

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 14 July 2, 1995

A ROOM FOR ELISHA

Elisha often traveled from place to place teaching people how to serve God. A rich woman who lived in Shunem noticed that Elisha often passed by so she invited Elisha to her home and insisted that he eat dinner with her family. After this Elisha would stop at her house each time he passed through Shunem. While he and his servant rested, the woman would fix something for them to eat.

One day the woman said to her husband, "I can see that this is an holy man of God who comes by often. Let's build a room for him and furnish it with a bed, a table, a stool and a candlestick. Then he can rest in his own room while he is here."

Before long Elisha was again passing through Shunem so he stopped by the woman's house to rest. This time she showed him to his own room which her husband had built for him. Elisha was thankful to have a bed to stretch out on and rest after his long walk.

As Elisha lay there he tried to think of some way to repay the woman for her kindness. Finally he told his servant to go ask the woman what he could do for her.

So his servant told the woman, "You have been very kind to us. Now, what can we do for you? Would you like my master to speak a word for you to the king or the captain of the army?"

"I live among my own people and have everything I need," the woman answered.

When Elisha's servant told him what the woman said, Elisha asked, "Then what can we do for her?"

"She doesn't have a child and her husband is old," the servant replied.

Elisha called the woman. "By this time next year you will have a son because you have been so kind to me," he told her.

The woman could hardly believe such good news. But, just as Elisha said, she and her husband were blessed with a baby boy.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...This is an holy man of
God, which passeth by
us continually.
II Kings 4:9.





Preparing For The Lord's Day

"Children," said Mother, "let's tidy the house. Tomorrow is Sunday and we want the house to look nice on the Lord's Day. Besides, we have asked the pastor and his wife to come home with us for lunch so we surely want the house to look nice."

"I will dust," said Linda. She was a big girl of eight and could carefully dust Mother's knick-knacks without breaking them.

"I can vacuum the floors," said Jerry. When he ran the vacuum, he liked to pretend he was a big man operating a huge dust-eating monster.

"What 'tan' I do?" asked the youngest who was two years old.

"Randy, you can pick up the toys," replied Mother. "If we all work together, it will make the work time shorter and more fun. Now let's get busy!"

Each child hurried to do the task assigned to him or her. Finally, the house was shining and Mother was pleased. "Thank you, children, for all the hard work you have done," she said. "Now help me plan the menu for lunch tomorrow."

"What's a 'menu'?" asked Linda. "It is the list of food we plan to eat," replied Mother.

"I want mashed potatoes and gravy," declared Jerry. He liked to make a pond with his mashed potatoes and then fill the pond with creamy gravy.

"Let's have fried chicken to go with the mashed potatoes and gravy," said Linda.

"I like 'torn'," added Randy.

"Okay," said Mother as she wrote all this on a piece of paper. "I will add green beans and Daddy likes hot rolls so we will have this for our special lunch tomorrow. Now it is time to take

baths and get ready for bed. Tomorrow will be a full day with Sunday school and church."

"Should we say our memory verses for you tonight?" asked Linda.

"Yes," replied Mother. "We want to be prepared for Sunday morning memory verse time."

Soon everyone was prepared for bed and it was devotion time. Daddy read a Bible story while Mother rocked Randy to sleep. When Mother tucked Linda under her covers, Linda whispered, "Tomorrow is a special day, isn't it?"

"Yes, it is," agreed Mother, "and we will have a special servant of the Lord to eat with us."

"I already prayed that the Lord will bless the food," murmured Linda sleepily as she closed her eyes.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who often traveled from place to place?
2. What did he teach the people?
3. Who noticed that Elisha often passed by?
4. What did the woman want to build for Elisha?
5. What did the woman put in the room?
6. What did Elisha have his servant ask the woman?
7. Who said they had everything they needed?
8. What did the woman not have?
9. What were the woman and her husband blessed with?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 4:8-17.

(Answers: 1. Elisha. 2. How to serve God. 3. A rich woman. 4. A room. 5. A bed, a table, a stool and a candlestick. 6. "What can we do for you?" 7. The rich woman. 8. A child. 9. A baby boy.)

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Vol. 46, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 15 July 9, 1995

A VERY SICK BOY

The woman who lived in Shunem and her husband were very happy to have a baby boy. They had always wished for a son.

The child grew strong and tall and after a few years he was able to follow his father into the fields. One day he went out to watch his father and the reapers. Suddenly the boy felt very sick. He cried to his father, "My head, my head!"

Turning to a servant the father told him, "Carry him to his mother quickly."

The servant hurried with him to his mother and placed him in her lap. His mother held him lovingly in her arms, hoping he would soon be feeling well again. But as she watched him anxiously, he only grew worse. About noon he stopped breathing. Her son was dead!

Carefully the mother carried him into Elisha's room and laid him on Elisha's bed. Surely this man of God could help her. She must go to him at once!

Calling for her husband she told him to send a young man to go with her to see the prophet. She must leave immediately. "Go as fast as you can," she told the young man as they started out. "Don't slow down unless I tell you to."

It was a long ride to mount Carmel but the sad mother did not mind the distance. As they came nearer, Elisha saw the woman riding toward him. He recognized her and wondered why she would come so far.

Calling his servant he told him, "The woman from Shunem is coming. Run to meet her and ask if all is well."

The servant did as Elisha said. Without stopping, the woman answered, "It is well." She knew she must see Elisha and she did not stop until she got to him. Falling before the prophet, she caught him by the feet. Elisha's servant stepped up to pull her away.

"Let her alone," Elisha told him. "She is deeply troubled and the Lord has hidden it from me, and has not told me what is wrong."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And he sa
my head..



unto his father, My head,
II Kings 4-19.



The Prayer Of Faith

Mother was on the telephone and her voice sounded worried. "Bro. Logan, could you come and pray for Jerry? He has such a high fever and we don't know what is wrong. Oh, thank you for coming, Bro. Logan. Good-bye."

Mother hung up the telephone and hurried back to Jerry's bedroom where he was lying in a feverish sweat.

"Son, let me put a cover over you," said Mother. "You must not chill."

"I'm so hot," moaned Jerry. "I don't want any covers."

"Let me cover you anyway," said Mother gently. "Here is a cool, damp cloth for your forehead. That should cool you some. Bro. Logan is on his way to pray for you. We don't know what is causing this fever but the Lord does and He can heal you. Would you like a drink of cool water?"

Jerry nodded his head so Mother gave him a drink. Linda and Randy were not home to help Mother. They had been sent to stay with Aunt Mary until Jerry's fever would leave.

Linda had cried when she left. "Will Jerry be all right?" she asked.

"Pray for him," said Mother. "He is a very sick boy but Jesus can make him well."

"I WILL pray for him," said Linda earnestly.

Now as Mother watched Jerry drink a little water with a straw, she prayed earnestly for her hot, restless son.

Daddy stepped into the room and knelt by Jerry's bed. "Did you already call Bro. Logan?" he asked Mother.

"Yes, he is on the way," replied Mother. "We really need the Lord to help us. His fever has been so high for so long."

Soon Bro. Logan and his wife were at the door. Jerry opened his eyes when they came into the room, but his head hurt so badly that he could not keep his eyes open.

Quietly, Bro. Logan bent over Jerry. "We will anoint your forehead with a little oil," said Bro. Logan. "The Bible tells us to do this and that the prayer of faith shall save the sick. Jerry, do you believe Jesus can heal you?"

Jerry nodded. Bro. Logan continued, "I believe so, too, and where there are two agreed touching any thing, it shall be done for us by our Father which is in heaven. Let us pray."

While Bro. Logan prayed, Jerry began to feel calm, cool, and relaxed. Before he realized it, he was asleep. Jerry slept all night and the next morning—guess what!—he was healed!

The Lord yet heals all manner of sickness. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What had the woman and her husband always wished for?
2. Who grew strong and tall?
3. Where would he follow his father?
4. What happened as he watched his father and the reapers?
5. Who held him in her lap?
6. What happened about noon?
7. Where did his mother lay him?
8. Who did she go to see?
9. What did she do when she came to Elisha?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 4: 18-27.

(Answers: 1. A son. 2. The child. 3. Into the fields. 4. He got very sick. 5. His mother. 6. He stopped breathing. 7. On Elisha's bed. 8. Elisha. 9. She caught him by the feet.)

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RAISED TO LIFE!

Elisha wondered why the woman from Shunem had come so far to find him. Usually the Lord showed him when someone was in trouble but this time He had not.

As the woman held Elisha by the feet she cried, "Did I ask for a child?"

Now Elisha knew something must have happened to the little boy. "Get yourself ready and take my staff in your hand," he commanded his servant. "You must go to Shunem. Don't speak to anyone on the way. When you get there lay my staff upon the face of the child."

The servant hurried off toward Shunem but the woman did not follow. "As the Lord lives, I will not leave you," she told Elisha. So Elisha agreed to go with her.

Meanwhile the servant got to the woman's house in Shunem. Finding the boy lying on Elisha's bed he laid the staff upon his face as the prophet had said. But nothing happened.

Turning back toward mount Carmel he met Elisha coming with the boy's mother. He told Elisha, "The child will not wake up."

When Elisha came to the house he saw that the little boy was dead and had been laid on his bed. Shutting the door he prayed and begged the Lord to let life come back to the child. Then he put his face to the child's face and put his hands on his hands until he felt the boy's body begin to get warm.

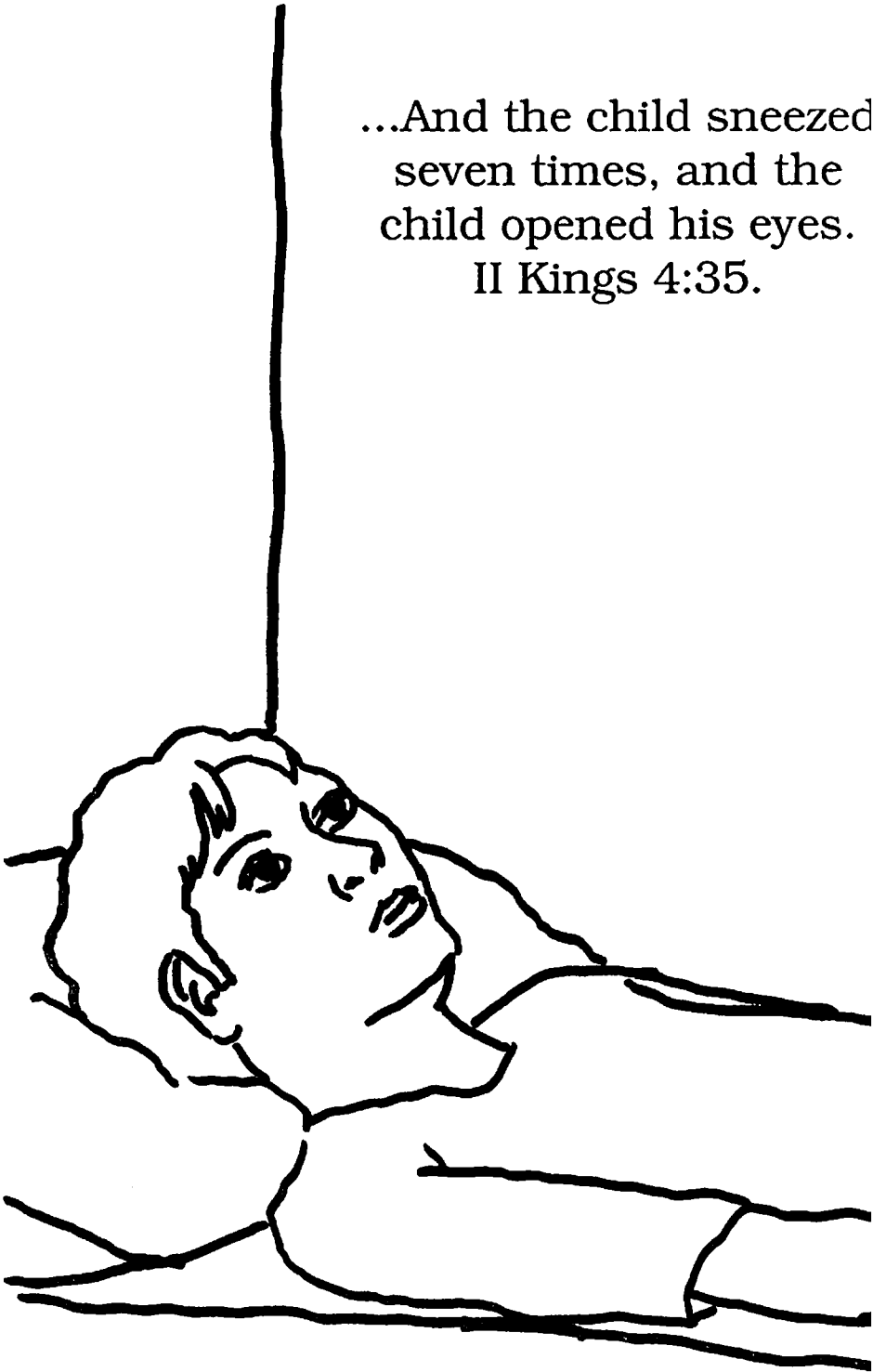
Then Elisha walked back and forth in the house praying for the child's recovery. Suddenly the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes! Elisha knew his prayers had been answered.

"Call the boy's mother," Elisha commanded. Quickly his servant went to the mother and told her Elisha had called for her. When she came to him he said, "Take up your son!"

Falling at his feet, the mother bowed down before Elisha to show how thankful she was. Joyfully she picked up her son and went out.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...And the child sneezed
seven times, and the
child opened his eyes.
II Kings 4:35.





Daddy's Story

(Based on a True Story)

"Let's gather in, children," said Daddy. "It is time for family worship."

Jerry and Linda sat down at their places on the couch and little Randy climbed into Mother's lap.

"What is the story about tonight, Daddy?" asked Jerry.

Daddy opened the Bible Story Book and read the story title: "Jesus Heals a Cripple and a Man's Hand."

Linda smiled and clapped her hands. "Oh, I like to hear about Jesus and how he heals people," she exclaimed. "Jesus healed Jerry last week—He is so good!"

"Yes, He is," agreed Daddy. "I know a young man who was very sick one time with typhoid fever. That year at Monark Springs Campmeeting, no one realized the water was bad until several became deathly sick from drinking it. Most were young people like this young man who laid for several days unable to do anything for himself. He was so weak and his fever was so high that he began to see heavenly visions. All this time his mother, dad and the saints were praying that the Lord would heal him. He could hear his mother weeping and praying but he was too weak to say a word to her."

"I knew that young man, also," said Mother. "The police authorities learned about this sick young man and they wanted to take him to the hospital. 'If he isn't better by such and such a time,' they told his parents, 'we will take him from your home and put him in the hospital.' I remember how we earnestly prayed at our house," continued Mother. "I wanted that young man to live so very much. Many people knew about the typhoid fever epidemic and it was even mentioned on the radio. One day I came into my house and heard over the radio that

this young man had died. Oh, how I cried!"

Daddy nodded his head, "Yes, the police were ready to move into the house and arrest the parents. The police said the young man had died but the mother saw that her son was still faintly breathing. Through warm tears of anguish, she pleaded with the Lord to spare her son. Jesus heard these prayers and He actually raised up this young man from the dead."

All three children had quietly listened to their parents. "Do you really know someone who was raised from the dead like that?" questioned Jerry. "Who was it? Would I know him?"

Daddy and Mother smiled and glanced at one another. "I believe you would know him," said Mother with a twinkle in her eye. "To you today his name is 'Daddy'." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who usually showed Elisha when someone was in trouble?
2. What was the servant to carry in his hand to Shunem?
3. What must he do with it when he got there?
4. What did the woman tell Elisha?
5. What happened when the servant did as Elisha said?
6. What did Elisha do after he had shut the door?
7. How many times did the boy sneeze?
8. What did Elisha know when he heard the sneezing?
9. What did the mother do to show how thankful she was?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 4:28-37.

(Answers: 1. The Lord. 2. Elisha's staff. 3. Lay it on the boy's face. 4. "I will not leave you." 5. Nothing. 6. Prayed. 7. Seven. 8. His prayers had been answered. 9. Bowed before Elisha.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 17 July 23, 1995

POISON POTTAGE

Food was scarce in the land of Israel so the poor people had very little to eat. During this time Elisha went to visit the prophets living in Gilgal. As the prophets sat around him, Elisha saw they had nothing to fix for the next meal.

"Set on the largest pot and make pottage (a thick soup) for the prophets," Elisha told his servant.

So his servant built a fire and placed the largest pot on it. Then the prophets brought vegetables and added them to the pottage. One young prophet went out into the field looking for wild greens or vegetables. Finding a wild vine loaded with gourds, he gathered a lap full and took them back to the camp. Cutting the gourds into small pieces they added them to the food in the pot.

When all was ready they poured out for each of the men to eat. As they were eating someone suddenly cried out, and said, "O thou man of God, there is death in the pot!" By mistake the young prophet had gathered poisonous wild gourds and added them to the pot with the other vegetables.

Elisha knew God could bless the food so it would not harm them. Calmly he asked them to bring him some meal. After throwing it into the pot he told them, "Pour out for the people, that they may eat." The food was no longer poisonous.

While Elisha was still with the prophets a man came to the camp bringing twenty loaves of barley bread and fresh ears of corn. Elisha knew this would be a treat for the prophets. He told a servant to serve the bread and corn to them. The servant asked in surprise, "What, should I set this before an hundred men?"

Elisha repeated, "Give the people, that they may eat. For the Lord says, 'They shall eat, and shall have food left over.'"

So the servant set the food before the prophets. They had plenty to eat and some left over, just as the Lord had said.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...O thou
there is d
pot.... I K



of God,
in the
s 4:40.

White 'Tandy' Balls

As soon as the happy, yellow sun peeped over the edge of the earth, Mother woke up Jerry and Linda. "Hurry and get dressed," she called to them. "We need to pick the garden vegetables before the day becomes hot. I will be in the garden, children, so come and join me soon."

Before too long, Jerry and Linda were bent over the green bean plants. They pulled the tender green beans from the vines and put them in nearby buckets.

Pink-punk-ponk! went the green beans as they hit the bucket bottom. Soon one bucket was full, so Jerry took it to the shady porch.

"Check on Randy while you are at the house," said Mother to Jerry. Two year old Randy wasn't the best bean picker so Mother let him sleep longer in the mornings.

Obediently, Jerry checked on Randy and found his brother sleeping soundly. Two more times Jerry checked and found Randy sleeping; but the next time, Randy wasn't in his bed.

"Randy!" called Jerry. "Where are you?"

There wasn't any answer so Jerry went to look. He checked in the bathroom, the living room, and the kitchen. Finally, he looked in Mother and Daddy's bedroom.

"Randy, I know you are in here," said Jerry. "I can hear you moving around. Where are you, Randy?"

"Tome' and find me," said Randy.

Jerry raised up the bedspread and there lay Randy with a lot of white stuff laying around him. "Randy, what are you doing?" exclaimed Jerry. "It looks like you have been chewing on this stuff."

"It's 'tandy'," said Randy. "Mama put white 'tandy' balls in this box,

but I don't like 'em very well."

Jerry knelt down and sniffed Randy's 'tandy'. "I guess you don't like this!" he exclaimed. "These are Mama's mothballs! You aren't suppose to eat them—they are poisonous! Here, let's go to Mama!"

Jerry took Randy to Mother and told her what he had found. After Mother checked Randy's mouth and looked at the chewed moth balls, she decided Randy hadn't swallowed any of the stuff. So she rinsed his mouth with peroxide, brushed his teeth, and gave him a glass of milk to drink.

"I declare," said Mother. "I have those balls in that box to keep the little moths from chewing on our winter clothes. I didn't think my little boy would find them."

"Well," said Randy quietly. "I will leave the rest of those balls for the moths."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did the poor people have very little to eat?
2. Who did Elisha go to visit?
3. What did Elisha tell his servant to make for the prophets?
4. What is pottage?
5. Who gathered a lapful of gourds?
6. What did they do with the gourds?
7. What was wrong with the gourds?
8. What did Elisha throw into the pot?
9. How many loaves of barley bread did the man bring?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 4:38-44.

(Answers: 1. Food was scarce. 2. The prophets. 3. Pottage. 4. A thick soup. 5. A young prophet. 6. Added them to the pot. 7. They were poisonous. 8. Meal. 9. Twenty.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 18 July 30, 1995

NAAMAN

Naaman was captain of the king of Syria's army. The king honored Naaman because by him the Lord had delivered Syria from their enemies. But then trouble came. This mighty man of war found he had the dreadful disease of leprosy.

Syria was just north of Israel. Often the Syrians would attack the cities of Israel. When they had captured the city they would take anything they wanted. In one of these raids a little girl was captured. With others she was taken to Syria and sold as a slave. Naaman saw the little girl and bought her to serve his wife.

Soon the little girl learned to like her new home and began to think of Naaman and his wife as her family. When she learned her master was a leper it made her very sad. She told his wife, "I wish my master was with the prophet who is in Samaria. He would cure him of his leprosy."

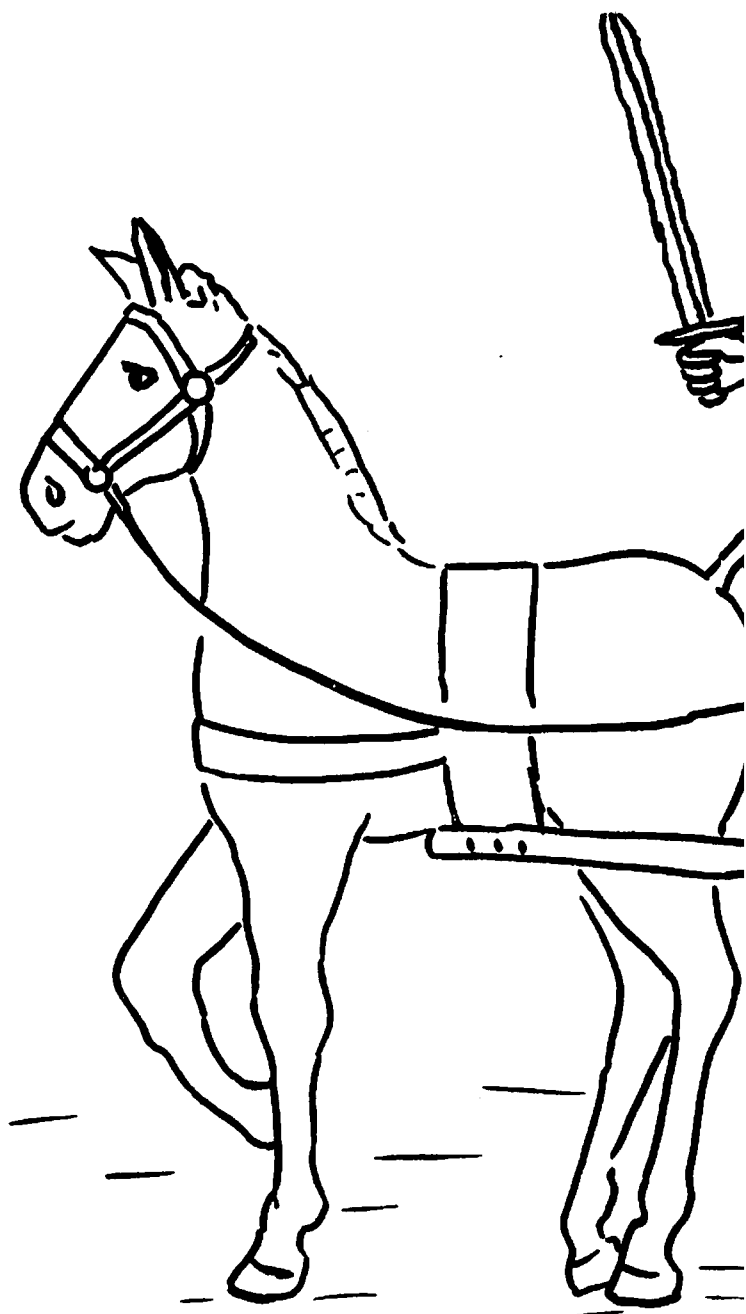
When Naaman heard there was such a prophet, he hurried to tell the king. The king loved Naaman and wanted to see him well again. "Go find the prophet," he told Naaman. "I will write a letter to the king of Israel for you."

Quickly Naaman prepared for the trip. He took many servants with him and much silver, gold and beautiful clothes. When he reached Israel, he went straight to the palace in Samaria. A messenger delivered the letter to the king of Israel. Anxiously Naaman and his servants waited outside the gate for the king's answer.

