

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 14 Jan. 1, 1995

AHAB BECOMES KING

Asa had been king over Judah for thirty-eight years when Omri, king of Israel, died. Omri's son, Ahab, then became the king of Israel. Like the kings before him he refused to obey God. He bowed down to the golden calves that Jeroboam had made and worshiped when he was king. But Ahab was more wicked than any of the kings who had ruled before him.

Ahab chose Jezebel, a wicked princess, to be his wife. Jezebel served the idol, Baal. Soon Ahab was worshiping and serving Baal also. He even built a temple and an altar for Baal in Samaria. Jezebel brought her heathen priests to Israel to serve in the temple of Baal. They taught the people to worship this idol god. God was very angry with Ahab's wickedness.

At that time Elijah the Tishbite lived in Gilead. Elijah was a prophet of God. It made him sad to see the people turn from the true God to serve the dumb idol, Baal. One day God told him that he must go and speak to Ahab. He had a special message for him.

Elijah obeyed God. He went to Samaria to give Ahab God's message. Ahab was surprised to see Elijah coming toward him. Elijah wore a rough coat of animal skins, much different from the king's fine clothes. He bravely told the king, "As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years until I, Elijah, pray for it."

Elijah left the king as suddenly as he had come. God knew Elijah's life would be in danger. "Leave here at once," He warned him. "Hide yourself by the brook called Cherith. You can drink from the brook and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

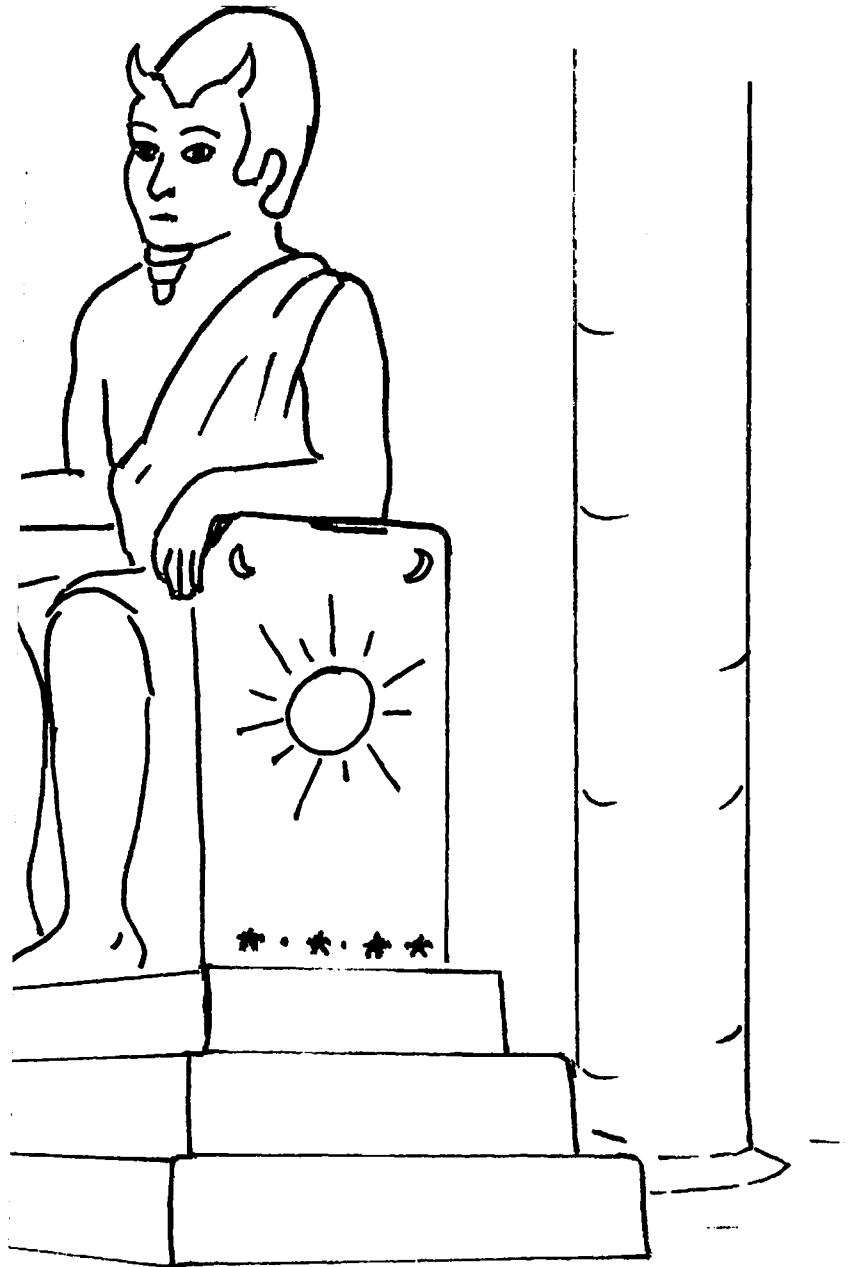
Again Elijah obeyed God's command. There by the brook he had plenty of water to drink. Every morning the ravens brought him bread and meat to eat. Again in the evening they came with bread and meat.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And Ahab the son of
Omri did evil in the sight
of the Lord...**

I Kings 16:30.





The Sawi Tribe

(A True Story)

Deep in the warm, damp jungles of the New Guinea islands there lived a nation of dark-skinned people. They were the Sawi. Their rickety thatch houses were built on tall poles several feet above the muddy swampland. Inside their houses there were grass mats to sleep on and a clay hearth to cook upon. The Sawi lived very simply. They did not have bedding or tables and chairs, and they ate with their fingers because they did not have any spoons or forks.

The Sawi's food was also different. For meat, they hunted fish with bows and stringed arrows and they speared mean hogs running wild in the jungle. They picked wild fruit to eat and they made tough bread rolls with green sago leaves. Along the riverbank they trapped little shrimp to eat. Beetle grubs were their snacks. They knew nothing about pizza and hamburgers served in America during that time of the 1960's.

With stonehead axes the Sawi men would cut down trees and remove their branches. Then they would cut away the center of these tree logs and fashion canoes. The dark, sleek dugout canoes were the only means of transportation the Sawi used. They did not have any horses or oxen trained to work for them and they did not know anything about cars, trains or airplanes. Each husband, wife and child did their own work to provide for the family.

The saddest thing about the Sawi people was that they lived in dark, sinful ignorance. Because these primitive people enjoyed fighting, young children were encouraged to get angry and fight one another. A father would laugh when his son would throw himself on the ground and scream for something he wanted. The father would then brag that his son was strong-willed and would make a good warrior. A temper fit was rewarded instead of punished!

Imagine living with 200 people who always wanted their own way!

This was indeed very sad because the Sawi people were always fighting and harming one another. If someone wanted something of another's, he just took it and challenged the other one to fight for it. Stealing, lying and cheating were honored instead of punished. No one felt they could truly trust anyone so each person was always defending him or herself.

The Sawi did not know about God nor His Son, Jesus Christ, so they lived just the opposite from what God teaches in His Holy Word. They lived in dark fear—afraid of their friends and their family. Also, they let hatred rule their hearts.

The Sawi needed to know about God and His Son, Jesus. Who would be brave enough to answer the call as a missionary to these poor, wicked people? Who wanted to forsake the comfort of a nice home, live in a thatch house and eat with the Sawi? God wanted the Sawi to be saved from their sins.

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who became king of Israel when Omri died?
2. Who did he refuse to obey?
3. What did he bow down to?
4. Who was more wicked than all the other kings?
5. Who did he choose to be his wife?
6. Who was Elijah?
7. What was the message he gave the king?
8. Where did Elijah hide?
9. How did Elijah get his food?

LESSON TEXT: 1 Kings 16:29-17:1-4.

(Answers: 1. Ahab 2. God 3. Golden calves 4. Ahab 5. Jezebel 6. A prophet of God 7. There would be no more rain until he prayed for it 8. By the brook called Cherith 9. Ravens brought it to him.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 15 Jan. 8, 1995

A WIDOW FEEDS ELIJAH

For many days Elijah lived by the brook where the ravens brought him bread and meat every morning and evening. But then one day the brook dried up. Just as Elijah had told Ahab, there had been no rain nor dew in all the land.

But God had not forgotten Elijah. He told him, "Get up and go to the town called Zarephath and live there. I have commanded a widow woman there to take care of you."

So Elijah went to Zarephath as God had said. Just as he came to the gate of the city he saw a widow woman there picking up sticks. "Go get me, I beg you, a little water in a cup so I can have a drink," he called to her.

Immediately the widow left her sticks and went to get Elijah a drink. Before she had gone far Elijah called to her again, "Also bring me a piece of bread in your hand, I beg you."

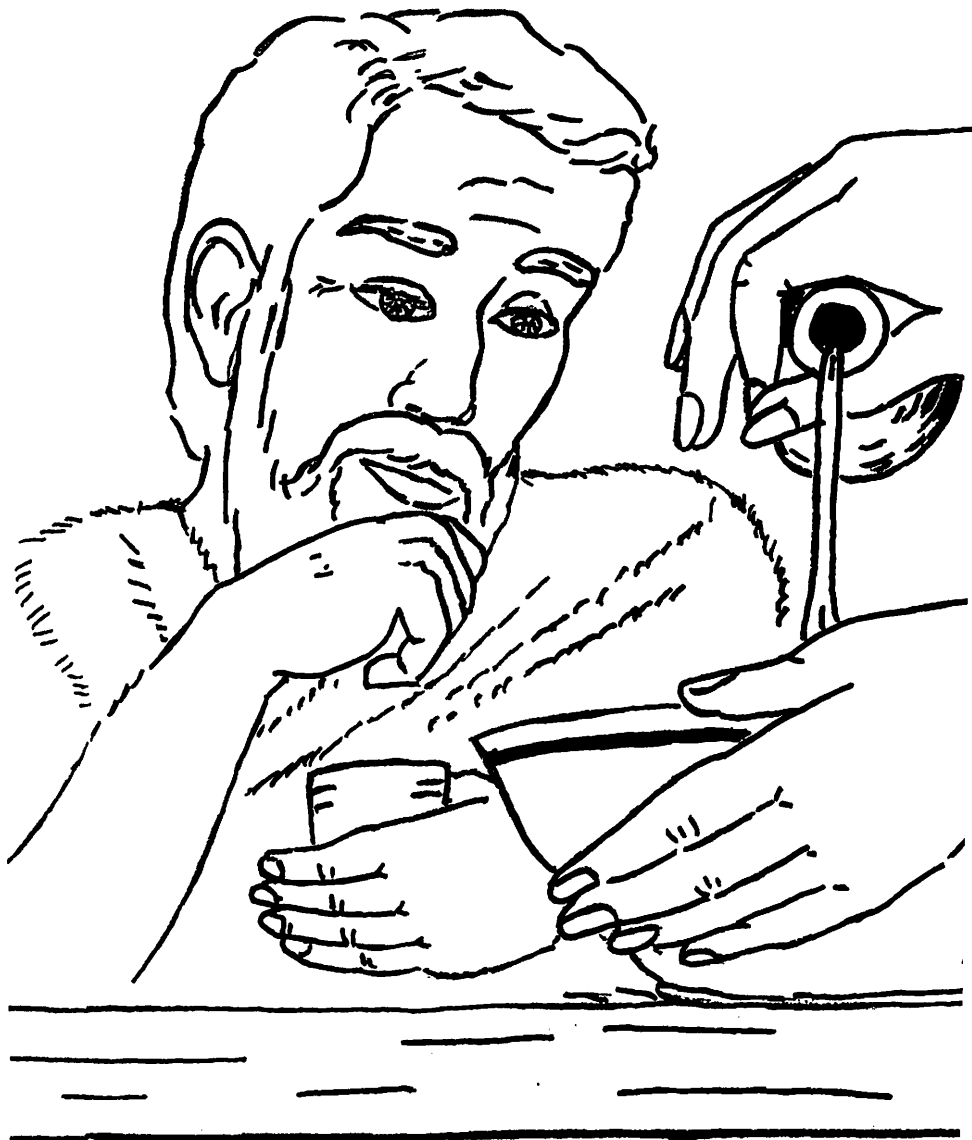
"As the Lord your God lives, I have not one piece of bread," the widow answered. "I have only a handful of meal in a barrel and a little oil in a bottle. Just now I am gathering two sticks so I can make it into bread for me and my son so we may eat it, and die."

"You don't have to be afraid," Elijah assured her. "Go and make it into bread as you have said but bring me a little piece first. Afterwards make some for you and your son. The Lord God of Israel has promised, The barrel of meal will not be empty nor the bottle of oil fail, until the Lord sends rain upon the earth."

The widow believed the words of Elijah. She went to her house and first fixed bread for Elijah. After he had eaten she found there was enough meal and oil to fix bread for her son and herself.

Elijah stayed in Zarephath many months. Just as the Lord said, the barrel always had a little more meal in it and the bottle never ran out of oil. There was always enough for them to eat.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth. I Kings. 17:14.



They Answered The Question

(A True Story)

A young man named Don Richardson sat listening intently to Mr. Ebenezer Vine, a guest speaker at Prairie Bible Institute. Mr. Vine was telling the young people sitting before him about the Sawi and other tribes of New Guinea. Mr. Vine spoke in a deeply concerned voice.

"Netherlands New Guinea," he said, "is the western half of a 1400-mile-long island stretched along the edge of the Pacific Ocean north of Australia...where heavy rains combine with sweltering heat to sustain humidity...missionaries may be called upon to make the first advance into the midst of entire tribes that have never known any kind of governmental control, where people are a law unto themselves, and where savagery is a way of life."

Mr. Vine told them about the wickedness of the Sawi people. He mentioned that the dirty lifestyle of these people caused much sickness and death among them. They needed to be taught cleanliness and most importantly, they needed to know about Jesus. He ended his speech by asking a question: "How much longer must those lost tribes wait to hear of Him who died for their salvation and rose again nearly two thousand years ago?...Our Lord is impatient to establish His kingdom of love in those dark places which are now the habitation of cruelty...Who will go and help?"

When Don heard this question, he felt a stir within his heart. He could hardly wait until he could go to his room and pray in secret to the Lord. Don was twenty years old and had been saved for three years at the time. After much prayer and fasting, Don felt God was calling him to work among the wicked tribes of New Guinea. Don said, "Yes, Lord, I will go and help."

First, Don had to go through training. He had to learn language rules while he worked as a pastor and a youth worker. He met a young woman named Carol who was training as a nurse so she could help the poor people of New Guinea. Don and Carol decided they would make a better missionary team if they were married. So in August of 1960, Don and Carol were married. In 1961, little Stephen was born to them. Then on April 13, 1962, Don, Carol and Stephen arrived in New Guinea.

A few Christian friends living in a small town by the ocean helped Don and his family adjust to the different weather and language. So many things were strange to Don and Carol but they knew God was with them and would protect them. Their trust was in the Lord because He had led them there.

By their lives, they had answered the Lord's question, "Who will go and help?" Now they wanted to learn how to really help the poor, wicked tribe people that they saw on the island.

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did the brook dry up?
2. Who had not forgotten Elijah?
3. Where did God tell him to go?
4. What was the widow woman doing when Elijah saw her?
5. What did Elijah first ask the widow to bring him?
6. What was the widow going to do with the meal and oil?
7. Who wanted a piece of bread first?
8. Who promised there would always be some meal and oil?
9. Who believed Elijah's words?

LESSON TEXT: I Kings 17:5-16.

(Answers: 1. There had been no rain. 2. God. 3. To Zarephath. 4. Picking up sticks. 5. A cup of water. 6. Make it into bread for her son and herself. 7. Elijah. 8. God. 9. The widow.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 16 Jan. 15, 1995

THE WIDOW'S SON

There had been no rain for many months in Israel. Crops would not grow and many people were suffering because there was no food. God had directed Elijah to the house of the widow, promising to feed him and her family. As long as Elijah stayed at the widow's house, there was just enough meal and oil to prepare bread for them to eat. Every day the widow found there was still a handful of meal and a little oil left. God kept His promise and provided food for both the widow and Elijah while there was no rain.

But one day the widow's son got very sick. She watched anxiously as he grew worse and worse. Then her son died. The widow was sure that Elijah was a man of God. She knew it was a miracle that there was always meal and oil for their food. Finding him, she asked, "Have you come to remind me that I am a sinner and to kill my son?"

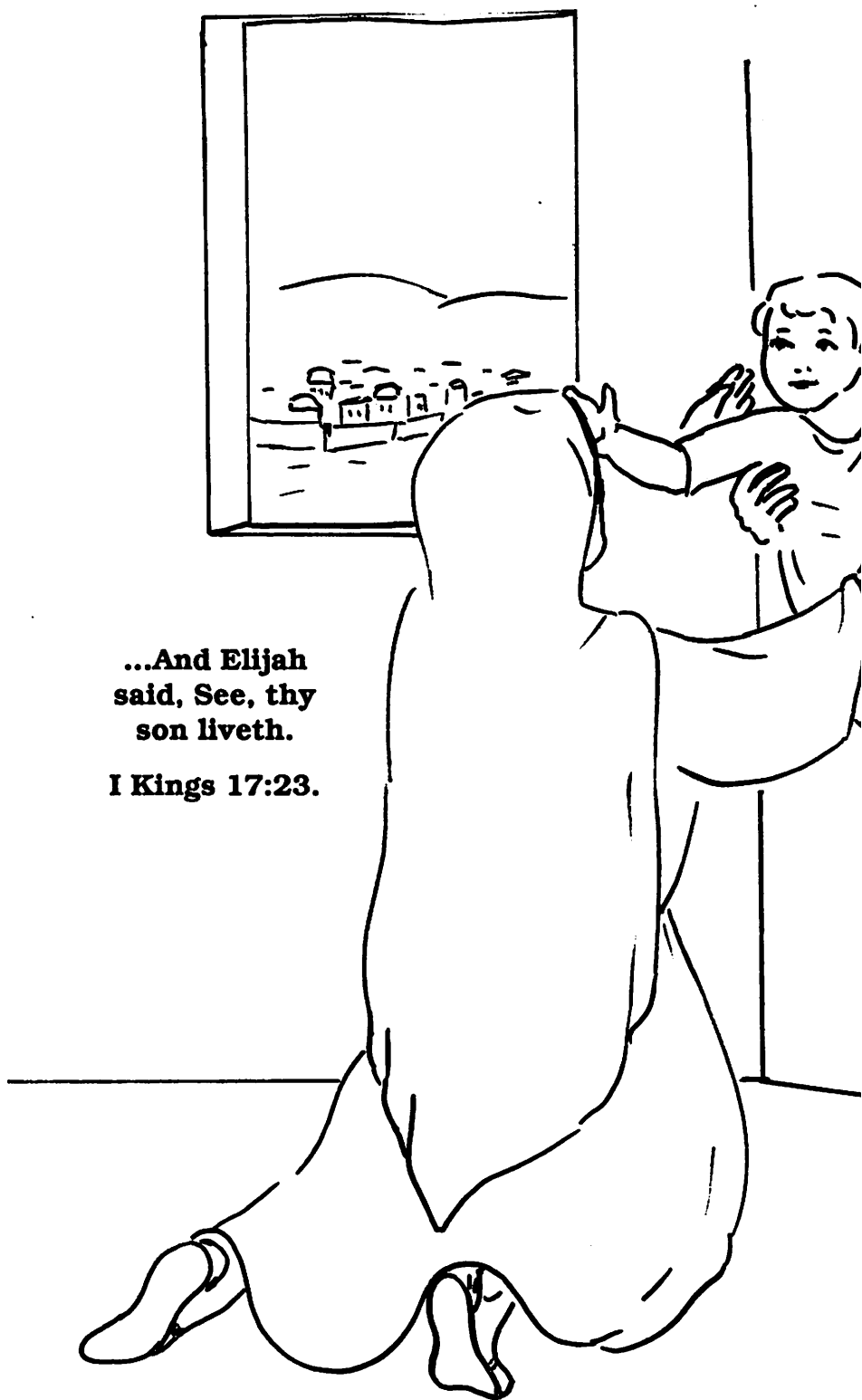
Looking at the brokenhearted mother, Elijah said, "Give me your son." Then Elijah gently lifted him out of her arms and carried him up the steps to his room in the loft. There he laid him on his own bed. He wanted to be alone where he could talk to God.

