

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 45, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 14 July 3, 1994

## THE ARK OF GOD

David gathered his chosen men, thirty thousand in all. With them and all the people, he went to Judah. David was going to bring the ark of God to the new tabernacle in Jerusalem. He knew it was God's plan that the ark be kept in the tabernacle. For some time it had been in the house of Abinadab who lived in Gibeah.

Carefully the priests set the ark of God on a new cart. The people were glad the ark would soon be back where it belonged. David and other musicians played on all kinds of instruments as they walked in front of the ark. It was a time of great joy!

But as they walked along they came to a bump. The ark shook as if it would fall off the cart. Uzzah was driving the oxen that pulled the cart. When he saw the ark shake, he took hold of the ark, to steady it. As soon as Uzzah's hand touched the ark he fell down dead. God had commanded that only priests could touch the ark. The Lord was angry that Uzzah had disobeyed.

The music and laughter stopped immediately. The people were frightened! Now David was afraid of the ark. "How shall the ark of the Lord come to me?" he wondered. David would take the ark no further. He turned aside and took it to the house of a man named Obededom.

The Lord blessed the house of Obededom while the ark was there. Soon David heard how Obededom was blessed. He decided it was safe to bring the ark on to Jerusalem.

So David took priests and brought the ark out of the house of Obededom to Jerusalem. David and the people went before the ark shouting and playing musical instruments.

When the ark was placed in the middle of the tabernacle David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. Then he blessed all the people in the name of the Lord.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...So  
broug  
God fr  
Obede  
of Dav  
II S



id went and  
up the ark of  
the house of  
into the city  
with gladness.  
uel 6:12b.



## Conquering Wiggles

It was Sunday. After church service Mother was in the kitchen broiling steaks and steaming vegetables. Cindy was setting the table and Daddy was reading the newspaper. Greg was sitting on a chair in the corner of the dining room.

"Mother, when can I get off of this chair?" Greg whined. He stood up to stretch as if the five minutes he had sat were five hours.

"Now that you've talked," said Mother, "I will have to re-time your thirty minute sitting period. Greg, every time you get up or talk you loose time, so I suggest you be still until I tell you when you can get up."

"Oh, I'm going to be sitting here the whole day!" exclaimed Greg. "Cindy, will you go and get my pillow, please?"

"No Greg, you can sit still with your feet in front of you and your hands in your lap like I told you," said Mother. "This is practice for church service tonight. Your rude talking and wiggling this morning was so ridiculous for a big boy your age. Before tonight, I want you to know exactly how to act."

"But I know how to act!" exclaimed Greg. "It's just that wiggles inside make me wiggle even when I don't want to."

"You know what I would do if I were you?" asked Mother as she came over to properly re-seat Greg. "If I were you, while I sit on this chair, I would pray and ask the Lord to help me conquer those wiggles. Do you want the wiggles to control you?"

"No ma'am," replied Greg thoughtfully, as he straightened up on the chair. "What causes wiggles anyway?"

"They simply come when little children are not quiet and do not listen to the message," said Mother. "Let's have a word of prayer and ask the Lord to help you conquer them."

So Mother and Greg had a quiet word of prayer. Then Greg sat still for thirty whole minutes while Mother

finished preparing lunch. A pleasant afternoon passed by and soon it was time for service again. Greg was putting on his socks and shoes while he talked to his sister.

"Cindy, tonight don't ask me any questions in church because I can't answer them. Maybe you had better not even sit by me because I have all my wiggles conquered but I don't think you do."

"I can be good in church, too," replied Cindy. "I always listen better than you do."

However, in church service that night Cindy quickly realized that Greg meant to be quiet. She had to be very good to do as well as he did. After church, Daddy took the family to the ice cream store for a treat.

"I am so glad you children behaved yourselves during worship service," he said. "Obedience and good behavior please the Lord."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. How many chosen men did David gather?
2. Where did David and the people go?
3. Where were they going to bring the ark?
4. What did the priests set on a new cart?
5. What made the ark shake?
6. Why did Uzzah touch the ark?
7. What happened as soon as he touched the ark?
8. Who blessed Obededom while the ark was in his house?
9. Who offered burnt offerings before the Lord?

LESSON TEXT: II Samuel 6.

(Answers: 1. Thirty thousand. 2. To Judah. 3. To the new tabernacle. 4. The ark. 5. A bump. 6. To keep it from falling. 7. He fell down dead. 8. The Lord. 9. David.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 15 July 10, 1994

---

## JONATHAN'S SON

Because Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan, King Saul's son, he lived in the palace. His father and King Saul were brave soldiers. Mephibosheth was only five years old when Jonathan and King Saul marched away one day to fight against the Philistines. They never came back. They had both been killed in the battle.

Word soon came that the king and all his sons were dead. Panic spread throughout the palace. The enemy could come at any moment and kill them all! They must leave the palace at once!

Mephibosheth did his best but he could not run as fast as the adults so his nurse took him up and ran from the palace. In the rush Mephibosheth had a very bad fall. He was hurt so badly that from that day on he was crippled in both feet.

David had not forgotten Jonathan, his very best friend. He remembered the promise he made to him to always show kindness to his children. David wondered if any of Jonathan's children were still alive.

Ziba had been one of Saul's servants, so David called for him. When he came David asked him, "Is there anyone left of the house of Saul? I wish to show the kindness of God to him."

"Jonathan has one son left," Ziba answered. "His name is Mephibosheth and he is crippled."

David asked Ziba where Mephibosheth lived and sent for him to come to the palace. Mephibosheth did not know what the king wanted to do to him. When he saw David he fell on his face before him.

"Don't be afraid," David assured him. "I will surely show you kindness for your father, Jonathan's, sake. I will restore all King Saul's land to you and you will always have plenty to eat at my table."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jeru  
he did eat continually at the k  
and was lame on both his  
II Samuel 9:13.**



em: for  
s table;  
st.



## Understanding

"Mother, the new boy down the street is so unfriendly," sighed Jeff as he came in from outdoors. "I asked him if he wanted to play baseball with us guys and he just shrugged his shoulders and went inside. He keeps his hands in his pockets and his nose in the air."

While Jeff talked, he was busy pouring six cups of milk for himself and his brothers. "We could use another guy or so to make the game more fun but we've about decided that old stuck-up wouldn't make it more fun anyway."

"Are you boys polite to him?" questioned Mother as she rationed out two cookies for each boy.

"Mom, do we have to get down on our knees and kiss his hand? I mean, we've all smiled and asked him friendly-like and he will hardly speak. John thinks he wears braces on his teeth and he doesn't want us to see them."

"That might very well be possible," said Mother thoughtfully. She put the cups of milk and cookies on a tray and opened the door for Jeff as he carried the tray outside.

"Maybe I should go down and visit our new neighbors myself," said Mother. She prepared a basket of cookies and a bouquet of flowers from her garden. Then she slipped out the front door while the boys were playing a game in the shady backyard.

That afternoon Mother had a nice visit with Mrs. Vincent and she learned something special about Mrs. Vincent's son, Medeth. Later, at the supper table that evening, Mother shared with the family what she had learned.

"I had a nice visit with our new neighbors today," said Mother. "Would you like to hear a little story about Medeth, our new neighbor boy?"

At once the children became quiet; so Mother began.

"Over ten years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent wanted a baby boy so badly. They prayed and asked the Lord to give

them one of their own and, finally, their prayers were answered through an adoption agency. One day a lawyer called Mrs. Vincent and told her there was a new baby boy in a certain hospital who needed parents. The baby was healthy and normal in every way but one—he did not have a left hand. Medeth just has three stubs at his wrist where his hand should be."

"Oh," said Jeff. "Then that's why Medeth doesn't want to play baseball—he couldn't catch the ball!"

"His mother thinks he could play baseball," said Mother. "But he hasn't tried it and he is so shy. Now I have told Medeth that my boys won't say any bad things about his hand and will be patient with him when he plays games with them. I believe I made a promise you boys will keep, right?"

All the boys agreed that they would be kind to Medeth and the next time they played baseball, Jeff took out seven cups of milk.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What was Mephibosheth's father's name?
2. Where did Mephibosheth live?
3. Who was killed when Mephibosheth was five years old?
4. Who took Mephibosheth up and ran from the palace?
5. Who had a very bad fall?
6. Who remembered the promise that he made to Jonathan?
7. Who told David about Mephibosheth?
8. What did Mephibosheth do when he saw David?
9. How did David show kindness to Mephibosheth?

**LESSON TEXT:** II Samuel 4:4; 9.

(Answers: 1. Jonathan. 2. In the palace. 3. King Saul and Jonathan. 4. His nurse. 5. Mephibosheth. 6. David. 7. Ziba. 8. He fell on his face. 9. By restoring King Saul's lands to him.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 16 July 17, 1994

---

## NATHAN TELLS DAVID A STORY

God chose David to become king in Saul's place because David was obedient. But one day when David was tempted to do wrong he did not talk to God about it. He did something very evil in God's eyes.

That day David saw a beautiful woman named Bathsheba. He asked about her and found that she had a husband named Uriah. David wanted Bathsheba for his own wife so he had Uriah placed at the front of a battle where he would be killed. When David heard Uriah was dead, David took Bathsheba to be his own wife.

It seemed like his plan had worked perfectly. But God saw all that happened and was greatly displeased. He sent the prophet, Nathan, to David to tell him what an awful thing he had done.

Nathan told David this story: "Two men lived in a city, one was a rich man, the other was very poor. The one was so rich he had many flocks and herds but the poor man had nothing but one little lamb. This little lamb seemed like part of the family because he had cared for it like his own child. He and his children had watched the little lamb grow as they fed it from their own table. At night the lamb would snuggle up and sleep right with the family.

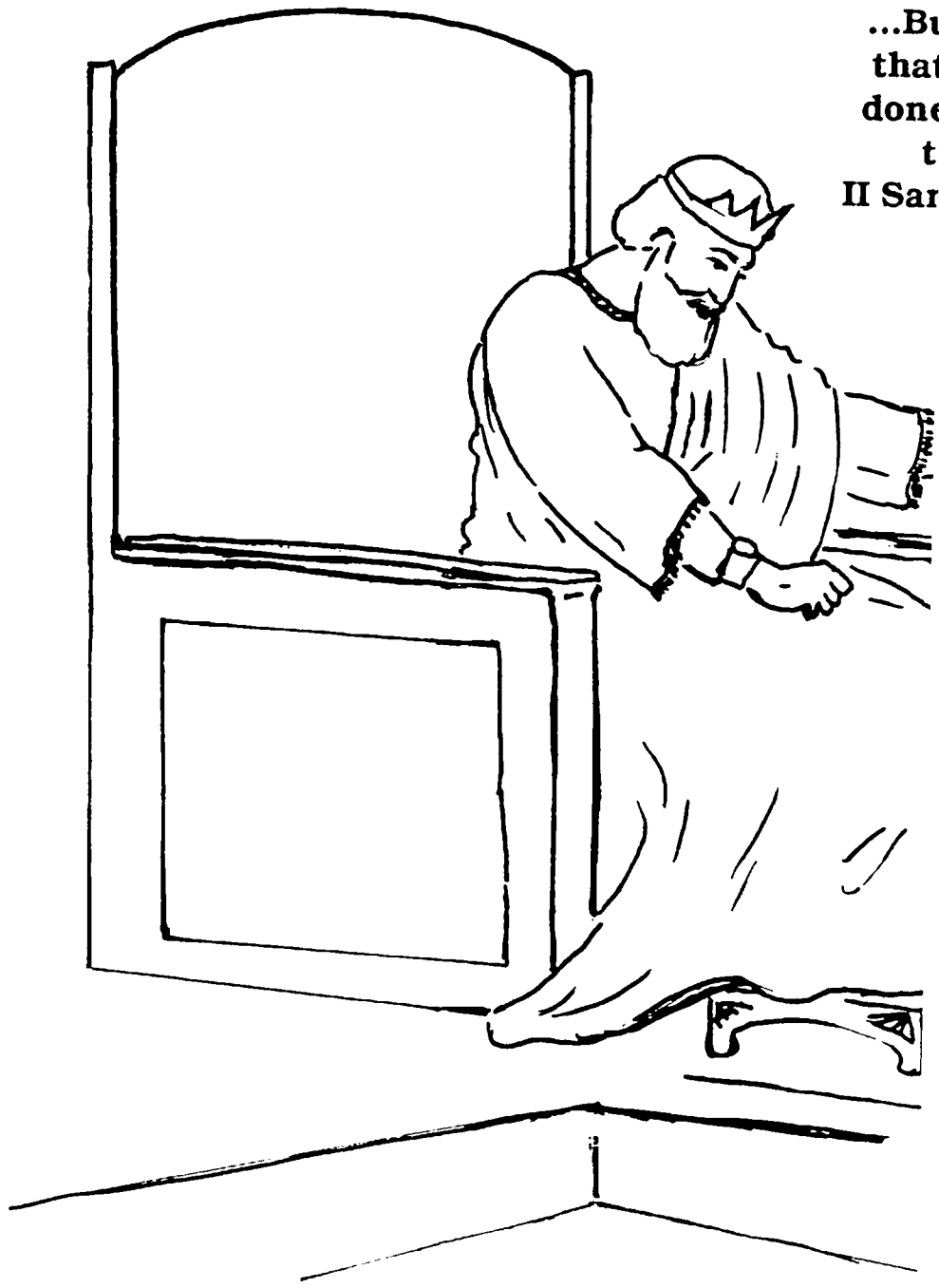
"One day the rich man had company. He wanted to fix a good meal for his friend but instead of choosing a lamb out of his own great flocks, he took the poor man's only lamb. After he had killed and prepared it, he served it to his guests for dinner.

After listening to Nathan's story, David became very angry. "The man that has done this shall surely die!" he declared.

"Thou art the man!" Nathan answered. Then Nathan showed David how he was just like the rich man. He had several wives yet he chose to have Uriah killed so he could take his only wife. Nathan told David that great sorrow would come to him because of this sin.

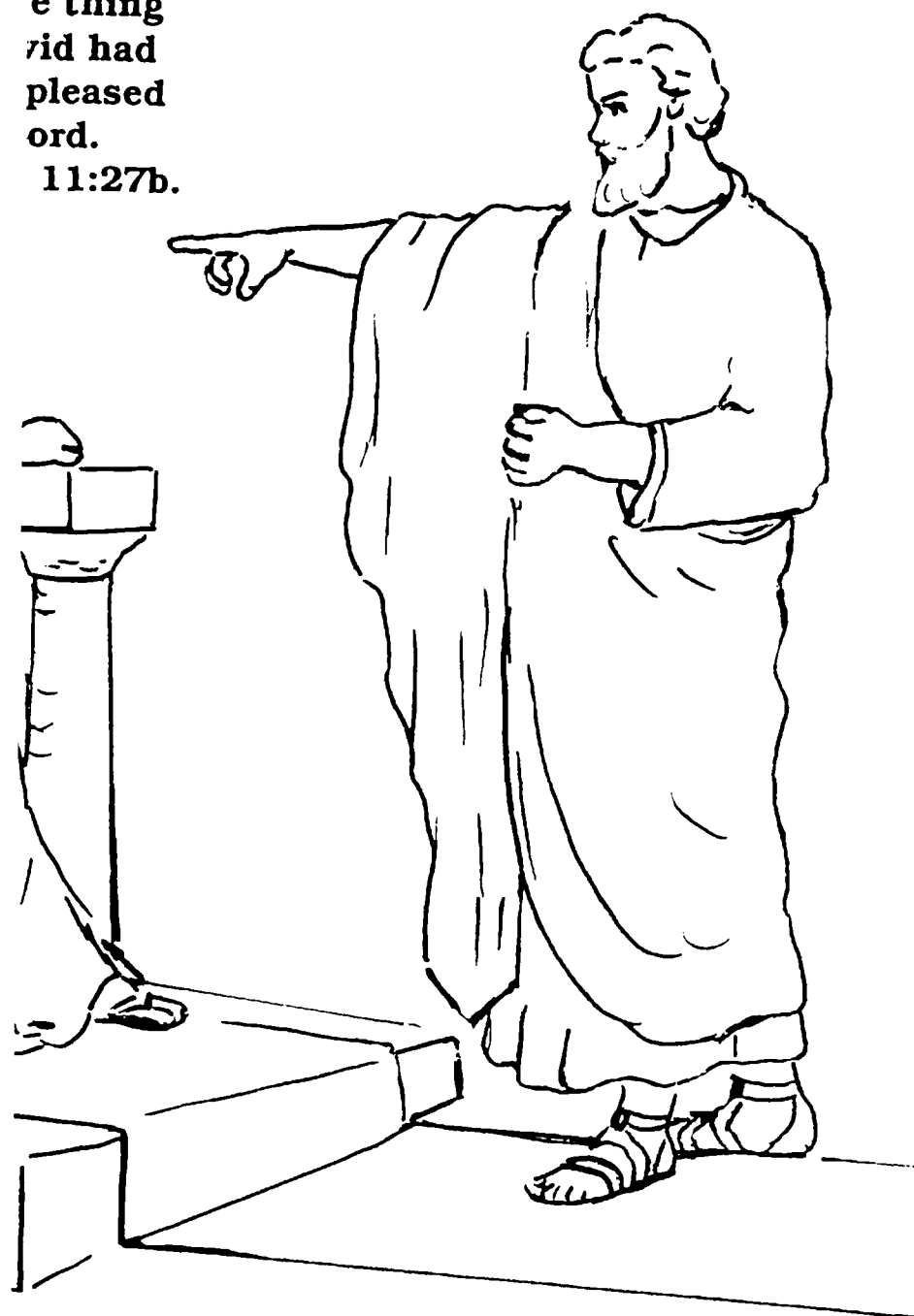
—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...But  
that  
done  
t  
II Sar



e thing  
vid had  
pleased  
ord.

11:27b.



## Read It To Me!

(A true story)

In April of 1975, Larry was arrested for selling illegal drugs on the streets. He was taken through the barbedwire gates of the county jail and strip-searched. Everything he had on including his clothes, was taken from him and he was issued a brown uniform, two blankets, a pillow, and a rolled up sleeping mat. The only thing the police let him keep was a Bible his wife had recently given him.

As the heavy steel door shut him away from the public, Larry looked around the cell he was to live in. There were already 31 men in this small, concrete room. The air was hot and smelly. Cockroaches ran up the dirty walls. Against the walls, sixteen cots were bolted down and the rest of the men laid their sleeping mats on the floor.

Larry hid his Bible under his mat and that night, he couldn't sleep. Bitter remorse flooded his soul because he knew he had hurt other people, messed up his life, and had grieved God. His father had spent 18 years in prison and now Larry was facing five years locked up. Was there any hope for him? Could he get out of this trap of anger and hurt?

For several days, Larry kept his Bible hid but he could not forget about it. Finally, he nervously took it from under his pillow, and held it close so no one would see it.

As he turned a page, a voice demanded, "What are you doing?"

"Man, I'm just reading this book," replied Larry.

Duke, the toughest guy of the group, looked down at Larry. "Is that a Bible you got?" he demanded.

"Yeah," replied Larry. He was afraid Duke was going to beat him.

"Get outta here! You ain't readin' no Bible," Duke retorted.

"Look, I don't want any trouble," began Larry, but Duke had already

grabbed the Bible from Larry's hands. After a moment, Duke said, "Would you read it to me? I ain't funning. I can't read. Read the Bible to me."

Soon other men gathered around to hear Larry read the Bible. Duke ordered the TV turned off. Many of the men became more peaceable and Duke even smiled. Through God's Word, they met Jesus and learned about His healing power of love, forgiveness, and righteousness.

Some men wanted Jesus to live in their hearts and rule in their lives. Only God knows how much good was done through Larry's Bible reading.

Later, Larry was released from prison and he wanted to make a complete change in his life. The Bible had told him the truth about himself and how to do better. With Jesus living in his heart, he wanted to help others, not hurt them.

Isn't God good to those who will humble themselves and cry out to Him? God visits those in prison just as he visits kings and presidents.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why did God choose David to be king in Saul's place?
2. Who was tempted to do wrong one day?
3. Who was the beautiful woman David saw?
4. Who was Uriah?
5. Who did God send to David?
6. How many lambs did the poor man have?
7. What did the rich man do when he fixed dinner for his guest?
8. Who was like this rich man?
9. Why would great sorrow come to David?

LESSON TEXT: II Samuel 11.

(Answers: 1. David was obedient. 2. David. 3. Bathsheba. 4. Bathsheba's husband. 5. Nathan. 6. One. 7. Took the poor man's lamb and killed it. 8. David. 9. Because of his sin.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 17 July 24, 1994

---

## ABSALOM

There was not a more handsome man in all Israel than Absalom. From head to foot, he had not one flaw. But Absalom was not like his father, David. He was a very proud man and more than anything else, he wanted to be king. He grew tired of waiting for his father to die. He decided to take the kingdom away from his father by force.

Absalom gathered horses and chariots and chose fifty men to run ahead of him, as if he were some great person. Early each morning he stood by the city gate where all the people could see him. When he saw anyone coming into the city to speak to David about a problem, he would tell them how much better he would handle the matter if only he were a ruler. Soon people were bowing before Absalom. Many men decided Absalom would make a better king than David.

One day Absalom asked David's permission to go to Hebron. He told his father he was going there to worship the Lord so David told him, "Go in peace."

But Absalom had sent spies all through Israel. "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet," he told them, "you must shout, 'Absalom reigneth in Hebron!'"

Then Absalom took two hundred men from Jerusalem and went to Hebron. From there he sent for Ahithophel, a wise man who was David's own counselor. More and more people gathered on Absalom's side.

A messenger came to David. "The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom!" he warned him.

David saw he was in great danger. "Get up, we must run!" David shouted to his men. "We cannot escape from Absalom unless we leave at once before he smites the city with the edge of the sword."

"We are ready to do whatever you say," David's men answered.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...So Absalom st  
of the men  
II Samuel**



**the hearts**  
**Israel.**  
**5:6b.**



## Work Versus Play

What a lovely day it was! Sunbeams danced through the shady tree leaves making patterns on the green grass where Toby and Tabitha were playing. With little cars they were driving over the road tracks that they had been making. Toby had just parked his car at his "house" when Dad called from the back porch.

"Toby, I want you to come and go to work with me. I need your help."

"Okay, Dad," replied Toby. "Let me gather up my cars."

When Tabitha realized she was going to loose her playmate, she wanted to go with them.