The letter read, "With this letter I am sending Naaman, my servant, to you so you can cure him of his leprosy."

Now the king of Israel did not love and serve God. When he read the letter he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, that I can kill and make alive, that the king has sent this man so I can recover him of his leprosy? Surely the king of Syria is looking for a cause to start war against me!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorren



...He was also a mighty r
leper. II



man in valour, but he was a
ings 5:1.

Sin In The Cup

Mother was on the telephone when Jerry and Linda came inside for a drink of water. While they reached into the cabinet for glasses, they heard Mother saying, "Oh, dear, that is terrible. Well, we will surely pray for him—only the Lord can help him out of this awful condition. Stay encouraged, Aunt Dorothy. We love you. Good-bye."

"What did Aunt Dorothy say?" asked Jerry with a worried look on his face.

"Uncle Jim is very sick," replied Mother. She sighed, "He has diabetes which means he should eat very little sugar, but he still has a problem with drinking alcoholic beverages. The doctor said he must stop drinking liquor but Uncle Jim won't listen. Aunt Dorothy is so worried."

"Could he die?" asked Linda. The word 'diabetes' sounded dangerous to her.

"Yes, he could," said Mother. "This illness and drinking problem will injure his heart, kidneys and liver. Those are three very important body organs that must function in order for a person to live. Uncle Jim must stop drinking and take better care of his health."

"Let's pray for him right now," said Linda. "Jesus can heal Uncle Jim."

"Yes, Jesus can," agreed Mother, "and He can also talk to Uncle Jim's heart. Uncle Jim needs to be saved. Then he would not drink liquor and harm his body with it. Children, take this as a warning and never start drinking. It becomes a destructive habit that controls a person. Worst of all, it keeps the soul from salvation. Uncle Jim needs to be saved and ready for heaven when he dies, but he doesn't want to give up the liquor and the ways of sin."

Linda had tears in her eyes as she said, "I need to call Uncle Jim and talk to him. If he died tonight, he would go to hell and that would be so awful! Do you think he would listen to me, Mother?"

Mother put her arm around Linda and hugged her tightly. "He might listen to you, Honey, but right now let's pray and ask Jesus to talk to him. Uncle Jim needs to feel guilty about sin. Only Jesus can deal with the inner man's mind and heart."

Jerry was concerned also. "Let's go to the living room and kneel by the couch right now," he said. "We must pray that Uncle Jim will listen to Jesus and get saved."

So Mother, Jerry and Linda knelt by the couch and prayed for Uncle Jim. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was captain of the Syrian army?
2. Who honored Naaman?
3. What dreadful disease did Naaman have?
4. What cities would the Syrians attack?
5. Who was captured in one of these raids?
6. Who bought her?
7. Who did she wish her master was with?
8. What did the king of Syria send to the king of Israel?
9. What did the king of Syria ask the king of Israel to do?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 5:1-7.

(Answers: 1. Naaman. 2. The king of Syria. 3. Leprosy. 4. The cities of Israel. 5. A little girl. 6. Naaman. 7. The prophet in Samaria. 8. A letter. 9. Cure Naaman of his leprosy.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 19 Aug. 6, 1995

SEVEN DIPS IN JORDAN

Naaman and his servants waited outside the palace in Samaria. They wondered why the king was so slow about coming. They did not realize how much excitement and trouble their letter had caused.

Meanwhile Elisha heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes. He sent a messenger to the king asking, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let the man come to me, and he shall know there is a prophet in Israel."

The king of Israel was relieved to get Elisha's message. Quickly he sent Naaman and his servants to Elisha's house.

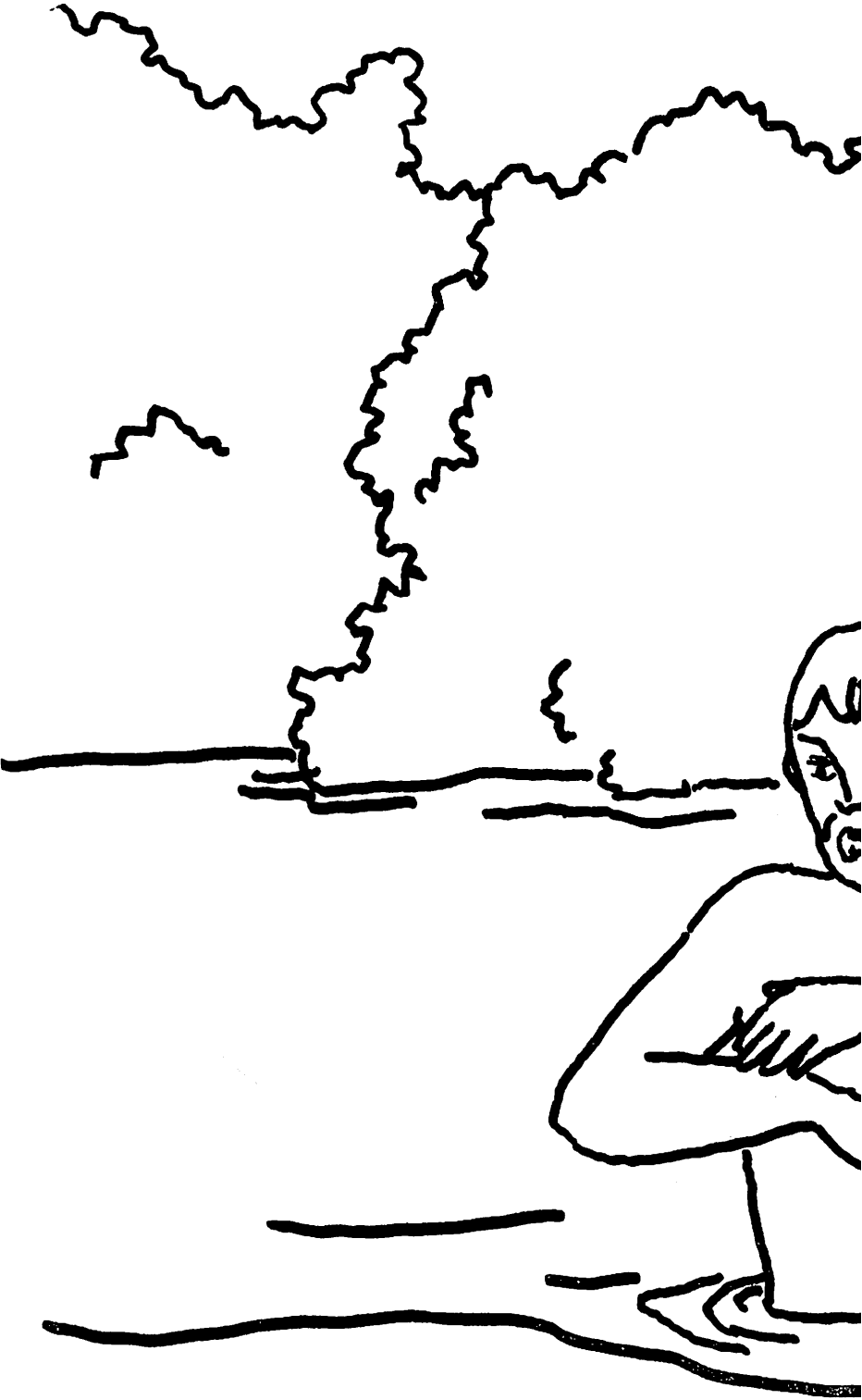
When Elisha saw Naaman and his servants at his door he sent his servant out to him saying, "Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and your skin will become new. You will be healed of your leprosy."

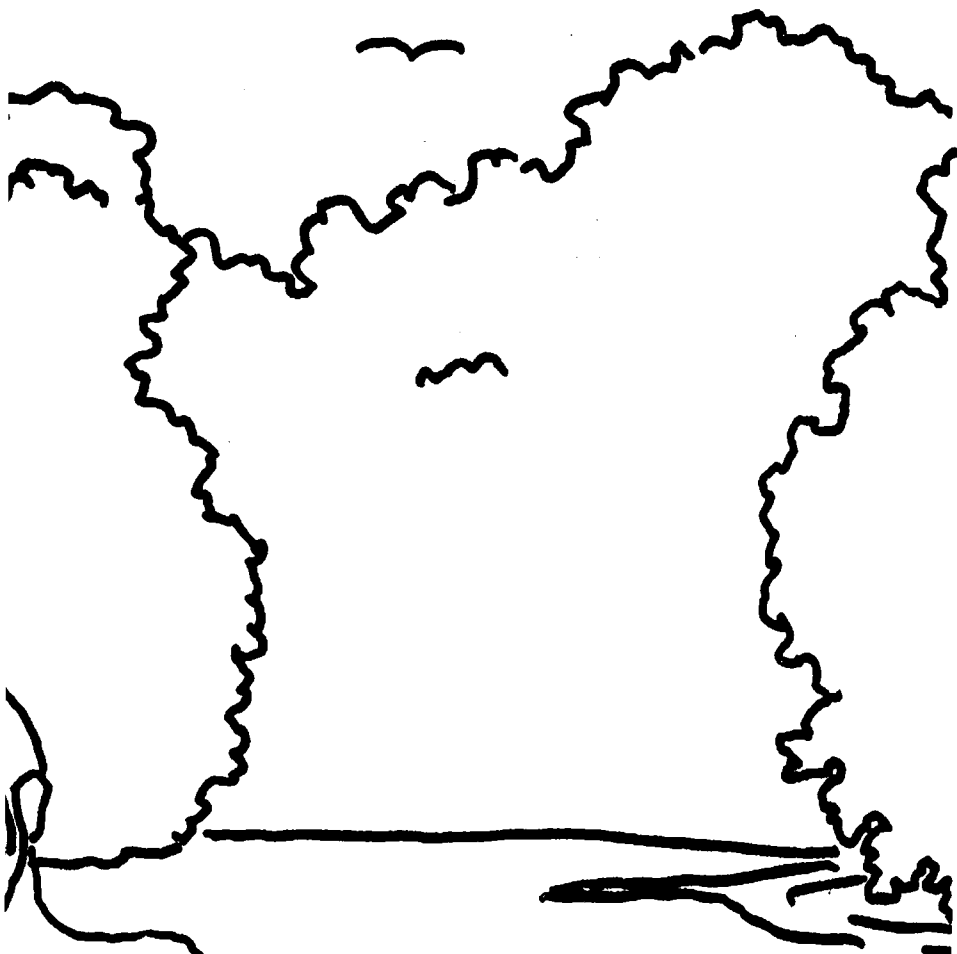
Naaman became very angry and turned to go back to Syria. "I thought he would surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the leprous place so that I would be healed!" Naaman fumed. "The rivers of Damascus are better than all the waters of Israel. Can't I wash in them, and be clean?" So Naaman left Elisha's house in a rage.

But Naaman's servants begged him to do as the prophet had said. "If the prophet had asked you to do some great thing, wouldn't you have done it?" they reasoned with him. "How much rather then, when he said to you, 'Wash and be clean?'"

Naaman listened to his servants and thought it over. Finally he turned his chariot toward the Jordan River. Going down to the muddy river he walked right out into it and dipped himself under the water. Again and again he dipped himself. Each time he could see the spots of leprosy were still there. But Naaman didn't stop until he had dipped seven times, just as Elisha had instructed. After the seventh dip he came up out of the water and his skin looked as fresh and healthy as a little child's. He was healed!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





...And his flesh came again
like unto the flesh of a little
child, and he was clean.

II Kings 5:14.

The Thought In One Card

Honk! Honk! went the car horn as Mother drove up from the grocery store. Jerry and Linda heard the horn and obediently went outside to help Mother carry in the sacks of groceries.

"Wow! I see my favorite kind of cereal," exclaimed Jerry as he took a couple of sacks out of the car. "May I have a bowl right now?"

"First help me bring in all the groceries," agreed Mother. "Also, I bought a get well card for Uncle Jim. I would like for you children to write a word of encouragement and sign your name on it."

Working together, they soon had everything in its place. Then Jerry enjoyed his bowl of cereal. Mother found the friendly get well card and laid it on the table for them to sign.

"Tan' I write my name too?" asked little Randy.

"Yes, I will help you," replied Mother.

"How is Uncle Jim now?" asked Linda.

"Aunt Dorothy said he is doing much better," said Mother. "We must continue to pray for him that he will see his need of salvation. If he would let Jesus come into his heart, then his health would be much better."

"I do pray for him," said Linda. "I know Jesus calls to Uncle Jim but he won't answer. I guess he is hard of hearing."

Mother smiled sadly. "He doesn't want to hear. It is sad that he loves the ways of sin more than God's ways."

"See what I wrote on the card?" said Jerry. Then he read: "We are praying for you. Listen to Jesus. Love, Jerry."

"That is good," praised Mother. By that evening the card was at the post

office and then on its way to Uncle Jim's. In a few days Aunt Dorothy called and talked to Mother.

"What did Aunt Dorothy have to say?" asked Linda as soon as Mother hung up the phone.

"They really did appreciate the nice card that we sent to Uncle Jim," explained Mother. "She said that Uncle Jim has talked about the Lord more than he ever has. He realizes that prayer has power and he wants us to keep praying. Also, they invited us to come for supper next week."

"Oh, good! Can we go?" asked Jerry and Linda together.

"I want to go," chimed in Randy. "I get hungry to see Aunt Dorothy."

"I said I would have to ask your daddy before I made any obligation," replied Mother. "Let's hope Daddy doesn't have any plans for next Friday night." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Naaman and his servants wait?
2. Who was slow about coming?
3. What had caused so much excitement and trouble?
4. Who heard the king had torn his clothes?
5. Where did the king send Naaman?
6. What did Elisha tell Naaman to do?
7. Why was Naaman so angry?
8. Who begged him to do as Elisha had said?
9. How many times did he dip himself in Jordan?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 5:8-14.

(Answers: 1. Outside the palace. 2. The king of Israel. 3. The letter. 4. Elisha. 5. To Elisha's house. 6. "Go wash in Jordan seven times." 7. Elisha did not come out to heal him. 8. His servants. 9. Seven.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 20 Aug. 13, 1995

ELISHA'S FOOLISH SERVANT

Naaman hurried back to Elisha. He was so happy to be cured of his leprosy he wanted to thank the prophet at once. When Elisha came out Naaman told him, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel. Now, I beg you, accept these gifts from me."

Elisha wanted Naaman to understand that it was God who had healed his leprosy. He told him, "As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will take no gift." Even when Naaman urged him, he refused to accept a gift for what God had done.

Elisha was pleased when Naaman asked for enough earth from the land of Israel to make an altar to the true God. "From now on I will not offer sacrifices to any other gods, but only unto the Lord," Naaman told him.

So Naaman started back toward his home in Syria. He hadn't gone far when he saw Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, running after him. Stepping down from his chariot, Naaman asked, "Is all well?"

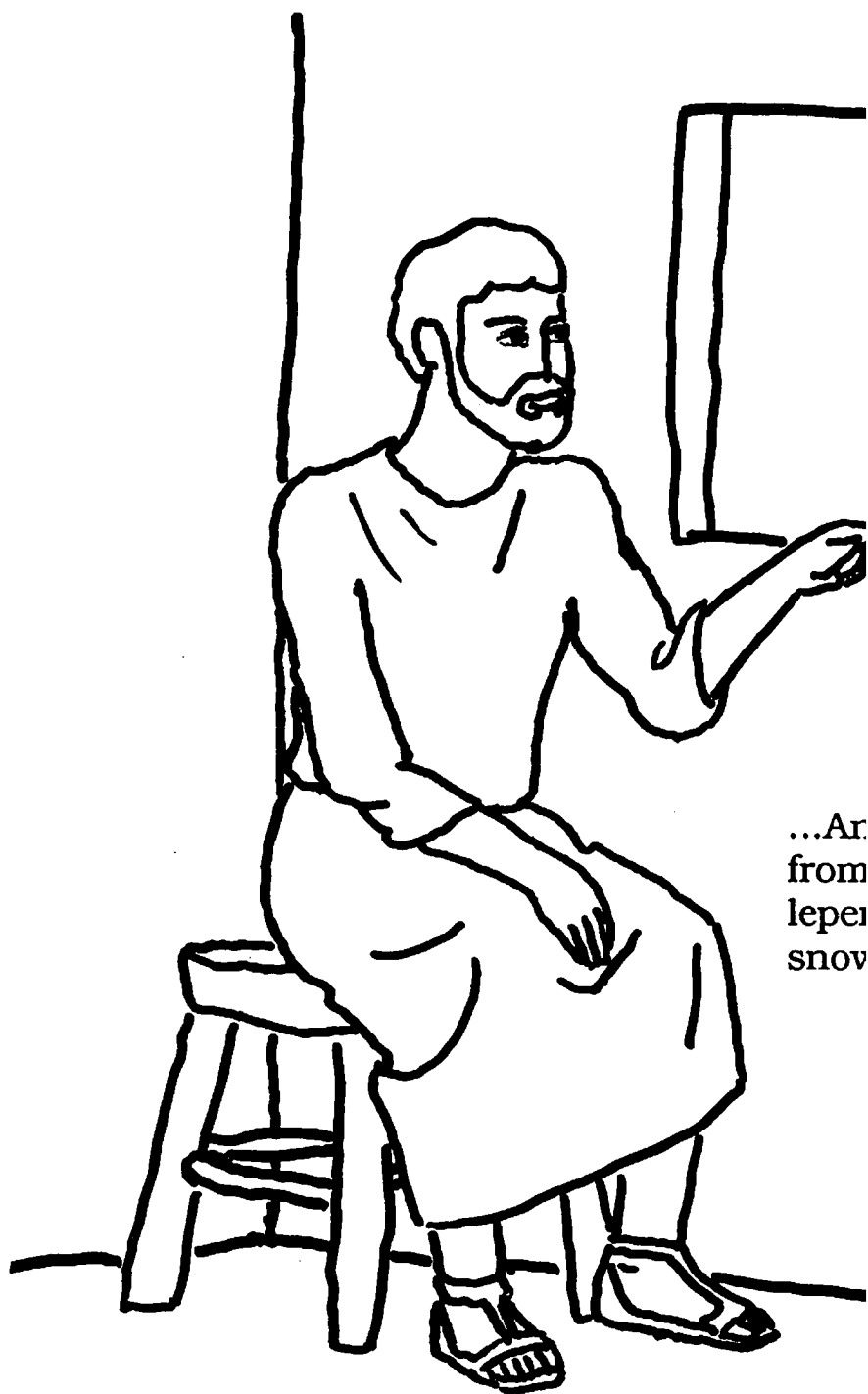
"All is well," Gehazi answered. "But my master has sent me, saying, 'Two young men, who are sons of the prophets, have come to me. I beg you, give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.'"

Naaman was glad to give anything Elisha asked. "Take two talents," he said as he bound up two talents of silver with two changes of garments. Then he told two of his servants to carry the gifts back to Elisha.

When they came to the tower, Gehazi took the gifts and sent the servants back to Naaman. Hiding the gifts carefully, he went in to Elisha. "Where have you come from?" Elisha asked. "My heart went with you when you followed Naaman."

Because Gehazi was more interested in riches than in pleasing God, the leprosy of Naaman came upon him. Immediately his skin became as white as snow with the dreaded disease.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...Ar.
from
leper
snow

he went out
in presence a
white as
Kings 5:27.



Uncle Jim's Stowage

"Hurry, children," said Mother. "We don't want to be late for Aunt Dorothy's wonderful dinner. Daddy is waiting in the car. Go out ahead of me so I can lock the door."

Soon the family was in the car and speeding toward their aunt and uncle's house. "I sure hope Uncle Jim is feeling good," said Jerry. "Maybe he will show me some of his fishing lures. I can go fishing with Uncle Jim if he asks, can't I, Dad? I haven't gone with him for several years."

Daddy chuckled. "I doubt it has been 'several years' since you went fishing but it has been a long time. We will talk about it with Uncle Jim."

As the family stepped up on the porch, spicy fragrances drifted from the kitchen where Aunt Dorothy had dinner ready. After hugs and greetings went around, the food was served. Jerry took a seat at the table by Uncle Jim.

"Have you been fishing lately, Uncle Jim?" he asked.

"No, I haven't been," he replied. "Since I have been so sick, your aunt hasn't wanted me out in the water. I think it is time for us to go fishing again—what do you think?"

"We must think alike," exclaimed Jerry with a grin. "When can we go?"

After dinner, preparations were made for a quick fishing trip. Jerry, Dad and Uncle Jim eagerly gathered fishing gear and packed a few snacks to nibble while they would wait for the fish.

Finally, the three of them were at the lake. Sitting quietly in the fishing boat, swatting mosquitos, Jerry patiently waited for a fish to

bite his hook. By and by he became thirsty, so he opened the ice chest to get something to drink. He thrust his hand into the ice and pulled out a dark bottle. Without saying a word, Jerry slowly read the label on the bottle. Suddenly his heart felt sad.

It was a bottle of liquor.

Why had Uncle Jim brought liquor on their fishing trip? He knew that Daddy would not drink any and the liquor hurt Uncle Jim's health. Jerry put the bottle back into the ice chest but he planned to privately tell his dad later. Meanwhile, Jerry prayed for Uncle Jim.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

**"A friend loveth
at all times."**

QUESTIONS:

1. What was Naaman happy about?
2. Why did he hurry back to Elisha?
3. What did he offer to give Elisha?
4. Why wouldn't Elisha take the gift?
5. What did Naaman ask for?
6. Who followed Naaman?
7. What did he ask for?
8. What did he do with the gifts?
9. What came upon Gehazi?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 5:15-27.

(Answers: 1. He was cured. 2. To thank him. 3. Gifts. 4. Because God had done the work. 5. Enough earth to make an altar to God. 6. Gehazi. 7. A talent of silver and two changes of garments. 8. He hid them. 9. The leprosy of Naaman.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 21 Aug. 20, 1995

THE FLOATING AXE HEAD

One day the sons of the prophets told Elisha, "Look, the place where we live is too small for us. Let us go, we beg, to Jordan. Each of us can carry lumber with us so we can make a place to live there." Elisha agreed that the plan was a good one so he told them to go and do as they had said. One of the prophets begged Elisha to go with them. "I will go," he assured them.

When they came to Jordan, they began cutting down trees and clearing the land. As one of the prophets swung his axe back to chop a tree, the axe head flew off, landing in the water nearby. The axe head made a big splash and then sank out of sight.

The man cried out, "Alas, master! The axe was borrowed."

"Where did it fall?" Elisha asked as he peered into the water.

The man showed Elisha where he saw the axe hit the water. Elisha calmly cut down a stick from a nearby tree and threw it into the water where the axe had disappeared. Suddenly the axe head popped to the surface and floated on top of the water!

"Reach out and get it," Elisha told the surprised man.

After this the king of Syria came to fight against Israel. He wanted to take Israel by surprise so he secretly told his servants where he would set up camp. He planned to capture the king of Israel when he came by that way.

God told Elisha the enemy's plans. Elisha then warned the king of Israel that the king of Syria was hiding in that place. Each time the king of Syria would secretly move his camp, immediately the king of Israel found out about it.

The king of Syria was very troubled. Finally he called his servants. "Won't you show me which of us is for the king of Israel?"