"O Lord my God," he cried, "Have you brought evil upon this widow with whom I am staying by killing her son?" Then Elijah stretched himself out over the child three times and prayed, "O Lord my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him!"

God heard Elijah's prayer and healed the child. Again Elijah picked him up and carried him down the steps to his grieving mother. "See, your son is alive!" he told her.

How happy the mother was to see her son alive and well once more! "Now by this I know that you are a man of God," she said. "I know that the word of the Lord that you speak is true!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...And Elijah
said, See, thy
son liveth.**

I Kings 17:23.



Getting Acquainted

(A True Story)

Patiently, Don and Carol Richardson worked with the Sawi tribes people in New Guinea. Don had built a wooden-rod house like the Sawi lived in and Carol had arranged a table, chairs, beds and other furniture in the small room. This furniture was different from the Sawi's grass mats which they sat and slept upon. Often Don or Carol would look up from their work in their house and see dark-skinned faces peeking in at the open windows.

Carol hired one young boy to help her do housework and one young girl to watch her baby, Stephen. These native children stared with big eyes as Carol fed Stephen a jar of baby food with a spoon and put fabric clothes on him. They used their hands to eat with and the only clothes they wore were grass skirts and arm bands.

However, life was just as strange to the Richardson's. They had to learn the Sawi language in order to speak with the people living all about them. Don carried a notebook in his hand and wrote down any words or phrases that he did not understand. Then he would ask a tribe leader to explain the words. In this way, Don slowly learned better how to speak with the people and he taught Carol the new words.

Carol was busy giving food and medicine to the sick people. Daily she treated wounds caused during a fight between a husband and wife. Each person was taught to have his or her own way. This created many family fights and Carol treated many wounds because of this. While she worked, she told her patients about Jesus, the giver of peace. The people listened but they did not understand.

Every night Don and Carol would pray and ask the Lord to give them a key in which they could open the

Sawi's understanding about Jesus. These poor, ignorant people needed to know the message of salvation from sin. Don would go to the manhouse and tell the men of the tribes about God, the Creator of all things. The men would listen and reason that a great God of spirits had created all living things but they could not understand that God loved them and Jesus died for them. They understood fear and hatred, but they could not understand a loving God nor a dying Saviour.

Carol was able to teach the mothers how to better care for their babies but Don felt sad because he was not able to teach the fathers about the love of God. Unless the fathers learned about Jesus and accepted Jesus into their hearts, then the hatred and hurting would go on and on as it was. Don wanted these people to know Jesus as their own personal Saviour from sin. Wicked sin was hurting their bodies and souls. Don and Carol prayed for the Sawi tribes..

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why would no crops grow?
2. Who had directed Elijah to the house of the widow?
3. Who provided food for Elijah and the widow?
4. Who got very sick?
5. What happened because he was so sick?
6. Where did Elijah take the child?
7. How many times did Elijah pray for him?
8. Who healed the child?
9. Who knew by this that Elijah was a man of God?

LESSON TEXT: I Kings 17:17-24.

(Answers: 1. There had been no rain. 2. God. 3. God. 4. The widow's son. 5. He died. 6. To his room. 7. Three. 8. God. 9. The widow.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 17 Jan. 22, 1995

OBADIAH

For three years, no rain nor dew fell upon the land of Israel, just as the prophet Elijah had promised King Ahab. The rivers dried up to just a trickle and then disappeared. The fields where the Israelites had grown their food became dry and brown. There was no grass for the cattle. Then the people began to run out of the food they had saved. They were so hungry they cried to King Ahab.

Among Ahab's servants there was a good man named Obadiah. He loved and worshiped God and would not bow down to the idol, Baal, because he feared the Lord greatly. Once he had taken one hundred prophets who loved and served God and had hidden them in two caves. In each cave he put fifty prophets so Jezebel could not find them. She hated God and those who served him so she was determined to kill all his prophets. Obadiah had fed the prophets bread and water and by doing this he had saved their lives.

One day King Ahab called Obadiah, who was the governor of his house. "Go search out all the fountains of water and the brooks," Ahab told Obadiah. "Maybe we will find a little water and grass for the horses and mules to eat so they will not all die. You search one direction and I will go the other way."

So they divided the land between them to search it thoroughly. Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went the other way by himself.

Obadiah had not gone far when suddenly Elijah stood before him! He knew it was the prophet because of the strange coat of camel's hair. In surprise, he fell on his face before the prophet. "Are you really Elijah?" Obadiah asked.

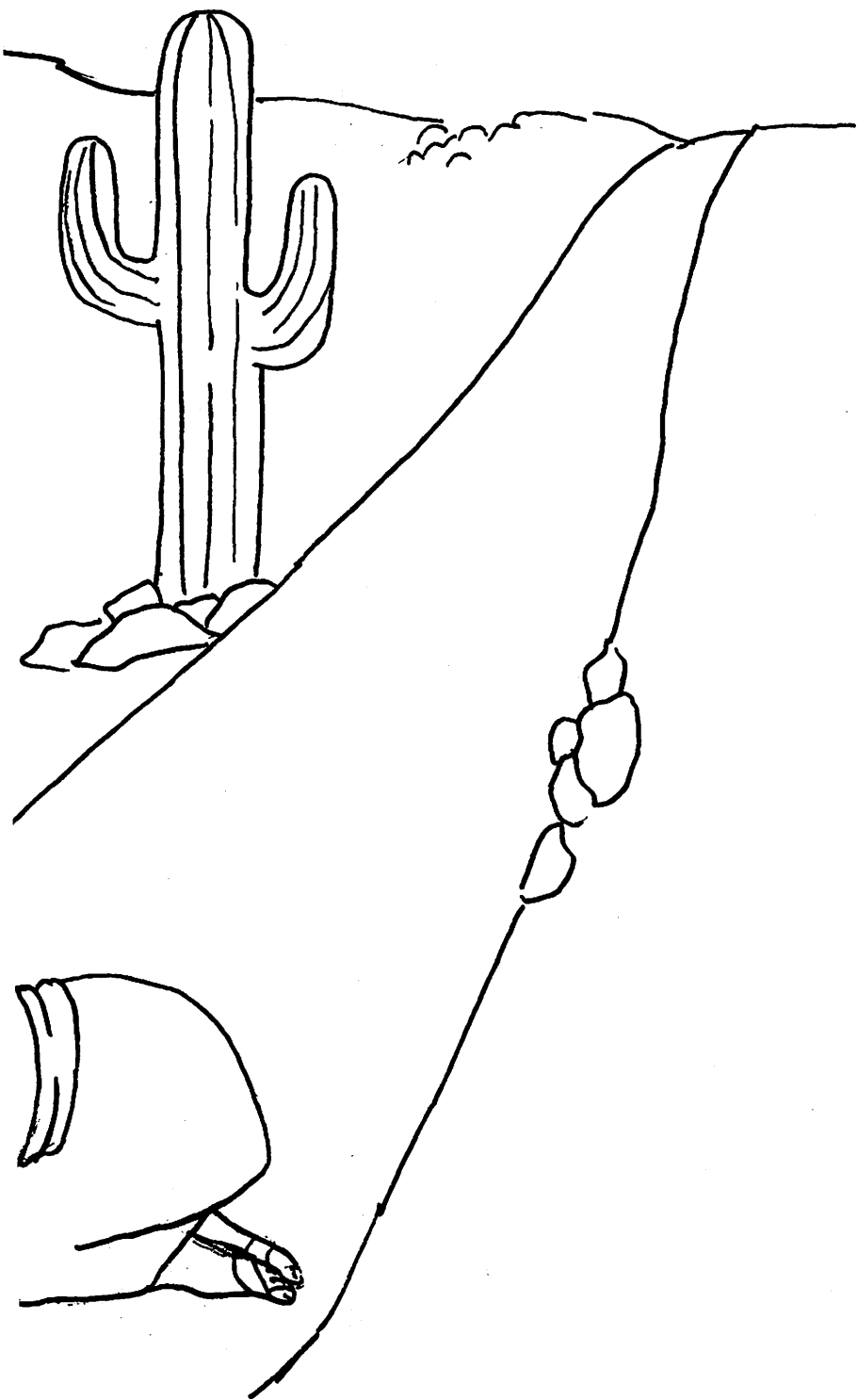
"I am," Elijah answered. "Now go tell the king I am here." "Why have you come to me?" Obadiah asked. "The king has searched everywhere for you!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...Now Obadiah
feared the Lord
greatly:...**

I Kings 18:3.



The Key That Worked

(A True Story)

Don and Carol Richardson with their baby son, Stephen, lived among the wicked Sawi tribes of New Guinea. By a bend in the Kronkel River Don had built a house out of rods and thatch like the Sawi's houses.

Every day Carol would care for the sick, put band-aids on wounds and teach the mothers how to better care for their babies. In a notebook, Don wrote down the different languages, learned new words and taught them to Carol in the evenings. Don and Carol wanted to talk better with these people so that they could share the gospel story with them.

The Haenem tribe lived on one side of the missionaries' house and the Kamur tribe lived on the other side. Often Don would go to the Haenem manhouse where he would talk to the men warriors about God and Jesus. Fighting was the Sawi's way of life and the Haenem warriors did not understand about Jesus and His teachings of love and peace. The Kamur warriors did not understand about Jesus either. Both tribes would war against each other right in Don's front yard!

Finally, Don decided he would move his family somewhere else. He went to the Kamur manhouse and told the warriors he was moving because they would not stop fighting the Haenem tribe.

"Don't leave! Don't leave!" cried out the Kamur warriors. Don knew they liked the modern gifts that he gave them in payment for their work.

The Haenem warriors wanted Don to stay also.

All that night, Don and Carol could not sleep because they could hear each tribe of men talking in their own manhouse. Early the next morning, Don went out on his porch to see the sunrise. Soon both tribes were awake, the Kamur lined on their side and the Haenem on their side.

The Kamur chief began to walk up and down in front of his tribe. "Who will give me a baby?" he asked. Mothers held their babies tightly and no father wanted to give away his son. Finally, a young father gave his only baby son. Don watched intently as the Kamur chief took this small baby over to the Haenem chief. Then these two chiefs exchanged babies!

"What will happen to the babies?" Don asked the young houseboy near him.

"They will be treated very good," he replied. "As long as these peace-babies live, neither tribe will fight the other."

It was true! The two tribes did not fight in Don's front yard anymore. Then Don thought about baby Jesus who was born to give all men peace. He told each tribe about baby Jesus who still lives and gives peace to the hearts of men and women. Slowly, this key story about Jesus, the peace-child, unlocked their understanding.

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How long had it been since it had rained?
2. What happened to the rivers?
3. Why did the people cry to King Ahab?
4. Who loved and worshiped God?
5. How many prophets had he saved from Jezebel?
6. What were Obadiah and Ahab looking for?
7. Who met Obadiah?
8. What did Elijah tell him to do?
9. Who had searched for Elijah?

LESSON TEXT: 1 Kings 18:1-8.

Answers: 1. Three years. 2. They dried up. 3. They were hungry. 4. Obadiah. 5. One hundred. 6. Grass and water. 7. Elijah. 8. Tell the king he was there. 9. Ahab.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 18 Jan. 29, 1995

AHAB FINDS ELIJAH

After Elijah warned King Ahab it would not rain until he prayed for it, God told him to hide himself by the brook. There the ravens brought him food. Then God sent him to the widow's house. King Ahab had looked everywhere for him for over three years. He could not find Elijah. When Obadiah looked up to see Elijah coming toward him he could hardly believe his eyes!

Elijah had told him to go tell Ahab where he was, but Obadiah was afraid to take his eyes off of the prophet for fear that he would disappear again. He said, "When I go to tell the king, you will leave. I am already in danger because I hid one hundred of the Lord's prophets when Jezebel wanted to kill them. If the king comes here and you are gone, he will think I hid you just as I did the other prophets. Then he will kill me."

"As the Lord of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to Ahab today," Elijah assured Obadiah. Hearing this, Obadiah ran to tell the king. When Ahab heard that Elijah had been found, he stopped looking for grass for the cattle and hurried back with Obadiah to see Elijah.

Elijah waited for the king to come. He knew God had sent him to speak to the king so he was not afraid. When Ahab saw Elijah, he said, "Are you the one who has brought so much trouble to Israel?"

"I have not troubled Israel," Elijah answered bravely. "But you and your father's house have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and you have followed Baalim. This has brought trouble to Israel."

"Now send and gather all the people of Israel to me at mount Carmel," Elijah ordered the king. "The four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal must come too, along with the four hundred prophets of the groves who eat at Jezebel's table." King Ahab listened carefully to Elijah's orders. He was sure it would not rain again in Israel until Elijah prayed for it. He would do whatever Elijah asked.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...Ahab said unto him, Art thou he
that troubleth Israel? I Kings 18:17.**





Jesus Does Protect

(A True Story)

In the manhouse of the Kamur tribe, Don Richardson told how Jesus, the Son of God, was born and given to mankind as a peace-child.

Don opened an English Bible and translated part of Isaiah's prophecy into the Sawi language: "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:...and his name shall be called...the Prince of Peace."

Sitting on grass mats in a circle around Don, the men leaned forward and looked at the strange little "cluster of leaves" lying in Don's hand. They were amazed at the message that had been trapped inside it. In short, they had never before heard anyone read.

"This is the Word of God," Don said. "It tells us about God's Son who came to earth and made a way for us to go live with God someday in Heaven."

"Read some more," said the chief.

Carefully, Don explained the gospel story. Now the men understood more about Jesus, the Prince of Peace, but they did not believe they could trust His love and protection.

"We will have to think about it," the chief said.

Soon Don, Carol and baby Stephen had to leave for the coast town of Pirimapun some 60 miles away. While there, another baby boy was born to them. Don and Carol were glad! But they were anxious to go back to the Sawi tribes. So the new baby was only two weeks old when he took his first canoe trip up the Kronkel River.

Don had put a small boat motor on the canoe hoping this would speed their trip homeward. A young houseboy named Mavo was at the front watching for logs, crocodiles or boa constrictors. Suddenly, Mavo waved for Don to turn the canoe from a log. Quickly, Don turned the boat but he turned it too fast. The canoe tipped over, spilling everyone into the muddy river!

Don grabbed the baby and gave it to Mavo who had climbed up on the bottom of the floating canoe. Carol swam to the canoe while Don rescued Stephen, but they were not safe from the crocodiles. Then God sent Mavo's father to help them.

As they reached their home shore, the Sawi people came out to meet Don's family. When the Kamur chief heard that their canoe had tipped over he blamed Mavo for not being careful. With a rope-whip in hand, he was going to punish Mavo when Don stepped between them.

"Do not punish Mavo," said Don. "I take the blame. See, my family is safe. Jesus protected us."

The chief lowered his arm while the people whistled in admiration. They had never seen anyone willingly take the blame like this. They asked, "Did Jesus give Don such love and peace?"

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did God tell Elijah to do?
2. What did the ravens bring him?
3. Whose house did God send him to?
4. How long had Ahab looked for Elijah?
5. Why was Obadiah afraid to take his eyes off Elijah?
6. Who ran to tell the king where Elijah was?
7. Where were the people to gather?
8. When would there be rain again?
9. Who was willing to do whatever Elijah asked?

LESSON TEXT: 1 Kings 18:9-19.

(Answers: 1. To hide by the brook. 2. Food. 3. The widow's. 4. For over three years. 5. He was afraid Elijah would disappear. 6. Obadiah. 7. At mount Carmel. 8. When Elijah prayed for it. 9. Ahab.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 19 Feb. 5, 1995

THE PROPHETS OF BAAL

So Ahab sent word to all the children of Israel that they must come to mount Carmel, along with the prophets of Baal. It had been over three years since the people had seen Elijah. They wondered what this strange prophet would have to say. They listened quietly as he began to speak to them.

"How long are you going to serve first one god and then another?" Elijah asked. "If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal is the true God, then choose him." The people didn't say a word, so Elijah continued. "I alone stand before you as a prophet of the Lord. There are four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal here. Bring two bullocks for sacrifices. They can choose one bullock for themselves. After they have prepared it for a sacrifice they will lay it on wood but they must not put fire under it. I will do the same with the other bullock.

"When the sacrifices are ready you will call upon the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The God that answers by sending fire and burning up the sacrifice will be the true God."

The people liked this plan. They quickly brought the two bullocks. Then they watched to see what would happen. "You prepare your sacrifice first," Elijah told the prophets of Baal. They did as he said and then began calling on Baal to send fire to burn up the sacrifice. All morning they called, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no answer. They got up on the altar and jumped up and down as they called, but still fire did not fall.

At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry louder! Maybe he is asleep and must be awakened." Desperately the false prophets cried louder. They even cut themselves till the blood gushed out. All day long they cried to Baal. But there was no answer.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...There
nor any



neither voice, nor any to answer,
it regarded. I Kings 18:29.



Accepting The Peace-Child Of God

(A True Story)

Don Richardson had just finished telling the story about Jesus, the peace-child of God, to the Kamur men in their manhouse in the jungle of New Guinea. Gently, he invited anyone who wanted God's standard of peace to receive Him when...

"Tuan Don!"

Don turned. Hato, an elder leader of the tribe, had risen and stood facing Don, his feet braced firmly on the sago-frond floor. His muscular arms were folded high in the manner of a head man. His chest heaved with emotion and tiny muscles flexed along his jaw. Hato had lost one eye in a battle but his other eye gleamed like a hot coal through the smoke and shadow of the manhouse.