"I don't know if I should take both of you," said Dad with a twinkle in his brown eyes. "I want some work done. Two helpers may be tempted to play."

"Oh, I want to help you," said Tabitha earnestly. "I won't even be tempted to play. I promise!"

"If you will help, then I will take you, too," said Dad. "Gather up your cars and come with me. I'll be ready to go in a minute."

The children hurried to obey and soon were in the car with Dad, headed to his work shop.

"Tabitha, I will show you where to stack some boards and tidy the shop," said Dad. "Toby, I want you to hold things while I nail them in place."

Toby and Tabitha listened and obeyed as their dad instructed them. By supper time the shop looked tidy and Dad had been able to get everything done that he had needed to do.

"Well, I am pleased with both of you," said Dad on the way home. "Here are five dollars for each of you. Don't waste it, but buy yourself a treat."

"Thank you, Dad," said Toby and Tabitha.

After supper, Toby went outside to play with his friend Jake. "You earned

five whole dollars in one day?" said Jake in amazement. "I have to be good a whole week before I get five dollars."

"We didn't play around and we obeyed Dad," said Toby. "That is what pleased him."

Jake put his hand on Toby's shoulder. "You know what we ought to do with your money?" he said. "We could buy some pop and candy at the corner store, and still have plenty of quarters to play Arcade games."

"No, Jake," said Toby, shaking his head. "Dad would be disappointed if I wasted my money on game machines. I worked hard for this money and I want to spend it right. Some of it goes to the Lord and the rest I'll save until I find something worth spending it for."

"Oh," replied Jake. "You sound like a grown-up."

Toby just smiled. His respect for his dad did make him feel bigger.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was the most handsome man in Israel?
2. What did Absalom want more than anything else?
3. How did he decide to get the kingdom?
4. How many men ran ahead of Absalom?
5. Where did he stand so all the people could see him?
6. How many men did Absalom take with him to Hebron?
7. Who was Ahithophel?
8. Who saw he was in great danger?
9. What did David say they must do?

LESSON TEXT: II Samuel 14:25-27; 15:1-15.

(Answers: 1. Absalom. 2. To be king. 3. By force. 4. Fifty. 5. By the city gate. 6. Two hundred. 7. David's counselor. 8. David. 9. Leave at once.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 18 July 31, 1994

---

## DAVID RUNS FOR HIS LIFE

Many years before, David had to run for his life to keep from being killed by King Saul. Now he was running from his own son, Absalom. As soon as David heard Absalom had made himself king, he gathered up his household and left Jerusalem before Absalom could attack them. The people cried as they rushed away from their homes looking for a safe place to hide.

Zadok and Abiathar, God's priests, carried the ark of God to the city gates. Here they set it down until all the people had passed out of the gate. When David came to the ark he told the priests, "Carry the ark back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the Lord, He will bring me back and let me see the ark again. I am willing for God to do as it seems good to Him."

"You are prophets," David told Zadok and Abiathar. "Return into the city with your two sons, Ahimaaz and Jonathan. I will stay in the desert until I get word from you telling me what to do."

So Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark back into Jerusalem and stayed there to see what would happen. As David and the rest of the people climbed up Mount Olivet, they cried and covered their heads to show their great sorrow.

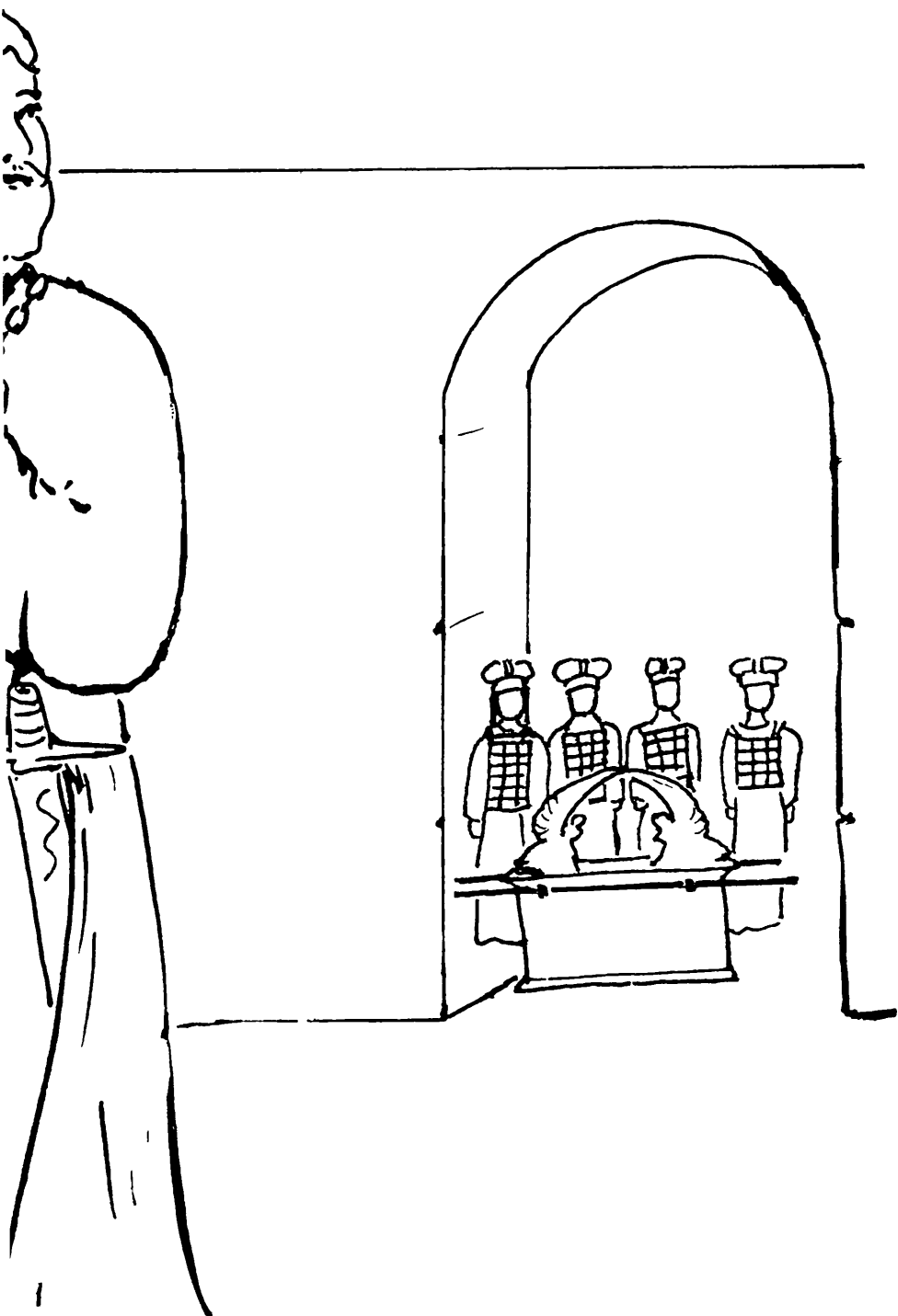
As they walked along someone told David that Ahithophel had gone to Absalom to be his counselor. David knew Ahithophel was wise enough to tell Absalom just how to capture him and his people. "O Lord," he prayed, "Turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness!"

When David finally made it to the top of the mount, he stopped to worship God. While there a wise man named Hushai came to him having his coat torn and dirt on his head. David believed God could use him to defeat the counsel of Ahithophel so he sent him back to Jerusalem with the priests.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

But if he thus say, I have  
no delight in thee; behold,  
here am I, let him do to  
me as seemeth good unto  
him. II Samuel 15:26.





## Called By God

(A true story)

Bill looked at the sign spray painted on the side of an empty building in New York City. The bold letters said: "Jesus doesn't live in Brooklyn."

"That cannot be true," said Bill to himself.

The narrow, concrete streets of Brooklyn are cluttered with litter. Run-down buildings have evil, spray-painted signs on many walls. Unfortunately, 70,000 children live in this area. These children learn early how to lie, steal, fight, smoke cigarettes, take illegal drugs, and follow other immoral ways. No wonder someone painted this bold message on a wall in Brooklyn. Bill decided the children of Brooklyn needed to know Jesus could live there.

Bill had survived life with an alcoholic mother who had pushed him out of the house at the age of 14. Bill had never known his father and his "family" was so split apart that he was left on the streets alone.

It was at this time a race car driver noticed Bill sitting on a culvert for several days and he knew Bill's despair, so he offered to pay Bill's way to a Christian camp.

At camp on Wednesday night, Bill heard the gospel story for the first time. He walked down the aisle and knelt at the altar alone. There he got saved and made a decision to serve Jesus Christ.

Back in his home town, Bill went to live with a pastor and his wife. He went to church regularly and worked at odd jobs as he made his way through high school. Bill had potential to make big money. He raced cars for a while, then worked for a Ford agency, but all the while he had a desire to do something for Jesus.

Eventually, the Lord led Bill to Brooklyn, one of the most evil places in America. He was called to bring the message of hope, love, and peace to the troubled, unloved children and youth.

Bill knew many of these rough, rugged children would love Jesus if only they knew who Jesus was. He wanted to introduce them to Jesus.

To draw the youth, Bill dressed in old blue jeans and went to the 'hang-outs'. He mixed among them and talked with them about their future, their problems, and the hope that Jesus Christ offers. Some cursed Bill, some ignored him, some were touched but unmovable, and some accepted his invitation to come with him to a chapel where they could learn more about Jesus.

In time, a few of these young people accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and surrendered their lives to Him. Now Bill has others to help with his plans to bring the helpless children to Sunday school. Jesus gives Bill the strength and courage to do what he is called to do. The love of Jesus is spreading in Brooklyn.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why had David run for his life many years before?
2. Who was he running from now?
3. Who were Zadok and Abiathar?
4. Where did they set the ark of God down?
5. What did David tell them to do with the ark?
6. What did David and the people do as they climbed Mount Olivet?
7. What did David ask God to do to Ahithophel's counsel?
8. What did David do when he reached the top of the mount?
9. Who was Hushai?

LESSON TEXT: II Samuel 15:16-37.

(Answers: 1. To keep from being killed by King Saul. 2. Absalom. 3. Priests. 4. At the city gate. 5. Carry it back into the city. 6. They cried and covered their heads. 7. To turn it into foolishness. 8. He worshiped God. 9. A wise man.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 19 Aug. 7, 1994

---

## A WISE MAN'S ADVICE

When Absalom and his followers came back to Jerusalem the streets of Jerusalem were almost deserted. Most of the people had escaped with David.

Absalom was surprised to see that Hushai had not gone. He knew David and Hushai were close friends. "Is this the way you show kindness to your friend?" Absalom asked.

"Whom the Lord, and His people choose, his will I be," Hushai answered. Absalom knew Hushai was a very wise man. He was glad he had stayed.

Ahithophel returned with Absalom and was ready to advise him how to defeat David. He told Absalom, "Let me choose out twelve thousand men and find David this very night. I will come upon him while he is tired and weak. I will kill only David and bring back all the people. They will gladly serve you once David is dead."

Absalom listened to Ahithophel. He and all the elders were well pleased with his plan but Absalom wanted to be very sure. "Call now for Hushai," Absalom commanded. "Let us hear what he will advise."

When Hushai came in, Absalom told him Ahithophel's plan. "Shall we do as he has said?" he asked. Hushai answered, "The counsel that Ahithophel has given is not good at this time. You know your father is a mighty man and those with him are valiant men. I counsel that you gather a great army together and then go out to battle in person."

Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The counsel of Hushai is better than the counsel of Ahithophel."

So God used the counsel of Hushai to make the counsel of Ahithophel foolishness, just as David had prayed. By taking Hushai's advice Absalom gave David time to escape.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...the Lord had appointed to defeat  
counsel of Ahithophel... II Samuel**



e good  
:14b.



## An Agreement

John stood against the wall of the apartment building his family lived in. He held a rolled-up dollar in his dirty hand which nervously fingered the bill. His eyes were watching for a gang of boys called the "Elites".

Presently, he saw them coming down the street on the other side. John ducked into the entrance of the apartment building and hid in the shadows. He would wait until the Elites had passed before he would make his run to the store for bread.

As soon as the gang of boys were the next block down going away from him, John took off down the sidewalk to a store five blocks away. He would have to hurry in order to get back before the Elites made their way down his side of the street.

The little grocery store had heavy bars over its windows and door. A loud buzzer sounded when John opened the door and from every corner of the room a camera pointed its one glass eye at him. Though the store's appearance looked harsh, the owner, Mr. Swan, and his wife were very friendly.

Several customers were in the store and John had to wait in line with his small purchase of bread.

"Is this all for you today, John-my-boy?" said Mr. Swan cheerfully. In spite of himself, John smiled as he nodded yes.

"That will be sixty-four cents," said Mr. Swan. Then he leaned over the counter to speak with John. "You haven't joined any gangs, have you?" To this, John shook his head no.

"Good boy! You stay clear of street gangs and this summer I'll send you to a Christian camp for the week. In fact, I'll call in reservations for you this very day. Is it a deal?"

John shook his head yes. "Thank you," he quietly replied with a smile. Then he slipped out the door and hurried down the street again.

Suddenly, a rock hit John by his ear. A fear gripped his heart. He knew

without glancing backward that the Elites were somewhere behind him.

"Hey, punk, what ya got?" called out the leader.

John didn't answer nor did he run but he quickened his step. "So you ain't talkin'?" retorted the voice and other sneers joined in. John knew they were about to grab him so he ducked quickly into an apartment entrance and raced up the stairs to his uncle's place. "Please, Lord, let him be home," he prayed.

John's uncle opened the door and welcomed him inside. They watched from the window until the Elites were out of sight. Then John left and hurried the rest of the way home. He told his mother about Mr. Swan's offer to send him to church camp. "That is wonderful!" she said. "I hope you are wise and strong enough to never join a street gang."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

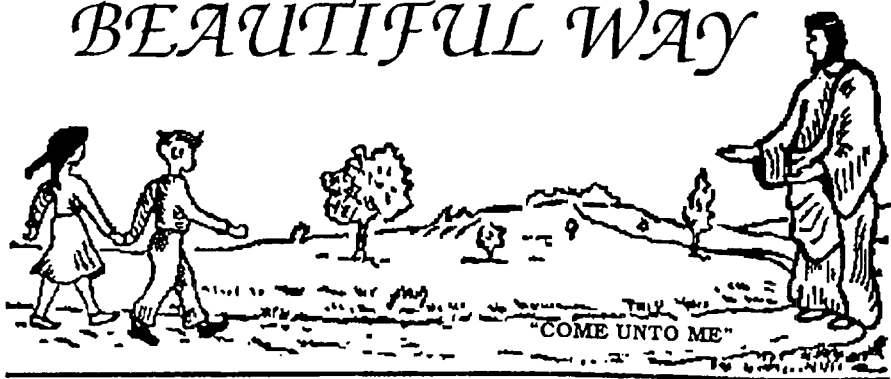
### QUESTIONS:

1. Why were the streets of Jerusalem almost empty?
2. Why was Absalom surprised to see Hushai?
3. How many men did Ahithophel want to choose?
4. What did he want to do that very night?
5. Who did he plan to kill?
6. Who said Ahithophel's counsel was not good?
7. Who advised Absalom to gather a great army together?
8. Whose counsel did Absalom like best?
9. Who had asked God to make the counsel of Ahithophel foolishness?

LESSON TEXT: II Samuel 16:15-23; 17.

(Answers: 1. Most of the people had escaped with David. 2. He knew Hushai and David were close friends. 3. Twelve thousand. 4. Find David. 5. David. 6. Hushai. 7. Hushai. 8. Hushai's. 9. David.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 45, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 20 Aug. 14, 1994

## HUSAI WARNS DAVID

As soon as Absalom dismissed him, Husai hurried to find the priests, Zadok and Abiathar. Making sure no one else could hear, he told them how Ahithophel had advised Absalom to find David and kill him that very night. He urged them, "Send quickly and tell David, 'Do not stay in the desert tonight. You must escape at once or you will be killed!'"

Jonathan and Ahimaaz, the priests sons, had not come back into the city so the priests sent a messenger to their hiding place. The messenger was very careful as he secretly gave them the message for David. But a boy saw them and went to tell Absalom. Jonathan and Ahimaaz knew their lives were in danger now so they ran as fast as they could. When they came to a house that had a well in the yard, they climbed down into the well. The woman who lived there covered the top of the well and then spread ground corn over it to hide it.

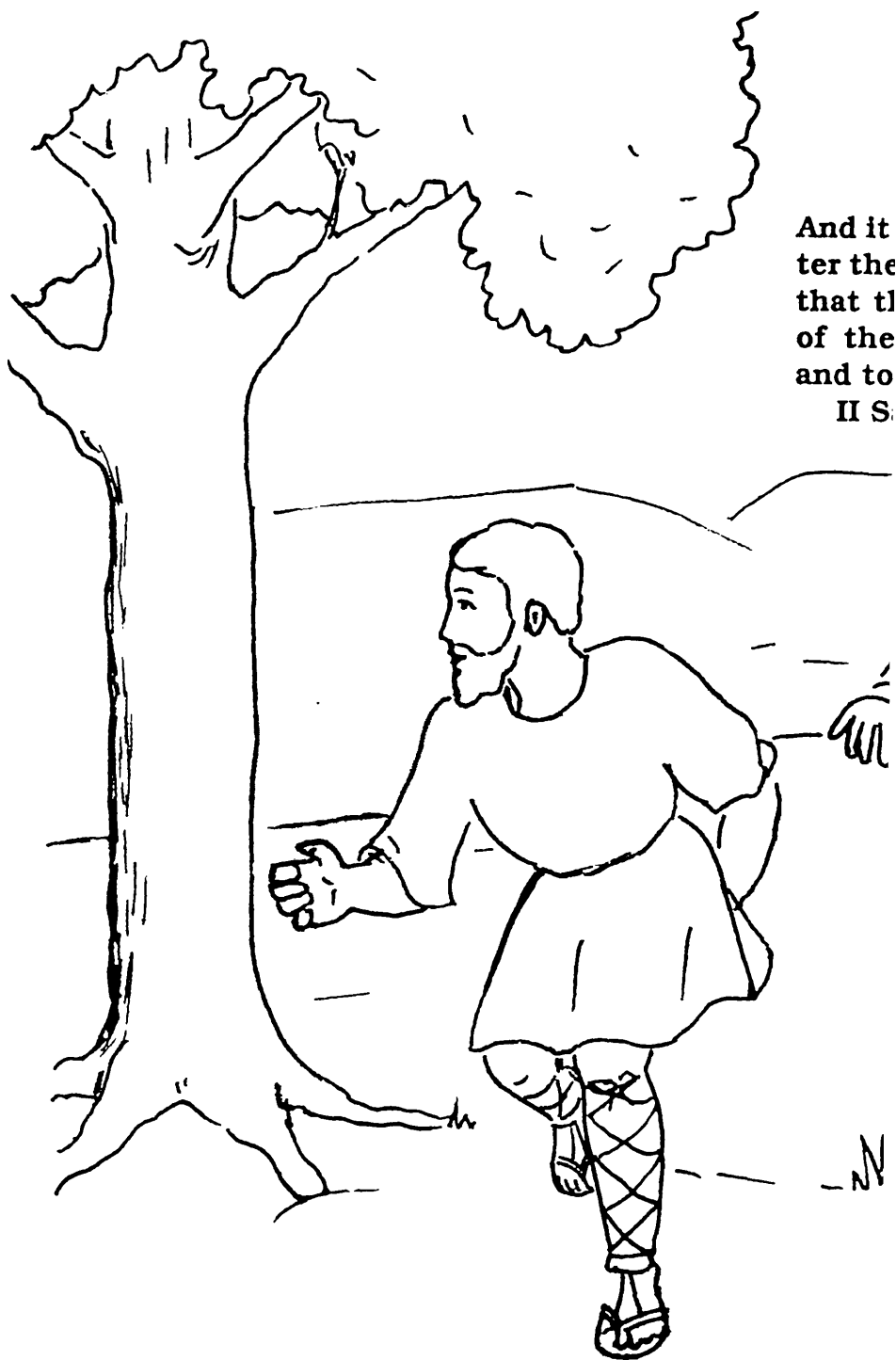
Absalom's men soon came looking for Jonathan and Ahimaaz. They did not suspect that they were hidden in the well. After questioning the woman they decided they could not find them and went back to Jerusalem.

When the enemy was gone, Jonathan and Ahimaaz climbed out of the well and ran to find David. When they told David of his great danger, David and the people walked all night until they had all crossed over the Jordan River.

Ahithophel knew Absalom's only hope of destroying David was to capture him that very night. When Absalom chose instead to take Hushai's advice Ahithophel could see that God's hand was still with David. He left Jerusalem and went back to his own home.