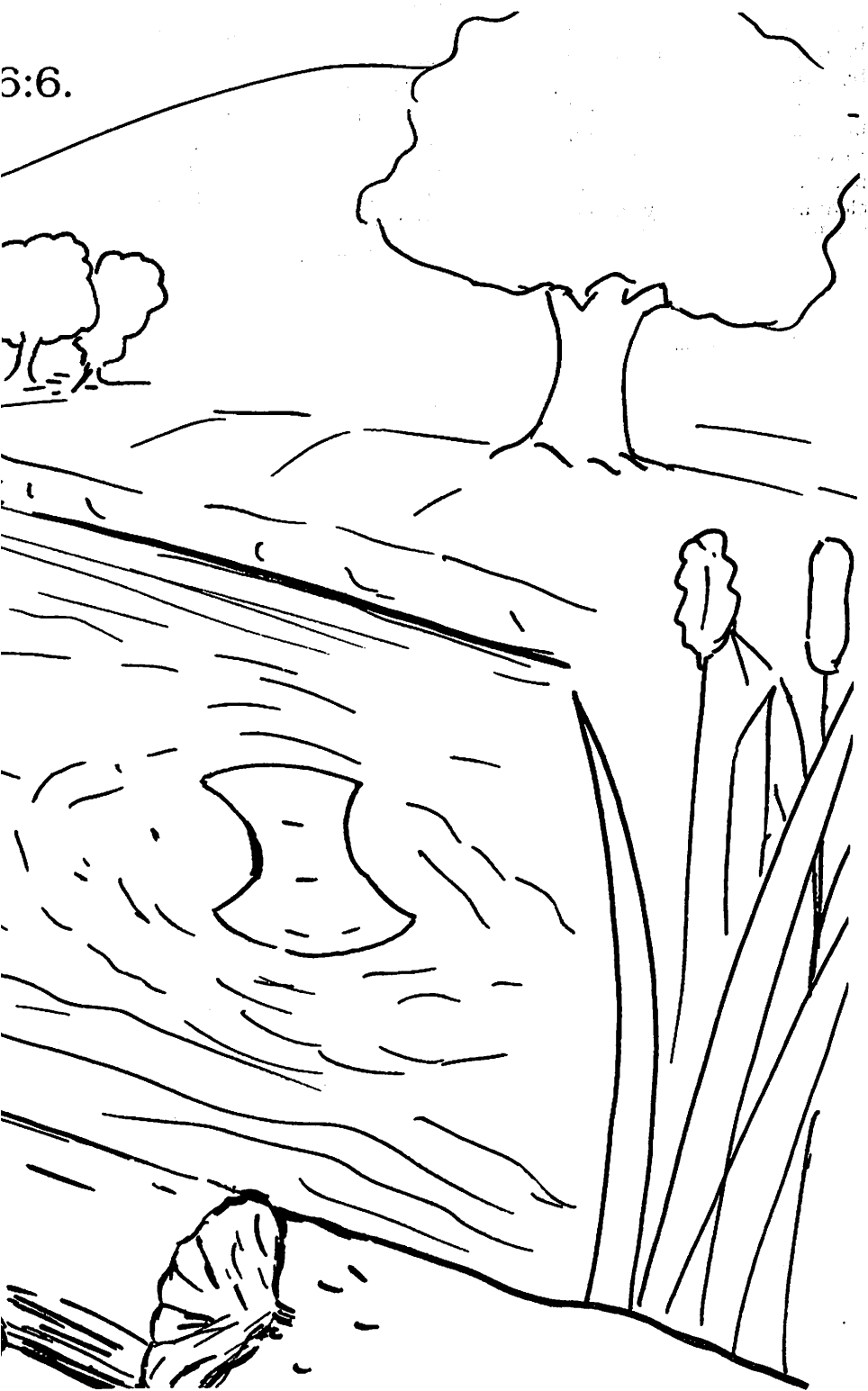
"None of us, my lord, O king," answered one servant. "It is Elisha the prophet that is in Israel. He tells the king of Israel everything you say in secret."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...And the iron did swim. II Kin



3:6.



The Dark Bottle On Top

"Did we ever catch the fish tonight!" exclaimed Jerry as he helped his dad and Uncle Jim clean the nice, big, wide-mouth bass.

"Twenty is a nice, round number," agreed Daddy as he slipped his razor-sharp knife through a four-pounder. The three of them were cleaning their fish by the lake-side. Uncle Jim had a clipboard and several other items to make the job easier. "We have enough here for a big fish fry. When we get to the house, let's ask the women if they would like to invite our family to share the fish with us. We could have a get-together Saturday evening."

"We do need to use all this fish while it is fresh," said Uncle Jim. "Our freezer already has a lot of fish stored away so why don't you take this batch for your family."

"We can have the fish fry at our house," agreed Daddy. "I want you to be with us also, Jim."

Uncle Jim shook his head. "No, I can't this time. I don't think I will feel good."

"Now how do you know you won't feel good tomorrow night?" asked Jerry. "You don't seem sick to me."

Uncle Jim laughed while Daddy smiled. "It will take more than diabetes to put me away," declared Uncle Jim. "My wife gets all worried when I have a little trouble but I know I will come out of it sooner or later. Old fishermen don't die—they just smell like they have."

Everyone laughed, then Daddy said, "Jim, you can't deny you weren't a little worried yourself. That high of a sugar count in your blood wasn't a laughing matter. We are glad the Lord spared your life."

Uncle Jim stretched another fish on the board. "Yes, I appreciate your

family praying for me," he said. "I've about forgotten how to pray myself. Don't ever get out of the habit of praying, Jerry. Prayers come in handy sometimes."

There was silence for awhile as they cleaned and filleted the fish. Then Daddy said, "I noticed you brought a dark bottle with you, Jim. If the diabetes doesn't get you, the liquor will."

"You must have reached to the bottom of the ice chest to find that bottle," said Uncle Jim. "I forgot I had it."

"Bad things have a way of coming to the top," said Daddy quietly. "I'm glad you didn't drink in front of my son."

Uncle Jim's head bent down lower. "I didn't think about the boy, Bill," he said. "I'm sorry." —Sis. Connie Sorrell



QUESTIONS:

1. Where did the prophets want to move?
2. Who agreed that it was a good plan?
3. Why did Elisha go with them?
4. What did they do when they came to Jordan?
5. What happened to one man's axe?
6. Why did the man cry out?
7. What happened when Elisha threw a stick in the water?
8. Who came to fight against Israel?
9. Who told Elisha the enemy's plans?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 6:1-12.

(Answers: 1. To Jordan. 2. Elisha. 3. They begged him to. 4. They began to chop down trees. 5. The head flew off and landed in the water. 6. The axe was borrowed. 7. The axe head floated. 8. The king of Syria. 9. God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 22 Aug. 27, 1995

HORSES AND CHARIOTS OF FIRE

When the king of Syria learned that it was Elisha who was telling his secrets to the king of Israel, he was determined to capture him. He ordered his servants, "Go and spy where he is, that I may send and get him."

"He is in Dothan," someone told the king.

Immediately the king gathered a great army with many horses and chariots. He sent them to Dothan by night and they surrounded the city so no one could escape.

Early the next morning Elisha's servant got up to do his work. When he went out of the house he saw the great army on every side. Rushing back into the house he excitedly told Elisha what he had seen. "Alas, master, how shall we escape?" he cried in great fear.

"Don't be afraid," Elisha calmly answered. "There are more with us than there are with them!"

The servant knew he and Elisha were alone before this great army. He wondered what his master could mean. "Lord, I pray you, open his eyes, that he may see!" Elisha prayed. The Lord did open the servant's eyes. Suddenly he saw the whole mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around him and Elisha. Now he knew the army of the Lord was there to fight for them. They were safe!

As the Syrian army came close to capture Elisha, the prophet prayed unto the Lord, and said, "Make this army blind!" The Lord answered his prayer and every soldier became blind.

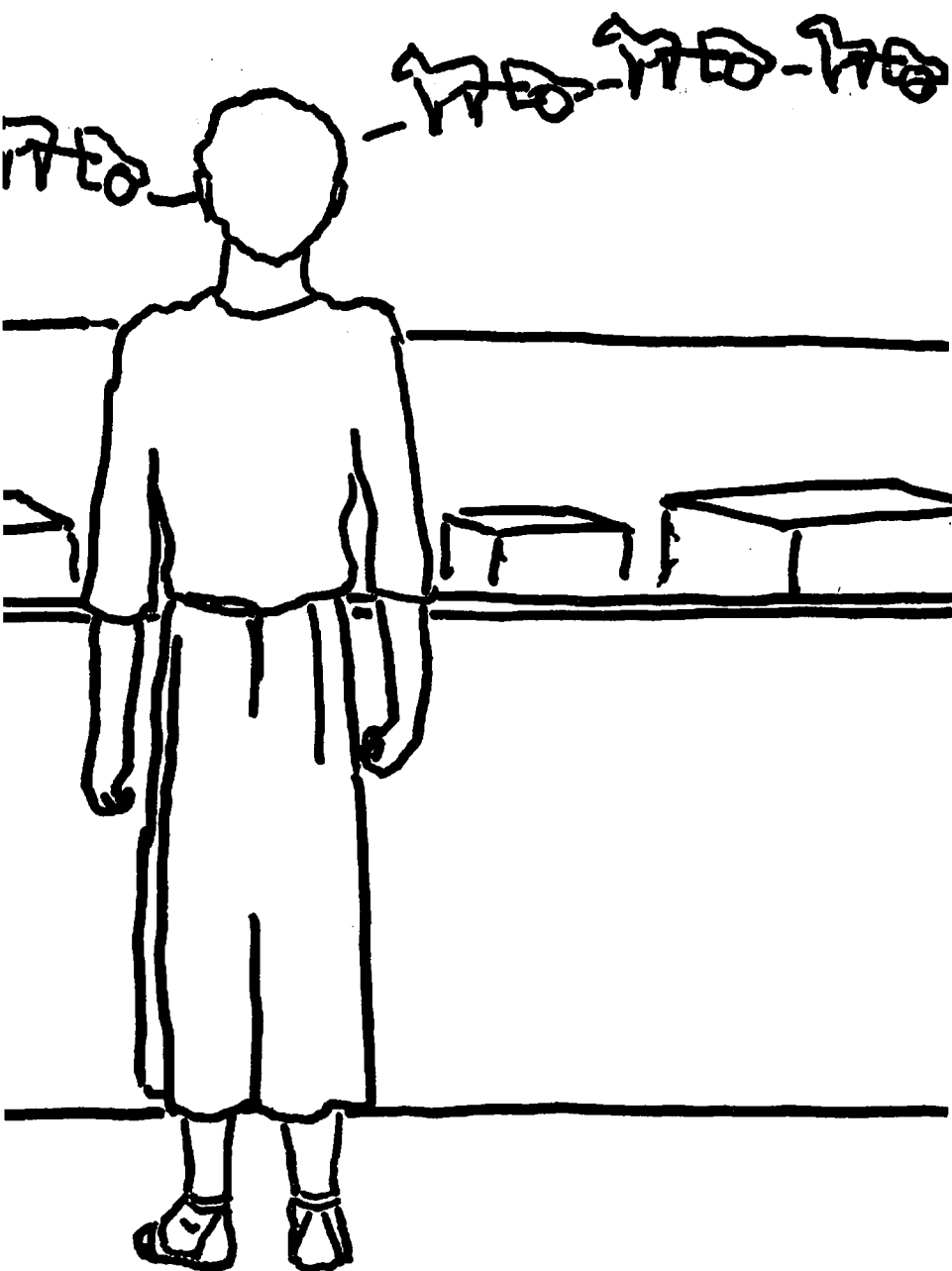
Then Elisha told the army, "This is not the way, neither is this the city. Follow me and I will bring you to the man you are looking for."

Then Elisha led them to Samaria. When they were all inside the city gates, Elisha said, "Lord, open the eyes of these men that they may see." The Lord opened their eyes and when they looked around they saw they were in the middle of Samaria! —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...The mountain was full
fire round about E



f horses and chariots of
sha. II Kings 6:17.



Words Of Strength

Jerry and his cousin, Lance, each had a plate full of fried fish, hush puppies, french fries, cole slaw and corn on the cob. The evening was pleasantly cool after a scorching day, so the boys decided to eat on the deck at a picnic table. After a few moments of silence, Lance said, "This fish sure tastes good, Jerry. I guess it was fun catching them?"

"Yes, it was," replied Jerry. "At first it was slow, then I used one of Uncle Jim's doodle-bugs and I started catching fish left and right. I threw out my line and in no time it went tight with a fighting fish. Uncle Jim sure knows where the fish are and how to catch them. He showed me some tricks at casting and then there are tricks at wearing the fish out and bringing them in."

"Sounds like fun," said Lance. "I'd like to go fishing with Uncle Jim but Mom says he has some bad habits and she doesn't want me to be with him."

Jerry nodded. He swallowed a bite of fish then said, "With my dad along, Uncle Jim didn't drink any liquor or say any curse words. My dad says to remember that the Lord is stronger and greater than the devil, so if the Lord is in your heart, then you are stronger than the evil in the world. Uncle Jim is just on the wrong side. We need to be strong so we can help him out of his weakness."

"I never thought of it that way," said Lance slowly. "I wonder why Uncle Jim didn't join the family tonight. Did he not feel well?"

"Ah, he said he didn't feel like coming, but Dad says he is ashamed of his habits. He doesn't want anyone to ask how he is doing because he knows he is doing badly. He needs our prayers."

Lance agreed. "Yes, he does. I just wonder how Uncle Jim started drinking because Grandpa and Grandma were saved and none of the others drink liquor like Uncle Jim."

"Dad told me some about it," replied Jerry as he dipped french fries into ketchup on his plate. "I guess Uncle Jim wanted to try the ways of the world for a while. He was blind to the evil until it had him bound. Dad thinks Uncle Jim wants to get saved but he doesn't think he can. That's why we need to be strong and pray for him."

Again Lance agreed. The two boys ate the food on their plates then finished the meal with chocolate chip cookies. —Sis. Connie Sorrell



QUESTIONS:

1. Who was determined to capture Elisha?
2. What did the king send to Dothan?
3. What did they do so no one could escape?
4. Who got up early the next morning to do his work?
5. What did he see on every side?
6. What did he ask Elisha?
7. When his eyes were opened, what did the servant see?
8. What did Elisha ask the Lord to do to the army?
9. Where did he lead them?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 6:13-20.

(Answers: 1. The king of Syria. 2. A great army. 3. Surrounded the city. 4. Elisha's servant. 5. The great army. 6. "How shall we escape?" 7. The whole mountain full of horses and chariots of fire. 8. Make them blind. 9. To Samaria.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 23 Sept. 3, 1995

A STARVING CITY

Some years later Benhadad, king of Syria, gathered his great army together. He marched into Israel and surrounded Samaria so no one could go in or out of the city. He knew the people would soon run out of food. Day after day the Syrians waited for the Israelites to open the city gates, but they would not. The Israelites were willing to suffer greatly to keep from being taken by the Syrians.

Soon there was a great famine in Samaria. Rich people offered to pay much money for even a handful of food. Finally there was nothing left to eat except the horses or donkeys. Even King Jehoram had only a few horses left. As Jehoram walked through the city streets he saw that things were worse than he had even imagined. He was so troubled he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth.

Then Jehoram decided Elisha was to blame for the great famine and the terrible suffering. He decided to kill him that very day.

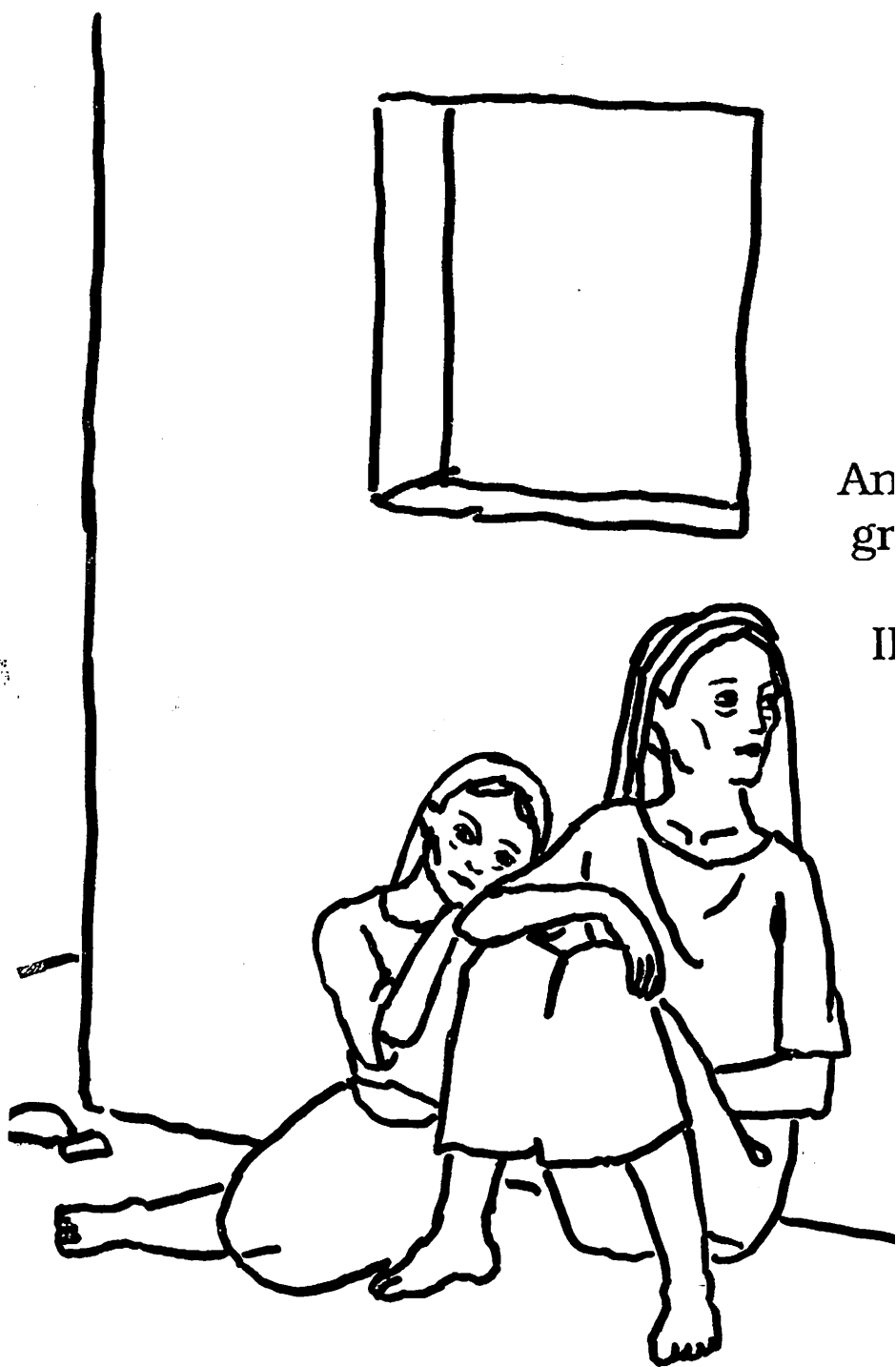
Meanwhile Elisha sat in his house with the elders of Israel. The Lord showed Elisha that the king was sending a messenger to take him. He told the elders, "The king has sent to kill me. When the messenger comes, shut the door and hold him at the door. The king will come right behind him."

Even while he was speaking the messenger came. Soon the king also stood at the door. Meeting him, Elisha told the king that there would soon be plenty of food in the city. "Tomorrow about this time a measure of fine flour will be sold for only a shekel in the gate of Samaria!" he boldly told him.

One of the king's chief servants heard Elisha's words. He did not believe they could come true. "Even if the Lord would make windows in heaven, could there be enough food for this starving city?" he asked.

"You will see it happen with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of the food," Elisha answered.

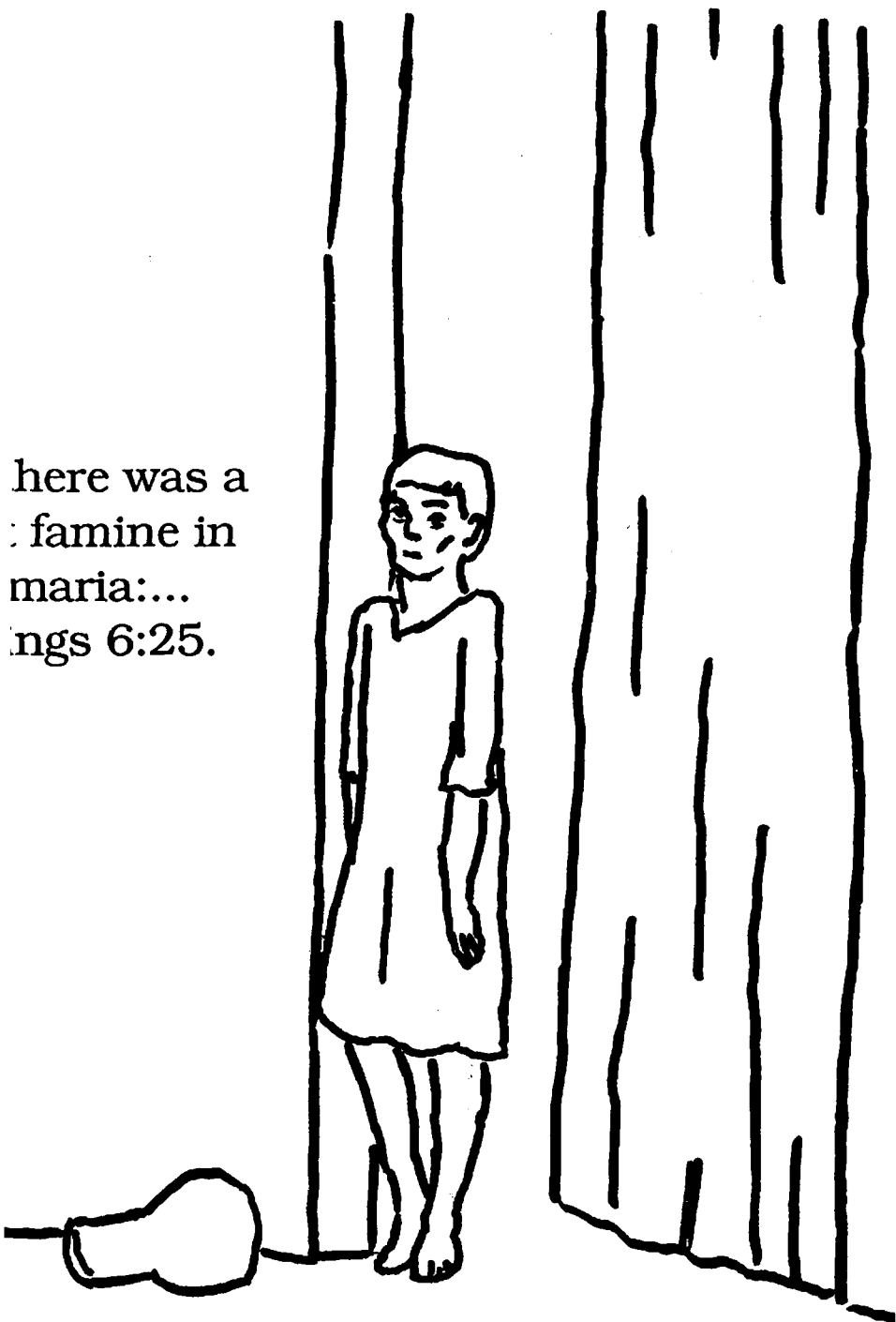
—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



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ngs 6:25.



Starving?

"Mother, I am starving," said Jerry as he came into the sewing room where Mother was busy hemming a dress. "I am so hungry—I don't think I will last until supper time if I don't get something to eat right now. Can I make myself a peanut butter and jelly sandwich?"

"I don't really think you are starving," said Mother with a smile. "You may be a little hungry, but I don't think you know what starving is."

"You think I'm a little hungry!" exclaimed Jerry. "I'm a whole lot hungry! I think my stomach is starting to eat my backbone—that's how hungry I am!"

Mother laughed. "I'm thankful you aren't that bad, Jerry. Starvation is a terrible thing and we must thank the Lord every day that we have been spared such awful misery. The Lord has been good to provide your dad with a job so that we can have money to buy food."

"Yes, and you can be thankful you have a son that helped hoe the garden and pick the beans, corn, and stuff so you could fix it for our meals," teased Jerry as he playfully patted his own shoulder.

Mother drew Jerry to herself and gave him a squeeze. "Yes, we thank the Lord also for the big garden harvest we had this year. It always is a blessing. We have so much to be thankful for...Jerry, why are you so restless?"

"Oh, my stomach thinks it would be a little more thankful if it had a peanut butter and jelly sandwich—you know how stomachs grumble when they aren't happy."

"I don't mind you having a sandwich, but clean up the cabinet top and put everything back where it goes after you make the sandwich."

"Don't I always clean up after myself? Thanks, Mother, you saved my life!"

As Jerry made his sandwich, he thought about some pictures he had seen of starving people in Ethiopia. The children had swollen stomachs but their arms and legs were frail as spider thread. They didn't have money to buy food. There wasn't any food to buy anyway and they didn't have land for gardens so they couldn't eat from their own gardens. No, Jerry really didn't know what 'starving' meant because the Lord had been good to him.

After Jerry cleaned up and put things away, he bowed his head and thanked the Lord for his peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell



QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Benhadad?
2. What did he gather together?
3. What did he do to Samaria?
4. Who offered much money for a little food?
5. What was there left to eat?
6. Who put on sackcloth?
7. Why did Jehoram decide to kill Elisha?
8. What did Elisha tell the king?
9. Who did not believe Elisha's words?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 6:24-7:2.