All his life he had been taught to fight for anything he wanted. He had been told to never do anything that the ancestors of the tribe had not done. A fear had been put in him that he should never disobey the old laws. Now Hato was about to make a big decision. He knew it was daring and he felt some of the tribesmen might fight him but he had been touched by the message of salvation.

Hato's voice was low but determined. "Your words make me tremble. You have aroused longing within me." His voice choked with mingled dread and purpose as he continued, "I want to receive the peace-child of God."

Don moved closer to Hato and laid his hand on his shoulder. "Let us pray," he said. As Don began praying, Hato's arms slowly fell to his side and he became calm. His one eye began to shine with a new light; it was spiritual joy.

"Has Jesus, the peace-child of God, come in?" Don asked.

"Gal! Gal! He has come in!" responded Hato. "It is Jesus!"

Don looked around into the eyes of every tribesman in the manhouse. They too could feel the Divine Presence that had visited Hato. Some of them began to rub their elbows, meaning that they were deciding what to do themselves. Others were squirming uncomfortably. From then on things would either get better or worse, but nothing could stay the same.

Within two weeks almost every member of Hato's household had followed the father's example and accepted Jesus into their hearts. Now all the tribe was watching Hato's family. Jesus began to bless Hato. Others could see the difference. Soon more men and their families were asking Jesus to come into their hearts.

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who told the people to come to mount Carmel?
2. How long had it been since the people had seen Elijah?
3. How many prophets of Baal were there?
4. What did the people bring to offer as sacrifices?
5. Who prepared their sacrifice first?
6. What did the prophets do when Baal would not answer?
7. Who told them to cry louder?
8. What did the prophets do after they cried louder?
9. How long did the prophets cry to Baal?

LESSON TEXT: I Kings 18:20-29.

(Answers: 1. Ahab. 2. Three years. 3. Four hundred and fifty. 4. Two bullocks. 5. The prophets of Baal. 6. They jumped up and down on the altar. 7. Elijah. 8. They cut themselves. 9. All day long.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 20 Feb. 12, 1995

FIRE FROM HEAVEN

The prophets of Baal had cried to him all day to send fire to burn up their sacrifice. They were exhausted from dancing around the altar and cutting themselves. All the people saw that Baal could not hear the prophets nor could he send fire. He was only an image that someone had made.

"Come up close to me," Elijah told the people. When they had gathered around him he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been broken down when the people turned to worshiping idols. He took twelve stones, one for each of the twelve tribes of the sons of Jacob. With these stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord.

Next Elijah made a ditch all around the altar. He put wood in order on the altar, cut the bullock in pieces and laid it on the wood. "Fill four barrels with water and pour them over the sacrifice and on the wood," Elijah commanded. The people were surprised that he would want water but they hurried to do as he said.

When the barrels were empty Elijah told them to fill them again and pour it on the sacrifice. Then the third time he had them do the same. Next he filled the ditch with water. Everything was soaked.

It was now the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. Elijah stood close to the altar and prayed, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things as you have told me.

"Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that you are the Lord God, and that you have turned their heart back again."

As Elijah prayed the fire of the Lord fell. It burned up the sacrifice, the wood and even the stones and dust. It licked up all the water that was in the ditch. When the people saw this they fell on their faces. "The Lord, He is the God!" they said over and over.

Elijah then ordered that all the prophets of Baal be killed.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**Then the fire of the L
fell, and consumed
burnt sacrifice,...
I Kings 18:38.**





The Living Dead

(A True Story)

For several months Don and Carol Richardson with their two sons had been living with the Sawi tribes in New Guinea. Don explained about Jesus, the peace-child. Some of the people had believed but still had much to learn. All this time, Carol had been treating the sick and wounded.

One day Don saw a canoe beach on the bank of the Kronkel River. Then he heard terrible wailing. Don joined the crowd that was quickly gathering around the canoe. A young man named Warahai was lying limp and lifeless in the bottom of the canoe.

"Warahai is dead!" cried the people.

Two young warriors picked up Warahai and put him on the back of another young warrior. He carried Warahai to the Haenem's smoky manhouse. Family and friends were wailing all around Don as he followed the crowd and watched as they laid Warahai's body on a grass mat by the clay hearth in the long manhouse.

Then Don saw Warahai's chest heaving up and down. He made his way through the crowd and reached for Warahai's wrist. There was a pulse! Warahai was still living but was unconscious. Don talked to the family about Warahai's condition. "He is in a heavy sleep," said Don. "As long as he is breathing, he is alive."

No one in the Haenem tribe believed Don. "Give me three days," said Don. "If he dies, then you may bury him but we will pray that Jesus will heal him."

Warahai's brothers, Kimi and Bono, did not want to trust in Jesus. "We will bury him today!" they said, but Warahai's mother said, "No, let Jesus try."

Don had the sick man taken to his storehouse. Then he told all the people to go home. Don, Carol and one Haenem man watched all night over

Warahai. "I have helped him all I can," said Carol. "He may not live even in a hospital. We can only pray for a miracle from Jesus."

Don and Carol were praying. They wanted the Haenem tribe to witness a healing from Jesus. Finally, on the third evening, Don let the brothers have Warahai. He was sad that night because Warahai was not any better.

The next morning Don went to check on the sick man. He saw Kimi outside the manhouse so he asked, "How is your brother?"

"Oh, he is talking," said Kimi in a quiet voice.

Don hurried into the manhouse and there was Warahai propped up in his mother's arms. Warahai looked at Don, smiled and said, "Konahar!! (Hello, friend!)"

With joy, Don returned the greeting. Then as Don looked around the room, he could see that those there knew it was Jesus who had healed Warahai.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who had cried all day to Baal?
2. Who could not hear nor send fire?
3. Who told the people to come close?
4. How many stones did he use to build the altar?
5. What did they pour over the sacrifice?
6. What happened as Elijah prayed?
7. What did the fire burn up?
8. Who said, "The Lord, He is the God?"
9. Who ordered the prophets of Baal to be killed?

LESSON TEXT: I Kings 18:30-40.

(Answers: 1. His prophets. 2. Baal. 3. Elijah. 4. Twelve. 5. Barrels of water. 6. The fire of the Lord fell. 7. The sacrifice, the wood and the stones. 8. All the people. 9. Elijah.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 21 Feb. 19, 1995

RAIN!

King Ahab watched in silence as the prophets of Baal were killed. He had seen them call on their dumb idol who could not hear nor help them. He saw the fire fall from heaven and burn up not only Elijah's sacrifice but also the altar itself and all the water. It had been a very long day.

Elijah found Ahab and told him, "Go up and eat and drink. There will soon be an abundance of rain." So Ahab went up to the feast with the people. But Elijah and his servant went up to the top of mount Carmel. There he bowed himself on the ground in prayer to God. After awhile he told his servant, "Go up now and look out toward the sea."

The servant did as Elijah said. "There is nothing," he told Elijah. Again Elijah prayed. Again the servant went and looked toward the sea. Still he reported, "There is nothing."

Seven times Elijah prayed and seven times he sent his servant to look for a sign from God. The seventh time the servant came back and said, "There is a little cloud coming up out of the sea about the size of a man's hand."

Elijah knew God had answered his prayer. Rain was on its way! "Go tell Ahab, 'Get your chariot ready and start for home before the rain stops you!'" Elijah ordered his servant. Meanwhile the little cloud grew into a big cloud. Soon there were more and more clouds until the whole heaven was black with clouds and wind. It began to rain heavier and heavier. Ahab rode as fast as he could toward his home in Jezreel.

Elijah was very happy. God had answered prayer by sending both the fire and now the rain! Now the people could see that Baal was no god at all. Surely now the people would worship the true God. Elijah ran toward Jezreel, ahead of Ahab's chariot.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**...The heaven was black with clouds and
wind, and there was a great rain....**

I Kings 18:45.

New Friends

"Students, we have a new student today," said Mrs. Smith. "Her name is Maria. I would like for each of you to get acquainted with Maria and please show her kindness."

Maria quietly went to her assigned seat across the aisle from Debbie. "If you need anything like a pencil, you can borrow one from me. My name is Debbie," Debbie whispered.

Maria smiled at Debbie. "Thank you, but I don't need to borrow anything right now."

From then on, Maria and Debbie became very good friends. During breaktime, Debbie showed Maria where the bathrooms were. Then at lunchtime Debbie took Maria to the lunchroom.

"Did you bring a sack lunch from home or will you buy a lunch ticket?" Debbie asked Maria.

"I brought a sack lunch from home. Thank you," replied Maria.

The girls sat down on a bench and then Debbie bowed her head to thank the Lord for the food.

"Do you always do that?" asked Maria.

"Yes, I always pray before I eat a meal," replied Debbie. "Don't you pray?"

Maria shook her head. "What do you say when you pray?" she asked.

"When you pray at the table, you thank the Lord for the food and all His many blessings," replied Debbie.

"Didn't your parents pay for the meal?" asked Maria.

"Yes," replied Debbie, "but I know that everything good comes from the Lord. Do you go to church, Maria?" Maria shook her head. "No, we sleep in on Sunday mornings. Dad says church is for weak people who need to depend on others for support. My dad is very independent."

"That's too bad," said Debbie. "Does your dad have friends? Nearly everyone likes to have friends and Jesus is our best Friend."

"I don't know," said Maria slowly. "My family doesn't talk any about Jesus and we don't ever have friends over. I guess my dad has friends where he works. My mom watches TV a lot and sometimes she talks to friends on the telephone. Maybe sometime you can tell me more about Jesus but right now let's eat. I am starved!"

Debbie chuckled with her new friend but in her heart she was praying. "Lord, help me to show Maria what a good friend You are to those who trust in You."

Little did Debbie know that the Lord would do just that in an unexpected way.

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who watched in silence as the prophets of Baal were killed?
2. Who told Ahab there would soon be an abundance of rain?
3. Who went up to the feast?
4. Where did Elijah and his servant go?
5. What did Elijah do there?
6. What did Elijah tell his servant to do?
7. How many times did he send him?
8. Why did Ahab ride to his home as fast as he could?
9. Who ran ahead of Ahab's chariot?

LESSON TEXT: I Kings 18:41-46.

(Answers: 1. Ahab. 2. Elijah. 3. Ahab. 4. Up to the top of mount Carmel. 5. He prayed for rain. 6. To go look toward the sea. 7. Seven. 8. It began to rain heavier and heavier. 9. Elijah.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 22 Feb. 26, 1995

ELIJAH RUNS FOR HIS LIFE

As soon as Ahab got back to Jezreel he told his wife, Jezebel, how the prophets of Baal had prayed all day without fire being sent to burn up their offering. He told how God answered Elijah's prayer. Then he told her that Elijah had killed all the prophets of Baal.

Even after hearing how God had proven His power by sending fire from heaven, Jezebel refused to worship Him. She was not thankful for the good rain He had sent. She was so angry that her prophets had been killed she could think of nothing else. She sent a messenger to tell Elijah, "Tomorrow by this time if you are not as dead as my prophets, then let the gods kill me also."

Elijah's joy was suddenly turned to great fear. In this trouble he did not call on God as he had the day before. He was so sure Jezebel would kill him, he left Jezreel and ran for his life. Elijah did not stop until he was far away in a wilderness. He was so tired from running he sat down under a juniper tree to rest. When he thought about his troubles, he prayed to die.

In despair he stretched out on the ground and fell fast asleep. Suddenly something caused Elijah to wake up. He knew he was all alone in the wilderness but he had felt someone touch him! When he opened his eyes he saw an angel standing by him. "Get up and eat," the angel told him.

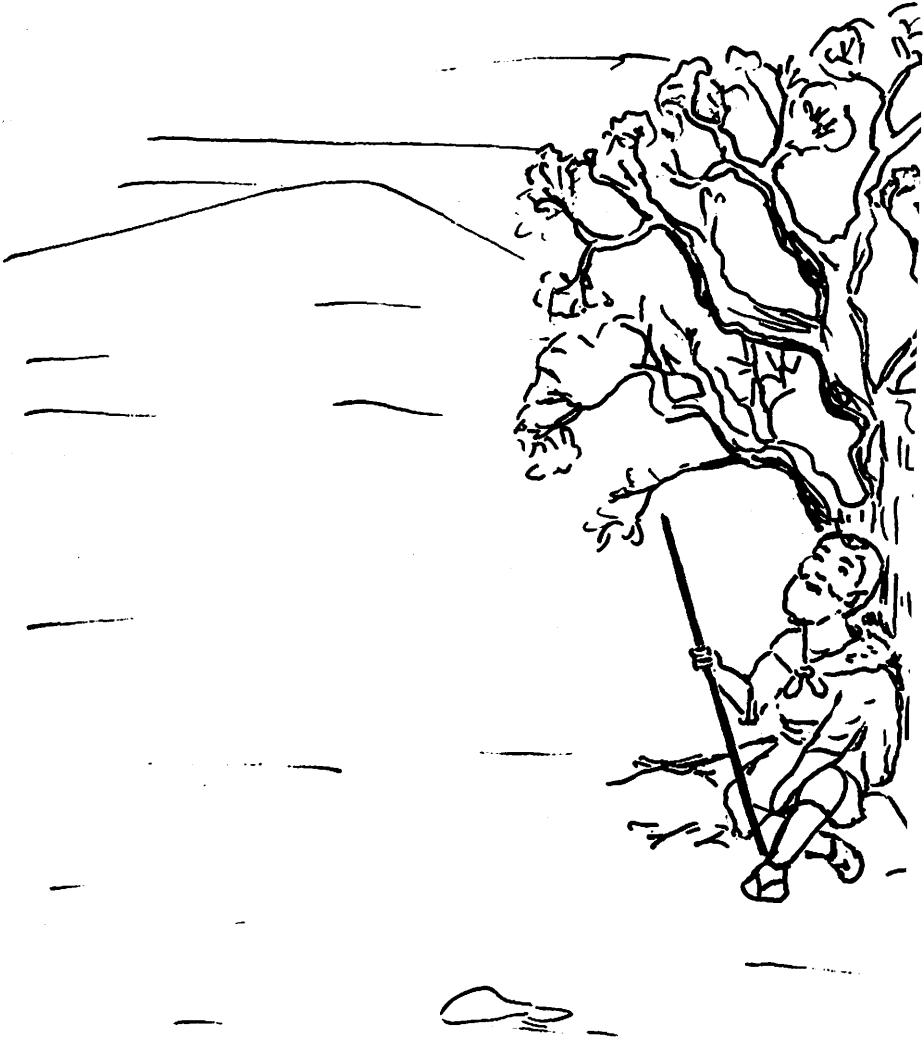
Elijah saw cakes baking on a bed of coals and a bottle of water nearby. He had been so fearful he hadn't stopped to eat. Now he realized he was weak from hunger. Elijah ate the food but he was so tired he laid down and went to sleep again.

The angel of the Lord came to him the second time and touched him, saying, "Get up and eat. You will need more strength for your trip." So Elijah got up again and ate, as the angel said. The angel's food gave him strength for forty days and forty nights until he came to mount Horeb which was called the mount of God.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**But he himself went a day's journey
into the wilderness, and came and sat
down under a juniper tree:...**

I Kings 19:4.





Repentance

(Continued from last week.)

At school Debbie had become good friends with the new girl named Maria. After Debbie had bowed her head over her lunch, Maria asked Debbie what she was doing. Debbie explained and invited Maria to church.

Maria went to church one Sunday with Debbie. Then Maria invited Debbie over to her house for an evening. After a nice supper, the two girls began to visit in Maria's bedroom.

"You have nice parents," said Debbie. "Your father has such big hands and a big laugh to go with it."

"Yes, anyone in the house always knows when Dad is laughing," Maria said with a smile. "You know, at church the preacher said that just living a good life won't get a person into heaven. Well, don't you think the Lord will have more mercy on someone like Dad who doesn't smoke or drink but works hard for his family? God should see that Dad is trying to do what is right."

"No, Maria, the Word of God says that: 'Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.' The only way to enter into God's kingdom is through repentance."

"Repentance? What does that mean?" questioned Maria.

"Let's look up 'repentance' in your dictionary," said Debbie. So the girls found that 'repentance' meant: a feeling of sorrow for wrongdoing.

Maria shook her head. "My dad will never have repentance in his heart," she said. "He is a big, strong man who welds together big pieces of metal every day. He doesn't like to do things wrong and he doesn't like to apologize."

Silently, Debbie began to pray that Maria and her family would understand the reason and the way to repent. "You have a good family, Maria," Debbie said quietly. "But the Bible says that 'everyone has sinned and

come short of the glory of God.' Even the best people must repent and believe on Jesus before they can enter into God's kingdom."

"Oh, well," sighed Maria. "Maybe my family isn't supposed to make it into heaven. I'm not going to worry about it." With that she slightly shrugged her shoulders and picked up one of her stand dolls. "Did you see my princess doll?" she asked Debbie.

The girls talked about dolls and other interesting girls' things and then it was time for Debbie to leave. "Good-bye, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson," she told Maria's parents. "I had a nice time. Thank you for inviting me."

"You are quite welcome," they said. "Come again."

"Oh, I will," Debbie replied. As she rode home in the car with her mother, Debbie asked her mother to pray also for the Andersons.

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who told Jezebel all that had happened?
2. Who had killed all the prophets of Baal?
3. Who refused to worship God?
4. Who did Jezebel send a messenger to?
5. Why did Elijah run for his life?
6. Who woke Elijah?
7. What did he tell Elijah to do?
8. How many times did he tell him to do this?
9. How long did this food give Elijah strength?

LESSON TEXT: 1 Kings 19:1-8.

(Answers: 1. Ahab. 2. Elijah. 3. Jezebel. 4. Elijah. 5. He was sure Jezebel would kill him. 6. An angel. 7. To get up and eat. 8. Two times. 9. Forty days and forty nights.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 23 Mar. 5, 1995

A STILL SMALL VOICE

When Elijah finally reached mount Horeb, he found a cave. He was sure Jezebel would never find him here. While Elijah was hiding in the cave, God spoke to him. "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He asked.

"I have served You carefully," Elijah told the Lord. "The children of Israel have forsaken your law and thrown down your altars. They have even killed Your prophets with the sword. I am the only one left who serves You; and now they want to kill me!"

"Go out and stand on the mountain before Me," the Lord commanded. As Elijah got up to obey the Lord, he heard a mighty wind blowing across the mountain. It tore things apart and even broke the rocks in pieces. After the wind the ground began to tremble and move about as a great earthquake shook the mountain. Next a fire broke out, raging down the mountainside. Elijah watched all this in amazement!

Somehow Elijah knew God was not in the great wind, the fire, nor the earthquake. Then there was a still small voice. When Elijah heard it he wrapped his coat about his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

"What are you doing here, Elijah?" God asked him again. Elijah answered Him just as he had before. To Elijah's surprise, God commanded him to go back to Israel. He had work for Elijah to do. He must anoint Hazael to be king over Syria, Jehu to be king over Israel and then he was to anoint a young prophet named Elisha to take his own place.