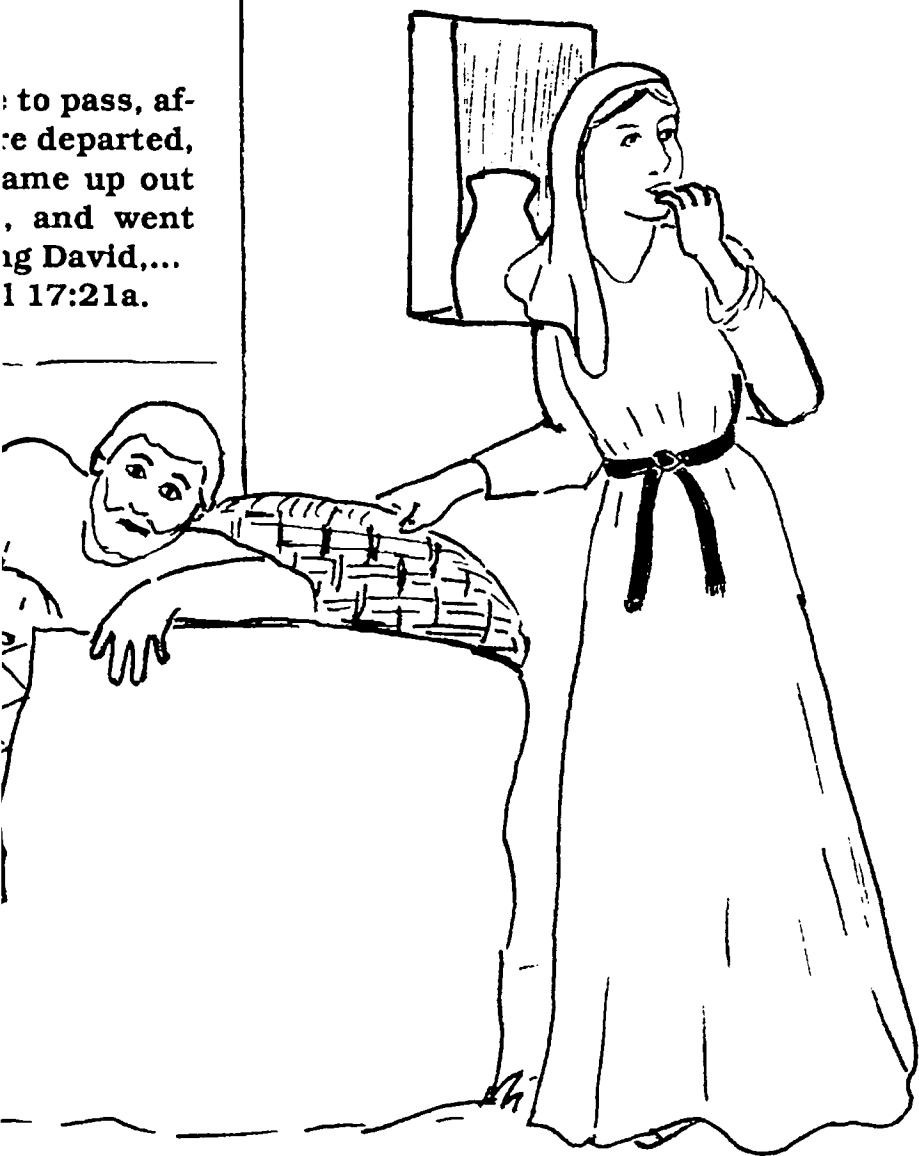
David's friends brought food and beds to him and the people. They felt sorry for the king and those who had to leave their homes.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



And it  
ter the  
that tl  
of the  
and to  
II S.

to pass, af-  
re departed,  
ame up out  
, and went  
ing David,...  
1 17:21a.



## A Messenger Of Love

(A true story)

Ramon Perales, his mother, brother, and two sisters lived in a small house in the big city of New York City. He hadn't seen his father for over three years. In fact, his mother wasn't sure if his father was alive or not.

Ramon's mother worked very hard at a factory. This meant her children were at home many hours without her. The children went to school if they felt like it, because no one seemed to care if they were at school or not.

Then one terrible day in 1985, the Perales' house burned down. They had no money to rebuild it so they had to leave and find another place to stay. For several weeks they slept in shelters for poor street people. Finally, their mother had enough money to rent a room in an apartment building where several other families lived.

It wasn't a very clean place to live but Ramon and his family were glad to have a space of their own again. Soon, however, the children realized that their new neighbors were very evil. Ramon learned that he was big enough to protect his younger sisters and brother from harm, but inwardly he was scared and sick of the wickedness all about his family.

One day on a street corner, Ramon met a man who looked kind and thoughtful—much different from the hard, sad faces he saw at the apartment. This kind man spoke to Ramon, invited him to a meeting, and gave Ramon a card to let his mother read. From then on, Ramon hoped he could attend this meeting and maybe, he hoped, he could learn why this man was so different than others.

Next day, a big bus came down the street Ramon lived by and Ramon knew it was coming for him and his family. Quickly, he hurried the other three children up the bus steps where they were greeted by that same kind man. He took them to a meeting where there were hundreds of children and other

kind adults. Ramon, his sisters, and brother were quiet and starry-eyed at the peacefulness they witnessed.

Yes, Ramon learned the secret of their kindness. These men and women loved Jesus Christ and His love made them love others. Ramon was hungry to learn all about this new life of love. He told his mother all about the meeting and she was glad her children could attend this loving Bible school.

Every time the bus came down Ramon's street, he had the younger children with him waiting to ride to Bible school. One day he explained to one of the missionary workers that their apartment neighbors had threatened to harm them. The worker visited with Ramon's mother and helped them find a little better place to live.

Ramon loves Jesus and has learned to live for Him. Today, he stands on street corners and passes out invitations to little scared children. Then he picks them up in a bus and takes them to Bible school.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who hurried to find Zadok and Abiathar?
2. Who did Ahithophel encourage Absalom to find that very night?
3. What did Hushai want the priests to do?
4. Who were Jonathan and Ahimaaz?
5. What did the boy who saw them do?
6. Where did Jonathan and Ahimaaz hide?
7. How did the woman help hide them?
8. What river did David and the people cross over?
9. Ahithophel could see God's hand was still with whom?

LESSON TEXT: II Samuel 17:15-29.

(Answers: 1. Hushai. 2. David. 3. Warn David. 4. Sons of the priests. 5. Told Absalom. 6. In a well. 7. She covered the well. 8. Jordan river. 9. David.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 45, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 21 Aug. 21, 1994

## ABSALOM LOSES THE BATTLE

Absalom chose a captain for his army and marched over the river Jordan to fight against David.

David was now safe inside a city because of Husai's warning. When he heard Absalom had come to fight David counted the people who were with him and then set captains over them. After dividing the people into three groups, he was set to fight Absalom's army. David offered to go fight but the people would not let him. "You are worth ten thousand of us," they told David. "It is better that you support us out of the city."

"I will do what seems best to you," David said. So he stood by the gate as the soldiers marched out to battle. As the captains of the army went out David begged them, "Deal gently with Absalom for my sake." All the people heard David's words and knew he still loved Absalom.

The Lord's hand was against Absalom. David's army quickly overcame Absalom's army and scattered his men. Many of Absalom's soldiers ran into the thick woods. Absalom tried to escape on a mule. As he rode under the limbs of a huge oak tree his head caught in its branches. His mule ran away and Absalom was left hanging by his head.

One of David's soldiers saw Absalom hanging from the tree and went and told Joab, the captain of the army. "Why didn't you kill him?" Joab asked the soldier. "I would have given you money."

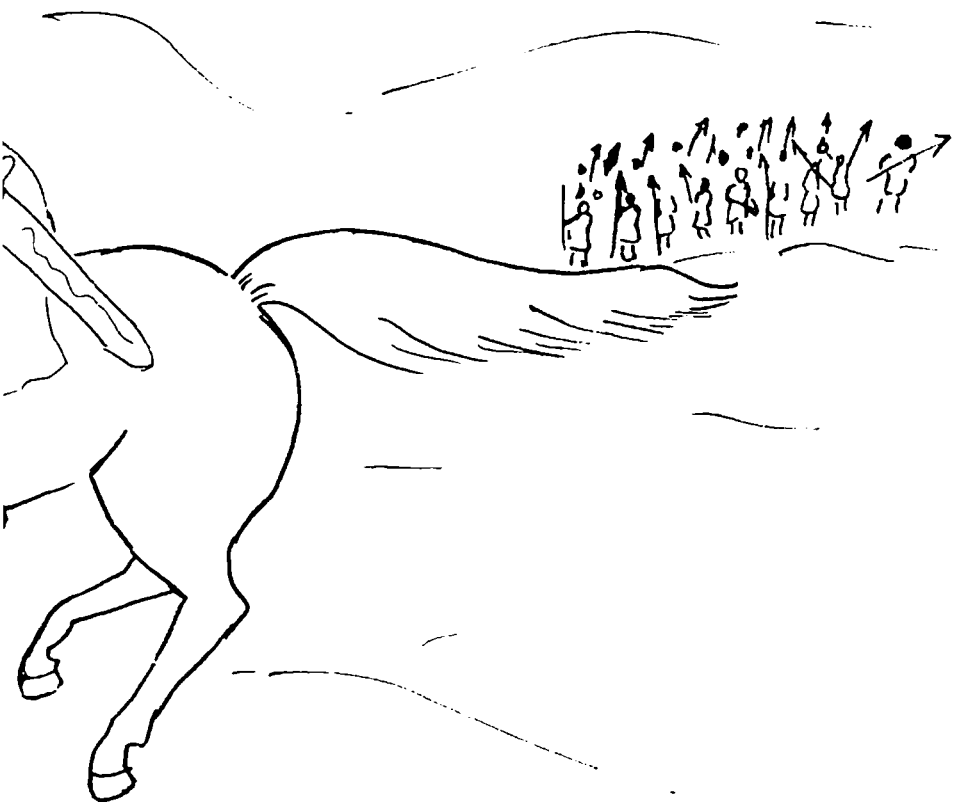
"Even if you would give me much money I would not kill the king's son," the soldier answered. "I heard the king charge you not to touch Absalom."

"I don't have time to stand here and talk to you," Joab told the soldier before hurrying away to find Absalom. Joab killed Absalom with three darts, then he blew a trumpet. The battle was over.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**nd Joab blew the trumpet, and the  
eople returned from pursuing after  
Israel:... II Samuel 18:16a.**



## The Lady With The Big, Black Purse

It was a pleasant summer morning and Mother wanted to do the grocery shopping before the mid-day heat waves came rolling in.

"Zeke and Allison, hurry and put on your shoes," she said. "I have a long list of groceries to buy. Let's hurry so we can be back home for lunch."

The two children quickly obeyed Mother for they liked to help her shop for good food. Soon they were at the grocery store. Allison was riding in the seat of the cart and Zeke was on the bottom.

They were at the meat counter, happily chatting together, when a lady with a big black purse came up beside them.

"My, you sure are happy children today," she commented with a smile.

"Hello!" said Zeke. "What's your name?"

The lady chuckled. "Oh, you can call me Nellie," she said. Nellie was tall, slim, and pretty. She was also friendly, so Zeke asked her another question.

"Do you have any children?"

"Yes, dear, I have four hyper kids. They get hungry just like you do."

"What's in your big black purse?" asked Allison.

The lady looked startled at such a question. "Allison," said Mother, "you don't ask such questions. Pardon my daughter's curiosity."

"Oh, I understand," said the lady with a smile. "I have curious children also." Then she quickly left the meat counter.

"Mother," said Allison, "Why don't you put your meat in a big, black purse? That's what that lady did."

"Are you sure?" asked Mother.

"Yes, Mother, I saw it too," said Zeke. "She just put one of these round

pieces of meat right inside her big purse. She did it quickly and slyly. Do you think she will pay for it?"

Mother was quiet for a moment, then she said, "Children, let's pray for her. The Lord saw it also and he can help her in whatever problem she is in."

A while later Mother was pushing their loaded cart to the check-out counter when two police officers came into the store. Zeke and Allison watched as the officers went to the manager's desk. The lady who had held the big black purse was given to the officers. They snapped handcuffs on her and read something to her from a card.

Allison began to cry. She felt so sorry for that lady. "Honey, let's pray for her," comforted Mother.

"That's what happens when you steal," said Zeke. "You can't do wrong and get by. Someday you will get caught."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who marched over the river Jordan to fight David?
2. Where was David?
3. Who had warned David?
4. Who did not want David to go out to fight?
5. What did David beg the captains of the army?
6. Whose hand was against Absalom?
7. Where did Absalom's soldiers run?
8. What happened to Absalom as he rode under a tree?
9. What did Absalom's mule do?

LESSON TEXT: II Samuel 18:1-16.

(Answers: 1. Absalom. 2. Safe inside a city. 3. Hushai. 4. The people. 5. "Deal gently with Absalom." 6. The Lord's. 7. Into the woods. 8. His hair caught in the branches. 9. It ran away.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 45, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 22 Aug. 28, 1994

## DAVID'S GRIEF

David waited eagerly for news from the battle. He sat by the city gate so he would be the first to know if anyone came. A watchman sat on a roof looking toward the battleground. Suddenly the watchman cried out and told the king he saw a man running alone. "If he is running alone he is bringing news," David said.

When the messenger got to David he said, "I have news, my lord the king. The Lord has avenged you today of all those who rose up against you."

"Is the young man Absalom safe?" David asked anxiously.

"May all the king's enemies be as that young man is," the messenger answered.

David knew Absalom was dead. His grief was so great he could think of nothing else. He left the city gate and went to his room. As he went he moaned, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! I wish I had died for you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

So the great victory that day was turned into mourning. When the people heard how grieved David was for Absalom, they came back into the city quietly as if they were ashamed.

When Joab heard how David mourned for Absalom he went to the king's house. "You have shamed your servants today who have saved your life and the lives of your sons, daughters and wives," Joab told David. "You act as though you would have been pleased if your whole army had been killed and Absalom had lived. Now get up and go out and speak to your servants before they all desert you."

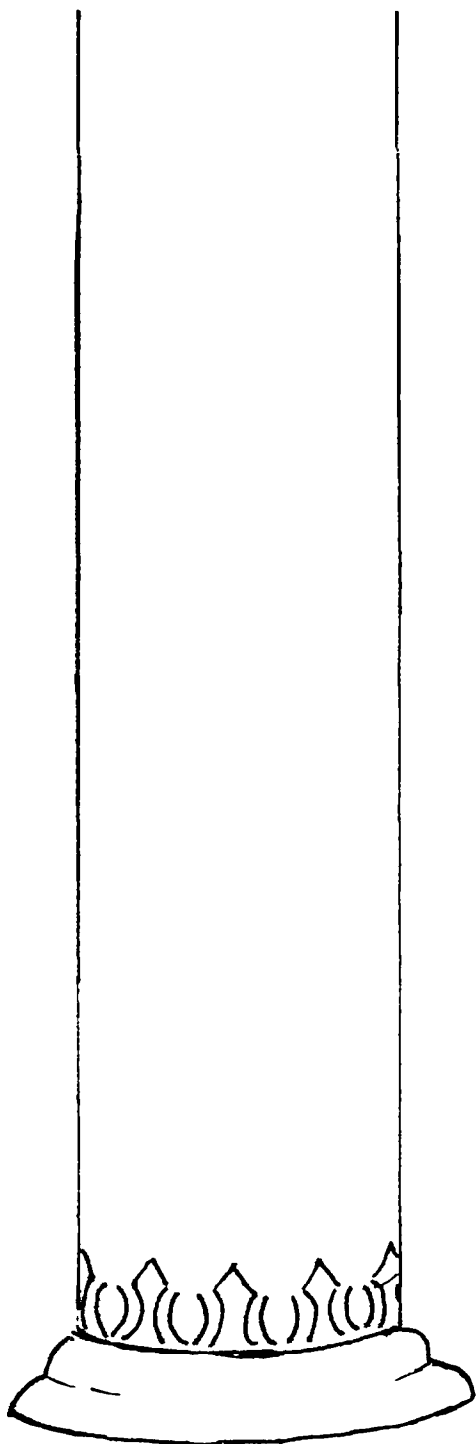
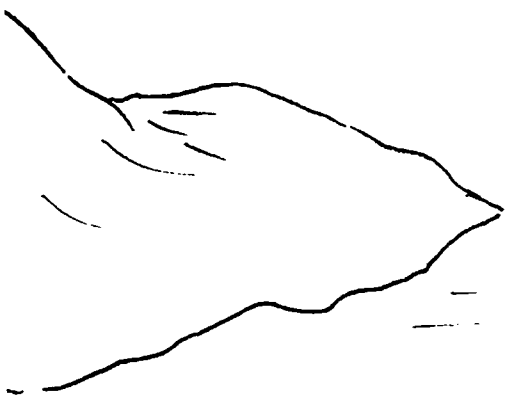
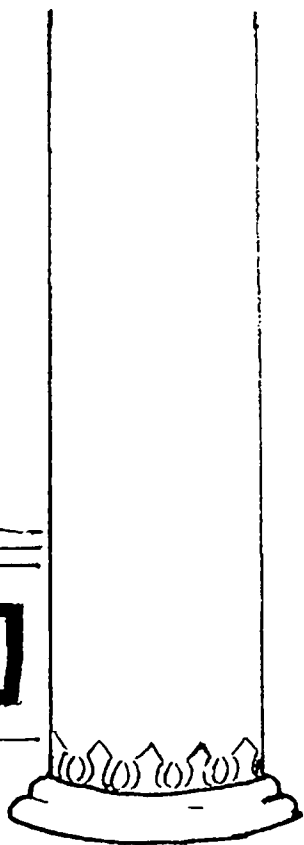
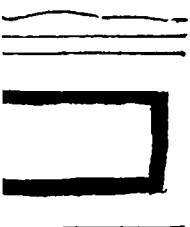
David knew Joab was right. He dried his tears and went back out to the city gates to speak with his brave soldiers. Not long afterward David and the people who followed him went back to their homes in Jerusalem. David was very kind to those who helped him in his trouble.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And it was told Joab, Be  
the king weepeth and mo  
for Absalom. II Samuel**



1,  
eth  
..



## A Disease Of Silence

(A true story)

Marie sat silently on the floor. Her stuffed dog was in front of her but she did not seem to see it.

"Marie, Daddy is home. Can you say 'Hi' to your daddy?" asked her mother.

Marie never answered. Her large, liquid brown eyes never looked at Mother nor did she turn her head in response. Her parents sighed and held one another in sorrow. Since her first birthday, Marie had slowly slipped into a despondent state where she did not talk or look at things intelligently. She never smiled or laughed. Marie had a rare disease called autism. Part of her brain stopped working and she did not understand life about her.

"Come, darling," said her mother, "Let's go and eat. Are you hungry?" No answer. "Tomorrow we will go and see another doctor. Maybe he will be able to help us, darling." No response. At the table, Marie had to be fed and she would not eat very much.

The next day at the doctor's office, Marie cried and hit her face until her mother had to hold her hands tightly. Marie was afraid of any change from her rooms at her house. She always cried when taken from the house.

"Mrs. Maurice," said the doctor after the examination, "We have diagnosed your daughter's illness, but we are sorry to say that there is no known cure. We will help her with therapy, but she will always live an empty life."

That night after Marie, her older brother, younger brother, and daddy were all asleep, her mother turned to the Lord for help. Sitting in the candlelight by her dressing table, Marie's mother prayed: "Lord, we need your help so badly. Fill me with your strength, your peace... Thy will be done."

After saying this prayer, Marie's mother knew God was going to take care of her daughter. She was willing to trust the Lord instead of medications.

The next day, news came that someone had a special learning system for the autistic children. Marie's parents wanted to try it so they hired two young women to work with Marie. One woman was to teach Marie to talk again and the other was to teach Marie discipline and to look at things.

Later, Marie's mother prayed: "Lord, seven doctors say that Marie will never be normal again. I believe You will make my daughter feel and think again. Thank you for caring. Amen."

Eight months later, Marie, her father, and mother went back to visit the first doctor who had declared Marie would never think again. In the waiting room, Marie did not cry and when the doctor spoke to her, she said, "Hi," and looked at him with her big brown eyes. All the doctors were amazed.

"This disease has never been cured before!" they said.

"It was God who healed our daughter," said Marie's mother as she kissed her smiling child.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who waited for news from the battle?
2. Where did David sit?
3. Who saw a man running alone?
4. What did David ask the messenger?
5. What did David do when he knew Absalom was dead?
6. Why did the people come back as if they were ashamed?
7. Who went to the king's house?
8. What did he tell David to do?
9. Who was David kind to?

LESSON TEXT: II Samuel 18:19-33; 19:1-8.

(Answers: 1. David. 2. By the city gate. 3. The watchman. 4. "Is Absalom safe?" 5. Went to his room moaning. 6. They heard how the king grieved. 7. Joab. 8. To get up and speak to his servants. 9. Those who had helped him.)

THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 23 Sept. 4, 1994

---

## DAVID NUMBERS THE PEOPLE

God had made David a powerful king because he trusted in Him and was obedient. David and his army won many battles because God fought for them. David had many mighty warriors but God wanted him to always trust Him instead of his own strength when he went to battle.

One day David said to Joab, the captain of his army, "Go through all the tribes of Israel and number the people so I will know how many there are."

"Why do you want to do this?" Joab protested. But David would have it no other way, so Joab and the other captains went out to count the people.

After nine months and twenty days, Joab came back and told David that in Israel there were eight hundred thousand valiant men and in Judah there were five hundred thousand more.

As soon as David heard the report he realized how wrong he had been. "I have sinned greatly in numbering Israel!" David lamented. He realized he had done a very foolish thing.

The next morning the Lord sent the prophet, Gad, to speak to David. Gad told David that God would give him three choices: seven years of famine, three months that he would be chased by his enemies or three days of great sickness throughout the whole land.

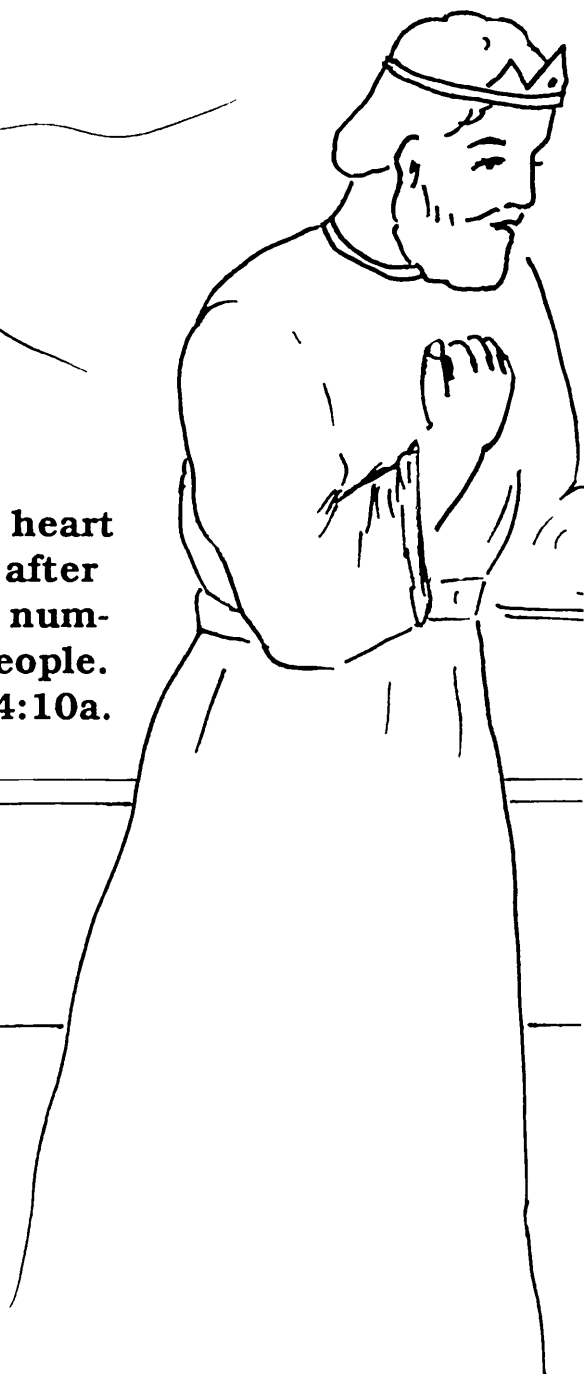
"I choose to fall into the hand of the Lord because He is merciful," David said. So the Lord sent great sickness on Israel. Thousands of men died because of David's sin.

