

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 14 Jan. 7, 1996

HEZEKIAH'S ENEMY

The king of Assyria was an enemy of Hezekiah and his people. The Assyrians captured Samaria and carried the Israelites away into Assyria when Hezekiah had been king over Judah for only eight years. Before Hezekiah ever became king, they had gained power over Judah. After that, the people had to pay heavy taxes to the king of Assyria. When Hezekiah became king, he taught the people to trust in God instead of worshipping idols. He did not want his people paying taxes to a king who served idols.

Hezekiah knew the king of Assyria would bring an army to try to force him to pay. To get ready for the attack, he built up the walls around Jerusalem and made them very strong. Then he gathered an army and prepared to fight.

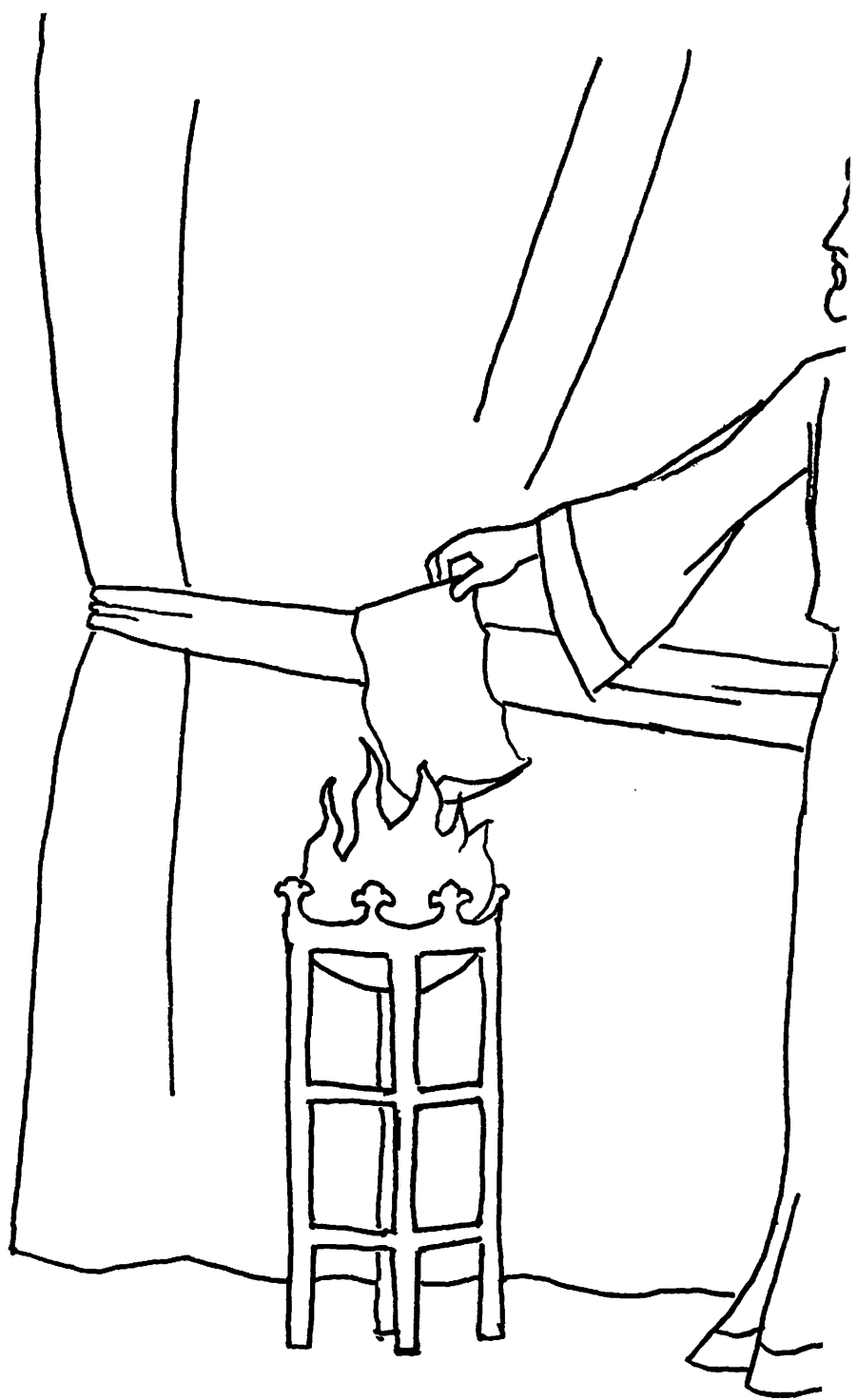
Even when Hezekiah had his men trained for battle, they were only a handful compared to the mighty Assyrian army. The enemy marched into the land of Judah and took one city after another. The army of Judah was no match for the multitude that fought for the king of Assyria. Closer and closer they marched toward Jerusalem.

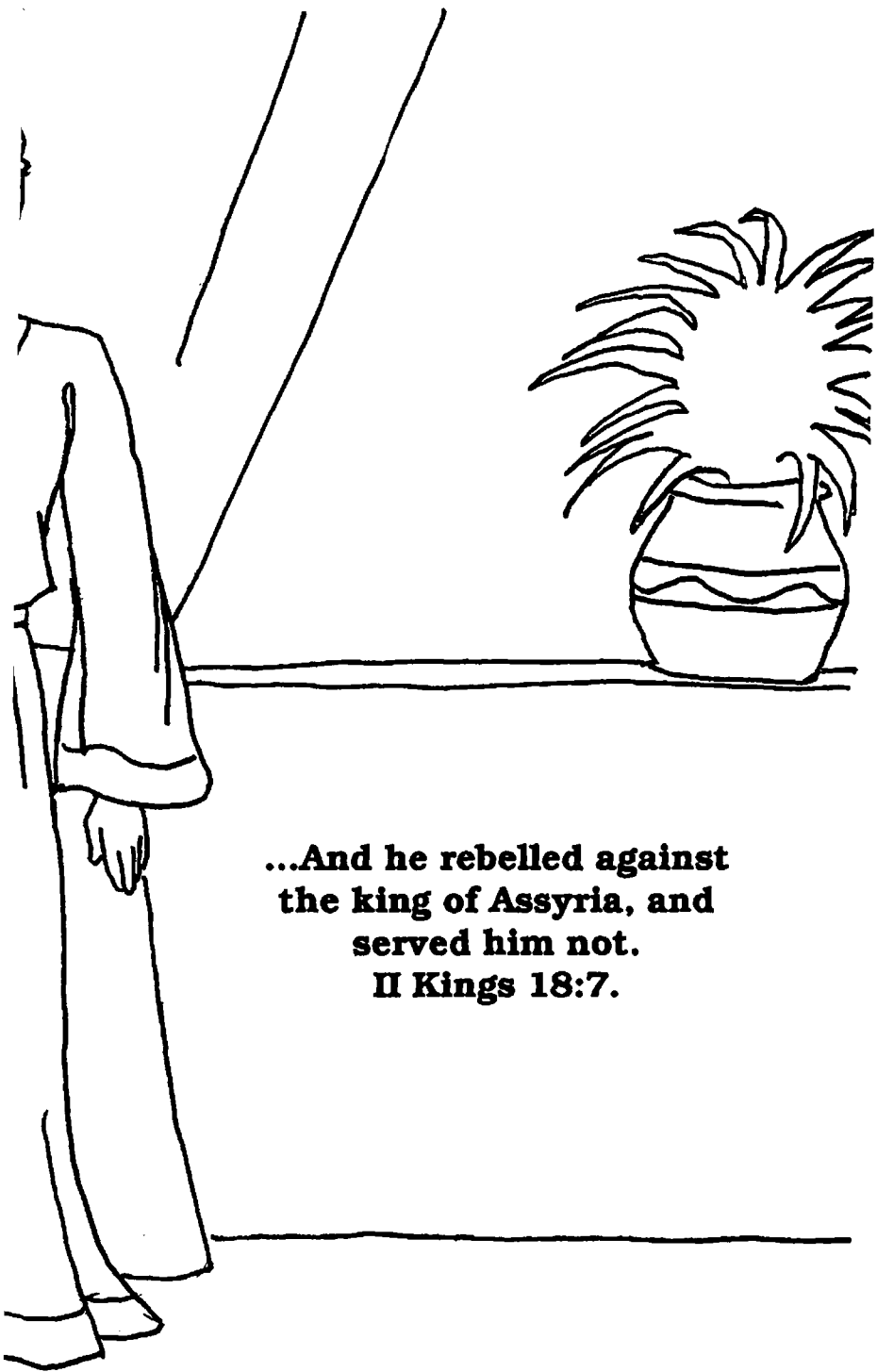
Hezekiah saw that his army could not keep the Assyrians away. Quickly he sent a message to their king, saying, "I have done wrong. Take your army away and I will pay whatever you ask."

When the king of Assyria got the message, he decided to do as Hezekiah asked. He would not destroy Judah by war. Instead he would ruin this little country by taking away all their riches. He demanded Hezekiah to pay him three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

Hezekiah did not know how he could gather so much silver and gold. First he took all he had in the palace. Added to this was all that he could get from the people. Still there was not enough. Finally he even had to take the silver and gold from the temple of the Lord.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**...And he rebelled against
the king of Assyria, and
served him not.**

II Kings 18:7.

Constrained By Kindness

Riding on a train across Tokyo, Japan, a young American man stared quietly out a window. Andy did not want to visit with any of the other passengers who were mainly older people and young mothers with their children.

At a station, the train door opened and a loud, angry man suddenly burst into the car. He was dirty and cursing terribly as he swung at a young mother and her baby. The blow sent her and the baby into the lap of an elderly couple and he took her seat. Then with a wild grin, this terrifying man turned around to look the passengers over.

Andy was very upset at the man's bullying conduct and he decided to "punish" him. An expert in karate, Andy trusted in his skill to work that man over. So when the angry man glanced at Andy, Andy made a face at him.

Of course, this made the man fly into a rage. "Aha!" he roared. "A foreigner! You need a lesson in Japanese manners!"

By now Andy had stood up and was holding on to the commuter strap overhead. The big, angry man bellowed loudly as he began his charge at Andy. This is what Andy wanted. He planned to step aside and take the man off-guard. Then he would give two well-aimed punches and set that angry man in order.

Just as the angry man began to run, a commanding voice shouted, "Hey!" Andy wheeled to his left and the angry man spun to his right then they both stared down at a little old Japanese man. His silver hair and kindly wrinkled face reflected a perfect picture of peace.

"What'cha been doin'?" he asked the angry man with a twinkle of interest in his eye.

"It's none of your business," spit the angry man.

"Oh," said the old gentleman with a smile on his face, "No doubt you have a wonderful wife who cares about you."

"No," replied the man as he faced the gentleman. "My wife died. I don't got no wife. I don't got no home. I don't got no job."

Then this man unclenched his fists and wiped a tear from his eye. "I'm so ashamed of myself."

"My, my," clucked the old gentleman softly, "these are difficult problems indeed. Please sit down here and tell me about them."

Andy watched in amazement as the old gentleman quieted the angry man with a few kind words and a listening ear. Andy felt ashamed of himself. He remembered the scripture, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." Prov. 15:1.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Hezekiah's enemy?
2. Who had carried the Israelites away captive?
3. What did the people have to pay to the king of Assyria?
4. Who taught the people to trust in God?
5. Why did Hezekiah get ready for an attack?
6. Who had the largest army?
7. Why did Hezekiah send a message to the king of Assyria?
8. What did the king of Assyria demand Hezekiah to do?
9. Why did Hezekiah take the silver and gold from the temple of the Lord?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 18:9-16.

(Answers: 1. The king of Assyria. 2. The Assyrians. 3. Heavy taxes. 4. Hezekiah. 5. He knew the king of Assyria would bring his army to force him to pay the taxes. 6. The king of Assyria. 7. He saw he could not keep the Assyrians away. 8. Pay him three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. 9. He could not gather enough from the palace and the people.)

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BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 15 Jan. 14, 1996

HEZEKIAH ENCOURAGES THE PEOPLE

Hezekiah sent all the silver and gold he could gather to the king of Assyria. But the king of Assyria was still not satisfied. Hezekiah knew that his enemy was determined to destroy Jerusalem. He must prepare for the battle! He and the people did all they could to make the city strong against the enemy.

Then Hezekiah gathered the people together. He knew they must soon face their cruel enemy and he wanted to encourage them. "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid of the king of Assyria and his multitude of soldiers," he told them. "The Lord our God is with us to help us and to fight our battles!" The people loved and trusted Hezekiah. They were comforted by his words.

After the king of Assyria demanded silver and gold from Hezekiah, he pulled his army away from Jerusalem as he had agreed. He would give Hezekiah time to gather the money.

The king was soon engaged in a battle against another city. When he learned Hezekiah could not meet his demands, he decided he would not leave this battle to attack Jerusalem. Instead he sent messengers to Hezekiah.

When the messengers got close to Jerusalem, they called for Hezekiah. Hezekiah did not go out. Instead he sent three of his servants to hear what they had to say. One of the messengers said, "Tell Hezekiah, 'The king of Assyria says, 'On whom do you trust, that you would rebel against me? If you are trusting the king of Egypt, he cannot help you. And if you say to me, 'We trust in the Lord our God,' He will not save you out of my hand. Your army is so small it could not turn away even one of my master's captains!'"

Hezekiah's servants did not want the people to understand the words of the messengers. They asked them to speak in the Syrian language instead of the language of the Jews. But they answered, "Our master has sent us to speak to the men of this city."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...With us is the
Lord our God to help
us, and to fight our
battles....
II Chronicles 32:8.**





Worth Understanding

"Puppies for Sale" said the sign in front of the store door. Passing by, a little boy read it and went inside to see about the puppies.

"How much are you going to sell the puppies for?" he asked the store owner.

"Anywhere between \$30 and \$50," replied the store owner.

The little boy brought out some change from his pocket. "I have \$2.37," he said. "Can I please look at them?"

Smiling, the store owner agreed and whistled for Lady, the mother dog, to come out of her kennel. Behind her trailed five, fluffy, baby puppies.

The little boy watched them with sparkling eyes. Then he noticed that one puppy lagged behind with a limp in his walk.

"What is wrong with that puppy?" asked the little boy as he reached down to pet the puppies around his feet.

"Oh, that poor little puppy doesn't have a hip socket," explained the store owner. "The veterinarian says it will always limp if it makes it at all."

"That is the very puppy I want to buy!" exclaimed the little boy.

"If you really want him," said the store owner, "then I will just give him to you. You don't need to pay money for him."

"No, sir," replied the little boy. "I want to buy him. He is worth just as much as all the other puppies. I will pay you \$2.37 now and give you some money every month until I have paid the full price for him."

The kind store owner shook his head. "That's okay, Sonny. Keep your money but you can have the puppy if you really want him. Do you realize he will never be able to run and jump

and play with you like the other puppies?"

With an understanding look in his eyes, the little boy smiled up at the store owner. Then he reached down and rolled up his pant leg to show his own badly crippled left leg supported by a big, metal brace.

In a quiet but determined voice he replied to the store owner: "Well, I don't run so well myself, and the little puppy will need someone who understands!"

That day a happy little boy walked out of the store with a loved puppy wiggling in his arms.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Hezekiah send to the king of Assyria?
2. Was the king satisfied with what he sent?
3. What did Hezekiah and the people prepare for?
4. Why did Hezekiah want to encourage the people?
5. Who did he say would fight their battles?
6. Why didn't the king of Assyria come at once to fight?
7. Who did he send to Jerusalem?
8. Who did Hezekiah send out to hear their message?
9. Why did the servants ask the messengers to speak in the Syrian language?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 18:17-27; II Chronicles 32:1-10.

(Answers: 1. All the silver and gold he could gather. 2. No. 3. The battle. 4. He knew they would soon face their cruel enemy. 5. God. 6. He was fighting another city. 7. Messengers. 8. Three servants. 9. So the people would not understand their words.)

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Vol. 47, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 16 Jan. 21, 1996

GOD HELPS JUDAH

Rabshakeh, a messenger from the king of Assyria, stood where he was easily seen and heard by many men of Israel. "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria!" he shouted in the Jew's language. Hezekiah's servants had begged him to not speak in the language all the people understood.

"Do not let Hezekiah deceive you," Rabshakeh continued. "He shall not be able to deliver you from the king of Assyria. Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying, 'The Lord will surely deliver us, and this city shall not be taken by the king of Assyria.'"

"Do not listen to Hezekiah. Make an agreement with the king of Assyria. Give up the city and come out to be his servants. Then you can stay in your own homes until he comes to take you away to a land much like your own. Then you will live and not die in the battle.

"Have any of the gods of other nations delivered their land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of all the nations we have conquered? Then how can the Lord deliver Jerusalem out of our hand?"

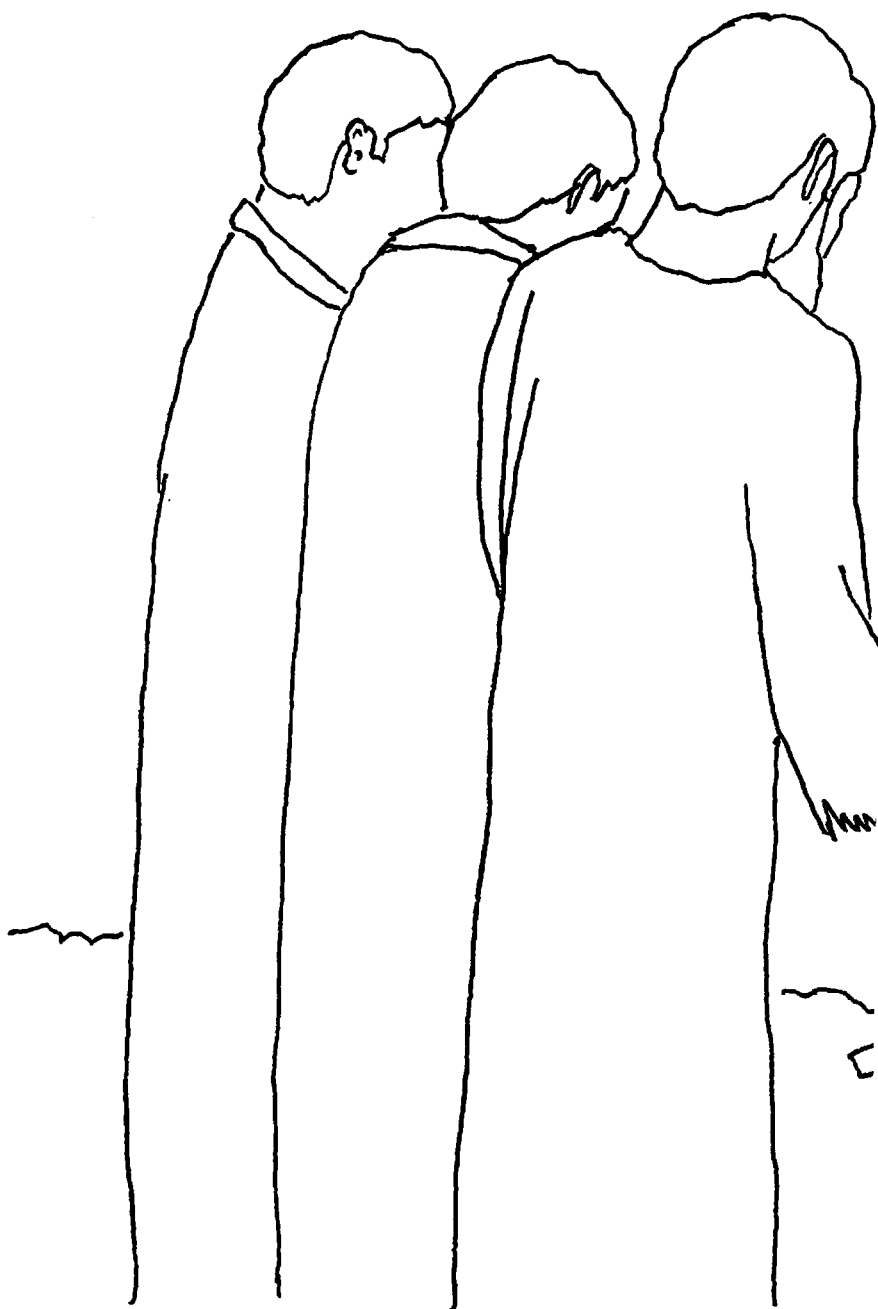
The people heard the awful threats and blasphemy against God. But they held their peace and answered him not a word. Hezekiah had commanded, "Answer him not."

Then the servants went back to the palace with their clothes torn to show how troubled they were. When they told Hezekiah the words of Rabshakeh, he tore his own clothes and covered himself with sackcloth. Then he went into the house of the Lord.

Hezekiah knew Isaiah, God's prophet, could help. He sent his servants to beg him to pray that God would save His people. Isaiah listened to their message, then he sent them back saying, "Tell your master, The Lord says to not be afraid of the words you have heard. He will send a blast upon the king of Assyria. He will hear bad news from his own land that will cause him to go back to his homeland."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...Be not afraid of the words
which thou hast heard,...
II Kings 19:6.**





Reaching Out

Dwight was an average first grade student attending a large, inner-city school. His sloppy, oversized clothes and tossed, untrimmed hair gave him the appearance of neglect though he was not a troublemaker.

On the playground, Dwight usually played alone or he would stand by the school building and watch the other children playing. His teacher, Mrs. Appleton, noticed his shyness. She would take Dwight by the hand and with encouraging words lead him into a game some of the children were playing.

With happy, glowing eyes, Dwight would join in the game if the children accepted him. However, some of the children were not kind to Dwight, perhaps because of his clothing and tacky appearance. They would not include him in the game. Sometimes they would act like he wasn't even there.

Mrs. Appleton would notice these times. Then she would call Dwight to come and stand by her and keep her company. They would chat small talk and, in time, became good friends.

One day Mrs. Appleton gave each of her students a piece of drawing paper. "I would like for you to draw a picture of something you are thankful for," she said to her first grade class. "You may draw a picture of your house if you are thankful for your house. Draw some clothes if you are thankful for what you have to wear. You may want to draw a picture of your favorite food. Then you could draw a picture of your mother and father, brother or sister if you are thankful for your

family. When you are finished, I will put your pictures here on the bulletin board."

As Mrs. Appleton took up the pictures, she noticed Dwight's picture right away. It was simply a hand outline.

"Dwight, could you explain your picture to me?" she kindly asked.

"Yes, Mrs. Appleton," he replied with a cheery grin. "That is a picture of *your* hand."

A warm feeling swept over Mrs. Appleton as she gave Dwight's shoulders a hug. Then she remembered the times on the playground when she would take Dwight by the hand and lead him into the games. Sometimes she would hold his hand when they visited. Her hand had helped Dwight just like God's hand helps His children.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Rabshakeh?
2. Who did Rabshakeh say was the great king?
3. Whose language did he speak in?
4. Who begged him not to speak in that language?
5. Who did Rabshakeh tell them to make an agreement with?
6. Who heard his awful threats and blasphemy?
7. Who told them not to answer?
8. Where did Hezekiah go when he heard the bad news?
9. Who said the king of Assyria would go back home?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 18:27-19:9.

(Answers: 1. Servant of the king of Assyria. 2. The king of Assyria. 3. The Jew's. 4. Hezekiah's servants. 5. The king of Assyria. 6. The people. 7. Hezekiah. 8. To the house of the Lord. 9. Isaiah.)

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Vol. 47, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 17 Jan. 28, 1996

GOD WINS THE BATTLE!

The messengers returned and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah. Soon word came to the king saying that the king of Ethiopia had come to make war against Assyria. The king hurried home to defend his own country. But he had not forgotten Hezekiah. He sent more messengers to him. This time they carried a letter from the Assyrian king.

"Do not let thy God, in whom you trust, deceive you by saying, 'Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.'" he wrote to Hezekiah. "You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by destroying them completely. How will you be delivered? Have the gods of other nations delivered them?"

Hezekiah took the letter from the messengers and read it. He knew his little army could not drive the enemy away. He must have God's help! So Hezekiah took the letter into the temple and spread it out before the Lord. Then he prayed, "O Lord, you alone are God. You made heaven and earth. Hear all the words that the king of Assyria sent to reproach You.

"It is true, the kings of Assyria have destroyed other nations and have thrown their gods in the fire. But they were not gods, only the work of men's hands. Now, O Lord our God, save us that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the Lord, and You alone."

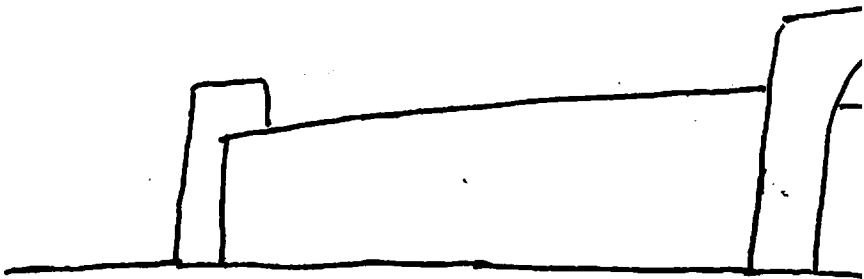
Then Isaiah sent a message to Hezekiah, saying, "The Lord says, 'I have heard your prayer against the king of Assyria. He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there. For I will defend this city, to save it for My own sake.'"

That very night, the angel of the Lord went through the camp of the Assyrians. He smote one hundred and eighty-five thousand. Among the dead were all the leaders of the army. The Assyrians hurried back to their own land in great fear. They never returned to fight Hezekiah. God won the battle!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

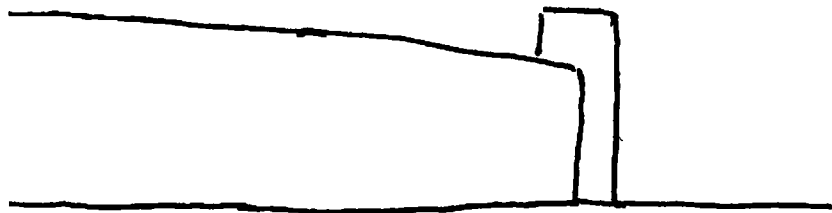
Notice to Children: Dr

**For I will defend
for mine own sa**



angel above the city.