Then God assured him that He had seven thousand men in Israel who still served the true God and had not bowed to Baal. Hearing this, Elijah was no longer afraid. Leaving the cave he hurried to do as God had said.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**...And, behold, there came a
voice unto him, and said, What
doest thou here, Elijah?**

I Kings 19:13.

The Accident

(Continued from last week.)

It was a pleasant Friday evening at Debbie's house. Mother was in the kitchen busy cooking supper while Dad was relaxing in his easy chair, reading the newspaper. Debbie was going to the kitchen to help her mother when, R-r-ing! the telephone rang.

"I'll get it," Debbie said as she reached for the phone laying on the kitchen cabinet.

"Hello," she said and Maria's voice answered, "Hello, oh, Debbie, please pray for my dad! He was hurt on his welding job. Oh, Debbie, it's terrible—his face is burned—even his eyes. He really is suffering. The doctors are doing the best they can, but they are worried about his eyes—oh, Debbie, please pray for Dad!"

"Oh, Maria, I'm so sorry," said Debbie. "Yes, we will pray for your dad right now. What hospital is he in? My dad could come and see him."

In the same tearful voice, Maria told Debbie where her father was and how the accident had happened. Then Maria hung up the phone and Debbie explained to her parents.

"We must have prayer for Mr. Anderson right now," said Mother.

"Then Debbie and I can go and visit Mr. Anderson," said Dad as he laid aside his newspaper.

After prayer and a quick supper, Debbie and her dad left for the hospital. On the way, Debbie remembered several conversations she and Maria had shared over the past few months. Maria always said her father was very independent and didn't need the Lord's help. Debbie was thankful Maria had called for prayer; Maria had recognized her dad needed help from the Lord. That was a good start.

At the hospital, they found the Andersons still in the emergency department. Maria went to greet Debbie as she came down the hall. "Oh, Debbie,

I am so glad you came! Dad doesn't want to stay here and Mother is so worried! I don't know what's going to happen!"

"Where are your parents?" asked Debbie's dad in a kind voice. Just then Mrs. Anderson saw Debbie and came toward them. "You must be Debbie's father, Mr. Stone," she said. "Yes," said Debbie's dad shaking her offered hand. "I am sorry I haven't met you good folks sooner. How is your husband?"

"He is under heavy medication right now so he won't feel the pain. His eyes are burned very badly. The doctors can't tell all the damage done to his eyes yet. They are waiting for an eye specialist to look at them. I-I h-have to say I'm really worried about his eyes."

"Do you mind if we just bow our heads and say a short prayer right here?" asked Mr. Stone. In response, Mrs. Anderson bowed her head and they all did likewise.

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Elijah hide when he came to mount Horeb?
2. Who spoke to him there?
3. Who said he was the only one left that served God?
4. What did God tell him to do?
5. What blew across the mountain and broke the rocks in pieces?
6. What shook the mountain?
7. How did God speak to Elijah?
8. What did God command Elijah to do?
9. How many men had never bowed to Baal?

LESSON TEXT: I Kings 19:9-21.

(Answers: 1. In a cave. 2. God. 3. Elijah. 4. To go out and stand on the mountain. 5. A mighty wind. 6. An earthquake. 7. In a still small voice. 8. To go back to Israel. 9. Seven thousand.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 24 Mar. 12, 1995

BENHADAD

Benhadad, the king of Syria was a strong enemy of King Ahab. He was determined to make Ahab and the children of Israel his slaves.

First Benhadad gathered all his army together, then he hired thirty-two more kings to bring their horses, chariots and soldiers. With this great army, Benhadad marched to Samaria, Ahab's capital city, and surrounded it.

When the army was in place Benhadad sent messengers to tell Ahab, "Your silver and gold are mine. Even your wives and children are mine."

Ahab knew he was no match for this great army. He answered Benhadad, "My lord, O king, just as you have said, I am yours as well as all that I have."

Even this did not satisfy Benhadad. Again he sent messengers to Ahab to tell him, "Tomorrow about this time I will send my servants to search your house and the houses of your servants. Whatever they see that is good they will take away."

This time Ahab did not send a message right back. Instead he called the elders together. When he told them what Benhadad had threatened to do, they advised him, "Don't let him do this."

When the messengers told Benhadad that Ahab would not consent to this last demand, he ordered his army to get ready to take the city. With such a great army Benhadad was sure he could easily capture it. He and the other kings spent much time eating and drinking instead of preparing for battle.

About this time a prophet came to Ahab with a message. "The Lord says, 'I will deliver this great multitude into your hand today. By this you will know that I am the Lord.'"

Looking over his small army, Ahab knew he would need special help. When the prophet told Ahab just what to do, he carefully obeyed. His small army took Benhadad and his great army by surprise. Soon the enemy was driven away because the Lord fought for Israel.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**And Benhadad the
King of Syria gath-
ered all his
host...and...he
went up and be-
sieged Samaria,...
I Kings 20:1.**



A Friend In Need

(Continued from last week.)

At the hospital, Debbie and her dad stayed with the Andersons while Mr. Anderson came in and out of a deep sleep. Each time he seemed awake, he would moan from the pain in his eyes. Mr. Stone, Debbie's dad, stood by Mr. Anderson's bed and was touched by his new friend's suffering. In his heart, Mr. Stone was praying.

"After an eye specialist has seen his eyes Mr. Anderson wants to go home," said Mrs. Anderson. "His company's insurance will pay most of the hospital bill but Mr. Anderson doesn't want to stay in a hospital."

"Right now," said Mr. Stone. "I don't think he should move anywhere. He needs to rest. Why don't all of you ladies take a little walk around the hospital and I will quietly sit with Mr. Anderson."

After a little more persuasion, Mrs. Anderson and the girls left the room. With the room quiet except for Mr. Anderson's heavy breathing, Mr. Stone began to pray in earnest. Debbie had told him about Maria's comments that her father was strong and independent and didn't need to repent. Mr. Stone could see that his new friend was a good man but not a born-again Christian. Mr. Stone felt like praying out loud and so he did.

"Dear heavenly Father, we ask that You would touch this man's eyes and help him to see both naturally and spiritually. He needs a divine touch that man is not able to give. Please, dear Lord, look upon him with mercy..."

As Mr. Stone continued to pray, he could feel a peaceful calmness relax Mr. Anderson's body. The Lord was listening and His presence was in that hospital room.

Suddenly, two nurses walked into the room. "The eye specialist is here and must see Mr. Anderson right away," one said as they began to wheel his bed out of the room.

Would Mr. Anderson ever be able to see again? Mr. Stone felt that he must

call the church prayer chain and have them pray earnestly for Mr. Anderson's healing.

Mr. Anderson was with the eye specialist about 30 minutes before the doctor came out to tell Mrs. Anderson about her husband's condition.

"I am sorry about the accident, Mrs. Anderson," began the doctor. "We will do the very best we can. The specialist that is with him is one of the best in the nation. However, we can't at this time, guarantee complete eyesight again."

Mrs. Anderson gasped and Maria took her hand. "Don't give up hope on it," continued the doctor, "but we do want you to be aware that his burns are very bad."

"Thank you, doctor," said Mrs. Anderson weakly.

"We are praying," said Mr. Stone.

"Prayer is what it will take," replied the doctor....

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was King Ahab's enemy?
2. What did he want to do to Ahab and the children of Israel?
3. How many kings did Benhadad hire?
4. Why was Benhadad sure he could take the city?
5. What did he and the kings spend their time doing?
6. Who came to Ahab about this time?
7. Who said He would deliver the enemy into Ahab's hand?
8. Who told Ahab what to do?
9. What happened to the enemy?

LESSON TEXT: 1 Kings 20:1-21.

(Answers: 1. Benhadad 2. Make them his slaves 3. Thirty-two 4. Because he had a great army 5. Eating and drinking 6. A prophet 7. God 8. The prophet 9. They were soon driven away.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 25 Mar. 19, 1995

BENHADAD RETURNS

Ahab and his army won a great victory over Benhadad, the thirty two kings that were with him and their mighty army. After this victory the same prophet came to Ahab again with a message from the Lord. He warned Ahab, "Go, strengthen yourself. Next year Benhadad, the king of Syria will come up against you again." Ahab believed the prophet quickly this time. He prepared his army for another attack.

Meanwhile the servants of Benhadad began to encourage him to fight against Israel again. They told him, "The gods of the children of Israel are gods of the hills. Because we fought the battle in the hills, they were stronger than we were. Let's fight against them in the plain. Then we will surely be stronger than they."

"But you must take the kings away," they continued. "In their place put captains of the army. Gather an army like the one you lost, horse for horse and chariot for chariot. We will fight against them in the plain."

Benhadad was still determined to make the Israelites his slaves. He did as his servants advised and gathered another great army. At the return of the year, he went up to fight against Israel. This time he was careful to pitch his tents in the plain!

Ahab gathered his army and brought them out to face Benhadad. His army was so small it looked like two little flocks of goats compared to the great army of Benhadad that filled the countryside.

Again the prophet came to encourage Ahab. "This is what the Lord says," he told Ahab, "Because the Syrians have said, 'The Lord is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys,' I will deliver this great multitude into your hand. Then you will surely know that I am the Lord."

After seven days the armies began the battle. The children of Israel soon overcame the Syrians. God fought for them and in one day they killed a hundred thousand enemy soldiers. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And it came to pass at
the return of the year,
that Benhadad...went
up to Aphek, to fight
against Israel.**

I Kings 20:26.





A Testimony of Praise

(Continued from last week.)

It was Sunday morning five years after Bro. Anderson's terrible accident which had burned his eyes severely. While he sat in church, singing songs of praise, he thought about all the things that had happened to him since then. The pain had been awful and the thought of blindness very alarming. Even the doctors gave a slim hope that he would be able to see again. He had felt very discouraged.

Then came Bro. Stone's wonderful friendship. The Stone family had been so good to be there when needed. Also, Bro. Stone had called the church for prayer and that prayer chain had rung the bells in heaven. Get-well cards began to arrive at his house and church people, who were total strangers at the time, offered to bring meals or help Sis. Anderson in whatever way they could.

The friendship was amazing. The warmth of it reached into Bro. Anderson's heart and broke down his independent spirit. He had suddenly needed help and good saintly people had met that need. Never before had he had such wonderful friends. They led him to the Friend above all friends. The love of Jesus became so real to him that he humbled his heart and repented of his sins. Soon after, his wife and Maria were saved also.

Sitting there in church singing praises to God, Bro. Anderson could not keep quiet any longer. He felt he had to testify to the glory of God! He stood up after the song.

"Dear Saints," he began, "I must tell what the Lord has done for me! I have told it before but I can't stop praising the Lord! I thank the Lord for the family of God! They were so good to me during the dark time of my life. Their love led me to the Lord and salvation. Praise the Lord!

"I remember how the doctors did all they could for my blinded eyes. They told me it would take a higher power to make my eyes see again. Then one day

I was listening to the Bible on cassette tapes and I came to the ninth chapter of Saint John. It told how a blind man received his sight. Not only were his natural eyes healed, but so were his spiritual eyes. I heard in my mind again Bro. Stone's prayer which he first said over my hospital bed, 'Dear heavenly Father, we ask that You would touch this man's eyes and help him to see both naturally and spiritually...' This increased my faith and Jesus seemed to say to me, 'I healed your spiritual eyes, do you trust Me to heal your natural eyes?'

"It was then that I felt a touch from the hand of Jesus. My eyes began to mend until now I have enough eyesight to read a little and I can see my family and friends. Praise the Lord for all He has done!"

Then the saints praised the Lord with Bro. Anderson.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who won a great victory over Benhadad?
2. Who came to Ahab with a message from the Lord?
3. Who prepared his army for another attack?
4. Why did Benhadad's servants want to fight in the plain?
5. What was Benhadad determined to do?
6. Whose army looked like two little flocks of goats?
7. Who came to encourage Ahab?
8. Why did God deliver Benhadad into Ahab's hand?
9. Who fought for the children of Israel?

LESSON TEXT: I Kings 20:22-29.

(Answers: 1. Ahab; 2. The prophet; 3. Ahab; 4. They thought God was only a god of the hills; 5. Make Ahab and his people slaves; 6. Ahab's; 7. The prophet; 8. So Ahab would know that He was the Lord; 9. God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 26 Mar. 26, 1995

BENHADAD ESCAPES

When Benhadad's army saw they had lost the battle, they ran into a city named Aphek. God was still fighting against them, even in the city. There a wall fell on twenty-seven thousand of the soldiers.

Benhadad ran to Aphek too, and hid in an inner room. He feared Ahab would kill him. When his servants found him, they told Benhadad, "We have heard that the kings of Israel are merciful. We will put on sackcloth and go out to Ahab. Maybe he will save your life."

So the servants dressed themselves in sackcloth. Finding Ahab, they bowed before him and said, "Your servant Benhadad says, 'I beg you, let me live.'"

"Is he still alive?" Ahab asked in surprise. "He is my brother. Go bring him to me." When Benhadad came, Ahab invited him up into his chariot. Benhadad acted very humble before Ahab and told him, "I will restore the cities that my father took from your father." So Ahab made a covenant with Benhadad and sent him away.

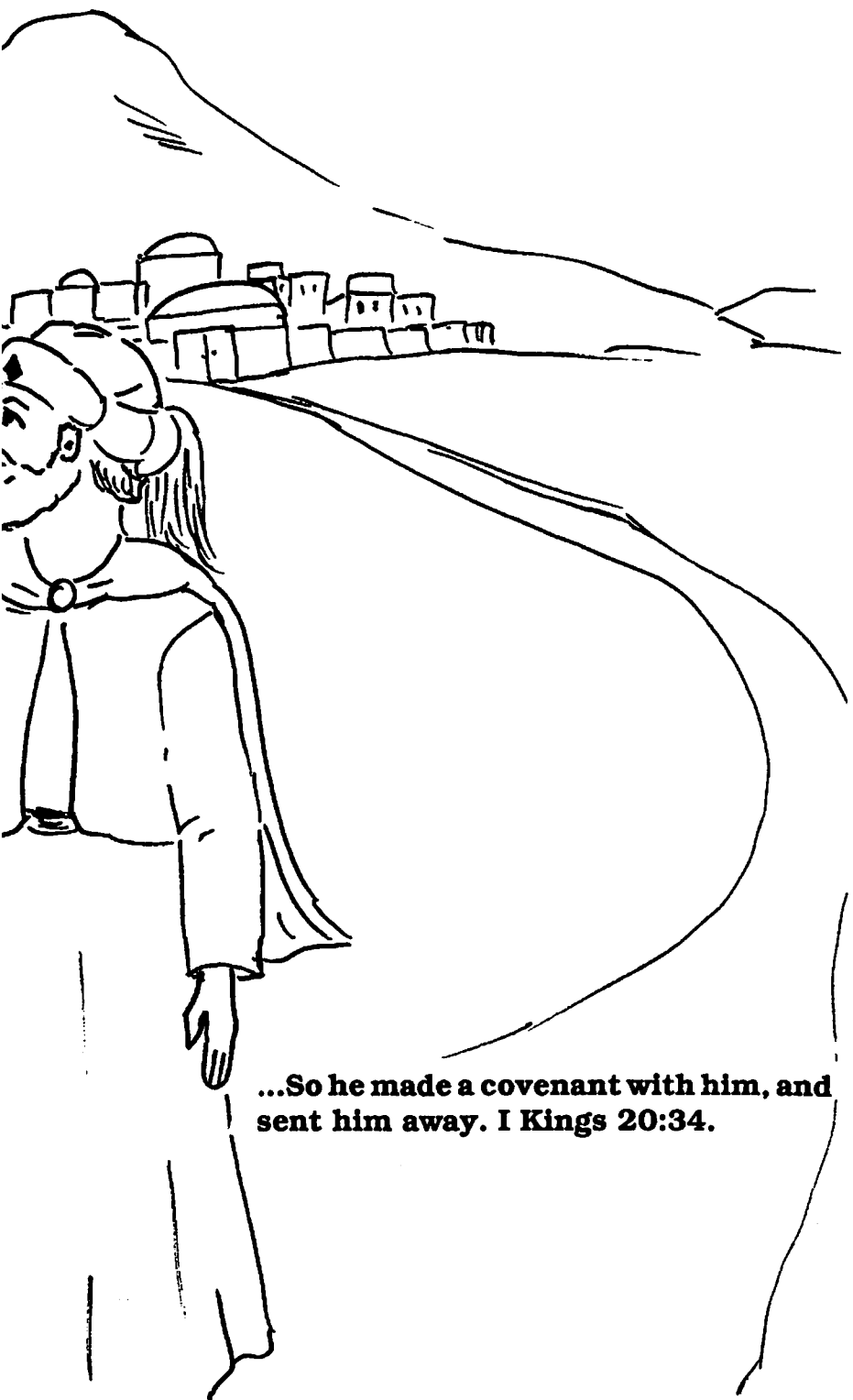
When the prophet heard that Ahab had let Benhadad escape, he knew he had done wrong. He put ashes on his face and dressed up like a soldier. Then he waited by the road for Ahab to come by. When he saw Ahab he called out. Ahab stopped to see what he had to say.

"During the battle a man brought a prisoner and told me to watch him closely. He told me if the prisoner escaped I would lose my life. In the heat of the battle the man got away. Now, what can I do?" the prophet asked Ahab.

"You must pay with your life," Ahab told him. Hearing this, the prophet removed the ashes from his face. Ahab recognized him immediately. "God had appointed Benhadad to utter destruction. Because you let him go you will be punished severely!" the prophet told him. Ahab returned to his house with a heavy heart.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





...So he made a covenant with him, and sent him away. I Kings 20:34.

The Parable of The Flowers

Once upon a time there was a small girl whose mother sent her out to gather a bouquet of flowers. The girl gladly went, making her way to a rolling field of beautiful flowers. Waves of poppies washed across it; wild roses sprang from the prairie grass like shimmering, crimson fountains and violets added a touch of magical fancy. Daisies, ragweed, Queen Anne's Lace and all manner of wildflowers bloomed in breathtaking abundance. Trees of maple, elm and aspen reached skyward, providing a rugged backdrop to the peaceful ocean of flowers before it.

So the girl, her apron tied around her waist, began to pluck the flowers one by one, exclaiming over each. Before she had realized it, she had made her way across the field to a small stream.

"I am tired," she thought, "I'll just sit down by this stream for a moment to rest, and then I'll be on my way again." She then sat down—only for a moment, she thought—but before she knew it, she was fast asleep.

The sun slipped behind the horizon. Soon the moon came out, but even then she did not awaken. The beautiful flowers slipped from her hand and fell into the stream where they were washed away in the blink of an eye.

Now her mother began to worry. She came to the door of the white farmhouse and called her daughter's name. When no answer came, the mother set out over the field in search of her daughter.