When David begged the Lord to spare the innocent people, He sent Gad to tell him what to do. "Go up, build an altar to the Lord in the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite," he instructed.

So David bought the threshing floor from Araunah. There he built an altar and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord. So the Lord was entreated for the land and the sickness stopped.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And David's heart  
smote him after  
that he had num-  
bered the people.  
II Samuel 24:10a.**





## Confident Of Strength

Tom, Randy, and Mike were at the local park swinging on the crossbars. By their hands only, the boys would 'walk' across the high bars from one ladder end to the other. First Tom did it, then Randy, then Mike.

"These hand bars are so easy to go across that I could do them faster if I skip every other bar," said Tom.

"Aw, your arms wouldn't reach that far," said Randy.

"I'll show you!" exclaimed Tom as he swung out on the bars. He made wide swings and wide reaches, skipping every other crossbar until he reached the other end.

"I can do that!" said Mike as he began across just as Tom had done. At the other end together, both boys called to Randy, "Come on, Randy, try it! You can do it!"

So Randy did as the other two had done and crossed the handbars. "Do either of you have a hankie in your pocket?" asked Tom. "I could go across the bars blindfolded."

"Aw, Tom, are you sure?" asked Randy. "You have to see where the bars are to cross."

"Here, Tom," said Mike, "I have a hankie that's pretty clean." He shook out a big red one. "I'll tie it on and you can try it."

"I can do it—no sweat!" declared Tom as the hankie was tied over his eyes. Quickly, he reached up for a bar and made his way across to the other end.

"Let me have that hankie and I'll do it blindfolded," said Mike. He made it across blindfolded and again the two were calling for Randy to try it. Randy made it across blindfolded.

Now the boys felt very self-confident. They did flips, chin-ups, and even somersaults. "These bars are too easy and boring," said Tom. His eyes looked up at the swing set pole nearly two stories high. "I'm going to climb up a pole and set on top of the swing set."

"Aw, Tom," began Randy as his friend raced toward the tall swing set. "That is too high up! You aren't allowed to do that!"

Tom wasn't listening. He was already halfway up a pole and Mike wasn't too far behind. "Come on up, Randy," Tom called. "The view is grand!"

"No, I think I will stay down here and pick up your pieces when you two humpty dumpties fall," said Randy.

"Very funny!" said Tom. "We aren't going to fall." But Tom had forgotten that the swing set had only one top bar and he lost his balance reaching out for a bar that wasn't there.

Down, down Tom fell landing on his back. Randy ran to him and Mike slid down a pole. Tom was knocked out for a moment but soon he was able to move, then sit up.

"I think God had mercy on you, Tom," said Randy.

"Yes," said Tom, slowly standing. "Help me home."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why did God make David a powerful king?
2. Who fought the battles for David and his army?
3. Who was Joab?
4. What did David ask Joab to do?
5. How many months did it take to count the people?
6. Who realized he had done a very foolish thing?
7. Who sent Gad to David?
8. How many choices did David have?
9. What was David to build on the threshing floor?

LESSON TEXT: II Samuel 24.

(Answers: 1. Because he trusted God and was obedient. 2. God. 3. The captain of the army. 4. Go and number the people. 5. Nine. 6. David. 7. God. 8. Three. 9. An altar.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 24 Sept. 11, 1994

---

## DAVID CHOOSES THE NEXT KING

David was now an old man. He could no longer go out among the people. His servants did all they could to make David comfortable.

David had a son named Adonijah who decided to make himself king. He went to Joab, captain of the army, and Abiathar, the priest, to get their help. But Zadok, the priest, Nathan, the prophet, and others of David's men would not help him. Next Adonijah called a feast and invited all the king's other sons except Solomon.

Nathan knew that God had appointed Solomon to be the next king. He went to Solomon's mother, Bathsheba. "Have you heard that Adonijah has made himself king and David knows nothing about it?" Nathan asked her. "Let me tell you what to do so you can save your own life and the life of Solomon." Then Nathan told Bathsheba to go to the king and told her what to say.

So Bathsheba went to David. When the king asked her what she wanted she said, "My lord, you swore by the Lord your God unto me, saying, 'Surely Solomon your son will reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne.' Now Adonijah has made himself king without you knowing it. The eyes of Israel are upon you, that you should tell them who shall sit on your throne after you."

While Bathsheba was still talking, Nathan came in. He also told David that Adonijah had made himself king. So that very day David made Solomon king over Israel.

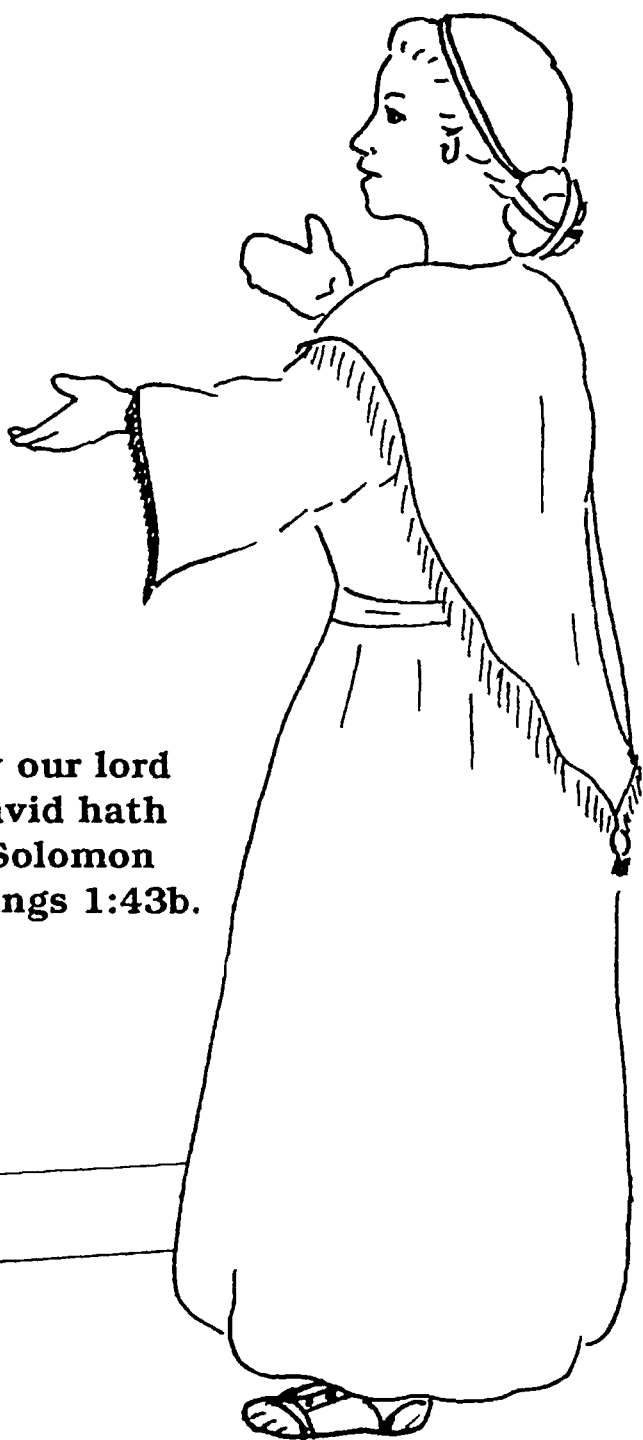
Soon word reached Adonijah and his followers that Solomon was sitting on the throne of the kingdom because David had made him king. Everyone feared for his life when they heard this. Quietly they left Adonijah and went to their homes.

Adonijah knew he could be put to death. He caught hold of the horns of the altar, begging for mercy. When Solomon sent for him he bowed before him and Solomon forgave him and set him free.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...Verily our lord  
king David hath  
made Solomon  
king. I Kings 1:43b.**



## Dad's Helping Hand

It was a warm summer morning—just right for fishing, which is what Ricky and his father were going to do this Saturday morning.

They were merrily chugging down the highway in the old red and white Chevy pickup. Dad was singing a song. Ricky was looking at the cattle resting under shade trees and the wheat fields drying in the sun.

Suddenly, Dad's singing stopped. "Well, I wonder whose car this is broken down by the side of the road?" he said. "The hood is up. Is the car deserted or is someone in it?"

"I think there is someone in the car," said Ricky as they came closer. "It looks like a lady."

"Look really good to make sure," said Dad as their pickup sped past the broken down car.

"I only saw a lady in the car," said Ricky, turning in his seat to look again.

"Lord, should we stop and help her?" prayed Dad aloud. A minute of silence passed then Dad began to slow the pickup down. Ricky knew they were going to check on that lady.

As the pickup drove up to the car, they could see that the lady was worried and anxious. All her windows were rolled up tightly and the doors were locked.

Dad got out of the pickup and slowly walked to her car. He smiled, cupped his hands to his mouth, and asked her if she needed any help. The lady looked closely at Dad, then she smiled also.

"Yes, I need help," she said as she rolled down her window. "My car began to get overheated and suddenly the motor quit. I barely got it off the highway. I have been here thirty minutes now, praying that the right person would come along and help me."

"My son and I will see what we can do for you," said Dad pleasantly. Soon he discovered what the problem was.

"I think your water pump went out," said Dad. "Where were you going? Maybe I could take you there."

Dad took the lady to her brother's house two miles down the road. As she got out of the pickup, she thanked Dad over and over for helping her.

As they went on, headed again toward the lake, Dad said, "We will be a little late, but I guess the fish won't mind. It was worth the time we spent to help that lady."

"Yes," said Ricky. "It was good to help her. I'm glad I have a good dad who cares about others and will help them."

"Thank you, son," said Dad.

"When I grow up," said Ricky, "I want to be just like that."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was an old man?
2. Who decided to make himself king?
3. Why did Adonijah go to Joab and Abiathar?
4. Which one of David's sons was not invited?
5. Who had God appointed to be the next king?
6. Who was Bathsheba?
7. Who was made king that very day?
8. Who caught hold of the horns of the altar?
9. What did Solomon do when Adonijah bowed before him?

LESSON TEXT: 1 Kings 1.

(Answers: 1. David. 2. Adonijah. 3. To get their help. 4. Solomon. 5. Solomon. 6. Solomon's mother. 7. Solomon. 8. Adonijah. 9. He forgave him.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 25 Sept. 18, 1994

---

## GOD'S GIFT TO SOLOMON

David knew that the day would soon come when he would die. Before his death he called for Solomon. David had many things to tell his son. Above all he instructed Solomon to always be strong and keep God's commandments. David reminded him of God's promise to bless his children if they would always walk before Him in truth.

David had been king for forty years. When he died he was buried in the city of David.

Solomon knew David had been a great king because he loved the Lord and had obeyed Him. He, too, loved the Lord. He carefully kept God's commandments. God saw this and made Solomon a great king.

One day Solomon went to Gibeon to make a sacrifice to the Lord. He was so thankful he offered one thousand burnt offerings to the Lord. That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream. "I will give you anything you ask for," the Lord promised.

"You have shown me great mercy," Solomon said humbly. "Now, O Lord my God, I am as a little child. Give me an understanding heart to judge your people, that I may know the good from the bad."

The Lord was very pleased that Solomon had asked this. "Because you did not ask for long life or great riches but asked for understanding, I will give you a wise and an understanding heart so that there was never a king like you before neither after you shall there be another like you."

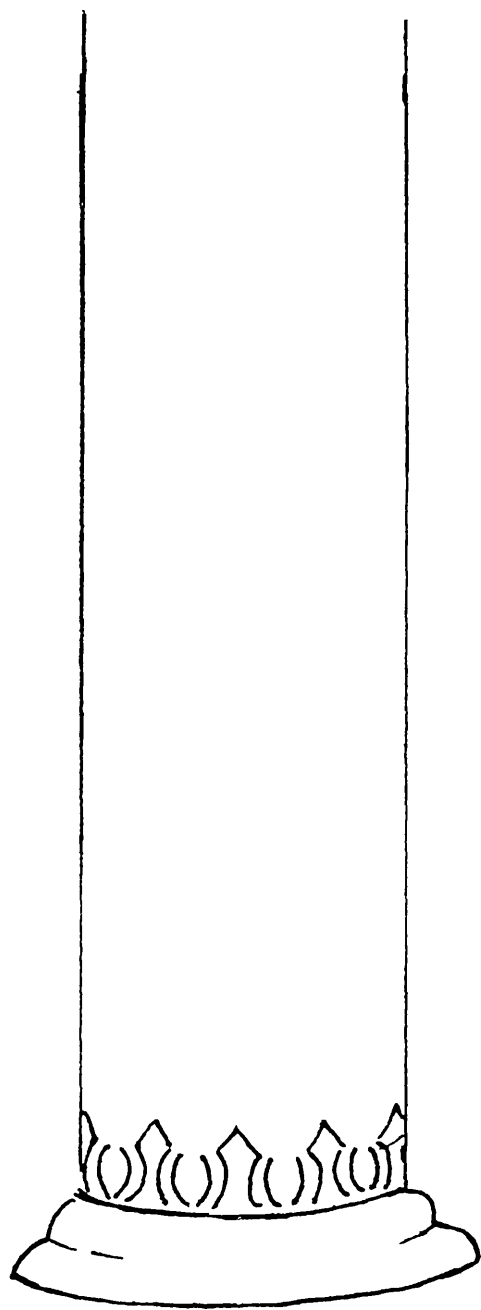
"And I have also given you that which you haven't asked for," God continued. "I will give you both riches and honor so that there shall not be any other king like you all your days. And, if you will walk in my ways and keep my commandments, I will give you a long life."

Solomon woke up. He knew he had been dreaming but he believed it was God speaking to him through the dream.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Give therefore thy  
servant an under-  
standing heart to  
judge thy people,...  
I Kings 3:9a.





## Appreciating Brothers

"Mother," began Don as he came into the kitchen where mother was preparing supper. "Why do I have to have three little brothers? They are such pests!"

"Dan! what a terrible statement to make!" exclaimed Mother. "You should be glad God blessed you with brothers to play with."

"Oh, they get into my things more than they play with me," sighed Don. "I wish I was an only child like Matthew."

"No, that is a very bad attitude," scolded Mother. "We need to pray and ask Jesus to take these bad thoughts out of your mind. 'Lord, please help Don to appreciate his little brothers who are following him. Put a deep love in his heart for them. Amen.'"

Don still wasn't in a very good mood, but he soon went outside to play. Mother was just ready to call her children in to eat when her second son, Ricky, came running to her.

"Mother, come quick!" he called. "Don is badly hurt!"

Mother hurried after Ricky to where Don lay under a tree, his one leg strangely bent.

"I think I broke my leg," he said. His face was white with pain. Mother and the younger boys tried to ease his pain while Ricky ran to call Dad from work.

When Dad came home, he decided that Don should have the leg x-rayed. Later, they learned that Don had broken his thigh bone when he fell from the tree. Don left the hospital with a big, white cast on his leg and orders to stay off of it.

Don was never so unhappy in all his life. He could not walk with that big cast and his leg hurt when he moved around. The younger boys felt

sorry for their brother. Anytime he asked a brother to bring him something, that one would leave his play to do what Don wanted.

For nine weeks Don was in a cast, not able to walk, but his brothers ran errands for him all that time. One day Mother sat down on Don's bed just as Ricky was patiently bringing Don a glass of cold water.

"Well, Don, you certainly have had good care since that accident," she said. "Do you remember what you had said about your brothers that morning?"

Don grinned, though somewhat ashamed. "Yes, now I've decided it isn't too bad to have little brothers," he replied. "I've asked Jesus to help me be a better big brother so I will be a good example for them to follow."

"That's great!" said Mother. "Always keep a love in your heart for the other children and remember that what you do affects them also. Don't lose the wisdom you have learned from this lesson."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who knew he would soon die?
2. Who did David call for?
3. Whose commandments did he tell him to keep?
4. How long had David been king?
5. Whom did Solomon love?
6. How many burnt offerings did Solomon offer?
7. What did God promise in a dream?
8. What did Solomon ask for?
9. What else did God give Solomon?

LESSON TEXT: 1 Kings 2:1-4; 3:1-15.

(Answers: 1. David. 2. Solomon. 3. God's. 4. Forty years. 5. God. 6. One thousand. 7. To give Solomon anything he asked for. 8. An understanding heart. 9. He gave him riches, honor and a long life.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 26 Sept. 25, 1994

---

## SOLOMON JUDGES WISELY

Solomon left Gibeon where God had appeared to him in a dream. When he got back to Jerusalem he went into the tabernacle and stood before the ark of the Lord. There he offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings and made a feast for all his servants.

Before long two women came to the king. One woman told the king, "O my lord, I and this woman live in the same house. We both have small babies.

"My baby was only three days old when this woman's baby died in the night. No one else was in the house with us. Then this woman got up and took my son from beside me and, while I slept, she put her dead child beside me.

"When I got up the next morning to feed my baby, it was dead! But when I looked the baby over, it was not my son."

The other woman then said, "No, the living baby is my son and the dead is your son."

Solomon listened as the women argued back and forth that the living son was her own. Solomon interrupted the dispute, saying, "One of you says, 'This is my son that is alive, and the other says, 'No, your son is dead, and my son is living.'" Turning to his servants Solomon ordered, "Bring me a sword."

When they brought the sword, the king said, "Divide the living child in two. Give half to the one, and half to the other."

One woman cried out in horror, "O my lord, give her the living child, and do not kill it!" but the other said cruelly, "Let it be neither mine nor thine. Divide it!"

Pointing to the woman who wanted to save the baby's life, the king said, "Give her the baby. She is its mother!"

All the people of Israel heard of the judgment that the king had made. They saw that the wisdom of God was in him.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...They saw that the wisdom of  
God was in him, to do judgment.  
I Kings 3:28b.





## A Rosey Responsibility

(A true story)

Dan listened by the window as Dr. O'Connell visited with his mother on the front porch. He was not for sure what they were talking about, but he felt it might be a complaint about the frisbee he had thrown that hit Dr. O'Connell's car.

When Mother came inside, Dan was upstairs hiding in his room. "Danny," she called. "Dr. O'Connell just offered you a wonderful job—he wants you to water his roses for three weeks while he is in Europe."

"But I have baseball practice every day!" wailed Dan. He did not want to work in the hot summer time.

"It will only take an hour a day," said Mother, "And he will pay you seventy-five cents a day. Now, you must do a good job. Dr. O'Connell's roses are very famous."

Dan wanted the money though he did not want to work. At noon, he went to Dr. O'Connell's house to learn how to care for the roses.

The rose garden was a beautiful place! Red, orange, white, pink, and yellow roses were in fragrant bloom among the winding brick trails. Dan wasn't overly impressed. He was anxious to go play ball.

"Dan, you must water each rose until the trough is full. The sun is scorching hot this time of year. I will pay you sixteen dollars for the three weeks of watering. Don't miss a single day."

"Yes, sir," said Dan. They shook hands, then Dan trotted off to play a baseball game.

The first week Dan watered the roses every day. The second week, he skipped some plants and only watered every other day. By the third week, some of the roses looked wilted so Dan gave them extra water to help them out. Toward the last, Dan be-

came busy with baseball and did not water the roses at all.

The next Monday, Dr. O'Connell came home. Dan was afraid the roses were not well, so he rode his bike all over town so Dr. O'Connell could not call him. When Dan came home that evening, his mother was concerned. "Dan, all of Dr. O'Connell's roses are dead! He was crying on the phone. I think you broke his heart."

Dan felt sick. That night he prayed, "Dear God, I made a big mistake. I'm very sorry." For 20 years Dan was afraid to speak to Dr. O'Connell.

After he grew up, he moved to another state where he went to college and wrote two books. However, Dan never forgot Dr. O'Connell and the roses he had failed to water. He prayed for courage to someday apologize.

Dr. O'Connell died before Dan spoke to him. Dan was grieved, but a daughter of Dr. O'Connell's told Dan that his book, "Healing Love," had brought Dr. O'Connell in touch with God before he died. Dan felt relieved. God, in His wisdom, had eased their pain over the dead roses.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Solomon go when he got back to Jerusalem?
2. Who came to the king?
3. What did both women have?
4. Who argued back and forth?
5. Who interrupted the argument?
6. What did Solomon ask for?
7. What did he say to do to the baby?
8. Which woman was the mother?
9. Whose wisdom was in the king?

LESSON TEXT: I Kings 3:15-28.

(Answers: 1. Into the tabernacle. 2. Two women. 3. Babies. 4. The two women. 5. Solomon. 6. A sword. 7. Divide it in two. 8. The one who wanted to save its life. 9. God's.)

## THE

## BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 45, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 14 Oct. 2, 1994

### SOLOMON BUILDS GOD'S HOUSE

David wanted to build a permanent house where the ark of the covenant would be kept and where God's presence would always be. David drew up the plans, gathered much material for building, and got ready to build. But God told him, "You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war. Solomon your son will build My house: for I have chosen him."

After David's death, Solomon determined to build a house for the name of the Lord, just as his father had planned. So Solomon sent word to Hiram, king of Tyre, who had helped build David's own house. "The house which I build will be great because great is our God above all gods," Solomon told him. "The heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain our God but I will build an house to burn sacrifice before Him. Send me skilled workmen and much timber because the house which I am about to build shall be wonderful and great."

When Hiram got Solomon's message, he sent a letter to Solomon. "Because the Lord loved His people, He has made you king over them," he wrote. "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who has given David a wise son to build an house for the Lord."

So Hiram sent much wood for the building and men to teach Solomon's servants all they would need to know to complete the building. In exchange, Solomon sent much food to Hiram.

Solomon had been king four years when he began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem in Mt. Moriah. He built the house just as David had instructed. The house was very beautiful when it was finished. Much of it was covered with pure gold and decorated with precious stones. Solomon also made furniture to go in the house and all the vessels that would be needed to serve the Lord.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...the Lord hath chosen thee to build  
an house for the sanctuary: be strong,  
and do it. I Chronicles 28:10.**



## The Log Cabin That Jason Built

Jason carefully added another Lincoln log to the log cabin that he was building. He lay flat on his stomach and looked into the door and two little windows of the cabin.