(Answers: 1. The king of Syria. 2. His great army. 3. He surrounded it. 4. The rich people. 5. The horses and donkeys. 6. King Jehoram. 7. He blamed him for the famine. 8. That there would soon be plenty of food in the city. 9. One of the king's chief servants.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 24 Sept. 10, 1995

FOUR LEPERS

King Jehoram blamed Elisha for the terrible famine in Samaria. He vowed to kill Elisha that very day. But Elisha told the king that by the next day there would be plenty of food in the city. The king decided to spare his life to see if his words would come true.

Just outside the city gates sat four leprous men. Because of their terrible disease they could not live among their own people. That very evening they were discussing what they should do. They knew they would soon die if they did not get food. "Why should we sit here until we die?" they asked each other. "Even if we could get into Samaria, there is no food there. If we sit still and do nothing, we will die. Let's go to the camp of the Syrians. If they kill us we will only die, but they might give us food and let us live."

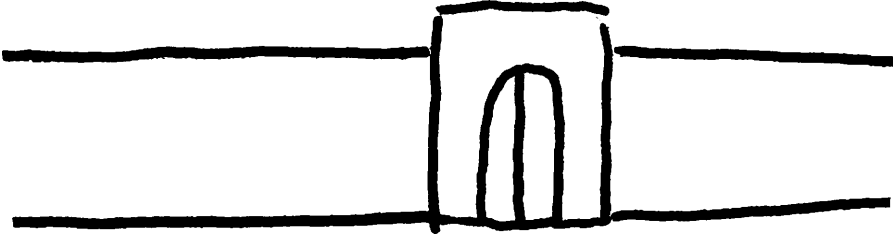
So the four lepers started toward the Syrian camp. When they came to the edge of the camp they expected to see many soldiers. But they saw no one! They did not know that the Lord had visited the camp causing the Syrians to hear loud noises. It had sounded as if a great army with many horses and chariots was rushing into their camp. "The king of Israel has hired the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to fight against us!" they had cried.

They had been so frightened they got up and ran. They hadn't taken time to gather up their belongings or even catch their horses to ride. They had just run for their lives.

When the lepers came to a tent that was empty they crept in to look around. There they found plenty to eat and drink. They saw silver, gold and beautiful clothes but nothing looked as good as the food. After they had eaten, they began to gather treasures for themselves. When they had hid the wealth they had taken, they told each other, "We are doing wrong. This is a day of good news and we have not told the people. We must not wait until morning, let's go tell the king right now!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Then they said one to a
day is a day of good



her, We do not well: this
lings,... II Kings 7:9.



Prayers Of Victory

"Do you remember the card we sent to Uncle Jim?" Mother asked her three children one Friday after school.

"Oh, yes, we remember," declared each one.

"We have been praying for Uncle Jim, also," added Linda. "Is he any better? Has he gotten saved yet?"

"Wait just a minute," smiled Mother. "Don't ask too many questions too fast. I did hear some good news today that I thought you would like to hear. Let's sit down on the shady porch and I will tell you about it."

Eagerly, each one sat down close to Mother. "Your little messages of love touched Uncle Jim's heart quite a bit. He doesn't like to show his emotions or talk about his feelings but he did tell Aunt Dorothy he appreciated your prayers. The line Jerry wrote, 'Listen to Jesus', stayed with him. The Lord used those three words to soften Uncle Jim's heart. Then last week Bro. Logan and his wife visited Uncle Jim and Aunt Dorothy."

"Did they go fishing like Daddy and Jerry did?" asked two year old Randy.

"They did something better than fish," said Mother. "Bro. Logan talked to Uncle Jim about the Lord. Usually Uncle Jim turns off any talk about Jesus but this time he talked and even asked a couple of questions. Aunt Dorothy was so pleased that she called to tell me, and then we prayed together that the Lord would continue to deal with Uncle Jim's heart."

"Hurry and get to the good part," said Linda. "I just know Uncle Jim got saved—I can tell by your face."

"Okay, listen," said Mother with a smile. "Last night Uncle Jim had a

dream about hell. He could see the red-yellow lake of fire and he could feel the scalding hot flames licking at his feet. He wanted out but a force kept pushing him down, down, down into the flames. He felt he was drowning in the furnace. He called for help but a hand tightened over his lips. Then he began to wrestle, but the harder he fought the deeper he sank into the flames. He woke up twisting all over the bed and calling for help."

The children were listening with wide-open eyes. "I guess that scared Aunt Dorothy," said Jerry.

"It scared Uncle Jim most of all," replied Mother. "He wanted Bro. Logan to come over right away. They had a prayer service in the middle of the night and Uncle Jim did get saved."

"I just knew it!" exclaimed Linda. "I am so happy!" —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who blamed Elisha for the terrible famine?
2. How many leprous men sat outside the gate?
3. Why couldn't they live among their own people?
4. Where did they decide to go?
5. How many soldiers did they see in the camp?
6. Who had visited the camp?
7. What did the Syrians think was rushing into their camp?
8. What did the Syrians do?
9. What did the lepers decide to do right away?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 7:3-9.

(Answers: 1. King Jehoram. 2. Four. 3. Because of their terrible disease. 4. To the Syrian camp. 5. None. 6. The Lord. 7. A great army. 8. Ran away. 9. Got tell the king.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 25 Sept. 17, 1995

FOOD FOR THE STARVING CITY

When the lepers reached the gate of Samaria they shouted to the porter, "We came to the camp of the Syrians, and there was no one there! We could not see nor hear anyone. But the horses and animals were tied and the tents were all standing."

One porter passed the news to other porters until the news reached the king's house. When the king heard the news he got up even though it was late at night. "I'll tell you what the Syrians have done," he told his excited servants. "They know we are starving so they have gone out of the camp and have hidden in the field. They plan to capture us if we come to their camp. Then they can capture the city also."

One of the servants had a suggestion. "Let some of us take five of the few horses that are still alive," he said. "We will go to the Syrian camp and see what will happen."

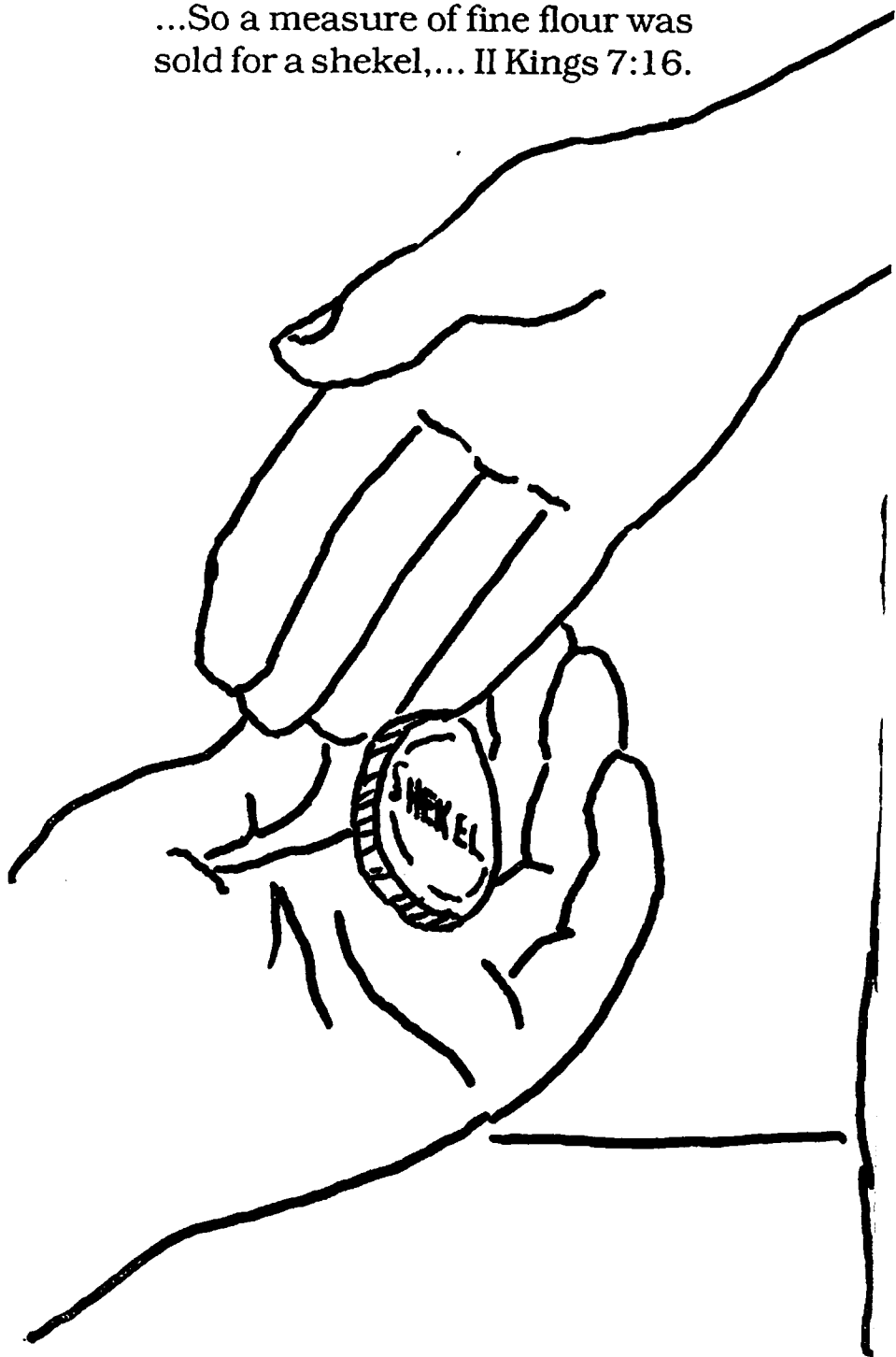
"Go and see," the king agreed. So they took two chariot horses and came to the Syrian camp. There they found only empty tents with nothing missing but the soldiers. When they looked outside the camp they saw clothes and things the Syrians had thrown down as they ran.

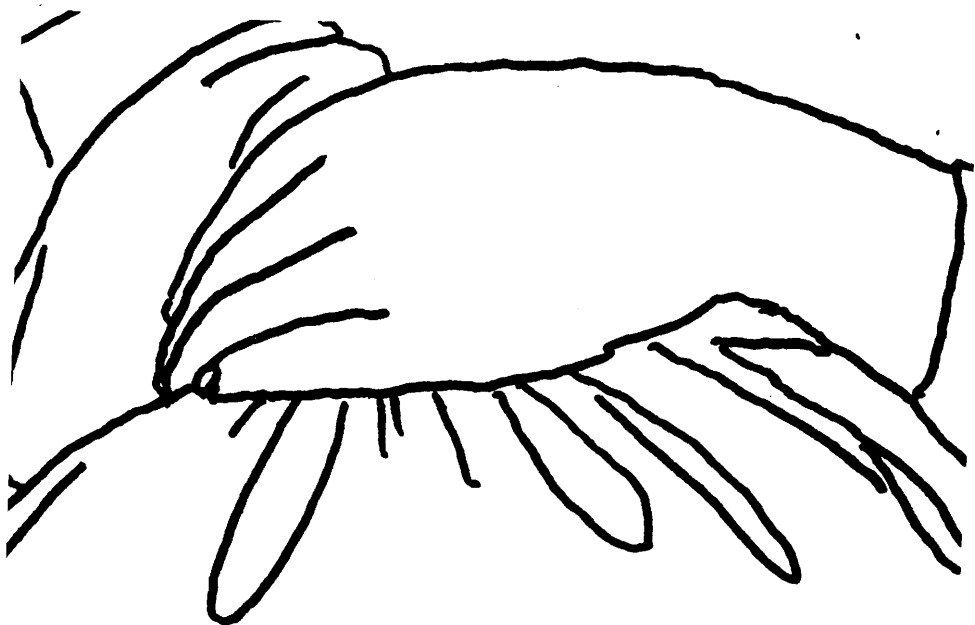
The messengers hurried back to tell the king what they had found. Soon the good news spread through the whole city. The hungry people hurried to the Syrian camp to gather food and treasure. There was so much food some offered it for sale at the city gate. So a measure of fine flour was sold for only a shekel, as Elisha had said.

The king's servant who did not believe Elisha's words was appointed by the king to have charge of the gate of Samaria. As he stood by the gate he was knocked to the ground by the mob of starving people. No one stopped to help him up; in their eagerness to get food they walked right over him. As Elisha had told him, he would see it happen with his own eyes, but he would not eat any of the food. He died that day.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...So a measure of fine flour was
sold for a shekel,... II Kings 7:16.





FLOUR

The Duty of "Mother Church"

"It was sure nice to have Uncle Jim with us at church!" exclaimed Jerry to his family as they were riding home from Sunday morning service. "He sure did testify good."

Linda nodded. "When he described hell, I could almost feel the fire myself!"

Little Randy frowned. "I don't like the devil," he said, "That mean ole' devil tried to throw Uncle Jim in that hot lake of fire!"

"Yes, but Jesus saved him from that lake of fire," replied Jerry. "Now Uncle Jim doesn't want to drink liquor or say curse words because he loves Jesus. Next time we go fishing, he won't take a dark bottle of liquor with him. Dad, we ought to go on another fishing trip with Uncle Jim."

"We'll see, son," replied Dad. "I do want to spend time with Uncle Jim. He is making some big changes for the good and we want to encourage him. We need to pray that Uncle Jim will stay saved. Our duty as the Church of God is to care for the new-born babes in Christ Jesus."

A look of wonder came over Linda's face as she glanced at her daddy who was behind the steering wheel. "Did you say Uncle Jim is a baby?" she asked.

Briefly, Daddy smiled her way. "Uncle Jim has been newly born, spiritually, so now he is a spiritual babe in the family of God. Since I have been saved longer than Uncle Jim, I will help him in any way I can. God's Word instructs me to do so."

"I know what you mean," said Jerry. "God has his family just like ours. God is like the daddy and the longer-saved saints are like the mother."

"That's right," said Daddy. "The longer-saved saints like me are instructed to help the newly saved saints like Uncle Jim. Just like your mother cares for your needs, the older church members are to care for the newly saved ones."

"Also, Bro. Logan cares for the newly saved," said Mother. "His anointed message is food to our souls. If we will live by what we heard this morning, then we will grow stronger in the Lord."

With a teasing grin, Linda shook her head. "What you say makes me see double. I have a daddy driving and a daddy God up in heaven. My one mother is riding in this car but the Church is also my mother."

"You just explained it very well," said Daddy, who was driving.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did the lepers shout to?
2. Who got up when he heard the news?
3. What did the king think the Syrians had done?
4. What did one of his servants want to do?
5. What was missing from the Syrian camp?
6. What did the hungry people do when they heard the news?
7. What was sold for only a shekel?
8. Who was in charge of the gate?
9. What happened to him that day?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 7:10-20.

(Answers: 1. The porter. 2. The king. 3. Hidden in the field. 4. Go see what would happen. 5. Nothing but the soldiers. 6. They hurried to the camp to gather food. 7. A measure of fine flour. 8. The king's chief servant. 9. He died.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 26 Sept. 24, 1995

ELISHA HELPS A FRIEND

God had often shown Elisha what would happen in the future. One day He showed him that there would be a great famine in the land of Israel that would last seven years.

Elisha knew there would be much suffering if no crops would grow for seven years. He thought of the woman who lived in Shunem who had been so kind to him and his servant. He had often enjoyed stopping to rest in the room at her house while she prepared a meal for them.

The next time he went through Shunem he told the woman, whose son he had brought back to life, "Get up and go out of Israel. Take all your household and go to live wherever you can find a place. The Lord has called for a famine. It will surely come and it will last seven years."

The woman knew Elisha was a man of God and that what he said would come true. It was hard to leave her home and neighbors but she knew he had told her to do so to save them from much suffering. Packing up all their belongings, she and her family went to live in the land of the Philistines.

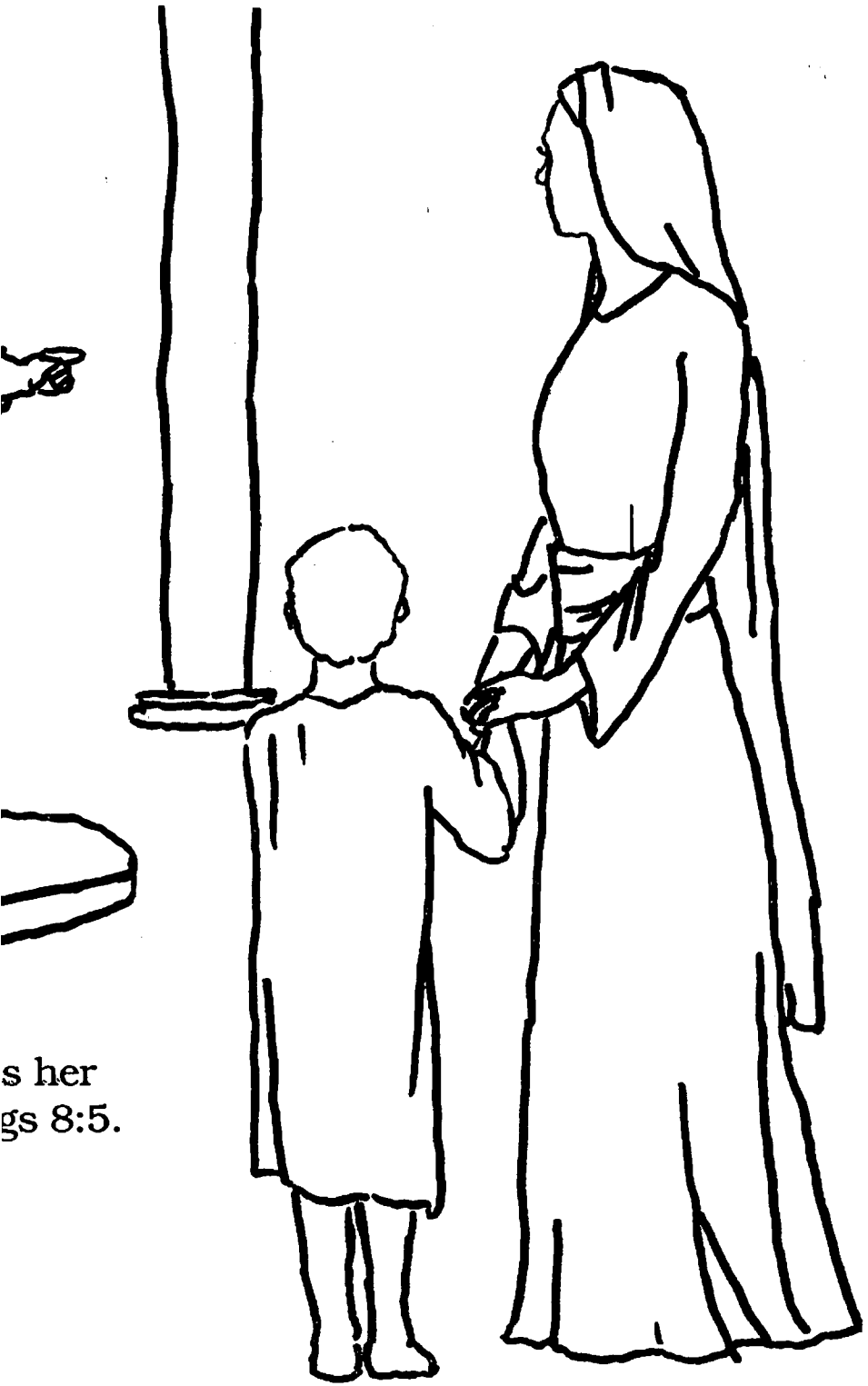
After seven years, when the famine was over, the woman returned to her home in Israel. But strangers had taken over the property that had belonged to her. She decided to go to the king and ask him to restore her home to her.

Meanwhile the king was talking to Elisha's servant. "Tell me all the great things that your master, Elisha, has done," the king begged. The servant had many things to tell the king. Then he told him about the little boy who died and how God had helped Elisha restore the dead body to life. Just then the woman from Shunem came before the king to ask his help. "My lord, O king, this is the woman and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life!"

When the king heard what the woman wanted, he appointed an officer to restore her property and home to her. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...O king, this is the woman, and th
son, whom Elisha restored to life. II



s her
gs 8:5.

Healing for Hurts

With dragging feet, Linda pulled herself up the steps to her front porch. Her tired hand turned the doorknob to the front door and silently she walked inside. A couple of tears fell from her sad eyes and rolled down her flushed cheeks. Linda didn't even bother to wipe them away as she went straight to her bedroom, head bowed, heart sick.

Mother was in Randy's bedroom helping him 'get out of bed on the right side' after a long afternoon nap. She was playing a favorite game of Randy's which usually caused him to laugh sooner or later.

"Where is my little boy? He must be hiding in the toy box—no, he isn't there..."

"Your little boy went with Daddy," teased Randy from his bed, where he was watching Mother hunt for him.

"That is too bad," replied Mother. "I happen to have fresh cookies and milk for my little boy but I can't find him. Oh, who just came in the front door? Jerry? Linda? Come to the kitchen for some cookies and milk."

At the mention of cookies, Randy was quick to get out of bed. Together Mother and Randy went to Linda's closed bedroom door. Randy's big eyes looked up at Mother. "Linda is crying," he said.

"Let's pray for her," said Mother. Quietly they prayed, then Mother said, "Now I just heard Jerry come into the kitchen. You go and join him while I talk to Linda. Be good."

Mother tapped on Linda's door. Tap-tap! "May I come in?" she asked. A wet-faced Linda opened the door. After a long hug, Mother got a wet washcloth and wiped Linda's face. "Now do you feel better?" she asked with a hug. Linda nodded. "Let's talk, Linda. Tell me what happened today."

In a fresh flood of tears, Linda poured out her hurts and troubles. One boy had kept stepping on her shoe heels to trip her, which made her late from recess, and the teacher scolded her. Then a girlfriend told a lie on her to another friend and neither one would talk to her now. There were several other troubles which would take a long time to relate. However, Mother had a healing solution to all the hurts. "Let's kneel beside your bed, Honey, and give it all to the Lord. Don't hold any anger but let Jesus comfort your heart. Only Jesus can heal the hurt if you will let Him and He can work out the troubles."

After prayer, Linda laughed with her brothers over cookies and milk.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What had God often shown Elisha?
2. How long did He say the famine would last?
3. What would happen if no crops grew for seven years?
4. Who did Elisha think of?
5. What did Elisha tell the woman to do?
6. Where did she go to live?
7. What did she find when she came back after seven years?
8. What did the king want Elisha's servant to tell him?
9. How did the king help the woman?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 8:1-6.

(Answers: 1. What would happen in the future. 2. Seven years. 3. There would be much suffering. 4. The woman in Shunem. 5. Leave her home in Israel. 6. The land of the Philistines. 7. Strangers had taken her property. 8. All the great things Elisha had done. 9. He appointed an officer to restore her property.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 15 Oct. 1, 1995

THE WICKED QUEEN

When Ahab, the king of Israel, married the wicked princess, Jezebel, he brought great trouble to his people and to his country. Ahab did not teach Jezebel to love and worship the true God. Instead, Ahab served her idol god, Baal. He even built a house for Baal and altars where the people offered sacrifices to this idol.

Ahab and Jezebel had a daughter named Athaliah. Like her parents, Athaliah worshiped Baal instead of the true God. One day Jehoram, king of Judah, asked Athaliah to be his wife. When she became the queen of Judah, Athaliah still worshiped Baal. Soon Jehoram forsook God and worshiped Baal also. He was a very wicked king. Because of him most of the people also worshiped Baal.

Elijah, the prophet of God, was very sorry the people were turning away from the true God to worship idols. He wrote a letter to King Jehoram and told him the awful trouble he would have because he had turned to idols and would not obey God. Because he had caused the people of Judah to forsake Him, he would die from a terrible disease.

