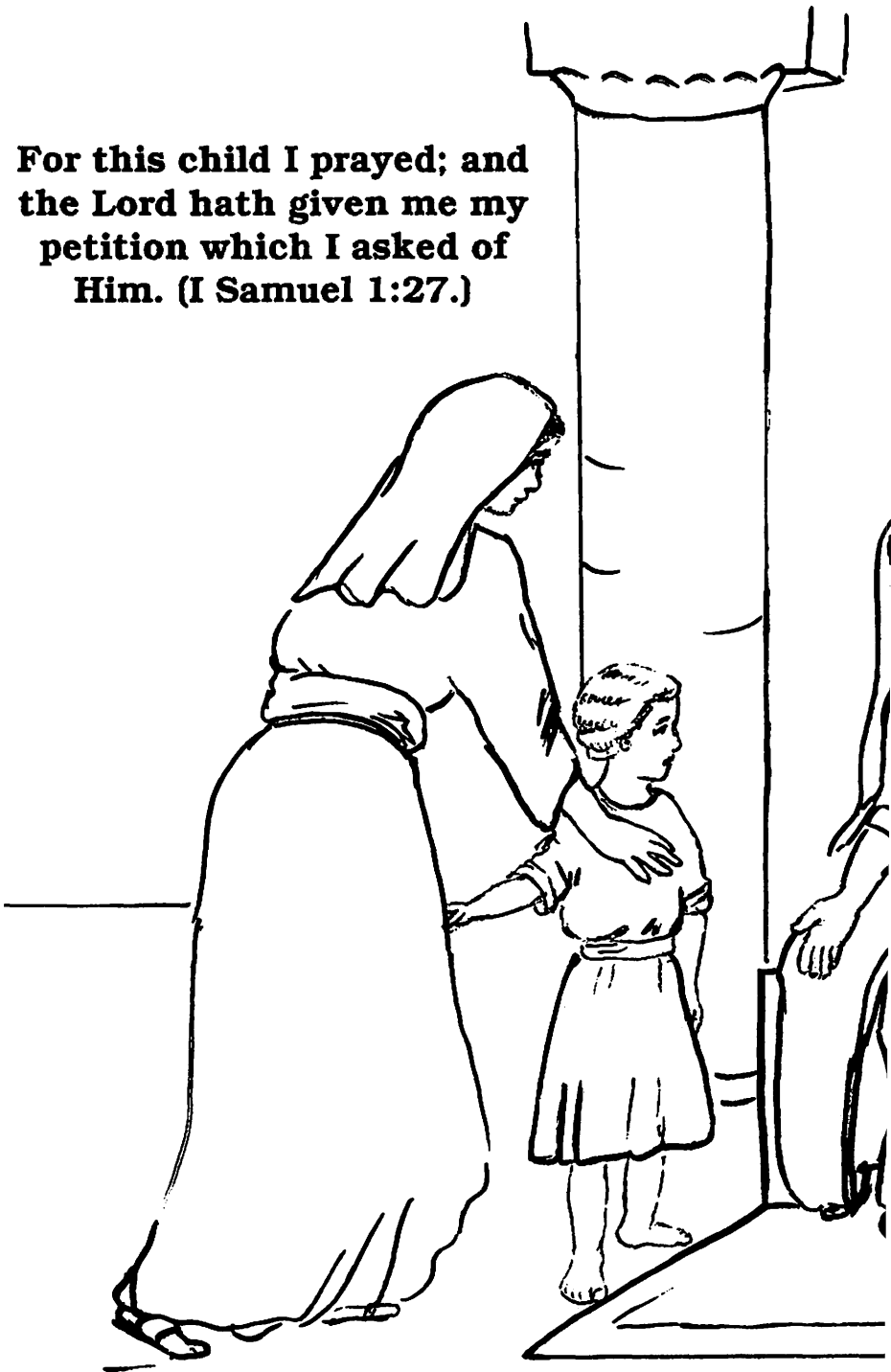
When she saw Eli, Hannah told him, "I am the woman that stood by you praying. I was praying for this child and the Lord has answered my prayer. Now I am giving him back to the Lord. As long as he lives, he will belong to the Lord."

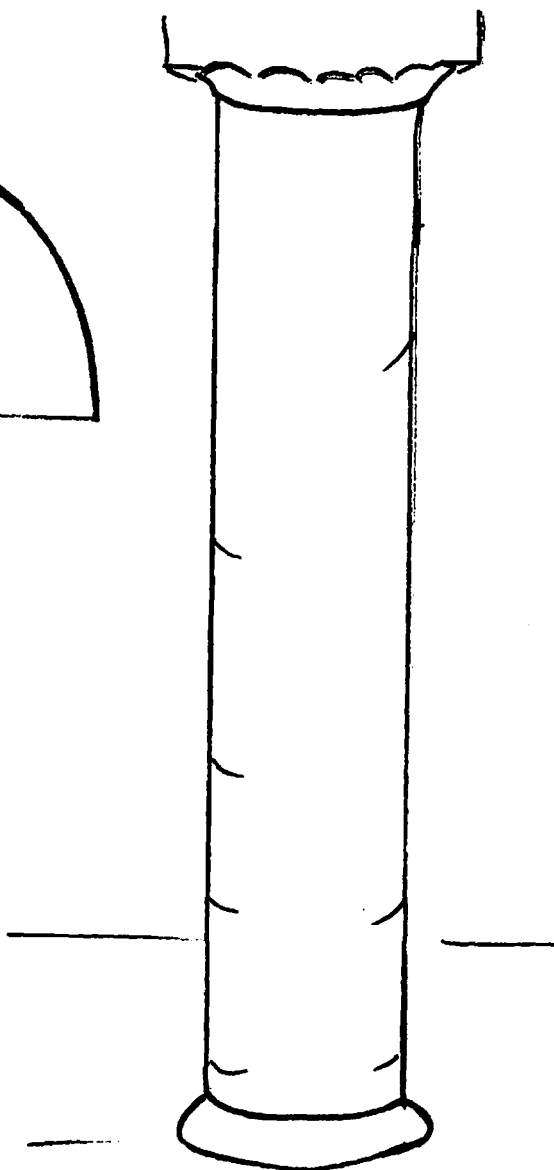
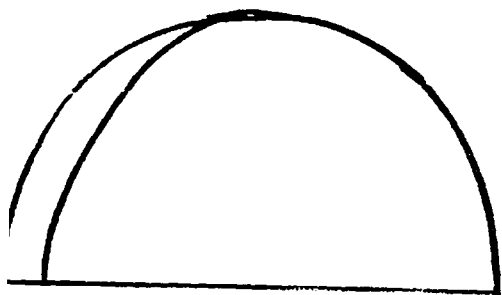
"May the Lord bless you with more children," Eli told Hannah, "because you have given your only son to Him." Hannah worshipped the Lord and offered a long prayer of thanksgiving to God. Then Hannah returned home with Elkanah, but Samuel stayed to serve the Lord.

Hannah thought of Samuel often. She loved him very much. Each year when she came to Shiloh, she brought Samuel a little coat that she had made for him. Later the Lord did bless Hannah and Elkanah. They had three more sons and two daughters.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**For this child I prayed; and
the Lord hath given me my
petition which I asked of
Him. (I Samuel 1:27.)**





Just A Kitten, Please

The sky was spread like a navy blue cloth with white polka dots. Mother tucked Janet into her sleeping bag and checked on Scott who was already asleep.

"Oh, isn't the sky beautiful!" exclaimed Janet. "It seems like I could reach up and touch it with my fingers. I love sleeping under the stars! It's fun to go camping!"

Mother smiled and kissed her little girl. Then she looked over where Daddy was putting out the campfire. "Daddy seems to be enjoying his vacation, also," said Mother. "Have you said your prayers, yet, Janet?"

"No," Janet replied. She climbed out of her sleeping bag to kneel beside it. Mother put her arm around Janet's shoulder as she began to pray.

"Dear Lord, thank you for the beautiful day that you gave us. Please protect us tonight while we sleep. Don't let any bugs or snakes crawl by me. But, Lord, you know how much I want a kitten. Please let me find one on this trip. Bless Daddy, and Mama, and Scott and me, in Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

Janet crawled back into her sleeping bag. "Goodnight, Mother! Goodnight, Daddy!" she called and they returned the "Goodnight".

"I didn't know Janet was praying for a kitten," Mother whispered to Daddy.

"When did she do that?" he asked.

"Just a moment ago. She wants to find one on this trip."

"And travel all the way home with it in the car?" said Daddy. "I think we need to pray that she doesn't find one!"

"Sh-sh! Not so loudly, dear. She may still be awake. I don't like to see her disappointed, but I doubt we will find a stray kitten in this far-away place."

Soon everyone was asleep except for God who was looking down upon them while they slept. He had heard Janet's prayer. The next morning the family was awakened by a big dog barking.

"Where did he come from?" asked Daddy as the dog took off running.

"I don't know," replied Mother. "He was barking around the car. I'm glad we burned the trash last night."

Janet looked up at the China blue sky with its whip cream clouds. "Lord, you almost got it right, but I don't want a dog. Just a kitten, please."

After breakfast, the family packed their things and prepared to go. Daddy raised the car hood to check the oil.

"Well, what do we have here!" he exclaimed. Tucked over the fender was a small, gray ball of fluff.

"Thank the Lord!" exclaimed Janet as she cuddled a meowing baby kitten.

— Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who stayed home with little Samuel?
2. Who grew taller and stronger?
3. Where did Hannah take Samuel when they got to Shiloh?
4. What was to be offered to God in thanksgiving?
5. How long would Samuel belong to the Lord?
6. Who offered a long prayer of thanksgiving?
7. Who thought of Samuel often?
8. What did Hannah bring Samuel each year?
9. How many more children did the Lord give Hannah?

LESSON TEXT: I Samuel 1:24-2:11; 18-21.

(Answers: 1. Hannah. 2. Samuel. 3. To Eli. 4. A sacrifice. 5. As long as he lived. 6. Hannah. 7. Hannah. 8. A coat she had made. 9. Three sons and two daughters.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Sept. 19, 1993

GOD CALLS TO SAMUEL

Eli's two sons were priests, like their father. But Eli's sons did not love the Lord. When the people came to the priests to bring their sacrifices, they saw Eli's sons do many things that were evil. They dreaded to come to the house of God because of these wicked men.

The people told Eli what evil things his sons did. Eli talked to his sons. He warned them not to sin against God, but he still let them serve as priests.

Samuel was a good helper to Eli. Even though he was so young, Samuel loved to serve the Lord. Eli was old and blind now so he was glad for Samuel's help.

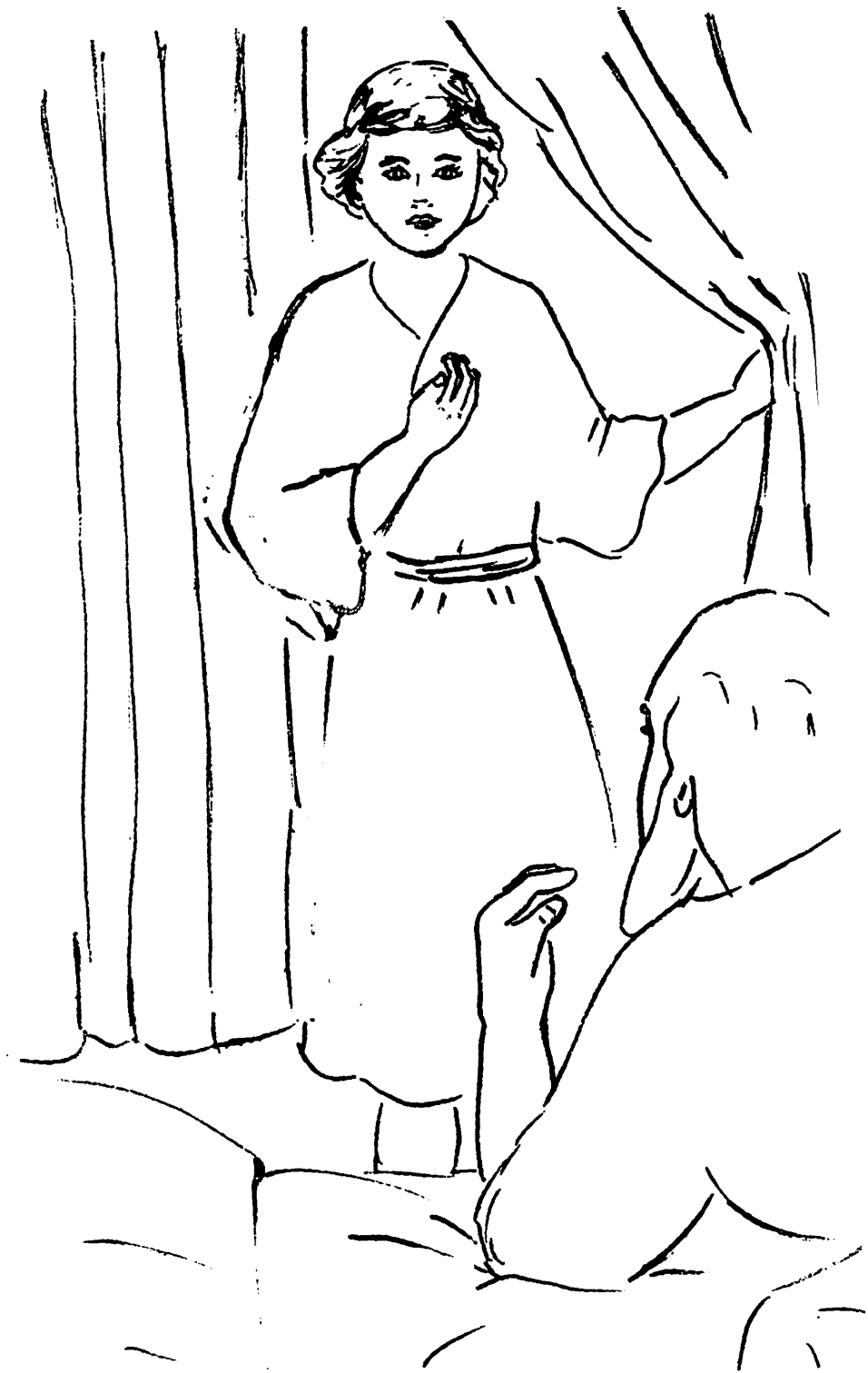
One night after all his chores were done, Samuel laid down on his bed. He was almost asleep when he heard a voice call his name. "Here I am," said Samuel as he ran to Eli.