"Now, I have it all ready for my family to move in," said Jason to himself. He put the plastic father, mother, brother, and sister inside the snug cabin. "Mother," he called, "come and see my log cabin. I already have a family living in it."

Mother came from the kitchen wiping her hands on her apron. She was in a hurry and did not see the cabin right in front of the doorway.

CRASH! Mother's foot accidentally kicked the cabin! The Lincoln logs fell, the roof caved in, and the family's heads stuck up through the top.

"Oh, Jason, I'm sorry," said Mother as she bent to help him put it back together. "You need to build over in a corner where no one walks as much as in front of this doorway."

"I want it where everybody can see it," said Jason. "This is a family of saints and they like to have company and visit with others."

Mother smiled. "You don't want to build your house on insecure land where winds and feet can knock it down. Then company won't stop to visit if they think the house will fall upon them."

Jason thought about it for a minute as Mother admired his nicely made log cabin. "I guess you are right," he said. "If I keep my cabin here, someone else is liable to come through and knock it down again. This makes me think of the song, 'The Wise Man Built His House upon the Rock.'"

Jason and Mother sang this song as they moved the Lincoln log cabin to a corner of the room. They finished moving just as the song ended. "Do you know where that parable is found in the Bible?" asked Mother.

"Jesus said it, didn't He?"

"Yes," replied Mother. "It is at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus preached a long time to the people. Matthew wrote down notes from the sermon and we can read these in Matthew 5, 6, and 7. At the very end of the sermon, Jesus said, 'Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.' We want to build our life wisely on the teaching of Jesus."

"I remember some of the first verses of the Sermon on the Mount," said Jason. "It says, 'Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. There are a lot of other blessed verses also.'"

"Good," said Mother. "We ought to memorize the entire sermon so that we can build upon it all. Then our life will be sturdier than your log cabin in the corner." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who wanted to build the house of God?
2. Who told him he could not build it?
3. Who was to build the house of God?
4. To whom did Solomon send for help?
5. Who helped David build his own house?
6. What did Hiram send for the building?
7. What did Solomon send to Hiram?
8. How long had Solomon been king when he began to build?
9. Where did Solomon build God's house?

**LESSON TEXT:** I Chronicles 28:2-6; II Chronicles 2-4.

[Answers: 1. David. 2. God. 3. Solomon. 4. Hiram. 5. Hiram. 6. Much wood and skilled workmen. 7. Food. 8. 4 years. 9. Jerusalem.]

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 15 Oct. 9, 1994

---

## SOLOMON DEDICATES THE HOUSE OF GOD

After many years the house of the Lord was finished. Although David could not build God's house, he still gathered much treasure that would someday be used in God's service. Solomon brought in all these things that David his father had dedicated to God's service: silver, gold and vessels for the house of God. He put these things among the other treasures in the house of God.

Then Solomon called all the elders of Israel with all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of Israel, to Jerusalem to bring the ark of the Lord into the house of God. When the ark and all the holy vessels were in place, Solomon and all the people offered so many sacrifices they could not be counted. Then the priests took their places and the trumpeters and singers, as one man, lifted up their voices and praised the Lord, saying, "For He is good; for His mercy endures for ever." At this, the glory of the Lord filled the house of God. The priests could not minister in the temple because the glory of God's presence was so great.

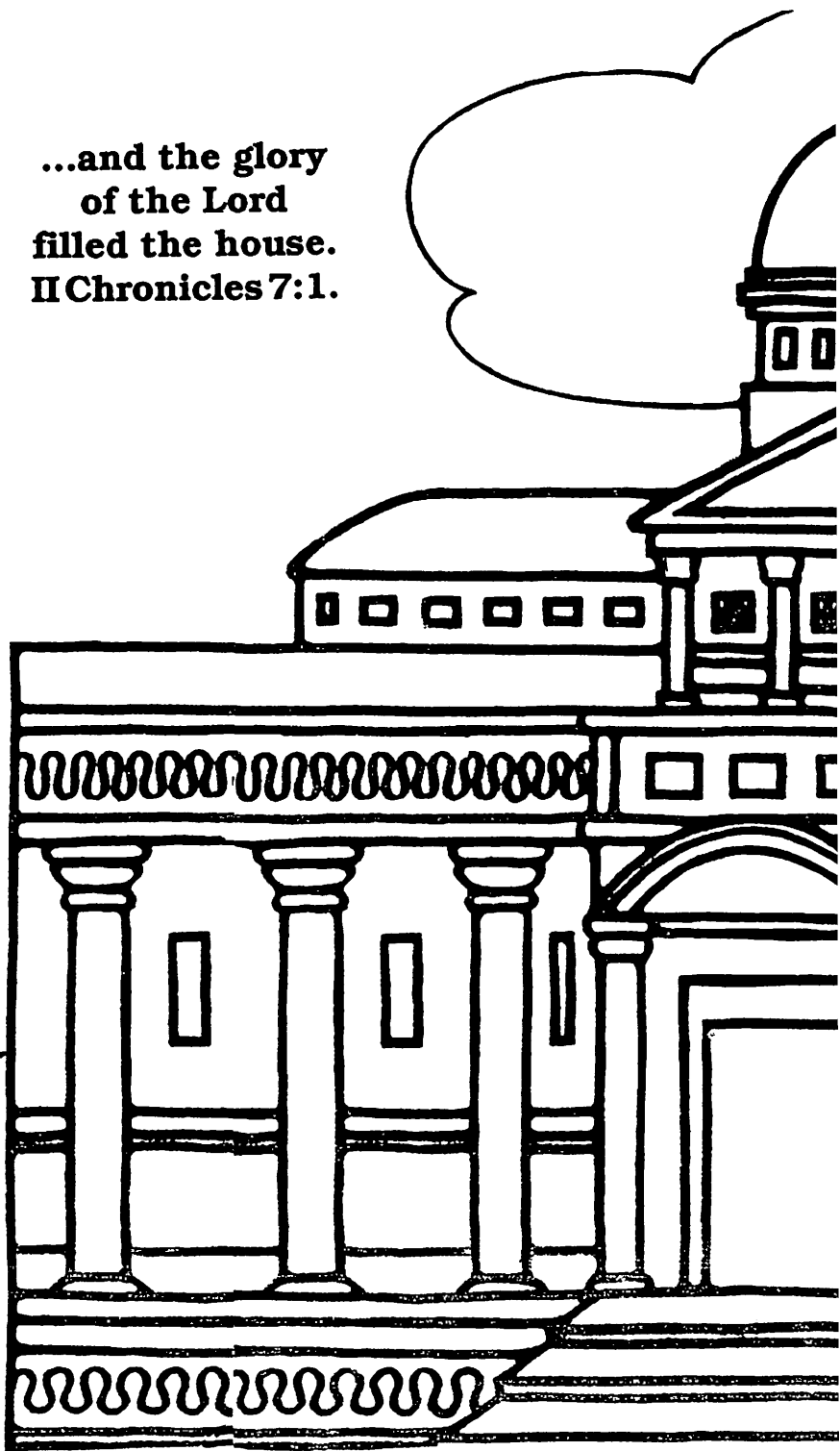
Standing before all the people, Solomon blessed them. He blessed the Lord for fulfilling His promise to David and allowing His house to be built. Then he kneeled down with his hands spread toward heaven and prayed that God would always hear his cry and the prayers of the people when they cried to Him in this house.

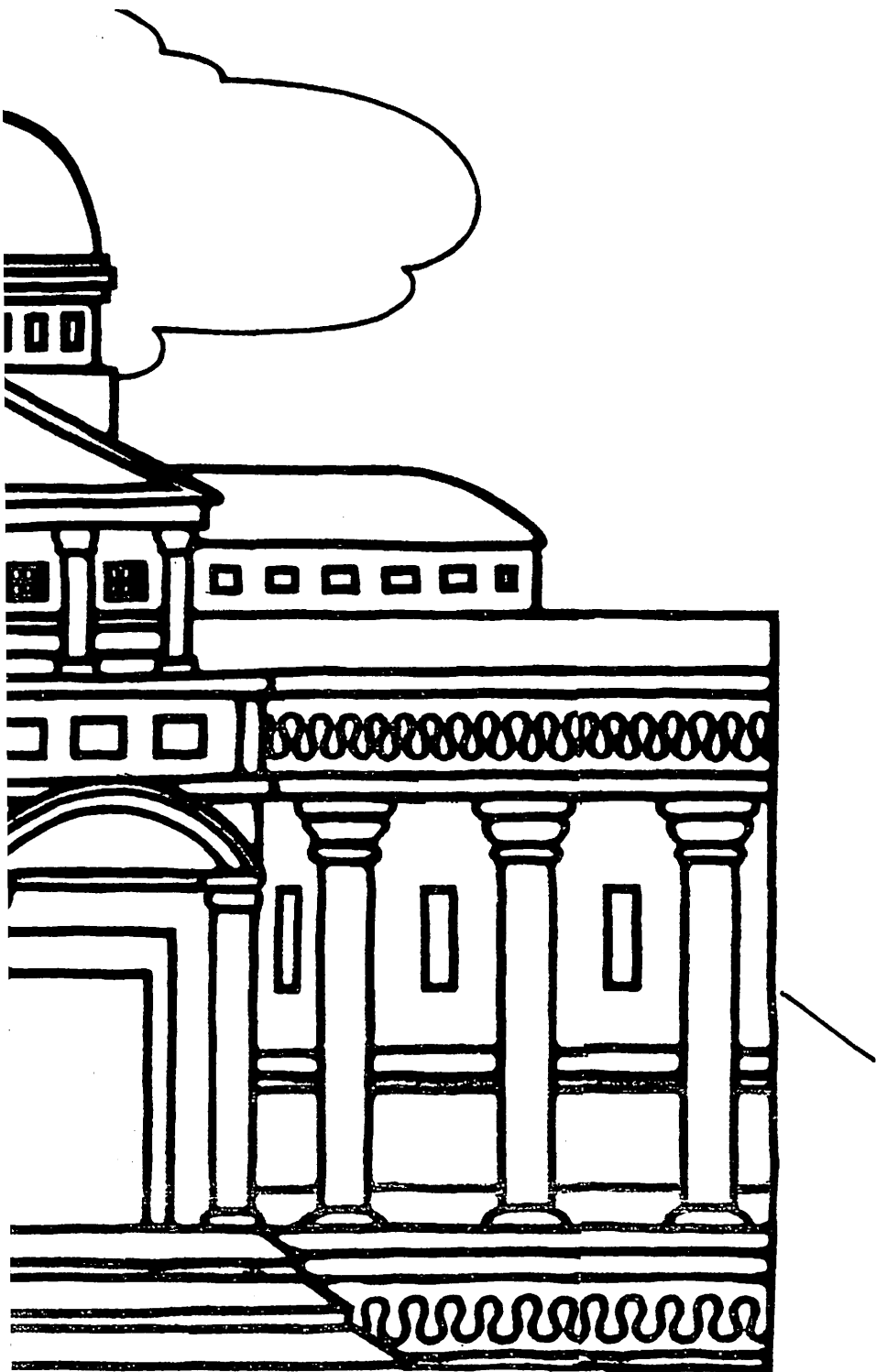
When Solomon ended his prayer, the fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices. Again the glory of the Lord filled the house of God until the priests could not even go in.

When the people saw the fire come down and the glory of the Lord upon the house, they bowed with their faces to the ground and worshiped and praised the Lord.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...and the glory  
of the Lord  
filled the house.  
II Chronicles 7:1.**





## Sparkling Glasses

Mother and Linda were cleaning the supper dishes once again. Mother was washing them. Linda was drying them and putting them away in the cabinets.

"I just like these crystal glasses so much," said Linda as she put one more glass on the shelf. "They sparkle and look so nice and new all the time. When did you get these glasses?"

"Oh, those were a wedding gift from Aunt Christine," replied Mother. "I have used them for nearly thirteen years now. Since we have been careful with them, they do still look nice. Only one has broken so I have eleven now."

"I like to set them on the table," said Linda. "Sometimes the light will make little rainbows in the cut squares of the glass. It looks so pretty."

"Yes, the glass has been cut into five rows of little prisms all around," said Mother. "Diamond-cut prisms do reflect rainbows when the light shines on them just right. I think it looks very pretty, too."

Linda put the last clean glass into the cabinet then she said, "If we put red punch in our glasses, then we have red glasses until the punch is gone. If we put orange juice in the glasses, then we have orange glasses. Whatever we put into the glasses, that is the color that the glasses become. I like clear crystal because I can see what is in it."

"It is nice to see what is in the glass," agreed Mother. "I see an object lesson in your thought, Linda. Suppose these glasses were people."

"Oh, I know what you are saying," responded Linda with a nod of her head. "Whatever each person puts within, that is what shows up on the outside. If a person has lust on the inside, then on the outside that person will act immodestly. If a person is clean on the inside, then on the outside that person will wear modest clothes and talk carefully. What is on the inside shows up on the outside just like these glasses show what they hold."

"You are very right," agreed Mother.

"It not only holds true about clothing, but the way a person acts, talks and lives also reflects what is on the inside. We can't see the heart of a person, but often we can tell what others think by the choices they make and attitudes they have."

"I was just thinking," said Linda, "when we put clear water in the glasses, they sparkle best of all because the light shines in the water and in the prisms."

"So it does," agreed Mother. "Maybe we can say that water is like the Holy Spirit. When a person is saved, sanctified, and pleasing the Lord, God's Holy Spirit fills the life so much that it just sparkles for Him. When the glass is full and running over, then there is no room for any other thing."

"I like that thought," said Linda. "I want the Holy Spirit of God to sparkle in my life."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What was finished after many years?
2. Who had gathered much treasure for God's house?
3. Who called the elders of Israel to Jerusalem?
4. How many sacrifices did Solomon and the people offer?
5. What filled the house of God?
6. Who blessed the people and the Lord?
7. What did Solomon ask God to do when the people prayed to Him?
8. What happened when Solomon ended his prayer?
9. What did the people do when they saw the fire come down?

LESSON TEXT: II Chronicles 5-7:3.

(Answers: 1. The house of God. 2. David. 3. Solomon. 4. So many they could not be counted. 5. The glory of the Lord. 6. Solomon. 7. To hear their prayer. 8. Fire came down from heaven. 9. They worshiped and praised God.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 45, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 16 Oct. 16, 1994

## THE QUEEN OF SHEBA

After the glory of the Lord filled the house of God, Solomon prepared a great feast for all the people. When he sent the people back to their homes, they went with glad and merry hearts because of God's goodness to David, to Solomon, and to Israel His people.

That night God appeared to Solomon. "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice," God told him. Then He promised to hear the prayers of the people when they prayed if they would turn from their wicked ways and serve Him. "Now my eyes shall be open, and my ears attent unto your prayer that is made in this place," God told him. Then God again promised to bless Solomon's kingdom if he would always serve Him.

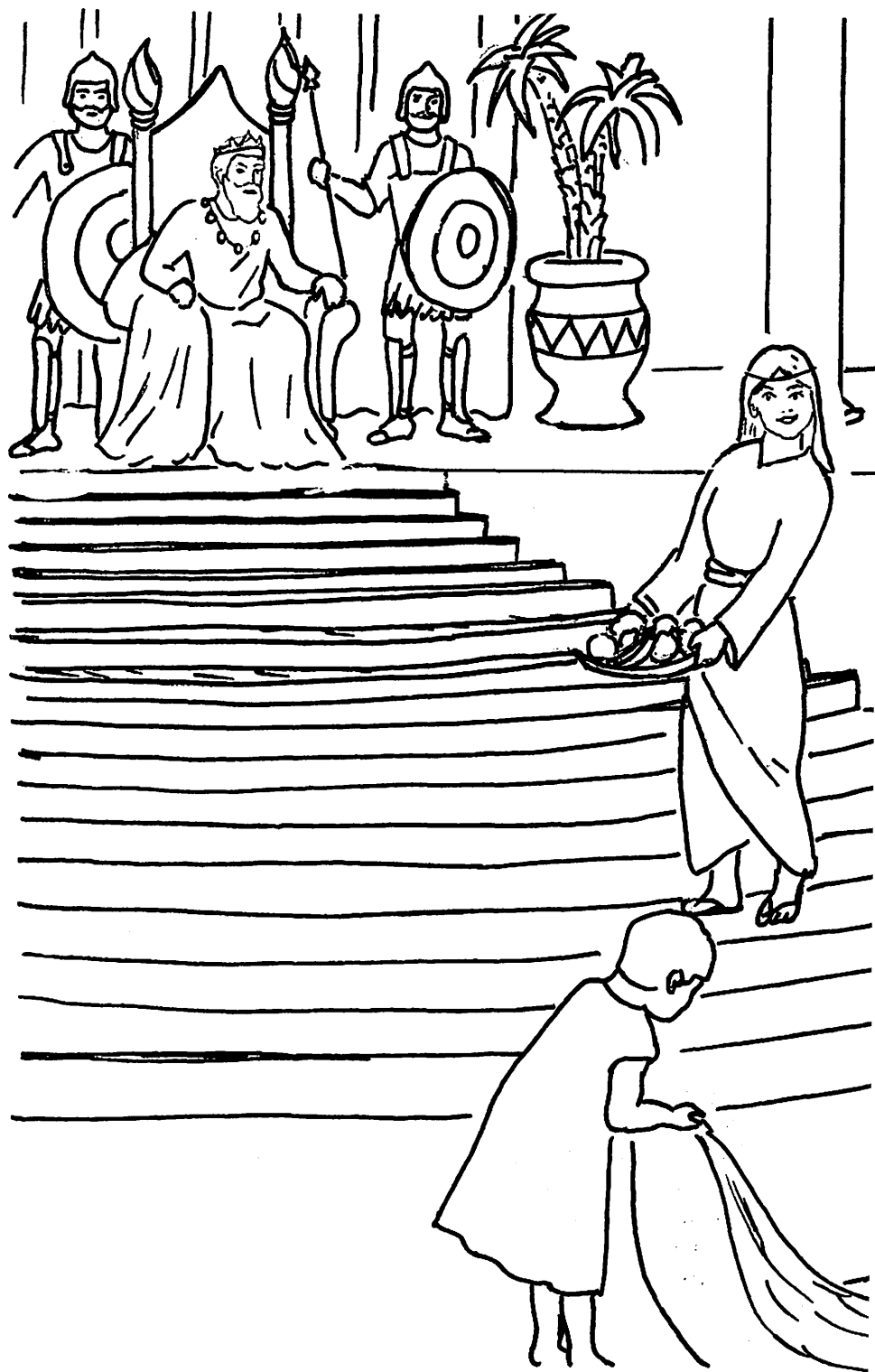
At the same time God warned Solomon that he and the people must never turn away and worship other gods. If they did He would take them away from the land He had given them and His presence would not be in the house they had just dedicated to Him.

It took twenty years for Solomon to build the house of the Lord and his own house. After this he built many cities and became very rich.

One day the Queen of Sheba decided to visit King Solomon. She had heard so much about his great kingdom and wisdom that she decided to see for herself if it were true. She brought many servants with her and rich gifts for Solomon.

The queen had many questions to ask so Solomon listened carefully and then told her all she wanted to know. The queen saw that Solomon was as wise as she had been told. Then when Solomon showed the queen all his great kingdom, she exclaimed, "It was a true report which I heard in my own land. But the half of your great wisdom was not told me!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...the one half of the greatness  
of thy wisdom was not told  
me:... II Chronicles 9:6.**



## Indescribable

Viva was not raised in a Christian home and she knew nothing about the love of Jesus. Viva's mother drank beer and liquor often. She wasn't sure who her father was but her step-father was unkind to her.

When Viva was ten years old, she had an argument with her mother and left home. That was a very young age to be out on the streets alone. However, Viva was already street-wise and she knew which alleys to hide in at night. During the day she begged for money and half-heartedly looked for work. Viva wasn't very big and no one thought she could do very much work.

One day as Viva was standing by a bakery asking for money, a nicely dressed lady spoke to her. "Such a young girl like you should not be sleeping in the alleys," she said.

Viva was startled. She didn't know anyone had noticed where she slept at night.

"If you would come with me," continued the lady, "I will give you a nice place to sleep and food every meal."

It sounded good to Viva but she didn't know if she could trust this lady or not. After some persuasion, Viva went home with this lady. There everything was neat and orderly, much different from the home she had left.

"I have set rules for all that is done," said the lady. "You will learn what your duties are and do them properly. I will teach you the method of divination and you will receive your own guide spirit. In time you should be able to use the Ouija board and receive answers from it. I light these candles in the evening and we will say our chants then."

It wasn't long before Viva realized she had entered the home of a New Age witch. Viva would have run away but the lady did feed and clothe her so she decided to stay. Days passed into months and months into years. Viva saw many works of the devil in that home and she never felt "safe" there.

A teen-ager now, Viva was sent on an errand to another part of town when she passed by a church. From it came beautiful singing like she had never heard before. Something about it touched a cord deep within her heart. Viva felt drawn to the church doors which stood open to the fresh spring weather. She went in and sat in the back. During the service, she heard about love, freedom from sin, happiness, peace beyond understanding; all because of a Man called Jesus who conquered death and sits now on the right hand of God.

Viva wanted to soak up the love and peace that she felt about these Christians. Never before had she felt so "safe." In time Viva learned all about salvation and she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. She left that witch's home and forsook all the evil spirits that she knew.

"I never knew such glorious peace and love in all my life," Viva says. "It is indescribable." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who prepared a great feast for the people?
2. What made the people's hearts glad and merry?
3. Who appeared to Solomon one night?
4. What did God promise to do for Solomon's kingdom?
5. What must Solomon never do?
6. How long did it take to build the Lord's house and his own house?
7. Who decided to visit Solomon?
8. Why did she want to see Solomon?
9. What did she bring for Solomon?

**LESSON TEXT:** II Chronicles 7:12-9:12.

(Answers: 1. Solomon. 2. God's goodness to them. 3. God. 4. Bless it. 5. Worship other gods. 6. Twenty years. 7. The queen of Sheba. 8. She had heard so much about him and his kingdom. 9. Rich gifts.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 45, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 17 Oct. 23, 1994

## SOLOMON'S GREAT SIN

God had given Solomon great wealth and wisdom. But in one thing he was very foolish. Solomon loved many strange women even though God had commanded that His people should never marry people of other nations. God knew that doing so would turn their hearts to other gods. Then he could no longer bless and help them.