**ity to save it
saiah 37:35.**



A Whistling Train

(A True Story)

Officer Lance Land is an ordinary policeman who is concerned about the welfare of others. One night on his evening patrol he saw a black sports car stalled on a railroad crossing.

When his cruiser drove up behind the stalled car, a young mother jumped out of the car and asked him for help.

"David is still buckled in his car seat," she said of her three-year-old son. "I need to get him out."

All of a sudden warning bells clanged and the crossing bars swung down, landing on top of the stopped car.

"O, dear God, there's a train coming—help us!" prayed Officer Land as he sprang into motion. He could not push the car with his police cruiser because the back wheels were locked on the stalled car. He knew he had to push the car from the front. "Give me strength, Lord!" he prayed under his breath.

The train's alhorn was blasting—the speeding train was screaming down toward them.

The mother was in the car struggling to unfasten David's seat belt. "Mommy, that train is going to smash us," David said quietly. Everything was happening so fast he did not realize the amount of danger they were in.

Officer Land was at the front of the car when the train gave another warning blast. With a sudden burst of strength, he lifted the front of the car and pushed with all his might. It moved three feet back but was still on the railroad tracks.

The mother was still in the car, unable to free her little boy. Officer Land knew he could not leave the car but he had to push it farther out of the train's way. He saw the bright lights of the train were only 30 feet away and coming with lightning speed.

With another boost of energy, Officer Land picked up the car and pushed it another nine feet. Right when he set it down, he felt something brush the back of his shirt. It was the train. Just then the mother freed David and Officer Land took the boy in his arms. "You're my policeman," said David.

"Just thank the Lord," Officer Lance told him and his mother. "He gave me strength beyond my normal ability." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who sent more messengers to Hezekiah?
2. What did they carry?
3. Who knew his army could not drive the enemy away?
4. Where did Hezekiah take the letter?
5. What did he do with it?
6. Who did the king of Assyria reproach?
7. Who sent a message to Hezekiah?
8. Who went through the camp of the Assyrians?
9. Who won the battle?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 19:8-37; II Chronicles 32:17-22; Isaiah 37:8-37.

(Answers: 1. The king of Assyria. 2. A letter. 3. Hezekiah. 4. To the temple. 5. He spread it out before the Lord. 6. God. 7. Isaiah. 8. An angel. 9. God.)

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Vol. 47, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 18 Feb. 4, 1996

HEZEKIAH'S LIFE IS LENGTHENED

One day Hezekiah became very, very sick. Isaiah the prophet came to visit him. He had a message for him from the Lord. "The Lord says, 'Set your house in order because you will soon die,'" Isaiah told him.

When Hezekiah heard these words, he turned his face to the wall. He was very sick but he wanted to talk to the Lord. He prayed, saying, "I beg you, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before You in truth and with a perfect heart. I have done that which is good in Your sight." Then Hezekiah broke down and cried bitterly.

God heard Hezekiah's prayer and He saw his tears. God spoke to Isaiah again before he could get out of the palace. He said, "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the captain of my people, The Lord says, 'I have heard your prayer and I have seen your tears. I will heal you. In three days you will go up to the house of the Lord.'" Then God promised to add fifteen years to his life.

"How will I know that the Lord will heal me?" Hezekiah asked Isaiah. "What sign will He give me?"

"This shall be the sign," Isaiah answered, "the shadow on the sundial will either go forward or backward ten degrees."

"It is nothing for the shadow to go forward ten degrees," Hezekiah answered. "Let the shadow go backwards."

So Isaiah prayed to the Lord and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward. Now Hezekiah knew the Lord was going to heal him.

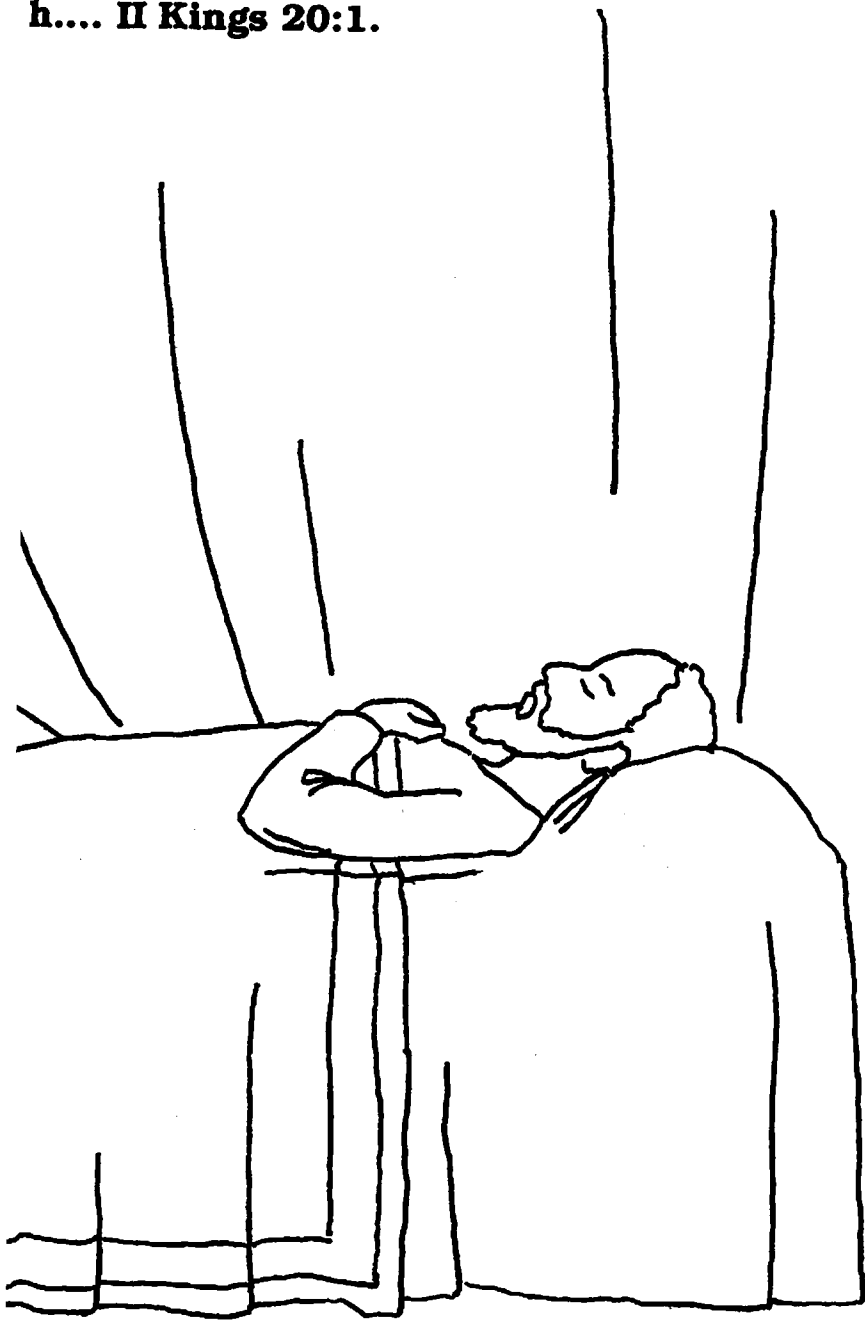
Just as God had promised, Hezekiah was healed. He lived for fifteen more years. He became very rich and built a great kingdom.

When Hezekiah died, all the people mourned. He had been a good king, and they loved him.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**rs was Hezekiah sick unto
h.... II Kings 20:1.**



Victory In The Heart

Vickie lived in the thick, deep forest of eastern Canada. She was the oldest of several younger brothers and sisters and because of this, she helped her Mother in the kitchen and often attended the baby. The family had to work very hard to have enough food on the table and so it was that Vickie often missed days of school.

Her school teacher, a kind, Christian woman, noticed Vickie seemed tired and short of patience most of the time. She knew it was the heavy workload that caused Vickie to be this way and she prayed for her.

One day the teacher said to Vickie, "We are having a revival at our church this week. Would you like to attend a night service with me?"

Vickie's eyes lit up with hope. She had never attended church before. "Could you write a note to my parents and ask them?" she asked her teacher.

So her teacher wrote the note and Vickie eagerly took it home. Finally, her parents said, "Yes!" but she had to be home by 9:30.

Thirty minutes before the church service started, the teacher drove down the dusty, gravel road to Vickie's house. Vickie was already waiting. Out to the car she ran and off to church they went.

At the chapel, Vickie watched with wide eyes everything that was done and she listened carefully to the message. The minister spoke about the blood of Jesus that washes away sins in the heart. He explained how this is salvation from sin and that a saved Christian no longer wants to do bad things, but good.

On the way home, the teacher asked Vickie if she had any questions. "Yes," she replied quietly. "Will you ask my mother and father to come also? My family needs to know about Jesus."

"Why, by all means, yes," replied the teacher. "I will write a note for you to give to your parents right now."

When Vickie's mother read the note, she thought it would be good to go. However, her father was very cold. "Our family doesn't need to waste time at church," he said. After some pleading, he agreed that Vickie could attend Sunday morning service with her teacher only if she did her work well throughout the week.

In time, Vickie asked Jesus to wash away her sins with His blood and she became a Christian. Daily, she prayed for her family's salvation.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who became very sick?
2. Who came to visit him?
3. What did he have for Hezekiah?
4. What did Hezekiah do when he heard the words?
5. Who did he want to talk to?
6. Where would Hezekiah go in three days?
7. What did God do as a sign to Hezekiah?
8. How much longer did he live?
9. What kind of king had Hezekiah been?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 20.

(Answers: 1. Hezekiah. 2. Isaiah. 3. A message from the Lord. 4. Turned his face to the wall. 5. The Lord. 6. To the temple. 7. Took the shadow ten degrees backward. 8. Fifteen years. 9. A good king.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 19 Feb. 11, 1996

JOSIAH AND THE FORGOTTEN BOOK

Josiah was only eight-years old when he became king. He reigned over Judah for thirty-one years. While Josiah was still young, he began to seek after God. He destroyed the places of idol worship and broke the idols in pieces. When he had rid the land of idol worship, he returned to Jerusalem. There he gave orders that the temple of the Lord be cleaned and repaired. After Hezekiah's death, the temple had been neglected.

Josiah hired many skillful workmen to make the temple beautiful again. While the repair work was going on, the high priest, Hilkiah, cleaned the rooms of the temple. There, hidden away beneath some rubbish, he found a book of the law of the Lord given to Moses. This book was to be read to the people but the wicked kings had served idols instead of God. The book of the law had been forgotten.

Carefully Hilkiah carried the precious book to Shaphan, the scribe. "I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord!" he told him.

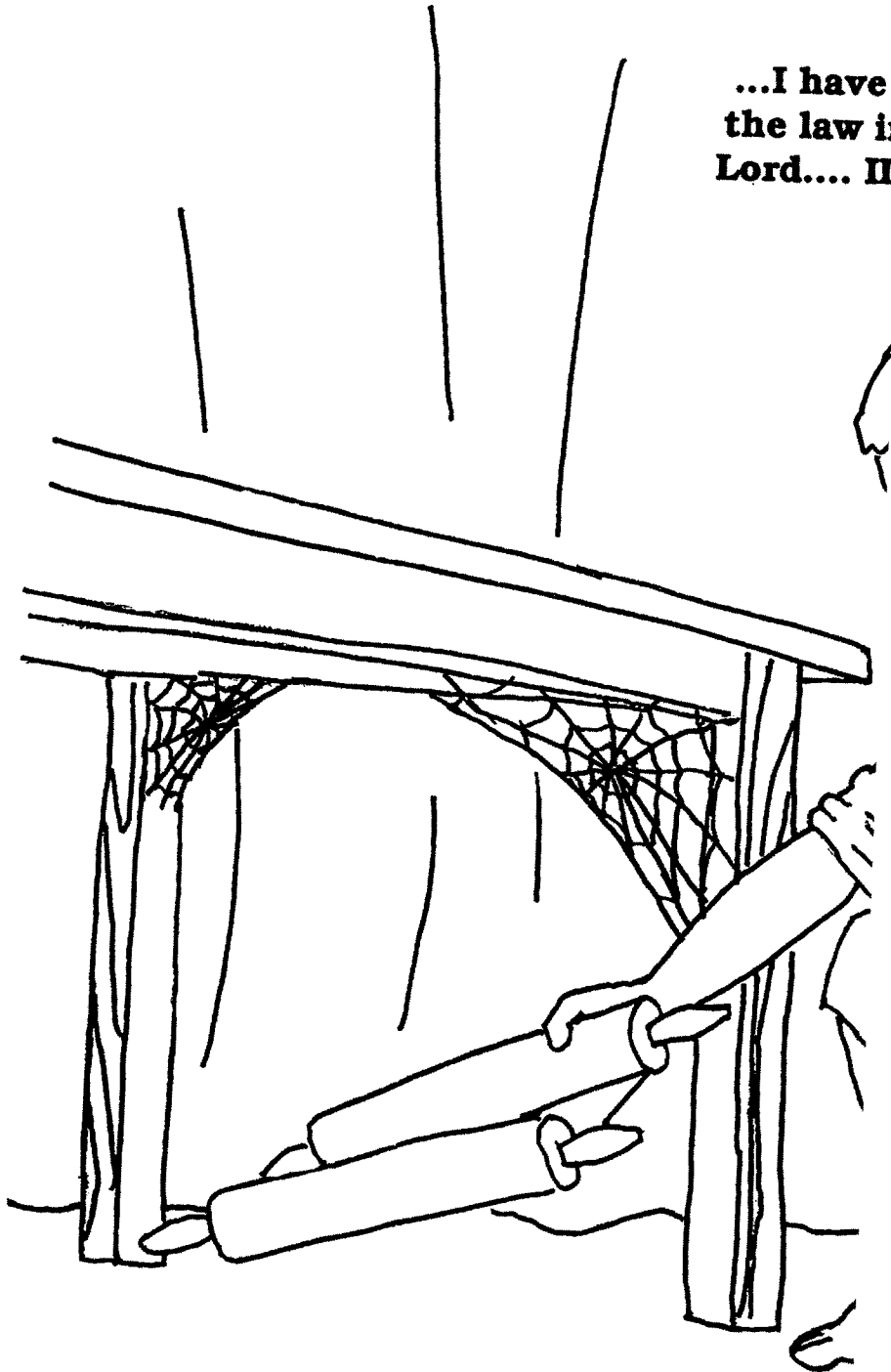
Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan who then took it to Josiah. "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book," Shaphan told the king. Then he began reading the book to Josiah. When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes and wept bitterly. His people had disobeyed God's law. Surely God would punish them just as the book said He would! What would happen to him and his people?

Josiah told the priest to ask God about the words of the book. So Hilkiah went to Huldah the prophetess to ask her about God's plan to punish the people for their sins.

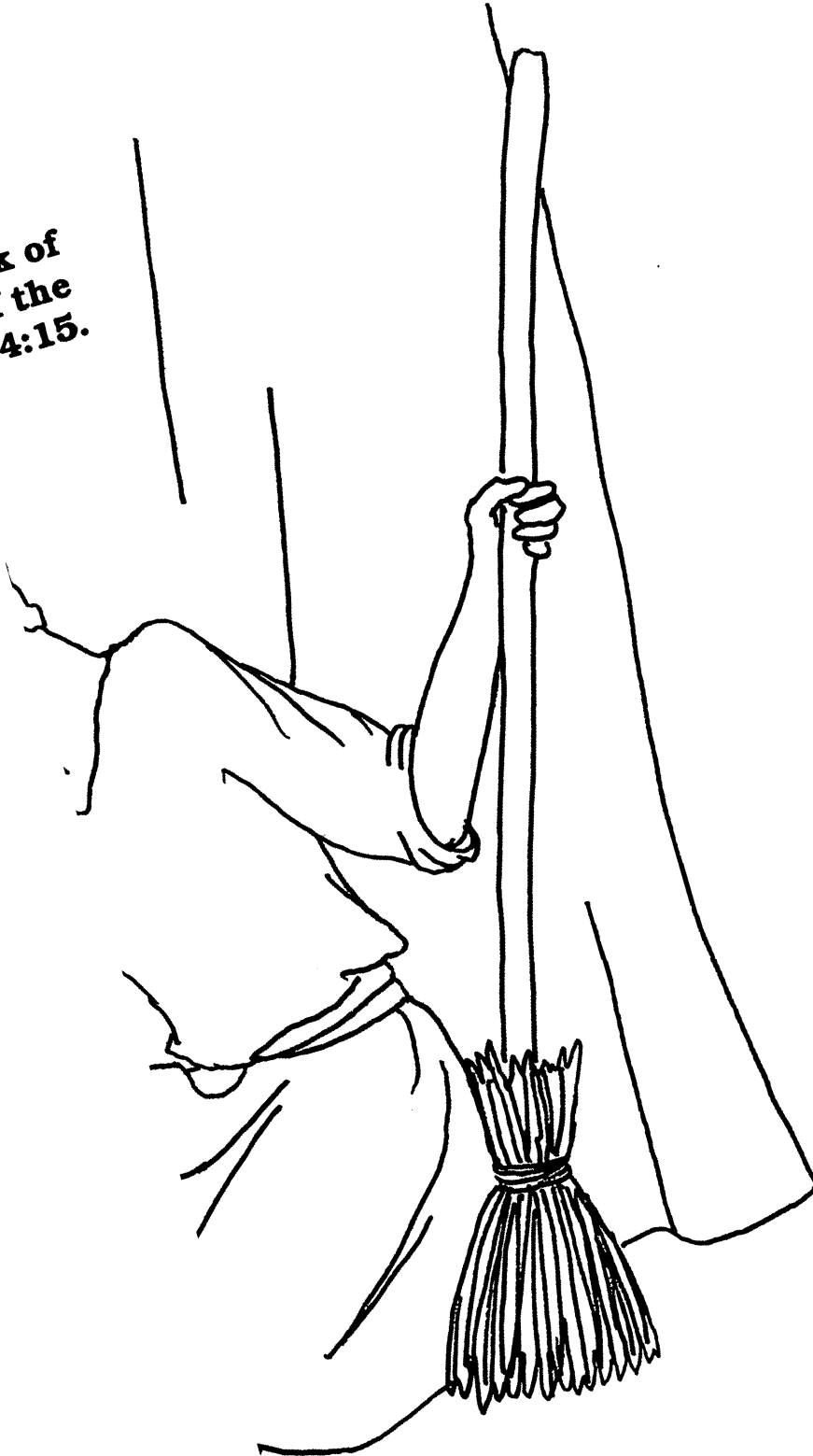
"God will send great punishment to those who forsake His law," the prophetess told them, "But because Josiah has humbled his heart, God will not punish the people during his lifetime."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...I have
the law in
Lord.... II**



**book of
e of the
s 34:15.**



The Peacemaking Fudge

(Continued from last week.)

Vickie, a young Canadian girl, learned about Jesus through her school teacher. During an altar service, she asked Jesus to wash away her sins by His blood and now she was saved. Daily she prayed for her family, who didn't know about salvation. Her father didn't want her to even talk about Jesus in his presence. At school, Vickie and her teacher prayed together that the Lord would deal with his heart.

"You are very quiet today," said the teacher to Vickie during lunchtime one day. "Is something wrong?"

"Well," sighed Vickie. "I still become angry and I don't like it when I do. Last night when Dad got mad and cursed at me, I became angry and hollered at him. Oh, teacher, I can never lead my family to Jesus if I can't live the Christian life before them."

"You need to be sanctified," replied her teacher. "When you got saved, your old sins were washed away and your heart was made whiter than snow. Now you need to let the Holy Spirit of Jesus live in your heart and keep it clean. We can pray right now if you would like."

So in a back closet of the school, Vickie asked the Holy Spirit to come into her heart and fill her with His love. She felt so much lighter and happier after prayer!

"Now let me give you some guidelines to follow," said her teacher. "When your father gets angry at you, don't answer him but sing a good song to yourself. Then do something very nice for him. Return his evil with good and this will let him see Jesus in you."

That night, as Vickie cleared the dirty supper dishes from the table,

she accidentally stepped on her father's bad toe. Right away, he hollered at her and began to curse. This time Vickie had grace to not reply but she began to sing a song to herself.

"Make your father some fudge," whispered the Holy Spirit of Jesus. "What a good ideal!" she said under her breath. Jesus even knew that her father was very fond of fudge! She sang while she made fudge and her father dozed in his easy chair. When she heard him waking up, she took the fudge to him. "What? Is this for me?" he asked in amazement. Then he looked at his daughter and said, "I'm sorry, Honey, for the way I talked to you. Will you forgive me?"

"Yes, Dad, I do," replied Vickie. Making the fudge had softened her father. "Thank you, dear Jesus, for helping me," she prayed.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. How old was Josiah when he became king?
2. How long did he reign over Judah?
3. Who did he seek after?
4. What did he do with the idols?
5. Where did they find a book of the law of the Lord?
6. What did Josiah do when he heard the words of the book?
7. Who had disobeyed God's law?
8. Who was Huldah?
9. Who had humbled his heart?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 22; II Chronicles 34:1-28.

(Answers: 1. Eight years old. 2. Thirty-one years. 3. God. 4. Broke them in pieces. 5. Beneath some rubbish. 6. He tore his clothes and wept bitterly. 7. The people. 8. A prophetic. 9. Josiah.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 20 Feb. 18, 1996

JOSIAH READS TO THE PEOPLE

Josiah did not want to forget the words of God's law. He wanted his people to hear God's Word also. So Josiah sent messengers throughout all the land to call the people to Jerusalem.

When the people came, Josiah read the words of the book of the law that was found in the house of the Lord. That day the king promised to keep the law and to serve the Lord with all his heart. He commanded the people to make the same promise, and they did.

Later, when Josiah had been king for eighteen years, he commanded all the people, "Keep the Passover unto the Lord your God, as it is written in the book of this law." So the people came from every part of the land and prepared for the Passover Feast. The king gave many lambs from his own flocks for the Passover supper. The people rejoiced together and kept the feast for seven days. There had not been such a great Passover since the days of the prophet Samuel.

One day Josiah learned that the king of Egypt was marching through the land of Judah. He had not come to fight Josiah. He was on his way to fight the Assyrians. But Josiah did not want this army going through his country, so he got ready to attack them.

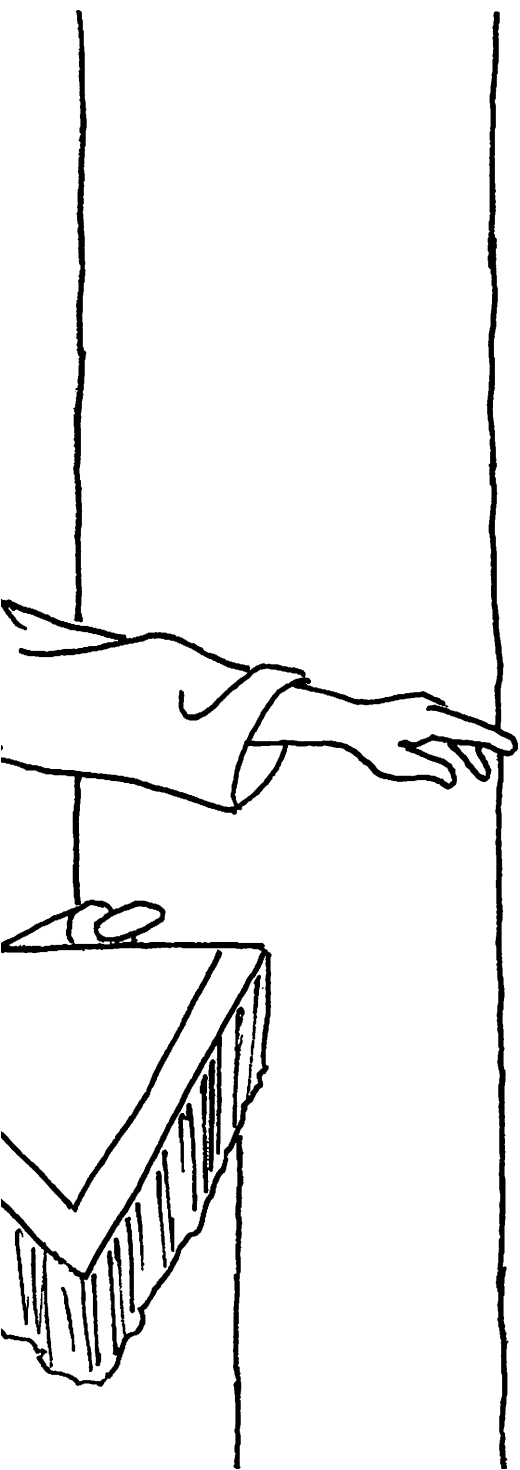
The king of Egypt did not want to fight with Josiah. He sent word for Josiah to go back home, but Josiah would not go. Instead he dressed like an ordinary soldier and went out to battle. During the fight he was wounded by an arrow. Josiah knew he was hurt badly. He told his servants to take him away from the battle. Carefully they helped him into a chariot and took him back to Jerusalem.

Josiah never recovered from his injury. He died and was buried among the honorable kings of Judah. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...And he read in their ears
words of the book of the co
that was found in the hous
Lord. II Chronicles 34:**





The Money In The Envelope

(Continued from last week.)