At last the mother found her daughter sleeping by the edge of the stream. She woke her, then gently

scolded her for sleeping away the evening.

What is the meaning of this parable? The mother is like Jesus, and the small girl is like a Christian who has been born again. The field is like the Bible, and the flowers are like God's words. Jesus wants us to gather His scriptures and hide them in our hearts. As we gather His Words, however, we cannot become idle and rest ourselves in the shade of a tree, because we may lose them as the little girl lost her flowers to the stream.

The flowers that she gathered would have added beauty to her home if she had only been diligent to bring them home. Likewise, we must apply the 'fragrant' Word of God to ourselves if we want to beautify our every word and action.

—Brandon Allen

QUESTIONS:

1. Whose army ran into the city of Aphek?
2. What happened to twenty-seven thousand soldiers in the city?
3. Why did Benhadad hide?
4. What had the servants heard about the kings of Israel?
5. What did the servants put on to go meet Ahab?
6. What did Ahab do with Benhadad?
7. Who put ashes on his face?
8. Who had said Benhadad should be destroyed?
9. What would happen to Ahab because he let Benhadad go?

LESSON TEXT: I Kings 20:30-43.

(Answers: 1. Benhadad's 2. A wall fell on them. 3. He was afraid Ahab would kill him. 4. That they were merciful. 5. Sackcloth. 6. Made a covenant with him and let him go. 7. The prophet. 8. God. 9. He would be punished.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 14 April 2, 1995

NABOTH'S VINEYARD

Naboth owned a vineyard in Samaria. This vineyard had belonged to Naboth's family for many, many years. It so happened that this vineyard was right next to King Ahab's palace.

One day as Ahab was looking over his palace grounds he decided he would like to buy Naboth's vineyard. Finding Naboth he said, "Give me your vineyard so I can have it for a garden, since it is so close to my palace. I will give you a better garden in exchange or, if you would rather, I will pay you what it is worth in money."

"I cannot sell the vineyard to you," Naboth answered the king. "It is the inheritance of my fathers."

When Ahab saw he could not persuade Naboth to give up his vineyard he was so unhappy that he went back to his house and laid down on his bed. When his servants came to speak to him he turned his face away and refused to answer them. He would not even eat. Ahab's wicked wife, Jezebel, soon heard how the king was acting. She did not know what had made him so sad. Going to his bedside she asked, "Why are you so sad that you won't even eat?"

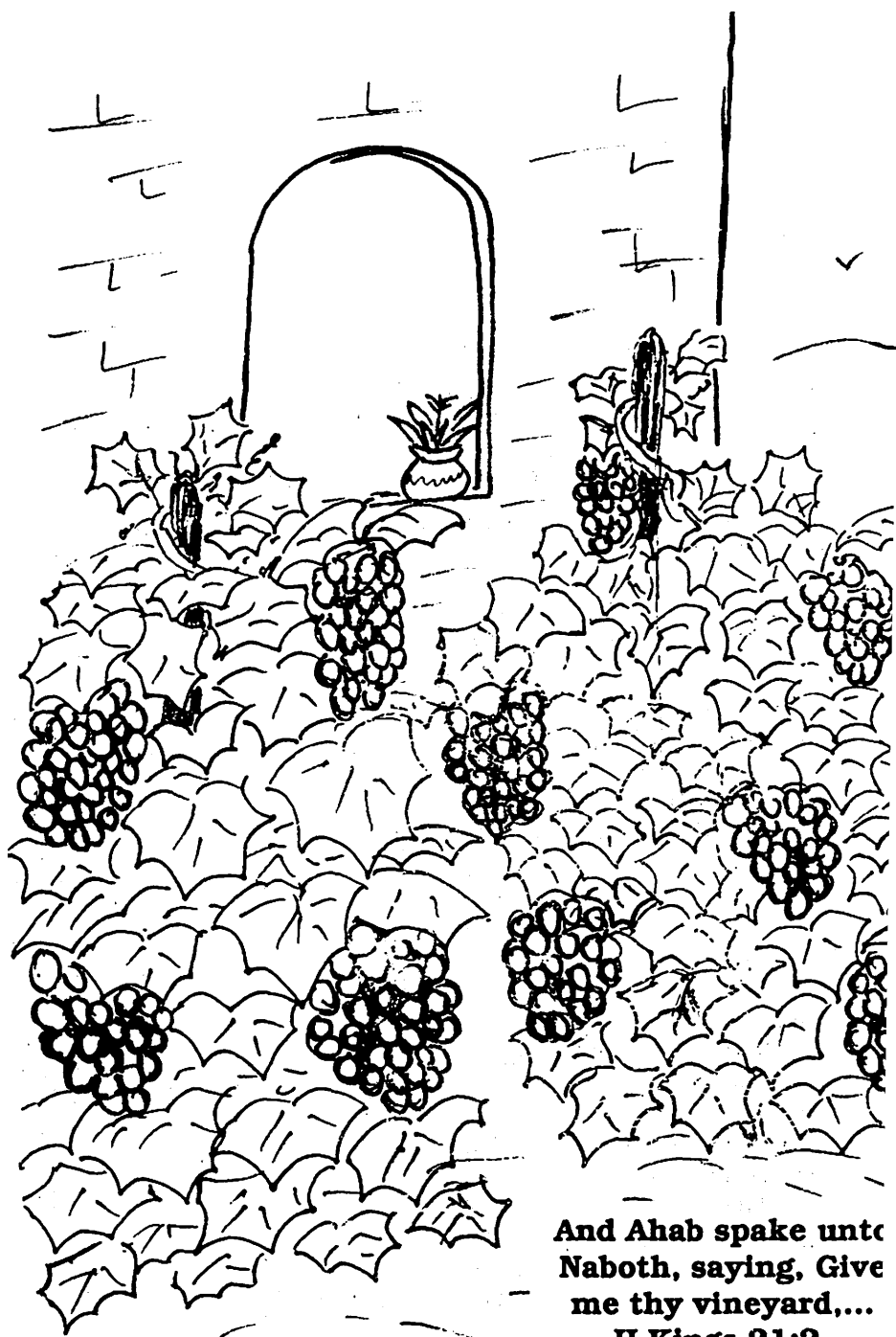
"Because I asked Naboth to sell me his vineyard, and he will not sell it to me," Ahab answered, sounding more like a spoiled child than a king.

"Aren't you the king of Israel?" Jezebel asked. "Get up and eat. You don't have to be sad, because I will give you the vineyard of Naboth."

Jezebel then wrote letters to the nobles and elders that lived in Samaria. She signed Ahab's name to the letters and sealed them with his seal. In the letters she said, "Proclaim a fast and bring Naboth to trial. Find two men to testify that Naboth blasphemed God and the king."

The elders did just as Jezebel commanded. Naboth was wrongly accused by the wicked men. Then he was stoned to death.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**And Ahab spake unto
Naboth, saying, Give
me thy vineyard,...
II Kings 21:2.**



Izzy

(Based on Facts)

Israel (Izzy) Baline was one like thousands of other young boys growing up in the streets of the Lower East Side in New York. Izzy was the youngest of the family but he learned to work early in life. When seven years old, he would stand on street corners, selling the *Evening Journal* newspaper. This was tiring work as often he was surrounded by rushing adults who were not always kind to the newspaper boy.

Each evening when he came home, Izzy would carefully place in his mother's outspread apron the few cents he had earned that day. Speaking with Russian Yiddish words, Mother would bless each of her five children and thank the Lord that they had bread for yet another meal.

Father Baline worked as a house painter to pay the family's rent. But on Sabbath days, Father was a cantor, or singer. He had a strong, clear voice that seemed to pray as it sang. Father taught Izzy to sing and on Sabbaths, Father and Izzy would sing together at the synagogue.

It was then that Izzy could forget the holes in his shoes and the hungry ache in his stomach. With his father standing beside him, he felt secure as they sang praises to God. He learned the Ten Commandments and he obeyed them. Father told his family that no matter how poor they were, they must not steal nor cheat to earn money.

Then when Izzy was twelve, his father became very ill and soon died. Izzy missed his father so much that he did not like to come home in the evenings. Izzy began to stay out at night and sing at cheap places for money. Mother was worried about her son and prayed for him. She did not like his late night work.

Izzy loved to sing and people liked to hear him. He began to earn more money than the other singing waiters.

At nineteen years of age, he earned enough money to buy a new suit and new shirt besides pay his half for a rented apartment he shared with a friend.

The other waiters were jealous of Izzy and his new clothes. One night in a restaurant, Izzy was so tired that he fell asleep on a chair with his head across the table. Slyly, two other waiters stole \$25 from the cash register. Then they complained to the store owner that Izzy had let thieves steal money while he carelessly slept. The store owner was angry and told Izzy to leave the neighborhood and not come back. Izzy told the store owner he was sorry he had slept. He did not steal the money, but he paid back the \$25. He was honest though the other waiters were not.

Izzy left that neighborhood for a better one and today Americans know Izzy as Irving Berlin, a famous songwriter of the past.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who owned a vineyard in Samaria?
2. What was right next to the vineyard?
3. What did Ahab decide he would like to do?
4. Why was Ahab unhappy?
5. Who laid on his bed and refused to eat?
6. Who was Jezebel?
7. Who wrote letters to the nobles and elders?
8. How many men testified against Naboth?
9. What happened to Naboth?

LESSON TEXT: 1 Kings 21:1-14.

(Answers: 1. Naboth. 2. Ahab's palace. 3. Buy Naboth's vineyard. 4. Naboth refused to sell his vineyard. 5. Ahab. 6. Ahab's wicked wife. 7. Jezebel. 8. Two. 9. He was stoned.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 15 April 9, 1995

THE KING OF ISRAEL!

Many people were hurrying along the roads leading to Jerusalem. It would soon be time to celebrate the Passover feast and they had come to prepare for it.

Jesus, too, was walking toward Jerusalem with His disciples. When they came to the mount of Olives, Jesus spoke to two of the disciples. "Go to the village just ahead," He told them. "You will find a colt tied there. Loose him and bring him to Me. If anyone asks you why you are taking the colt, tell them that the Lord needs him. Then they will let you take him."

The two disciples hurried to the next village. Just as Jesus had said, there stood a colt tied near the city gate. As they were untying the rope that held the colt, someone standing nearby asked, "Why are you untying the colt?" When the disciples answered that the Lord needed the colt, the owner let them take him to Jesus.

When they came to Jesus they spread their coats over the colt for Jesus to sit on. Others laid their coats on the ground and cut branches off the palm trees for Jesus to ride over.

Soon a great crowd had gathered. As Jesus rode toward Jerusalem the people walked in front of Him and behind Him shouting, "Hosanna; Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord."

But not all the people were praising the Lord. In the crowd were some proud Pharisees. They did not like to see Jesus honored. They told Him, "Master, make your disciples stop shouting."

Jesus answered them, "If they would keep quiet the rocks would immediately cry out!"

As Jesus and the people came closer, the people in Jerusalem wondered what all the noise was about. "Who is this?" they asked.

Many in the great crowd answered, "This is Jesus; the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...Blessed is the King of Israel that
cometh in the name of the Lord.
John 12:13.**



An Unusual Prison

(A True Account)

Deep in the country of Brazil there is a prison that is operated by Prison Fellowship Brazil. This prison is very different from any other prison in the world. The rules are based on the Christian laws of love to God and respect for men. A meeting for devotions begins every day. Prayers are said before each meal and scriptures are read in the evenings.

Here all 730 prisoners are expected to work and to keep the prison clean and it does stay clean because each person must do his assignment. There is no fighting or arguing—it is not allowed. Scriptures and encouraging statements decorate the walls to remind the men of their commitment to God.

Since the men do the work and live at peace with one another, there is no need of armed guards or high-tech security. Only two full-time staff members are paid by the government to work there. This saves the government money.

Some of these prisoners have murdered, robbed, smuggled drugs and have done many other bad sins. Now they have asked Jesus to forgive them and they don't want to do evil anymore. Everyone must attend classes to learn how to be a better person and some attend a special school to get a better education.

One day an important man visited this prison. A man who had been a murderer opened the gates and let the guest inside. The guest was amazed at the cleanliness, the cheerfulness and peace that reigned in this unusual prison.

"How can this be possible?" questioned the guest in amazement.

"We have a special prisoner who serves time with us," replied the prison

guide. "He is in the small cell at the end of the hall."

"In the solitary confinement cell used for punishment?" asked the guest.

"Yes," answered the guide. "Would you like to see him?"

"I sure would," exclaimed the guest.

The two men went down a long, concrete hall to stop in front of a big, iron door. The guide put a key in the lock and the heavy door slowly swung open. Then the guest saw the prisoner in that cell: Jesus hanging on a wooden cross, beautifully carved.

"He took the punishment for all of us," said the guide softly.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why were many people hurrying to Jerusalem?
2. Who was walking with Jesus?
3. How many disciples did He send to the village?
4. What would they find in the village?
5. What did they spread over the colt?
6. Who shouted, "Hosanna?"
7. Who did not like to see Jesus honored?
8. What did the Pharisees tell Jesus to do?
9. What would happen if the people kept quiet?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-40; John 12:12-19.

(Answers: 1. It would soon be time for the Passover. 2. His disciples. 3. Two. 4. A colt. 5. Their coats. 6. The people. 7. The Pharisees. 8. To make His disciples stop shouting. 9. The rocks would cry out.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 16 April 16, 1995

HE IS RISEN!

Jesus had been crucified. Joseph, a Jewish ruler, laid Jesus' body in his own tomb after carefully wrapping it in fine linen. Then a great rock was rolled over the door of the grave and the disciples walked away with heavy hearts. Mary Magdalene and other women watched sadly from a distance.

The Pharisees and chief priests met again with Pilate. They told him, "Sir, we remember that Jesus said that He would rise again after three days. Command that the grave be sealed and guarded until the third day. Otherwise His disciples might come at night and steal His body and tell the people that He has risen from the dead."

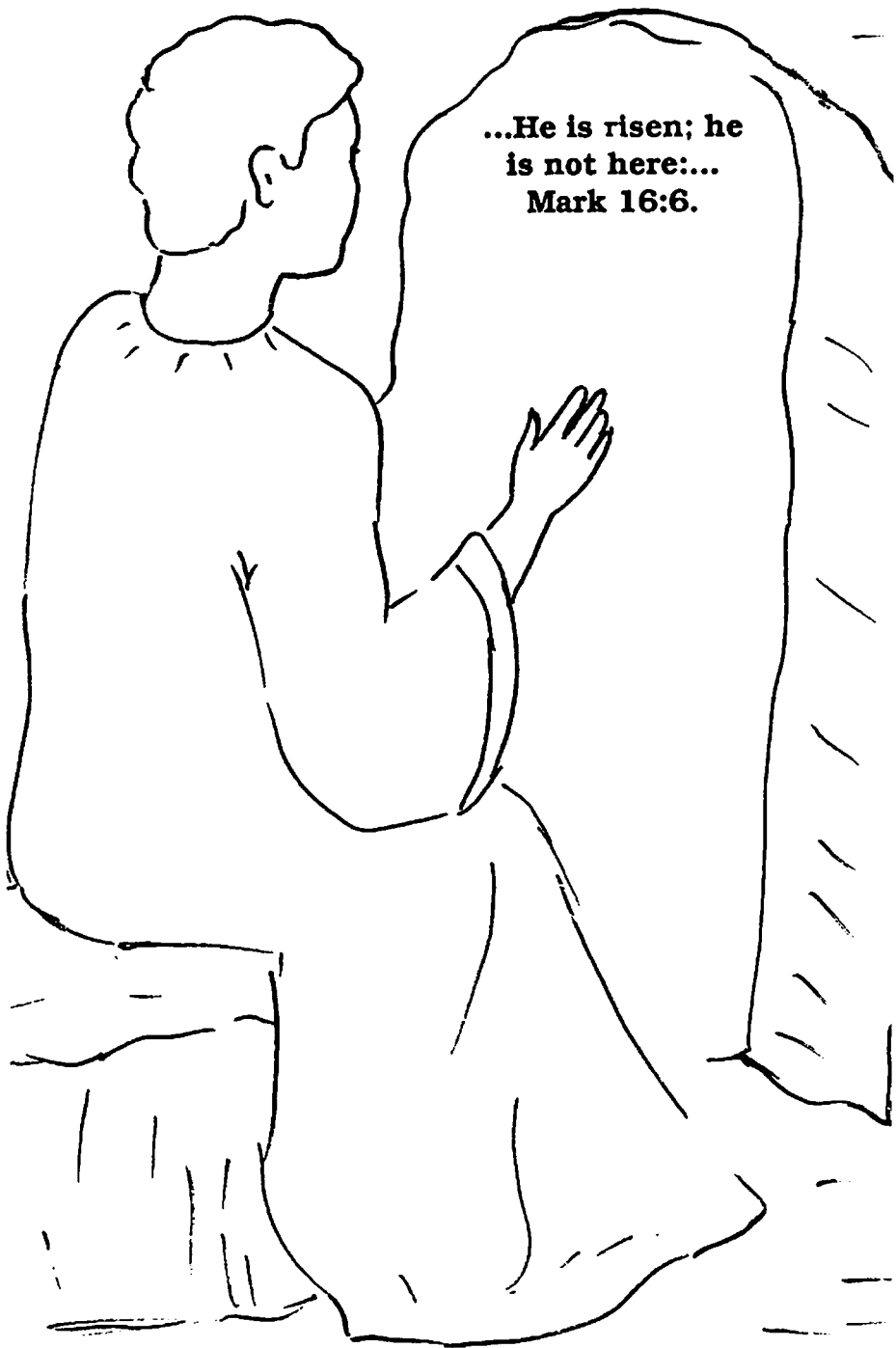
"Make the grave as secure as you can," Pilate answered.

So they went to the grave and sealed the rock and left soldiers to guard it. All night the soldiers watched the grave but no one came near. Then, just as it began to get light, the ground suddenly began to shake violently. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled the great rock away from the door of the grave and sat on it! The soldiers shook for fear and fell to the ground like dead men. As soon as they got enough strength, they ran away into the city.

Soon Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the grave. When they looked in, they saw that it was empty! They wondered who had taken Jesus' body. Then the angel spoke to them. "Don't be afraid; I know you are looking for Jesus. He isn't here because He is risen, as He said. Now go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead. You will see Him in Galilee."

The women trembled with fear as they listened to the angel's words. But his words filled them with great joy and hope. They ran to tell the disciples the good news.

But as they went, Jesus met them. When they saw who He was they fell at His feet and worshipped Him. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...He is risen; he
is not here:...**
Mark 16:6.



It Was Jesus

(Based on a True Story)

When Bill was a little boy, he never learned to conquer his temper. Consequently, Bill often became angry at little annoyances. He grew to be a big man with a loud voice, so most people didn't bother Bill.