Solomon had seven hundred wives. Instead of teaching them to love and serve God, Solomon built places right in Jerusalem for his wives to burn incense and offer sacrifices to their gods. So when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart and he worshiped other gods. His heart was not perfect with God as David's had been.

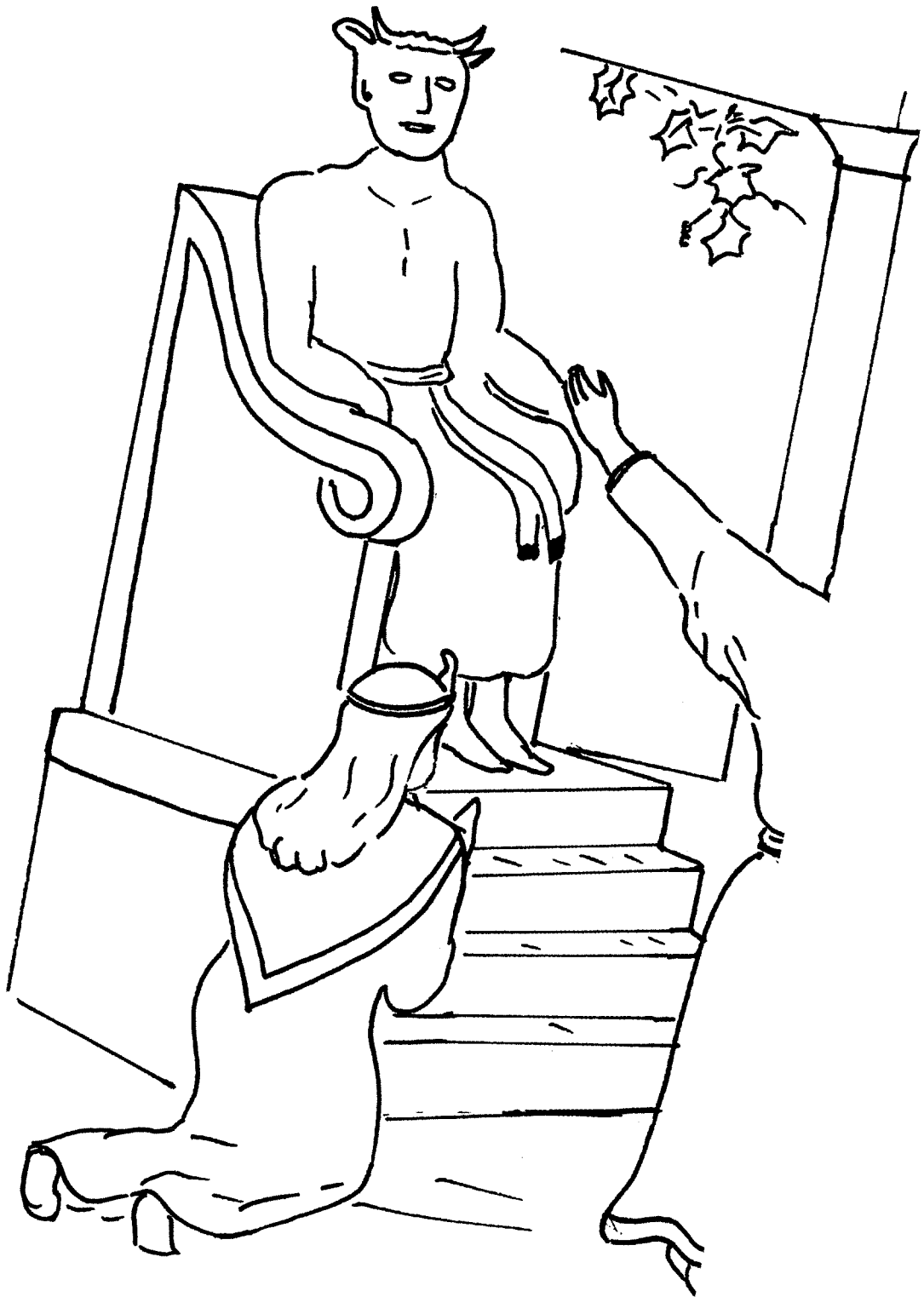
God was angry with Solomon because he turned away from Him even though He had appeared to him two times. Each time God had warned Solomon that he must never worship other gods. "Because you have done this I will take away ten tribes of your kingdom from your son and give them to a servant," God told Solomon. "I will give one tribe to your son because of my promise to David."

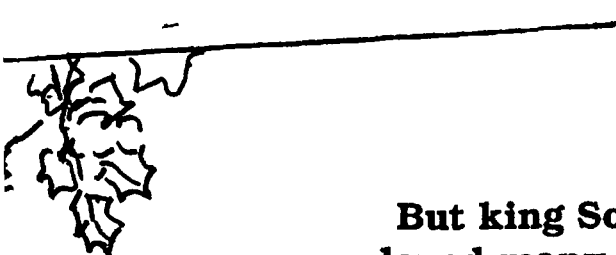
After this Solomon no longer had a peaceful kingdom. God stirred up enemies who made trouble for him. One of these was Jeroboam, one of Solomon's rulers. One day when Jeroboam had just left Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah met him. Suddenly Ahijah grabbed the new coat Jeroboam was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces.

"Take ten pieces," Ahijah told Jeroboam. "The Lord, the God of Israel has said, 'I will tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand and give ten tribes to you because he has forsaken me and worshiped idols.'"

Solomon soon heard what the prophet had told Jeroboam and tried to kill him. Jeroboam knew he was no longer safe in Jerusalem so he ran away to Egypt where he stayed until Solomon's death.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**But king Solomon  
loved many strange  
women,... I Kings  
11:1.**



## Sinful Advertisements

Daddy carefully drove the family car through the busy streets of the city. It was the evening rush hour and though everyone seemed in a hurry, the traffic was moving slowly.

Bryan sat on the back seat buckled in safely where he could look out the window. He couldn't see the impatient faces of the drivers like Daddy could but he had plenty of time to look at the tall billboard advertisements.

One billboard had two smiling men and one smiling woman asking people to listen to their country 'n western radio station. The next picture was of a huge hamburger with two meat patties, yellow cheese, green lettuce, pickles, onions—all between sesame seed buns. It made Bryan hungry. Then there was a big picture of a nice, strong looking man riding on a horse while he was lighting a cigarette.

"Daddy," said Bryan, "see that man up there smoking a cigarette? He's ruining his health, isn't he?"

"What man?" asked Daddy. "I see a lot of people ruining their health right now with high blood pressure. There must be a car accident up ahead."

"No, Daddy," said Bryan. "Look at that man on the sign over there. He wants all of us to ruin our health smoking his kind of cigarettes. We know not to do it, don't we?"

"Yes," replied Daddy. "We don't take in things that will harm our bodies."

"Look at that big sign!" exclaimed Bryan. "It's a picture of a silver can in ice—is that a can of beer, Daddy?"

"Yes," replied Daddy again. "That company tries to make their beer look refreshing but all beer bites like a snake, so the Bible says."

"Uh-oh, Daddy, you had better not look at the next big sign. It isn't very nice. The woman in that picture needs to put on more clothes. Why is she laying on that shiny, new car?"

"Well, Bryan, that car dealer thinks men will notice the new car better if there is a woman near it. We won't fall for that trick either. It is a shame when companies display nakedness, and we don't have to stare at it. Pictures of nakedness are one of the worst sins in our country."

"Also, there are bad pictures on magazines at the grocery stores," said Bryan.

"Turn your head and don't stare at them," said Daddy. "Don't let someone tempt you to look at nakedness. It will put darkness in the soul just like cigarette smoke will put darkness in the lungs. If you are ever tempted with these evil things, pray to Jesus and He will help you look away."

"I will!" said Bryan. "I'll be glad when we get home and I can see our really pretty pictures on the walls."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What had God given Solomon?
2. Whom did Solomon love?
3. How many wives did Solomon have?
4. Did Solomon teach his wives to love and serve God?
5. When he was old what did Solomon worship?
6. Who was angry with Solomon?
7. How many times had God appeared to Solomon?
8. What did Ahijah do to Jeroboam's new coat?
9. Where did Jeroboam run to keep from being killed?

**LESSON TEXT:** 1 Kings 11:1-40.

(Answers: 1. Great wealth and wisdom. 2. Many strange women. 3. Seven hundred. 4. No. 5. Other gods. 6. God. 7. Two times. 8. He tore it into twelve pieces. 9. To Egypt.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 18 Oct. 30, 1994

---

## REHOBAM BECOMES KING

Solomon had been king for forty years when he died. After his death, Rehoboam, his son, went to Shechem where all Israel had gathered to make him king. Jeroboam came back from Egypt when he heard of Solomon's death. Jeroboam and the people told Rehoboam, "Your father made our lives hard. If you will make our lives easier, we will serve you."

"Come back to me in three days and I will tell you what I will do," Rehoboam answered. When the people left, Rehoboam went to the old men who had helped Solomon rule the people. He told them that the people had asked him to make their lives easier. "What answer should I give the people?" he asked them.

The old men answered, "If you will be kind to this people, and please them and speak good words to them, they will be your servants forever."

Rehoboam knew the old men were very wise but instead of taking their advice he gathered his young friends and asked what they thought he should do.

"Tell the people that you will make their lives much harder than your father ever did," the young men said. The third day Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam to see what his answer would be. Rehoboam answered them roughly, as his young friends had advised. "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it!" he threatened. "My father whipped you with whips, but I will punish you with scorpions!"

When the people heard these threats, ten tribes decided they would not have Rehoboam rule over them. They went to their own homes and made Jeroboam their king.

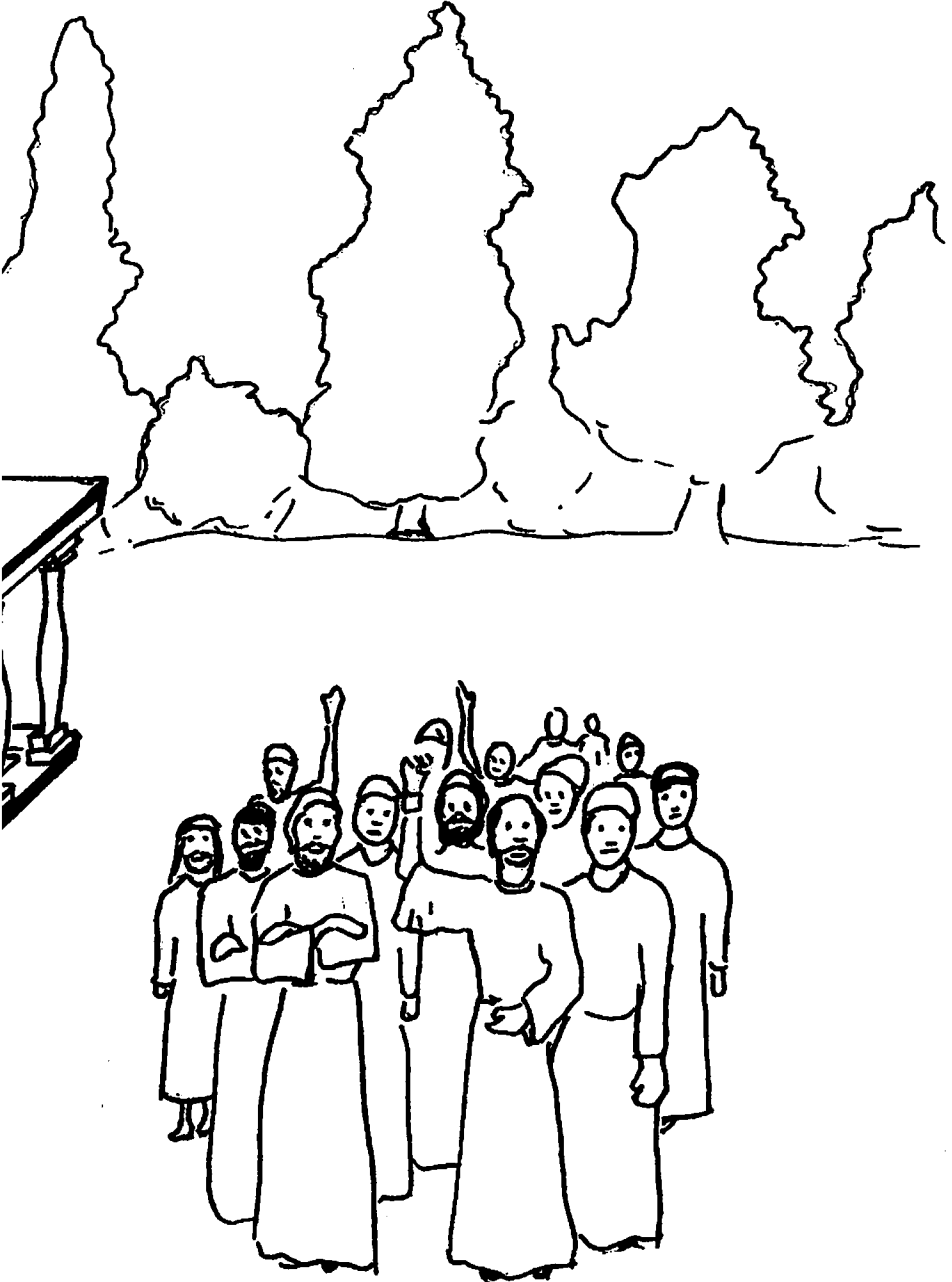
Rehoboam was ready to send an army against the people but God sent a prophet to warn him that he must not do this.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And the king  
forsook the  
him. I Kings



wered the people roughly, and  
men's counsel that they gave  
13.



## Decorated Evil

"Look at all these ugly Halloween costumes!" exclaimed Mary to her mother and brother, Todd. "These costumes look more wicked every year!"

"Wouldn't I make a good Darth Vader?" teased Todd as he picked up the black robe and Odin-mask of this character.

"No, Todd," rebuked Mother mildly. "Let's move to the part of the store where we need to shop. I don't want you even pretending to be these evil beings."

"Aw, Mom, it's just make-believe," remarked Todd as he put the costume back on the rack.

"The characters are make-believe but the evil spirits behind these things are real. This wickedness makes the devil laugh."

"I agree with you," said a lady who was standing by them in the aisle. "Our children don't participate in Halloween either."

"I am glad to hear that," replied Mother with a smile. "The origin of Halloween never was good. You probably know also that on October 31 sacrifices have been offered to the Lord of Death for centuries."

"I know," said the lady. "I read that in our society today the ancient practice of animal and human sacrifice has been documented by police in several different states. People give witchcraft other names like yogi, transcendental meditation, psychic power, enchantment, the force—but I say witchcraft is just what it is and like the Bible says, it is an abomination to our country."

"You're right," agreed Mother. "The devil is behind all of these evil-looking things. I don't want my children dressed like witches, wizards, druids, ghosts, or any such like. Instead, our church will have a night with the youth on October 31. We will have Prayer Power with the Lord of Lords

and King of Kings. Do you have children?"

"Yes, I have three," replied the lady.

"You would be welcome to join us," invited Mother.

"Thank you," said the nice lady.

"But my parents have already invited us to join them for dinner at a nice restaurant. We usually leave for the evening. Maybe next year we could plan to join you."

"You don't have to wait until next year," responded Mother. "You and your family are welcome to worship with the Church of God any time." Mother and the lady talked a little more then separated.

As they walked away, Mary said, "She is a good lady, isn't she, Mother?"

"Yes, we will pray for her that the Lord will lead her."

"She doesn't like the spook's day either," remarked Todd. "It could be a lot of fun if evil spirits weren't behind it all."

"Todd, the devil's way is decorated with fake fun and adventure but the end of it is—death," said all three together. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. How long had Solomon been king?.
2. Who was Rehoboam?
3. Why did he go to Shechem?
4. Where had Jeroboam been?
5. What did the people ask Rehoboam to do?
6. Who advised Rehoboam to be kind to the people?
7. Whose advice did he follow?
8. How many tribes went away?
9. Who did they choose to be their king?

### LESSON TEXT: II Chronicles 10-11:4.

(Answers: 1. Forty years. 2. Solomon's son. 3. To be made king. 4. In Egypt. 5. Make their lives easier. 6. The old men. 7. The young men's. 8. Ten. 9. Jeroboam.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 45, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 19 Nov. 6, 1994

## THE DISOBEDIENT PROPHET

After Jeroboam became king he decided the people should not go to Jerusalem to worship the Lord. He was afraid they would want Rehoboam as their king if they worshiped in his kingdom. So Jeroboam made two golden images that looked like calves. Then he told the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Look, these are your gods, O Israel, which brought you out of the land of Egypt."

Then Jeroboam made places for the people to offer sacrifices to these idols and he chose evil men to be priests. He even made a feast for the people to sacrifice to the idols instead of going to Jerusalem to the feast that God had commanded them to keep.

On that feast day Jeroboam stood by the altar ready to offer a sacrifice to the idol. Suddenly a man of God cried out, "O altar, altar, the Lord says: 'I will tear down this altar and get rid of your evil priests. As a sign, this altar will break apart.'"

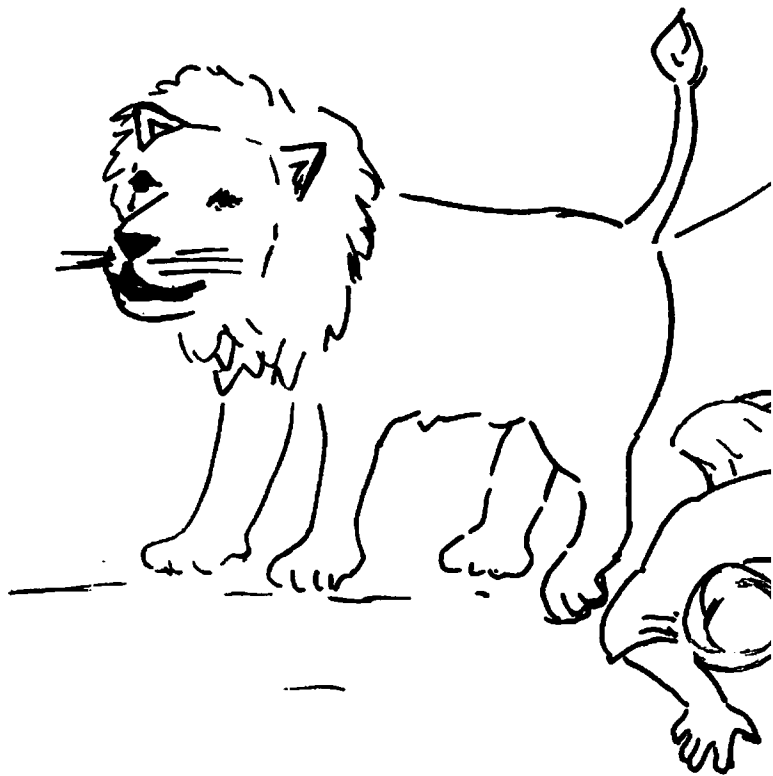
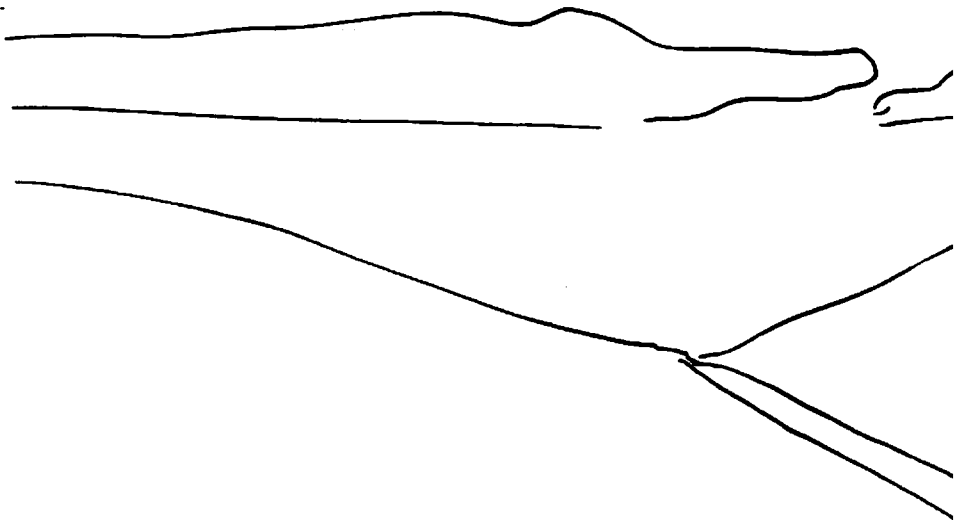
When Jeroboam heard these words, he pointed at the man of God and commanded, "Capture that man!" But God caused his arm to dry up so he could not move it. Then the altar split open and the ashes poured out as a sign that this was the word of the Lord.

Jeroboam begged the prophet, "Pray for me that my hand may be healed!" When the prophet prayed, his hand was made normal again.

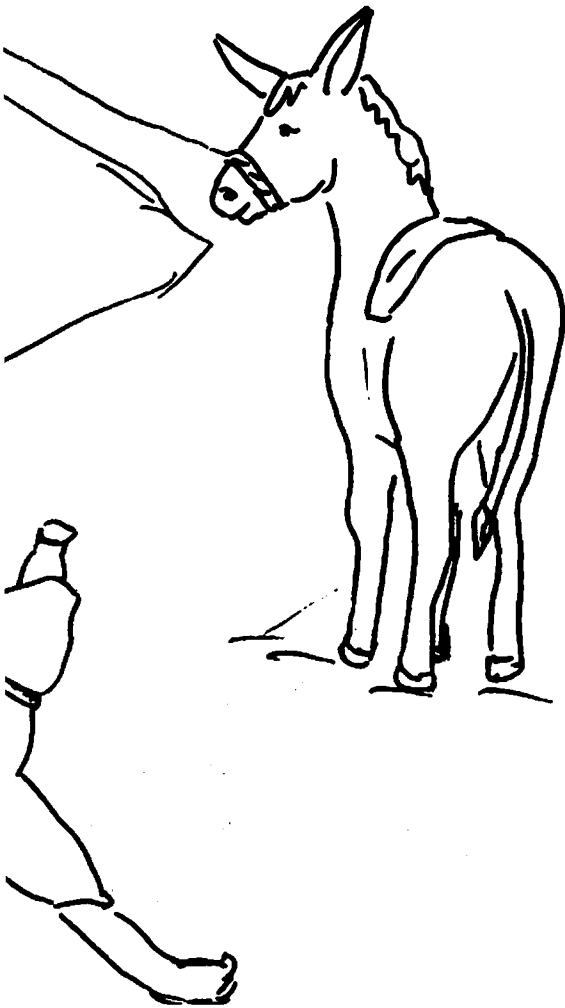
The king invited the prophet to come home with him for dinner. The prophet told him that he would not because God had told him to neither eat nor drink in this place.