In her family, Vickie was the only one who was a Christian. On Sunday morning, she attended church with her schoolteacher. Daily, Vickie prayed for her family that they would want to attend church and get saved. Her father was especially bitter toward the Lord. By the grace of God, she desired to win him to the Lord.

"Vickie, come here!" called her father one morning as the children were preparing for school. "I need you to give this envelope to Jim Hunter for his father. In it is the money for the axe that I bought from him. His son will be expecting this money so don't forget it."

"Yes, sir," said Vickie. She tucked the envelope in a pocket of her skirt. It was nice to be trusted with money. She remembered it all the way to school. As she sat on the school bus, she felt the edge of the envelope with her fingertips. After she climbed off the bus and walked into the school hallway, Vickie again checked her pocket and felt the envelope with a contented touch. She did not know how much money was in the envelope but she was determined to give it to Jim Hunter as soon as possible.

Vickie was in her seat when the last bell rang. As the teacher called roll, she glanced around to see if Jim Hunter was there. Yes, he was sitting at the back of the classroom talking in a loud whisper with a friend. Vickie would give him the money as soon as class was over.

Finally, class was over. Vickie went straight to Jim. "Hello, Jim," she said. "My dad asked me to give you this envelope. Please give it to your father."

"Yeah, thanks," said Jim. "He told

me that you would give me an envelope. I'll see that he gets it."

Now Vickie was relieved. She had done her part and she didn't worry about the axe money anymore—not until two days later.

"Vickie, come here," called her dad. "Did I not give you an envelope with money in it to give to Jim Hunter? Why did Jim never get the money?"

"I-I gave him the money," stammered Vickie. "Right after the first class. I hope he didn't lose it."

"No, Jim told his father that you never gave him the envelope. Now you say you did. I don't know who to believe." Vickie looked at her father's frowning face. Would he believe that she was honest? —Sis. Connie Sorrell
(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did not want to forget the words of Gods law?
2. Why did he call the people to Jerusalem?
3. What did Josiah do when the people came?
4. What did the king promise that day?
5. What feast did the people prepare for?
6. What did the king give for the Passover supper?
7. Who was marching through the land of Judah?
8. What did the king of Egypt tell Josiah to do?
9. What happened to Josiah during the fight?

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 23:1-30; II Chronicles 34:22-35:24.

(Answers: 1. Josiah. 2. To hear God's Word. 3. Read the book of the law to them. 4. To keep the law and serve the Lord. 5. The Passover Feast. 6. Many lambs. 7. The king of Egypt. 8. To go back home. 9. He was wounded with an arrow.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 21 Feb. 25, 1996

JEREMIAH ANSWERS GOD'S CALL

Men who taught God's law were called prophets. God chose these men to teach the people His commandments. God told them what to say, and commanded them to tell this to the people.

Most of the messages God gave them were warnings to the people. They often warned them to stop disobeying God and encouraged them to do God's will. Sometimes God would tell the prophet what would happen in the future.

While Jeremiah was still a young man, God called him to be a prophet. This call frightened Jeremiah. He told the Lord, "I cannot speak. I am still a child!"

God did not accept Jeremiah's excuse. "You will go to all that I shall send you, and whatever I command you, you will speak," God told him. "You must not be afraid of the people because I am with you." Then the Lord touched Jeremiah's mouth and said, "I have put My words in your mouth."

Knowing God was with him and would give him the words to speak took away Jeremiah's fear. He would obey God. Jeremiah knew that wicked men often mistreated God's prophets. They did not want to be reminded of their awful sins. But God had promised to deliver him if He would trust God and not be afraid of men.

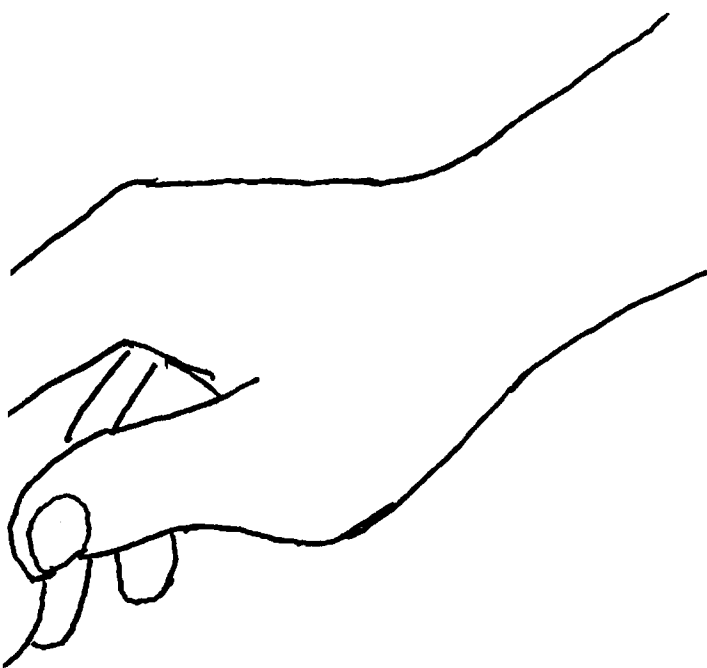
While Josiah was king, Jeremiah was treated kindly. After Josiah died, the people began worshiping idols again. They did not care for the true God and refused to obey Him. Jeremiah went through the land reminding people of their sins and of the punishment that would come. The people kept on sinning. They paid no attention to Jeremiah's warning.

Trouble soon came to the land of Judah, just as Jeremiah had warned. The king of Egypt captured their new king and then demanded heavy taxes from the people every year.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**ut my words in thy mouth.
Jeremiah 1:9.**



The Missing Money

(Continued from last week.)

Vickie's father was asking her about the envelope with the axe money in it. He had given it to her to give to Jim Hunter at school. Jim was to give it to his dad who claimed he never received it. Vickie knew in her heart that she had given the envelope to Jim right after class but now it was just her word against his. How would she prove that she was faithful on her part?

"I don't know what to do," sighed Vickie's father. "I should have known better than to trust such a delivery service with children. Check all your skirt pockets and coat pockets. Make sure you do not have that envelope and forgot to give it to Jim. I can't afford to pay for that axe again."

Vickie obeyed and checked every pocket on every skirt but she knew she would not find it. She had given that envelope with money to Jim. Vickie went to school with a heavy heart.

"Why are you so sad?" asked her teacher at lunch break.

With a tearful voice, Vickie explained about the missing envelope and how she was accused of not giving it to Jim.

"Does your father think you were dishonest?" asked the teacher.

"My dad asked if I had forgotten to give it to Jim but he didn't ask if I had taken it. Oh, I hope the Hunters will find the money and admit they have misplaced it."

"Let's pray about this," replied her teacher. "The Lord knows where the money is and He can allow it to be found."

So Vickie and her teacher prayed earnestly about this money matter.

They also prayed for Vickie's father and her family that they would come to church and want to be saved.

"Thank you," said Vickie to her teacher with a little hug. "Prayer always makes things better."

This season of prayer gave Vickie the grace she needed for that night. Her father was really in a grouchy mood. His speech was peppered with curse words that made Vickie sad.

"I told Tom Hunter that I ain't about to pay him again for that axe," boasted her father. "We got into an argument about which kid lost the money and I said I'd bet money on my girl that she gave the envelope to Jim. Vickie, I'm a-countin' on you to be honest because you are a Christian and go to church now."

While her father talked, Vickie was praying. —Sis. Connie Sorrell
(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Men who taught God's law were called what?
2. Who chose these men?
3. What did they teach the people?
4. Who told them what to say?
5. Who was called to be a prophet?
6. What took away Jeremiah's fears?
7. Who often mistreated God's prophets?
8. What did the people worship after Josiah died?
9. Who warned the people that trouble would come?

LESSON TEXT: Jeremiah 1-6.

(Answers: 1. Prophets. 2. God. 3. God's law. 4. God. 5. Jeremiah. 6. Knowing God was with him and would give him the words to speak. 7. Wicked men. 8. Idols. 9. Jeremiah.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 22 Mar. 3, 1996

JEREMIAH WARNS THE PEOPLE

God told Jeremiah, "Go stand in the gate of the Lord's house. Tell My words to the people as they enter the gates to worship."

Jeremiah did as God commanded. He took his place by the gate of the temple and called out to the people as they came to worship. Jeremiah had to shout to be heard above the noise of the crowd. "The Lord God of Israel says, 'Change your ways or this land will not always be your home,'" he cried. "Coming to the temple will not help you unless you live right. You must be fair to one another. You must not make life hard for strangers, or orphans, or the widows. You must not worship other gods."

They heard Jeremiah's warning but they did not change their wicked ways. Jeremiah tried again to warn the people. This time he took a heavy wooden yoke and put it on his shoulders. This was a strange sight! The people stopped to look. Then Jeremiah called out, "Unless you listen to God's warning and turn to Him, you will someday wear the yoke of your enemies!"

Another time Jeremiah took the priests and those who would follow him to a place beside the Pottery Gate. There Jeremiah dashed a piece of pottery to the ground and broke it into tiny chips. He told them the country would be broken to pieces unless they repented.

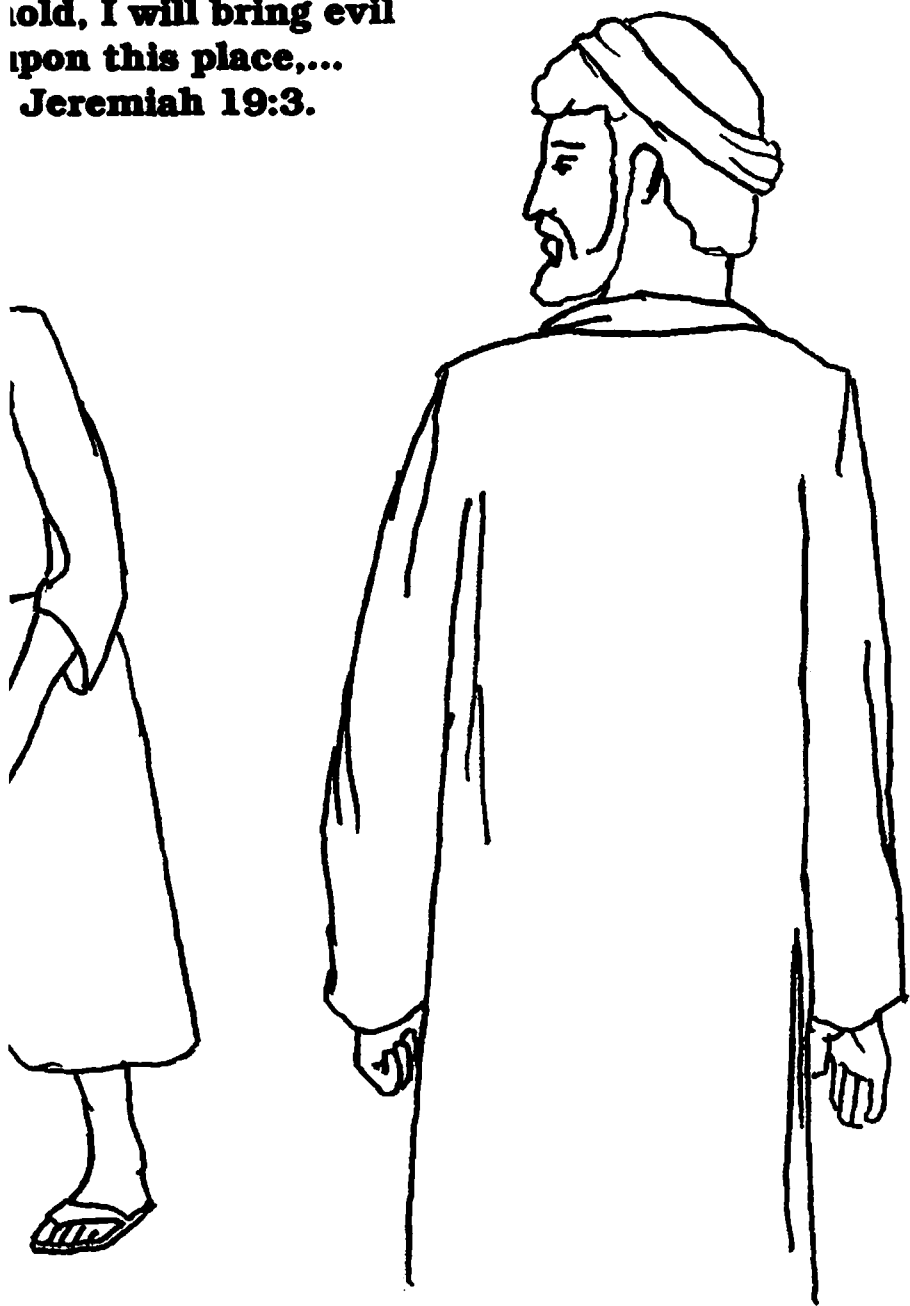
The people did not like to be reminded of their sins. Even the men of Jeremiah's hometown turned against him and wanted to kill him. But Jeremiah was not afraid. He went on preaching. He even went to the king and told him, "The Lord says you must be just and fair. Unless you do what is right, your kingdom will be destroyed."

It seemed Jeremiah's warnings did no good, but God sent him to the temple again. This time he said, "The Lord says this temple will be destroyed and the city burned if you will not listen to His prophets and keep His laws!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**us saith the Lord of
ts, the God of Israel;
old, I will bring evil
upon this place,...
Jeremiah 19:3.**



Double Crossed

(Continued from last week.)

Vickie had given Jim Hunter money in an envelope to pay for an axe her father had bought from Jim's father. Two days later, Mr. Hunter called and asked Vickie's father about the money. Now each father was arguing that 'my' child did not lose the money but 'your' child did. Vickie's father believed in her honesty because she had been living right before him. However, Mr. Hunter insisted that he had not been paid yet. Vickie and her teacher had prayed about this and her father had become very angry.

"I'll give that dirty hound his axe back before I give him another red cent!" bellowed her father at the supper table. "I think he or his son has the money but they are lying."

"I'm sorry about this, Dad," said Vickie. "My teacher and I have been praying that they will find the money. I know I gave it to Jim at school."

"You can pray about it if you want," retorted her father. "I'm going to do something about it."

Vickie's mother was worried. "Please don't do anything rash," she pleaded. "Just be quiet about it and maybe Mr. Hunter will admit he has the money."

"He better admit it pretty soon! I'm not going to have anybody call me a liar and thief. I paid him fair and square for that axe and he wants me to pay him twice. I'll not do it, I say..." and so Vickie's father fussed all evening long.

A few days passed; then weeks; and soon it was three months since the money was missing. Both men were not speaking to each other since the fight they had. Every day

Vickie prayed that peace would be made.

One morning at school, Vickie's teacher had some interesting news. "Vickie, the same thing happened to Gary and his dad that happened to you," she told Vickie at lunch. "Gary's dad bought a chainsaw from Mr. Hunter. He paid half the money then and sent the other half to school with Gary to give to Jim for his dad. Now Mr. Hunter says he never received the payment but Gary knows he gave Jim the money."

"That is the same thing that happened to me!" exclaimed Vickie. "I will tell my father about this! Now he will know for sure that Mr. Hunter is dishonest. Let's pray for the Lord's help."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who told Jeremiah to stand by the gate of the Lord's house?
2. What was he to tell the people?
3. Who must the people not worship?
4. Did the people change their wicked ways?
5. What did Jeremiah put on his shoulders?
6. Whose yoke would they wear if they did not turn to God?
7. What did Jeremiah dash to the ground?
8. The people did not like to be reminded of what?
9. What would happen if they did not listen to the prophets?

LESSON TEXT: Jeremiah 7-35.

(Answers: 1. God. 2. God's words. 3. Other gods. 4. No. 5. A heavy yoke. 6. Their enemies' yoke. 7. A piece of pottery. 8. Their sins. 9. The temple would be destroyed and the city burned.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 23 Mar. 10, 1996

JEREMIAH WRITES A BOOK

Word came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, "Take a roll of a book and write in it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations. Maybe the people will repent of their sins when they hear this book read."

Jeremiah called Baruch to help him. As Jeremiah spoke God's words, Baruch wrote them down. They worked a long time. Finally the scroll was finished.

Jeremiah was not allowed to enter the temple. He told Baruch, "I cannot go into the house of the Lord. I want you to take the book and read it in the temple on a special day when there will be many people to hear. Tell them that these are the words of the Lord. When they hear this, maybe they will repent of their sins."

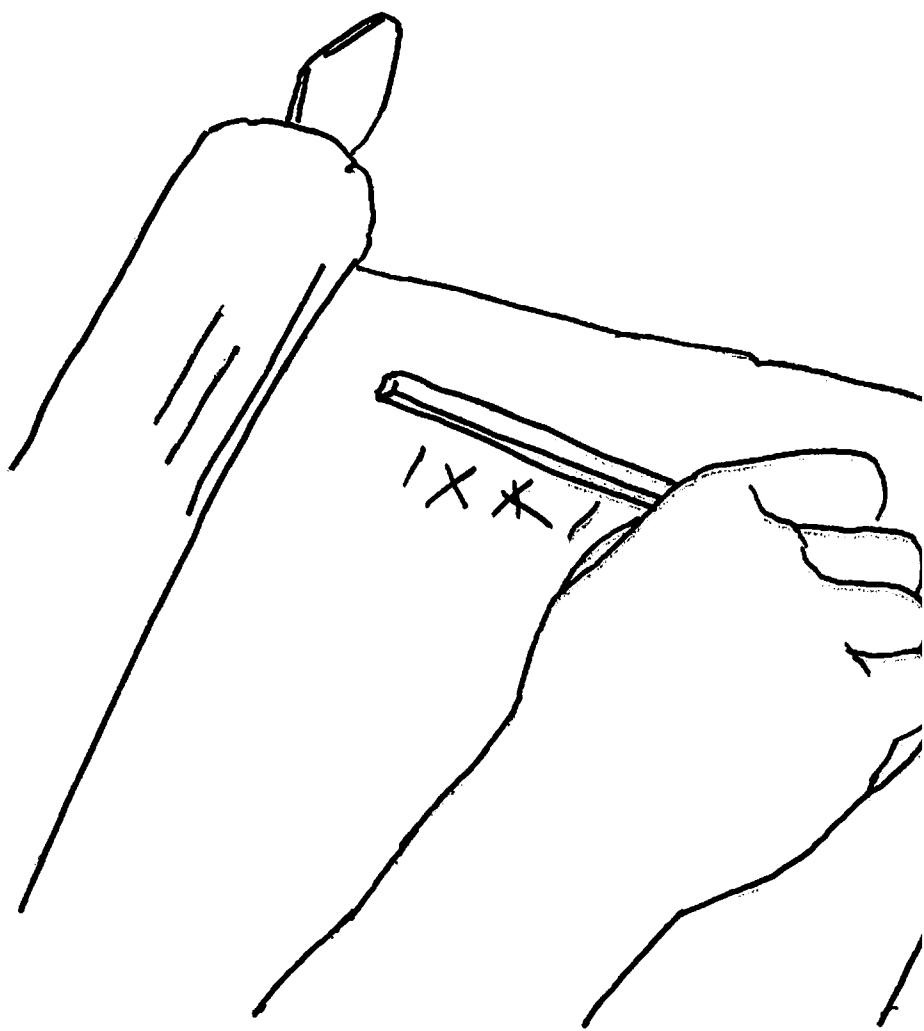
Baruch did as Jeremiah asked. A priest's son was much impressed when he heard the book read. He hurried to the palace to tell the princes all he could remember of what Baruch read. The princes were so excited that they sent for Baruch to come and read the book for them. They listened eagerly to every word. They became very frightened when they heard that their country would be captured because the people had forsaken God! The princes believed God's message.

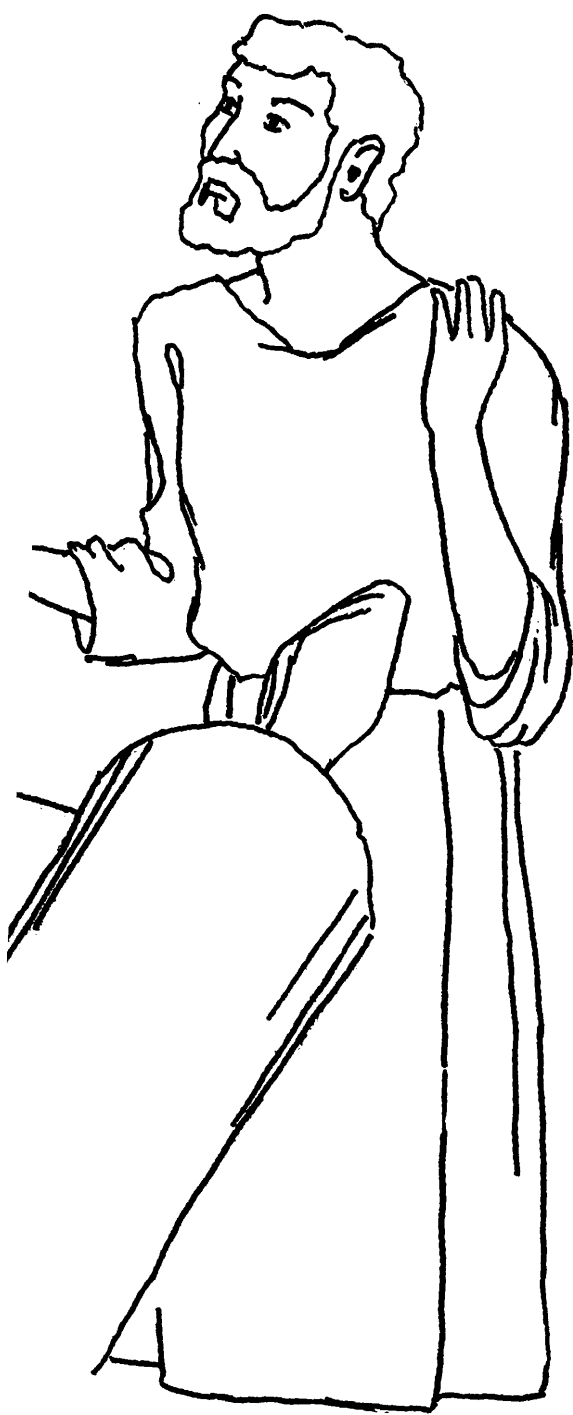
The princes decided the king must hear the book also. They feared he might be angry because Jeremiah wrote about the sins of the nation. They told Baruch, "Go and hide. Take Jeremiah with you. Do not let anyone know where you are!"

The princes brought the book to King Jehoiakim as he sat before his blazing fireplace. King Jehoiakim commanded them to read the book aloud. He listened as three or four leaves were read. Then he took his knife and cut the book in shreds and threw it into the fire.

When Jeremiah learned what happened, he told Baruch to take another roll and write in it all the words that were in the first book. The second book was even longer. It told how Jehoiakim would be punished. Not long afterwards Jeremiah's words came true. Jehoiakim was put in prison and his people were carried away to Babylon. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**Take thee a roll of a book
write therein all the words
I have spoken unto thee
Jeremiah 36:2.**





Released

(Continued from last week.)

"Mother, I need to talk to you," said Vickie when she came home from school.

"Then let's go to my bedroom," said her mother. Once they had shut the door, Vickie told her mother about Gary's father, who had bought a chain saw from Mr. Hunter. He had paid half when he got it and then sent the other half of the money to school with Gary to give to Jim, his son. Now Mr. Hunter claims that Gary never gave the money to Jim and he is demanding the other half of the money.

"You see, Mother," finished Vickie. "Mr. Hunter is doing the same thing to Gary and his dad that he did to us. I just don't know if Dad should know. It may make him angry again."

Mother was quiet for awhile. Then she said, "Maybe I should call Gary's mother and talk to her about it. Together we may be able to reach an agreement with Mr. Hunter."

That evening Mother did call Gary's mother and soon both families could see that Mr. Hunter was trying to take extra money from them. The next day when both men faced Mr. Hunter about it, he finally backed down and told them he wouldn't ask for anymore money.

"How cheap can a man be!" exclaimed Vickie's father to his family. "A man doesn't know who he can trust anymore!"

Without thinking, Vickie said, "'All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.' People who don't live for Jesus are sinners."

Her father opened his mouth to say something but Vickie had already realized her blunder. "I'm sorry, Dad, but Jesus does help

Christians to do good. I love you, Dad, and I hope you aren't angry at Mr. Hunter anymore."

Without a word, Vickie's father got up from his chair and left the room. All that week, Vickie and her teacher prayed for her father—and they thanked the Lord for answering prayer about the money.

Though Vickie couldn't tell it, the Lord was dealing with her father's heart. Much to her amazement, Sunday morning he was up early and told the family to get ready—they were all going to church with Vickie.

"I don't want my family to be dishonest sinners," he said with a respectable glance at Vickie, who was delighted to know that the Lord was answering her prayers.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell
(The End.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who told Jeremiah to write a book?
2. What was he to write?
3. What did God hope the people would do when they heard the words?
4. Who did Jeremiah call to help him?
5. How did he help?
6. Who was not allowed to enter the temple?
7. Who was impressed when they heard the words read?
8. What did Jehoiakim do with the book?
9. Why was the second book longer?

LESSON TEXT: Jeremiah 36.

(Answers: 1. The Lord. 2. God's words. 3. Repent. 4. Baruch. 5. He wrote the words Jeremiah told him. 6. Jeremiah. 7. The princes. 8. Cut it up and burned it. 9. It told how Jehoiakim would be punished.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 24 Mar. 17, 1996

JEREMIAH IN THE DUNGEON

Other kings ruled over Judah after Jehoiakim was taken captive. Even with the changes in kings, Jeremiah's troubles did not end. While Zedekiah was king, enemies again threatened Judah. Jeremiah went among his people warning them that the enemy would take the city and burn it. The princes became so angry with him that they threw him into a dungeon.