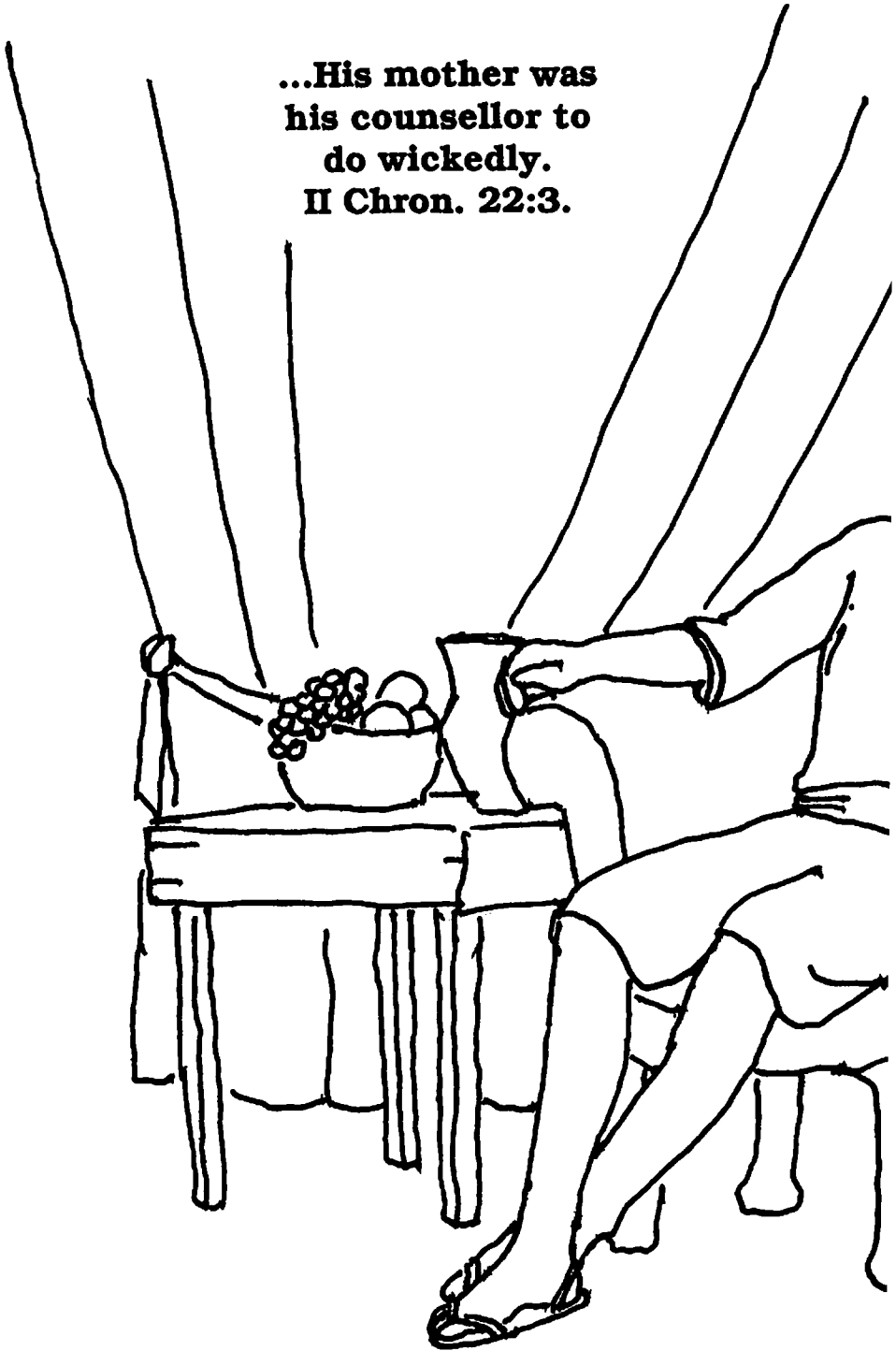
Jehoram read the letter but he did not change his wicked ways. Soon great trouble came to his kingdom, just as Elijah had warned. A great army came against him and robbed him of his treasures. They took away his sons, leaving only the youngest one. Then the Lord caused a terrible disease to come on Jehoram. Still he did not turn to God. After two years he died of the disease.

After Jehoram's death, his youngest son, Ahaziah, became king. Ahaziah was also a wicked king because Athaliah, his mother, was his advisor. He was king for only one year before he was killed.

When Athaliah learned that her son, Ahaziah, was dead, she was determined to rule Judah herself. She ordered all the king's children to be killed. She thought there was no one left to rule the country now but herself.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...His mother was
his counsellor to
do wickedly.
II Chron. 22:3.**





Bad Shopping Manners

It was a pleasant autumn Saturday when Mother and Linda went shopping at the grocery store. Linda liked to look at the fresh vegetables and fruits laid in neat sections all in a row. The bags of orange carrots were by the round heads of lettuce and green peppers. The soft avocados, shiny jalapenos and green onions were followed by the husky stalks of broccoli and white cauliflowerers.

Red and yellow apples, sticky pineapples, hard coconuts, oranges and yellow bananas started the fruit section. There was a display of fresh peanuts and pecans with a scoop in them. Nearby was a roll of plastic bags that would easily hold a few scoopfuls of nuts.

While Mother and Linda were busy selecting their choice of vegetables and fruits, another mother and her daughter turned their shopping cart into the same aisle. Linda noticed that the girl was about her age so Linda smiled at her. The other girl frowned and went around her mother away from Linda's view.

Linda sighed. She had only meant to be friendly. She looked again at the long row of vegetables and then glanced into the mirror that sat behind the entire row. Naturally, she looked for the other girl and saw her reflection in the mirror.

Linda watched the girl pick up a nice red apple, look at her mother, and—then Linda caught her breath in surprise—that girl began eating the apple.

"Mother, look!" whispered Linda. "That girl is eating an apple and she hasn't paid for it yet."

"Now, Linda, are you sure she didn't bring it into the store?" asked Mother calmly.

"No, I saw her take it from the other apples," declared Linda. "Isn't that stealing?"

"If she hasn't paid for the apple, that is stealing," agreed Mother. "We don't eat any fruit or vegetables until they are paid for."

Just a minute later, Linda and Mother both saw this girl and her mother crack a few peanut shells and eat the peanuts in them. Linda also saw them sample some strawberries. When the other girl saw Linda watching, she made a face at Linda. Linda shook her head and turned away. She was glad her mother taught her better manners than that. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Ahab marry?
2. Who built a house for the idol, Baal?
3. Who was Ahab and Jezebel's daughter?
4. Who did Athaliah worship?
5. What kind of king was Jehoram?
6. Who wrote a letter to Jehoram?
7. How were the people turning away from God?
8. How long was Ahaziah king?
9. What was Athaliah determined to do?

LESSON TEXT: II Chronicles 21-22:10.

(Answers: 1. Jezebel. 2. Ahab. 3. Athaliah. 4. Baal. 5. A very wicked king. 6. Elijah. 7. They were worshiping idols. 8. One year. 9. Rule Judah.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 16 Oct. 8, 1995

JEHOIADA, THE WISE PRIEST

Jehoiada was a priest of the one true God. He saw the wicked ways of the king and the people who worshiped Baal and he knew the Lord was greatly displeased with them. Jehoiada's wife, Jehosheba, was King Ahaziah's sister. She was not like her brother. She loved and served God rather than Baal.

When Athaliah ordered all the king's children to be killed, she did not know that one baby boy, Joash, was still alive. Jehosheba, his aunt, had rescued him. Since Joash was only one year old, Jehosheba hid him and his nurse in the house of God.

For six years wicked Athaliah ruled over Judah. But God had said that only the descendants of David should sit on the throne of Judah. Jehoiada knew Joash was the true king of Judah. He carefully planned a way to crown him king.

When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada called for the Levites and those who worshiped the true God to come to the house of God in Jerusalem. How glad they were to learn that one of the king's sons had been saved! They wondered how they could ever make him king instead of wicked Queen Athaliah.

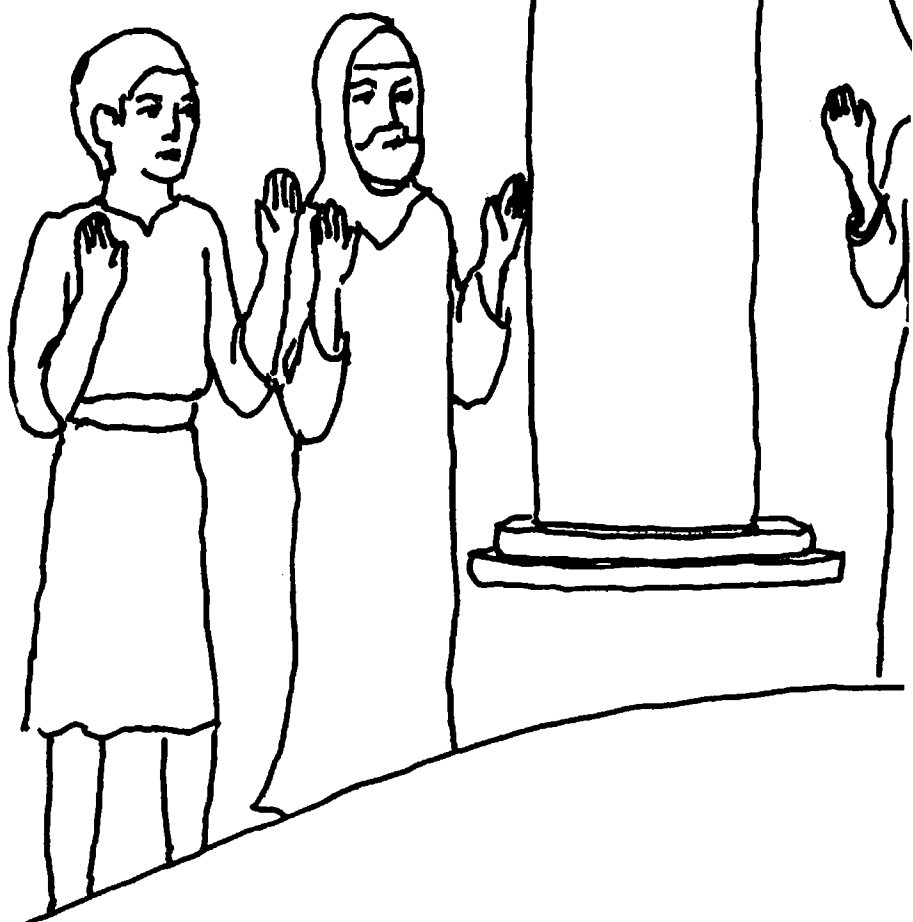
Jehoiada carefully explained his plan for crowning Joash king. He told the priests and Levites to divide into three groups. Each group would guard a different door or gate of the temple, the palace and the city. No one must enter the temple except the Levites. The people must keep watch just outside the temple. The men agreed to do just as Jehoiada had planned.

So on the Sabbath, with the Levites standing as guards all around the temple, little Joash was brought out before the people. Jehoiada and his sons placed a crown on Joash's head and anointed him. Everyone was so happy they began to shout, "God save the king!"

When Athaliah heard the shouting and saw the great crowd of people, she rushed to the temple to restore order. "Treason, treason!" she shouted. But there was no one to save her or obey her wicked commands. She was taken out of the temple. Joash was now the king of Judah.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And Jehoiada made
a covenant...that
they should be the
Lord's people.
II Chron. 23:16.**





Rule Of Kindness In The Milk Barn

One Sunday afternoon, Jerry was in the milk barn helping Grandpa prepare to milk his 83 cows. Psh-psh went the water hose as Grandpa sprayed the stainless steel milkers. Swish-swish went the old straw broom as Jerry swept clumps of feed into the gutter.

The drumming of the water and the humming of the milking machines made sweet harmony to Jerry's ears. How pleasant it was to be in the milk barn with Grandpa!

"Pull the feed bin lever and fill the feeders," Grandpa called to Jerry. "We need to get in the first eight cows so we will be done early. Tonight is church service and we don't want to miss that!"

"Okay," replied Jerry as he obeyed. The sweet feed tumbled down all eight chutes and rattled into the feeders. Then Jerry opened the doors on each side of the barn and let four cows through each door.

Clack-clack went the cow hooves on the concrete floor. Their heads bobbed up and down as each one took her place in a stall.

Jerry went down a few steps where Grandpa was four feet or so beneath the cows. He watched while Grandpa put a milker on each cow as she ate from a feeder. Grandpa looked at Jerry and winked.

"Cows are creatures of habit," he said. "A dairy cow soon knows what to do in the milk barn. If we changed something in the barn or in our way of milking, the cows would notice the difference. Watch how I do things, and soon you can milk the cows by yourself."

Jerry grinned. He observed as Grandpa patiently worked with each cow. Some cows were more nervous than others and swished their tails

more. One cow kicked the guardrail.

Grandpa never hollered at a cow nor hit one. He quietly and firmly controlled the cows so that each one gave all the milk she could.

After the milking, Jerry helped Grandpa clean the barn.

"Grandpa," said Jerry on the way to the house. "I like helping you in the milk barn but I don't think I could do it by myself."

"Sure you could," replied Grandpa with a pat on Jerry's shoulder. "You've helped me enough to know what to do."

"But what if the cows won't mind me?" asked Jerry.

"Just remember my system of rules," said Grandpa. "I trained all these cows when they were calves and they know kind firmness. Remember this commandment: Have respect for my cows and they will respect you."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Jehoiada?
2. Who did Jehoiada and his wife love and serve?
3. How many of the king's children were still alive?
4. How old was Joash when his aunt rescued him?
5. How long did Athaliah rule over Judah?
6. Who was the true king of Judah?
7. What did Jehoiada carefully plan?
8. How old was Joash when he was crowned king?
9. Who rushed to the temple to restore order?

LESSON TEXT: II Chronicles 22:11-23:16.

(Answers: 1. A priest. 2. God. 3. One. 4. One year old. 5. Six years. 6. Joash. 7. How to crown Joash king. 8. Seven years old. 9. Athaliah.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 17 Oct. 15, 1995

A LITTLE BOY BECOMES KING

Joash was only seven years old when he became king. His uncle, Jehoiada was a wise priest who loved and obeyed God. Jehoiada taught Joash how to rule the people wisely. Jehoiada's wife, Jehosheba, had rescued Joash from being killed. Jehoiada and Jehosheba, his aunt and uncle, were like parents to Joash.

As long as Jehoiada lived, Joash did what was right in the Lord's sight. He ruled as king of Judah for forty years in Jerusalem.

When Joash was older, he saw that the house of the Lord was in need of repair. It had been many years since Solomon built the temple. Now it was very old. While Athaliah was queen, she ordered her sons to take away many of the beautiful decorations and place them in the house of Baal, where she worshiped.

So after calling the priests and Levites, Joash instructed them to go to all the cities of Judah and collect money to repair the temple. He urged them to collect the money quickly so they could begin the work soon.

But the Levites were slow in collecting the money. Finally Joash ordered a chest to be made and placed by the gate of the house of the Lord. Then the king commanded all the people to bring their offering for the repair of the temple. The people were glad to know the temple would be repaired. They gladly gave their money. Each day the chest was emptied then put back by the gate. Each day the people brought their money.

Soon there was enough money to repair the temple and enough left to replace the vessels of gold and silver. Once more the house of the Lord was beautiful. The people gladly brought their sacrifices and worshiped God in the temple as long as Jehoiada was priest.

Jehoiada lived to be one hundred and thirty years old. After he died, the princes of Judah, who worshiped idols, persuaded Joash to forsake God. In his last days Joash did many things that displeased God. Great trouble came to him and the people of Judah because they no longer obeyed and worshiped God.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**Joash w
reign,...**



seven years old when he began to
iron. 24:1.



Milking Alone

"Jer-ry," called Mother facing Jerry's bedroom. Jerry stuck his head out of his bedroom door. "What, Mother?"

"Jerry, Grandpa just called and asked if you could do the milking for him this afternoon? He doesn't feel very well and should stay in bed. Could you take his place?"

"I guess I could," said Jerry slowly. What a big job to do all alone! While Jerry put on his work clothes and barn boots, he whispered a prayer. "Lord, help me to remember what to do and how to do it. Give me strength and wisdom. Let the cows be good and keep me patient. In Jesus name I pray, Amen."

When Jerry came to the milk barn, the cows were already waiting outside the gate. Jerry hurried through the preparations that he had helped Grandpa do. Then he opened the gates to let the cows come in.

This was the hard part. Standing down in the pit, Jerry used a stepstool to reach under a cow and put the milkers on her. However, he was quite able to do like Grandpa in handling the milkers so the cows weren't nervous with him.

Jerry was making good time and everything went smoothly the first hour. He remembered his grandpa's commandment, 'Respect my cows and they will respect you.' Jerry didn't holler at the cows or hit them. He kept his patience even with the nervous cows.

Then toward the last Jerry was becoming tired and perhaps the last cows were tired also. Since cows can't talk, there is no sure way to know what happened but one cow

began to kick in the stall. She was kicking at the milkers to knock them off. Jerry rushed over to turn off this milker's valve. He barely got it done in time before she kicked again and hit his arm holding the milker.

At first Jerry thought about hitting her with the big stick Grandpa used to divide the cows. But he knew Grandpa wouldn't handle this cow in that way. Instead, Jerry gently rubbed her side with the stick to calm her down. Soon she did not seem upset anymore, so he put the milkers back on her.

This was a relief to Jerry and he whispered a prayer of thanks under his breath. By the grace of God, he had kept the commandment of kindness. That evening Jerry left the milk barn feeling a few inches taller.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How old was Joash when he became king?
2. Who was a wise priest?
3. What did he teach Joash?
4. Who were like parents to Joash?
5. How long did Joash rule Judah?
6. What did Joash want to do to the temple?
7. Who gladly gave money?
8. How old was Jehoiada when he died?
9. Why did great trouble come to Joash and his people?

LESSON TEXT: II Chronicles 24.

(Answers: 1. Seven. 2. Jehoiada. 3. To rule the people wisely. 4. His aunt and uncle. 5. Forty years. 6. Repair it. 7. The people. 8. One hundred and thirty years old. 9. They no longer obeyed and worshiped God.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 18 Oct. 22, 1995

JONAH RUNS AWAY

God spoke to Jonah. "Get up and go to Nineveh, that great city. Warn the people because their wickedness has come up before me."

But Jonah did not obey. Instead he got up and started for the city of Tarshish. Here he thought he could hide from the Lord. Then he wouldn't have to warn the people of Nineveh. At Joppa Jonah found a ship sailing to Tarshish. Jonah paid his fare and climbed into the ship. He was so tired he went down into the ship and found a place where he could lie down. Soon he was fast asleep.

But the Lord had His eyes right on Jonah. As soon as the ship set sail, the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea so there was a mighty storm. It seemed the ship was breaking apart! The sailors saw they would soon be drowned if the storm continued. Each one began praying to their god to stop the storm. Then they threw everything overboard that they could spare. They hoped to lighten the ship so it wouldn't sink.

All the while Jonah lay fast asleep. Suddenly he was awakened by the shipmaster shouting, "What do you mean, O sleeper? Get up and call on your God. Perhaps He will have mercy on us so we won't perish."

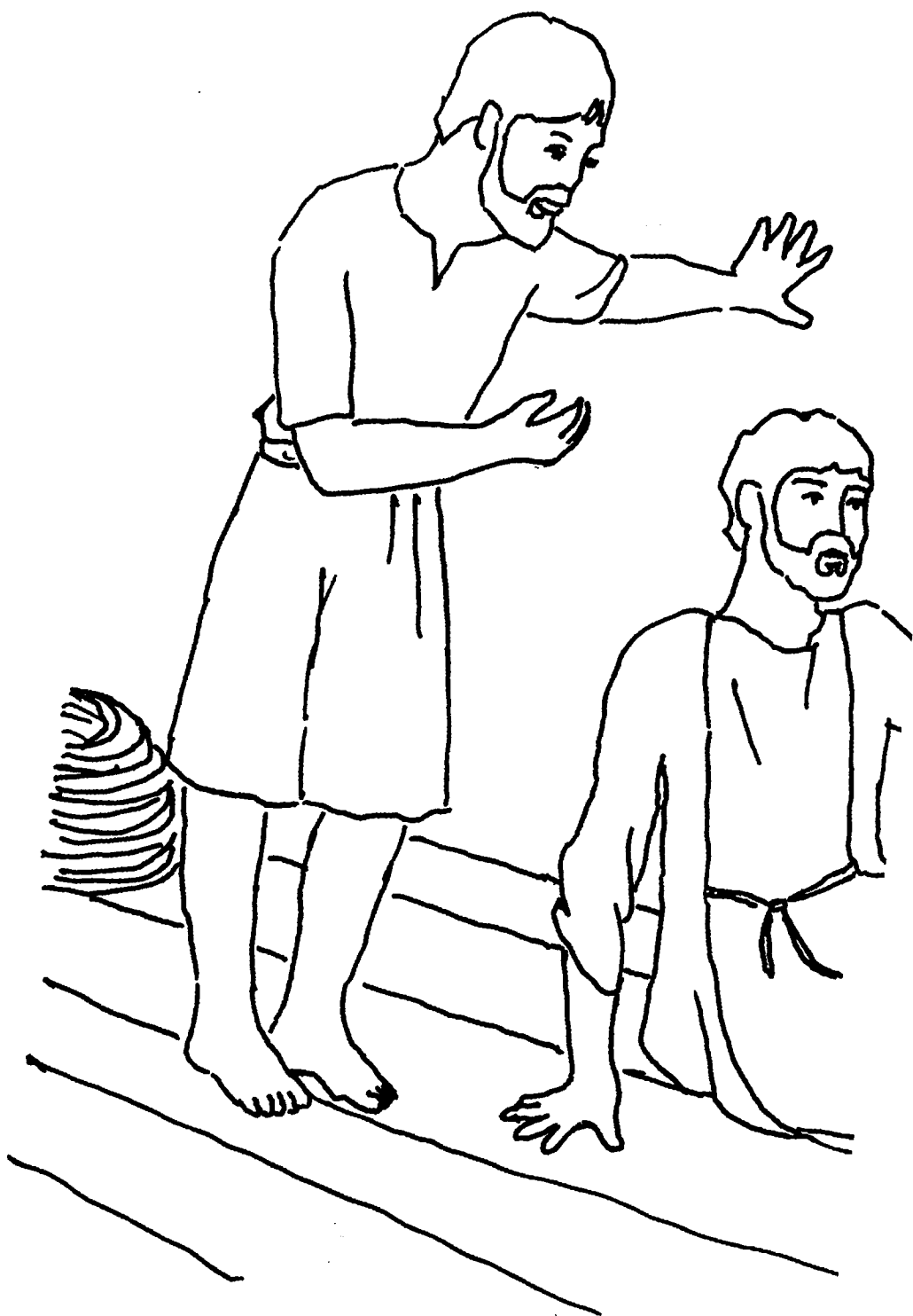
Jonah did not feel like calling on God for help. He knew he had run away from the work God wanted him to do. Finally the sailors decided to cast lots to see who had done evil to cause such a great storm. The lot fell on Jonah. "What have you done to cause this evil upon us?" the sailors asked him. "Where did you come from?"

"I am an Hebrew," Jonah answered. "I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, which made the sea and the dry land." Then Jonah told them how he had tried to run away from the presence of the Lord.

When the sailors heard this, they were more frightened than ever. How could anyone hope to run from such a mighty God? "What shall we do to you so the sea may be calm again?" they asked Jonah.

"Take me up and throw me into the sea," Jonah answered. "Then the sea will be calm. I know that this great storm is upon you because of me."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...Take me up, and
cast me forth into
the sea; so shall
the sea be calm
unto you:...
Jonah 1:12.**



Called To The Home Front

(Based on truth.)

Bro. Clifford Lente was a minister who really did care about people. When he was a boy, he had lived in a small town where nearly everyone went to church and the streets were safe at night. Now Bro. Cliff was the pastor of a large church in a big city. This was very different for him, his wife and three children.

When Bro. Cliff drove his family to Sunday school on the first day of the week, he had to drive by old apartments and vacant houses where plywood was nailed over the windows and doors. Dirty men sat on bus benches, tired women scuffled by and ragged children played sidewalk games.

This all touched Bro. Cliff's heart. By the time he reached the chapel, he was fired up and ready to preach to the congregation.

"All of you need to look around and see the poverty in this city," he preached. "What are you doing to help the poor and needy? The Scriptures tell us that we do not well if we turn away from the needs of others and live in comfort ourselves. We are to give of our surplus to help the poor—not just give them money, but also time and spiritual help. Let us read in Matthew 25 and the last verses." Then Bro. Cliff explained to the congregation that these people were like the ones described in the scriptures.

After the last prayer was given, Bro. Cliff would stand at the back door of the chapel and shake everyone's hand as they went out. Often someone would say he had a good message but no one seemed to

have time to visit these city people and bring them to church.

One Sunday after service, a little elder lady shook Bro. Cliff's hand and then she said something that changed his life. "What are you doing, sir, to help these poor people you are so concerned about?" she asked him. "Are you practicing what you preach?"

At this, Bro. Cliff felt a pang of guilt pierce his heart. What was he doing to help? He had become so involved preaching about the problem that he himself was not helping with the problem. Right then and there Bro. Cliff decided to make a change in his life and in the lives of these street people. He didn't know what to do so, he began to pray. That was a good beginning.