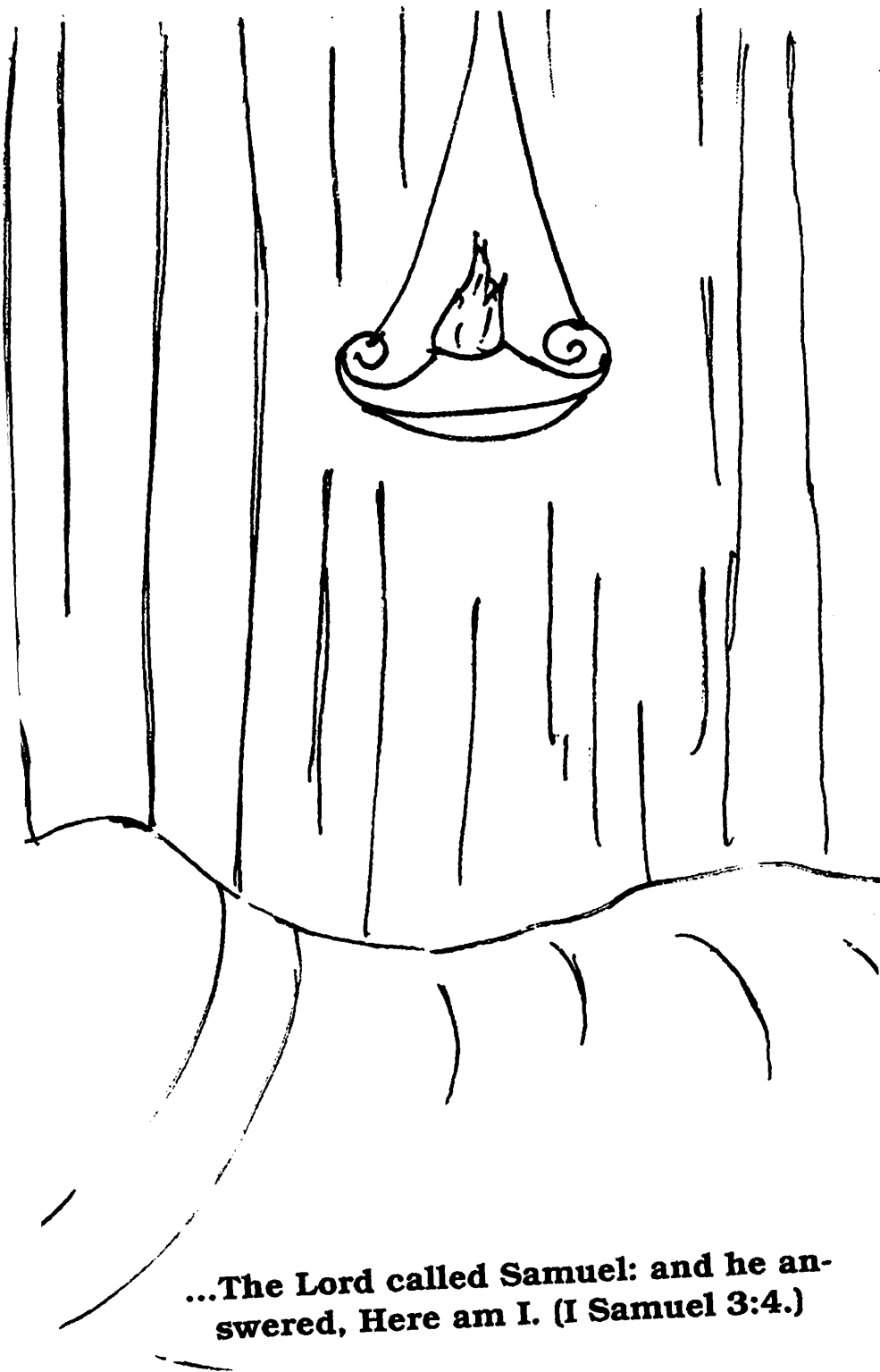
"But I didn't call you," Eli said. "Go back and lie down again." Samuel obeyed, but he had just gone back to bed when the Lord called, "Samuel," again. Samuel obediently went to Eli again. "Here I am," he told Eli, "because you did call me."

"I didn't call you, my son," answered Eli. "Go, lie down." Samuel was still very young. The Lord had never spoken to him before, so he didn't know His voice. So when the Lord called his name the third time, he got up and went to Eli again. This time Eli knew the Lord had called Samuel. He told Samuel what to do. "Go, lie down," he told him. "If He calls you again, tell him, 'Speak, Lord; for your servant hears you.'"

Samuel obeyed Eli and went back to his bed. Soon he heard a voice call, "Samuel, Samuel." This time Samuel did not run to Eli. He answered, "Speak; your servant hears you."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





...The Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. (I Samuel 3:4.)

Heavenly Music

Paula loved her Aunt Lilly very much. She was a nice person, but she did not live for Jesus. Jesus cared about her soul and he was sad with the way she lived. Paula often prayed for Aunt Lilly to get saved.

Something that Aunt Lilly did which displeased God was to dance to wicked music. Paula went to Sunday school and church, and she knew it was bad to dance.

Once Aunt Lilly took Paula shopping in the mall where there were many stores. They went into a candle store where the candles smelled so sweet. They also went into a Hall-mark store where pretty cards lined the walls. Paula liked these stores. They went into an ice cream parlor where there was lots and lots of ice cream. Paula really liked it there!

They went into a music store that sold rock'n roll music. Paula did not like it there! The music was so loud it made her ears hurt. There were bright, flashing lights moving in different directions. It made her eyes ache. She put her hands over her ears and shut her eyes so tightly that tears squeezed out of them and ran down her cheeks.

"Paula, what is wrong?" asked Aunt Lilly, but Paula couldn't hear her. Aunt Lilly put her arm around Paula's shoulders and then Paula looked up into Aunt Lilly's troubled eyes.

"May I wait outside of the music store until you are through shopping?" asked Paula.

"We will both go if it bothers you," said Aunt Lilly.

After they were outside the music store, Paula said, "That noise doesn't sound at all like the pretty music I like."

"That was dancing music," said Aunt Lilly.

"I can't be happy with that noise," said Paula, "But in Sunday school we clap our hands and jump for joy when we sing about the 'Joy, Joy, Joy Down In Our Hearts.' That is a happy song! Do you have joy down in your heart, Aunt Lilly?"

Now it was Aunt Lilly's turn to feel tears in her eyes. "No, Paula," she replied. "You do have the best songs in Sunday school. Don't ruin your ears with other music but stay with the joyful songs."

"My Sunday school teacher calls it heavenly music," said Paula. "That's the only kind of songs we will be able to sing in heaven so we need to learn them as soon as we can."

Aunt Lilly smiled at her niece's serious comments. "I can tell that you have a good ear for the right kind of music," she told Paula with a hug. "Just stay with the heavenly music and you will stay joyful."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How many sons did Eli have?
2. Did they love the Lord?
3. Why did the people dread coming to the house of God?
4. Who told Eli about his son's evil ways?
5. Who allowed the wicked sons to be priests?
6. What did Samuel hear one night?
7. Who did he think called him?
8. How many times did the Lord call?
9. What did Eli tell Samuel to tell the Lord?

LESSON TEXT: 1 Samuel 2:22-3:18.

(Answers: 1. Two. 2. No. 3. Because of Eli's wicked sons. 4. The people. 5. Eli. 6. A voice call his name. 7. Eli. 8. Three. 9. "Speak; for your servant hears you".)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Sept. 26, 1993

GOD'S MESSAGE

As Samuel listened, God told him that Eli and his sons would soon be punished for the evil things his sons were doing. Eli would be punished because he allowed his sons to serve as priests.

The next morning Samuel got up early to do his work. He dreaded facing Eli. He did not want to tell him God's message. When Samuel did not come, Eli called him. Obediently Samuel answered, "Here I am." "What did the Lord say to you?" Eli asked. "Tell me everything. Do not hide anything from me." So Samuel told Eli all the Lord had said and hid nothing from him. "It is the Lord," Eli answered. "Let Him do as He sees best."

As Samuel grew, everyone could see the Lord was with him. They knew he would be a faithful prophet of the Lord someday. For many years the Lord had not spoken openly to any man, but now He had appeared again in Shiloh. He had revealed Himself to Samuel and all that the Lord told Samuel came to pass.

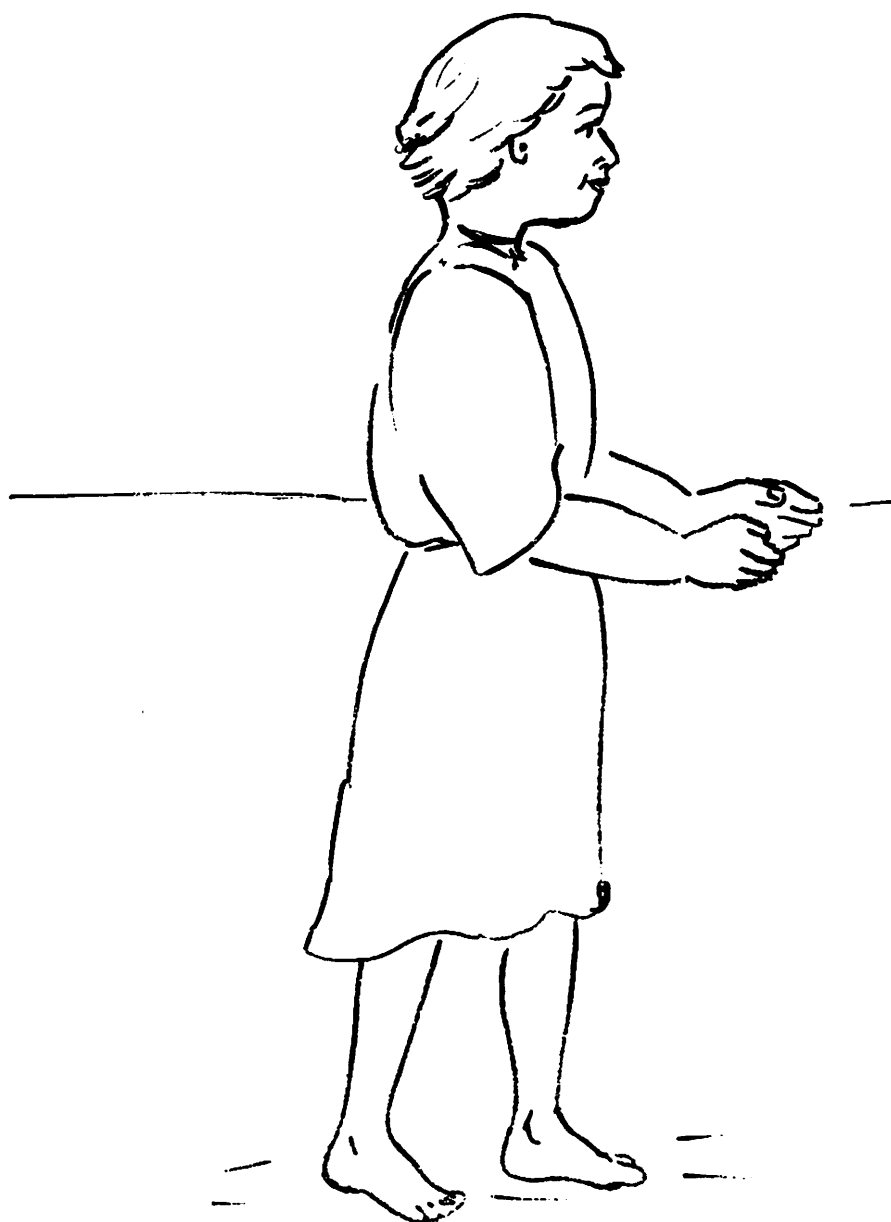
Soon great trouble came to Israel. The Philistines, their old enemies, fought against them and killed four thousand of their men.

The people did not ask God to help them, but instead went to Eli's wicked sons with their plan to bring the ark of God onto the battlefield. Eli's sons agreed to bring the ark.