Enemy armies came closer and closer to Jerusalem. The city was in great danger. The king was so afraid that he secretly sent for Jeremiah. When Jeremiah came, he asked, "Tell me, is there any word from the Lord?"

If Jeremiah's words pleased the king, the prophet would be free again. Jeremiah knew he must tell God's message faithfully even if he did have to stay in a dark dungeon. Bravely he said, "You and your armies will be captured by the king of Babylon." Then Jeremiah begged the king to not send him back to the dungeon.

The king listened carefully. He decided to send Jeremiah to the home of a prison guard. There he would have better care.

This change gave Jeremiah a little more freedom. He again began to warn the people of the terrible things that were going to happen to them. The people became so angry that they threw Jeremiah into an old well that had deep mud in the bottom.

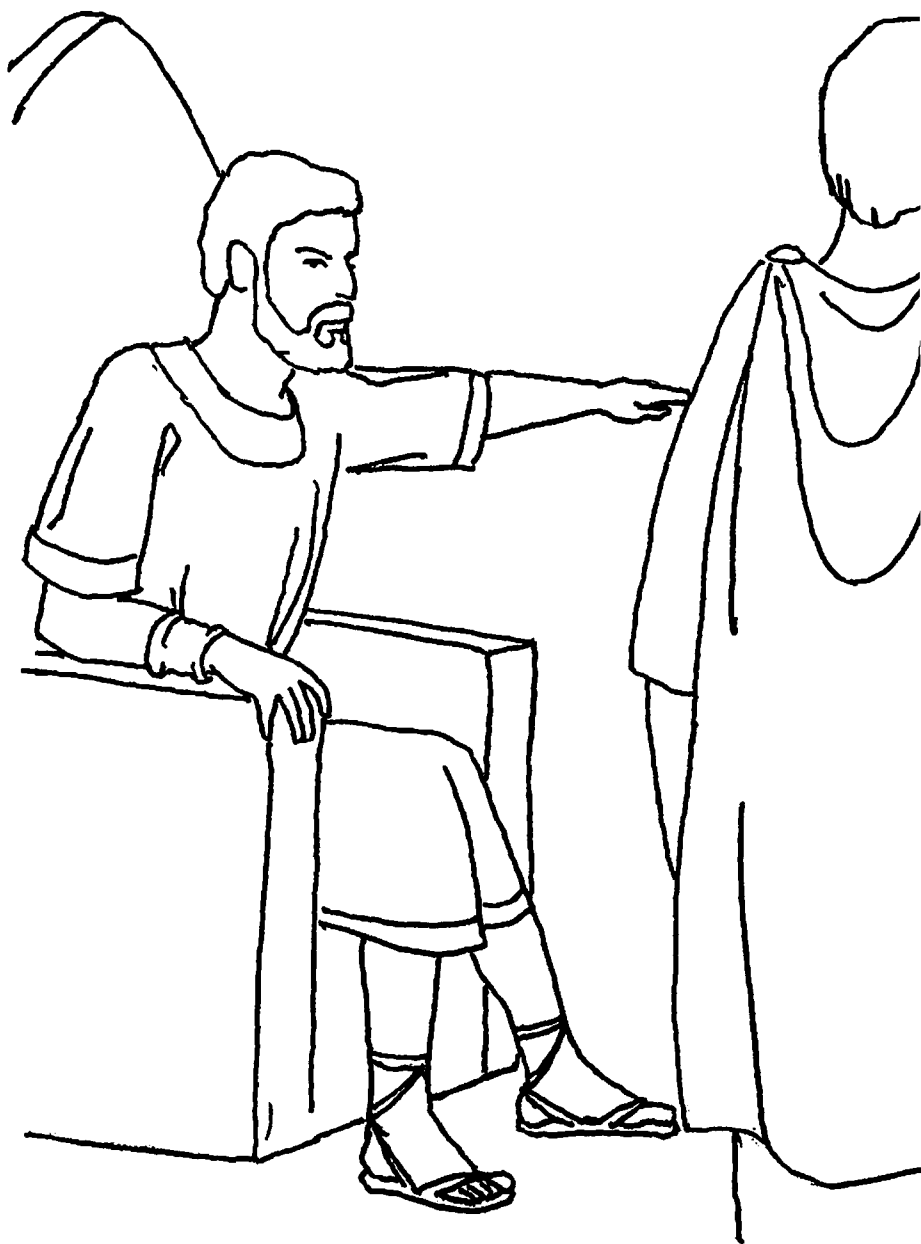
Jeremiah would have died, but a kind man named Ebedmelech went to the king and pleaded for the prophet. He said, "O King, these men have done wrong by throwing Jeremiah into that pit. He will die there without food or water."

The king ordered, "Take thirty men and get Jeremiah out."

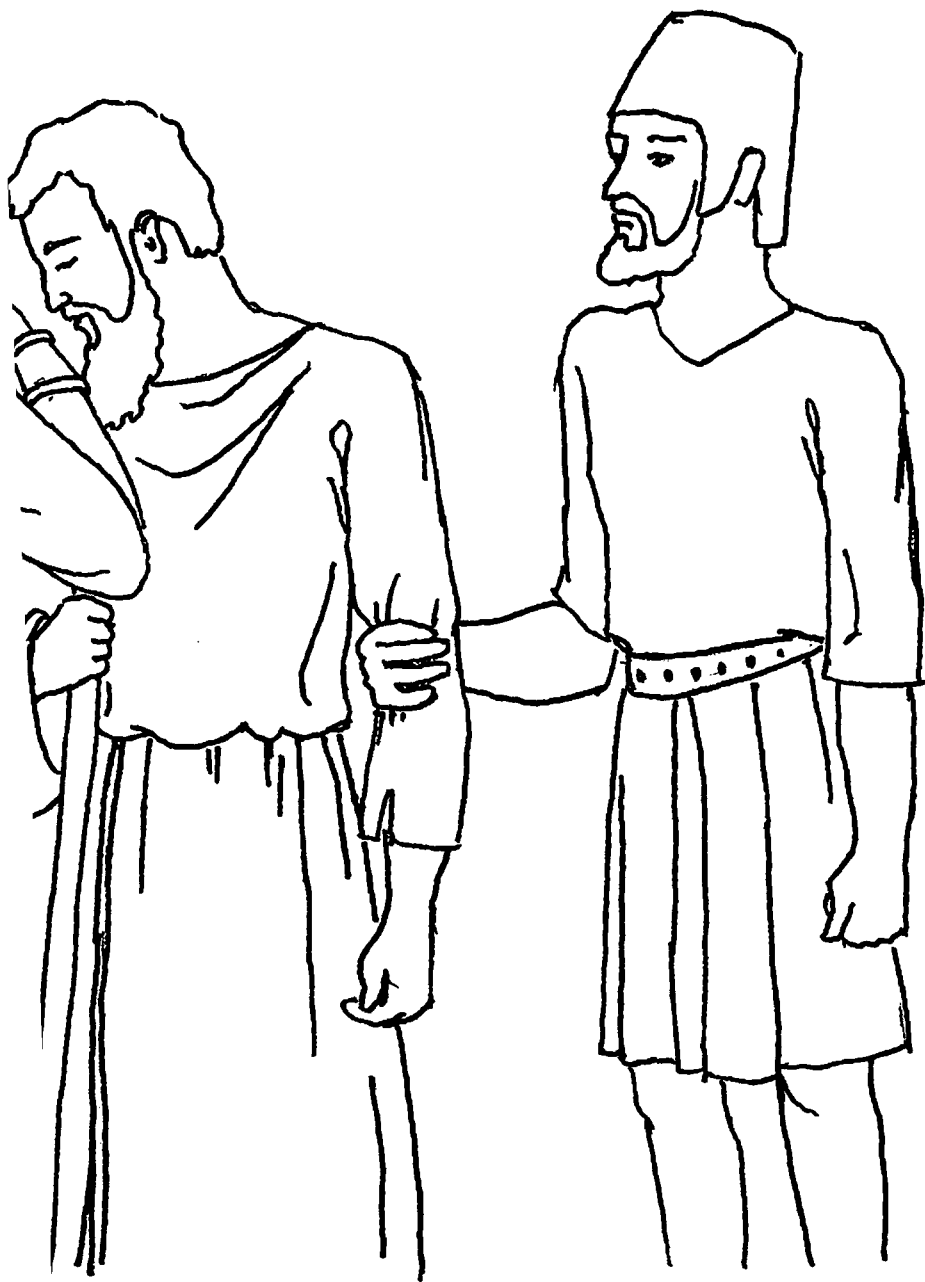
Ebedmelech got ropes that were long enough to reach Jeremiah. Then he found old clothes and rags and took them to the mouth of the pit. Ebedmelech let down the ropes and rags and told Jeremiah to put the rags under his arms so the ropes would not hurt him. When he had the ropes fastened securely, the men carefully pulled Jeremiah up out of the muddy pit.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...The princes were wroth
him, and put him in pr**



**emiah, and smote
eremiah 37:15.**



Imprisoned For Doing Good

(A True Story)

Our story today is about a man named John, who lives in Nicaragua, a South American country which has been war-torn for many years. John is an educated man who has tried to help the people improve from their poor ways of life. John was raised in the German Church of God though he is a black who speaks English. He was taught to respect life and assist the weaker, which is not the normal way in Nicaragua.

A party of restless people began to rebel against the government. They called themselves Sandinistas. The leaders of this rebellion sold cocaine and marijuana, which are dangerous drugs, to the people of the Bluefields where John lived. John knew these drugs were dangerous and he began to warn the young people of the traps the Sandinistas were setting for them.

Things became worse and, because of a civil war, food was not available for all the people. Then the stronger ones began to push the weaker down, but John worked with others to keep things more fair so that all could have a little to eat.

Because John was such a good leader, a leader from the Sandinistas came to John and asked him to join their group. They bragged on his influence and intelligence. John said, "No," making the Sandinistas angry. In time, they arrested John and put him in an underground prison.

Each prisoner was punished according to his crime. Because John was an educated man, they wanted to weaken his mind. So the guards were told to never let John sleep. A light was left on all the time and

John lost track of time. When he would get weary and begin to nod, a guard would shout at him or bang on his cell door. Sometimes they would take him out of his cell and make him walk up and down the long hall in front of the other cells. When John became so tired that he could hardly think, an officer would question him. The officer would yell that he was brainwashed and must change his mind.

Through these hard trials, John prayed in his heart. He did not have physical strength of his own but by the grace of God he was able to stay true to the Lord. In time, the Sandinistas lost most of their power. John was released from prison by the demand of the U.S. government. He is now back in the Bluefields of Nicaragua teaching about Jesus.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who became angry with Jeremiah?
2. What did they do to him?
3. Who came nearer and nearer to Jerusalem?
4. Who sent for Jeremiah secretly?
5. What did Jeremiah beg of the king?
6. Where did the king send Jeremiah?
7. What did the people do to Jeremiah?
8. Who pleaded for Jeremiah?
9. How did Jeremiah get out of the muddy pit?

LESSON TEXT: Jeremiah 37-38.

(Answers: 1. The princes 2. They put him in a dungeon. 3. Enemy armies. 4. The king. 5. To be kept out of the dungeon. 6. To the home of a prison guard. 7. Threw him in a pit. 8. Ebedmelech. 9. He was pulled out with ropes.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 24 Mar. 17, 1996

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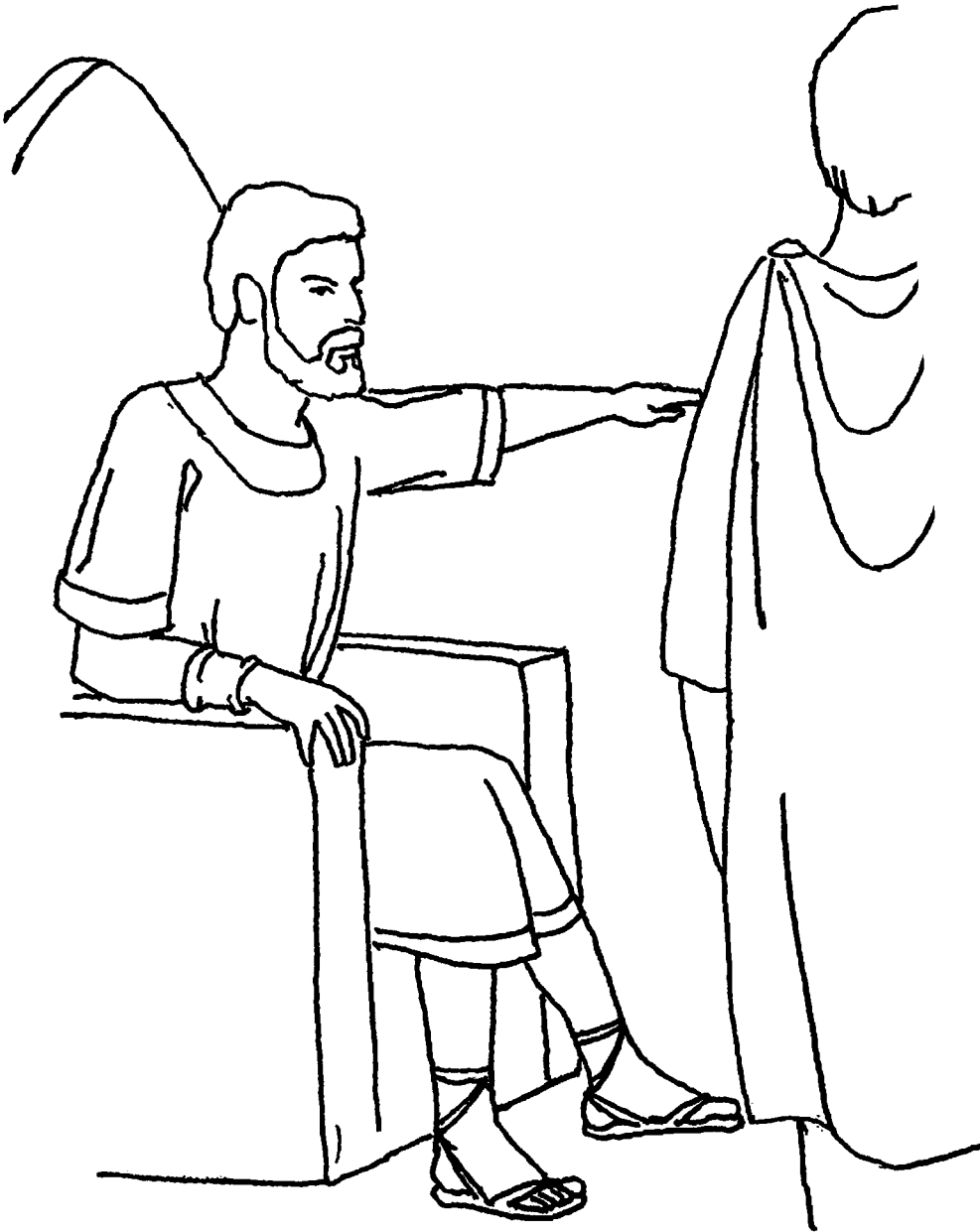
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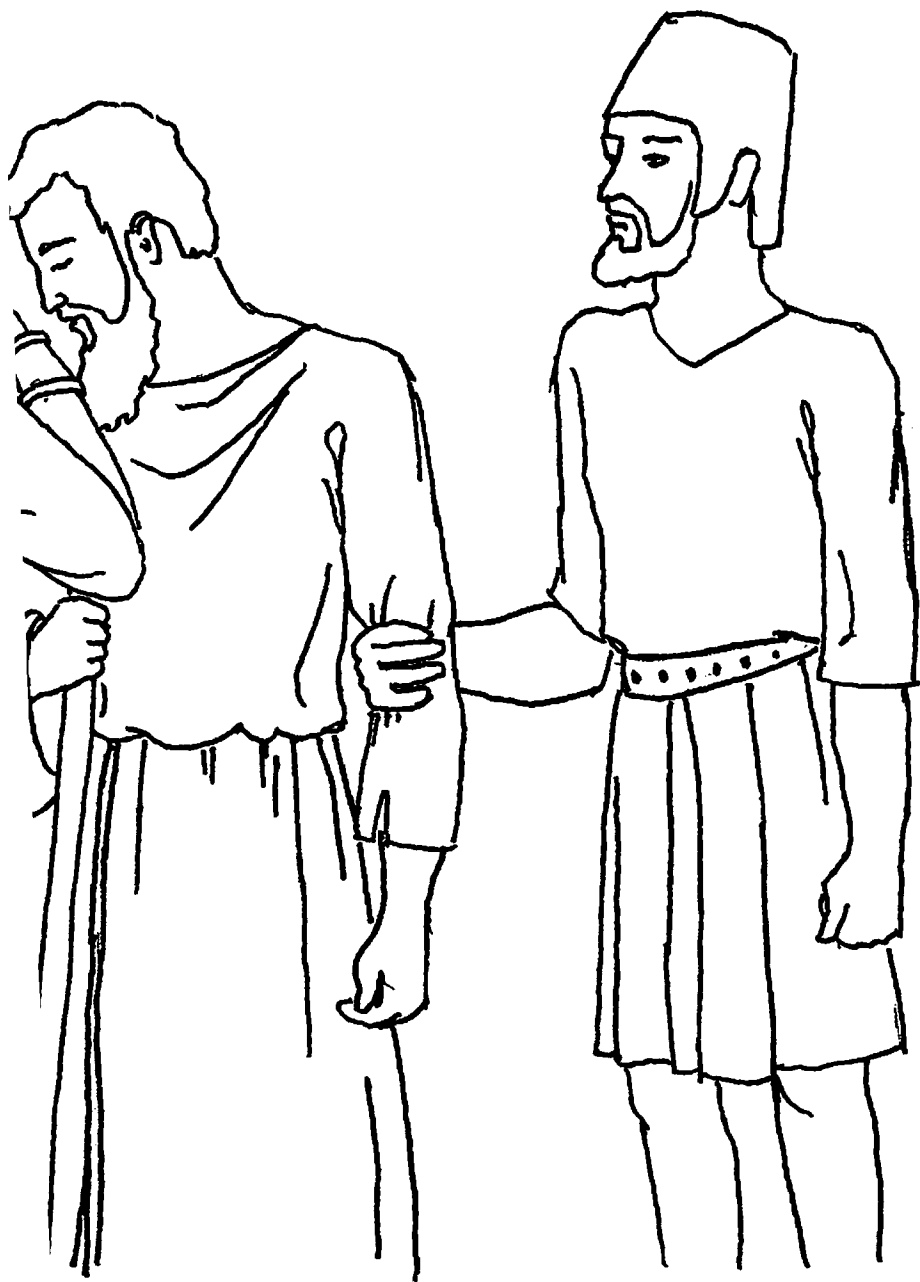
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—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

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Our story today is about a man named John, who lives in Nicaragua, a South American country which has been war-torn for many years. John is an educated man who has tried to help the people improve from their poor ways of life. John was raised in the German Church of God though he is a black who speaks English. He was taught to respect life and assist the weaker, which is not the normal way in Nicaragua.

A party of restless people began to rebel against the government. They called themselves Sandinistas. The leaders of this rebellion sold cocaine and marijuana, which are dangerous drugs, to the people of the Bluefields where John lived. John knew these drugs were dangerous and he began to warn the young people of the traps the Sandinistas were setting for them.

Things became worse and, because of a civil war, food was not available for all the people. Then the stronger ones began to push the weaker down, but John worked with others to keep things more fair so that all could have a little to eat.

Because John was such a good leader, a leader from the Sandinistas came to John and asked him to join their group. They bragged on his influence and intelligence. John said, "No," making the Sandinistas angry. In time, they arrested John and put him in an underground prison.

Each prisoner was punished according to his crime. Because John was an educated man, they wanted to weaken his mind. So the guards were told to never let John sleep. A light was left on all the time and

John lost track of time. When he would get weary and begin to nod, a guard would shout at him or bang on his cell door. Sometimes they would take him out of his cell and make him walk up and down the long hall in front of the other cells. When John became so tired that he could hardly think, an officer would question him. The officer would yell that he was brainwashed and must change his mind.

Through these hard trials, John prayed in his heart. He did not have physical strength of his own but by the grace of God he was able to stay true to the Lord. In time, the Sandinistas lost most of their power. John was released from prison by the demand of the U.S. government. He is now back in the Bluefields of Nicaragua teaching about Jesus.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who became angry with Jeremiah?
2. What did they do to him?
3. Who came nearer and nearer to Jerusalem?
4. Who sent for Jeremiah secretly?
5. What did Jeremiah beg of the king?
6. Where did the king send Jeremiah?
7. What did the people do to Jeremiah?
8. Who pleaded for Jeremiah?
9. How did Jeremiah get out of the muddy pit?

LESSON TEXT: Jeremiah 37-38.

(Answers: 1. The princes 2. They put him in a dungeon. 3. Enemy armies. 4. The king. 5. To be kept out of the dungeon. 6. To the home of a prison guard. 7. Threw him in a pit. 8. Ebedmelech. 9. He was pulled out with ropes.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 25 Mar. 24, 1996

THE END OF THE KINGDOM

Jeremiah did all he could to turn the people from their wicked ways. Even the chief of the priests broke the laws of God. The kings refused to follow the way of the Lord. God showed much mercy and sent many messages to warn them, but the people only mocked at the words Jeremiah told them. Finally God could show no more mercy. He brought Nebuchadnezzar, the Chaldean king, against them.

Nebuchadnezzar's great army surrounded Jerusalem. Jeremiah told King Zedekiah, "This city will be given into the hands of the Chaldeans. Their army will capture the city, break down its wall, and even destroy the beautiful temple of the Lord. But God will not let Nebuchadnezzar kill the people of Jerusalem if they will offer to become His servants. Then they will not need to starve to death inside the city."

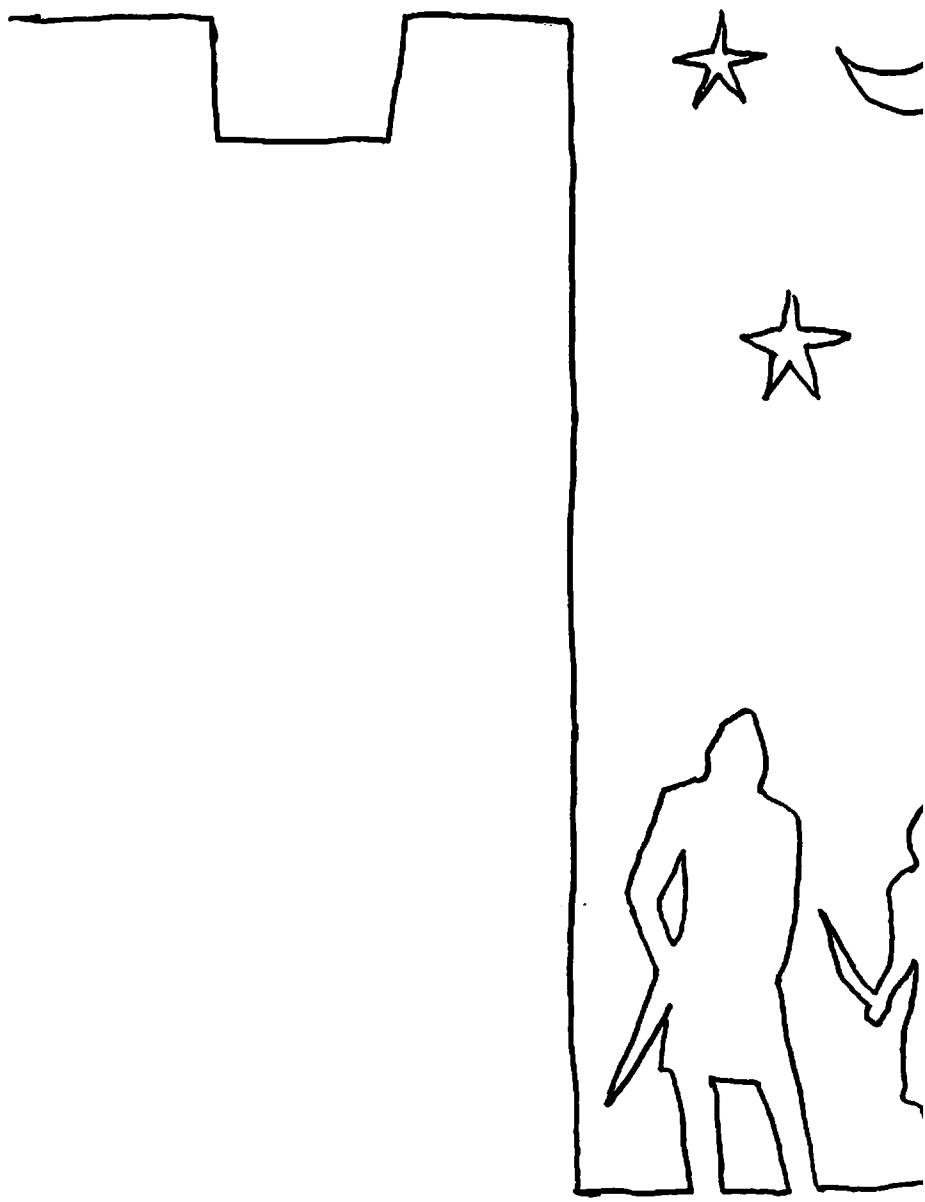
Now Jeremiah was kept in the court of the prison and treated more kindly. But he was not allowed to go through the city or talk to the people.

The people of Jerusalem and their king did not want to give themselves up to Nebuchadnezzar. Month after month passed by. They stayed inside the walls of Jerusalem and suffered from hunger and thirst. Jeremiah suffered with them.

At last, when all the food was gone, the king decided to slip away from Jerusalem during the night. He thought he could get away unnoticed. But King Zedekiah had not gone far when he was captured by his enemies. They led him to Babylon. Most of the people of Judah were taken with him, and only the old, the weak and the very poor were left in the land. Because Ebedmelech had rescued Jeremiah from the pit, God protected him and he was not captured.