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did God speak to?
2. Where did He tell him to go?
3. Why did Jonah go to Tarshish?
4. Whose eyes were on Jonah?
5. What seemed like it would break apart?
6. Why did the sailors throw things overboard?
7. What was Jonah doing during the storm?
8. Who did not feel like calling on God?
9. What did Jonah tell them to do with him?

LESSON TEXT: Jonah 1:12.

(Answers: 1. Jonah. 2. Nineveh. 3. He thought he could hide from God. 4. God's. 5. The ship. 6. To lighten the ship. 7. Sleeping. 8. Jonah. 9. Throw him into the sea.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 19 Oct. 29, 1995

SWALLOWED ALIVE!

Even after Jonah told the sailors he was the cause of the great storm, they were not willing to throw him overboard as he told them. They rowed hard and did all they could to get to safety but the storm was too great. Finally they cried to the Lord and said, "We beg you, O Lord, we beg you, do not let us perish for this man's life." Then they picked up Jonah and threw him into the water.

As soon as Jonah fell into the water, the storm became calm. The sailors feared God exceedingly, seeing how mighty He was. They offered a sacrifice to Him and made vows because He had calmed the storm and saved their lives.

Jonah sunk deeper and deeper into the sea. It seemed he would surely drown. But God had prepared a great fish that was right there when Jonah fell into the water. It opened its huge mouth and swallowed up Jonah, alive!

Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. All that time he prayed to the Lord his God out of the fish's belly. God heard Jonah's prayers. He spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah out on the dry land!

How thankful Jonah was to be on dry land again! Then God spoke to him again. He told him, "Get up; go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it as I told you before."

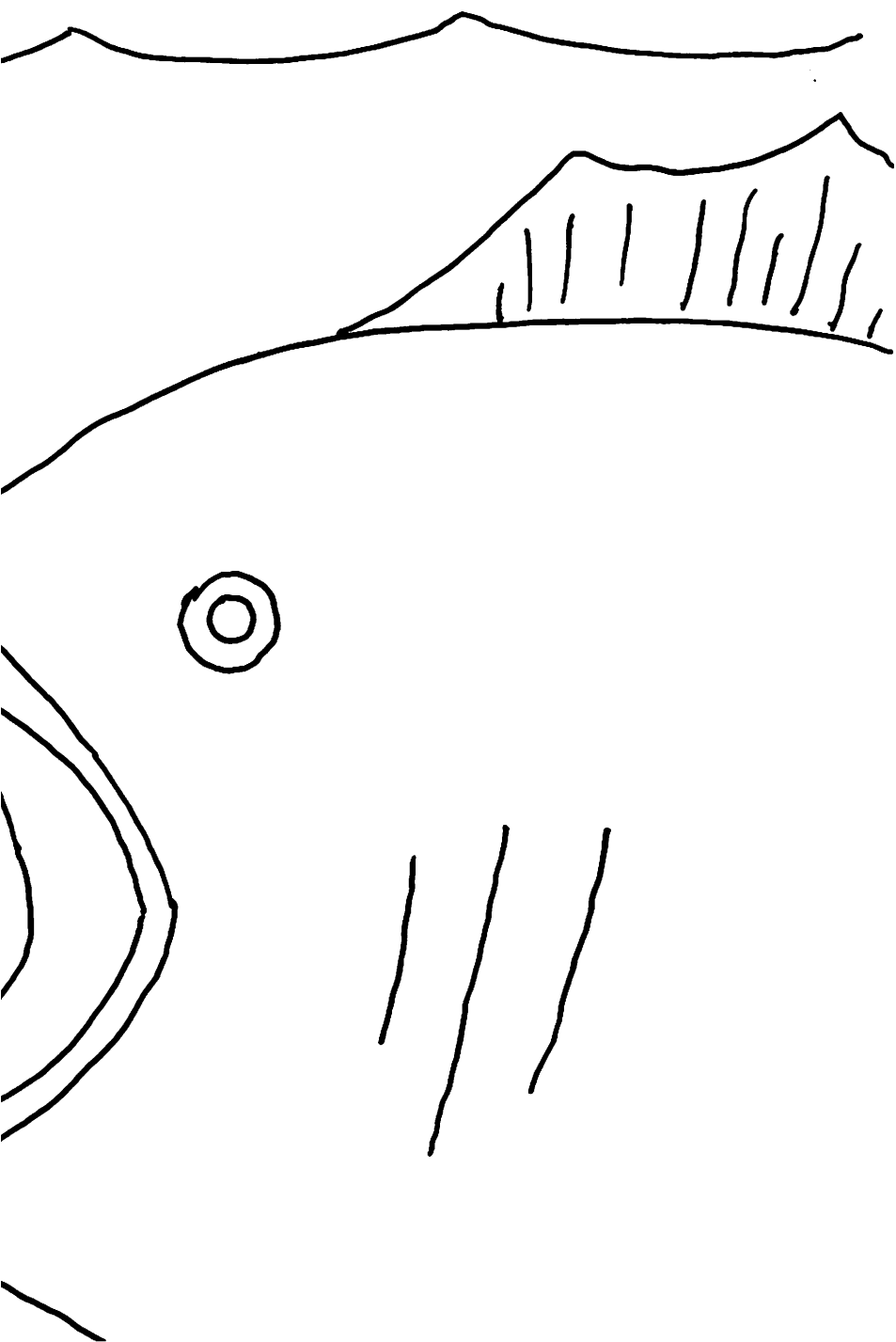
This time Jonah was ready to obey. He hurried as quickly as he could to Nineveh, just as God had told him. Once he was inside the city gates Jonah began to shout, "In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed!" The people stopped to hear what Jonah had to say. They believed his words and were so sorry for their sins they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least.

Even the king came down from his throne and took off his royal robe. He put on sackcloth, and sat in ashes and commanded, "Let neither man nor beast taste anything; let them not feed nor drink water. Cry mightily unto God and turn every one from your evil way. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**Now the Lord had prepared a
great fish to swallow up
Jonah.... Jonah 1:17.**



Boys Who Need Correction

(Continued from last week.)

An elderly lady in Bro. Clifford Lente's church gave him the challenge to "practice what he preached." He was wanting the congregation to reach out and do something for the poor people of the community but he himself was not really helping them either. So Bro. Cliff and his wife began to pray for the Lord to open some door for them to work through.

One night a robbery occurred at the chapel. It was one of several recent robberies in that part of the city. Bro. Cliff talked with the police officers who came to report what had been stolen.

"We know it is a gang of young boys doing these robberies," one officer told him. "We have an idea who they are and where they go but we haven't been able to catch them yet. They are restless street boys who don't have much to do."

After the officers left, Bro. Cliff began to pray for these boys. "Lord, what could I do to help these boys?" he prayed. Late the next night he was driving in the area by the chapel when he saw three young boys dodge into the shadows of a local business. Bro. Cliff's heart skipped a beat. These were probably the guilty boys. What should he do?

Quickly, Bro. Cliff pulled his car over to the curb where he could watch the boys. He looked into their faces so he might identify them later. Right away they knew that he was watching them so they disappeared around a corner.

As Bro. Cliff drove home, he prayed for these boys and others like them who needed Jesus in their lives. When he reached his house, he called the police department and asked for the

officer whom he had visited with earlier.

"I would like to help these boys," he told the officer. "What type of training or requirement is there to qualify me to help?"

"I don't know what type of training it will take to help these boys," replied the officer. "I guess, in your field, you need to pray for them and have a willing heart to correct their lives."

Well, Bro. Cliff had been praying for them and he did have a willing heart to help them but how was he to 'correct their lives?' He didn't know how to do that. These boys needed more help than what Bro. Cliff felt he could give. Who could train him for this type of work?

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was not willing to throw Jonah overboard?
2. What happened as soon as Jonah fell into the water?
3. What had God prepared?
4. What swallowed Jonah alive?
5. How long was Jonah in the fish's belly?
6. What did Jonah do all that time?
7. What did the fish do with Jonah?
8. What was Jonah ready to do?
9. What did Jonah tell the people?

LESSON TEXT: Jonah 1:13-3:9.

(Answers: 1. The sailors. 2. The storm became calm. 3. A great fish. 4. The great fish. 5. Three days and three nights. 6. He prayed. 7. Vomited him out on dry land. 8. To obey God. 9. In forty days their city would be destroyed.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 20 Nov. 5, 1995

JONAH AND THE GOURD

To Jonah's surprise, the people of Nineveh listened to his preaching and believed what he said. They were eager to hear what they could do to save themselves and their city from being destroyed. They were truly sorry for their sins. The king even ordered that everyone should fast and pray for the Lord to forgive them.

When the people of Nineveh showed such great sorrow for their sins, God forgave them and decided He would not destroy their city as He had planned. This made Jonah very angry. He did not want the people to find favor with God. They were enemies of his country and he hoped they would be destroyed.

After he finished preaching, Jonah went outside the city walls and waited to see fire fall on Nineveh. On the east side of the city Jonah built himself a little booth. He sat in the shade of the booth and waited to see what would happen to the city.

Then God prepared a gourd that grew up quickly. Its large leaves shaded Jonah's little booth and made him much more comfortable. Jonah was very happy for the gourd.

But God prepared a worm. The next morning the worm ate the plant until it withered and no longer shaded Jonah's booth. Then, when the sun came up, the Lord prepared a strong east wind. It blew hard against Jonah's booth and the scorching sun beat on his head. Jonah was so miserable he wished he could die. He told the Lord, "It is better for me to die than to live."

Then God spoke to Jonah. "Are you doing right to be angry for the gourd? You have had pity on the gourd even though you did not plant it nor work to help it grow. The gourd came up in one night and perished in a night. Shouldn't I have pity and spare Nineveh, that great city where thousands of helpless children live?"

Jonah realized then that people are most precious to God and He cares for every one. He saw how selfish he had been to mourn over the gourd instead of rejoicing that the people had not been destroyed.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**...Jonah was exceeding glad
of the gourd. Jonah 4:6.**

Too Young To Be Robbers

(Continued from last week.)

"BR-R-RING!" rang the telephone at Bro. Cliff's house. He reached for the phone by his desk and answered.

"Hello, Lentes' residence."

"Mr. Lente, this is the dispatcher of the Glendale police. We need you to come in right away to identify some possible items stolen from your chapel on 503 West Maple Street. You are the pastor of this church, am I correct?"

"Yes," answered Bro. Cliff. "Have the young robbers been caught? I am interested in them."

"We do have five minors held in connection with this robbery and several other local robberies. Do you know any of these boys or are you witness to any of their crimes?"

"No," replied Bro. Cliff. "I will be there shortly."

All the way to the police station, Bro. Cliff was praying for wisdom and for the boys who needed correction. He wanted to help them but he wasn't sure how to help.

Bro. Cliff was really saddened when he saw the boys. Two boys were thirteen years old and three boys were twelve. Their shoulders were thin, their arms looked frail, but their faces wore a hardened look.

"Since these boys are all juveniles, we will send the two oldest boys to a state boys' correctional center," said the chief of police. "The younger three will be put on probation." He stroked his chin in thought. "All five will probably end up in prison someday if they don't make a change."

Bro. Cliff spoke up quietly. "Could I talk with the boys one at a time?"

"Sure," said the chief. He let Bro. Cliff use his office for this purpose.

With each boy, Bro. Cliff asked what his hobby or interest was. Then he asked each boy what he wanted in life. One twelve-year-old named Bill really talked with Bro. Cliff. He seemed sorry for the trouble he was in and wanted to do better. He lived with his mother and two younger brothers in a small apartment. He said he was bored most of the time but he would like to be a photographer someday.

After the visits, Bro. Cliff had made up his mind. He spoke with the chief. "I would like to work with Bill if that could be arranged," he said.

"Sure," said the chief. "We'll talk to his mother. She will probably be delighted."

Bro. Cliff was pleased, also. The Lord was answering his prayers. (To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who ordered the people to fast and pray for forgiveness?
2. When God forgave the people, what did He decide?
3. Who became very angry?
4. What did Jonah build for himself?
5. What did God prepare that grew up quickly?
6. Who prepared a worm?
7. What did the worm do the next morning?
8. Who wished he could die?
9. Who are most precious to God?

LESSON TEXT: Jonah 3:10-4.

(Answers: 1. The king of Nineveh. 2. That He would not destroy the city. 3. Jonah. 4. A booth. 5. A gourd. 6. God. 7. It ate the plant. 8. Jonah. 9. People.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 21 Nov. 12, 1995

KING UZZIAH

Uzziah was only sixteen years old when he became king. For fifty-two years he reigned over Judah. Uzziah wanted to do what was right. His counsellor was Zechariah, a true prophet of God, who taught him how to please God.

As long as Uzziah was obedient, God made him prosper. He helped him win many battles. Soon his enemies were giving him gifts. He became very wealthy and people everywhere knew that Uzziah was a great and mighty king.

Besides his great wealth, Uzziah built an army of men who made war, with mighty power, to help the king against his enemies. The king gave his soldiers the very best weapons to fight with. Wise men in the kingdom invented machines that could shoot large rocks and arrows a long distance. Uzziah placed these in the towers and on the walls of Jerusalem to protect the city. So Uzziah became very strong and famous.

Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem and in the desert. He dug many wells to get water for his large herds of cattle and to water his great vineyards. Judah had not been this prosperous since Solomon was king.

But then a very sad thing happened. Because he was so strong and mighty, Uzziah became proud. This led to his destruction. He did not leave God to worship idols as his father had done but he sinned by disobeying God. One day Uzziah decided that because he was such a great king he could go into the temple and burn incense upon the altar.

Azariah, the priest, was horrified when he saw Uzziah go into the sanctuary. Taking eighty priests with him, he tried to stop the king. "Only the priests, the sons of Aaron, are consecrated to burn incense unto the Lord," they warned. "Go out of the sanctuary!"

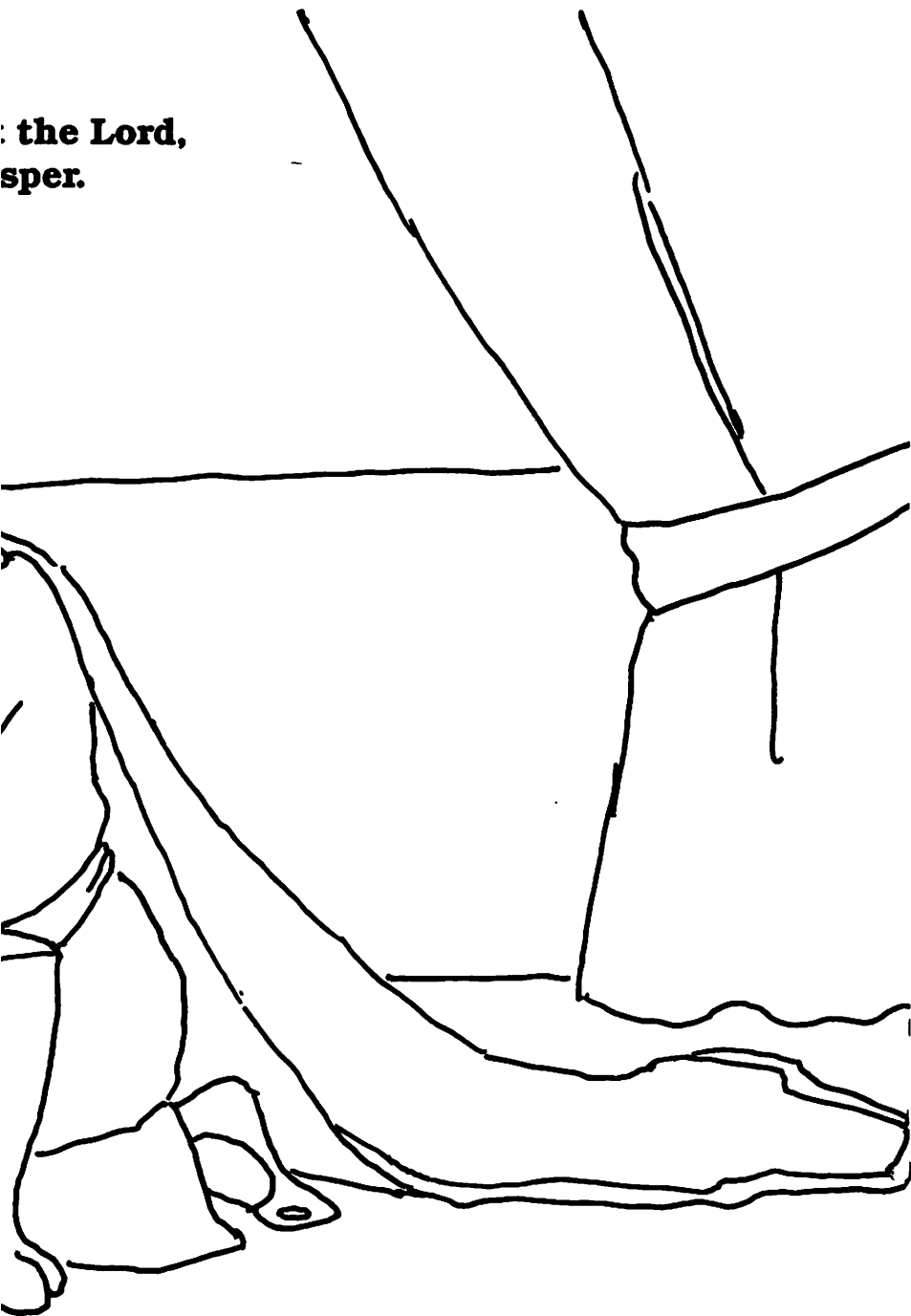
The king became very angry when the priests tried to stop him. Holding the censer in his hand he stepped toward the altar. As the priests watched, leprosy covered Uzziah's forehead. God had brought leprosy on him because he had disobeyed. Never again could Uzziah come into the house of God because of his dreadful disease.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...And as long as he so
God made him to
II Chron. 26**



the Lord,
sper.



Project One For Bro. Cliff

(Continued from last week.)

"Bill, you shot some good pictures," said Bro. Cliff. He was admiring the pictures that a young twelve-year-old boy had so carefully developed in their newly made darkroom.

Bill grinned. "They aren't too bad," he commented. "Next time I might come in a little closer."

"Yes, you might," agreed Bro. Cliff. "Each time you can learn something to make the pictures better and that's the way to become professional."

Bill shook his head. "I'll never be great at it but I like to try."

"Why can't you be great at it?" asked Bro. Cliff. He looked into Bill's eyes. "You have a lot of potential. Don't give up on yourself before you even get started. Here is some more film. Let's take some three-D pictures this time."

Soon Bro. Cliff and Bill were busy with a camera and another scene. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evening, Bill came to the darkroom built in a shed on the church grounds. Bro. Cliff was pleased that Bill would talk to him and they became good friends.

Also, Bill began to come to church. He would slip in the door just before service started and would sit down in a back seat. Then he would leave during the last prayer. When Bro. Cliff saw Bill later, he would thank Bill for coming to church. Every time they were together, Bro. Cliff would have prayer with Bill but he never "preached at Bill." He wanted Bill to see the love of God and come to the Lord himself.

Several months passed and Bro. Cliff could see good changes in Bill. Together they had bought some better clothes for Bill. Now he looked cleaner. He held his shoulders straighter and walked with confidence. Best of all, he did not curse nor say bad words anymore. Bill was really making a change and Bro. Cliff was thankful.

However, Bill's old friends did not appreciate the changes they saw in Bill. When they saw him they would hoot mockingly and even throw stones at him.

Bro. Cliff attempted to talk to these boys. He wanted to invite them to join their photography lessons but these boys only sneered and walked away. Bro. Cliff prayed for them and for Bill's safety.

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How old was Uzziah when he became king?
2. Who taught him how to please God?
3. Who made him prosper?
4. Who gave Uzziah gifts?
5. What kind of machines did the wise men invent?
6. Who became proud?
7. How did Uzziah sin?
8. Who tried to stop him?
9. What did God bring upon him because he disobeyed?

LESSON TEXT: II Chronicles 26.

(Answers: 1. Sixteen. 2. Zechariah. 3. God. 4. His enemies. 5. Machines to shoot arrows and large rocks. 6. Uzziah. 7. He went into the temple to burn incense. 8. The priests. 9. Leprosy.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 22 Nov. 19, 1995

WICKED KING AHAZ

When Uzziah died, his son, Jotham, became king in his place. Jotham did what was right in God's sight and was king for sixteen years. During his reign Jotham built cities in the mountains of Judah. He built castles and towers in the forests.

When Jotham fought with the Ammonites, he won a great victory. For years the children of Ammon paid him an hundred talents of silver and much wheat and barley. Jotham became mighty because he followed the way of the Lord his God.

After Jotham was dead his son, Ahaz, became king. Like his father, he ruled for sixteen years. But he did not follow the Lord as his father and grandfather had. Ahaz was a very wicked king. He made images which he worshiped instead of God. When Ahaz went to war he did not have the Lord to fight for him. Instead God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria. Many of his people were taken as prisoners.

In another battle Ahaz was defeated by the king of Israel. Thousands of his brave soldiers were killed in this battle because he had left the Lord and refused to serve Him. The children of Israel also took two hundred thousand people captive and carried away much wealth to Samaria.

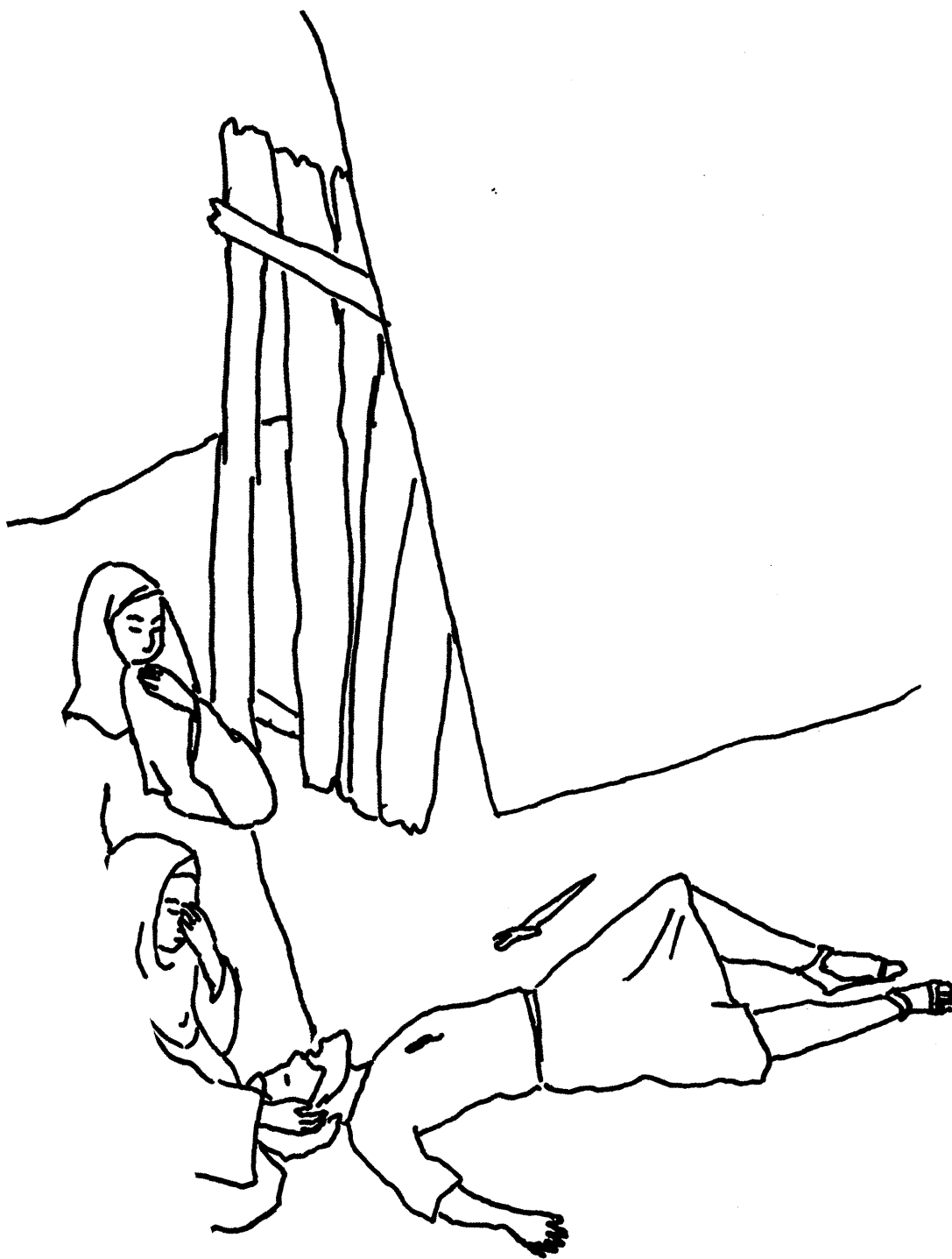
Later the Edomites and Philistines invaded the kingdom of Ahaz. They robbed the cities and took people away as prisoners. Still Ahaz did not change his wicked ways. He would not turn to God. This time he sent to the king of Assyria for help. The king of Assyria demanded much money from Ahaz, but did not help him against his enemies. Then Ahaz turned to the gods of his enemies for help. "Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, I will sacrifice to them so they will help me," he thought. But his idol worship only brought Ahaz and his people to ruin.