Bill was a production manager at a furniture store. He liked this position because he could yell at others and get by with it. He even liked to fire or dismiss a worker from the job. He liked the power to control others.

Then Bill had a bad heart attack at the early age of 38. This frightened him because his father had died early with a heart attack. Bill did think about the Lord and death but he did not want to be saved.

After several more small heart attacks, Bill went to the hospital for surgery. During surgery, he had a special vision of someone important.

In this vision, Bill was walking in a terrible junk yard. He saw that just ahead was a little bridge over a stream, and on the other side was a meadow with the greenest grass he had ever seen. There was a little hill with white rocks in the grass. On the hill stood a man with arms outstretched to Bill. He wore a clean white robe gathered at his waist by a silky cord with tassels at the ends. On his feet he wore sandals. The man was smiling at Bill, so Bill began to walk over the bridge.

Then Bill looked into the man's eyes which seemed to look right through him, right into his soul where they could see how bad he was. Yet the eyes held love for Bill.

"Is this the Lord Jesus Christ?" wondered Bill. The man showed Bill scars in his hands and on his feet. Bill could not speak—he felt the holiness of Jesus. Right then Bill saw his life

spread before him and his sins made him ashamed. He now realized that everything in the universe and in all of time somehow centered on Jesus Christ, just like it says in the Bible.

At this point Jesus turned Bill back around on the bridge. Bill was not saved and he needed to wash away his sins before he could join Jesus. "I don't think I can," Bill said weakly. Kindly, Jesus said, "You will do it."

After surgery, Bill asked for the Bible. Soon he was saved and he let Jesus change his whole life. Bill began to visit prisons where he told criminals about the love of Jesus that could free them from every sin, even a bad temper.

Bill became a soft-spoken man who loved to help others, and he was always eager to tell anyone who would listen about the vision in which he really met Jesus.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who had been crucified?
2. Who laid Jesus' body in his own tomb?
3. What was rolled over the door of the grave?
4. What did the Pharisees think the disciples might do?
5. Who watched the grave all night?
6. What did the angel of the Lord do?
7. What happened to the soldiers?
8. Who told the women to not be afraid?
9. Who met the women as they went?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 28:1-15.

(Answers: 1. Jesus. 2. Joseph. 3. A great rock. 4. Steal the body. 5. Soldiers. 6. Rolled the rock away and sat on it. 7. They fell to the ground like dead men. 8. The angel. 9. Jesus.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 17 April 23, 1995

ELIJAH FINDS AHAB

As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, she told Ahab, "Get up and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth that he refused to sell you. Naboth is not alive; he is dead."

When Ahab heard this he went out to the vineyard to take possession of it.

Meanwhile, the Lord spoke to Elijah the prophet. "Go down to meet Ahab. He is in Naboth's vineyard. He has gone down to possess it." Then the Lord told Elijah what he should tell Ahab.

Ahab walked through the vineyard happy that it was finally his. Perhaps he was planning what a fine garden he would plant there and how beautiful it would look from his palace windows. Suddenly a man wearing a rough coat of hair stood in front of him. Ahab recognized Elijah immediately. He knew he had done wrong and he was not glad to see the prophet of the Lord.

"Have you found me, O my enemy?" he asked Elijah.

"I have found you because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the Lord," Elijah answered.

Then Elijah told Ahab everything God had told him to. He told him that his sons would not be kings after him because they would all be killed. Because Jezebel caused Ahab to sin, Elijah told Ahab she would also be killed.

As Ahab listened to Elijah he became sorry for his awful sins. He tore his clothes and put on sackcloth to show his great sorrow. He even refused to eat any food.

God saw that Ahab was truly sorry. He spoke to Elijah again about him. "Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before me?" Then God told Elijah that He would not bring the evil on Ahab's house until after his death because he had humbled himself.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**And Ahab
said to
Elijah, Hast
thou found
me, O mine
enemy?...
I Kings 21:20.**



Plums

(Based on a True Story)

"Mother, Daddy is planting a plum tree by the garden," said Nancy as she came into the kitchen where Mother was preparing supper.

"He wants another kind of fruit, I suppose," replied Mother. "We must pray that this fruit will be used for the right purpose."

When Daddy came in for supper, he was excited about his dreams for the plum harvest. "I hope these plums are the tiny, sugary kind," said Daddy. "The perfect plums for making wine. I can hardly wait for the plums to come!"

Nancy and her mother exchanged glances of concern. They did not want Daddy to make anymore wine. Already he used much of the garden vegetables and fruits for homemade wine. There were bottles of tomato wine, sweet-potato wine, cucumber-carrot wine and many other different kinds.

Daddy's bad desire for wine was a matter of prayer for Nancy and her mother. They knew what evils lurked hidden in a bottle of intoxicating drink. It made their family unhappy. So while Daddy watered the plum tree with care, Nancy and Mother were praying to the Lord about it.

By spring, the plum tree blossomed snowy white blooms and by summertime, there were a few young plums clinging to the branches. Then came some hungry birds who quickly ate the little plums. Daddy was upset but Mother whispered, "Thank you, Lord, for the birds."

Year after year for some reason or other, the plum tree failed to bear any ripe plums. Mother and Nancy were thankful and they prayed for Daddy.

Finally, Daddy realized he needed to stop drinking wine. He went for

help and started attending church with Nancy and Mother. In time, Daddy was saved. Now he did not want to make anymore wine. Mother and Nancy were so happy.

Even the plum tree rejoiced, for that spring it had more lovely white blossoms than ever before. Soon baby, green plums appeared on the tree. They grew and slowly ripened. The birds helped themselves to the fruit but the tree remained full and its branches bowed with the weight of the sugary, purple plums.

Mother, Daddy and Nancy picked those delicious plums and together they made wonderful jam. The Lord had answered Mother's twelve year old prayer—these plums were used for the right purpose.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who told Ahab to get up and take possession of the vineyard?
2. Who had refused to sell the vineyard?
3. Who spoke to Elijah?
4. Who was Elijah to meet?
5. Why wasn't Ahab glad to see Elijah?
6. Who had caused Ahab to sin?
7. What happened to Ahab as he listened to Elijah?
8. How did he show his great sorrow?
9. Who saw that Ahab was truly sorry?

LESSON TEXT: I Kings 21:15-29.

(Answers: 1. Jezebel, 2. Naboth, 3. The Lord, 4. Ahab, 5. He knew he had done wrong, 6. Jezebel, 7. He became sorry for his awful sins, 8. He put on sackcloth and would not eat, 9. God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 18 April 30, 1995

MICAIAH

For three years there had been no war between Syria and Israel. Ahab told his servants, "Do you know that Ramoth in Gilead is ours? Yet we sit still and don't take it back from the king of Syria."

When Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, came to visit the king of Israel, Ahab asked him if he would go fight against Ramoth-gilead. Jehoshaphat agreed to go with Ahab but wanted Ahab to first ask what the will of God was. So Ahab gathered his false prophets, four hundred in all. He asked them, "Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-gilead or not?"

All of the false prophets answered, "Go up, because the Lord will deliver it into your hand."

But Jehoshaphat was not satisfied. He asked Ahab, "Isn't there a prophet of the Lord here so we can ask him?"

"There is one more man, Micaiah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord. But I hate him because he never prophesies good about me but only evil!" Ahab answered.

To please Jehoshaphat, Ahab sent for Micaiah. While an officer went to get him, the false prophets continued to tell the kings that they should go up and fight because the Lord would deliver the city into their hands.

One false prophet named Zedekiah made himself some iron horns. Standing before the two kings as they each sat on a throne by the gate of Samaria he said, "With these shall you push the Syrians until you have consumed them!"

As the officer was bringing Micaiah to the kings he told him, "All the other prophets speak good to the king. Let your word be like theirs and speak that which is good."

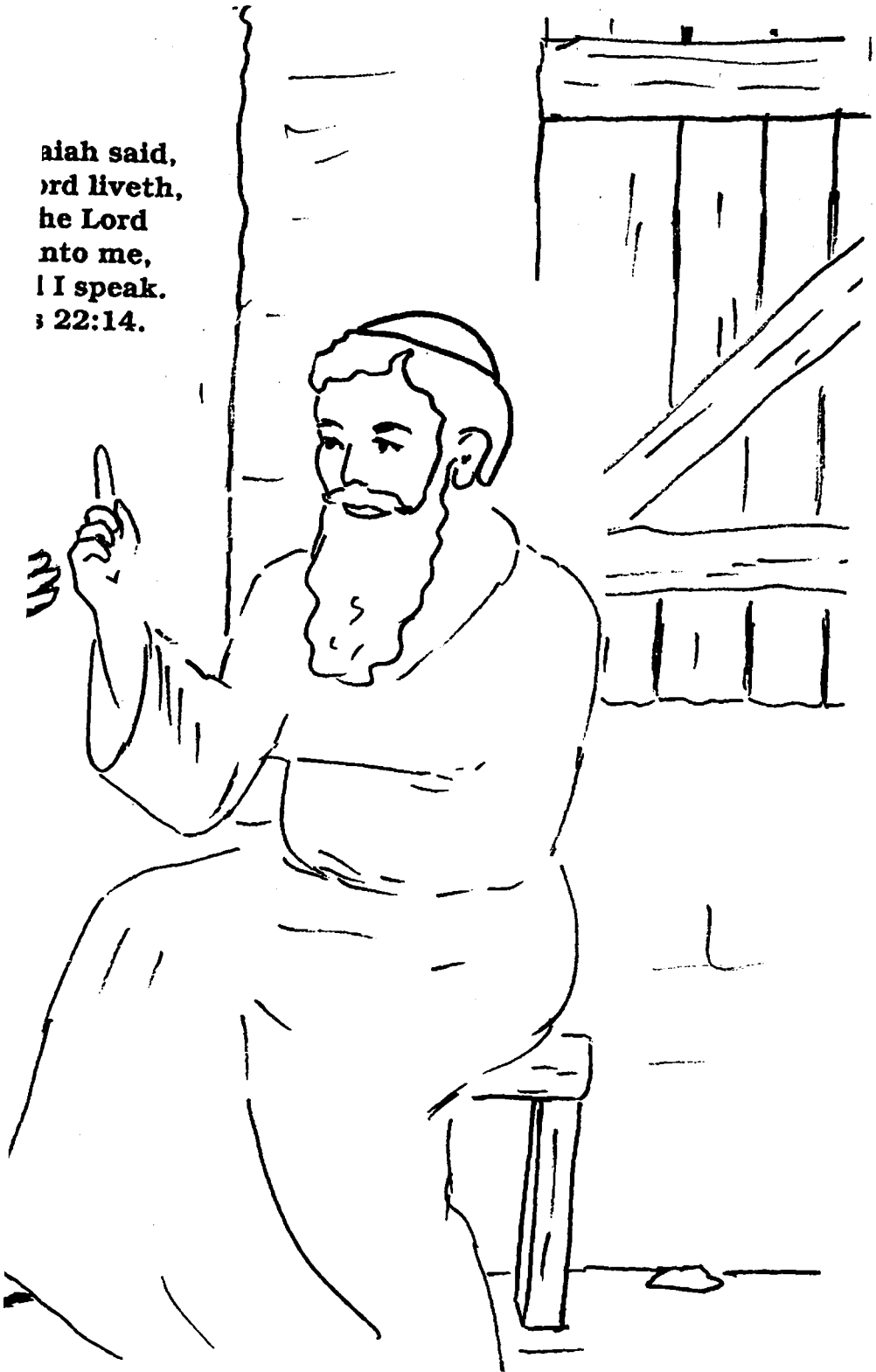
But Micaiah told the officer, "As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



And
As t
wl
sa
tha
II

Isaiah said,
The Lord liveth,
The Lord
is with me,
I will speak.
Isaiah 22:14.



Helpful Obedience

(Based on a True Story)

Laurel was a happy and independent girl, the youngest in the family, with three older brothers. Laurel wanted to help her mother all she could but often she wanted to do things her own way. This created a problem for Mother, who insisted that Laurel always ask permission before she did things.

One such time that Laurel was too hasty to help was when she decided to bake two cakes for her twin brothers.

"Mother has so much to do for their birthday party," Laurel thought. "I will help her and make the cakes. I will surprise Mother!"

While Mother was at the neighbor's house, Laurel was in the kitchen preparing a chocolate cake and a vanilla one. The cake mixes were poured into separate bowls and then all sorts of good things were added to each one to make them more tasty. Eggs, milk and a lot of cocoa were put in the chocolate cake. Eggs, milk and a whole bottle of vanilla were added to the vanilla cake. The spattered, sticky cook was busy stirring a mixture when Mother came into the kitchen.

"Oh, no, Laurel, what have you done?" cried Mother.

"I am helping you," said Laurel.

"Honey, how many times have I told you to always ask me before you do something wrong by yourself? Laurel, to obey me is the best way to help me."

Laurel said she was sorry and helped Mother clean up the mess she had made. Time passed and Laurel soon forgot the cake mix lesson.

One day after school, she decided to do a little shopping for herself at the local department store. Recently she had noticed how Mother charged

things and so 'bought' items without money involved. Now Laurel decided to charge a few purchases she needed for school.

Laurel went into the local store, gathered the few items that she needed, then told the clerk she wanted to put it on her mother's charge account. The clerk looked amused. "I need to call your mother first," said the clerk, "and see if she has agreed to your purchases."

Of course Mother knew nothing about the items and was soon at the store to get her little girl. Mother was embarrassed and once again Laurel was reminded to always ask and obey Mother before doing things on her own. Finally, Laurel did learn this important lesson.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. For how many years had there been no war between Israel and Syria?
2. Who came to visit Ahab?
3. What did Ahab ask him?
4. What did Jehoshaphat say they must first do?
5. How many false prophets did Ahab gather?
6. How many of the false prophets told Ahab to go to battle?
7. Who was a prophet of the Lord?
8. Why did Ahab hate Micalah?
9. Who told Micalah to speak good to the king?

LESSON TEXT: I Kings 22:1-28.

(Answer: 1. Three. 2. Jehoshaphat. 3. If he would go with him to fight. 4. Ask the will of God. 5. Four hundred. 6. All of them. 7. Micalah. 8. He never prophesied good of him. 9. The officer.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 19 May 7, 1995

MICAH'S WORDS COME TRUE

When Micaiah stood before the two kings Ahab asked, "Micaiah, shall we go against Ramoth-gilead to battle?"

Micaiah knew Ahab would not believe his words nor take warning, but he still must give him the word of the Lord. "I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have no shepherd," he told him.

Turning to Jehoshaphat, Ahab said, "Didn't I tell you that he would not prophesy any good thing about me, only evil?"

Micaiah then told the kings that the Lord had put a lying spirit in the mouth of all the false prophets to persuade Ahab to go up to battle. There he would be killed.

When Zedekiah, the false prophet, heard this, he hit Micaiah on the cheek. Then Ahab commanded the officer to take Micaiah back and put him in prison with very little to eat until he came back from the battle.

"If you come back alive from the battle then the Lord has not spoken by me," Micaiah answered.

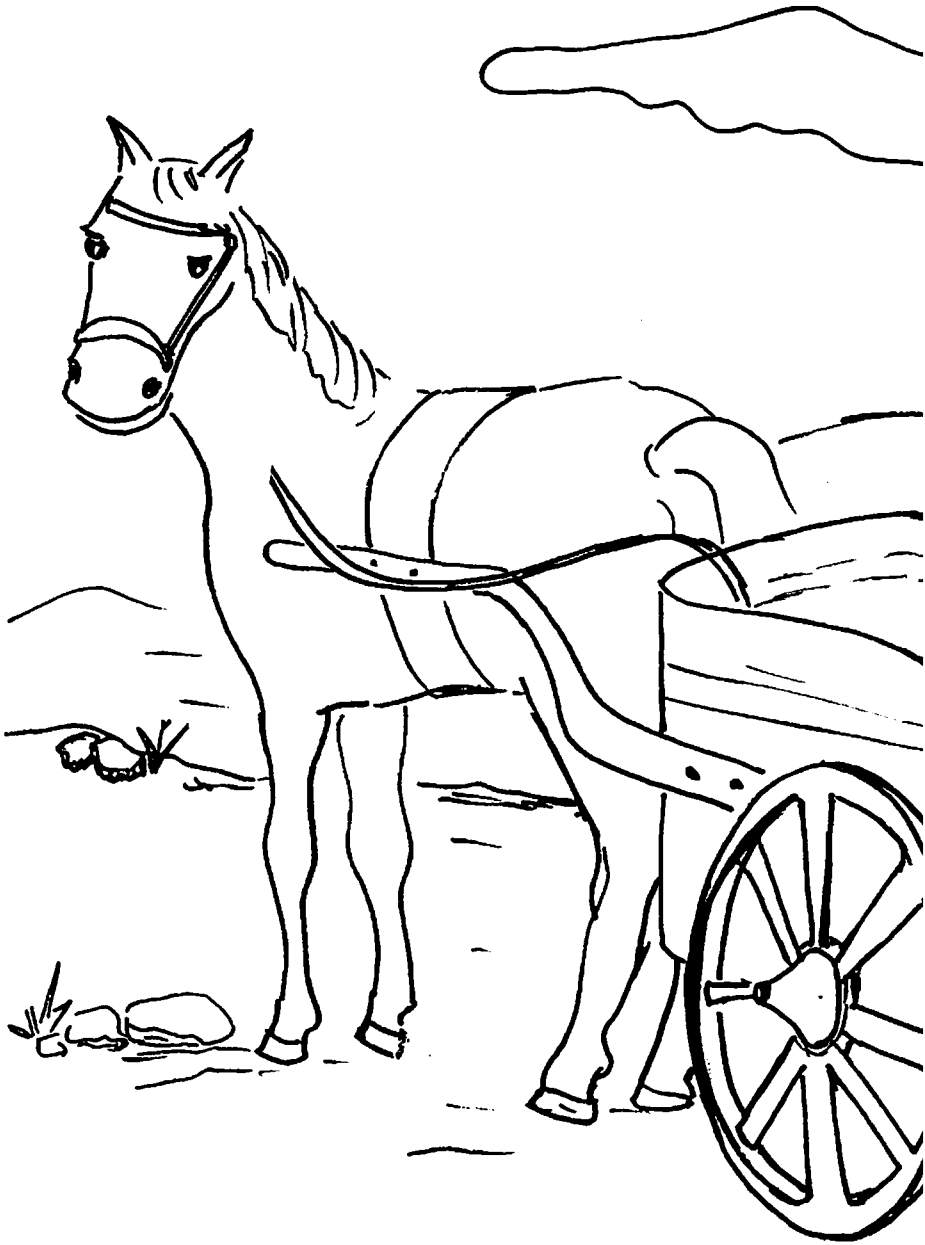
So the two kings went up to Ramoth-gilead. Before the battle began Ahab told Jehoshaphat that he was going to disguise himself as a soldier and go out to fight. Jehoshaphat was to put on his robes and watch the battle.