Nebuchadnezzar and his army broke down the walls of Jerusalem. They took all the gold and silver vessels from the temple and carried them back to their own land. Then they burned the city.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**When the city
is broken up,
all the men
of war fled,...
Jeremiah 52:7.**



The 'Needful' Woman

She was a homeless, nameless woman who spent her days and nights on the streets in spring, summer, fall and winter. Marie felt sorry for this poor, old soul that seemed forsaken by all. However, a friendly, "Hello" was about all she could force herself to say when she would hurry by the bent, toothless, old woman.

Her odor nearly sickened Marie's stomach. The old woman wore warm layers of clothes upon her unwashed body. Her rotting teeth stank and her greasy hair hung in gray strings all around her head.

Even though Marie wanted to help the homeless woman, she didn't know what to do or how to do it. That is why when Marie went by the old woman she simply said, "Hello" and hurried by.

One very cold night Marie thought about the old woman and wondered if she was hungry or out in the cruel wind. Marie thought of her so much that she made a nice plate of food from her family's bountiful dinner. Then Marie slipped outside into the cold, dark night. Her body shivered as she started her car and backed it into the street.

Marie slowed her car down as she neared the post office where the old woman usually slept. Sure enough, Marie saw her in the icy cold, huddled against the wall of the post office.

"Poor old woman," she thought. "Why didn't she go to a shelter for the night?"

Marie pulled her car up to the curb, then forced herself to get out and approach the old woman who looked suspiciously at her. "Hello friend, would you like a plate of

food? I have brought some for you." Marie said cheerfully.

The old woman's toothless mouth mumbled a few words and Marie had to listen carefully to hear.

"No, I am quite well fed," she said. "Why don't you give the food to someone who needs it?"

Marie was amazed. "Could I take you some place warmer to sleep for the night?"

"No, I am quite comfortable," she replied. "The shelters are too crowded with others tonight."

Marie felt completely defeated as she went back to her waiting car. How could she help someone who refused to be helped? This poor soul did not realize her needs.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did all he could to turn the people from their wicked ways?
2. What king did God bring against them?
3. What city did Nebuchadnezzar's army surround?
4. Where was Jeremiah kept now?
5. What did the people suffer from?
6. Who decided to slip away during the night?
7. Who captured him?
8. Where were the king and most of the people taken?
9. What happened to the city?

LESSON TEXT: II Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 37-38.

(Answers: 1. Jeremiah. 2. Nebuchadnezzar. 3. Jerusalem. 4. In the court of the prison. 5. Hunger and thirst. 6. The king. 7. The enemy. 8. To Babylon. 9. It was burned.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 1 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 26 Mar. 31, 1996

CAPTIVES IN A STRANGE LAND

Nebuchadnezzar and his army destroyed Jerusalem, just as Jeremiah prophesied. Most of the people were taken to Babylon as prisoners. Even King Zedekiah was a captive. But Jeremiah was treated kindly by the Chaldeans. He was not taken prisoner. He was allowed to stay in Jerusalem.

Jeremiah felt very sorry for his people. He grieved for them so much he was sometimes called "the weeping prophet." God did not forget His people either. He told Jeremiah to write a message of comfort and hope to those in captivity. God promised to bring them back to their own country if they would try to please and serve Him while they lived in Babylon.

Now the people knew the words Jeremiah spoke came from God. They wanted to return to their homes in Jerusalem, so they tried hard to please and serve God. They would often meet in small groups to talk about the homes they had left behind and the beautiful temple of the Lord that had been destroyed. They cried because they were so homesick.

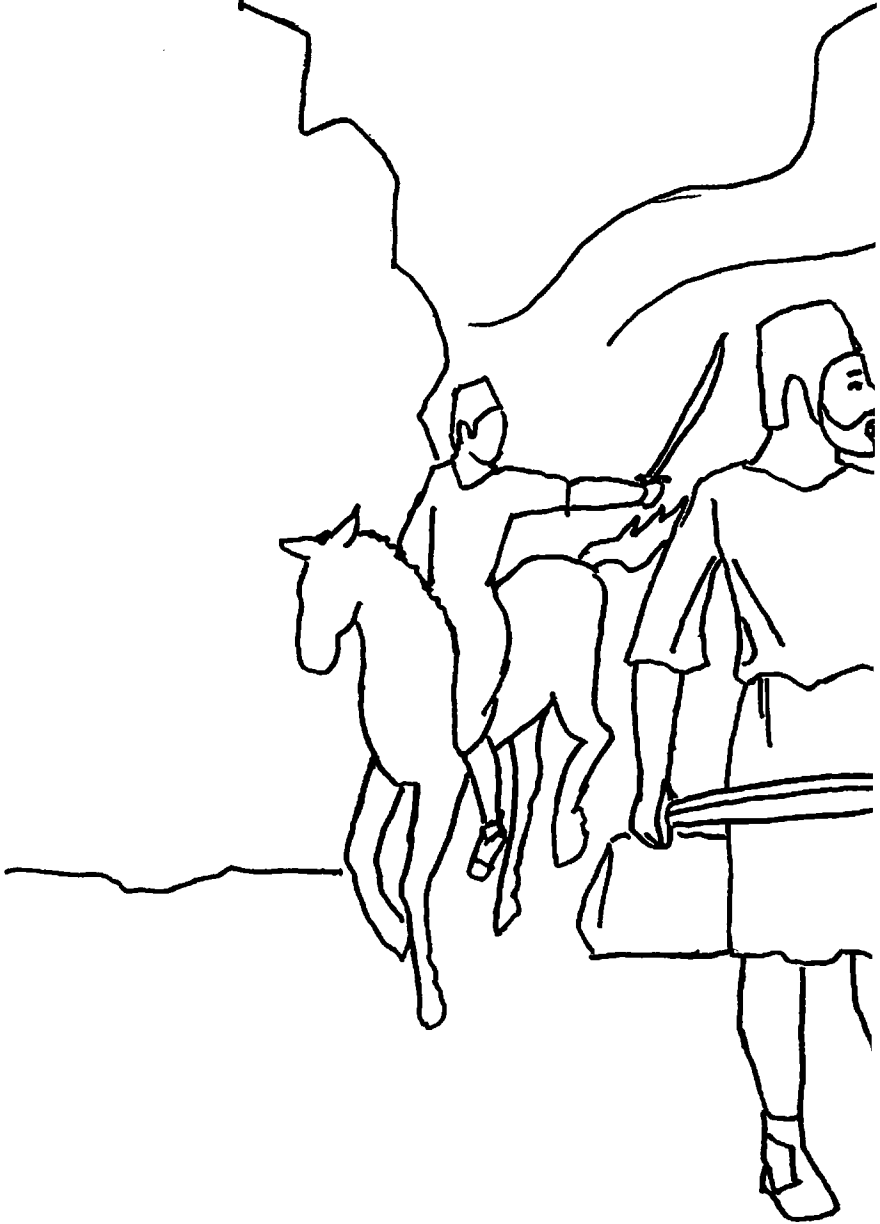
The Chaldeans called their captives "Jews." They treated them kindly, giving them fields and houses of their own. Some Jews were even taken to the capitol city and trained to become rulers. But the Jews still longed for their own homes in Jerusalem. Carefully they taught their children about the true God and never forgot the hope that Jeremiah had given them—someday they would return home.

In Babylon, God called another man to speak His messages to the people. His name was Ezekiel, one of the captives. He had been among the first to be taken prisoner. He wrote back to those left in Judah warning them that God would punish them for their disobedience.

God showed Ezekiel wonderful visions. He encouraged the people to believe that the time would come when they would return again to their own land.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And them that had escaped from the
sword carried he away to Babylon;
where they were servants to him...
II Chronicles 36:20.**





Renaldo Satisfied His Thirst

(A True Story)

Renaldo Perez lives in Cuba, an island country not far from our U.S. Florida peninsula. When Renaldo was a young teenager, he had made good grades in school so the Cuban government gave him a better job than others. He was given the job of a road engineer.

With this job, Renaldo traveled many places in Cuba and to other countries. His family lived in a nice house and were granted special buying privileges. His children were treated better at school because their father had a professional job.

Though Renaldo had things nicer than most people in Cuba, yet he felt empty inside. This longing for happiness brought him to a church where he heard, for the first time, that God had sent His Son into the world to save lost sinners. Renaldo drank in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ like a baby drinks a bottle of milk.

His wife tried to stop him from attending the church. "Renaldo, we will loose everything—your job, your travels, our house, our position in society. Please don't go to church! It will cost us too much!"

"Oh, my wife," said Renaldo lovingly. "I know what you are saying but when I go to church and hear the Word of God read, it makes me feel full inside. There is true happiness in reading the Bible. Please come to church with me and you will see."

Renaldo's gentle pleading soon won his wife and she also went to church and drank in the Word of God. When they began to attend the

church, the communist government began to watch Renaldo at work. First, they stopped his travel to other countries and then to other places in Cuba. His personal file of his life's history was marked in red, CHRISTIAN.

As a Christian in Cuba, Renaldo lost his job as an engineer. He now has to dig ditches and drains for the roads. His family had to move from their nice home. Renaldo became pastor of the little church he attends so his family moved into its basement. Now he doesn't have much money and his family's ration card has been cut down. Each person in his family can only have one ounce of meat a week, one bar of Russian soap a month, one towel a year and one pair of shoes a year.

Is Renaldo sad that he became a Christian? Not at all! He is full in his soul.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who destroyed Jerusalem?
2. Where were most of the people taken?
3. Who was treated kindly?
4. Where was he allowed to stay?
5. Who felt sorry for the people?
6. Who was called the "weeping prophet"?
7. What did the Chaldeans call their captives?
8. What other man did God call to speak to the people?
9. What did God show Ezekiel?

LESSON TEXT: II Chronicles 36:20-21; Ezekiel.

(Answers: 1. Nebuchadnezzar. 2. To Babylon. 3. Jeremiah. 4. In Jerusalem. 5. Jeremiah. 6. Jeremiah. 7. Jews. 8. Ezekiel. 9. Wonderful visions.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 14 April 7, 1996

HE IS RISEN!

On the first Easter morning Mary Magdalene and some other women got up very early. They had been waiting for the Sabbath to pass so they could go to the grave where Jesus' body had been lain. They brought perfume with them to put on Jesus' body to show their great love for Him.

As they walked they asked each other, "Who shall roll the stone away from the door of the grave for us?"

But when they came within sight of the grave they saw that the stone was already rolled away! They walked up to the door and then bravely went in. They could see where Jesus' body had been lain, but now the grave was empty. They looked all around, but Jesus was not there!

Suddenly two men stood by them. They had on bright, shining clothes. The women were so afraid they bowed down to the ground. "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" the angels asked them.

"Jesus is not here, but is risen," the angels continued. "Remember how He told you when He was in Galilee, 'The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and the third day rise again,'"

The women listened to the angels. Now they remembered that Jesus had spoken those very words. They must tell the apostles that Jesus had risen from the dead, just as He said He would! Quickly they ran to tell the good news.

The apostles listened as the women excitedly told them about the empty grave and the angels they had seen. They told them what the angels had said. But the news seemed too good to be true. They did not believe what they heard.

Peter and John ran to the grave to see for themselves. When they came to the grave, they found no one. They saw the linen clothes that had been wrapped around Jesus' body but Jesus was not there! Now they knew that Jesus was alive.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

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





DeAnn's New Life

(Based on A True Story)

Little DeAnn lay quietly on the hospital bed. Her small face looked like white chalk upon the white pillow case and her eyes seemed like two short black lines upon the chalk.

"Two short marks in life," thought Dr. K. as she sat close by DeAnn's mother and father. "We are born and then we die. These are two marks in every person's life. What a pity that DeAnn must face her last mark at the age of seven years! Oh, Lord, why should this child die so young? We have tried everything possible to save her life and give her health. Why didn't you heal this child and let her live?"

While Dr. K. was saying this to the Lord in her mind, she reached over and put her hand on DeAnn's mother's hand. Hot tears of grief were trickling down her mother's cheeks and her father was wringing his hands in anguish. They knew their daughter would soon breathe her last breath and be gone.

DeAnn's parents had tried so hard to hold on to DeAnn and spare her life. They had taken her to the 'best' doctors and hospitals. They had paid for all sorts of medicines and treatments. None of it had cured DeAnn's cancer. All the doctors now said, "We have done all we can do. Now it is a matter of time."

At first DeAnn's parents didn't attend church or pray but through DeAnn's sickness they had come in contact with praying people. In her childlike faith, DeAnn had quickly learned to pray and trust in Jesus. She liked to hear stories about Jesus and she talked about Him as her best friend. Sad to say, her parents

were a little angry at Jesus for not sparing DeAnn's life.

Suddenly, DeAnn's blue eyes opened wide and she looked at her mother and father. A soft glow lighted her little face as she sat up in her bed. In a clear voice she exclaimed—"The angels...they're so beautiful! Mommy! Daddy! Can you see them? Do you hear their singing? Oh, there is Jesus! He wants to hold me!" Then she sank back on her pillow and was gone to be with Jesus.

A holy silence filled the room as DeAnn's parents took each other's hand. Dr. K. sat nearby—stunned. DeAnn had seen something very real. She was still living but in another place. Her soul, or inner life, had gone to live with Jesus where she would sing with the angels and be happy.

There was no reason to be angry with God on DeAnn's behalf. Jesus had taken her to a better place.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who got up very early the first Easter morning?
2. Where did they go?
3. What did they take with them?
4. What had been rolled away?
5. Who suddenly stood by them?
6. What did the women run to tell the apostles?
7. Who did not believe the women's words?
8. What two apostles ran to the grave?
9. Was Jesus in the grave?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 24:1-12.

[Answers: 1. Mary Magdalene and some other women. 2. To Jesus' grave. 3. Perfume. 4. The stone. 5. Two angels. 6. That Jesus had risen. 7. The apostles. 8. Peter and John. 9. No.]

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 15 April 14, 1996

FOUR YOUNG CAPTIVES

King Nebuchadnezzar knew he had brought princes and noblemen from Judah. He told his chief officer to choose young men from among the captives who were the most gifted and knowledgeable. These young men would be taught the language and the wisdom of the Chaldeans. They would eat food from the king's own table. At the end of three years they must stand before the king.

Among those chosen were four young men named Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Now Daniel and his three friends knew they must always serve the one true God, even in a strange land. They purposed to obey the law God had given to the people of Israel. According to that law, there were certain foods they should not eat. They could not eat the food served at the king's table and obey God's law.

Daniel spoke to the officer and asked him to excuse them from eating this food. God had brought Daniel into great favor and respect with this officer. He wanted Daniel to be happy in his new home but he was afraid to let him do as he had asked. "I am afraid of the king," he told Daniel. "He has provided your meat and your drink. If you are not as strong and healthy as the others my life will be in danger."

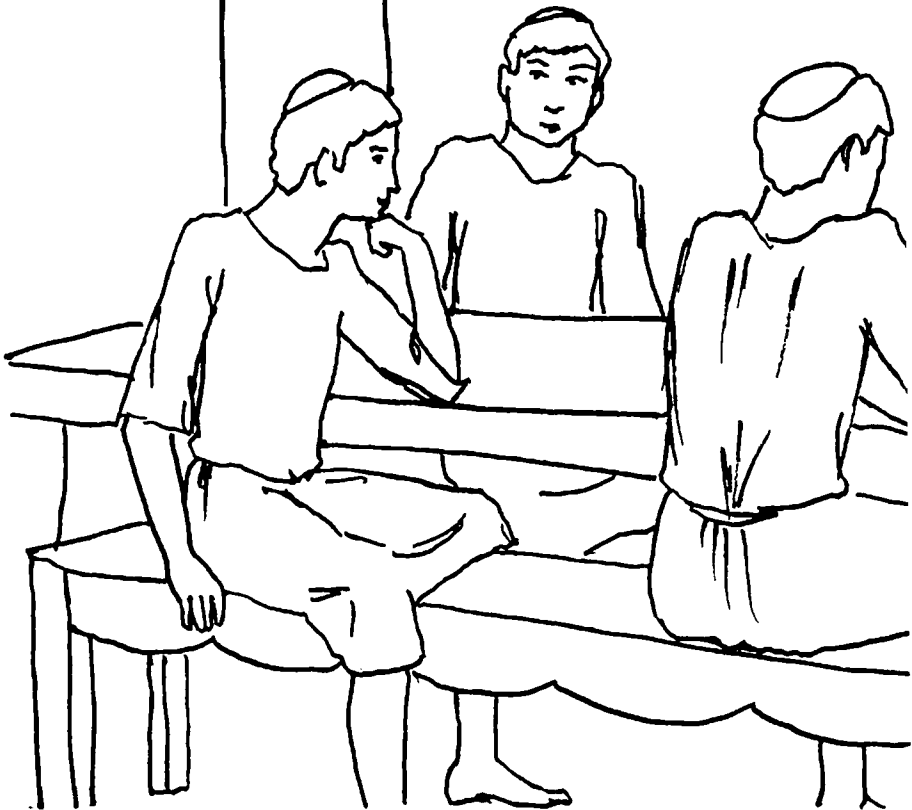
"For ten days give us only vegetables to eat and water to drink," Daniel told the officer. "Then compare us with those who have eaten the king's meat. You may then decide whether we must eat from the king's table."

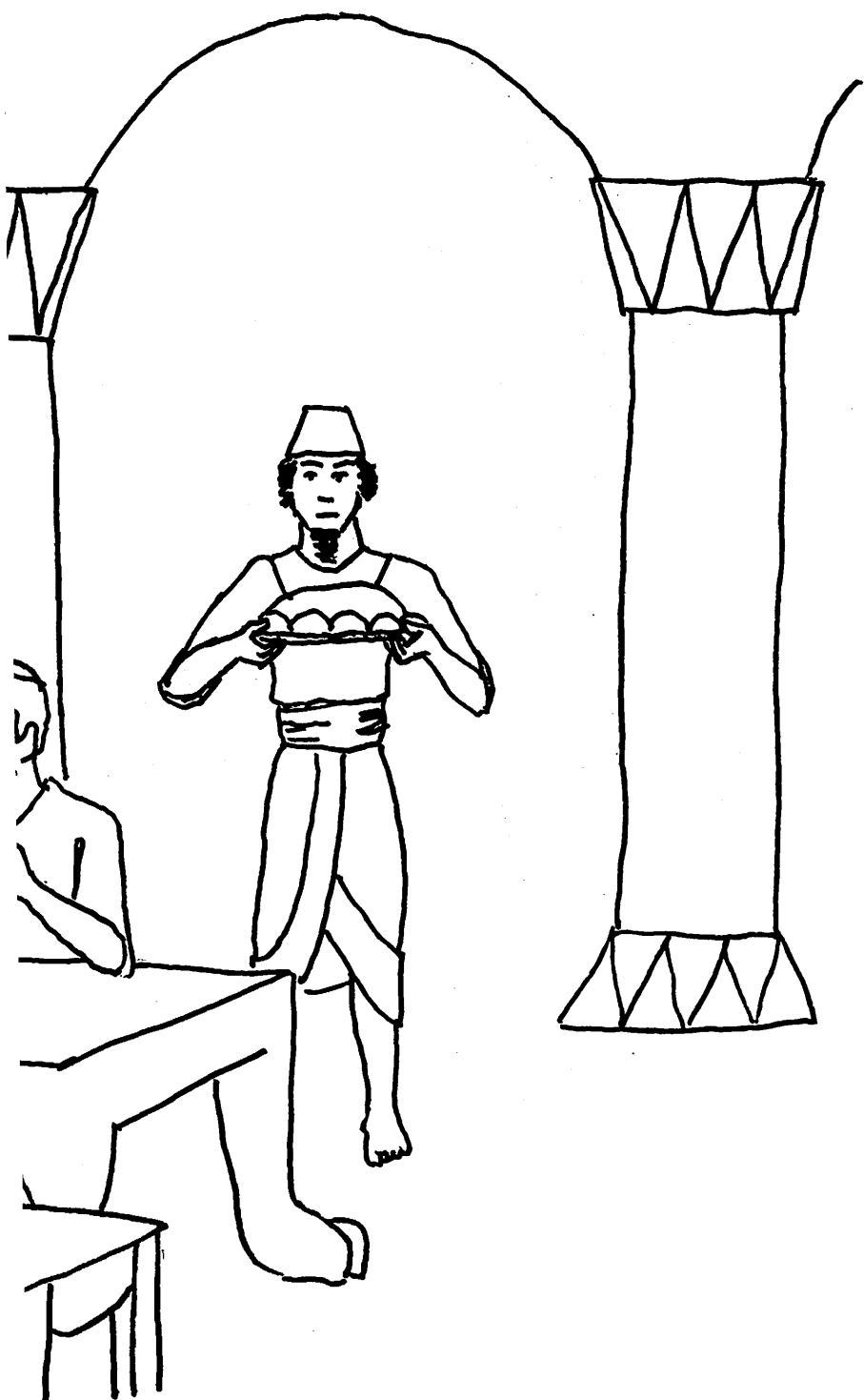
Daniel's offer seemed fair enough, so the officer agreed. For ten days he brought them only vegetables and water. At the end of this time he could see that Daniel and his three friends looked even healthier than those who ate the king's food. From then on Daniel and his friends were given the wholesome food they wanted.

God gave these four young men wisdom and understanding. When three years passed, they were called to stand before the king. As he talked with them he found they were ten times wiser than the wisest men of his kingdom.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

As for these four
children, God
gave them knowl-
edge and skill in
all learning and
wisdom:....
Daniel 1:17.





Planting The Word Of God

(A True Story)

As the inmates lined up to go through the heavy prison door and back into their cells, one young man quietly walked over to the chaplain and his assistant. For a moment he stood and watched as they packed away the extra Bibles and hymn books. "Dave, can we help you?" kindly asked the chaplain.

"I was wondering," said Dave slowly, "if you could take a Bible to my wife. You see, I've been telling her about our Bible studies and she is really interested. She's like me, kinda don't know much about Jesus and Bible stuff and I thought..."

"Sure, Dave," replied the chaplain as he put an arm around Dave's shoulders. "We will be glad to take a Bible to your wife. Just jot down her address on this paper and let her know we will bring it sometime next week."

"Oh, thanks a bunch!" said Dave as he wrote on the paper. "I'll call her right away!"

The following week, Donna, the chaplain's assistant, drove up to a small, battered trailer house at the address. Prayerfully, Donna climbed shaky, wooden steps and knocked on the door. It was opened by a young woman with a telephone in one hand and a cigarette in the other.

"Hello, Cathy. My name is Donna with Prison Fellowship. Your husband, Dave, asked that I bring this by for you."

"Oh, yes, Dave told me someone would bring me a Bible," said Cathy with a smile. "He wants me to look up some verses to read. I'm not for sure how to find them, though."

"Would you like for me to help you?" asked Donna.

Cathy nodded and Donna followed her into the smoky trailer. In silent prayer Donna asked for physical strength and spiritual wisdom. She wanted so much to help this wife and mother who knew nothing about the saving grace of Jesus.

Soon Donna had helped Cathy look up the verses. One verse was Matthew 11:28, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

"I like that verse," said Cathy.

"That verse just reminded me of a women's Bible study group that we are starting," said Donna. "We are to study how to live 'Stress Free in a Pressing Society.' Would you like to come? We will talk about this verse and many others."

"Well, maybe," said Cathy. "See, I'm a waitress and I have to work on Sundays and during the evenings."

"I could come and take you with me," said Donna as she prepared to leave. "You would find our group very understanding. Here is my phone number. Call and let me know if you can come Tuesday evening."

Though Cathy didn't say she would come, Donna prayed for her.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who brought princes and noble men from Judah?
2. Who knew they must always serve the one true God?
3. Who gave Daniel favor with the officer?
4. What did Daniel want to eat?
5. Who agreed to Daniel's offer?
6. Who looked healthier at the end of ten days?
7. What did God give the four young men?
8. What happened when three years passed?
9. How much wiser were Daniel and his three friends?

LESSON TEXT: Daniel 1:3-20.

(Answer: 1. Nebuchadnezzar. 2. Daniel and his three friends. 3. God. 4. Only vegetables. 5. The officer. 6. Daniel and his three friends. 7. Wisdom and understanding. 8. They were called to stand before the king. 9. Ten times wiser.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 16 April 21, 1996

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

One night King Nebuchadnezzar had a strange dream. When he awoke, he was so troubled he couldn't go back to sleep. He must find out what this dream meant!

The king called the wise men of his kingdom. When they came and stood before him he told them. "I have dreamed a dream. It has troubled me and I must know what it means!"

"O king, live for ever!" the wise men said. "Tell us your dream and we will show you its meaning."

"I have forgotten the dream," the king answered. "If you will not tell me my dream and explain to me what it means you will all be cut in pieces!"

"But if you show me the dream and tell me its meaning I will give you gifts and great honor. Now tell me the dream and what it means!"

Again the wise men told the king, "Let the king tell his servants the dream and we will tell what it means."

The king became very angry. He accused the wise men of putting off answering just to gain time. "But there is not a man on earth who can do what you ask!" the wise men protested. "No king has ever before asked the wise men to do such a thing."

These words made the king furious. He commanded that all the wise men be destroyed. He sent Arioch, the captain of his guard, to get all the wise men.