Ahaz gathered the vessels of the house of God and cut them in pieces. He shut the doors of the house of the Lord and instead made altars in every corner of Jerusalem for his idols. Because Ahaz brought so much trouble to his country, he was not buried with the other kings of Israel.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...The Lord brought Judah
low because of Ahaz king of
Israel;... II Chron. 28:19.**



Sudden Trouble

(Continued from last week.)

Sunday morning Bro. Clifford Lente took his family to church and preached to his congregation as usual. However, something unusual happened—Bill did not slip in the front door just before service nor was he there to leave as soon as service dismissed. Bro. Cliff was worried. Bill, his twelve-year-old friend, did not come to church that morning.

On his way home from church, Bro. Cliff went by the old apartment building that Bill lived in. "I hope Bill is okay," he told his wife. "Please wait here in the car with the children. I want to see if Bill is home."

Bro. Cliff walked up the creaky, metal stairs that led to the apartment where Bill, his mother and two younger brothers lived. The odor of greasy onions and liquor was overwhelming, but Bro. Cliff continued to the third floor where he stopped before a battered wooden door.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

"Hello, I'm Clifford Lente," he called through the shut door. "Is anyone home?"

No one answered. No one ever came to the door. Bro. Cliff finally went back to his waiting family. "I didn't see one person," he told his wife. "Not even a neighbor opened a door nor did I hear any voices."

"Maybe they are still at church," said his little girl.

"I wish they were," sighed Bro. Cliff with a sad look on his face. "They probably are sleeping off the bad effects of the liquor they drank last night. Let's pray for Bill, his family and neighbors. They need Jesus to live in their hearts."

Bro. Cliff's telephone was ringing when he walked in the door of his house. It was the chief-of-police. "Mr. Lente, could you come down to the station, pronto? There was a robbery and murder last night and we have Bill here in connection with it."

"I'll be right there," said Bro. Cliff as he hung up the phone. "Honey," he said to his wife, "Bill is in trouble. Sorry I won't be here for lunch. I'll eat later. Pray for me and for Bill."

Soon Bro. Cliff was at the police station where he learned about the robbery of a small grocery store that an elder lady owned. A group of boys ganged against her and she died from the injuries they dealt her.

"We arrested Bill," said the chief.

"Please let me talk to him," said Bro. Cliff sadly.

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who became king after Uzziah?
2. Why did he become mighty?
3. How long was Ahaz king?
4. What kind of king was Ahaz?
5. What did he worship instead of God?
6. Why did Ahaz lose so many battles?
7. What brought Ahaz and his people to ruin?
8. Who shut the doors of the house of the Lord?
9. Why wasn't Ahaz buried with the other kings?

LESSON TEXT: II Chronicles 27-28.

(Answers: 1. Jotham. 2. He followed the way of the Lord. 3. Sixteen years. 4. A very wicked king. 5. Images. 6. Because he left the Lord. 7. Idol worship. 8. Ahaz. 9. Because he brought so much trouble to his country.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 23 Nov. 26, 1995

A GREAT THANKSGIVING

After Ahaz died, his son, Hezekiah, became king. Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king and he ruled over Judah for twenty-nine years.

Hezekiah was much wiser than his father. He chose to do what was right in the sight of the Lord. He trusted in the Lord God of Israel and became so great that there was never a greater king of Judah.

In the very first year of his reign, Hezekiah opened the doors of the house of the Lord and repaired them. He gathered the priests and Levites and commanded them to sanctify themselves and the house of the Lord. They were to clean the holy place so they could once more worship God there.

"Our fathers have done that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord our God," Hezekiah told the priests. "They shut up the house of the Lord and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy place to the God of Israel. That is why the Lord brought such great trouble on them. Our fathers have been killed by the sword and our daughters and wives are in captivity because of this.

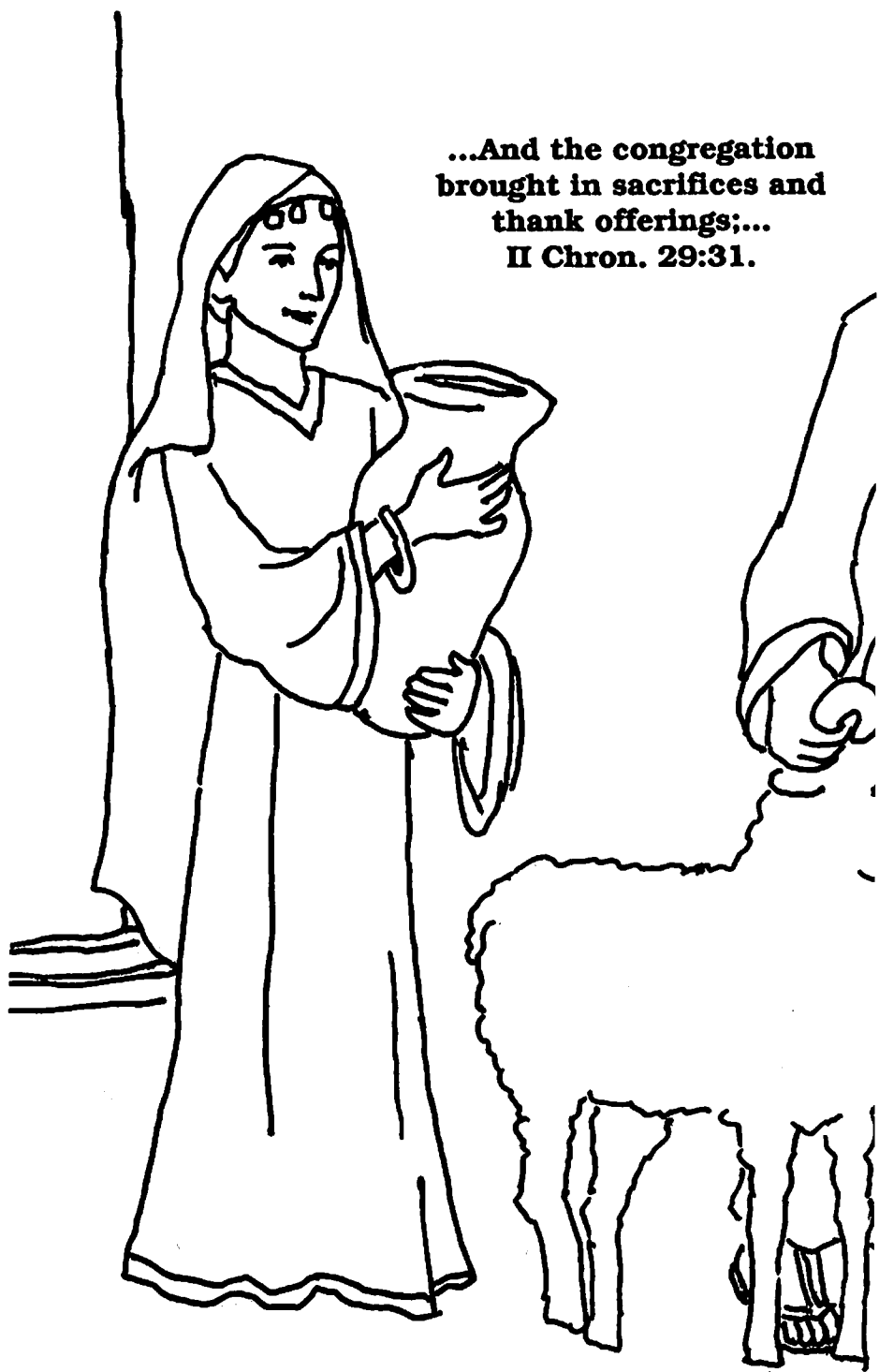
"Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the Lord God of Israel that He will turn his fierce wrath away from us. The Lord has chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, to minister to Him and burn incense. Be faithful and do it."

The priests and Levites were glad to do as the king had commanded. When they had sanctified themselves they cleaned the house of the Lord. After eight days they happily reported, "We have cleaned the house of the Lord as you commanded. We have also prepared all the vessels that King Ahaz destroyed. They are before the altar of the Lord."

So Hezekiah got up early and gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the Lord and offered sin offerings for the kingdom, for the sanctuary and for Judah. Then the people brought a thank offering and bowed down and worshiped God. They sang praises with great gladness and thanksgiving.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...And the congregation
brought in sacrifices and
thank offerings;...
II Chron. 29:31.**





Bill's Story

(Continued from last week.)

"Bill, please explain to me everything that happened last night," said Bro. Cliff gently. They were in a private room at the police station where Bill was held in connection with a robbery and murder. Bill was so ashamed he would not lift up his head to look at Bro. Cliff.

"I was with the wrong crowd that you warned me about," he said quietly. "I didn't know their plans. They told me I needed to have some fun for awhile and forget the serious picture-taking stuff. They talked bad about you and they swore like they always have. I thought I would just go with them but not do anything." Bill looked at Bro. Cliff. "I didn't do any of the stealing and hitting, but I was there." He lowered his head again. "The police went to my mom's last night and told her about it. Now she's mad at me and if I tell who is in the gang, they will be mad at me. And—and I let you down. I—I'm sorry." Bill wiped the back of his hand across his nose. "I don't have anywhere to go and I have no friends, so I'd better go to a boys' reform home where there are other boys just as bad as me."

By this time Bro. Cliff had tears streaming from his eyes. He put an arm around Bill's shoulders. "You do have a friend," he said to Bill. "The love of Jesus has sent me your way to help you. Do you want to make a change, Bill? Do you want help?"

"I don't think there is much hope for me," he replied in a choked voice. "You helped me so much—I tried to do good—but I failed—I can't do it—it's too hard to do good." Bill was now sobbing and Bro. Cliff held him in a fatherly embrace.

"Let's pray, Bill. Let's take it all to Jesus and ask Him to wash away these sins and failures. He can make your heart clean and give you strength to do good."

Soon Bill had prayed to Jesus and felt a peace come over his heart. However, Bill was still in trouble with the law.

"Let's talk to the chief," said Bro. Cliff. "Remember, Bill, the best way out of this trouble is to be honest. If you stay honest, your story will always be the same."

After some discussion and paper work, Bill was allowed to go home with Bro. Cliff. Though he didn't say it, Bill felt thankful that Jesus had sent Bro. Cliff to him.

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was wiser than his father?
2. In whom did he trust?
3. Who was the greatest king of Judah?
4. What did he do to the house of the Lord?
5. Who did he gather together?
6. Who cleaned the house of the Lord?
7. Who had destroyed the vessels of the Lord?
8. Where did Hezekiah go early in the morning?
9. What kind of offering did the people bring?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 18:1-7; II Chronicles 29.

(Answers: 1. Hezekiah. 2. God. 3. Hezekiah. 4. He opened the doors and repaired them. 5. The priests and Levites. 6. The priests and Levites. 7. Ahaz. 8. To the house of the Lord. 9. A thank offering.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 24 Dec. 3, 1995

ISRAEL IS CAPTURED

While Hezekiah was ruling over Judah, Hoshea was king over the ten tribes of Israel. Jeroboam, the first king of Israel had set up two golden calves in his kingdom for the people to worship. Even though God sent prophets like Elijah and Elisha to the ten tribes of Israel, not many of the people were led back to the worship of the true God. Most of the kings were evil idol worshipers and the people followed their example. They rejected God and without His help they became weaker and weaker.

Many years passed. Nineteen kings had ruled over Israel. God had helped them out of trouble many times but still they would not turn from idols and serve Him.

Finally, God allowed the Assyrians to capture some of the Israelites. They were taken away as slaves to a strange land. Hoshea was left as king of Israel and ordered to pay heavy taxes to the Assyrians.

One year Hoshea refused to pay. The king of Assyria sent his army again. This time he took Hoshea and many of his people to Assyria. Only the poorest people were left behind. Those who were taken away were never allowed to return to their homeland.

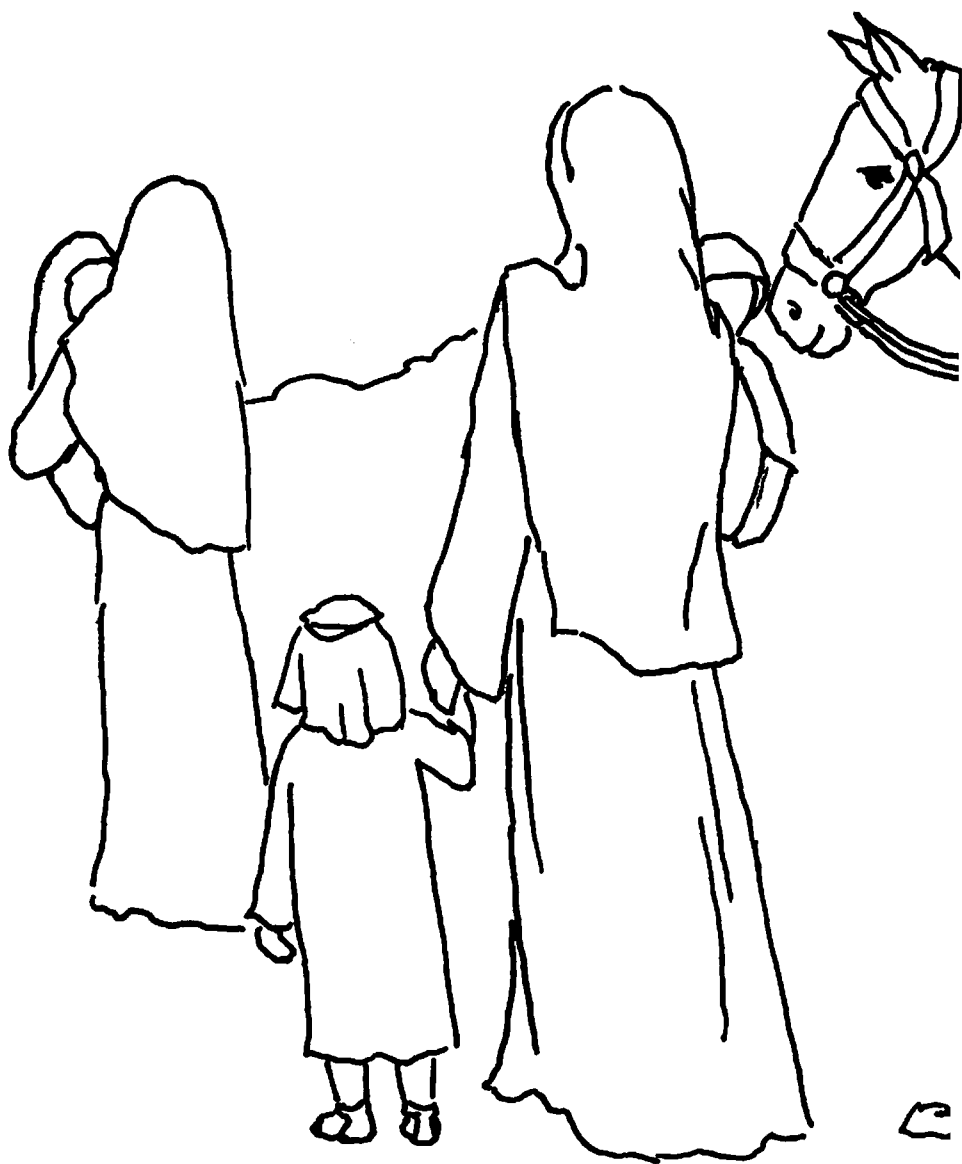
Then the king of Assyria brought people from other countries to live in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel. These people knew nothing about the true God. They worshiped only idols. The Lord sent lions that killed some of the people. The people sent a messenger to the king saying, "The people you have sent to Samaria do not know the manner of the God of the land. He has sent lions among them and some have been killed."

So the king of Assyria commanded, "Take one of the priests back to Samaria. He will live there and teach the people the manner of the God of the land."

A priest was sent and he taught the people how to worship the true God. But they did not worship Him with their whole heart. They still worshiped their own idols while trying to worship God.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...So was Israel carried away out of their
own land to Assyria... II Kings 17:23.**





One Happy Triumph

(Continued from last week.)

It was a wintery Saturday morning. Outside the cold wind roared and shook the little shop where Bro. Cliff and Bill were warmly inside playing chess.

Many things had taken place in the past few months. First Bro. Cliff and his wife prayed for the Lord to give them a work to do for Him. Along came Bill, a twelve-year-old boy who needed correction. Bro. Cliff befriended Bill and taught Bill how to take pictures and develop them in their makeshift darkroom.

Soon Bill was coming to church where Bro. Cliff was the pastor. Then Bill got into trouble when he went with a group of bad boys to have what they called "fun." By telling the truth, Bill was able to prove that he was not in the robbery and beating that these boys did. Through this trial, Bill learned a valuable lesson—don't run with a "bad" crowd if you want to do good. Best of all, Bill asked Jesus to forgive him. He became a saved child of God!

Then Bro. Cliff moved his family and Bill moved with them. Another happy event is yet to come. They are just waiting for the right papers to arrive through the mail.

At the present, Bro. Cliff and Bill are involved in a game of chess. "It's your turn to move, Bro. Cliff," said Bill teasingly. "What were you dreaming about? You're already married."

"Well, it is my turn!" exclaimed Bro. Cliff. "Where did you move, anyway, Bill? I guess my mind isn't much on this game, is it?"

"No," said Bill, "but I'm not complaining. It's about time I win another game."

"I guess you have won this one," agreed Bro. Cliff as Bill took his king with the next move.

Suddenly the shop door opened and Bro. Cliff's wife burst into the room. "Cliff! Bill! Here are the papers! Now, Bill, you are legally our son!"

What rejoicing took place then! There was hugging, shouting and praising the Lord! Bro. Cliff was so happy that he cried tears of joy.

"Son," he said to Bill, "when Mom and I prayed for a work to do for the Lord, we did not know He would send us someone so special as you. We love you, Son."

(The End)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was king over the ten tribes of Israel?
2. Who was the first king of Israel?
3. What did he set up for the people to worship?
4. What two prophets were sent to warn Israel?
5. How many kings had ruled over Israel?
6. Who captured the Israelites?
7. What did Hoshea have to pay the king of Assyria?
8. What did God send among the strange people of Samaria?
9. Who came to teach them how to worship God?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 17.

(Answers: 1. Hoshea 2. Jeroboam 3. Two golden calves 4. Elijah and Elisha 5. Nineteen 6. The Assyrians 7. Heavy taxes 8. Lions 9. A priest.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 25 Dec. 10, 1995

AN ANGEL VISITS THE TEMPLE

Zacharias and his wife, Elisabeth, lived in the land of Judea where Herod was king. Zacharias was a priest. Both he and Elisabeth served God faithfully and were righteous before Him, keeping all His commandments and ordinances.

For many years Zacharias and Elisabeth had longed and prayed for a child. Now they were both too old to hope for such a blessing. Still they served God faithfully.

One day Zacharias left his home in the hill country to go to the temple. It was time for him to serve there by burning incense before the Lord. All the men in Zacharias' family had been priests because they were descendants of Aaron, the first priest of Israel. Elisabeth, too, was of the family of Aaron.

As Zacharias went into the temple of the Lord, the whole multitude of people were praying in the outer court. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

When Zacharias saw the angel, he became very troubled and his heart was filled with fear. But the angel told him, "Fear not, Zacharias. Your prayer is heard and your wife, Elisabeth, shall bear you a son. You will call his name John. He will bring you much joy and gladness. He will be great in the sight of the Lord and will be filled with the Holy Ghost. He is chosen to make ready a people, prepared for the Lord."

When Zacharias could speak he asked, "How shall I know your words are true? I am an old man and my wife is old too."

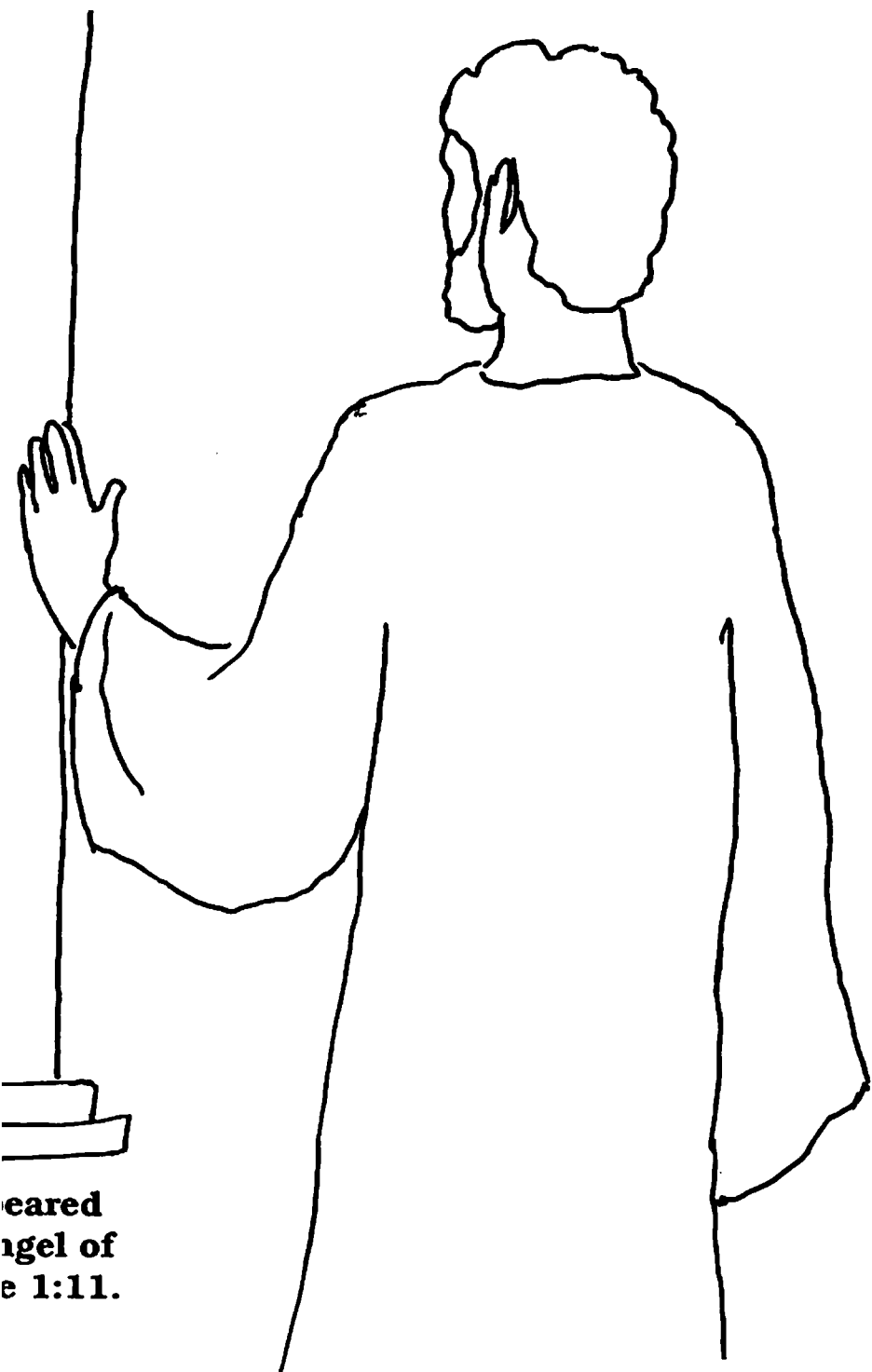
"I am Gabriel," the angel answered. "I stand in the presence of God and am sent to tell you this good news. You will be dumb and not able to speak until the day that these things happen because you did not believe my words."

Meanwhile the people waited for Zacharias and wondered why he stayed so long in the temple. When he finally did come out he could not speak to them. They knew he had seen a vision in the temple because he motioned to them with his hands.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



And there
unto him
the Lord...



appeared
angel of
e 1:11.

War Pictures

Jerry was looking at pictures in a news reporting magazine. So many reports were about fighting and killing in other countries. Jerry's heart was saddened by the hungry looks on the poor people's faces. Little children were crying and men were dying.

Jerry just had to talk to his dad! He picked up the magazine and went into the den where his dad was relaxing in his big, brown recliner.