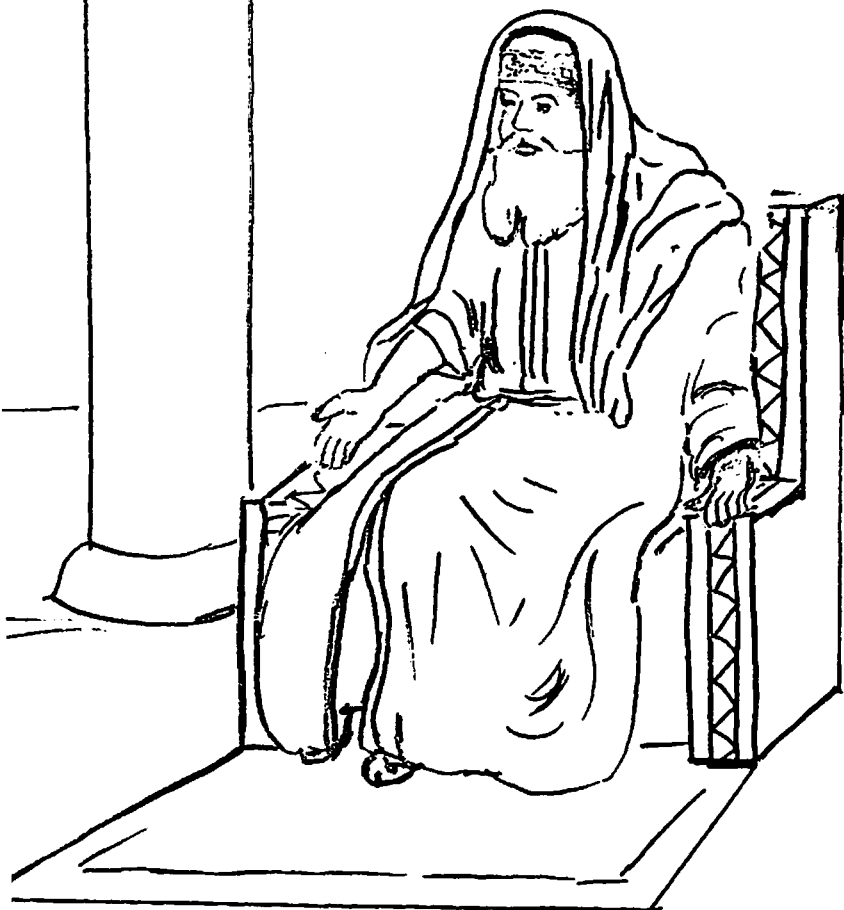
When the soldiers saw the ark, they shouted so loudly that the Philistines wondered what it meant. When they found out the ark was in the camp, they were much afraid. They had heard how the Lord had fought for Israel before and given them great victories.

"God is come into the camp of the Israelites," the Philistines told one another. "We must be strong and fight like men or we will become the servants of Israel!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...And Samuel feared
to shew Eli the vision.
(I Samuel 3:15b.)**



Combat Toys

Will was swinging on his new swing set when Coxson, the neighbor boy, came to his house to play. For a while, they swang together and talked.

"Next week is my birthday and I want you to come to my party," said Coxson. "I think I already know what Mother bought for me. I saw it before she hid it under the bed."

"Now it won't be any fun to open it," Will said.

"Yes, it will be!" exclaimed Coxson. "It's something I have wanted for a long time. I doubt you will like it because you don't have a TV."

"Oh, it must be some cartoon figures," sighed Will. "Do they have guns and swords?"

"Do you know what the Swamp Masher is? I'm getting the complete set with the laser guns, cannon and missiles. You can play with my old Swamp Fighter. He has a lot of weapons. We could set up some hills in the sand pile and do some fighting."

It sounded like fun to Will but he knew his parents discouraged him from playing with any combat toys. He was quiet for a while as Coxson told him about some wild cartoon he had seen.

"Some day when I grow up, I'm going to be just like G.I Joe," continued Coxson. "Nobody will run over me and boss me around! I wish you could have seen that cartoon. Ask your mother if you can come over and watch the new G.I. Joe video that I have."

"I don't think so," said Will. "I like swinging."

"You don't want to swing all day, do you?"

"No," said Will. "But I don't think Mother will let me come over to your house to watch a cartoon, either."

"Will, you miss out on so much fun because you don't have a TV. Aren't you bored?"

"No, I have a lot of toys to play with and instead of sitting in front of a TV, my family takes trips."

"We go on trips, too," retorted Coxson.

"Do you play games together? Does your mother or daddy read you stories?"

"No, they don't have to because we watch TV."

"Well, we don't have to watch TV because we have fun together."

"I think I had better go now. You can come to my birthday party if you want. See you later," called Coxson as he walked toward his house.

Will went into the house for a drink.

"Did Coxson already leave?" asked Mother.

"Yes, but I don't care," answered Will. "He wanted me to watch a G.I. Joe cartoon but I didn't want to."

"I'm glad you preferred to stay home," said Mother. "It is better to never see evil than to have to forget it."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

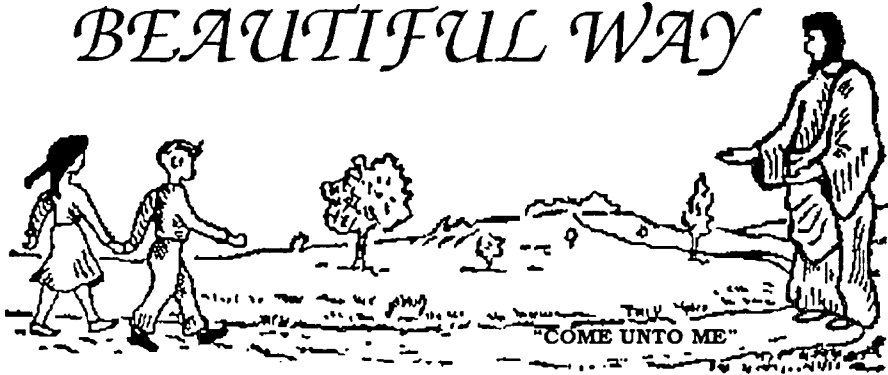
1. Who told Samuel that Eli and his sons would be punished?
2. Why would Eli be punished?
3. Why did Samuel dread to face Eli?
4. Who could everyone see was with Samuel?
5. They knew Samuel would be what, someday?
6. Who fought against Israel?
7. What did the Israelites take to the battlefield?
8. What did the soldiers do when they saw the ark?
9. Who was afraid when they heard the shout?

LESSON TEXT: I Samuel 3:11-4:9.

(Answers: 1. God. 2. Because he let his wicked sons be priests. 3. He did not want to tell him God's message. 4. God. 5. A faithful prophet. 6. The Philistines. 7. The ark of God. 8. They shouted. 9. The Philistines.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Oct. 3, 1993

THE ARK IS CAPTURED!

Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, had brought the ark of God out on the battlefield. The Israelites thought surely this meant that God was with them and would help them defeat their great enemy.

The Philistines also knew the ark of God was there. They had heard how God had fought for the children of Israel many times before. The Philistines feared that they would be taken as slaves if the Israelites won this battle. They fought with all their might. Many Israelites were killed that day and the ark of God was taken by the enemy. Eli's two wicked sons were also killed in the battle.

One man escaped from the Philistines and ran to Shiloh. He tore his clothes and put dirt on his head to show that a terrible thing had happened. When he told the people in Shiloh what had happened, everyone in the city cried out for sorrow.

Old Eli heard that the ark of God had been taken to the battlefield. His heart trembled for fear because he knew his sons had done wrong by taking the ark. Eli went to the city gate and sat there waiting for news of the battle.

Now Eli was ninety-eight years old and blind. He did not see the messenger but he heard the cries of the people. "What does all this noise mean?" Eli cried.

The messenger ran to Eli. "I escaped from the battle," he told Eli. "The Israelites ran from the Philistines and many of our people have been killed. Your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead and the ark of God has been taken!"

Eli listened sorrowfully as the messenger told him of the Israelite's awful defeat. But then, when he heard the ark had been taken, he was overcome with grief. Eli fell over backward. In the fall his neck was broken. He died there by the city gate.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...The glory is departed from Israel
taken. I Sam**



**: because the ark of God was
el 4:22.**

Honey-Colored Hair

Linda counted out the five dishes as she put them on the table. Cheerfully, she went about the kitchen because Aunt Dee was coming for supper and she liked Aunt Dee.

"Mother, I wish Aunt Dee would get saved," said Linda as she laid the tableware neatly by the plates.

"Let's keep praying for her," said Mother. "God can deal with the heart even if we don't see any change on the outside."

"Aunt Dee is pretty, but really what color is her hair? She has dyed it so many times," remarked Linda.

"When we were young girls, her hair was honey brown and mine was chestnut. Her hair was so thick and long that she could set on it. Many people complimented Dee's gorgeous hair until I wished my hair was like hers. When the sun touched her hair, it shone like delicious, golden honey flowing from a jar."

Linda glanced at her mother in surprise. "Then why did she dye and cut it?" she asked.

"That was the first thing Aunt Dee did when she turned against the Lord. At a friend's house, Dee cut her hair shoulder length and dyed it a light blonde. That night my poor parents were so shocked and grieved when they saw her. She didn't look sweet anymore but it made her look worldly. I decided right then that I was satisfied with my plain chestnut hair. I did not like the change I saw in Dee after she cut her hair."

"Did she not like to comb her long hair?" asked Linda as she thoughtfully ran her fingers through her own long hair.

"She wanted to be like the other girls," replied Mother. "At the time it was stylish to have short, blonde hair. She still had to comb her hair but she slipped it in such a sassy way

that my dad had her to put it in a pony tail which wasn't stylish. Dee rebelled and from then on her life has been one of trouble."

"She is still in trouble with God, isn't she?" asked Linda.

"Yes, Linda, when you cut your hair and act like the world, then you get some of the world's problems in your life. Aunt Dee may laugh and tease but look in her eyes and you will see regret and heartache."

Linda was thoughtful as she helped Mother finish supper. Finally, she asked, "Mother, do you have a picture of Aunt Dee's long honey-colored hair?"

"Yes, I do," said Mother. "Maybe we will look at some pictures when Aunt Dee is here. She now admits that she received more compliments on her long hair than after she cut it. Linda, never cut your hair for it is your glory."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who brought the ark of God out on the battlefield?
2. Who thought this meant that God was with them?
3. Who else knew the ark of God was there?
4. What did the Philistines fear if the Israelites won the battle?
5. What happened to the ark of God?
6. Where did Eli sit, waiting for news of the battle?
7. How old was Eli?
8. Why didn't Eli see the messenger run into the city?
9. What happened when Eli heard the ark had been taken?

LESSON TEXT: 1 Samuel 4:10-22.

(Answers: 1. Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas. 2. The Israelites. 3. The Philistines. 4. They would be taken as slaves. 5. It was taken by the enemy. 6. By the city gate. 7. Ninety-eight. 8. Because he was blind. 9. He fell over backward and broke his neck.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Oct. 10, 1993

DAGON

The Philistines felt they had won a great victory. They had defeated the Israelite army and even captured the ark of God. Surely this proved their god was greater than the God of Israel! They took the ark to Ashdod and put it in the house of their god, Dagon.

Early the next morning the men of Ashdod went to the house of Dagon. How surprised they were to see that Dagon had fallen on his face before the ark of the Lord! Carefully they took Dagon and set him back in his place.

The next morning the men again came early to the house of Dagon. There they found Dagon had again fallen on his face before the ark of God. This time Dagon's head and both his hands were broken off.

This was only the beginning of their troubles. Soon all the people in Ashdod and the country round about broke out in painful sores. Many people died. "The ark of the God of Israel shall not stay with us," the people said. "God's hand is against us and against Dagon, our god."

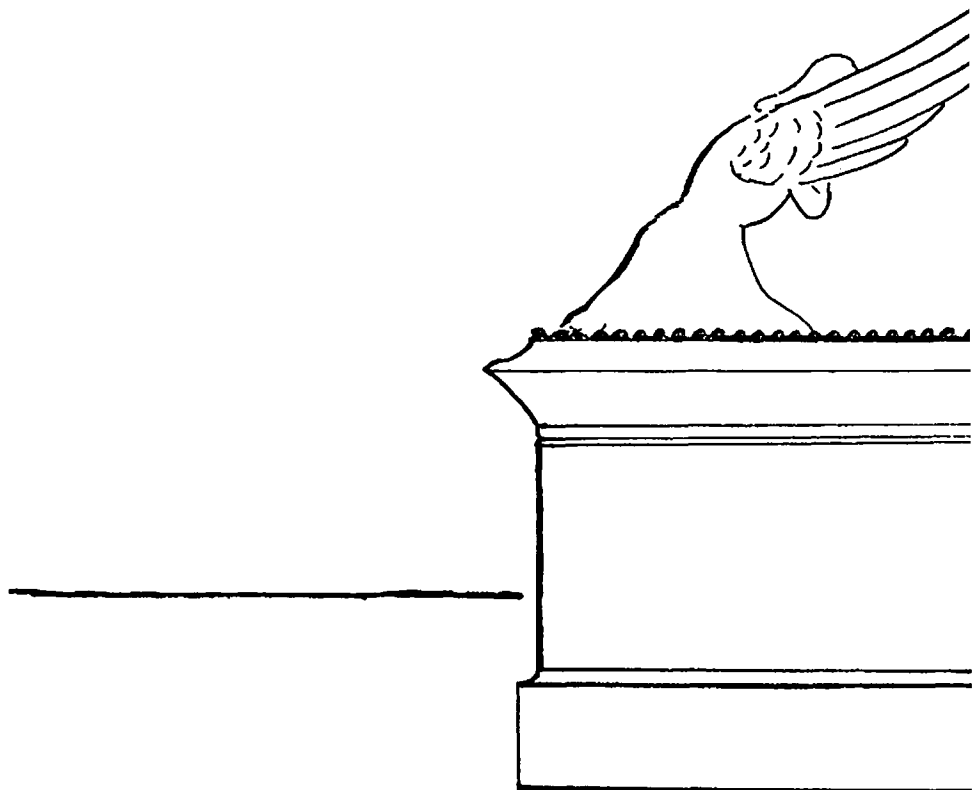
The lords of the Philistines gathered to decide what to do with the ark. "Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried to Gath," they decided. So they took it to Gath.