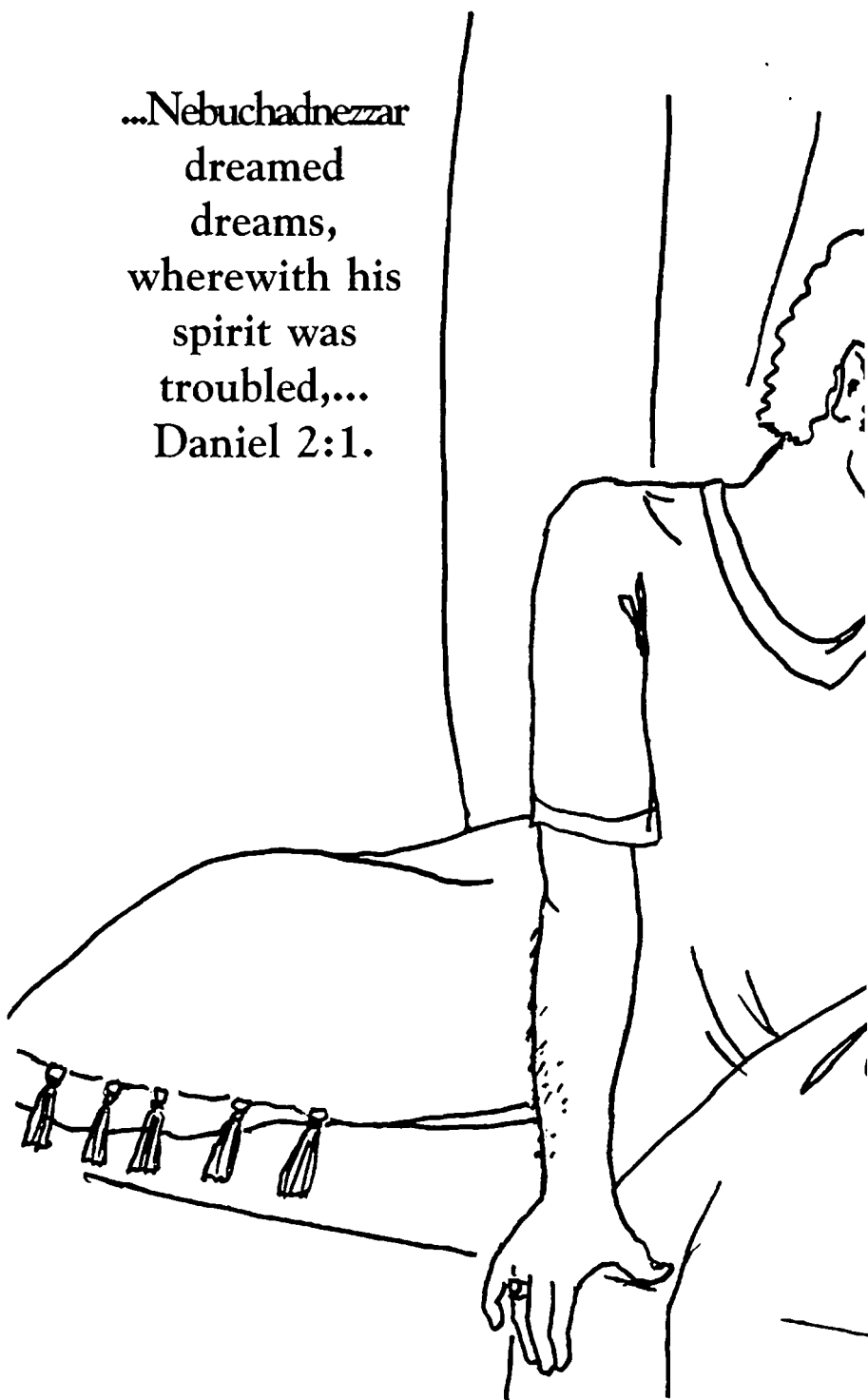
Daniel and his three friends were not among those called to tell the dream. When Daniel heard what had happened, he asked to see the king.

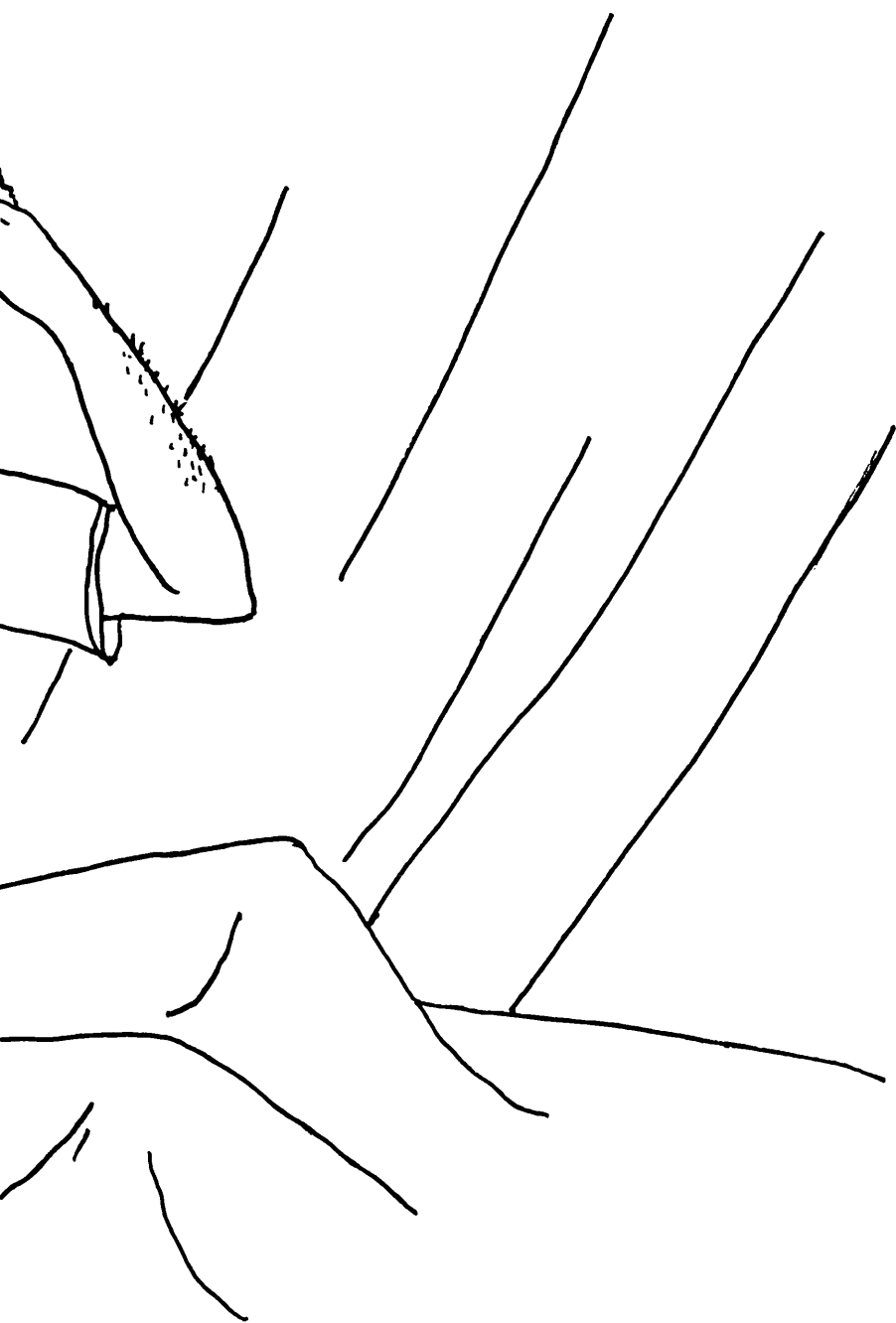
At the palace he told Nebuchadnezzar he would show him his dream if he would give him a little time. The king agreed.

At once Daniel hurried back and told his three friends about the agreement. Together they begged God to show mercy and reveal the dream. Without God's help they would be killed along with the other wise men.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...Nebuchadnezzar
dreamed
dreams,
wherewith his
spirit was
troubled,...
Daniel 2:1.





Rooted In Salvation

(Based on a True Story)

Last week Donna had visited Cathy to give her a Bible and invite her to a Christian women's study group. Cathy said she worked as a waitress on Sunday and in the evenings so she didn't think she could attend the meetings. Nevertheless, Donna was praying for Cathy and her husband, Dave, who is in prison.

Donna picked up her telephone and punched Cathy's phone number on the buttons. "Hello, Cathy? This is Donna. Just thought I would call and see how your schedule is set for this week. Do you have to work on Tuesday?"

"I think I can go," said Cathy reluctantly. "Dave told me I should go. He thinks I will like it, but I'm not so sure. I-I don't know if I want to get into religion."

"I believe Dave is right," replied Donna. "You will like our Bible studies and feel comfortable with us. Our lesson studies are to help us trust and rest in Jesus. Could I come and pick you up at seven o'clock Tuesday evening?"

Cathy was silent for a minute as she crushed out a cigarette. Within her heart she wanted to attend and learn about Jesus who offered peace for her soul. But in her mind she was fighting a battle.

"Don't go and weaken yourself to any useless religion," the devil was saying to her. "It is silly to trust in someone you can't even see! No one can help you—you are hopeless!" The devil was lying to Cathy but she didn't know it then.

"I-I guess I will go," she stammered.

"Great!" said Donna. "I will see you tomorrow night."

So Cathy began to attend the women's Bible study group and their kindness to her drew Cathy to Jesus. Cathy got saved! She began to stop

smoking cigarettes, by the Lord's help, and she quit drinking beer and liquor. Cathy now tells her old friends, "God is real, not just a swear word." She wants other sinners to learn about Jesus and get saved.

At one meeting Cathy told her new Christian friends about her lost children. In tears she pleaded, "Please pray for me that I can get my two younger children back and that my two older children will come home. I want them to see their changed mother. I am so ashamed of how mean and bad I was when the devil controlled me. I am so thankful for the new, tender heart Jesus has given me and for the peace of mind that I have."

Dave was very happy when he heard that Cathy got saved. He still has to serve time in prison for his crimes but he says his "heart is happy and free."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What happened to King Nebuchadnezzar one night?
2. Who did the king call?
3. What did the wise men ask the king to tell them?
4. Why couldn't the king tell his dream?
5. Who did the king command to be destroyed?
6. Who agreed to tell the king his dream?
7. Who did Daniel tell about the agreement?
8. Who did they beg to show mercy?
9. What would happen if God did not help them?

LESSON TEXT: Daniel 2:1-18.

(Answers: 1. He had a strange dream. 2. The wise men. 3. His dream. 4. He had forgotten it. 5. The wise men. 6. Daniel. 7. His three friends. 8. God. 9. They would be killed.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 17 April 28, 1996

GOD REVEALS THE DREAM

Daniel knew only God could tell King Nebuchadnezzar the dream that he had forgotten. He and his three friends begged God to show mercy and reveal the secret so they would not die with the rest of the wise men.

God heard their prayers. That night He showed Daniel, in a vision, what the dream was and what it meant.

Daniel was so thankful he blessed God for answering their prayers. "I thank you and praise you, O God of my fathers!" Daniel prayed. "You have given me wisdom and might and have made known to me what I asked. You have told me the king's dream."

Daniel went to Arioch, the captain of the guard, and said, "Do not kill the wise men. Take me to the king and I will show him his dream and its meaning."

Quickly Arioch brought Daniel to the king. "I have found one of the captives of Judah who will tell you your dream!" Arioch told him.

"Are you able to tell me my dream and what it means?" the king asked Daniel.

"No man can tell the king his dream," Daniel answered. "But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets. He is telling the king what will happen in the future."

As Daniel told the king what he had seen in the dream, King Nebuchadnezzar nodded his head. Now he remembered his dream. Daniel was telling it exactly right.

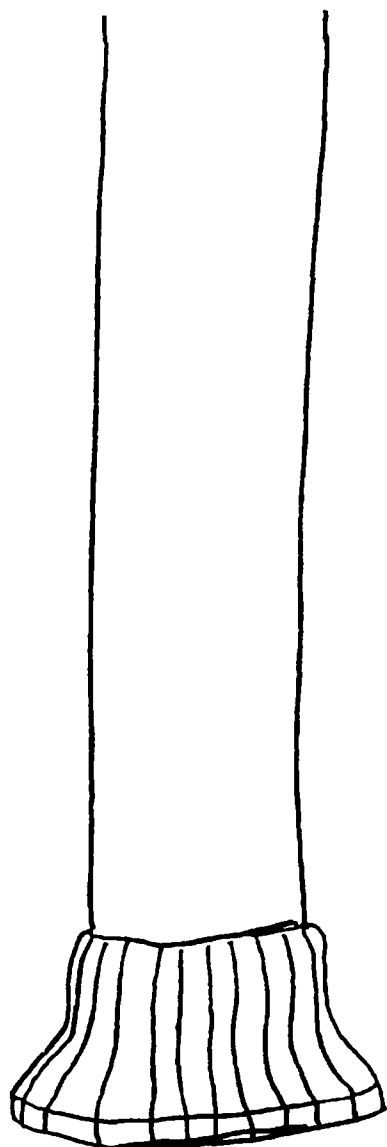
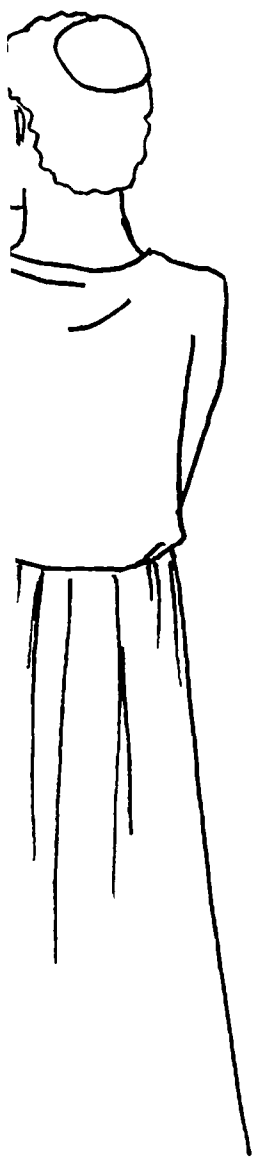
Then Daniel explained to the king what his dream meant. When he had finished King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face before Daniel. "It is true that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets because He has told you this secret!" he told Daniel.

Then the king made Daniel a great man and gave him many great gifts. He made him ruler over all Babylon. Daniel asked the king to make his three friends governors of the land. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Then was
unto Dani
D.



t revealed
ght vision.
9.



Expecting a Miracle

(Based on a True Story)

"Young'uns, are you all ready for church?" called out Mother Martha as she opened the kitchen door to the garage. While each of her five foster children filed by, Mother Martha straightened a collar or tamed down a strand of unruly hair. Her fair, strict discipline had won the respect of these seven-through ten-year-olds.

On the way to the church service, Mother Martha instructed the children. "As usual, the two girls will sit at my left side and the three boys at my right side. There will be no talking, scuffling, playing, etc. Later, I will ask each of you about the message and each one who can answer his or her questions correctly, will receive a dollar. If I discipline you in church, you give me a dollar."

Right after the service, Pastor Mitchell complimented the children's good behavior. "You really have a way with children, Martha. They adjust and feel right at home with you."

Martha shook her head. "They still miss their own families, Pastor Mitchell. Right now we are praying for Bill and Mandy's parents. Their father is in a state prison and their mother drinks very badly. Bill and Mandy want to see their parents but they don't think their parents want to see them. Please pray with us that their parents will change for the better. We are even praying for a miracle—that their parents might get saved!"

"The Lord still works miracles," encouraged the pastor. "I will join in with your prayers."

Bill and Mandy were grateful to Mother Martha for the secure home she provided. It was nice not to hear their parents arguing in a drunken rage or live in fear of a beating. Life had new meaning to them since

Mother Martha had taught them about Jesus and how to pray. During the past year they had seen many answers to prayer. Now they faithfully prayed for their parents and that they could be united as a family again.

One morning Mandy came to the breakfast table with a smiling face. "I had a wonderful dream," she told the others. "I dreamed that Daddy was in church and then got up to preach. When Daddy quit preaching, Mama started singing and people began to go to the altar to get saved. Bill and I, Carol and Laura were there and all our family was happy! Do you think I was dreaming about heaven, Mother Martha?"

Mother Martha smiled at the excited little girl before her. "It sounds like the miracle we are praying for," she replied. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was the only one who could tell the king his dream?
2. Who begged God to reveal the secret?
3. Who was Arioch?
4. Where did Daniel tell Arioch to take him?
5. Who reveals secrets?
6. When did the king remember his dream?
7. What did Daniel explain to the king?
8. Who was made ruler over all Babylon?
9. What did Daniel ask the king to do for his three friends?

LESSON TEXT: Daniel 2:19-49.

(Answers. 1. God. 2. Daniel and his three friends. 3. The captain of the guard. 4. To the king. 5. God. 6. As Daniel told him his dream. 7. The meaning of the dream. 8. Daniel. 9. To make them governors of the land.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 18 May 5, 1996

THE GREAT IMAGE

King Nebuchadnezzar grew in power. Year after year he added new countries to his kingdom. He was the greatest king in all the world. In every land he was greatly feared. He became very proud of his success.

Nebuchadnezzar worshiped idols instead of the one true God. At his command a great idol was made. It was ninety feet tall and nine feet wide. He had it covered with gold. Then he set it up in the plain of Dura.

When the idol was finished, the king ordered all the officials of his kingdom to come and worship it. No one dared disobey. Princes, governors, captains, judges, treasurers, counsellors, sheriffs and all the rulers of the province gathered and stood before the idol. Daniel's three friends stood with the other governors.

Then a messenger cried loudly, "You are commanded, O people and nations, that when you hear the music you fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever will not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into the middle of a burning, fiery furnace!"

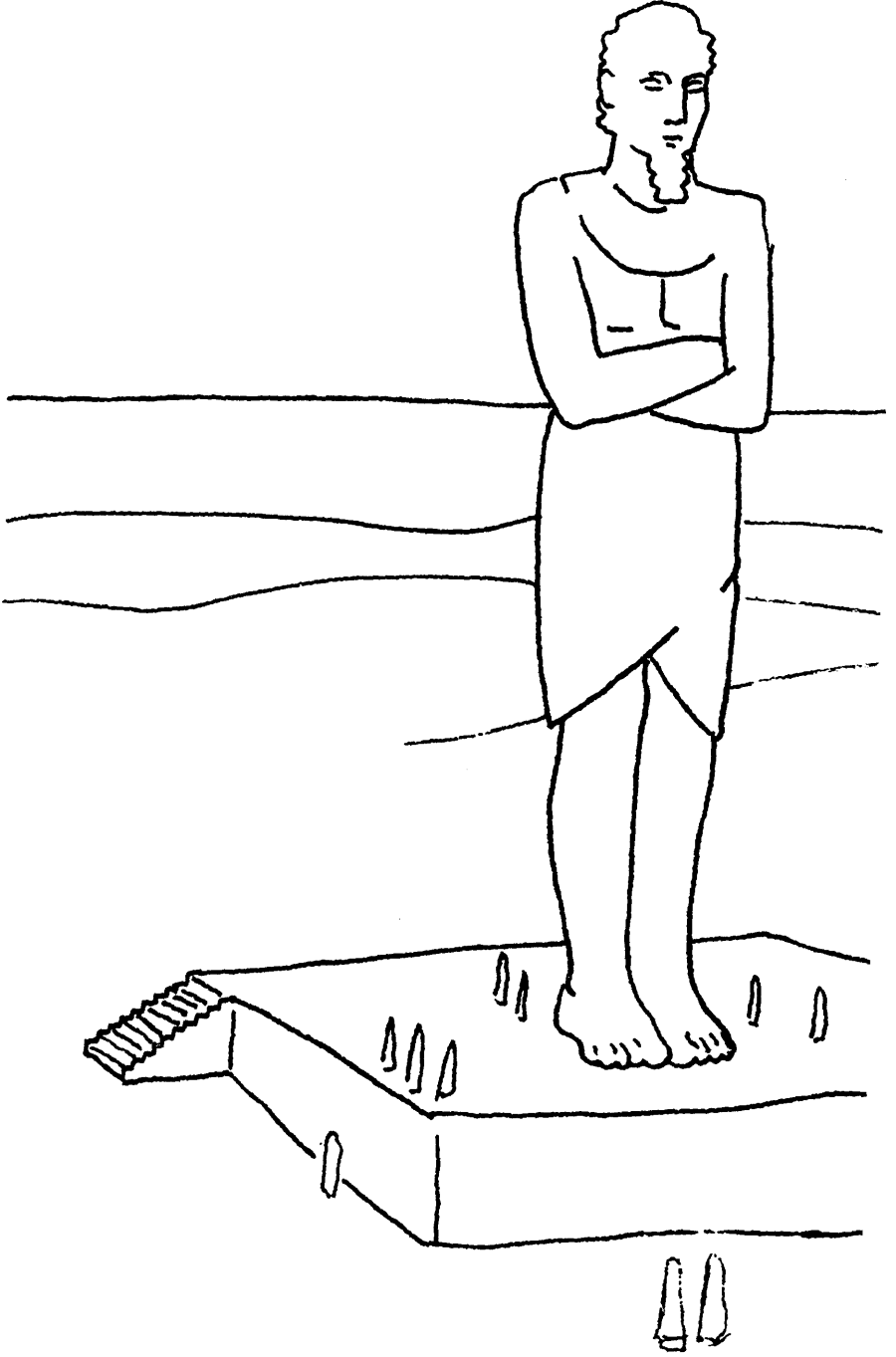
The music sounded and the people fell to their knees. They were afraid to disobey. No one wanted to be thrown into a fiery furnace. All bowed to the ground but three young men. These three stood up boldly. They were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, Daniel's three friends. They had purposed to always serve God and worship Him only.

Some of the Chaldeans were jealous because the king had made Daniel's three friends governors over them. As the music sounded they watched to see whether these three young men would kneel before the idol. When they saw the young men standing bravely alone among all the kneeling princes and nobles, they hurried to tell Nebuchadnezzar.

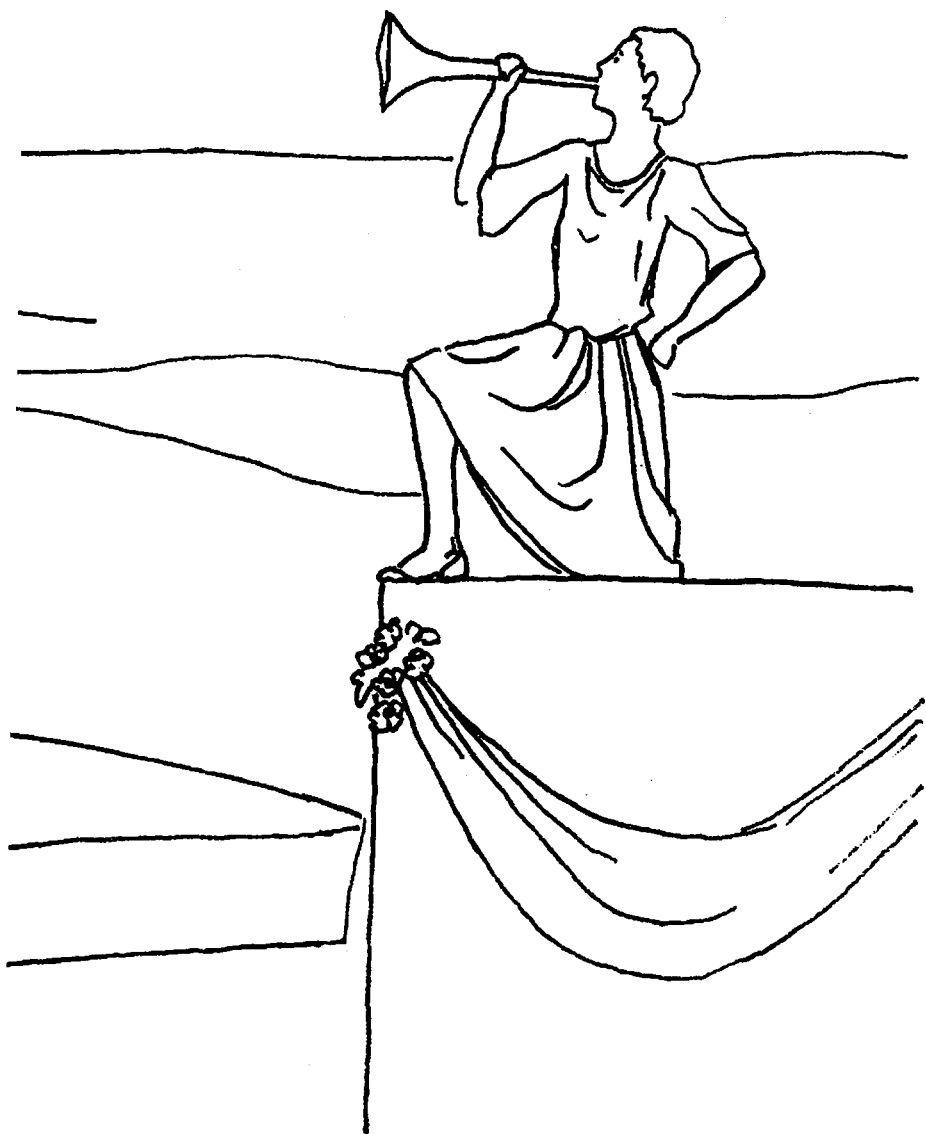
They said, "O King, you have decreed that every man should fall down before the idol when the music sounded and whoever refuses would be thrown into the fiery furnace. When the music sounded the three governors, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, did not obey. They will not serve your gods nor worship the golden image you have set up."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

N



Nezzar the king made an
of gold,... Daniel 3:1.



A Miracle In Blossom

(Based on a True Story)

Mother Martha had just sent her five foster children outside to play when the telephone rang. The caller was Bill and Mandy's case worker who had placed them in Martha's care.

"I guess I have good news to tell you," Maureen said to Martha. "Cathy, Bill and Mandy's mother, has been making some changes and now agrees to go through therapy so she can have her children back. Personally, I think she needs to prove herself more first but you know how the judge usually gives the children back if the mother seems to cooperate. I think the children are better off in your care but..."