"Did you see these pictures, Dad?" asked Jerry as he put the magazine in his dad's lap. "What is the war about? Why are so many children hungry? These people look so sad!"

"War of any kind is an awful thing," said Dad as he put his arm around Jerry's shoulder. "War brings suffering to everyone involved. There really aren't any winners when lives are taken, land is destroyed, and people are left wounded in body and soul."

"Why don't the police stop the fighting?" asked Jerry. "I would help these people if I were a policeman."

"Son," Dad said, looking Jerry in the eyes, "I don't understand all about war and suffering. I don't think anyone really does. I do know that God sees it all and He is sad when people do not choose to live by His plan."

"In the beginning, God did not plan for man to kill. Adam and Eve listened to the devil and man became bound by sin. Do you remember who committed the first murder?"

"Cain killed Abel because he was jealous," replied Jerry.

"Yes," agreed Dad. "Cain was punished for that murder. God put

a mark on him and sent him away from the other people.

"Because the Children of Israel lived under the old law, they had to bring a sin sacrifice for their sins. This was to cover their sins by the blood of a perfect lamb. In the Old Testament times Israel often fought battles but they also had to sacrifice to cover this evil. Remember that sin causes war, Jerry. Even the wars of today are caused by sin."

Jerry and his dad then talked about the sad war pictures in the magazine. The eyes of the people reflected terror and worry. The fighting seemed so senseless.

"Dad, Jesus would help the hurting, wouldn't He? He wouldn't be fighting and killing."

"You're right, Jerry," replied Dad. "Christians should not kill even in a war. Instead, we should help the wounded and share with them the love of Jesus." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Zacharias?
2. What was his wife's name?
3. What had they prayed for?
4. Why did Zacharias go to the temple?
5. What were the people doing while he was in the temple?
6. Who suddenly appeared to him?
7. What did the angel promise Zacharias?
8. What would the baby be named?
9. Why was Zacharias unable to speak?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 1:1-22.

(Answers: 1. A priest. 2. Elizabeth. 3. A child. 4. It was time for him to serve there. 5. Praying. 6. An angel named Gabriel. 7. A son. 8. John. 9. Because he didn't believe the angel's words.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 26 Dec. 17, 1995

A GIRL NAMED MARY

As soon as his time to serve in the temple was over, Zacharias hurried back to his home. Elisabeth must have been surprised to find her husband could not say a word. The only way he could let her know about the angel's visit was by writing. Soon Elisabeth knew that she would someday be the mother of the wonderful son the angel had promised. She and Zacharias happily waited for the day of his birth.

Again God sent Gabriel with a special message. This time he was sent to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth. There he was to visit a pure and lovely girl named Mary.

One day as Mary was alone she was startled when an angel suddenly appeared before her. "Hail!" Gabriel greeted her. "You are highly favored and the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women!"

Mary was very troubled. She wondered why the angel had come. She did not know what his words meant.

The angel comforted her by saying, "Fear not, Mary. You have found favor with God. You will have a son and will call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest. The Lord God shall give Him the throne of His father David and He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever. There will never be an end to His kingdom."

"How can this be?" Mary asked.

"The Child who will be born to you will be called the Son of God," the angel answered. Then he told Mary, "And your cousin, Elisabeth, will also have a son. With God nothing is impossible!"

Mary believed the angel's message. "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be as you have said," she told Gabriel.

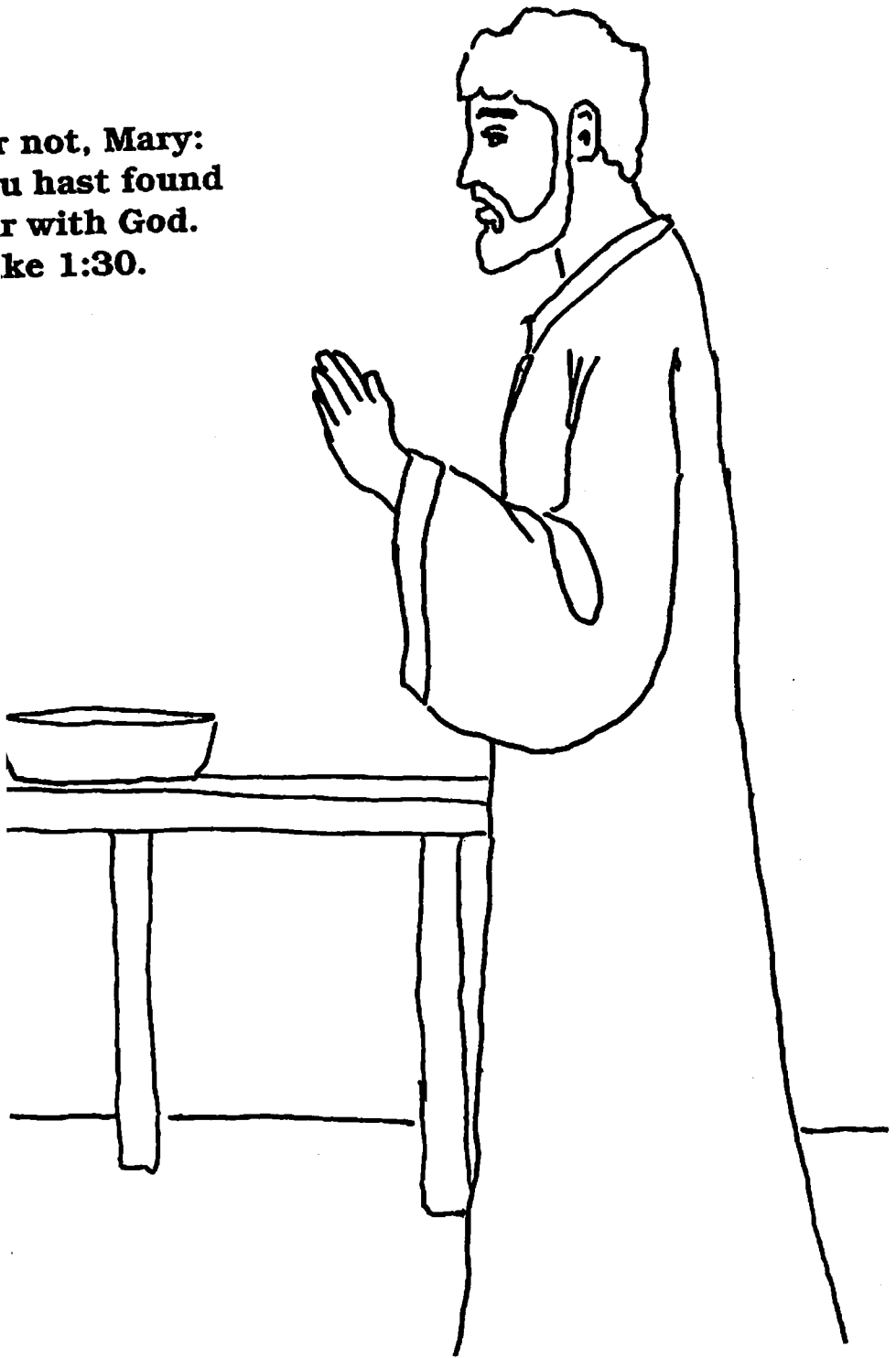
After the angel left her, Mary thought about his wonderful message. She knew one person she could share it with. She must visit Elisabeth!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

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**r not, Mary:
u hast found
r with God.
ke 1:30.**



The Gift Of Quilts

Big, soft flakes of snow were falling outside the farmhouse window but Linda was so busy cutting fabric that she did not notice them. Grandma, Mother, Aunt Sue and Linda were making quilts for the poor refugees in northern countries.

"This quilt is nearly done," said Mother. "This makes nine quilts we have ready!"

"I have all the pieces cut and ready for the next quilt," said Linda. "Do you really think we will get twelve quilts made today?"

"With such faithful workers, I believe we will!" exclaimed Grandma. "I wish we could make more. Twelve quilts are such a small amount compared to the great need."

"I wish we did have more time to make more," sighed Aunt Sue. "My heart goes out to those poor, homeless people who have gone through such an evil war. I wish we could give them more than just quilts. They need to know about Jesus and have hope of eternal life where there won't be any wars."

"I know what we can do!" exclaimed Linda. "We can send a Christmas card with each quilt. Our cards have a picture of baby Jesus on the front and then the Christmas story is inside. Wouldn't that be a good thing to do?"

"I don't know," said Mother thoughtfully. "These people can't read English. They probably wouldn't know what the picture means either."

"There wouldn't be any harm in sending the cards," said Grandma. "We can roll a Christmas card into

each quilt and then pray that God will use the cards to open some hearts to Him."

"I will call Daddy right away," said Linda as she went to the phone. "He could bring twelve cards when he comes to take us home."

By evening time there were twelve quilts ready with a Christmas card rolled into each one. The quilts were put into a sturdy box, wrapped in brown mailing paper and sent to a mission that takes quilts overseas.

For several nights, Linda prayed for the ones who would receive the quilts and see the Christmas cards. She felt so warm and happy inside. That feeling is the "thank you" blessing from the Lord.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How could Zacharias let Elisabeth know about the angel's visit?
2. Who sent Gabriel with another special message?
3. Who did he visit?
4. What did the angel tell her?
5. What would His name be?
6. Whose son would He be?
7. Who else would have a son?
8. With whom is nothing impossible?
9. Who did Mary go to visit?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 1:26-39.

(Answers: 1. By writing. 2. God. 3. Mary. 4. She would have a Son. 5. Jesus. 6. The Son of God. 7. Elisabeth. 8. God. 9. Elisabeth.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 27 Dec. 24, 1995

JESUS IS BORN

Caesar Augustus, the Roman emperor over Judea, sent out a decree that all the world should be taxed. Each person must go to the town from which his family had come to be taxed. Even though it was almost time for her baby to be born, Mary and Joseph left their home in Nazareth to go to the town of Bethlehem because they were both the descendants of David.

Now Bethlehem was just a small town. It was soon crowded with the people who had come there to be taxed. When Mary and Joseph arrived, they could not find a single place to stay. Joseph looked all over the town for a place for Mary to rest. All he could find was space in a stable where the animals were kept.

Mary was so tired she was glad to have some place to rest. That night Baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in soft cloths called swaddling clothes and gently laid him in a manger.

That night shepherds were watching their flocks in the fields near Bethlehem. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared before them and the glory of the Lord shone around about them. They were very much afraid!

Then the angel spoke to them. "Fear not," he told them. "I bring you good tidings of great joy! For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. You will find the Baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Then a multitude of the heavenly host appeared with the angel. They were praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

As soon as the angels had gone away, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass!" Leaving their flocks, they hurried to Bethlehem. There in a stable, they found Mary and Joseph with Baby Jesus. Kneeling before the manger, they worshiped the newborn King. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**For unto you is born this day in the
city of David a Saviour, which is Christ
the Lord. Luke 2:11.**





Early Randy

Jerry and Linda were already up and listening to Christmas songs when Randy woke up and came waddling into the living room.

"Is it Tistmas yet?" asked two-year-old Randy.

"No, tomorrow is Christmas day!" exclaimed Linda. "Eat this piece of candy from your calendar and you will only have one more piece left. That means that tomorrow will be Christmas day!"

Eagerly Randy took the little candy from his calendar that had once held 25 pieces of candy.

"When is 'tomorrow'?" asked Randy.

"Tonight you will go to bed and sleep. When you wake up, it will be 'tomorrow'," answered Jerry.

Randy didn't reply because his mouth was full of candy.

Soon the children were laughing and playing together while they listened to 'O Holy Night', 'Beautiful Star of Bethlehem' and other Christmas carols.

By afternoon, Randy was tired so Mother laid him down for a nap. Then Jerry and Linda went into the kitchen to help Mother make Christmas cookies. They liked to sprinkle the green and red sugars on the stars and ribbons that they cut from the cookie dough.

Two hours of baking joy passed by very quickly. Then Mother heard a little noise in the living room. "Randy, did you wake up?" called Mother as she came into the living room. She turned on the light. Yes, Randy was awake and he was already busy.

"Merry Tismas!" he exclaimed as he held up a newly unwrapped

toy of his. "I woke up and now it's Tismas!" he said.

Mother smiled at Randy's mistake. "Don't open anymore, Randy," she said. "You are still too early."

"But I woke up and ate the 'tandy," declared Randy.

By now Jerry and Linda had joined Mother and they were laughing. Randy felt like he had given Christmas Day plenty of time to arrive!

"Bring your new truck into the kitchen," Mother told Randy. "You can play with it while we finish baking the Christmas cookies."

The next morning, everyone opened their presents. It really did pay to wait. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem?
2. Where did they find a place to rest?
3. What happened that night?
4. Where did Mary lay Him?
5. What were the shepherds doing that night?
6. What suddenly appeared to them?
7. Where did he say they would find the Baby?
8. Where did the shepherds go as soon as the angels left?
9. What did they do when they found Baby Jesus?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 2:1-16.

(Answers: 1. They went to be taxed. 2. In a stable. 3. Baby Jesus was born. 4. In a manger. 5. Watching their flocks. 6. An angel. 7. Lying in a manger. 8. To find the Baby. 9. They knelt before the manger and worshiped Him.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 46, No. 4 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 28 Dec. 31, 1995

HEZEKIAH KEEPS THE PASSOVER

Hezekiah wanted his people to worship the true God. He called for the priests and the Levites to come to Jerusalem and clean the temple. Then he and many of the people offered sacrifices and worshiped God.

The feast of the passover had not been kept for many years. Since God's house was now ready for worship, Hezekiah invited everyone in the land of Judah and Israel to come to Jerusalem to keep this feast.

Some of the people laughed when they read Hezekiah's invitation. They had worshiped idols for so long that they did not want to go to Jerusalem to worship the true God. But there were many people in the land of Judah who gladly came to the feast. They rejoiced that they could once more keep the feast of the passover.

Before they killed the sacrifice for the passover, the people took away all the altars of the idol worshipers that were in Jerusalem. Then the children of Israel that were in Jerusalem, kept the feast with great gladness. The Levites and priests praised the Lord day after day and the Levites taught the people the knowledge of the Lord.

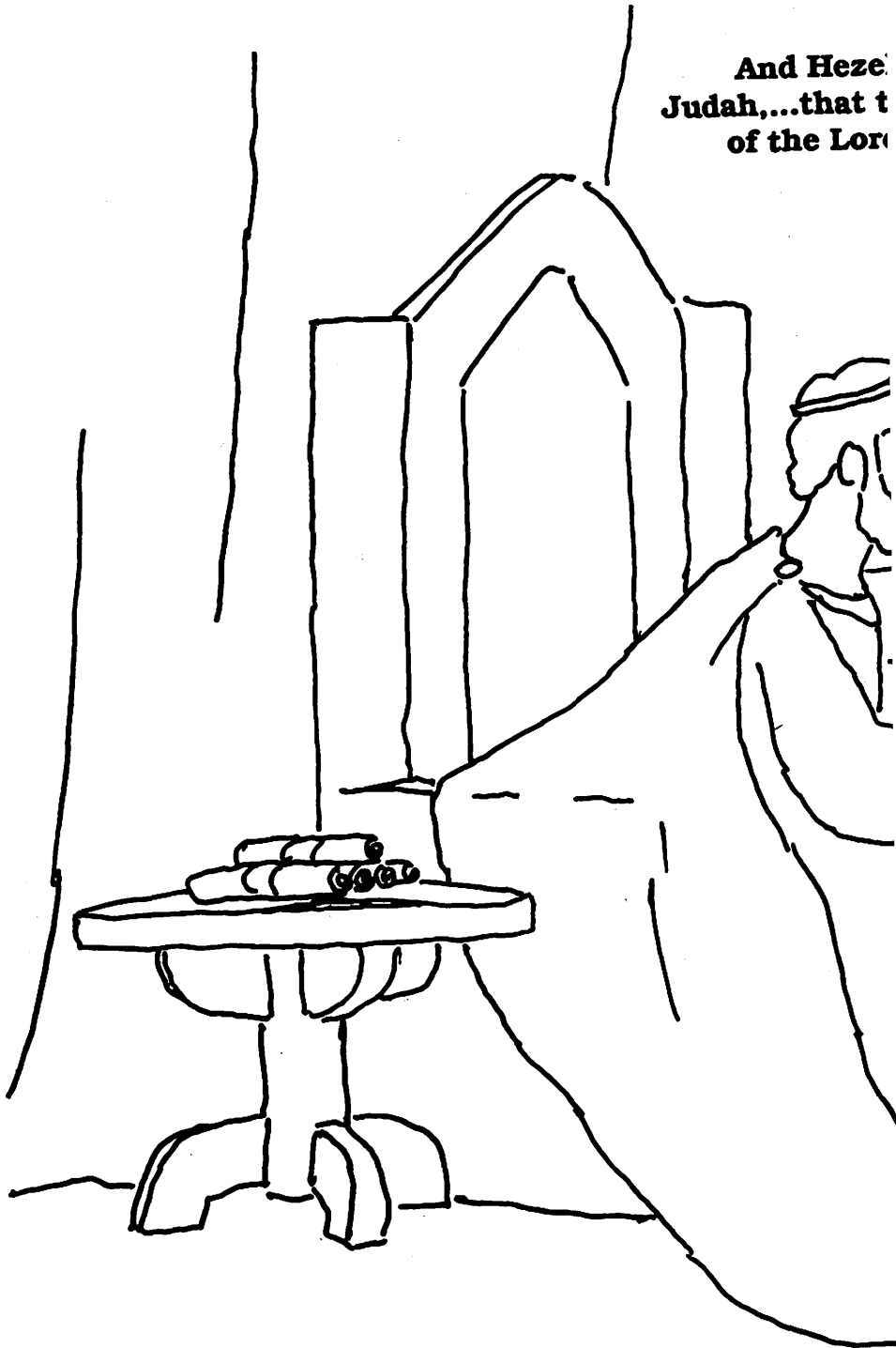
For seven days they feasted together, offered peace offerings and confessed their wrongs to God. At the end of the week the whole assembly met and decided to keep another seven days. There was great joy in Jerusalem. There had not been a feast like this in Jerusalem since Solomon was king.

Next Hezekiah set the service of the temple in order and appointed the Levites and priests to serve in the temple in turn. He gave freely for the offerings that God had commanded. Then he wrote a commandment to the people that they should give to the priests and Levites. As soon as the people heard the commandment they brought in so much that soon there was more than enough.

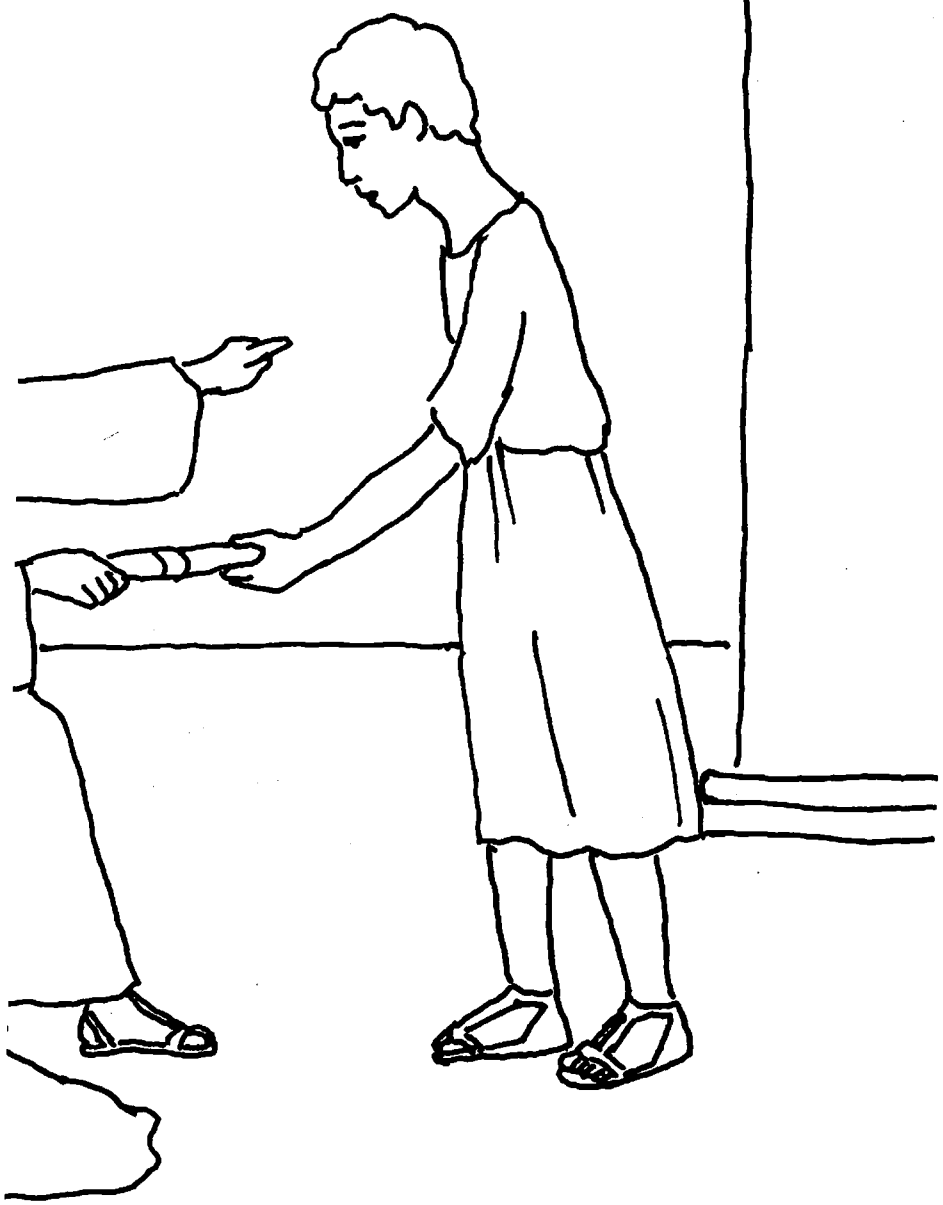
Hezekiah continued to serve God and teach the people to love and serve Him too. Everything he did in the service of God, he did with all his heart and God prospered him.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And Heze
Judah,...that t
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sent to all Israel and
should come to the house
to keep the passover...
iron. 30:1.



The Order Of The Calendar

Linda was helping Grandma clean house. "We want the house to look nice for New Year's Day," said Grandma. "It is only proper to start the new year with a clean house."

"Grandma, who made tomorrow the first day of the year?" asked Linda. "You know, how did people know when the first day was? Did God say so?"

Grandma chuckled. "You asked your questions too fast for an answer," she said. "We use the Gregorian calendar that was established in 1752 by Great Britain and then The United States as well. They call it the Christian calendar because it recognizes the dates when Christian things happened."

"So who said when the years come and go?" asked Linda. "Did God tell us to do it this way?"

"Our years, months and days are set according to the sun and moon," replied Grandma. "God created all things in how many days?"

"It took Him six days to create it all," replied Linda.

"Yes," said Grandma. "We have six days of work in one week and then one day of rest. The Hebrews were to rest on the seventh day, or Saturday. As Christians, we honor the first day of the week because Jesus arose from the tomb on that day. We go to church on Sunday and praise the Lord for sending His Son to save us from our sins."

"So God really set the days and weeks like we have them?" questioned Linda.

"Not exactly," replied Grandma. "The Jews or Hebrews have a calendar different from ours. It starts in 3761 B.C. when God created the earth. We can use it to know when Old

Testament things happened. In the United States, we use an American Christian calendar that sets the New Year, Easter, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas. It isn't so much important "who" set them as it is "how" we celebrate them. We want to always honor the Lord in all that we do."

"What will we do to honor the Lord tomorrow?" asked Linda.

"After we clean the house, we will have some friends over tonight. At midnight, we want to pray and give this new year to the Lord because we want His blessings to be with us like they were in the past year. That is the best way to start a new year."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Hezekiah want the people to worship?
2. What had not been kept for many years?
3. Who did Hezekiah invite to the feast?
4. What did they do before they killed the passover?
5. Who taught the people the knowledge of the Lord?
6. What were the Levites and priests appointed to do?
7. What did the people do when they were commanded to give?
8. What did Hezekiah teach the people?
9. Who prospered Hezekiah?

LESSON TEXT: II Chronicles 30.

(Answers: 1. The true God. 2. The feast of the passover. 3. Everyone in the land of Judah and Israel. 4. They took away the altars of the idol worshippers. 5. The Levites. 6. To serve in the temple. 7. They brought in abundantly. 8. To love and serve God. 9. God.)