When the ark reached Gath, the people there began to suffer with painful sores. Many men died. The people became so afraid of the ark that they sent it to another city called Ekron.

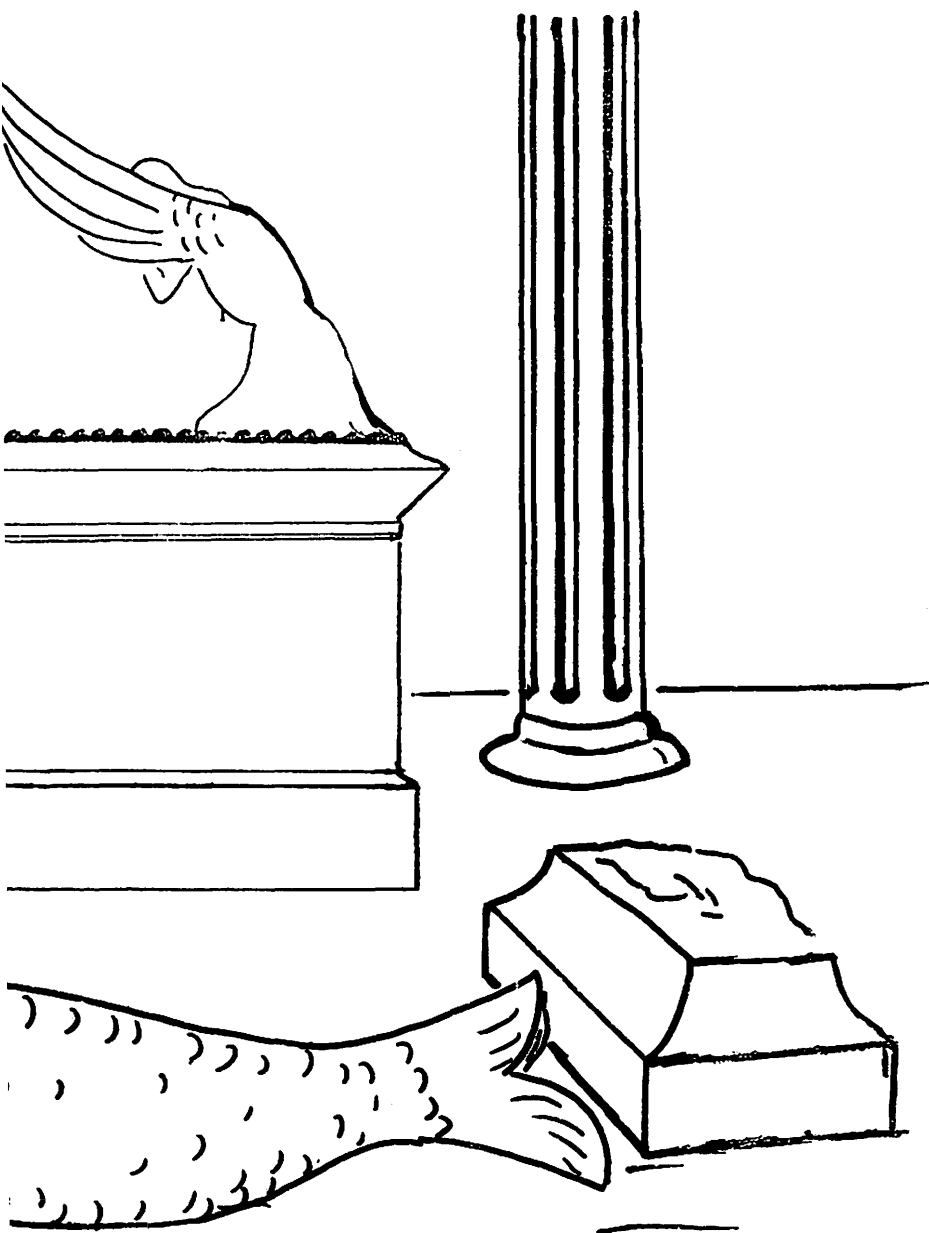
The people of Ekron saw the ark coming. "They have brought the ark of the God of Israel here to kill us!" they cried.

Again the lords of the Philistines gathered, trying to decide what could be done with the ark. "Send the ark of the God of Israel away, and let it go again to its own place so it will not kill us," the people of Ekron begged. Before the ark left Ekron, many people of the city died because the hand of God was against them.

—Sts. Nelda Sorrell



**...Behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face
the Lord... I**



**face to the earth before the ark of
covenant 5:3.**

Broken Governments

(Based on True Incidents)

Enver sighs as the train he rides chugs through the thick blackness outside his window. Fleeing from his home in Yugoslavia, Enver does not know where he will live at the end of his ride. He hopes to reach the country of Germany, but he must first pass through the heavily guarded borderline. Weak and weary, Enver nibbles on a hard loaf of bread which has been his only food for two days. Though his eyes are shut, his ears are listening. People are packed in this train car and the strong odor of humanity stings Enver's nose and makes his bread tasteless. The man beside Enver changes his position and bumps Enver's elbow causing him to drop his bread.

Instantly Enver's eyes fly open and he reaches for his dropped bread. It isn't in his lap nor on the seat beside him. Enver glances over at the man beside him who is openly eating the rest of Enver's bread.

Slyly, the older, bigger man looks down on Enver. Not one person is there to help Enver get back his bread. Silently, Enver prays. God has already proved real to Enver, so it is a way of life to trust God for his bread.

In school, Enver had been taught that the communist government was the best. When he grew older, he began to realize that the few rich and powerful people crushed down the poor people and kept them miserable. It made him angry. Then one day his older sister took him to a house meeting where he heard about God who loves and gives peace in the heart. Enver chose to serve God and his heart changed. Sadly, his life was still full of sorrow.

Most of Enver's family was killed in the war raging from the revolution of 1989. His big sister had arranged for him to leave so that he would not be forced to join the fighting. Now without any bread nor any money, he feels forsaken in a foreign land.

The hundreds of people packed in the train cars feel rejected and hopeless. They have lost hope in earthly governments which are not founded on God's Word. Only within God's kingdom is there spiritual peace and safety. Enver longs to tell others about the kingdom of God and sometimes he does. Very few know about God's kingdom because the communist government would not allow people to learn about God. Now the old government has failed and people are seeking something better. Silently, Enver prays that these people will turn to God and let God rule over them.

Suddenly, the train jerks to a stop. They will not travel any more until the border guards receive approval from the German government. Enver takes short naps in his crowded position. Will he ever find food and a place to live? His trust is in God not in a government.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who had defeated the Israelite army?
2. What had they captured?
3. Where did they put the ark?
4. Who had fallen on his face before the ark?
5. What had happened to Dagon the next morning?
6. Where did they take the ark next?
7. What happened to the people in this city?
8. Who gathered to decide what to do with the ark?
9. Why did many people of Ekron die?

LESSON TEXT: I Samuel 5:1-9.

(Answers: 1. The Philistines. 2. The ark of God. 3. In the house of Dagon. 4. Dagon. 5. He had fallen on his face and his head and hands were broken off. 6. To Gath. 7. They began to suffer with painful sores. 8. The lords of the Philistines. 9. The hand of God was against them.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Oct. 17, 1993

THE ARK IS SENT HOME

The ark of the Lord was in the country of the Philistines for seven months. All this time the Philistines suffered greatly and many of them died. Finally the priests and wise men were called. "What shall we do to the ark of the Lord? How can we send it back to Israel?" the people asked them.

"You must not send the ark of the God of Israel away empty," the wise men advised. "You must return it with a trespass offering. Then you will be healed."

"What can we offer for our trespass offering?" the people asked. The wise men told the people to send jewels and gold in a box along with the ark. Then they told them to build a new cart to carry the ark. Two cows with young calves were to be yoked to the cart. The calves were to be kept at home. If the cows left their calves and pulled the cart directly to Israel, it would prove that God's hand was directing them. Then they would know for sure that it was God who had brought all the suffering on the Philistines.

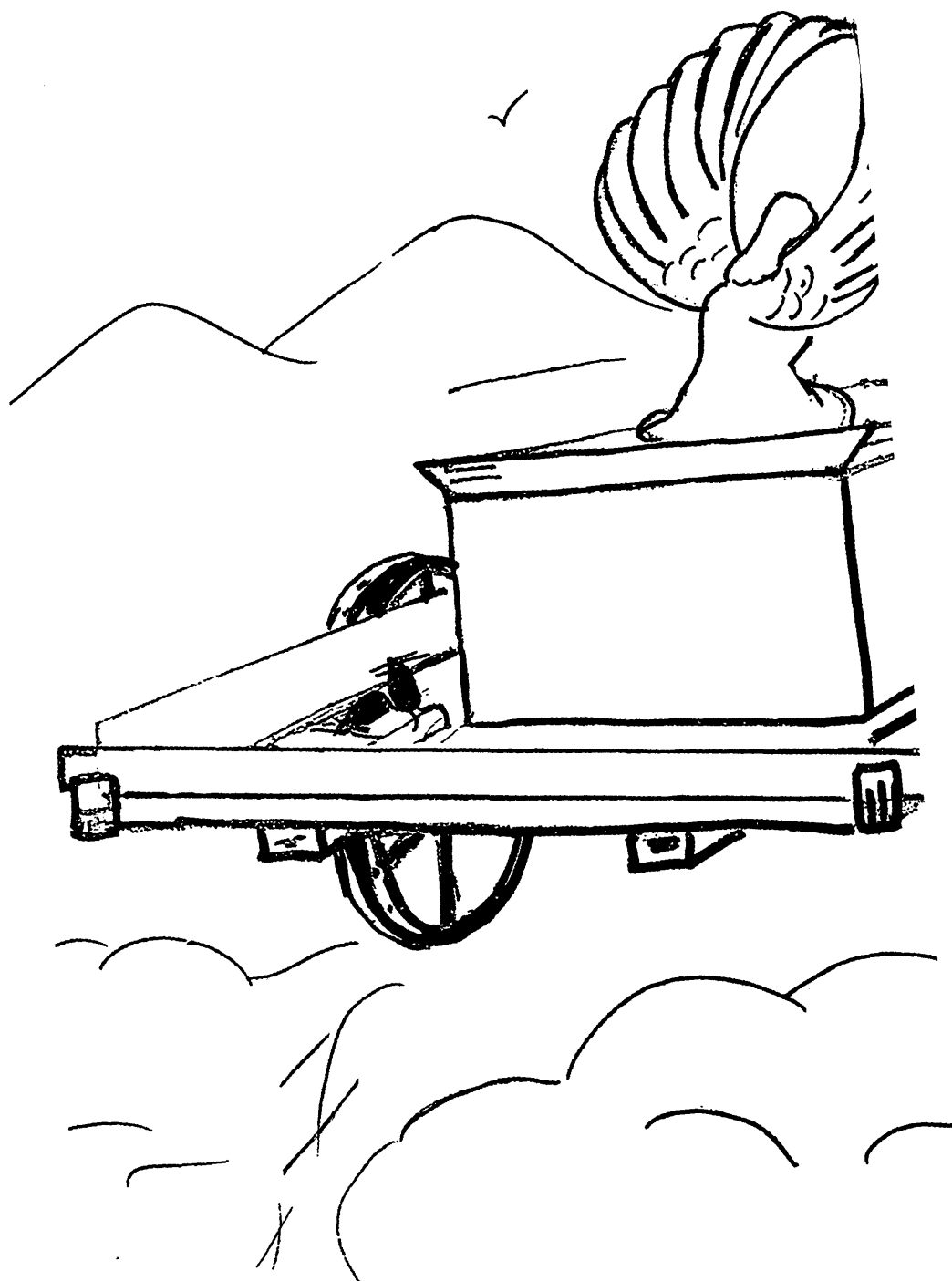
When the cart was finished and everything ready, they started the cows down the road. No one led them, yet they walked away from their calves, straight toward Israel.