The prophet started home just as God had commanded. Before long he stopped to rest under an oak tree. Here a man found him and talked him into disobeying God. He went home with the man and ate dinner. After eating he again started toward home. He had not gone far when a lion attacked him and he died because he had disobeyed God.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...It is the man of God, who was  
disobedient unto the word of the  
Lord:... I Kings 13:26.**



## The Devil's Mask

(Taken from a true incident.)

After the bell rang, Ms. Klimek stood before her sixth-grade class and spoke to them.

"Let's all take a few minutes to relax after recess. Everyone, sit up straight and take a deep breath. Everyone, together, breathe! Good! Now fold your arms across your desk. Yes, like this and lay your head upon your arms. Good! Close your eyes, everyone. Relax. Good. Okay, everyone is now ready to relax their mind.

"Remember in Star Wars how Luke Skywalker tapped into the force? Yoda told Luke that he must feel the force around him. The force is life. Its energy surrounds us and binds us. You must feel the force around you. A Jedi's strength flows from the force.

"Each one of us has the force within. Now make contact with your own inner being. Find the force within you personally. The force will give you strength, self-control."

As Ms. Klimek was gently speaking to her class, one student named Amy felt troubled about the force. Her Christian parents had taught her about Jesus Christ and she knew many Bible verses from memory. She had never heard of the force in the Bible.

At home that evening, Amy asked her parents about the force. "Who has been talking to you about this?" asked Dad.

"My teacher," replied Amy. "She says we must tap into the force like Luke Skywalker did in Star Wars. We must lay our heads down, shut our eyes, relax, and find our inner being. Dad, is Ms. Klimek giving new names to Jesus and God's Holy Spirit?"

"No, Amy, she is putting a mask on the devil or Satan's face. There is a scripture in II Cor. 11:14, that speaks about Satan transforming into an angel of light. Satan is doing just that through the disguise of the force. Mil-

lions of Americans have watched Star Wars, The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi. This series of movies have helped spread Satan worship more than ever. The force does not agree with the two Great Commandments—Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind and strength and love thy neighbor as thyself. Instead, the force teaches each person to love self and do what self wants to do. This makes a selfish, unruly person."

"Perhaps we ought to talk to Ms. Klimek," said Mother. "She needs to know our concern about teaching such false doctrine."

"We need to pray about it all first," said Dad. "If Ms. Klimek does not want to change, we will put Amy in another teacher's class."

Later, Amy did change to another teacher. Her parents were concerned about Ms. Klimek's New Age Techniques and they did not want Amy to acquire an evil spirit. Amy is thankful that she has such wise parents.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who did not want the people to go to Jerusalem to worship?
2. How many idols did Jeroboam make?
3. What did they look like?
4. What happened to Jeroboam's arm?
5. What happened to the altar?
6. What did Jeroboam ask the prophet to do for him?
7. What had God commanded the prophet?
8. How did the prophet disobey God?
9. What happened because he disobeyed?

### LESSON TEXT: I Kings 12:25-13:32.

(Answers: 1. Jeroboam. 2. Two. 3. Calves. 4. It dried up so he couldn't move it. 5. It broke open. 6. Pray for his arm. 7. To neither eat nor drink. 8. He went home with a man and ate dinner. 9. A lion killed him.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 20 Nov. 13, 1994

---

## JEROBOAM'S SON

One day Jeroboam's son, Abijah, became very sick. Jeroboam watched anxiously but his son did not get well. Finally he told his wife, "I want you to disguise yourself so no one will know you are my wife. Go to Shiloh and find Ahijah, the prophet who told me that I should be king over the people. Take ten loaves of bread, some cakes and a bottle of honey with you. He can tell you if our son will get well." So Jeroboam's wife did as he said and came to Ahijah's house in Shiloh.

Now Ahijah, the prophet, was blind but the Lord told him, "The wife of Jeroboam is coming to ask about her son because he is sick. When she comes she will pretend that she is someone else." Then He told Ahijah just what to tell her.

In a little while Ahijah heard the footsteps of someone coming to his door. He knew it was Jeroboam's wife. Without waiting for her to speak he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why are you pretending to be someone else? I have bad news for you.

"Go, tell Jeroboam the Lord God of Israel says, 'I made you prince over my people Israel and took the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it to you. Yet you have not been like my servant David who kept my commandments and who followed me with all his heart, to do only that which was right in my eyes. You have done evil above all that were before you. You have made other gods to make me angry. Because of this I will bring evil upon all your house.'

"Now go back to your own house," Ahijah told Jeroboam's wife. "As soon as you get home your son will die." Jeroboam's wife started back home with a heavy heart. As soon as she reached her own door, her son died, just as the prophet had said. Because Jeroboam sinned and made Israel sin, God brought much evil on him and his house.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**At that time  
Abijah the son of  
Jeroboam fell  
sick. I Kings 14:1.**



## New Horizons

(A true story.)

One day in the country of India, Rochunga took a walk with his father. Leaving behind their stick hut in the village, they quickly were surrounded by the wild jungle about them. As they walked, Ro and his father visited.

"My son," said Ro's father. "I know you love the Lord Jesus. I am glad of that. I have preached to many people in the Hmar tribe. The Lord has blessed and many believe in Jesus. However, they do not have a Bible which they can read and understand in their language. This is very discouraging to these new Christians. Every day I pray that the Lord will have someone translate the Bible into the Hmar language."

Ro listened respectfully as his father talked. He felt sad also that there was not a Bible for his people to read.

"By the custom of our people, my son," continued Father, "Your oldest brother will inherit all that I have and will take care of me and your mother. That gives you a chance to choose what you want to do with your life. Would you like to have a good education so that you could translate the Bible into the Hmar language?"

Ro was quiet for a while. Finally, he asked, "How much education would I need?"

"More than you can receive in our little village school," replied Father. "You will need to attend the school in the city 96 miles from here. Some family should let you live with them ten months while you go to school. Then you will come home for the other two months."

Ro sat very still and thought about what his father had said. He was not sure he could leave his family for such a long time. Also, an education was a wonderful thing but it did cost money. At last Ro spoke, "Father, I would like to be an educated man."

Soon preparations were made for Ro and his father to leave on the long

trip to the city. Ro was excited but also sad and afraid.

One Sunday morning, Father preached a message about how the Lord loved His own even unto the horizon. Afterwards, as Ro walked home with his father, he asked how far the horizon was. His father had no answer.

Later, Father took Ro on a hike up a nearby mountain. Then they climbed a tree. "See out over this valley and to the mountain range beyond?" asked Father. "If you walked many weeks to those mountains and climbed one, then you would see many more mountains just like them. If you went farther and climbed another mountain, you would see more mountains. Each time you would see a new horizon. The horizon is never-ending, my son. There is no place in this world where the love of God has not touched or cannot reach."

Ro wasn't so afraid anymore. God would be with him as he came to each new horizon in life.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who became very sick?
2. Who told his wife to disguise herself?
3. Where did he want her to go?
4. Who had told Jeroboam he would be king?
5. Who was blind?
6. How did he know who was at his door?
7. What did Jeroboam do to make God angry?
8. What happened as soon as Jeroboam's wife got home?
9. Why did God bring evil on Jeroboam's house?

### LESSON TEXT: I Kings 14.

(Answers: 1. Abijah, Jeroboam's son. 2. Jeroboam. 3. To Shiloh. 4. Abijah. 5. Abijah. 6. The Lord told him. 7. He made other gods. 8. Her son died. 9. Because he sinned and made Israel sin.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 45, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 21 Nov. 20, 1994

## GOD FIGHTS FOR JUDAH

When Jeroboam had been king of Israel for eighteen years Abijah, Rehoboam's son, became king over Judah. There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam. Abijah gathered all his brave men of war and got them ready to fight against Jeroboam. But Jeroboam's army was twice as large and his men were mighty men, proven soldiers.

When everything was set for the battle, Abijah climbed high up on a mountain overlooking the battlefield. From there he called down to Jeroboam and his army, "Hear me, Jeroboam and all Israel. You should know that the Lord God of Israel gave the kingdom of Israel over to David for ever. Yet Jeroboam, Solomon's servant, has risen up and rebelled against his Lord. Now you have come against the kingdom of the Lord. You are a great multitude but there are golden calves with you which Jeroboam made you for gods.

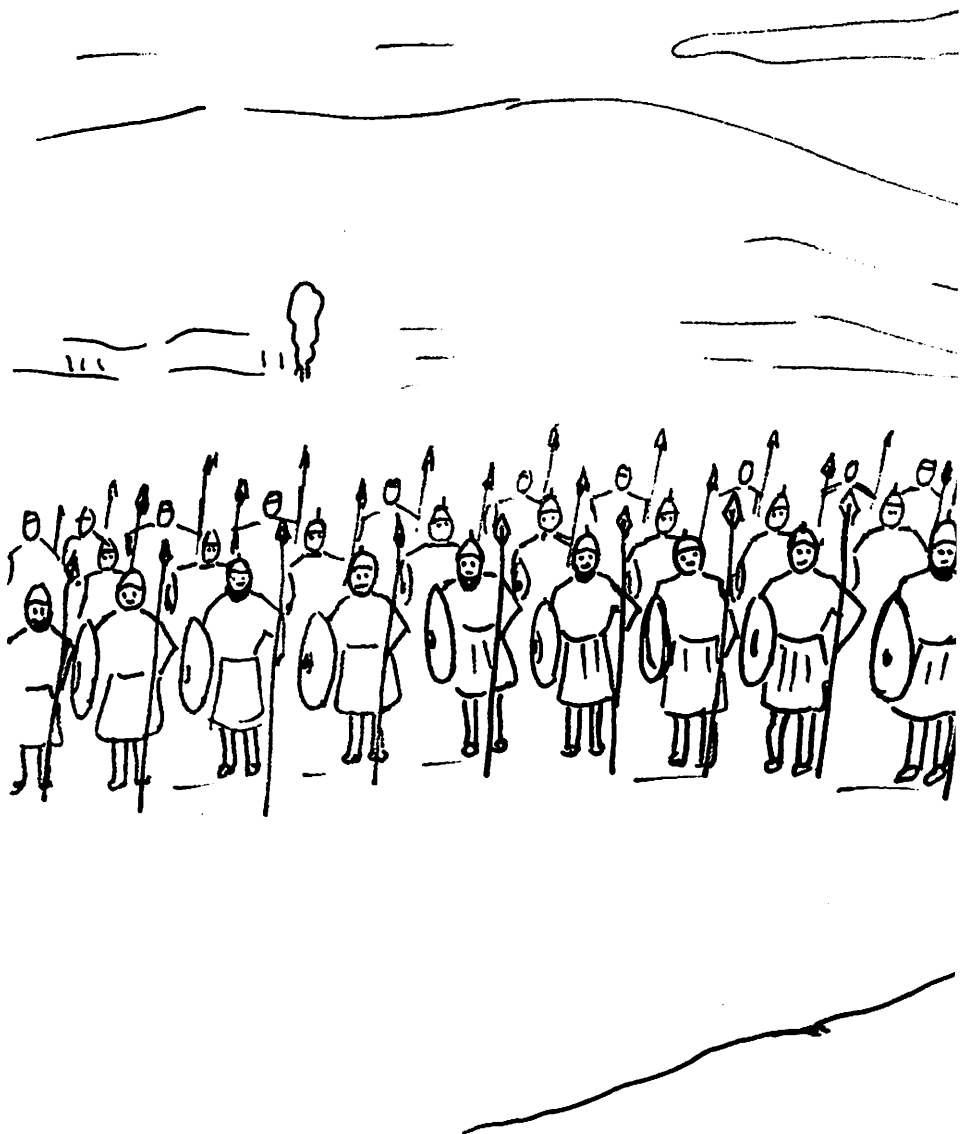
"But as for us, the Lord is our God, and we have not forsaken Him. We keep the charge of the Lord our God but you have forsaken Him. God Himself is with us for our captain, and His priests with trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, don't fight against the Lord God of your fathers because you will not win."

But Jeroboam would not listen. He secretly moved some of his men behind Abijah's soldiers while his main army was in front of them. When the army of Judah looked back and saw they were surrounded by the enemy, they cried to the Lord, and the priests sounded their trumpets. Then the men of Judah gave a shout. As they shouted God began to fight for them. When Jeroboam and his army saw this they turned and ran. Many of his mighty men of war were killed. Abijah chased Jeroboam and took cities from him and won a great victory.

So Jeroboam and the children of Israel lost the battle because they chose to serve idols. The children of Israel won because they trusted God and He fought for them.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...and the children of Judah prevailed  
cause they relied upon the Lord God o  
fathers. II Chronicles 13:18.**



de-  
eir



## Against The Odds

(A true story.)

In India attending school 96 miles away from home, Ro diligently prayed and read his Bible as his father had instructed him to do. At ten years old, he was president of the Junior Christian Endeavor. The purpose of this group was to tell the gospel story to all the surrounding villages.

Six miles from the school was a totally non-Christian village where the people would curse in hatred at the gospel. This report touched Ro's heart. He felt it was his responsibility to go to that village and explain to the people that God could save them from such hatred.

After prayer, Ro walked to this village. As he neared the houses, he saw priests performing ritual sacrifices. Around them danced drunk villagers. Suddenly, the dogs began to bark. Fearing he would be noticed, Ro stood trembling underneath an oak, wanting to run. Then he went to his knees. "Lord," he prayed, "I am afraid. You gave courage to David and Joshua. Now be with me."

Standing up, Ro swallowed hard and walked straight ahead. At the first home he visited, the man shouted rudely at him and asked who told him to come.

Moving on, Ro stopped where three men were sitting by a fire. After a moment or two of silence, he asked if he could tell the story of Jesus. One man jumped up. "Don't bother us with your story," he snarled. He looked about and asked, "Where is my hunting knife?"

Immediately, Ro turned to run as the man began to curse and threaten him. Then Ro heard one man shout, "Wait! Wait!" Ro believed this man only wanted to harm him so he continued to run as fast as his short legs

could carry him. The man ran faster and caught Ro in the jungle.

"Don't be afraid. I won't hurt you," he said to Ro. "Someone from your school told me a little about Jesus. I want to hear more. Come to my house."

Though fearful of a trick, Ro went and shared the gospel story with this stranger. An hour later, the man said, "I want to give my name to Jesus." This meant that he wanted to give himself to Jesus. Ro prayed with him. Then he took out a pencil and note pad to write the man's name down. This paper Ro put into his Bible.

Now the man was satisfied and he made Ro promise to visit him again. As Ro returned to the school, he was rejoicing and praising God for the victory won that day.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who became king of Judah?
2. Who was there war between?
3. Whose army was largest?
4. What did Abijah do after he climbed the mountain?
5. Who made golden calves for gods?
6. Who was captain of the army of Judah?
7. What happened when the men of Judah shouted?
8. Why did Jeroboam lose the battle?
9. Why did the children of Israel win?

**LESSON TEXT:** II Chronicles 13.

(Answers: 1. Abijah. 2. Between Jeroboam and Abijah. 3. Jeroboam's. 4. He called to Jeroboam and his army. 5. Jeroboam. 6. God Himself. 7. God began to fight for them. 8. Because he served idols. 9. Because they trusted God.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 22 Nov. 27, 1994

---

## GOOD KING ASA

After Abijah's death, Asa, his son, became king over Judah. Asa was a very good king. He loved the Lord and did that which was good and right. He took away the altars of the strange gods, broke down the images and destroyed the places where the idols were worshiped.

Then Asa commanded all the people of Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers and obey the law and the commandments God had given. God was pleased with Asa's obedience and gave him peace from all his enemies. For ten years there were no wars in Judah so Asa spent the time building great cities. Asa made the cities very strong with thick walls, towers, and heavy gates. He also built up a mighty army of brave soldiers so he would be prepared if an enemy attacked.

One day Zerah the Ethiopian came against Asa. His army of one million soldiers and three hundred chariots was much larger than that of Judah. Zerah gathered his army at Mareshah where they spread out in the valley of Zephathah like a great city.

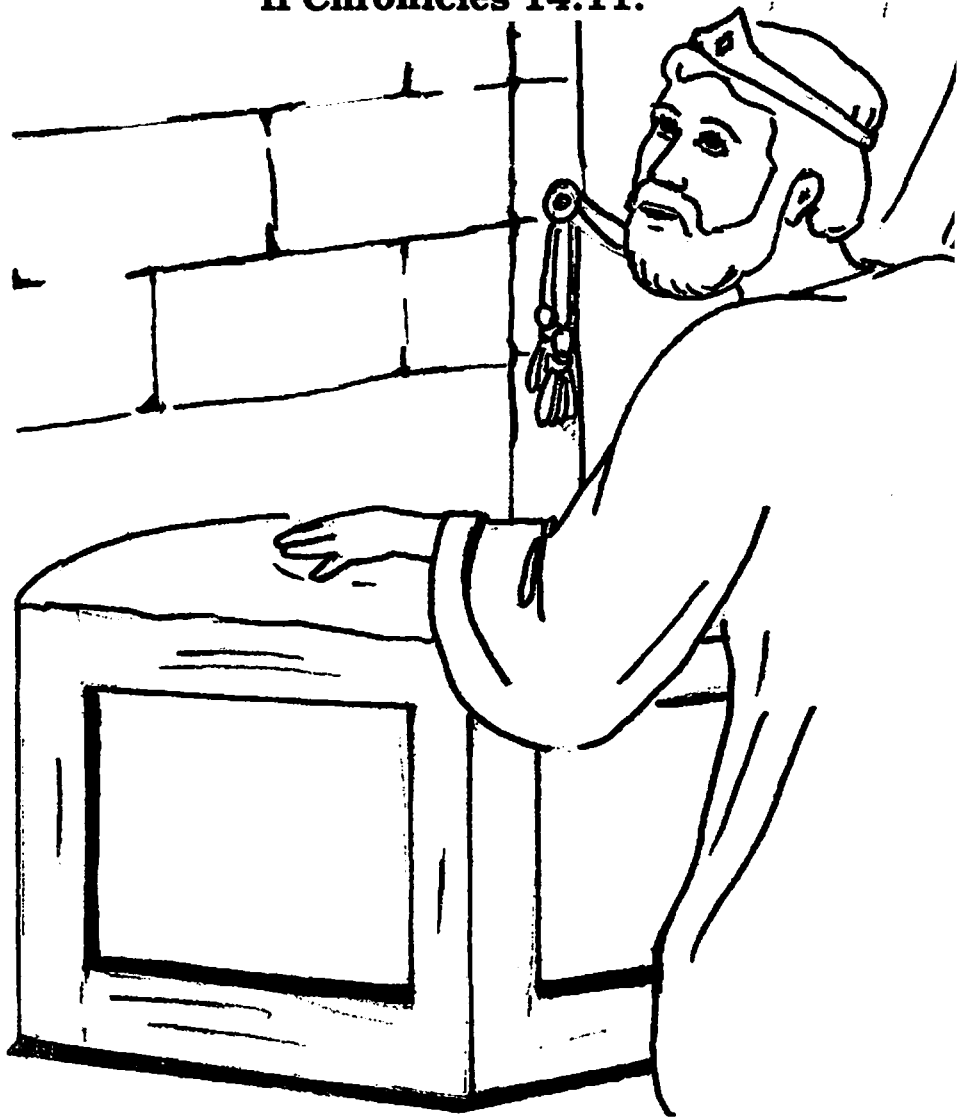
Looking out over the valley filled with the enemy soldiers, Asa knew his army could never defeat them. He must have help! He cried to the Lord his God and said, "Lord, it is nothing with You to help, whether with many, or with those who have no power. Help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O Lord, You are our God; let not man prevail against You."

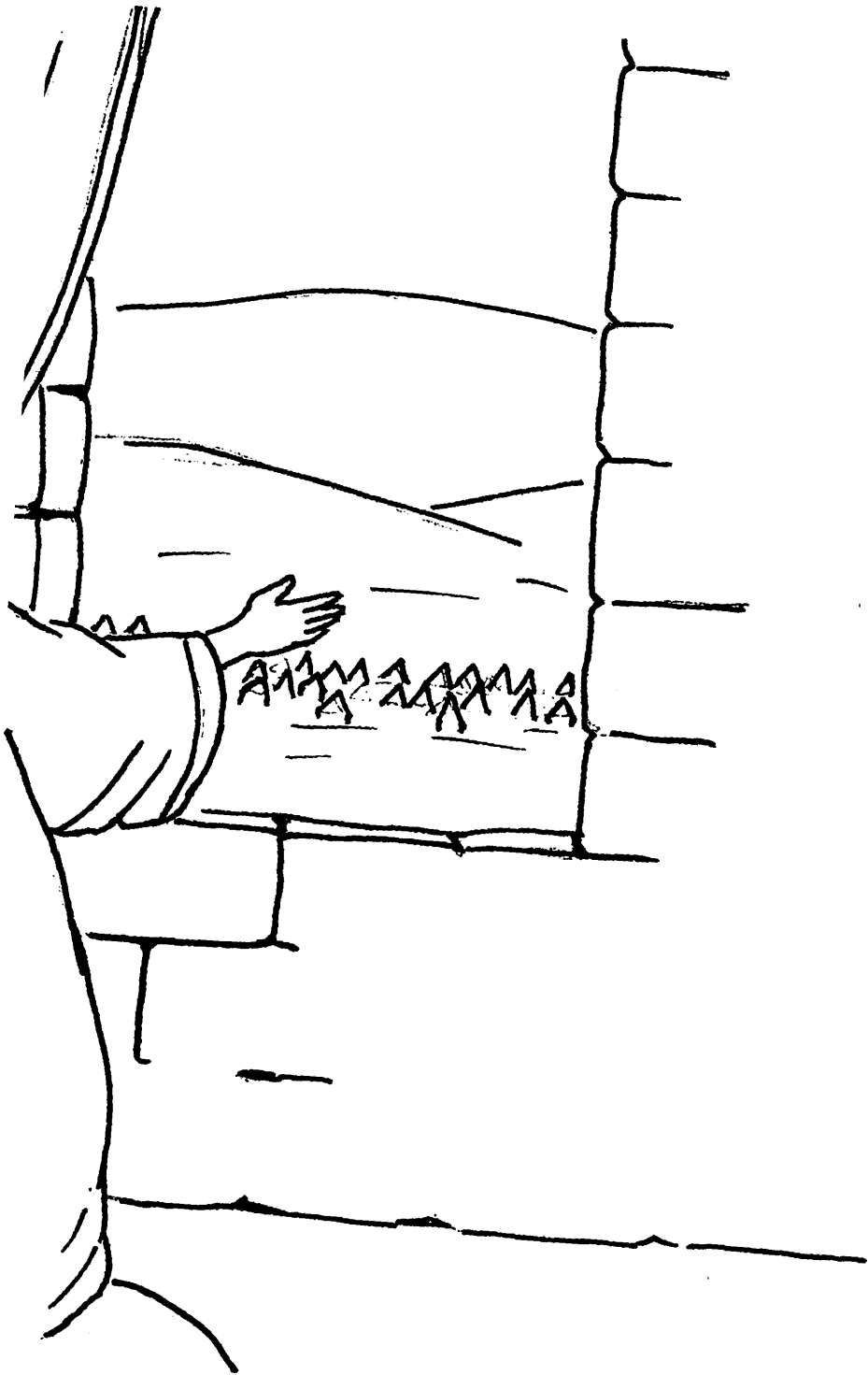
God heard Asa's prayer. He went before Asa and the army of Judah and fought against the Ethiopians. The Ethiopians ran. Asa and the people chased the Ethiopians to Gerar and fought until their army was destroyed before the Lord.