Now the king of Syria had commanded his thirty-two captains that they were to fight with no one but the king of Israel. So, when the captains saw Jehoshaphat, they thought he must be the king of Israel and they turned to fight against him.

But Jehoshaphat cried out and let them know he was not the king of Israel, so they left him alone. In the battle Ahab was hit by an arrow and died that evening, just as Micaiah had prophesied.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

So the king died, and wa
I Kings



bought to Samaria;...
37.



A City Divided

(Based on Historical Facts)

After World War II, Russia was given the control over East Germany. The dictator who ruled in East Germany was a greedy man named Walter Ulbricht. He liked power over people and he did not know God. By 1961, he had so much power in East Germany that he would tell the people where they were to live and what they would do for work. They could only read books that Ulbricht approved and they could only listen or watch programs that Ulbricht liked. They were not even allowed to talk on the telephone to others outside of East Germany.

During this time, Willie Brandt was the mayor over West Berlin, the capitol city of Germany. He allowed people in West Germany to live where they chose and to own what they bought with their own money. This was the right way to serve the country. People liked the work they did so they made better cars, tools and other things. The West Berliners could also go to church and worship God. Brandt served West Germany the right way.

So the country of Germany was divided, the east from the west. Most of the division was because Ulbricht was a hard-hearted man determined to have the power. He did not want to agree with Willie Brandt or anyone else. He wanted his own way.

Then on August 13, 1961, Ulbricht ordered his men to begin building a wall between East and West Berlin, Germany. The white concrete wall grew to be 28 miles long and twelve feet tall with sharp barbed wire fencing on top. Later a second wall was built 300 yards inside East Berlin. Guards and police dogs patrolled the wide ditch between the walls. People who lived in East Berlin were not

allowed to visit those who lived in West Berlin.

This was very sad. Mothers and fathers were separated from their children. Brothers and sisters could not visit one another. Willie Brandt said the cold concrete posts that split Berlin were rammed into the heart of Germany.

However, Ulbricht liked the stronger power he had over the German people. He was not a Christian and did not realize Jesus had said, "...every city or house divided against itself shall not stand." Ulbricht forgot that he would die and be judged by God but he did die in 1973.

After 28 years of division, the long walls of Berlin finally have been broken down. Ulbricht died in disgrace but Brandt rejoiced when the walls came tumbling down. Anyone who goes against the word of the Lord will not stand—even hard-hearted rulers.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who stood before the two kings?
2. Who would not take Micaiah's warning?
3. Who had given the false prophets a lying spirit?
4. What would happen to Ahab in the battle?
5. Where did the officer put Micaiah?
6. What did Ahab disguise himself as?
7. Who commanded his captains to fight only the king of Israel?
8. Who did the captains think Jehoshaphat was?
9. What happened to Ahab in the battle?

LESSON TEXT: 1 Kings 22:15-40.

(Answers: 1. Micaiah. 2. Ahab. 3. The Lord. 4. He would be killed. 5. In prison. 6. A soldier. 7. The king of Syria. 8. The king of Israel. 9. He was hit by an arrow and died.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 20 May 14, 1995

AHAB'S SON

After Ahab died, Ahaziah, his son, became king of Israel. Ahaziah did not try to please God but did evil in the sight of the Lord just as his father and mother had. He served Baal and caused the people to sin against God. Ahaziah was king for only two years.

Soon after he became king, Ahaziah fell through a lattice in his upstairs room. He knew he was hurt badly and could die of his injuries. He sent for messengers and said to them, "Go, ask Baalzebub, the god of Ekron, whether I will ever get well."

Elijah, the true prophet of God, lived nearby in Israel but Ahaziah did not send for him. But the angel of the Lord spoke to Elijah and told him, "Get up and go to meet the messengers of the king of Israel. Tell them the king will never get better, but will surely die."

So Elijah did as the angel said. As he walked toward Samaria, he saw the king's messengers hurrying to do as the king had said. Elijah asked them, "Is there no God in Israel, that you have to go to an idol in the land of the Philistines to find out whether the king will get well? Go back and tell Ahaziah that the Lord has said he will never be able to leave his bed again." Then Elijah left them.

The messengers were too surprised to ask Elijah who he was. They wondered whether they should go on to Ekron or go back and tell the king what the man had said. Finally they decided to go back.

"Why have you come back?" the king asked when he saw them. Then the messengers told him about the man they had met and what he had said.

"What did the man look like?" the king asked.

"He was an hairy man and wore leather clothes," they answered.

Ahaziah knew then that it was Elijah who had met his messengers.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



And Ah
through
upper cha
Samaria,
II

He fell down
in his
r that was in
was sick: ...
s 1:2.



He Needed A Miracle

(A True Story)

David was a sweet, young boy, dearly loved by his mother, father and older brothers and sisters. His sparkling eyes and mischievous pranks often brought teasing his way from the others.

Then David began to complain of headaches and his eyes would look tired. After he complained three times with headaches, David's mother took him to the doctor to see what was wrong. Of course the doctor ordered a CAT scan in which he could look at David's brain.

The doctor studied what he saw before he quietly spoke to David's mother. "I see there is a small tumor growing on David's brain," he said. "We need to run further tests to learn more about it."

David's family cried when they heard the news. For a while the doctors were hopeful that they could remove the tumor by surgery. However, the tumor was larger and deeper than they first thought. Finally, David's parents heard the worst news.

"We are sorry," said a doctor, "but David's brain tumor cannot be successfully removed. All we can do is relieve any pain he suffers. He will soon lose his eyesight and his life."

"We will have David prayed for," said his mother in tears. So David's parents took him to see Sister Briege. "I can pray with you," she said, "but you and your family must also pray for David's healing."

That evening after supper, Mother and Father gathered all the older children together and they prayed for David. Every evening they prayed for David. Time passed, and the tumor got bigger.

"I don't think the Lord is listening," said his father.

"We will keep praying, though," said his mother.

After seven months of family prayer each evening, everyone realized that David was not going blind like the doctors had said. However, the tumor was still growing. "We must keep praying," agreed David's family. After sixteen months, the tumor began to shrink and then one day after a cat scan, the doctors said the tumor was gone! Only God could perform a miracle like that!

Even after David was healed, his family continued to pray together after supper. Their chain of prayer had tightly linked the family together and to God. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who became king after Ahab?
2. Who did he serve?
3. How long was he king?
4. How did Ahaziah hurt himself?
5. Where did he send his messengers?
6. Who met them on the road?
7. What did he tell them?
8. Why didn't the messengers ask Elijah who he was?
9. What kind of clothes did Elijah wear?

LESSON TEXT: I Kings 22:51-II Kings 1:8.

(Answers: 1. Ahaziah. 2. Baal. 3. Two years. 4. He fell through a lattice. 5. To ask Baalzebub if he would get well. 6. Elijah. 7. That the king would never leave his bed again. 8. They were too surprised. 9. Leather.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 21 May 21, 1995

FIRE FROM HEAVEN

Ahaziah knew it was Elijah who had met his messengers and told them he would never get well. Ahaziah hated those who served God. He sent a captain of his army and fifty soldiers to capture Elijah. Finally they found him as he sat on the top of an hill.

The captain ordered, "Thou man of God, the king has commanded you to come down!"

Elijah answered the captain, "If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!" Immediately fire came down from heaven and burned up the captain and all his men.

Again Ahaziah sent a captain and fifty soldiers to bring Elijah down. The captain commanded Elijah, "O man of God, the king says you must come down quickly!"

"If I am a man of God," Elijah answered, "Let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men."

Again the fire of God came down from heaven and destroyed the men.

The king sent the third captain and his fifty men to bring Elijah to him. This captain was wiser than the others and feared God. When he came to Elijah he fell on his knees and begged Elijah to spare his life and the lives of his men. Then the angel of the Lord told Elijah, "Go down with him. Don't be afraid of him." So Elijah went with this captain to see the king.

Elijah knew the Lord would protect him. He walked boldly into the palace and up to the king's bedside. "Because you have sent to Baalzebub and have not asked the God of Israel, you will not come down off of that bed. You will surely die," he told the king.

Not long after this Ahaziah died and his brother became king.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**And Elijah answered and said to the
captain of fifty, If I be a man of God,
then let fire come down from heaven,...
II Kings 1:10.**



Bear Out

(A True Story)

Ivan, the big, male polar bear at the zoo, would not go into his den. For twenty years, every evening this 950 pound super-strong polar bear had always been anxious to go into his den for supper until this one evening. Ivan acted like he didn't even see the open den door.

Gary, Ivan's keeper, threw a large fish into Ivan's den. "Come on, Ivan, go in your den. I want to go home myself." Ivan heard Gary call, but he paid no attention to the open door nor to the tempting fish.

Gary went and brought back the senior zoo keeper. From a safe distance, both men called to the white polar bear but he paid no attention to them. Finally, the senior keeper said, "Just leave Ivan outside tonight and by morning he will be hungry enough to go inside his den." So Ivan was locked outside his den that evening.

However, the next morning Ivan still did not want to go inside his den. He would stand at the open door, look at the food inside his den, then walk away. No one volunteered to push Ivan into his den—no one dared to step a foot into his area. Ivan may look playful to zoo visitors but every zoo keeper knows a white polar bear is very dangerous. Ivan did not even like other bears and had killed both of the female companions who had once shared his pen.

So how could they entice Ivan into his den to eat? Several ideas were tried because Ivan's pen was beginning to smell and the zoo keepers needed to go in and clean it. Finally, a keeper extended the water hose from another bear's pen and hosed down Ivan's pen. Ivan liked that and splashed around in the water. Still,

he would not go into his den and he had not eaten for three weeks.

Then the senior keeper had an idea. He shared it with Gary. Together they unscrewed the big mirror in the men's rest room and took it to Ivan's den. There they fastened the mirror in the back of his den.

The next time Ivan walked by his den, he glanced in and saw a bear looking at him. Ivan stared at the bear and the bear stared back. Ivan growled and showed his teeth. The other bear roared and bared his teeth also. That did it. Ivan was mad! He charged into his den to fight that intruding bear. As soon as Ivan went inside, Gary dropped down the door. Ivan's anger at "another bear" had finally caught him. However, the mirror had only reflected Ivan's angry self.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who knew it was Elijah who met his messengers?
2. What did Elijah tell the messengers?
3. Who hated those who served God?
4. Who did Ahaziah send to capture Elijah?
5. What happened to them?
6. How many times did the king send men to capture Elijah?
7. Who told Elijah to go with the third captain?
8. Who walked boldly up to the king's bedside?
9. What did Elijah tell the king?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 1:9-18.

(Answers: 1. Ahaziah. 2. The king would never get well. 3. Ahaziah. 4. A captain and his fifty men. 5. They were burned up. 6. Three times. 7. The angel of the Lord. 8. Elijah. 9. "You will surely die.")

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 22 May 28, 1995

ELIJAH AND ELISHA

Elijah had served God for many years as a prophet. He had stood alone against all the prophets of Baal when God sent fire from heaven to prove He was the one true God. Time and again Elijah had warned Ahab, the king of Israel, that he should turn from idol worship.

Now Elijah was old. God had already shown him that Elisha would be the next prophet to take his place. One day as Elijah and Elisha walked toward Bethel from Gilgal, Elijah knew that this was the very day that God would take him to heaven. Turning toward Elisha, he said, "Stay here, I beg you. The Lord has sent me to Bethel."

Elisha, too, felt something special was going to happen that day. "As the Lord lives, I will not leave you," he answered. So the two prophets walked on together to Bethel.

At Bethel the young prophets came out to meet the prophets. They asked Elisha, "Do you know the Lord will take Elijah away today?"

"Yes, I know it," Elisha answered.

When Elijah was ready to leave Bethel he said, "Elisha, you stay here. The Lord has sent me on to Jericho." But again Elisha assured him he would not leave him. So they both went on to Jericho.

The young prophets at Jericho also came to Elisha and asked him if he knew the Lord would take Elijah away from him that day. He assured them that he knew it.

Again Elijah begged Elisha to stay behind. This time the Lord had told him to cross the Jordan river. "I will not leave you," Elisha told him again. So the two walked on toward the river.

Fifty of the young prophets watched from a distance as the two prophets got close to the river. They saw them walk right up to the edge of the water and stand there a moment. Then they saw Elijah take off his coat, wrap it together, and hit the water! Instantly the water divided. The two prophets walked across the river on dry ground.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**And it came to pass, when the Lord would
take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind,
that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.
II Kings 2:1.**



Guarding Angel

(A True Story)

Karen Sue was a young teenager who had just recently moved to Amsterdam, in the Netherlands. She was a Christian and began to attend the young people's meetings at the church.

One Friday evening, a friend said to Karen Sue, "This Saturday a group of young people plan to walk through lower Amsterdam and sing Christian songs. Would you like to join us?"

"I don't know," replied Karen timidly. "I have never done anything like that before."

"The Lord will protect us," said her friend. "It really isn't a safe place to walk. Some persons may throw things at us but we want to witness there for the Lord. He is always with us and will bless our singing."

The next day, Karen Sue joined the other Christian young people who were willing to sing for Jesus on the wicked streets of Amsterdam. As the little group began to walk slowly, singing together, Karen Sue became nervous. She noticed the hard, unhappy faces all around them and it was frightening to her.

As Karen Sue glanced over her right shoulder, she saw a blonde man in light clothing. He was walking a shiny ten-speed bike, and he was smiling at her. It was not a common smile, this man had a glow about him. It was strange that he had on light clothes for people in Amsterdam wear dark clothing. No one in that area had such a nice bike, either; but bikes there were rusty with flat tires.

Somehow, Karen Sue had become the last one marching with the group but she did not feel nervous

anymore. She glanced over her shoulder again and saw the kind man still following with the same glowing smile on his face. Karen Sue relaxed even though street people still glanced at the singers with the same hard look. Now Karen Sue could feel a peaceful calm protecting her. Every so often she glanced back to see the blonde man yet following with a smile.

Finally, the singers stopped in front of the Christian mission house. Karen Sue turned around to thank the kind man who had followed them so many blocks. He was gone. She asked her friends and others about her if they had seen him. No one else had. Karen Sue never saw his glowing smile again but she never did forget it and the peace that it had given her that day on the streets in which she sang praises to the Lord.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who had served God many years?
2. Who stood alone against the prophets of Baal?
3. How did God prove He was the one true God?
4. Who had warned Ahab to stop worshipping idols?
5. Who would be the next prophet to take his place?
6. Who would not leave Elijah?
7. How many young prophets watched Elijah and Elisha?
8. What did Elijah hit the water with?
9. What happened to the water?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 2:1-8.

(Answers: 1. Elijah. 2. Elijah. 3. By sending fire from heaven. 4. Elijah. 5. Elisha. 6. Elisha. 7. Fifty. 8. His coat. 9. It divided.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 23 June 4, 1995

CHARIOT OF FIRE

Elijah saw Elisha would not leave him. Finally he asked him, "What shall I do for you before I am taken away from you?"

Immediately Elisha answered, "I beg you, let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

"You have asked a hard thing!" Elisha told him. "However, if you see me when I am taken from you, you will get what you asked for. But if not, it will not be so."

As the two prophets walked on, a chariot of fire pulled by horses of fire suddenly rushed between them! When the chariot passed Elijah he was lifted up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Elisha kept his eyes on Elijah. As he saw him going up toward heaven he cried out, "My father, my father!" Soon Elijah and the chariot had disappeared in the clouds. Elisha knew he would never see him again. He tore his clothes in grief.

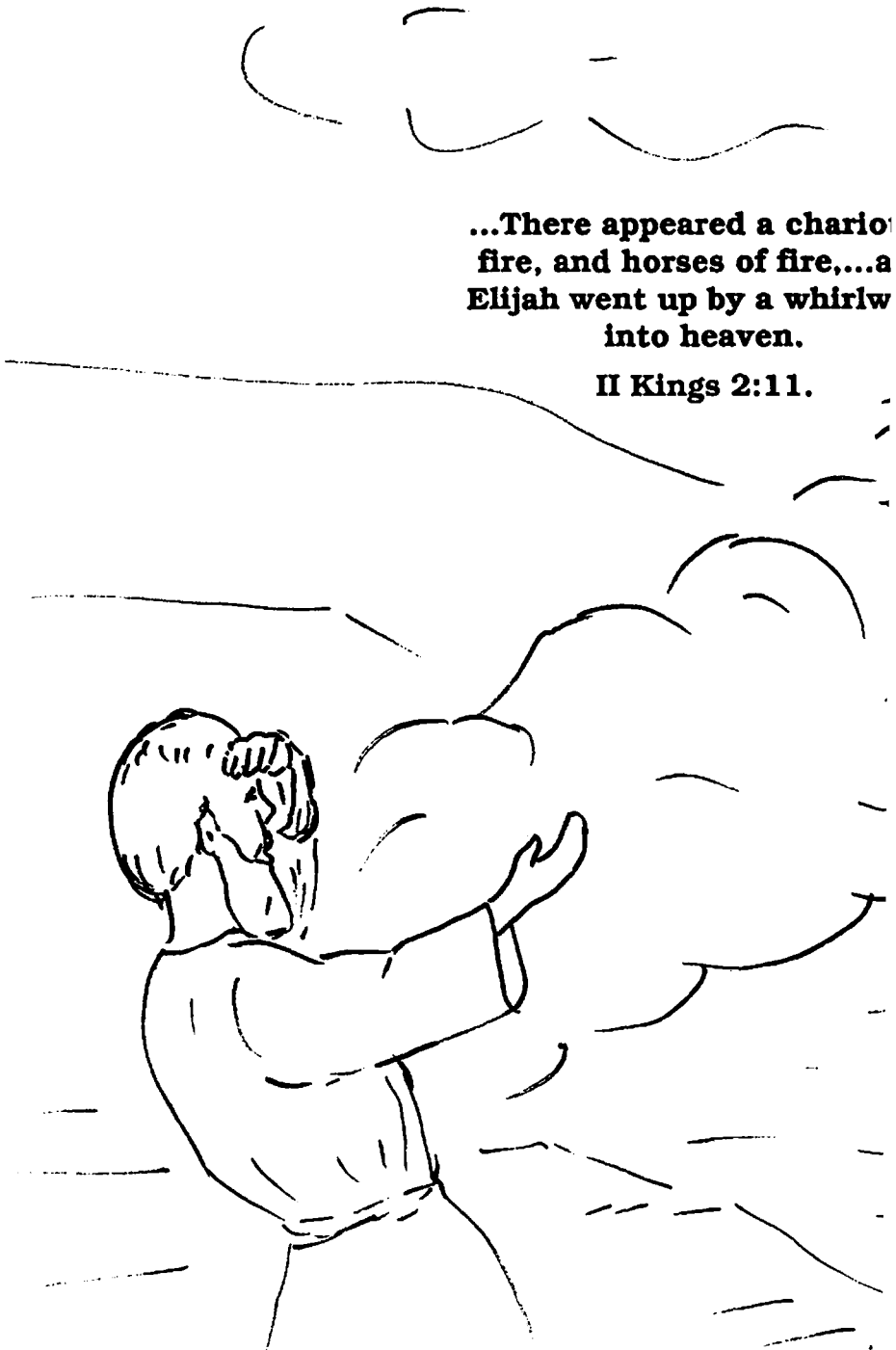
When Elisha dropped his eyes to the ground, he saw Elijah's coat! It had dropped from him when he was taken away. Elisha gladly picked it up and walked back toward the river. When he got to the edge of the water he did as he had seen Elijah do. As he hit the water he said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" Again the waters parted and Elisha walked across on dry land.