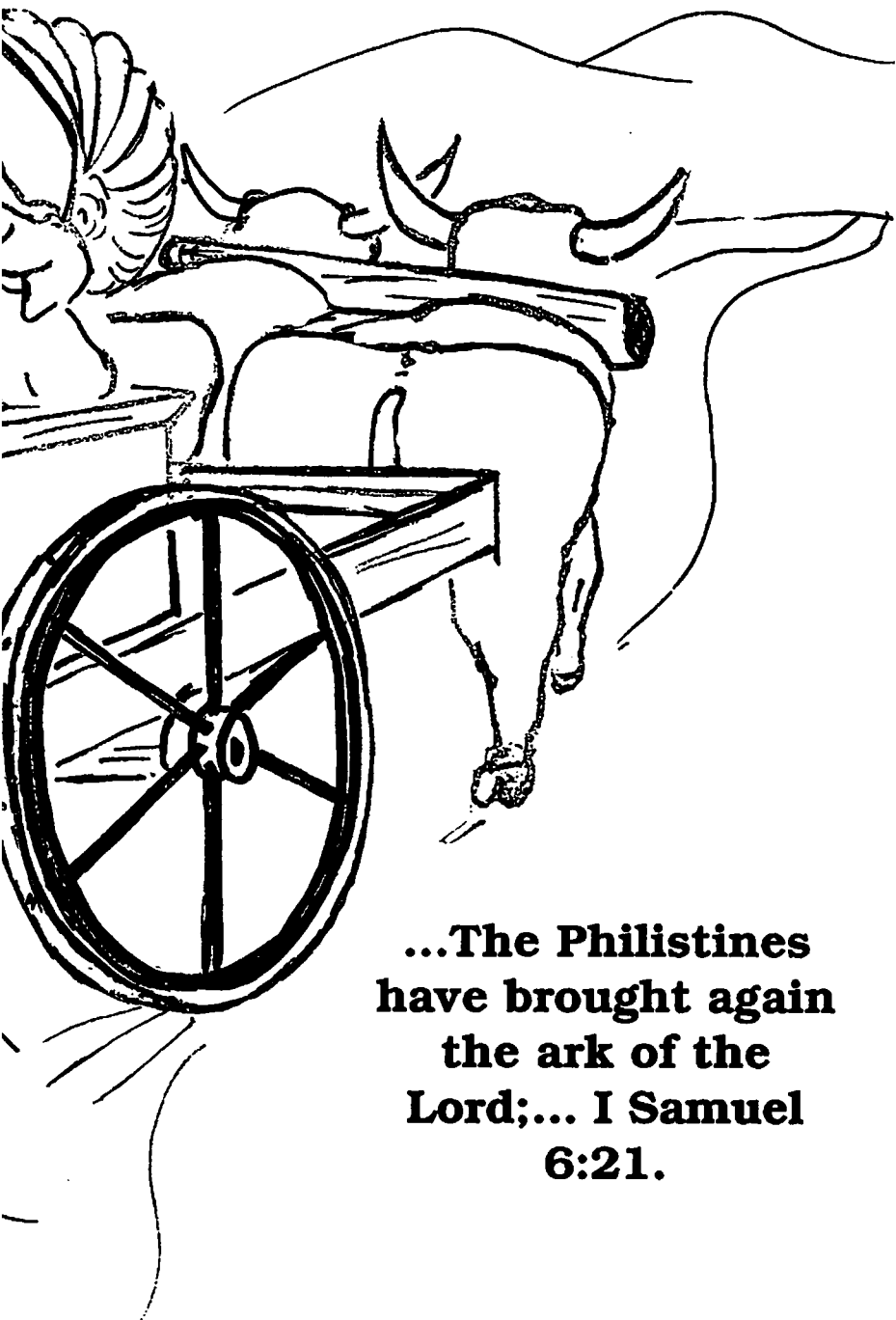
The Israelites of Bethshemesh were reaping wheat when they looked up and saw the ark. How surprised and happy they were! They watched as the cows pulled the cart into a field near a large stone.

Levites lifted the ark from the cart. Using the wood of the cart, they offered the cows as an offering of thanksgiving to God.

Five lords of the Philistines had followed the ark. As they watched the cows go directly to Israel, they knew it was the hand of God that directed them.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**...The Philistines
have brought again
the ark of the
Lord;... I Samuel
6:21.**

Returning Home

(Based on True Incidents)

Jacob and Maria Becker hugged each other silently in their small, two room apartment. It seemed to good to be true that they would be going back home to Germany! For many long, weary years they had prayed for this and now their prayers were about to be answered.

Life for them had not been easy in Russia. When Russia and Germany were fighting World War II, Germans living in Russia were not trusted. The Russian leader, Stalin, ordered soldiers to remove the German citizens to the Siberian Desert.

Maria's baby was only three weeks old in 1941, when in the night, soldiers knocked on their door. "Be packed and ready to move out in the morning," they ordered. Jacob was not home because he was digging trenches for the Russian army.

In the gray dawn, Maria and her five children were loaded into railroad cattle cars along with thousands of other German neighbors who lived in Russia.

"We traveled for about six weeks," Maria said. "Many trains filled with uprooted people chugging east. When the trains stopped, we tried to cook, but suddenly the command would come, 'Immediately to the cars!' My baby died," Maria cried softly. "I fed the other children dry bread."

In Siberia, they lived in tents barely able to keep warm in the freezing wind and snow. Maria and her four children worked very long, hard hours in the coal mines. She prayed for her children as they worked several feet below the ground, and she prayed for Jacob who had been left in the midst of the war.

Then the war ended. Maria and the children were allowed to go back to their old home in southern Russia where Jacob was anxiously waiting.

"We have never felt a part of Russia since the war," said Jacob. "In our hearts we have prayed for many years to go back home to Germany. We thank God for answering prayer."

Since the Berlin Wall was destroyed in 1990, Germany is opening the door for all German descendants to come home. Jacob and Maria are grandparents now. They want their grandchildren to live in a country where they can freely learn about God.

"We know that the old communist system does not work," said Jacob. "We are praying for a new, better Germany where God is respected."

Jacob and Maria each packed a suitcase with their clothes and few belongings. They took one last look around their old apartment where they had raised their family. Then with several family members, they boarded a train going west to Germany.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How long was the ark with the Philistines?
2. What happened to the Philistines all this time?
3. What did the people ask the priests and wise men?
4. What must the people return with the ark?
5. What were they to build to carry the ark?
6. How many cows must they use?
7. Where did the cows go with the ark?
8. Who lifted the ark from the cart?
9. How many lords had followed the ark?

LESSON TEXT: I Samuel 6.

(Answers: 1. Seven months. 2. They suffered greatly. 3. "How can we send the ark back to Israel?" 4. A trespass offering. 5. A cart. 6. Two. 7. Straight to Israel. 8. Levites. 9. Five.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Oct. 24, 1993

VICTORY OVER THE PHILISTINES

Even though the Philistines returned the ark, they still ruled over Israel. For twenty long years Israel had served the Philistines. They began to cry to the Lord to deliver them.

Samuel saw that the people were ready to quit their evil ways so he told them they must put away all their strange gods and serve God only. "If you will do this then God will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines," he encouraged them.

The people obeyed Samuel. They put away their false gods and worshiped only God.

"Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you to the Lord," Samuel told the people.

Gladly the people gathered at Mizpeh. There they fasted before the Lord and confessed that they had sinned.

Soon the Philistines heard that all Israel was gathered at Mizpeh. They were sure the Israelites were getting ready for war. Quickly they called their army together and marched against Israel.

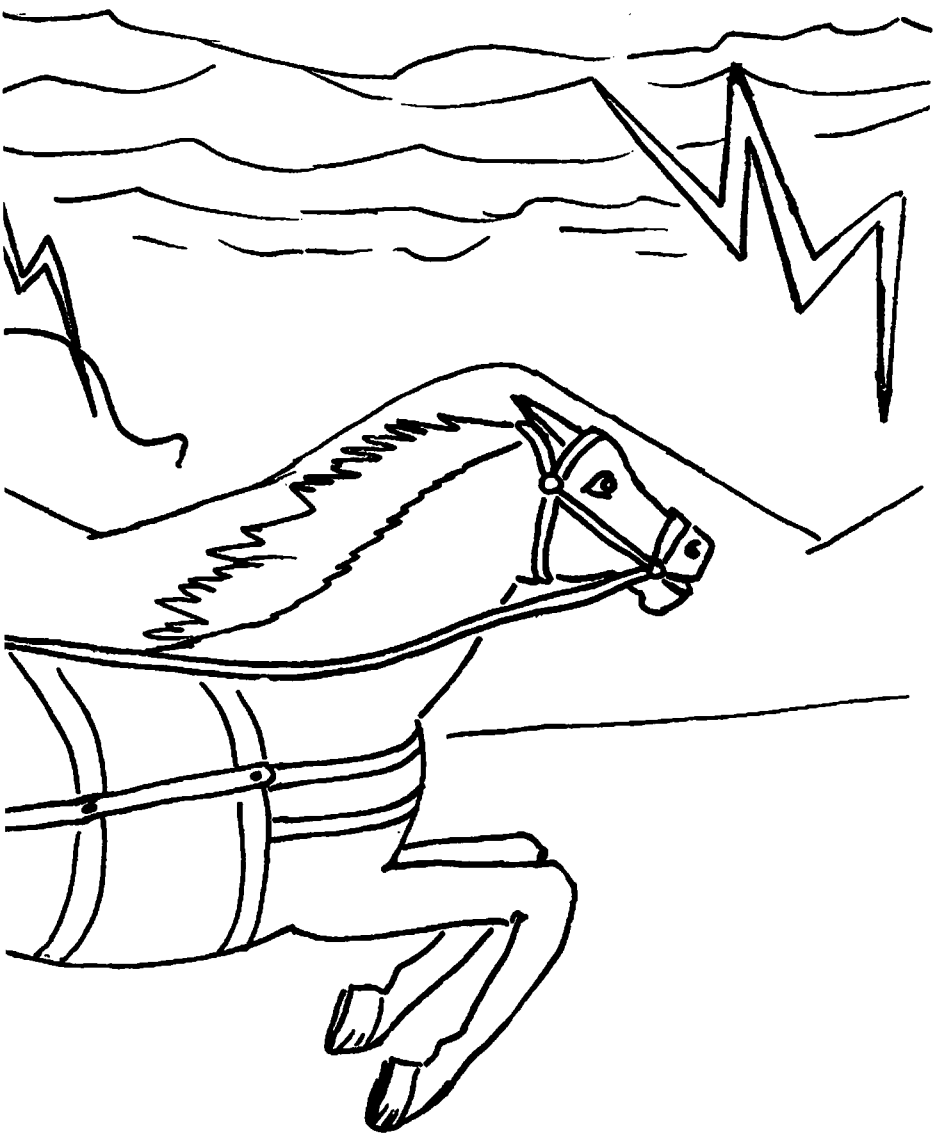
The Israelites were afraid of the Philistines. "Don't stop crying to the Lord for us," they begged Samuel. "He must save us out of the hand of the Philistines!"

So Samuel offered a burnt offering to the Lord and cried to Him for Israel. The Lord heard Samuel's prayer. As Samuel prayed, God thundered upon the camp of the Philistines. The Philistines were so frightened and confused that they dropped their weapons and ran. The Israelites chased after them, killing many. They drove the Philistines back into their own land.

The Israelites won a great victory that day. Everyone rejoiced and praised the Lord. Samuel set up a stone on the battlefield and called it Ebenezer, which means, "Here the Lord helped us."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**..But the Lord thundered with a great
thunder on that day upon the
Philistines,...and they were smitten be-
fore Israel. I Samuel 7:10b.**

One Bicycle To Share

James and Sonya were not agreeing. They both wanted to ride the same bicycle at the same time.

"It is my bicycle so I can ride it when I want to," said James as he took the handlebars from Sonya.

"But since mine is broken, Dad said you must share yours and let me ride it when I want to," replied Sonya.

About that time, Dad came around the corner of the house and saw them in disagreement.

"Now, children, do you want me to put that bicycle away until the other one is repaired?" he asked.

"Just go ahead and put it away," replied Sonya.

"No," said James, "Sonya may ride it sometimes but she always wants to ride it when I want to. Here, Sonya, have your own way," said James as he gave the bicycle to her.

Sonya smiled and prepared to mount the bicycle when Dad stepped in front of her.

"No, young lady, I believe you wanted to put this bicycle away," he said. "I believe that means you do not want to ride it. Let me have it for now unless James wants to ride it."

"But...But, Dad, you said I could ride it until mine was fixed. This isn't fair!" exclaimed Sonya.

"Don't argue another word," said Dad. "You will find two things that will never help you win favor. One is if you are selfish and not considerate of the other person. Two is if you argue with me over my decision."

Sonya frowned and walked away to her bedroom to pout. She didn't feel good inside but Jesus began to talk to her heart. Sonya knelt beside her bed and cried. She asked God to forgive her for feeling selfish. Jesus did forgive her and she felt better within. She slipped out of her bedroom to find her dad and brother. They were in the garage.

"Dad, James, I'm sorry," began Sonya as she stepped into the garage. "Please forgive me for acting so selfishly."

"Okay," said James and her dad gave her a quick hug.

"Look what we are fixing," he said to Sonya.

"Oh, you are fixing my bicycle!" she exclaimed.

"Yes," replied Dad. "I believe we have the chain and the gears working now. Would you like to try it?"

Soon Sonya and James were riding their bicycles together down the street. "I am so glad you fixed my bicycle," she said. "If yours ever breaks down, James, you can ride mine."

James and Sonya smiled at each other. They had gained victory over selfishness that day.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who ruled over Israel?
2. How long had Israel served them?
3. Who did they cry to for deliverance?
4. What did Samuel tell them to do?
5. Where did Samuel tell them to gather?
6. What did the people do when they got there?
7. Who marched against the Israelites?
8. What happened while Samuel prayed?
9. What does Ebenezer mean?

LESSON TEXT: I Samuel 7.

(Answers: 1. The Philistines. 2. Twenty years. 3. The Lord. 4. Put away the strange gods and serve God only. 5. To Mizpeh. 6. Fasted and confessed that they had sinned. 7. The Philistines. 8. God thundered on the camp of the Philistines. 9. "Here the Lord helped us.")

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Oct. 31, 1993

"GIVE US A KING!"