"Maureen, this is good news!" interrupted Martha. "We have been praying for this very thing to happen. Maybe we can let Cathy have the children for the weekends for awhile and see how it goes. I am willing to work with her so the family unit can be healed."

Maureen was quiet for a minute. She didn't have much faith in Cathy's change for the better but she did have confidence in Martha's judgment. "Okay, if you are willing, I will talk to the judge about it," said Maureen as she hung up the phone.

Mother Martha didn't tell the children right away but she just knew the Lord would work something good out. She remembered the dream Mandy had that very morning. It could be possible that Cathy and her husband Dave had become Christians and were wanting to do better by their children.

In a few days proper arrangements were made and Bill and Mandy were told that their mother would take them 'home' for the weekend.

"Mother Martha," said Mandy as she set her small suitcase down by the door. "I will miss you, Mother Martha, but I do want to see my mother again."

"Oh, honey, I understand," replied the kind foster mother. She put Mandy on her lap and hugged her tightly. "I will pray for you and Bill that Jesus will mend your family. You will be with me through the week and we will always be friends. I am praying for the best for you all."

Mandy laid her head on Mother Martha's shoulder. "Pray for me. My tummy hurts."

So Mother Martha prayed for Mandy and her family. Then it was time to take the children to the Department of Human Services where they would meet their mother again. It had been eighteen months since mother and children had been together. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was the greatest king in all the world?
2. What did he worship?
3. What did he command to be made?
4. How tall was it?
5. What was it covered with?
6. What were the people to do when they heard the music?
7. Who would not bow?
8. Who did they purpose to always serve?
9. Why were some of the Chaldeans jealous?

LESSON TEXT: Daniel 3:1-12.

(Answers: 1. Nebuchadnezzar. 2. Idols. 3. An idol. 4. Ninety feet. 5. Gold. 6. Bow down and worship the idol. 7. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 8. God. 9. Because the king made Daniel's three friends governors over them.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 19 May 12, 1996

THE FIERY FURNACE

The king flew into a rage. He was furious that anyone would dare disobey his command to bow before the golden image he had set up! He ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brought at once. When they came, the king asked, "Is it true that you do not serve my gods nor worship the golden image that I have set up?"

"Now be ready," he continued. "When you hear the music, if you will fall down and worship the image which I have made all will be well. But if you will not worship you will immediately be thrown into the middle of the burning, fiery furnace."

Bravely the three told the king, "Our God is able to deliver us from the burning, fiery furnace. But even if He doesn't, we will not serve your gods nor worship the golden image which you have set up."

Now the king was furious! He commanded the furnace to be made seven times hotter. He ordered his most mighty men to bind the three and throw them into the fire. The men hurried to obey the king. As the three were thrown into the fire, the flames leaped out and killed the mighty men.

But the three young men were not hurt; only the ropes that bound them were burned. As Nebuchadnezzar watched the furnace he saw them walking around! Then he looked closer. Now he saw a fourth man in the furnace with them who looked like the Son of God!

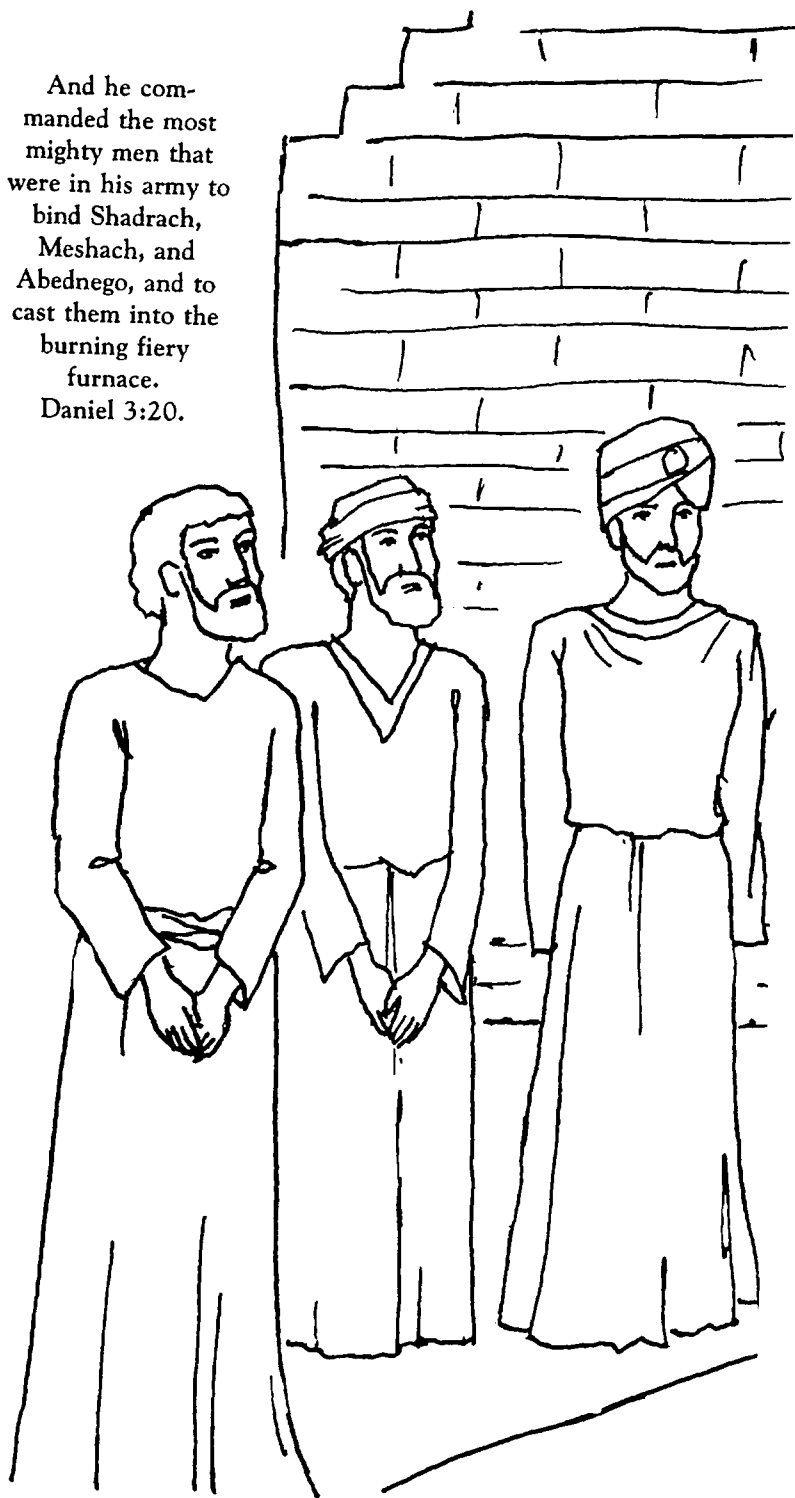
Nebuchadnezzar ran to the door of the furnace and called loudly, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you servants of the most high God, come out!"

The three came out and all the people saw they had not been burned by the fire. Their hair was not even singed and there was no smell of smoke on their clothes.

Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be your God who sent an angel and delivered you because you trusted in Him."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And he com-
manded the most
mighty men that
were in his army to
bind Shadrach,
Meshach, and
Abednego, and to
cast them into the
burning fiery
furnace.
Daniel 3:20.





Growing Together

(Based on a True Story)

Cathy was so anxious to greet her children, Bill and Mandy. It had been eighteen months or so since they had been taken from her. She sat in a chair at the Department of Human Services where she would see them come to the door. Suddenly, they were there. Cathy rose immediately! She wanted to rush to them and hug them tightly but a sudden fear held her back. What if her children really didn't want to see her? They didn't have good memories of her and perhaps they hated her for what she had done to them.

Donna, her friend, put her arm around Cathy's shoulders. "It will be okay," she whispered. "Our Lord Jesus will be with you. Remember we prayed for Him to mend each broken heart in your family? He will do so if you give Him time."

Just then Mandy saw her mother and their eyes met. Mother and daughter bonded in love. "Mama!" cried Mandy, as both rushed for each other.

"Oh, darling," whispered Cathy as she hugged her little girl closely. "I have missed you so much! And Bill—there you are Bill! Let me hug you, too! Oh, we have so much to talk about! I'm so sorry for how I used to be but I'm a different person now. Jesus lives in my heart and I want to tell you all about Him."

Bill smiled shyly at his mother but Mandy was ready to talk. "Oh, we know all about Jesus. Mother Martha took us to church and prayed with us. Jesus works miracles."

At that moment Maureen stepped up with Martha and introduced her to Cathy. "This lady has given your children excellent care," said Maureen. "I hope you will appreciate what she has done."

There was an awkward moment of silence. Then Martha said, "Cathy, I am so glad to meet you. Your children

have been so concerned about you and anxious to go back home. We have been praying for this miracle to happen."

"Oh, it really is a miracle," replied Cathy with tears in her eyes. "This week my older two daughters called and they want to come home and we really do have a house now—thanks to the church to which I belong—and Dave may be out on parole by the end of this year. We have so much to be thankful for—I just know the Lord Jesus is working this all out—it is nothing short of a miracle."

By now there were other wet eyes in the group. Donna patted Cathy's arm. "And the greatest miracle of all is that you are now a Christian family growing in the Lord."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell
(The End)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who flew into a rage?
2. Why was he furious?
3. Who did he order to be brought at once?
4. What did the king order his mighty men to do?
5. What happened as the three were thrown into the fire?
6. How many men did the king see in the furnace?
7. Who called for the three to come out of the furnace?
8. Who saw that the three had not been burned?
9. Who said God sent an angel and delivered the three?

LESSON TEXT: Daniel 3:13-30.

(Answers: 1. The king. 2. The three would not bow before his image. 3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 4. Bind the men and throw them into the furnace. 5. The flames killed the mighty men. 6. Four. 7. Nebuchadnezzar. 8. All the people. 9. Nebuchadnezzar.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 20 May 19, 1996

NEBUCHADNEZZAR TELLS HIS DREAM

King Nebuchadnezzar was a mighty king. His great kingdom continued to grow and prosper. One night Nebuchadnezzar had another dream. The dream made him afraid and as he laid awake thinking about it he became very troubled.

Nebuchadnezzar commanded all the wise men of Babylon to come before him. He wanted them to tell him the meaning of this strange dream. So the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans and the soothsayers all came before the king. He told them what he had seen in his dream but they could not tell him what the dream meant.

Finally Daniel came before the king. Nebuchadnezzar knew Daniel served the true God. His God could make known the meaning of the dream. He told him, "I know that the spirit of God is in you and secrets are revealed to you. Tell me what my dream means."

Then the king told Daniel what he had seen in the dream. He said, "I saw a tree in the middle of the earth. It was very tall. The tree grew and was strong. It was so tall it reached up to heaven and could be seen from anywhere on earth.

"The tree had many leaves. It bore so much fruit it provided food for everyone. The beasts of the field enjoyed the shade under it and the birds lived in its branches.

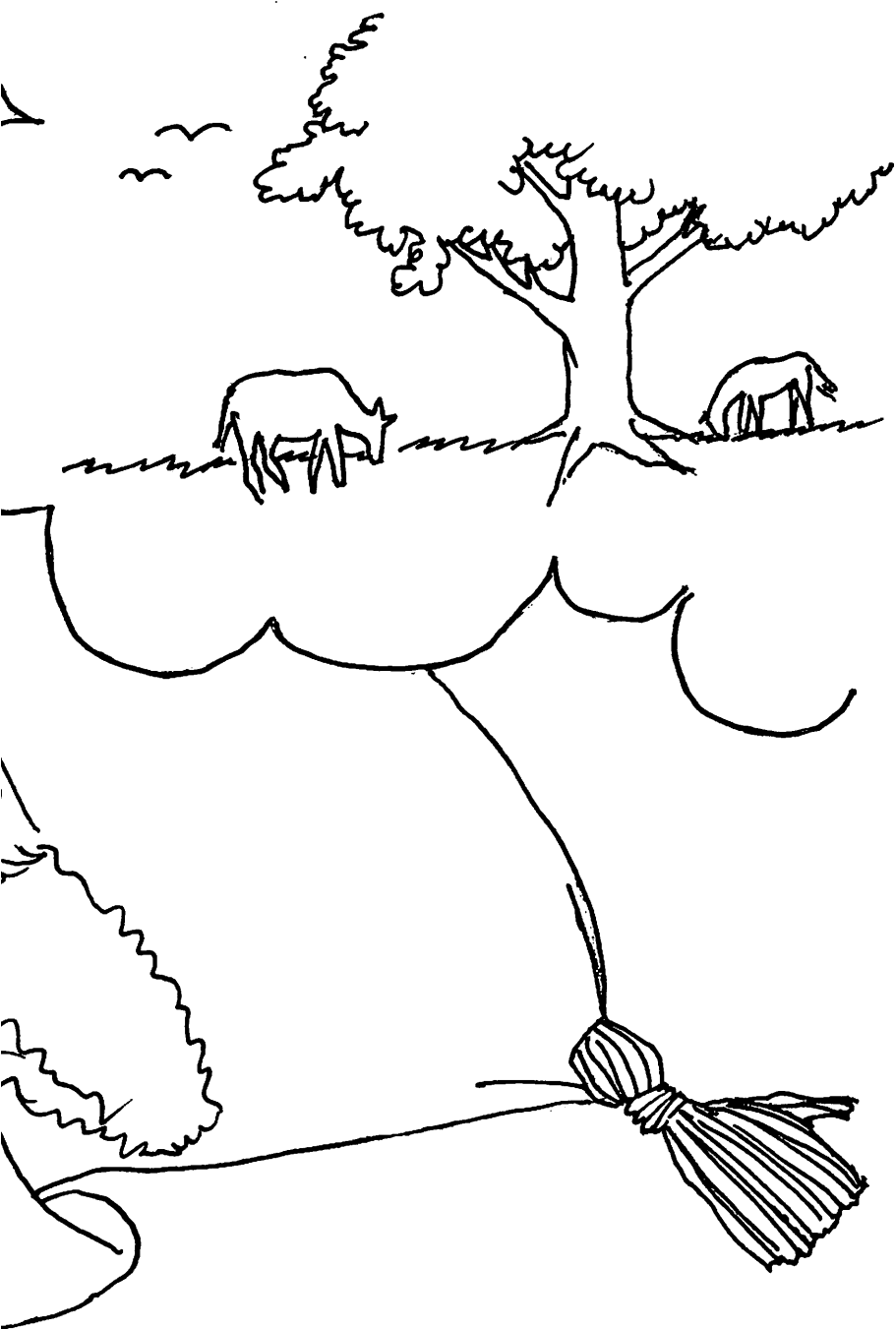
"I saw then an holy one who came down from heaven. He cried loudly, 'Chop down the tree and cut off his branches. Shake off his leaves and scatter his fruit. Let the beasts get away from under it, and the birds from his branches. But leave the stump of his roots in the earth. Let it be wet with the dew of heaven and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth.

"Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given to him. Let seven times pass over him. This matter is by the decree and demand of the holy ones so that men will know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men.'

"This is what I saw in my dream," the king told Daniel. "Now tell me what it means. All the wise men of my kingdom are not able to tell its meaning. I know you can tell me because the spirit of God is in you." —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

I saw a dream which made
me afraid,... Daniel 4:5.





Not Giving The Punch

Jerry came home from school with an angry look on his face. He came in the back kitchen door and let the screen door slam behind him. He didn't even say "hello" to Mother, Linda and Randy who were eating apple slices and peanut butter at the table.

"Jerry is mad!" exclaimed little Randy. His eyes glanced up at Mother who said, "Dogs get mad. Smart people have better self-control."

"Well, Jerry is as mad as a dog," insisted Randy.

"No, Randy," said Mother with a smile. "He is too smart to be controlled by mad fits. Finish your snack and I will go and visit with Jerry."

Mother walked down the hall to Jerry's closed bedroom door. Knock! Knock! "Jerry, may I come in?" "I guess," replied Jerry in a defeated voice.

Mother opened the door and walked in. Jerry was sitting at his desk, his head laid upon his crossed arms. Mother put her hand upon his shoulder. "Jerry, what upsetting thing happened to you today?"

"You wouldn't understand," said Jerry. "You're a girl."

Mother sighed. "But I understand what it is like to be called names and bullied at school. Did a boy try to fight with you today?"

"I guess you could say that," said Jerry, sitting up in his chair. Mother noticed that his nose was bleeding slightly and his bottom lip was cut. She handed him a Kleenex.

"I should have punched the stars out of him," said Jerry as he wiped his nose. "The other boys joined in calling names and then the bus driver stopped John from hitting me again. I didn't hit John so I didn't get in trouble, but now the guys will call me

names and stuff. I'll have to beat John up before they will leave me alone."

"Jerry, that isn't the only answer," said Mother. "Didn't you just say you didn't get in trouble with the bus driver because you hadn't hit John? What happened to John?"

"Oh, nothing," Jerry said with a shrug. "He just strutted around like a cocky rooster and kept looking at me. I should have given him a double whammy right between the eyes."

"No, Jerry," said Mother, shaking her head. "I want you to go and clean up. Come into the kitchen and have a snack with the rest of us. If you have homework, get that done. Then, when your dad comes home from work, we will discuss this matter further."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was a mighty king?
2. What happened one night?
3. Who did the king command to come before him?
4. Who served the true God?
5. What did the king ask Daniel to do?
6. In his dream, what did the king see in the middle of the earth?
7. How tall was it?
8. Who commanded the tree to be chopped down?
9. Why was the king sure Daniel could tell the dream's meaning?

LESSON TEXT: Daniel 4:4-18.

(Answers: 1. Nebuchadnezzar. 2. The king had another dream. 3. All the wise men. 4. Daniel. 5. Tell him the meaning of his dream. 6. A tree. 7. It reached up to heaven. 8. An holy one. 9. Because the spirit of God was in him.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 21 May 26, 1996

GOD WARNS NEBUCHADNEZZAR

King Nebuchadnezzar was glad to tell Daniel all that he had seen in his dream. He was sure Daniel would be able to give him the meaning even though all the other wise men could not. Daniel listened carefully as the king told him everything he had seen in the dream.

After hearing the dream Daniel sat in deep thought. God had already shown him what it meant and he was very troubled. He was afraid to tell Nebuchadnezzar what God had shown him. For a whole hour he sat wondering what to do.

Finally Nebuchadnezzar told him, "Don't let the dream or what it means trouble you."

"My lord," Daniel answered, "may this dream be for those who hate you and the meaning of it be to your enemies!"

Then Daniel told the king, "The tree that you saw which grew and was strong and which reached up to heaven, is you, O king. You have grown and become strong. Your greatness is grown, and reaches up to heaven. Your kingdom reaches to the end of the earth.

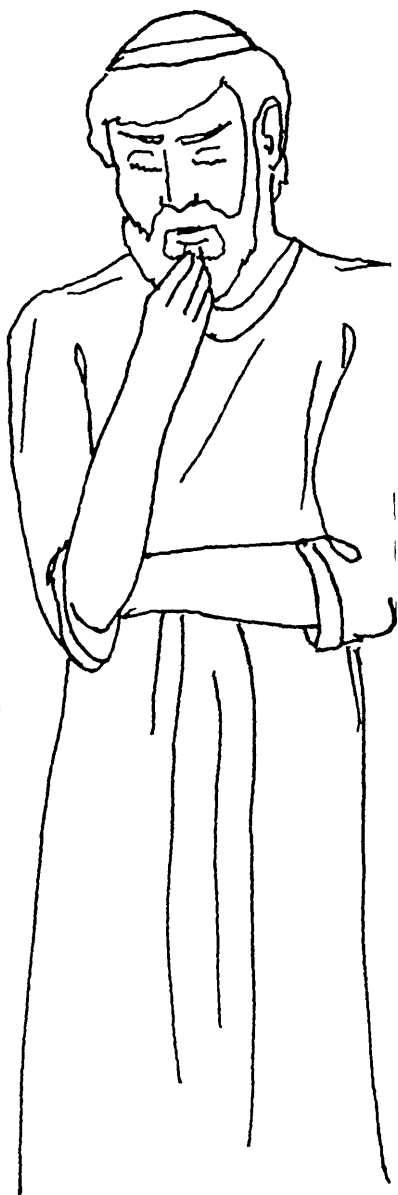
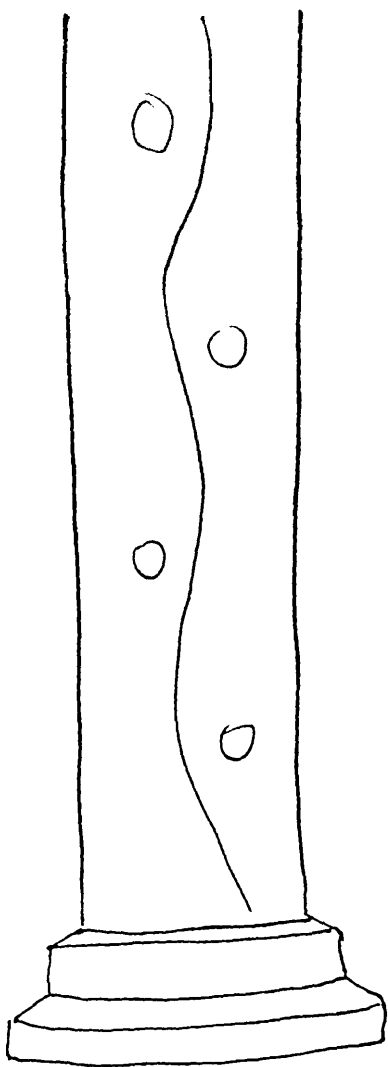
"You saw an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, 'Chop the tree down and destroy it. Yet leave the stump of the roots in the earth. Let it be wet with the dew of heaven and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him.'

"Now this is the meaning of your dream, O king. This is the judgment of the most High which has come upon you. They shall drive you from men. You will live with the beasts of the field and will eat grass like an ox. You will be wet with the dew of heaven for seven years. Then you will know that the most High rules over the kingdom of men.

"But they commanded to leave the stump of the tree root. This means you will again rule over your kingdom. When you admit that the most high God rules over all the earth, then you will live among men again and be restored to your kingdom."

Daniel did not want this to happen to the king. He knew God was very merciful. He urged the king to change his sinful ways. "O king," he begged, "Listen to my advice. Leave your sins and do what is right. Show mercy to the poor. If you will do this, it may be that your days of peace will be lengthened.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





niel...was astonished for one hour, and
thoughts troubled him.... Daniel 4:19.

Dad's Counsel

(Continued from last week.)

Mother had supper nearly on the table when Dad came home from work. "I could smell your good cookin' all the way home," Dad teased as he kissed his wife in the kitchen. "Where are the children? It's almost time to eat."

"Yes, it is," replied Mother. "I will call Linda and Randy to come in and wash up. Jerry is in his bedroom. He has been having trouble again with a boy wanting to fight with him. I think you do better talking to him about the matter than I do."

Dad raised his eyebrows. "I guess I'd better pray for wisdom, huh?"

Mother smiled back. "That might be a good idea. Please tell Jerry to wash and come to the table."

Soon everyone was sitting around the table, the blessing was said, and the dishes of delicious food were being passed around.

Randy looked at Jerry. "What happened to your lip?" he asked Jerry.

"Oh, a smartalec hit it," replied Jerry as he touched his lip carefully.

"Jerry was very brave today," said Mother. "A boy hit him on the bus but Jerry didn't hit him back."

"Was it the same boy who hit you a few weeks ago?" asked Dad.

"Yes," replied Jerry. "John is always hitting somebody. He thinks he is so big and tough. I could knock his lights out any day."

"Well, I'm glad you don't," replied Dad. "Remember that scripture we talked about last time? 'He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.' Proverbs 16:32. Your self-control already has proven you have a stronger charac-

ter than he does. Remember Samson? He was strong in muscles but weak in character. Good temperance and self-control will gain you more respect than fast fists and strong muscles."

"I wish you would tell that to the boys at school," Jerry remarked. "I dread tomorrow. They will probably egg us to fight and call me names when I won't."

"It does take a lot of grace and wisdom," agreed Dad. "I'm pleased with the way you have been brave so far, Son. Leave them to the Lord and concentrate on your school work. Most importantly, we will pray that the Lord will give your soul the victory in this battle."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Nebuchadnezzar glad to tell Daniel his dream?
2. Who could not tell the dream's meaning?
3. Who showed Daniel the meaning?
4. How long did Daniel sit wondering what to do?
5. Who was like the tree that reached to heaven?
6. What did the holy one say to do to the tree?
7. When would Nebuchadnezzar be restored to his kingdom?
8. Who is very merciful?
9. What did Daniel urge the king to do?

LESSON TEXT: Daniel 4:19-27.

(Answers: 1. He knew he could tell its meaning. 2. The other wise men. 3. God. 4. An whole hour. 5. Nebuchadnezzar. 6. Chop it down. 7. When he admitted God rules over all the earth. 8. God. 9. To change his sinful ways.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 2 **Primaries** (USPS540-000) Part 22 June 2, 1996

THE DREAM COMES TRUE

Daniel begged King Nebuchadnezzar to change his sinful ways. But the king did not take Daniel's advice. A whole year passed and nothing happened. Nebuchadnezzar seemed to forget all about the dream. Instead of changing his ways he became more proud of his great kingdom, his beautiful palace and the great city of Babylon.

Then one day he walked through his palace. As he looked at its greatness and beauty he said, "Is not this great Babylon that I have built by the might of my power and for the honor of my majesty?"

While Nebuchadnezzar was still saying these words, a voice spoke to him from heaven. It said, "O king Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom is taken from you!

"They shall drive you from men. You will live with the beasts of the field where you will eat grass like an ox. Seven years will pass. You must learn that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men. He gives it to who ever He will."