The young prophets saw Elisha coming. "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha!" they told each other.

The young prophets begged Elisha, "Your servants are fifty strong men. Let us go and look for Elijah. Maybe the spirit of the Lord has taken him up to some mountain or into a valley."

Elisha knew they would never find Elijah but because they kept asking, he let them go. They searched for three days. When they got back to Jericho they told Elisha they could not find Elijah anywhere.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...There appeared a chariot
of fire, and horses of fire,...a
Elijah went up by a whirlwind
into heaven.**

II Kings 2:11.



In Awesome Wonder

(A True Account)

In 1886, Carl Boberg was visiting friends at a beautiful, country home on the southeast coast of Sweden. While he was there, a sudden mid-day thunderstorm swept across the sky. Brother Boberg stood and watched as the angry, black clouds crashed together and rumbled thunder in the heavens. Then jagged flashes of yellow lightning followed and a burst of light illumined the heavens. Rain began to pour from the clouds streaking the sky with gray lines.

Bro. Boberg was struck with awe at the power he saw in the thunderstorm. Silently he watched as the angry, black clouds soon rolled away and the golden-orange sun cheered the earth again. The warmth of the sun spread a calmness over nature so that the little birds began to sing again.

Witnessing this awesome event, Bro. Boberg fell to his knees in humble adoration of his God who created such a universe of wonder. He took up a pen and paper and began to write a poem. It was written in Swedish because Bro. Boberg was a Swede. God knows every language and He was pleased with this poem that spoke of thunder and power; of forests and birds singing; and of the greatness of God who sent Jesus to die for little men and women.

Other people liked Bro. Boberg's poem and someone began to sing it to the tune of an old Swedish folk song. For several years the Swedes sang this song in their churches and then the Germans began to sing this song in Germany. An English missionary named Stuart Hine took this song into the wicked country of

Ukraine where many were saved as this song was sung. There it was sung in the Russian language.

After World War II broke out, Bro. Hine and his wife had to come home to England. They put this song into English words, trying to keep the same meaning and same tune as the Russian version. Americans who were in England during World War II heard the song and they learned to sing it.

When the Americans came home to the United States after the war, they brought this song with them. Soon Stuart Hine copyrighted the song and today his name is given as the author. However, it is a familiar song to Christians around the world for we all love to sing, "How Great Thou Art." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who would not leave Elijah?
2. What did Elisha ask for?
3. What must Elisha do to get this?
4. What rushed between Elijah and Elisha?
5. What lifted Elijah into heaven?
6. What dropped from Elijah?
7. What happened when Elisha hit the water with Elijah's coat?
8. What did the prophets want to do?
9. How long did they search?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 2:9-18.

(Answers: 1. Elisha. 2. A double portion of Elijah's spirit. 3. He must see Elijah when he was taken away. 4. A chariot of fire. 5. A whirlwind. 6. His coat. 7. The water parted. 8. Go look for Elijah. 9. Three days.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 24 June 11, 1995

THE WATERS ARE HEALED

Elisha stayed in Jericho for some time after Elijah was taken up into heaven. One day the men of the city said to Elisha, "Look, our city is built in a pleasant place, as you can see. But the water here is not good. This water causes people to get sick and die when they drink it. It is not even good for watering land. When we use it to water our crops they do not grow."

"Bring me a new bottle," Elisha told them. "Put some salt in the bottle."

The men brought him the bottle of salt. Then Elisha took it to the springs where the people got their water and poured the salt into the water. As he did this he said, "Thus saith the Lord, 'I have healed these waters. From now on no one will die from drinking this water. Now the land will grow crops when it is watered.'"

Just as Elisha said, the waters were healed from that day on. Now the people of that city had pure, sweet water to drink.

Elisha decided it was time to go to Bethel again to visit the prophets there. Besides the true prophets of God there were many living in Bethel who worshipped idols. They did not believe in God and hated those who served Him, especially His prophets.

As Elisha got close to Bethel, a large group of children came out from the city and began to mock him. "Go up, you bald head! Go up, you bald head!" they shouted again and again.

Elisha was grieved that these children should make fun of the miracle God had done in taking Elijah up in a whirlwind. Perhaps they had heard their wicked parents saying they didn't believe it really happened. Finally, Elisha turned back and looked at the children. He rebuked them in the name of the Lord.

Suddenly two she bears came out of the woods. They attacked the children and forty-two were killed.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**So the waters were healed unto
this day, according to the saying
of Elisha which he spake.
II Kings 2:22.**



Helping A Snake

(A True Story)

Do you like snakes? Not too many people do. However, if you were a veterinarian or animal doctor at a zoo, you would have to care for all the animals whether you liked them or not. That is why the vets at the Los Angeles zoo had to work with a king cobra snake—he needed their help whether they liked him or not.

At least twice a year they would get a call from the reptile house. The curator, or overseer, would say, "The cobra shed his skin last week, but the eye cap didn't come off. It looks infected. Could you come and clean the snake's eye?" Of course the veterinarians would go.

You see, a snake sheds his old skin and gets a new one at least twice a year. He also gets new eye scales over his eyes because a snake never closes his eyes. This particular king cobra snake had a scar above one eye which prevented the old eye scale from peeling off. Therefore, the vets had to remove the old eye scale.

This seven foot long snake is very poisonous so the five men working with the snake had to move quickly. Each man took his assigned position and then the cobra's door was opened. Seconds later the cobra appeared. As soon as he saw the men, he stopped, spread his cape, and raised to full stature. The cobra trembled with excitement as he stared at each of his enemies. Then he chose to strike at the curator and with shocking quickness rushed forward, hissing with rage.

From behind, two skilled keepers quickly threw sheer nets over the cobra's head and the curator firmly grasped his neck just behind his venom sacs. While the keepers held

his writhing body, one vet put a wad of paper towels in the cobra's mouth. Immediately, it was dripping with poisonous venom. The other vet carefully scraped off the old eye scale with a sharp scalpel, or knife.

Great beads of sweat began to run down the curator's face as he said, "My hands are sweaty and my fingers are cramping. When I let him go, it may not be quick enough. More keepers are bitten trying to let go of snakes than when they grab them."

All the men prepared to run fast as soon as the snake's head was released. He hissed more angrily than ever and went for his escaping captors. Though they had helped the cobra, he never thanked them. However, one veterinarian thanked the Lord for saving them from any poisonous bites. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Elisha stay for awhile after Elijah was taken up?
2. What was wrong with that city?
3. What did Elisha ask them to bring him?
4. What did he do with the salt?
5. Who healed the waters?
6. Where did Elisha go to visit the prophets?
7. What did many of the people worship?
8. Who mocked Elisha?
9. What came out of the woods?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 2:19-25.

(Answers: 1. In Jericho. 2. The water was not good. 3. A bottle of salt. 4. Poured it into the water. 5. The Lord. 6. To Bethel. 7. Idols. 8. Some children. 9. Two she bears.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 25 June 18, 1995

A VALLEY FILLS WITH WATER

Jehoram, Ahab's son, became king after his brother, Ahaziah, died. For many years the king of Moab had sent Ahab thousands of sheep and much wool every year. But after Ahab died the king of Moab rebelled and would send no more.

Jehoram decided to fight against Moab. He numbered all his men. Then he asked Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, if he would come and help him fight. When Jehoshaphat agreed to go, Jehoram also got the king of Edom. So the three kings and their armies marched off to battle.

It was a seven day march to Moab. They had not gone far before they were in great trouble. They could find no water! "Alas!" Jehoram cried. "The Lord has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab!"

But Jehoshaphat believed God would help them if they asked. He heard Elisha was nearby so he and the other kings went to him. Elisha asked the Lord what the kings should do.

"You must make this valley full of ditches," Elisha told them. "The Lord says you will not see wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water so you and your animals can drink. It is nothing for our God to do such a great miracle. He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand!" When the men dug the ditches, the Lord filled them with water, just as He said.

Soon the Moabites heard the kings had come. They gathered their army and got up early to fight. As the Moabites looked across the valley the morning sun shone on the water making it look as red as blood. They were sure the kings had fought each other and all were dead. They rushed into the valley to gather the spoil.

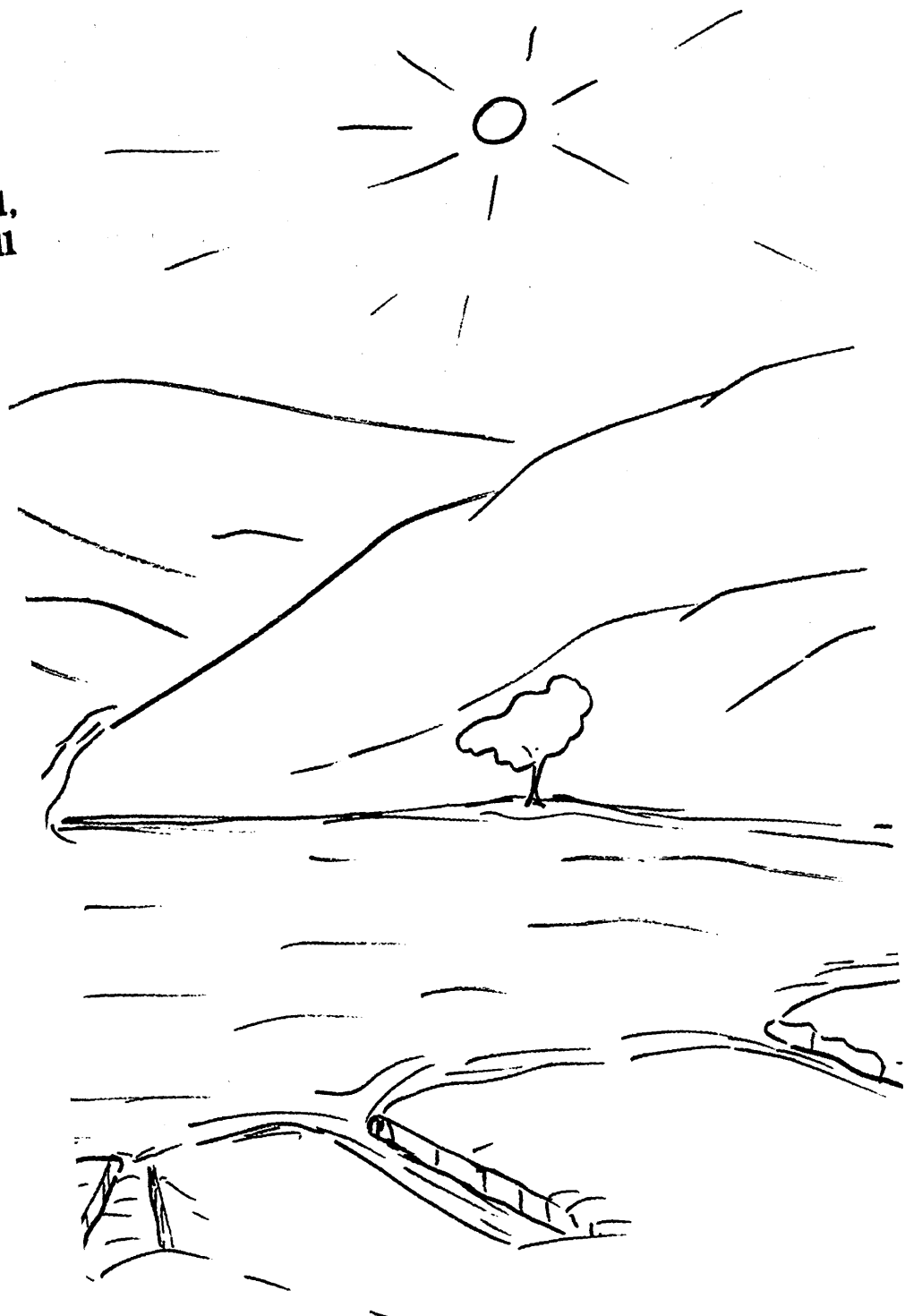
But when they got to the camp of Israel, they found the three kings and their armies ready to fight! They turned to run but could not escape. God helped the three kings win a great battle that day.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**For thus saith the Lord, Ye shall not see
neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley
be filled with water,...
II Kings 3:17.**



d.
11



Storm Struck

(Taken from a True Story)

It was a terrible storm the particular night that Mattie Houlden was driving home from a hospital visit she had made to her sick daughter. Strong winds of hurricane strength raised up Mattie's lightweight pickup and moved it off the road several times. Mattie struggled with the steering wheel and always managed to get her vehicle back on the pavement before it became stuck in mud or wrecked.

Most importantly, Mattie was praying. Over and over she called on the Lord to protect her and help her safely reach home which was yet some miles away. Rain was beating harshly on the windshield and the wipers could not keep the water from dimming Mattie's view of the dark road ahead. She knew this was just the beginning of a New Jersey, high-wind storm and her only hope was in the mercy of God.

Sweat beads of anxiety began to form on Mattie's forehead as she wrestled the pickup steering wheel. It seemed that with each gust of wind, she would leave the road and crash into a guard rail or worse yet, blow into a river. Her shoulders began to ache and every muscle in her body was tense.

As Mattie approached a short cut that would take her home quicker, she asked the Lord to help her make the right decision. The short cut road was rougher and more dangerous to travel than the paved highway. However, she would cut a few miles from her traveling distance if she went that way. "Oh, Lord, what should I do?" Mattie prayed in desperation.

Suddenly, she felt that the Lord wanted her to take the short cut.

Another blast of high wind rocked Mattie's pickup as she turned the corner to the short cut road. She skidded onto the rough road, straightened out the steering wheel—then looked in amazement at the scene.

There was no rain beating on her windshield, no howling wind, nothing except a quiet starry night. Mattie drove home in complete awe.

Mattie loves to tell others how the Lord stopped that storm for her at the corner of the road. "I know storms don't really end at corners," she says, "so I have only God to thank."

Town people knew how bad that storm was and those that heard Mattie's story could only give God the praise for the miracle of nature He did for His trusting child.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Whose son was Jehoram?
2. Who sent Ahab thousands of sheep and much wool?
3. What did Jehoram decide to do when the king of Moab rebelled?
4. Who did he ask to help him?
5. How many kings marched off to battle?
6. Why were they in trouble?
7. What did Elisha tell them to do?
8. Who filled the ditches with water?
9. What did the water look like in the morning sun?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 3.

(Answers: 1. Ahab's 2. The king of Moab. 3. Fight against him. 4. Jehoshaphat. 5. Three. 6. There was no water. 7. Make the valley full of ditches. 8. The Lord. 9. Blood.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



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ELISHA SAVES TWO BOYS

A young prophet died leaving his wife and two sons. She had no money to buy the things they needed, so she had to borrow money to feed the family.

One day the man came and demanded that she pay his money back. She sadly explained to him that she had no money and could not pay what she owed him. "If you cannot pay me with money then I shall take your two sons to be my slaves!" the man told her angrily.

Quickly the mother ran to Elisha. When she found him she was so troubled she cried out, "Your servant, my husband, is dead! You know that he feared the Lord and served Him. Now the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves!"

"What shall I do for you?" Elisha asked. "What do you have in your house?"

"I have nothing in the house except a pot of oil," the woman moaned.

Elisha knew God could use just what the woman had to meet her need. "Go and borrow as many empty containers as you can from your neighbors," he instructed her. "When you and your sons have brought them into your house, shut the door. Then take your oil and pour it into the empty pots. When each one is full, set it aside and fill another one."

The woman and her sons hurried home and did as Elisha had said. As she filled one pot her sons would bring her another one. Finally she said, "Bring me another container."

"There is not one more empty pot!" they told her. Quickly they ran to tell Elisha what had happened.

Elisha knew God had met their need. "Go, sell the oil," he told them. "Pay your debt, then use the rest of the money to live on."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...Go, sell the oil, and pay thy
debt, and live thou and thy
children of the rest.**

II Kings 4:7.



Sweet Sally

(A True Story)

Gary loved to work with the animals at the zoo and, yes, he did have favorites. One of his favorites was a huge orangutan named Sally. An orangutan is a large gorilla-type animal with long, orange-red hair all over its body, except, of course, on its face and palms of its four hands. Sally was a round butterball, six feet tall with very, very long arms, small round ears, and a sweet-looking face. She was gentle with her babies and helpful with the housework.

That was one thing Gary liked about Sally—she would clean her own cage. Every evening, Sally would scrape any leftover food into a neat pile. Then she would drop it just outside her cage, ready for the evening pick-up. Then in the morning, Gary would take a bucket full of warm soapy water and set it inside Sally's cage. He handed her a bath towel and she went to work. Sally would work diligently for forty minutes scrubbing, rinsing and wringing. She cleaned all the cage bars, her sleeping bench and her holding cage. After the cleaning job passed Gary's inspection, Sally received a vanilla malt. She loved drinking it from a straw.

One day Gary was passing by Sally's cage with a bunch of grapes in his hand. Suddenly, Sally's mighty hand reached out and grasped Gary's arm with an iron grip. Gently but firmly she pulled him to her and pointed to the grapes. Gary decided right away that Sally could have the grapes. Gracefully, she took them from his hand and laid them carefully on her sleeping bench. Keeping a hold on Gary's arm, Sally reached for Gary's other hand that had held

the grapes. Slowly, she drew that hand to her mouth and kissed it. Then she patted him on the back as if to say, "Keep up the good work, friend."

Also, Sally loved her babies. She kept them close to her and woe to anyone or anything that might threaten her babies! However, she trusted Gary when he was nearby because they had formed a friendship. Often Gary brought treats to Sally and she would thank him. Sometimes he would give her a magazine to look at or a comb for her hair.

Sally was obedient, helpful and trusting. These are some very good traits to have. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who had died?
2. Why did the mother borrow money?
3. What did the man say he would do if she could not pay?
4. Who did the mother run to?
5. What did the woman have in her house?
6. What did Elisha tell her to borrow?
7. What was she to pour into the empty pots?
8. Why didn't her sons bring her another empty pot?
9. What did Elisha tell her to do with the oil?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 4:1-7.

(Answers: 1. A young prophet. 2. To feed the family. 3. Take her sons to be his slaves. 4. Elisha. 5. A pot of oil. 6. Many empty containers. 7. Oil. 8. They were all full. 9. Sell it and pay her debt.)