Samuel had judged Israel for many years. Now that he was old, he made his sons judges over Israel. But Samuel's sons, Joel and Abiah, were not like their father. They loved money more than pleasing God. The people knew they took bribes and did not give fair judgment.

One day all the elders of Israel gathered before Samuel. "You are old and your sons do not judge as you do," they told Samuel. "Make us a king, like all the other nations have, to judge us."

Samuel knew that God was king over Israel. He saw that a king could never lead them as God alone could. He was very sorry they wanted a man to rule over them.

Samuel prayed to the Lord and the Lord spoke to him. "Do as the people ask you," He said. "They have not rejected you, they have rejected me. Ever since I brought them out of Egypt they have forsaken me and turned to other gods. But you must warn them of the trouble they will have when they get a king."

Samuel stood before the people and told them the words of the Lord. "If a king rules over you, he will take your sons to drive his chariots, be his horsemen, serve in his army and farm his land. He will take your daughters to work in his palace. He will even take your fields and vineyards and give them to his servants. You will have to give him a tenth of all that you own. He will make you his servants. Then you will call on the Lord to help you but He will not hear your prayer," Samuel warned the people.

But the people still said, "We will have a king over us. We want to be like all the other nations. Our king will judge us and fight our battles."

When Samuel told the words of the people to the Lord, He said, "Do as they say and make them a king."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**thing displeased Samuel, when they
id, Give us a king to judge us....
I Samuel 8:6a.**

God Comes First

"Hurry, Tom, or we will be late to Sunday school," said Frank as he opened their closet door to get out a shirt.

"Just wait, man," said Tom. "I'm right in the middle of this computer game and I can't quit now. It won't hurt if we are late. Wow! I almost made it! One more time will do it!"

Tom was so involved with his game that he hardly noticed what was going on around him.

Frank did not want to be late to Sunday school. "Tom, are you going with us or not?" he asked.

"Just go on without me," said Tom. "I will come at church time. They won't miss me for Sunday school."

"No one may miss you, but you will miss a blessing," said Frank.

"Don't try to tell me what to do," said Tom. "Wow! I got it! Now I need to go up one more level."

Frank sadly turned away. He knew his brother was making the wrong choice but what could he do? Frank prayed for Tom as he went to Sunday school.

That morning the lesson was about putting God first in your life. "When a person reads the newspaper or a storybook, and never reads the Bible, then that person is not giving God first place in his reading time," said the teacher. "Reading good books is not wrong but every morning you should first read the Bible. It is the same way about going to church. Some people can go shopping and traveling but when it comes Sunday morning, they won't go to Sunday school or church. That shows that Jesus is not first in their life. Often when a person like this gets into trouble, he will call on God for help. He wants God to help right now. Out of mercy, God will sometimes help that one though He does not have to. Put God first in your life so you will be sure he will hear your prayers."

Frank thought about Tom who was missing the very lesson that he needed. "I hope he will come to church," thought Frank. Sunday school was over and church time came but Tom never did walk into the church. "Dear Lord," prayed Frank, "Please deal with Tom's heart. Help him to see he should put You first in his life." All the way home Frank prayed for Tom.

As soon as he came into the house, Frank went to the computer to talk to Tom but he was not there. Tom was asleep.

"Wake up, Tom! Why are you asleep at this time of day?"

"Oh, I'm sick, Frank, honest!" explained Tom. "Right after you left, my stomach started hurting so I laid down to rest but I still feel terrible. Oh, pray for me, Frank. I feel awful."

Frank prayed for Tom and asked the Lord to forgive him for not going to church. Then the Lord healed Tom. The next Sunday, Tom went to Sunday school like he should.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who had judged Israel for many years?
2. Who were Joel and Abiah?
3. What did they love more than pleasing God?
4. Who gathered before Samuel?
5. What did they ask Samuel to do?
6. Who was king over Israel?
7. Who would a king take to drive his chariots?
8. What did the people want a king to do for them?
9. What did God tell Samuel to do?

LESSON TEXT: I Samuel 8.

(Answers: 1. Samuel. 2. Samuel's sons. 3. Money. 4. All the elders of Israel. 5. Give them a king. 6. God. 7. Their sons. 8. Fight their battles. 9. "Do as they say and make them a king.")

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Nov. 7, 1993

SAUL

There was a man named Kish who was very rich. He lived in the land of Benjamin where he owned much land and many animals. Kish had a son whose name was Saul. Saul was a choice young man. He was a head taller than any other man in Israel and was also very handsome.

One day some of the animals belonging to Kish wandered so far away that he didn't know where to find them. "Take one of the servants and go look for the animals," Kish told Saul.

So Saul and the servant walked many miles looking everywhere for the lost animals. After they had searched many days Saul told the servant, "We had better go back home. My father will be more worried about us than about the animals."

"There is a man of God in this city," the servant told Saul. "He is a very honorable man. Everything he says will surely come to pass. Let's go to him. Maybe he can show us which way to go."

"But, if we go, what will we take to him? We don't even have any bread left. We have nothing to give him as a present," Saul answered.

"Look, I have a piece of silver. I will give that to the man of God," the servant assured Saul.

"Then let us go find him," Saul answered.

So they walked toward the city where the man of God was. As Saul and the servant climbed the hill to the city, they met some young girls going out to draw water. They asked the girls, "Is the prophet here?"

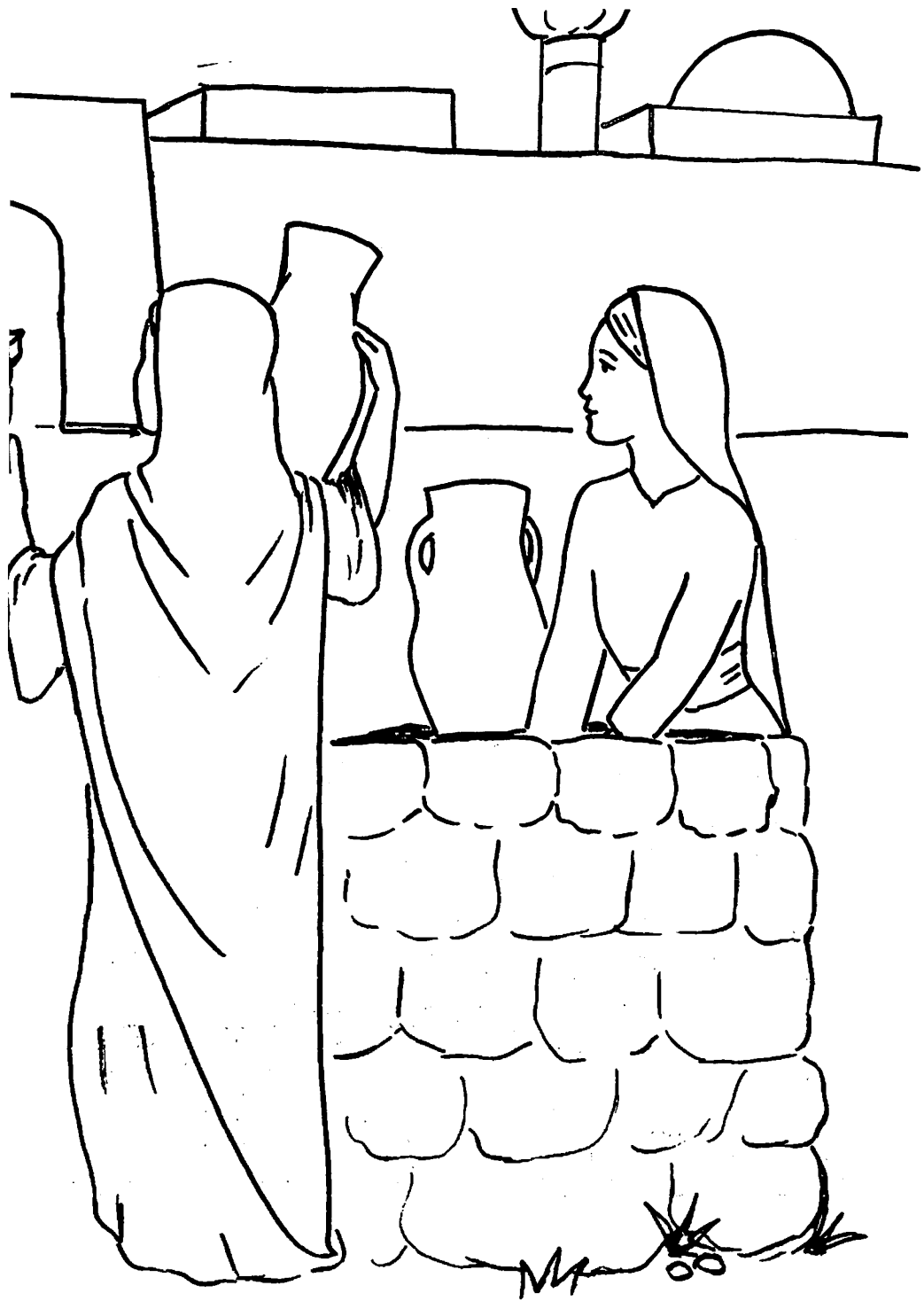
"He is," they answered. "If you hurry you can see him before he goes up to the high place to eat. He just came to the city today because there is a feast of the people today. As soon as you enter the city you will find him. Now hurry, he should be leaving for the high place about now."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And he had a son, whose name was Sa



a choice young man,... I Samuel 9:2a.



Dad And Son

Dad stood up from the supper table. "Son, are you ready to help me fix the fence? If we hurry, we could get it done before dark."

Jason swallowed his last bite of food. "Yes sir, I am ready to go," he said as he went for his coat and gloves.

Dad leaned over and gave Mom a hug. "It was a good supper," he said. She responded with a smile and "Thank you."

Outside the air was cold and sharp with hints of snow in the hovering dark clouds. Dad and Jason climbed into the old red Chevy and drove across the pasture where the barbed-wire fence had broken. Dad was glad he had found the weak place before the cattle did.

"Get the tools from the back," said Dad as he jumped out of the truck. Jason obeyed and soon they were stretching the wire and nailing it to the post. As he worked, Jason felt eyes watching him. He glanced over to a nearby wooded area and met the gaze of two yellow eyes.

"Dad," he said under his breath. "There is a big wolf watching us. He must be a granddaddy. Look how strong and dignified he seems."

Dad saw the silent wolf also. "He won't bother us but he may take a calf later. I have the rifle in the truck cab. Jason, you keep working here and I will quietly get it and shoot the wolf."

Jason nodded. He felt sorry for the wolf though he knew his dad was right. If this wolf had a family, it could take several of their little calves. They could not afford a loss like that. Dad was at the truck checking his rifle. Jason could hear the click of the rifle as his dad put a bullet in place.

BANG! The rifle shot shattered the frosty world around them. Jason glanced over where the yellow eyes

had been gleaming in the shadows. He jumped the fence and raced to the spot but all he found were big footprints in the dirt.

"I missed him, didn't I?" called Dad.

"He was quicker than your bullet," Jason called back. For some reason he felt relieved that the wolf had safely got away. Perhaps the wolf was already back in his den with his family. If the wolf would not kill any cattle, Dad would not want to kill the wolf.

"I think I'll pray for that wolf," said Jason as he helped Dad pick up the tools. "He must have been around a long time and he hasn't killed any calves yet. Maybe he knows what an honest meal is and what it isn't."

"Jason, you are a good boy," said Dad. "Most boys would want to kill the wolf no matter what. Son, keep that thoughtful goodness about you."

Jason prayed for that wolf and not one calf was ever taken.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What man was very rich?
2. What was his son's name?
3. Who was the tallest man in Israel?
4. Who did Kish send to look for the lost animals?
5. Who told Saul there was a man of God in the city?
6. What did they want to ask the man of God?
7. What did they have to give him as a gift?
8. Who did they meet as they climbed the hill?
9. Why was the man of God in the city?

LESSON TEXT: 1 Samuel 9:1-13.

(Answers: 1. Kish. 2. Saul. 3. Saul. 4. Saul and a servant. 5. The servant. 6. Which way to go. 7. A piece of silver. 8. Some young girls. 9. There was a feast of the people that day.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Nov. 14, 1993

SAUL MEETS SAMUEL

While Saul and the servant made their way to the city looking for the man of God, Samuel prepared to go to the high place for the feast of the people. Just the day before, God had spoken to Samuel. "Tomorrow, about this time, I will send you a man out of the land of Benjamin. You are to anoint him to be captain over my people, that he may save them out of the hand of the Philistines. I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come up to me," God had told him.

Just as Samuel got to the city gate, he saw Saul coming toward him. "Behold the man I spoke to you about," the Lord said. "This man shall reign over my people."

"Please tell me where I may find the man of God," Saul begged Samuel.

"I am the man of God," Samuel answered. "Go up to the high place with me. You will eat with me today and tomorrow I will let you go home. As for the animals that were lost three days ago, they have been found."

Saul was surprised to hear Samuel telling him, "You are the man all Israel is looking to. You will be their leader."

"But I am a Benjamite, the smallest tribe of Israel and my family is the least of all the tribe," Saul answered. "Why are you saying these things to me?"