Asa also captured all the cities around Gerar because the fear of the Lord had come upon them. Asa and his army spoiled these cities, taking all their riches. Then they gathered all the spoil, carried away a great number of sheep and camels, and returned to Jerusalem. God had fought for them and given them a great victory!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...help us, O Lord our  
God; for we rest on  
thee, and in thy  
name we go against  
this multitude....  
II Chronicles 14:11.**





## Fighting Versus Love

(A true story.)

Rochunga, a native tribesman of India, enjoyed learning at several different schools and universities. His senior year, he was appointed the Cleanliness Supervisor by Dr. Cook. It was Ro's job to make sure the dorm and dining room were clean at all times. If anyone did not clean up after himself, Ro was to write down his name and report it to Dr. Cook.

Chuba, a big, short-tempered student, would deliberately smear crumbs and rice around his place at the table. Ro was patient with this for a long time until other students complained about Chuba's messes. Politely, Ro asked Chuba to clean his own place at the table.

Chuba stood up and looked down at Ro. "I am stronger than you," he snarled. "Report me and I will kill you!" Then Chuba said bad words until Ro's friends pulled him away from Chuba and his gang of buddies.

After prayer service that evening, Ro found a sign nailed on his bedroom door. It threatened his life. With several of his friends watching, Ro took the sign and laid it on his bed. Then he knelt beside it and prayed for wisdom and protection.

Many of Ro's friends crowded into his room. "Let us go and get our knives," they said. "We can sneak attack them first."

"No," replied Ro. "God does not show his love by fighting. Before you go to your rooms, please join me in prayer." When Ro prayed for protection, he also asked that God deal with Chuba and his buddies.

At midnight Ro was alone lying on his bed but he could not sleep. He got up, lit a candle, and read from his Bible. The Lord comforted his heart. Finally, Ro prayed, "Lord, if you are

going to protect me, please give me sleep." Within a few minutes, he was sound asleep.

Early next morning, a friend came to Ro's room. "I was up all night," he told Ro. "Chuba, with about 50 boys, came to your door more than once and then moved away. Did you sleep all right?"

"Yes, my friend, Jesus, took over for me last night," said Ro.

Dr. Cook heard about the raid. First, he talked with Ro and they prayed that Chuba would get saved. Then Dr. Cook talked to Chuba and his buddies. They confessed that they had gone to Ro's room several times but something had stopped them. Now they respected Ro and wanted salvation like he had. Chuba sobbed as he kissed Ro's cheek and told him "I am sorry." Through the love of God, Ro and Chuba became best of friends.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who became king over Judah?
2. What kind of king was Asa?
3. What did Asa command the people of God to do?
4. Who was pleased with Asa's obedience?
5. How many years were there no wars?
6. Who came against Asa?
7. Who had the largest army?
8. What did Asa do when he saw the great army?
9. Who fought for Asa and his army?

### LESSON TEXT: II Chronicles 14.

(Answers: 1. Asa. 2. A very good king. 3. To seek the Lord and obey Him. 4. God. 5. Ten. 6. Zerah. 7. Zerah. 8. He cried to the Lord his God. 9. God.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 23 Dec. 4, 1994

---

## ASA FOLLOWS GOD

When Asa returned to Jerusalem after the victory over Zerah, Abijah, a man of God came to meet him. The spirit of God was upon him and he had a message for Asa and the people. "The Lord is with you, while you are with Him," he told them. "And if you look for Him, He will be found of you. But, if you leave Him, He will leave you.

"For a long time Israel has been without the true God and without a teaching priest and without law," Abijah continued. "But when those in trouble turned to the Lord God of Israel and looked for Him, He was found of them. Now be strong, and don't let your hands be weak. Your work will be rewarded."

When Asa heard these words he took courage and made sure every idol was destroyed out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin. He renewed the altar of the Lord and then called all the people to meet at Jerusalem. Even the people of Israel saw that God was with Asa. Many came with the people of Judah to worship God in Jerusalem.

On the appointed day Asa and the people offered to the Lord seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep that they had captured in the battle against Zerah. There they made a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their soul. They promised that whoever would not serve the Lord should be put to death. All the people were happy with their promise to God because they had sought Him with their whole heart and desire and they had found He was right there to bless them.

Asa let no one keep him from obeying God. When he found that his own grandmother still worshiped idols, he removed her from being queen. Then he cut down her idol and burned it up. Asa also brought the silver, gold and vessels back into the house of God that his father and he had dedicated to the Lord. God was pleased with Asa's obedience. For many years there was no more war in Judah.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul....**

**II Chronicles 15:12.**



## Honesty Won

(A true story.)

December 29, 1856, the first baby boy was born into the home of Joseph Wilson. High hopes were expected of little Tommie as the baby was called. His father was the pastor of a church in Georgia and he endeavored to teach his children of God. Christian rules were taught and obeyed. Never lie. Never steal. Never cheat. Never drink strong drinks of liquor or beer and be faithful to God.

Tommie liked to study and he learned well. By the time he was sixteen, his father sent him to Davidson College for a better education. Father had hopes that his son would someday be a preacher. Tommie did well in college but his health was not well. He had to leave for home.

"Lord, please help our son," prayed his parents. They so wanted Tommie to be a help to other people.

After a year of bad health, Tommie began to feel better so he again left for an university to study. While he was at Princeton, Tommie decided two things: I don't want to be called 'Tommie' any more and I want to be a lawyer, not a preacher.

"Let's still pray for our son," said Father. "The Lord can use him to be a blessing to others."

In a couple years young Wilson went to an university where he was the teacher, or professor, who taught history and politics. He was good and honest in this job so that later he received another higher job. In time he became the president of Princeton University.

"I think the Lord is with our son," said Father to Mother. "We must continue to pray for him."

The Lord did indeed want to use Wilson to help others. Friends encouraged him to run for a govern-

ment office and in 1911 he became governor of New Jersey. Now Wilson needed more prayer than ever before.

"Run for President of the United States," friends said to him. "Give good speeches with many promises so that you will win." But Wilson refused to make any promises because he said, "Not a single vote can be or will be obtained by means of a promise." Honesty paid off. Wilson was elected the 28th president of the United States.

In his first term, President Woodrow Wilson led the United States through World War I. In his second term, he outlawed liquor to be made and sold in America. In a speech, he said, "I summon all honest men...to my side. God helping me, I will not fail them, if they will but counsel and sustain me!" His life was an answer to his parents' prayers.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

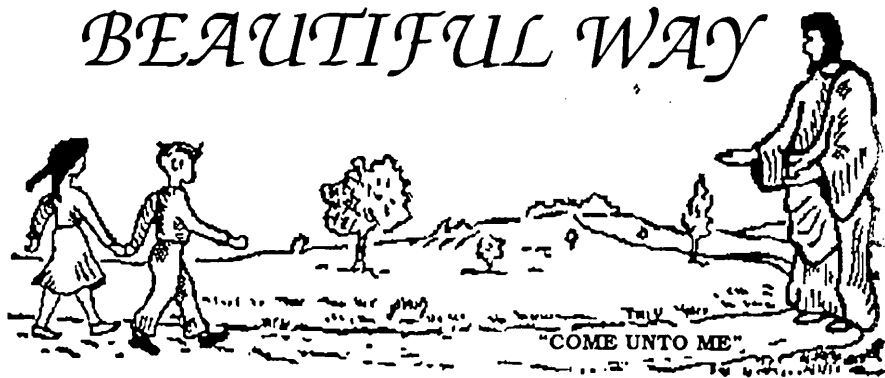
### QUESTIONS:

1. Who came to meet Asa?
2. What did he have for Asa and the people?
3. What did Asa do when he heard these words?
4. Where did he tell the people to meet him?
5. Who saw that God was with Asa?
6. Where did they get all the oxen and sheep they offered?
7. Why did Asa remove his grandmother from being queen?
8. What did he do with her idol?
9. Who was pleased with Asa's obedience?

**LESSON TEXT:** II Chronicles 15.

(Answers: 1. Abijah. 2. A message. 3. He took courage. 4. In Jerusalem. 5. The people of Israel. 6. They were captured in the battle against Zerah. 7. She was worshiping an idol. 8. He cut it down and burned it up. 9. God.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 45, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 24 Dec. 11, 1994

## ASA HIRES AN ARMY

When Asa had been king for thirty-six years, Baasha, king of Israel, came up to fight against Judah. He knew some of his people had gone to live in Judah because they saw that God was with Asa. Many more people were taking trips to Jerusalem. They wanted to worship God there. So Baasha built Ramah, a city near the border into Judah. Then he gave his soldiers in Ramah orders to guard the border so no one could leave Israel and go into Judah.

Asa wanted to stop Baasha. Without asking for the Lord's help, he took silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the Lord and out of his own house and sent it to Benhadad king of Syria. He told Benhadad he was sending silver and gold to hire him to fight against Baasha. Benhadad took the money and did as Asa asked. He sent his armies against the cities of Israel and captured some of them. When Baasha got word that Benhadad's armies had invaded Israel, he left Ramah and went to defend his cities.

While Baasha was busy fighting Benhadad, Asa came to Ramah and removed all the stones and lumber and built two cities of his own in Judah.

About that time a prophet came to Asa. "Because you have asked help from the king of Syria and not from the Lord your God, the great army of the Syrians has escaped out of your hand," he told him. "Weren't the Ethiopians a great army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because you called on the Lord, He delivered them into your hand.

"You have done foolishly," the prophet continued. "Because you have trusted man instead of God you will have wars from now on."

When Asa heard the words of the prophet he became very angry and had him thrown into prison. As he grew older Asa trusted God less. He got a terrible disease in his feet three years later. Instead of asking God to heal him, he trusted in physicians.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro  
throughout the whole earth, to shew himself  
strong in the behalf of them whose heart is  
perfect toward him.... II Chronicles 16:9.**





## Praying Down Problems

(A true story)

Little Ike was born October 14, 1890, which was over a hundred years ago. His parents already had two sons and later four more sons were born to them. Mother and Father loved all their children. Also, they loved God. Prayer and Bible reading were a daily part of their lives.

"Always remember to pray when you are faced with a problem you don't know how to handle," were the instructions of Ike's parents.

In school, Ike liked to study history best of all. He liked to read about other countries and brave heroes who did what was right. He would dream himself in different countries and sometimes would get a scolding for his 'wasted time.' Ike's parents were poor and could not afford to send him to college so Ike worked at the local creamery with his father until he had the money needed to enter college. He scored very well on the admittance test and entered West Point, the highest military school in America.

Now Ike had to work, study and obey the officers. He remembered his parents' instructions and often prayed for God's help. Time passed. Ike married and had two sons of his own. He was a very busy man and did the best he could in everything he set out to do. He rose to different important positions in the military until he became the Supreme Commander of all Allied forces in Europe during World War II. This was quite an honor!

All this time, Ike did not forget his parents' instructions and whenever he faced a problem so big he didn't know what to do, he would pray and ask for guidance from the Lord.

After World War II, Ike wanted to live a peaceful life as President of Columbia University. However, too many Americans liked Ike and wanted him to lead the country. Ike wasn't an

extra big man nor was he handsome but he had a strong inner being that made him attractive to the world. This inward strength came from the prayer life he had with God.

Finally, Ike was elected as the 34th president of the United States. Early in the morning before he was proclaimed president, Ike, or President Dwight Eisenhower, went to a quiet church service where he publicly prayed, "Almighty God, as we stand here at this moment...give us, we pray, the power to discern clearly right from wrong, and allow all our words and actions to be governed thereby, and by the laws of this land. Especially we pray that our concern shall be for all the people regardless of station, race or calling. May cooperation be permitted...so that all may work for the good of our beloved country and Thy glory. Amen."

Humble prayer gives strength to any common person.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who came to fight against Judah?
2. Why had some of the Israelites gone to live in Judah?
3. Why did people take trips to Jerusalem?
4. Who did Asa send silver and gold to?
5. What did he want him to do?
6. Who came to Asa about that time?
7. Who had done foolishly?
8. What did Asa do to the prophet?
9. What happened to Asa three years later?

**LESSON TEXT:** II Chronicles 16.

(Answers: 1. Baasha. 2. They saw that God was with Asa. 3. To worship God. 4. Benhadad. 5. Fight against Baasha. 6. A prophet. 7. Asa. 8. He had him thrown in jail. 9. He got a terrible disease in his feet.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 45, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 25 Dec. 18, 1994

## THE ANGEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Mary was a young woman who lived in the city of Nazareth. Mary loved and worshiped the Lord. She was soon to be married to a man named Joseph. Joseph was a good man who also served the Lord.

One day God sent the angel Gabriel to visit Mary. Mary was alone in the house. When Gabriel suddenly appeared before her she was very frightened. She wondered why he had come to her.

"Fear not, Mary," Gabriel comforted her. "You have found favor with God. You will have a Son and His name will be Jesus. He will be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest.

"God shall give Him the throne of His father, David. He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever. His kingdom shall never come to an end!"

Mary could scarcely believe the words the angel was telling her. "How can this happen?" she asked Gabriel. "The Holy Ghost shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you. Your Son shall be called the Son of God," Gabriel explained. "And your cousin Elisabeth will also have a son in her old age," he continued. "Nothing is impossible with God!"

"I am the handmaid of the Lord," Mary answered humbly. "Let it be as you have said." When he heard these words, Gabriel left as suddenly as he had come.

Mary knew she could share the good news with her cousin Elisabeth. Quickly she packed a few things and started for the city in Judah where Elisabeth lived. Elisabeth was not expecting a visit from Mary but as soon as Mary greeted her she was filled with the Holy Ghost. "You are blessed among women!" she told Mary. "Because you have believed, the things which were told you will come to pass."

Then one night as Joseph slept, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. He told him, "Mary shall bring forth a Son and you shall call His name Jesus. He shall save His people from their sins."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**And the  
angel said  
unto her,  
Fear not,  
Mary: for  
thou hast  
found favour  
with God.  
Luke 1:30.**



## Pinching Dimes

(Based on a true story.)

Sixty years ago during the 1930's, the United States went through a depression which meant most families did not have very much money. It was certainly that way at Clara's house. Her father lost his job at the factory so he worked for the government paving streets and roads.

Since they were poor, Clara, her two brothers and two sisters, ate brown pinto beans and corn bread for lunch, supper, and sometimes for breakfast. However, at Christmas time it was different.

"Clara, I need you to go to the store for me," said Mother. "Here is some money to buy cornmeal. The clerk should give you a dime and some pennies in change. Please carefully bring the change back to me."

"Yes, ma'am," said Clara as she put on her old, worn coat. It was near Christmas and Clara loved to go to the grocery store this time of year. She drank in the delicious smells of cinnamon and other spices, knowing that they would soon have a lovely Christmas dinner at their house.

At the store, Clara bought the needed cornmeal and was careful to bring the dime and pennies back to Mother.

"Thank you, Clara," said Mother as she took the change. Clara noticed that Mother put the pennies into her purse but the dime went into a jar in the cabinet.

Visiting with friends at school, Clara realized that some of them weren't going to have a lovely Christmas dinner. Sandra said her parents didn't have a dime to spare for an expensive turkey. Mary said their family was saving for a new baby and that would be their Christmas.

Clara mentioned her friends to Mother. "Couldn't we help their families some way?" she asked.

"I don't know, Clara," said Mother. "I am pinching every dime for our Christmas. Let's pray about it and maybe the

Lord will increase the little that we have." So Mother and Clara prayed.

Christmas Eve, Mother began to prepare Christmas dinner. Clara helped. She stirred the pumpkin pie mixture and poured equal amounts into four pie crusts. Mother set them in the oven to bake. Then Clara helped with the dressing—two big pans full and some in the turkey. Clara had not seen so much delicious food in a long time.

"Clara, the Lord has blessed this year," said mother. "I believe we will have enough to share with your friends." Christmas morning Clara was so happy to go with mother and father as they took some of their Christmas dinner to Sandra and Mary's families.

"How can you afford to do this?" asked Sandra's mother.

"Through the year I save back each dime I get," said Clara's mother. "Then at Christmas time I spend them for our family dinner. The Lord increased my little dime collection."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Mary love and worship?
2. Who was she soon to be married to?
3. Who came to visit Mary?
4. Who had sent him to visit Mary?
5. What would be the name of Mary's Son?
6. Who else would have a son?
7. What happened to Elisabeth as soon as Mary greeted her?
8. Who appeared to Joseph one night as he slept?
9. Who would save the people from their sins?

**LESSON TEXT:** Luke 1:26-37; Matthew 1:20-21.

(Answers: 1. God. 2. Joseph. 3. Gabriel. 4. God. 5. Jesus. 6. Elisabeth. 7. She was filled with the Holy Ghost. 8. The angel of the Lord. 9. Jesus.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



---

Vol. 45, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 26 Dec. 25, 1994

---

## BABY JESUS IS BORN

It was almost time for Mary's Son to be born. She was happily getting everything ready. But one day Joseph came home looking very troubled. He had just learned that Caesar Augustus had passed a law saying everyone had to go to the city from which his family had come. There they would have to pay taxes. This meant they must go to Bethlehem right away. They dared not disobey.

Joseph feared the trip would be too hard on Mary but she must go too. He did everything he could to make it easier for her. Along the road they met crowds of people going to be taxed.

Finally they reached Bethlehem. Mary was very tired and needed a place to rest. Joseph went from place to place asking for somewhere to spend the night but every room was already full. Finally a kind innkeeper said he could use his stable. Quickly Joseph gathered clean straw for beds and helped Mary into the stable. There in the stable, baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped Him in soft cloths and laid Him in the manger. This was the only bed she had for Him.

Not far away there were some shepherds in the fields. They were keeping a watch over their flock that night. Suddenly an angel of the Lord was before them and the glory of the Lord was shining all around them! The shepherds were very much afraid.

But then the angel spoke. "Fear not: because I bring you good news!" he told them. "Your Saviour, which is Christ the Lord, is born today in the city of David. You will find Him wrapped in soft cloths and lying in a manger." Then the heavens were filled with angels who were praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Just as suddenly the angels were gone! The shepherds looked at each other in surprise. "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this wonderful Baby that the Lord has told us about," they all said. Quickly they made their way to Bethlehem and there they found baby Jesus.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...Ye shall find the babe  
wrapped in swaddling  
clothes, lying in a manger.  
Luke 2:12.**



## Father's Christmas Story

It was evening time at the Million's house. Supper dishes were already washed and put away. Toys were neatly put up and bath time had left four little children cleanly clad in night clothes. Mother was relaxing on the divan with the youngest child, Berry, resting his head in her lap. Father sat in his favorite chair, his hand upon the Bible. It was family devotion time.

"Tell us a story about Christmas, Father," requested Tim the oldest. "What Christmas do you first remember?"

"Well, I would have to think about that," said Father slowly. "Christmas always has been a favorite time of year."

"Yes, because we get lots of toys," said Cindy the oldest girl.

"Children, Christmas isn't all getting," said Father. "I remember when I was about your age, Cindy. I thought the same way you do—I want this and that. I didn't think about giving, just getting."

"Then one day before Christmas I was in the kitchen with my mother who was baking all sorts of good things to eat. When she brought a Christmas cake out of the oven, I was excited and asked if it was Baby Jesus' birthday cake. My mother laughed. 'I guess you could call it that,' she said. I asked how many candles he would have on his cake and Mother said, 'I don't think Jesus needs candles on his cake since he has all the stars in heaven.'"

"I thought about that for a while then I said, 'I guess Jesus doesn't need any birthday gift since he owns all the cattle on a thousand hills.' 'Not so,' replied my mother. 'Jesus does want a Christmas gift from you. He wants your heart, your life, your love. When you get saved from sin, you give

Jesus your heart. When you are sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit, you give your life to Jesus. Then as you willingly give to others, you give the love of Jesus.'

"I was quiet for a while, thinking about what Mother had said. These gifts weren't ones I could buy at the store and wrap for Jesus. Instead, they would take a whole lifetime of giving on my part."

"So then you gave your life to Jesus, right Dad?" asked Tim.

"Yes," said Father. "It wasn't long before I gave my heart to Jesus. That was a good start and I have been happy I did ever since."

"Daddy," said Cindy quietly, "I would like to give my heart to Jesus."

"Then let's have prayer right now," said Father. And they did.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was happily getting everything ready?
2. Who came home troubled?
3. Who had passed a law?
4. What did everyone have to pay?
5. Where did Joseph and Mary have to go?
6. Why didn't Joseph get a nice room for Mary?
7. Where did Mary lay baby Jesus?
8. Who appeared to the shepherds that night?
9. Why did the shepherds go to Bethlehem?

### LESSON TEXT: Luke 2:1-16.

(Answers: 1. Mary. 2. Joseph. 3. Caesar Augustus. 4. Taxes. 5. To Bethlehem. 6. They were all full. 7. In a manger. 8. Many angels. 9. To see the wonderful Baby.)