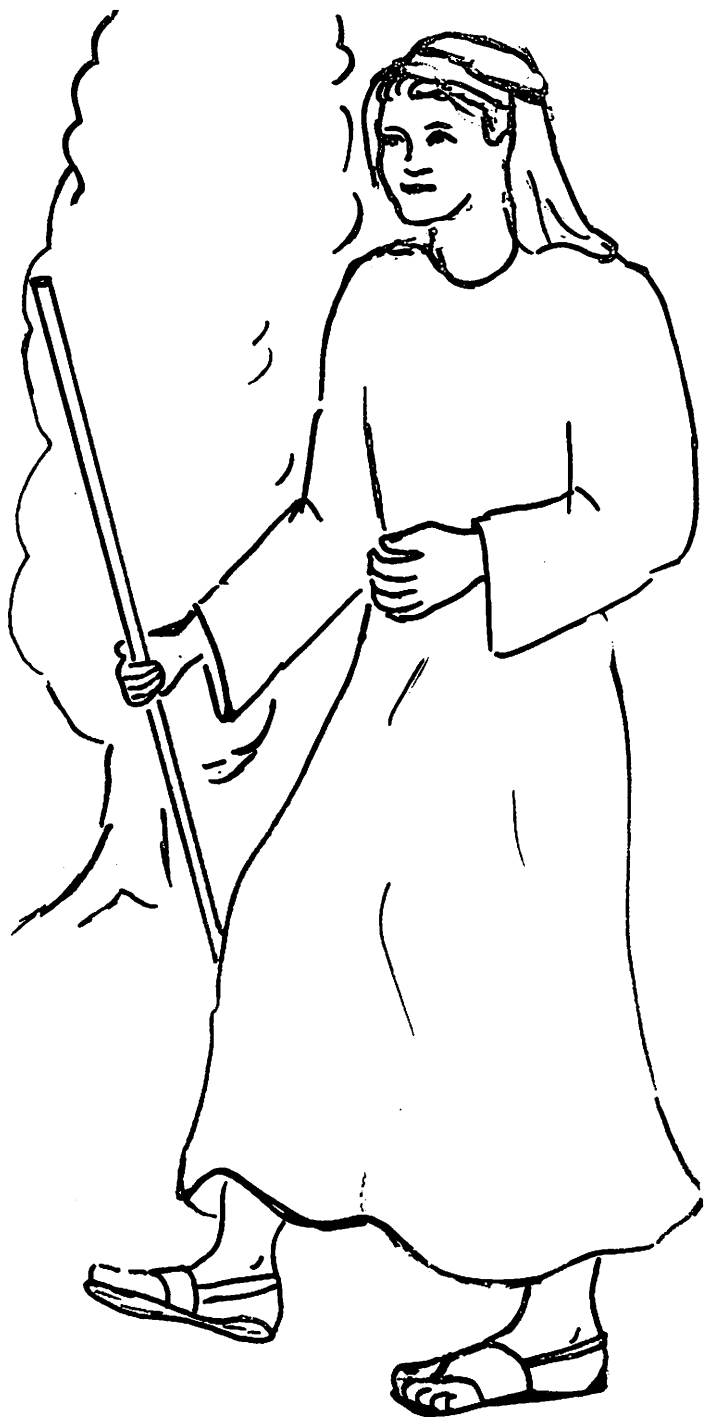
Without answering, Samuel took Saul and his servant on to the feast. There he gave them the best seats among those who had been invited. Samuel had even saved the very best food for Saul. So Saul ate with Samuel that day.

After the feast Samuel took Saul to a quiet place where they could talk. Early the next morning Saul and the servant started home. Samuel walked along with them until they came to the edge of town.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



And when Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! I Samuel 9:17a.



The Beginning Of The United States

(Accurate History)

Snow lay in knee deep drifts as 12,000 weary men tramped on Gulph Road to their winter quarters, Valley Forge. These men came from the few American colonies. Some were as young as 12 years old and some were in their sixties. All had one reason for their sacrifice: they wanted freedom to elect their own government and to worship God.

First, the men had to build shelters from the driving wind and stinging snow. General George Washington gave the building order December 18: "each hut must be 14 X 16 feet, a door at front, and a fireplace in the rear. Twelve men occupy each hut." On Christmas Day, Jonathan Todd wrote: 'We have but one dull ax to build a log hut. When it will be done no one knows.' By January 19, he wrote that the hut was completed though not so dry.

As general, Washington wanted his men to have the best, but the country was so poor that his troops suffered because there was not enough food, clothes, and other necessary supplies. Though many men were sick and several died, daily duties were done. Every day troops went through their training drills. Washington praised his dedicated men for their endurance.

One day in March, Pierre, a messenger, was sent on an errand. He was commanded to bring immediate word if he saw any sign of the British Redcoats, the enemy. As Pierre was galloping down the road on his horse, he saw an array of bright red between the trees in the woods. Quickly, he turned his horse and galloped back to camp.

"The British are coming!" he shouted, which put the camp into immediate action. Washington sent a troop of men to check the report. They came back laughing. It was only a settler's red clothes hanging to dry on a fence! Washington and Pierre laughed with the men.

After months of disciplined training, all the troops gathered on May 6th to hear the treaty read. Washington and the general officers reviewed the whole army at its posts. Soldiers saluted as their General went by. Finally, Washington was satisfied with his men. He took post on high ground to the rear. One by one thirteen cannons were fired, then a round of muskets were fired and the soldiers shouted: "To the American States!"

The American army marched from there to win victories at Monmouth and Yorktown. During these difficult battles, George Washington won the respect of his fellow country men. He dealt fairly with their problems, considered their needs, and praised them when they deserved it.

After the colonies became a new country, a president was needed to organize the government. George Washington was elected to be the first president and he took office on April 30, 1789. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who were looking for the man of God?
2. To whom had God spoken?
3. Who did Samuel see just as he got to the city gate?
4. Who said, "This man shall reign over my people"?
5. Who said, "I am the man of God"?
6. Who told Saul the lost animals had been found?
7. Who were given the best seats at the feast?
8. Who had the very best food to eat?
9. Where did Samuel take Saul after the feast?

LESSON TEXT: I Samuel 9:14-27.

(Answers: 1. Saul and the servant. 2. Samuel. 3. Saul. 4. The Lord. 5. Samuel. 6. Samuel. 7. Saul and the servant. 8. Saul. 9. To a quiet place where they could talk.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Nov. 21, 1993

SAUL IS ANOINTED

As Samuel walked to the edge of the city with Saul and the servant, he told Saul, "Tell the servant to walk on ahead of us. Stay here with me and I will show you the word of God."

When the servant was out of sight, Samuel took a bottle of oil and poured it on Saul's head. Then Samuel kissed Saul and said, "The Lord has anointed you to be the captain over His people, Israel."

Samuel then told Saul everything that would happen to him on the way home. "When you leave me," Samuel told him, "you will find two men by Rachel's sepulchre at Zelzah. These men will tell you, 'The animals that you went to look for are found. Now your father is worried about you because he fears you are lost.'"

"As you go on to the plain of Tabor," Samuel continued, "three men will meet you going up to worship the Lord at Bethel. One man will be carrying three kids, another will have three loaves of bread and the third will have a bottle of water. After the men speak to you they will give you two loaves of bread. Take the bread from them."

"After this you will come to the hill of God. When you come to the city, you will meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place carrying musical instruments. They will prophesy. Then the spirit of the Lord will come upon you and you will prophesy with them. From then on you will be changed into another man."

"When all this has happened, you must go to Gilgal," Samuel said. "Wait for me there seven days. I will come down to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings. Then I will show you what you should do."

As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. That very day everything happened just as Samuel had told him. Saul knew all that Samuel said was true. God had chosen him to rule Israel.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and po
Lord hath anointed thee to be captain**



**ed it upon his head,...and said,...the
ver his inheritance? I Samuel 10:1.**



A Common Man

(Accurate History)

Around 250 years ago the United States was a great unsettled land of deep, dark forests and miles of grassland prairies. Several Indian or native tribes claimed these lands and they did not like the colonial pioneers to move into their area. During this time, natives and pioneers fought over American land.

One pioneer man living at this time was Daniel Boone. Born October 22, 1734, Daniel was taught early in life to respect God and all His creation. His Quaker parents took him to church where he learned the peaceful way of faith. This solid training during his youth saved his life different times later as an adult.

For many years Daniel and his wife, Rebecca, lived on a farm in the Yadkin valley of North Carolina. Daniel was an excellent hunter. He had friends both among the natives and his other neighbors. Often when he was in the forest hunting, he would meet native hunters. Daniel learned their languages and worked to gain their friendship.

It was in 1769 that Daniel Boone led five other hunters over the Appalachian Mountains and into the land we now call Kentucky. Right away Daniel wanted to live and hunt in this lovely land. He and his men hunted for six months and accumulated hundreds of furs. As they were leaving, a Shawnee tribe stopped them and stole all their furs. Because Daniel spoke peacefully to them, the Shawnees did not harm the men but took their horses and told them to go home.

Many times the Shawnee tribes would steal from Daniel and threaten his life, but he would forgive them. Daniel said that he had 'always loved God ever since I recollect' and that he 'always met (all men) frankly and fearlessly and by kind acts and just treatment kept on the friendly side of them.'

In 1777, Boonesborough, in Kentucky, was under attack by the

Shawnees. The pioneers became hungry and there was not enough food for everyone in the fort so Daniel and twenty-nine other men went to hunt. Daniel and the men were captured by a Shawnee war party.

The chief, named Blackfish, adopted Daniel as his son. By his peaceful nature, Daniel won the love and respect of Blackfish. Eighteen months later, Daniel quietly left the Shawnees and went back to Boonesborough. He knew the Shawnees planned to attack this fort and he wanted to help the pioneers.

When the Shawnee warriors arrived, Daniel went out to meet his Shawnee father who was glad to see him again. They were making a peaceful agreement but other men began to shoot and a battle broke loose. After eleven days of fighting, God sent a heavy rain to stop the battle. Though Daniel Boone was a common man, the Lord honored his desire for peace.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Samuel walk to the edge of the city with?
2. Why did Samuel want the servant to walk on ahead?
3. What did Samuel pour on Saul's head?
4. Who had anointed Saul to be captain over Israel?
5. How many men would Saul find at Zelzah?
6. What would the prophets be carrying?
7. What would Saul do when the prophets prophesied?
8. How long must Saul wait for Samuel at Gilgal?
9. What did God give Saul?

LESSON TEXT: 1 Samuel 10:1-16.

(Answers: 1. Saul. 2. So he could show Saul the word of God. 3. A bottle of oil. 4. The Lord. 5. Three. 6. Musical instruments. 7. He would prophesy. 8. Seven days. 9. Another heart.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Nov. 28, 1993

"GOD SAVE THE KING!"

Samuel called all the people together before the Lord at Mizpeh. Standing before the children of Israel, Samuel told them, "This is the message from the Lord, 'I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of every kingdom that oppressed you. Today you have rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your great troubles. You have told Him to set a king over you. Now come before me by your tribes and I will choose your king.'"

So Samuel caused all the tribes of Israel to come before the Lord. God chose the tribe of Benjamin. Out of the tribe of Benjamin, God chose the family of Kish and from this family He chose Saul as king.

But Saul was nowhere to be found. The people asked the Lord, "Where is Saul, the man You have chosen?"

The Lord answered, "Look for him. He has hid himself among the stuff."

The people ran to find Saul. Then they brought him out before the people. As he stood before them, Saul was taller than any of the people from his shoulders up.

"See the one whom the Lord has chosen!" Samuel announced. "There is no one else like him among all the people!"

"God save the king!" all the people shouted.

Then Samuel told the people what kind of kingdom they should have. He even wrote the words in a book so they could be reminded of his instructions. Then Samuel sent all the people back to their homes.

When Saul went back to his home in Gibeah, a band of men went with him. God had touched their hearts and they wanted to serve their new king.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And all the people
save the king**



**houted, and said, God
I Samuel 10:24b.**



A Man Who Loved People

(Accurate History)

"Ah, my little Willie," said Abraham Lincoln as he put his hand upon his son's hand that laid upon his knee. "Father must talk with these men about some important business but stand by my chair if you wish. When our guests leave, you and I will attend to our important matters."

With a cheerful smile, young Willie stood patiently beside his busy father who was talking with the Chairman of Congress and two cabinet members.

Though Willie did not completely understand what they were talking about, he knew that thousands of lives depended upon his father's decisions. He watched as Mr. Nicolay, the White House Secretary, kept dipping his pen into the ink well beside him. The pen sailed rapidly across the paper as Mr. Nicolay tried to keep up with the talk.

It was January, 1862, and the country was divided over the subject of slavery. President Lincoln insisted that the Congress not waste time in ending slavery.

"Nicolay, please write as accurately as possible the words I have to say on this subject," Lincoln would tell his secretary. Then he requested that Congress purchase and free all slaves living in the District of Columbia.

Willie admired his father's firm, but kind manner. Though President Lincoln was a tall, rather awkward-built man, he had such understanding eyes and considerate ways. Willie held deep respect for his father's decisions. He knew he could trust his father.

Soon, the other men had left and only Willie was left with his father. President Lincoln picked up a nearby apple and with his pocketknife, began to peel it for Willie and himself. This was an important time of sharing be-

tween father and son. The President tried to explain to Willie some of his concern for the slaves whom he was defending at the risk of his life. Willie shared in his father's burden and he also was anxious for his father's safety. Already someone had tried to harm his father.

A few weeks later in February, Willie took suddenly ill. His father and mother did the best they could for him and they prayed that God would spare his life. The Lord took Willie to be with Him and his death greatly touched his father and mother.

Then President Lincoln was more determined to do what was right for other boys and girls. In April of 1862, Congress did end slavery in Washington D.C. Later, on January 1, 1863, orders were signed to free all other slaves in the United States.

Though he risked his life, President Lincoln cared enough to make a better change for thousands of people. Today, let us pray for the rulers of our land that we may continue to have freedom in our country.

— Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who called all the people together?
2. Who brought Israel up out of Egypt?
3. Who had the people rejected?
4. What tribe did the Lord choose?
5. What family did God choose?
6. Where was Saul?
7. Who was the tallest man in Israel?
8. What did the people shout?
9. Why did a band of men go home with Saul?

LESSON TEXT: 1 Samuel 10:17-27.

(Answers: 1. Samuel. 2. God. 3. God. 4. The tribe of Benjamin. 5. The family of Kish. 6. Hiding. 7. Saul. 8. "God save the king!" 9. To serve their new king.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Dec. 5, 1993

VICTORY OVER THE AMMONITES

Israel had not had a king long before the Ammonites came up to fight against the Israelites who lived at Jabesh. The men of Jabesh knew they could not win a battle against them so they sent word to the enemy. "Make peace with us and we will serve you," they told them.

Nahash, the Ammonite captain, was a very cruel man. "On one condition will I make peace with you," he answered. "You must let me put out each person's right eye."

The men of Jabesh told him, "Give us seven days to send messengers to all the cities of Israel. If we can find no one to save us, we will come out to you."

Quickly the messengers made their way to Gibeah, where Saul lived. They told the people in the city what the Ammonites wanted to do. The people cried loudly for sorrow when they heard the news.

Saul was just coming in from his work in the field. He asked, "What is wrong with the people that they are crying?"

When the people told Saul what the messengers had said, the spirit of God came upon him. He was so angry he took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces. He sent the pieces to all the coasts of Israel. "Whoever will not come out to fight the enemy with Saul and Samuel will have their oxen cut in pieces like this," Saul warned.

The fear of the Lord fell on the people. They gladly came out to help fight the enemy. Saul sent the messengers back to tell the men of Jabesh that help would be there by the next morning.

Early the next morning Saul and his army drew close to the enemy camp near Jabesh. Dividing the army into three companies, Saul ordered them to attack. They fought the Ammonites until the heat of the day and killed many. Those who were left were so scattered they could not fight. God gave Israel a great victory that day.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...For there is no re-
straint to the Lord to
save by many or by
few. 1 Samuel 14:6b.**



Protection From A Killer

(A True Story)

At 6:30 on a frosty December morning when 83-year-old Doris answered her telephone.

"Mother," said her daughter, "Did you hear the police sirens and helicopters last night?"

"Yes, they kept me awake," replied the mother.

"There is a manhunt for a killer loose in town. I know you don't lock your doors, so go do it now."

As quickly as possible, the elder lady obeyed her daughter. As she carefully made her way to the back door, a strong hand suddenly caught her wrist. "OH!" she exclaimed before a clammy hand went across her mouth.

"I won't hurt you," whispered the man as he pulled her to her bedroom. "Don't yell or call the police and I won't hurt you."

Doris did not trust this man but she did trust the Lord. "Dear God, I need your protection right now," she prayed. Right away she felt the Lord's presence. "I need to lie down," she said. He nodded.

Gradually, Doris began to breathe easier. The man went out of her bedroom so she got up and dressed. "Sir," she called to him, "I am hungry. Would you like something to eat?" Soon he sat across from her at her tiny table. "May I pray?" she asked. He nodded. She bowed her head and prayed for the Lord's protection and that this man would do right. Together they ate.

The telephone rang and she answered.

"I will be at your house tonight to take you to the Christmas party," said her friend over the telephone. "I'll come to your front door this time because someone may be hiding out back."

"Okay," said Doris and she hung up the telephone. "Lord, please let me go tonight," she prayed. "Sir," she said

to the stranger. "I need to wrap some Christmas presents." He nodded and sat with his rifles, watching her wrap the gifts and he listened to the radio news.

"An extensive manhunt has failed to capture a county man following a shooting rampage last night. The man is accused of killing three people. A deputy is in critical condition."

Doris turned and looked at the man. "Did you do that?" she asked. He nodded and said, "I didn't mean to."

"You've got to turn yourself in," she told him. "It is a terrible thing that you are doing!"

The man didn't answer but he let her play Christmas carols on her organ, prepare sandwiches for their lunch, and he let her go to the party that evening with her friend. Doris told the police, who then went to her house and talked the man into surrendering. The peaceful presence of God gave Doris victory that day.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who came up to fight the Israelites?
2. Who knew they could not win a battle?
3. Who was a very cruel man?
4. What did he want to do to the people of Jabesh?
5. Where had Saul been working?
6. Who did the spirit of God come upon?
7. What did Saul cut in pieces?
8. Into how many companies did Saul divide the army?
9. Who gave Israel a great victory?

LESSON TEXT: I Samuel 11.

(Answers: 1. The Ammonites. 2. The men of Jabesh. 3. Nahash. 4. Put out their right eyes. 5. In the field. 6. Saul. 7. A yoke of oxen. 8. Three. 9. God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 44, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Dec. 12, 1993

GABRIEL VISITS MARY

One day God sent an angel named Gabriel to a city of Galilee named Nazareth. God had a special message for him to deliver to a pure and lovely young woman who lived there. Her name was Mary.

As Mary sat alone that day, Gabriel suddenly appeared before her. "You are highly favored," the angel told her. "The Lord is with you. You are blessed among women."

Mary was frightened to see an angel standing before her. "What does he mean by saying I am blessed among women?" she wondered.

"Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel assured her. "You have found favor with God. You will have a son and will call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest. The Lord God will give Him the throne of his father David and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end."

"How could this be?" Mary asked. "I do not have a husband."

"The Holy Ghost shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you. Your son will be called the Son of God," Gabriel explained.

Gabriel had more wonderful news to tell Mary. "Your cousin, Elizabeth, will soon have a son also, even though she is very old. Nothing is impossible with God," he told her.

Hearing his words, Mary answered simply, "I am the Lord's handmaid. Let it be as you have said."

Gabriel vanished as suddenly as he had appeared. Mary was so excited about the good news, she knew she must share it with someone. Quickly gathering her things together, she started for Elizabeth's house. She must share the good news with her cousin. When she met her, she found that all the angel had told her was true; Elizabeth was soon to have a son!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**"The angel said unto her, Fear not,
Mary: thou hast found favor with
God."** (Luke 1:30)



Christmas Is A Time For Giving

Thaddeus Barnwell looked at the prices on the row of hand-painted vases. Then he counted his allowance money.

"It costs a dollar and fifty cents!" he groaned to his sister, Sarah. "All I've got is a dollar."

"I have sixty cents," Sarah said. "That ought to be enough."

"Yes, but we were going to get gingerbread cookies from the bakery."

Sarah thought for a moment and then said slowly, "Wouldn't it be worth giving up the cookies just to make Mamma happy this Christmas? Ever since Daddy died she's been really sad."

Thad sighed. "I guess you're right." He picked up the vase that had "To a Very Special Mother" on it and together they went to the counter to pay.

On the way home they had to walk by the bakery. The good smells floating out into the chilly air made Thad a little bit sorry about their choice of the present.

When they reached their house, they managed to sneak the vase to Thad's room before Mamma even knew they were home. That night they went to bed with butterflies in their stomachs. They could hardly wait for tomorrow so they could open their presents and give Mamma hers. It had been carefully wrapped with white tissue paper and tied with a red ribbon.

Sarah was the first one awake on Christmas morning. She woke up Thad and their excited laughter woke up Mamma. Together they went into the living room where Mamma read the familiar story of Jesus' birth. Thad and Sarah always enjoyed this part because it showed that God loved them enough to send His Son to die so they could be saved.

After reading, they opened presents which caused many whoops and squeals of delight. Then they gave Mamma her gift. They watched breathlessly as she pulled off the paper. Tears welled up in her eyes as she held up the vase.

"It's beautiful!" Mamma said, as she pulled them into her arms and hugged them close. Thad didn't have any more regrets about giving up the cookies to make Mamma happy.

As soon as everyone had eaten a delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs and biscuits with gravy, Mamma put a cookie tin by both of the children's plates. When they lifted the lids, they gasped in surprise. Inside were several kinds of cookies and candy, but what caught their attention first was the big gingerbread cookie on top. It was shaped like a boy and decorated with icing and raisins. Swallowing lumps in their throats, they whispered, "Thank you, Mamma."

Only then did they realize the full meaning of giving— not because you have to, but because you want to make someone happy!

—Christy Doolittle

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did God send to Nazareth?
2. Who did God have a special message for?
3. Who suddenly appeared to Mary?
4. Who was highly favored?
5. Who told Mary, "Don't be afraid?"
6. What would Mary call her son?
7. Whose kingdom will never end?
8. Who else would have a son?
9. Whose house did Mary go to?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 1:26-38.

(Answers: 1. Gabriel. 2. Mary. 3. Gabriel. 4. Mary. 5. Gabriel. 6. Jesus. 7. Jesus' kingdom. 8. Elizabeth. 9. Elizabeth's.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



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SAMUEL SPEAKS TO THE PEOPLE

Samuel called all the people to Gilgal to offer peace offerings to the Lord. There Saul and the men of Israel rejoiced greatly because of the great victory God had given them over the Ammonites.

Samuel stood before the people and said, "I have done as you asked and made Saul king over you. Now I am old. I have served you since I was a child until now. Tell me, have I taken anything from you or given unfair judgment? If so, I am willing to repay it now."

"You have never taken anything wrongfully," the people answered. "You have always judged fairly."

Then Samuel reminded them of all the good things the Lord had done for them, how He had cared for them and delivered them from cruel enemies many times. "But now you have said, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' even though the Lord your God was your King," Samuel scolded them.

"Now, the Lord has set a king over you. You and the king must continue to follow the Lord. If you do not obey His voice, then the Lord will be against you," Samuel continued.

Samuel wanted to remind the people of God's great power. "I will call to the Lord and He will send thunder and rain. Then you will understand what a wicked thing you have done in asking for a king," Samuel said. When Samuel called on the Lord, it thundered loudly and rain poured down.

"Pray for us, that we won't die," the people cried. "We have added more evil to all our sins by asking for a king."

"Don't be afraid," Samuel comforted the people. "I will never stop praying for you. But you must always fear the Lord and serve Him. If you refuse to obey Him and still do wickedly, you and your king will both be destroyed."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**But if ye
sumed,**



**shall still do wickedly, ye shall be con-
oth ye and your king. I Samuel 12:25.**

To Iron Or Not To Iron

Anna came tiptoeing into the laundry room where Mother was ironing. "Good morning, Mother," she said.

"Good morning, Anna," replied Mother as she turned around and gave her daughter a big hug. "After sleeping so late this morning, you are probably very hungry."

"Yes, a little bit," agreed Anna. "But right now I want to help you do the ironing. If I stand on this stool, I am tall enough to bend over the ironing board. See, Mother?"

While Anna was speaking, she had moved a small step stool close to the ironing board.

"Anna, I don't think you are quite tall enough yet to iron," said Mother. "You can come and help me with your breakfast. I'll let you make the toast."

"Oh, I already know how to make toast," said Anna. "Now I really do want to learn how to iron so I can do the ironing for you."

However, Mother had already turned off the iron. Anna followed Mother into the kitchen and made the toast while Mother fried the eggs and bacon. After breakfast, Anna went upstairs to get dressed and Mother went outside to feed and water the chickens.

"While Mother is outside working, I'll do something for her," thought Anna. She slipped into the laundry room, pulled the stool up to the ironing board, and turned on the iron as high as it would go.

Anna chose one of Mother's favorite dresses to iron, because she so wanted to please Mother with her ironing. She smoothed it out on the ironing board and laid the iron on the dress skirt. Right away she realized the iron did not want to sail across the dress fabric like it did for Mother. Maybe I need to push on it harder, she thought. So she did but that only made it worse. In fact, the dress fabric was puckering and creasing under the iron.

"Oh, dear!" exclaimed Anna. "I guess Mother was right—I am to short to iron."

"I'm afraid I've ruined her dress!" Poor Anna began to wail as she took the dress off of the ironing board and tried to smooth out the bunches and creases. Just then Mother came into the laundry room.

"Anna, did you still try to iron after I told you not to do so yet?" asked Mother with sorrow in her voice.

"But, Mother, I wanted to help you!" explained Anna. "I didn't mean to make things worse!"

"Let me see what I can do with the dress," said Mother as she took it from Anna. Some places were puckered from the hot iron but since it was an every day dress, Mother's skillful ironing made it wearable again. While she worked, Mother said, "I appreciate your desire to help me, Anna, but always remember that 'obedience is better than sacrifice.' Let me tell you the story about King Saul who lost the kingdom over this very matter."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Samuel call all the people?
2. Why did Saul rejoice greatly?
3. Who was made king over the people?
4. Who had served the people since he was a child?
5. Who said Samuel had always judged fairly?
6. Who had delivered the people from cruel enemies?
7. Why did Samuel pray for thunder and rain?
8. Who must the people fear?
9. What would happen if they would not obey God?

LESSON TEXT: I Samuel 12.

(Answers: 1. To Gilgal. 2. Because God had given them a great victory over the Ammonites. 3. Saul. 4. Samuel. 5. The people. 6. God. 7. To show what an evil thing the people had done in asking for a king. 8. God. 9. They would be destroyed.)