Immediately Nebuchadnezzar lost his right mind. He thought he was a wild animal. The people were afraid of him and drove him out of the city. The king lived in the fields and there he ate grass like an ox. Living out in the open his body was often wet with dew. His hair grew until it looked like eagles' feathers and his nails became long and crooked like birds' claws. Everything he had seen in his dream happened to King Nebuchadnezzar.

At the end of seven years God restored Nebuchadnezzar's mind. Then he lifted up his eyes to heaven and blessed God. He said, "I praised and honored Him that lives forever. His kingdom is everlasting. All the people of earth are as nothing. He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among those who live on the earth. No one can stop Him or ask Him, 'What are You doing?'"

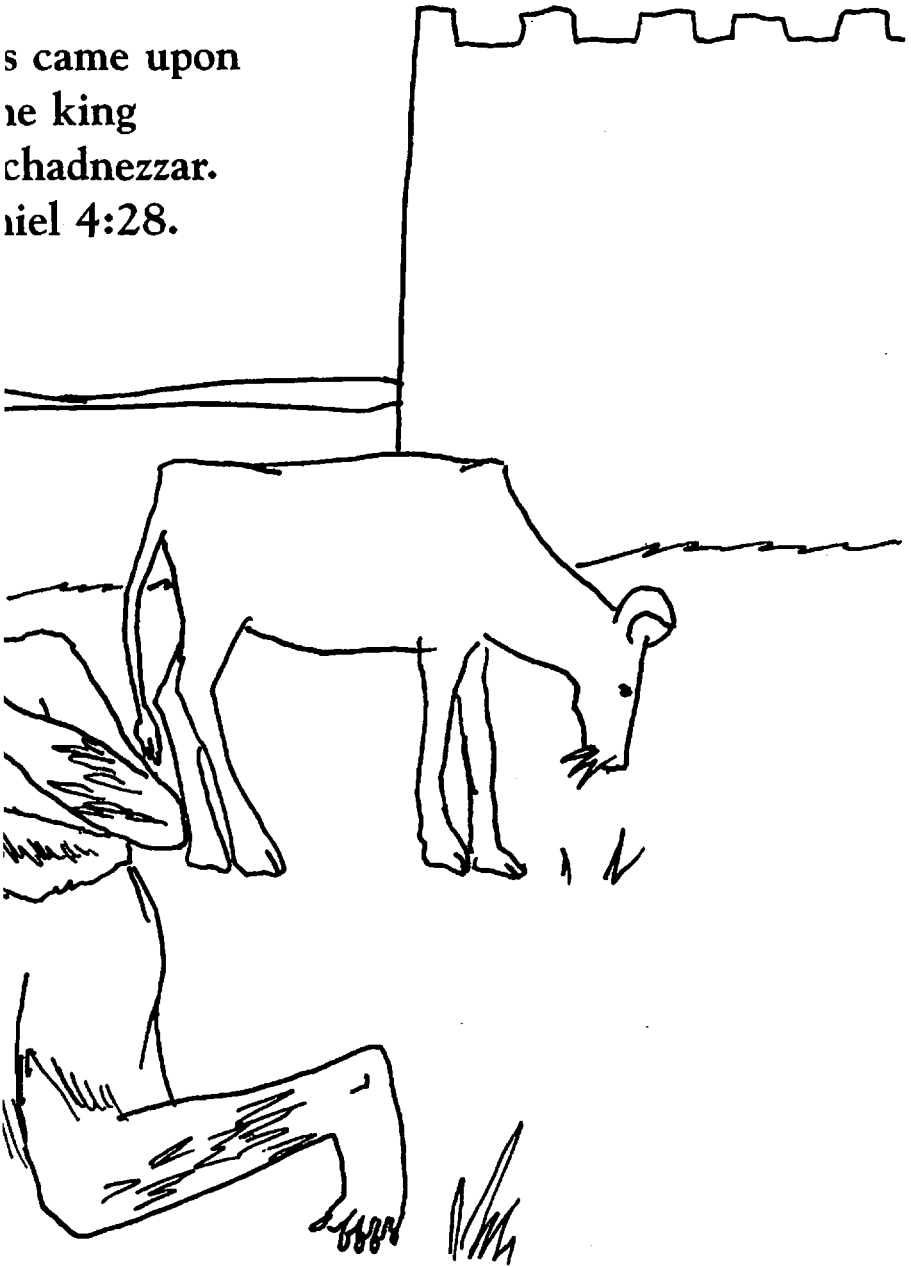
Nebuchadnezzar continued, "When I confessed that God is over all, my reason returned to me. My kingdom, my honor and glory were given to me. My counsellors and lords again asked my advice. I was established in my kingdom and excellent majesty was added to me.

"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and honor God, the King of heaven. All His words are truth. He is able to humble all who walk in pride!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



s came upon
ne king
chadnezzar.
niel 4:28.



The Challenge

(Continued from last week.)

Early the next morning Jerry awoke to the sound of birds singing. He climbed out of bed and went to his upstairs window to see the little singers. The parent birds had built their nest just a little below his window.

"I wish I was a little bird without any troubles," said Jerry. "Then I could sing all day and not worry about bullies and school work."

Jerry sighed as he turned away. He felt his forehead. It wasn't warmer than normal. He jumped up and down but his tummy didn't hurt. "I guess I'm not sick today," he said to himself. He would have to go to school and face John.

Soon Jerry had made his bed, was cleaned up and dressed. He went downstairs to eat breakfast.

"Good morning, Jerry, how do you feel today?" asked Mother.

"I guess I feel okay," replied Jerry.

"Good, because I have a nice breakfast all ready for you to eat." Later, as Jerry and Linda were leaving for school, Mother put her arm around Jerry's shoulders. "I will be praying for you, Son. The Lord will be with you if you stand firm for what is right."

"Thanks," replied Jerry as he gathered up his books and went out the door.

All day long Mother did pray for Jerry. She hoped he would not yield if the boys tempted him to fight. Mother was standing at the window watching for the children when they came walking down the road. Jerry burst through the kitchen door with a smile on his face. "Mother, guess what!" he called out, and Mother said, "I can tell you have good news."

"Yes, I do! John wasn't even at school or on the school bus—he is sick with the chicken pox and probably will miss all the rest of school!"

Mother smiled. "Well, I guess it solved your problem with fighting John, but what about this poor fellow who will miss the last school-day picnic?"

Jerry's face looked surprised. "Why worry about John? God caused him to get sick for a reason."

"Maybe it was so you could show him kindness when he is sick. Would you like to send him a funny get-well card?"

"I see what you mean," said Jerry. "I may change him by returning good for evil. Okay, where are the cards?"

Jerry felt as happy as a bird.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell
(The End)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who begged Nebuchadnezzar to change his sinful ways?
2. What did he do instead of changing his ways?
3. What spoke to Nebuchadnezzar?
4. What was taken from him?
5. What did Nebuchadnezzar think he was?
6. Why did the people drive him from the city?
7. What did the king eat?
8. How long was it before God restored his mind?
9. Who is able to humble the proud?

LESSON TEXT: Daniel 4:28-37.

(Answers: 1. Daniel. 2. He became more proud. 3. A voice from heaven. 4. His right mind. 5. A wild animal. 6. They were afraid of him. 7. Grass. 8. Seven years. 9. God.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 23 June 9, 1996

HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

Belshazzar became king of Babylon after his father, Nebuchadnezzar, died. One night he gave a great feast and invited a thousand nobles and their many wives. When Belshazzar was ready to serve the wine he remembered the beautiful gold and silver cups that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the great temple in Jerusalem. At once he commanded his servants to bring them to the palace so his guests could drink from them.

The servants obeyed. The cups were brought, filled with wine and passed to the guests. As they drank they praised their idols of gold, silver, wood and stone.

Belshazzar was glad to entertain his many nobles in the beautiful palace. As he heard them talking and laughing he knew his guests were enjoying this great feast. Then, suddenly, the fingers of a man's hand appeared on the wall of the palace! A terrible silence fell over the crowd as they watched the hand write strange words.

Belshazzar was so frightened his knees knocked together. He could not understand what the words meant. In a loud voice he called for the wise men. But even they could not read the strange words.

When the queen, Belshazzar's mother, heard that the wise men could not read the words, she went to the banquet room. "O King," she said, "in this city is a very wise man whom you have forgotten. When your father was king this man, Daniel, was the master of all the wise men. Send for him and he will tell you the meaning of the words on the wall."

The king quickly sent for Daniel. He promised to give Daniel rich gifts and make him a ruler in the kingdom if he could tell him what the words meant. Daniel was not interested in the king's gifts, but he promised, "I will read the writing and explain its meaning."

First Daniel reminded Belshazzar how God had punished Nebuchadnezzar because of his sin and pride. Belshazzar knew this and yet he, too, was proud and would not honor God. He even dared to drink wine from the cups from the Lord's temple.

"Because you have done these things," Daniel said, "God has written this message on the wall. The words mean: God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end. You are weighed in the balances and found wanting. Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

That very night the kingdom of Babylon was destroyed.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...The king saw the part



and that wrote. Daniel 5:5.



From Hopeless To Hopeful

(A True Story)

DeJay grew up in Lumberton, NC, among eleven brothers and sisters. He was a nervous, uneasy type of fellow who didn't have patience with anyone or anything. If he tried something once and it didn't work, DeJay gave up. That's why he quit school at an early age and began plowing fields for his dad who was a sharecropper (a hired man who works a landowner's fields for part of the crop it produces).

This slow work was trying to DeJay and he began to drink liquor. He wanted to escape life and fill the void he felt within but he was only making his life more miserable.

His sister lived in Boston so DeJay moved there to live with her and work at a bar selling liquor. He became more and more unhappy. He thought that maybe it was self-control and discipline that he needed.

DeJay enlisted in the Army. After rigid training, he was sent to the Vietnam War. There he became very unhappy and started taking drugs like heroin. Now DeJay was drunk or high on drugs so much that he finally was discharged from the Army.

Back in the United States, very ashamed of himself, DeJay didn't even want his parents to see him as the junkie he was. He roamed from city to city, sleeping on the streets, stealing and fighting for survival. Many times he ended up arrested and in jail. DeJay was homeless, felt hopeless, and was ashamed of himself.

One night he decided to take his own life and get out of his misery. He drove a car down by a lake, parked, got out and jumped into the lake. DeJay didn't know how to swim but after he touched the bottom, he

sprang back up to the top, reached the shore and drove off.

At a bar in Chicago, DeJay fell off of a bar stool and was rushed to a hospital. He told the doctor and others that he wanted to stop drinking and change his life. One worker told him, "If you have an honest desire to change your life, I know where you can go to get help." This worker took him to a mission where a sign above the door read: "Jesus Saves."

Here DeJay was treated kindly and received help. Most importantly, he learned about Jesus and had his sins washed away by the blood of Jesus. DeJay felt full and happy within his heart. That was several years ago. Now DeJay is a chaplain helping other men and women who need to change and get saved.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who became king after Nebuchadnezzar?
2. What had Nebuchadnezzar taken from the temple?
3. What suddenly appeared on the palace wall?
4. What kind of words were written on the wall?
5. Who was greatly frightened?
6. Who did Belshazzar call for?
7. Who told the king to call for Daniel?
8. Who told the king what the words meant?
9. What happened that very night?

LESSON TEXT: Daniel 5.

(Answers: 1. Belshazzar. 2. Gold and silver cups. 3. The fingers of a man's hand. 4. Strange words. 5. Belshazzar. 6. The wise men. 7. The queen. 8. Daniel. 9. The kingdom of Babylon was destroyed.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 24 June 16, 1996

DANIEL'S ENEMIES

While Belshazzar and his guests were eating and drinking wine, enemy soldiers surrounded the city. That night the kingdom of Babylon came to an end. Now the Medes and the Persians ruled the city.

Darius, a Median, became the new king. He chose one hundred and twenty princes to help him govern the kingdom. Over these princes he appointed three presidents. The king knew Daniel was very wise and had an excellent spirit. He made him the first president, over all the others.

This made the princes and the other two presidents jealous of Daniel. They watched him carefully. They wanted to catch him doing something wrong so they could report him to the king. But they could not find error or fault in anything that Daniel did. He was always faithful to the king.

Finally they decided, "The only way we can find fault with Daniel is in the way he obeys the laws of his God." They knew that three times every day Daniel opened his window toward Jerusalem and prayed to God.

The princes and the presidents thought of a plan to trap Daniel. They went to the king and said, "King Darius, live forever." The king asked why they had come.

They answered, "All the presidents, princes, governors, counselors and captains have met and decided on a law you should make. For the next thirty days have every person make his requests only to you. Anyone who makes a request of any god or man except of you, O King, shall be thrown into the lion's den. Now, O King, make this law so it cannot be changed."

Of course Daniel had not helped plan this new law. He was not even with the group that stood before the king. But the king did not notice this. He signed the law and had it announced among all the people.

Daniel heard about the law but he did not obey it. Three times each day he prayed before his open window as he always had. His enemies met and together went to Daniel's house. There they found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell



Then these men assembled,
and found Daniel praying
and making supplication
before his God. Daniel 6:11.



The Kicking Bronco

(A True Story)

Tom, a cowboy in Wyoming, was hired by a guide who took tourists or visitors into secluded mountain areas for their summer vacation.

"This first trip into my hidden camp we need to take supplies," said Johnny, the guide. "Let's saddle up two riding horses. We'll put pack-saddles and supplies on the other ten."

Slowly, calmly, Tom saddled eleven well-behaved horses but when he came to the last horse, this bronco looked at Tom and rolled his eyes. He started snorting and stomping. No-way did he want a saddle on him!

Finally, Tom had to tie up one hind leg while he slapped on the saddle and two panniers: one held a chain saw and one a can of gas. The bronco started kicking as soon as he was released, but when he saw the other horses leave he took his place in the line.

Johnnie led the way along the south fork of the Shoshone River. It was hot. Pesky flies buzzed around the two men and twelve horses. The horses twitched their tails at the flies and that ornery bronco, number eight, would kick at them. They went along a rocky trail and crossed fast running water.

Then they climbed a high, narrow trail called the Catwalk Trail. It was cut into solid rock on the side of the mountain, 100 yards above the river. As Johnnie led the horse train up along the catwalk, Tom, who was last, began to pray. "Dear God, let the horses go along this trail without any accident."

The horses stepped carefully, swaying under the weight of their panniers. Then that ornery bronco stopped right at the most narrow place. He started kicking at the flies

and sure enough, he slipped off the catwalk. Down, down he tumbled with his head between his front legs. He rolled like a wagonwheel over the rocks and scrub brush until he stopped by the river's edge. There he lay dead—still.

Tom was sorry. He followed the rest of the horses into camp and then told Johnnie he would ride down stream and get the things out of that bronco's panniers. As Tom came around a bend of the river, that ornery bronco came running to greet him! He was covered with gasoline but he looked fine. As Tom led the horse into camp, he exclaimed to Johnnie, "Lookie here! I reckon God looks after horses too!"

"Well, someone sure did," replied Johnnie.

From then on that horse behaved himself and became the best packhorse. He learned not to kick about the flies. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. While Belshazzar was eating and drinking, who surrounded the city?
2. What came to an end that night?
3. Who became king?
4. Who did he make the first president?
5. Who wanted to catch Daniel doing something wrong?
6. What would happen to anyone who did not obey the new law?
7. Who did not help plan the new law?
8. Who went to Daniel's house?
9. What did they find Daniel doing?

LESSON TEXT: Daniel 6:1-11.

(Answers: 1. Enemy soldiers. 2. The kingdom of Babylon. 3. Darius. 4. Daniel. 5. His enemies. 6. They would be thrown in the lions' den. 7. Daniel. 8. His enemies. 9. Praying.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 25 June 23, 1996

THE LIONS' DEN

Daniel's enemies stood within sight of his window. They watched him open it. Then, looking toward Jerusalem, he prayed to God.

At last they had found a way to get rid of Daniel. Quickly they hurried to the king. "Have you not signed a law that for thirty days any person who asks a request of God or man, except you, will be thrown into the lion's den?" they asked.

"That is right," King Darius answered, "and that law cannot be changed."

Then the nobles told the king, "That Daniel who was captured out of Judah is not loyal to you. He has not obeyed your law. Three times a day he continues to pray to his God."

When the king heard their words he saw what a mistake he had made. He should never have listened to the nobles and made such a law. All day he studied every way possible to deliver Daniel.

When the sun went down the nobles hurried to the palace and reminded the king that his new law had to be obeyed. Darius knew now that he could not save Daniel. He ordered him brought and thrown into the lions' den.

The king spoke to Daniel, "Your God whom you serve continually will surely deliver you."

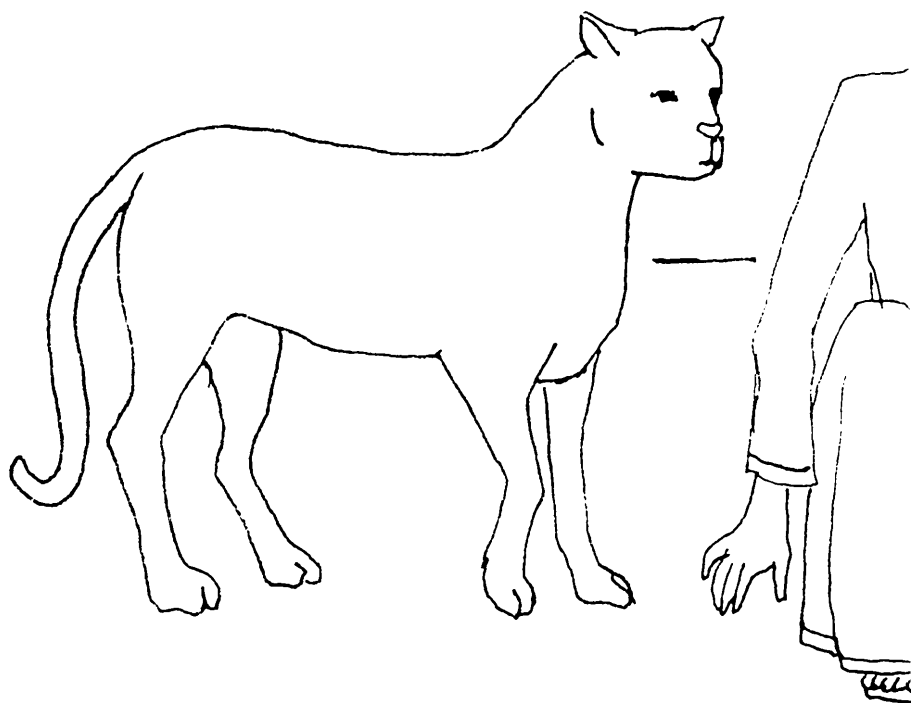
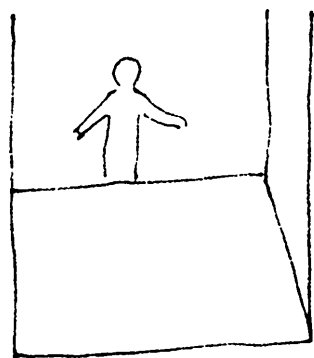
Then a stone was rolled over the lions' den. The king put his seal on the stone so no one would dare move it. With a heavy heart he returned to the palace. He refused to eat anything. Darius was so troubled that he could not sleep all night long. He kept thinking about Daniel.

Very early the next morning, he hurried to the lions' den. In a troubled, anxious voice he called out, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, is your God whom you serve continually able to deliver you from the lions?"

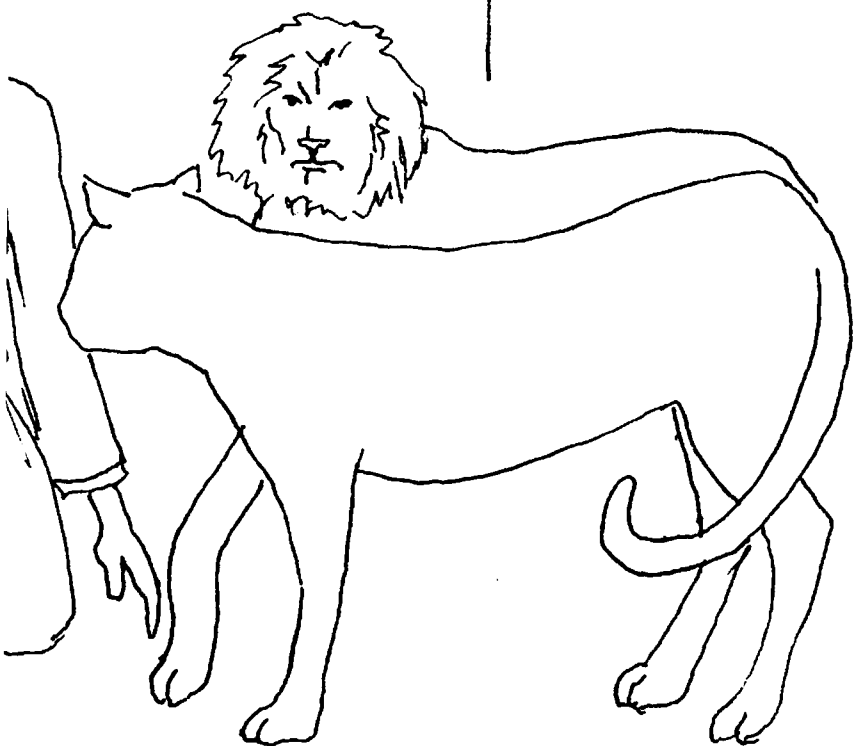
"O King, live forever!" Daniel called back. "My God has sent His angel and has shut the lions' mouths so they did not hurt me. God knew I had done no wrong."

How glad Darius was! He called his servants to pull Daniel from the den. Then he commanded that those who had trapped Daniel be thrown into the den.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



God hath sent his an-
gel and hath shut the lions'
mouths, that they have not
hurt me:... Daniel 6:22.



Crashed

(A True Story)

Don, Phil and Gerald were a geological team searching for copper-bearing rock in the mountains of Costa Rica. One summer morning they were flying a small Bell 47C helicopter. Gerald was a good pilot who knew how to get in and out of low places.

"Let's land on that mountain peak," suggested Don pointing to a mountain thick with tall trees and tropical jungle. Gerald nodded. He circled the helicopter around the mountain and began a descend into the jungle. The rain had stopped but there is always a damp mist in the area.

Gerald was able to land the helicopter on a ledge. Then while he throttled the craft, Don and Phil climbed out and gathered some rock samples. Soon they were back in the helicopter's plexiglass bubble. Gerald advanced the throttle and with a roar they began to rise. Large trees, 100 feet tall, were all around them.

The three men were silent but Don was praying in his heart. Flying in such thin air at an altitude of 7,000 feet was very dangerous. That was one reason why he and his wife prayed together before he left for work. He knew his wife was at home praying for him now.

Suddenly, fifty feet above ground, the helicopter quit climbing. The engine stopped. Immediately, they crashed into a huge tree trunk. Everything went black for the three men. When they finally came to, the helicopter was broken and shattered all around them. Each man had bruises, cuts and one had a couple of broken ribs, but it was a miracle they were alive. Gerald worked with the radio and—wonder of wonders—it worked!

He began to send out a message for help but could not get any reply.

In the cold, damp jungle the men prepared for the night. They ate a little canned food. Then from their survival kits they took out plastic one-man tube tents. As darkness fell around them, the night creatures came to life. They heard grunts and growls circling their campsite. "Lord, please protect us from these jaguars," prayed Don. Suddenly, Phil began to scream! He was having muscle spasms but his screaming scared away the jaguars!

The next morning the men gathered their flares and watched for a rescue helicopter. No person had answered Gerald's message for help but Don assured the others that God would send help. That day, they saw a large chopper searching the mountain. Don sent up his flare and soon the men were rescued.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who watched Daniel's window?
2. What did Daniel do after he opened the window?
3. Who signed the law that could not be changed?
4. Who was thrown into the lions' den?
5. What did they roll over the lions' den?
6. Why did the king put his seal on the stone?
7. Who could not sleep?
8. Why didn't the lions hurt Daniel?
9. What happened to those who trapped Daniel?

LESSON TEXT: Daniel 6:12-24.

(Answers: 1. His enemies. 2. He prayed. 3. Darius. 4. Daniel. 5. A stone. 6. So no one would move it. 7. Darius. 8. God sent His angel and shut their mouths. 9. They were thrown into the lions' den.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 2 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 26 June 30, 1996

DANIEL PROPHECIES

Daniel was very young when he was carried to Babylon from Judah. He never forgot his childhood home in Jerusalem or the temple of God.

Daniel remembered Jeremiah's promise that the Jews would return to their own land after seventy years. The seventy years would soon be up. Daniel longed to see his people return to their land and rebuild the temple of the Lord!

Sometimes Daniel prayed all day long for himself and his people. Sometimes he went days without eating. He would often dress in sackcloth and sit in ashes to show God how sorry he was for his sins and the sins of his people.

God heard Daniel's prayers. One evening an angel came to comfort him. The angel said, "O Daniel, you are greatly loved by the Lord. You shall be told what will happen in the years to come." Then the angel told Daniel that one day a Savior would come.

Daniel still worked in the government even after he became very old. After Darius died, Cyrus became king. He made Daniel an adviser to his capital city in Persia. Daniel still prayed earnestly for his own people.

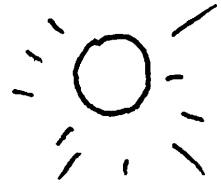
One day when Daniel was down by the river, an angel appeared to him. A great brightness shone all around the angel. At the sight of him Daniel's strength left him and he fell to the ground. The men who were with him did not see the angel but they felt the earth quaking beneath their feet. They were so frightened they ran away.

As Daniel lay on the ground, the angel touched him. Daniel got up and the angel spoke to him. At first Daniel could not answer, but the angel touched his lips. The angel talked for a long time. Later Daniel wrote all that the angel said in a book.

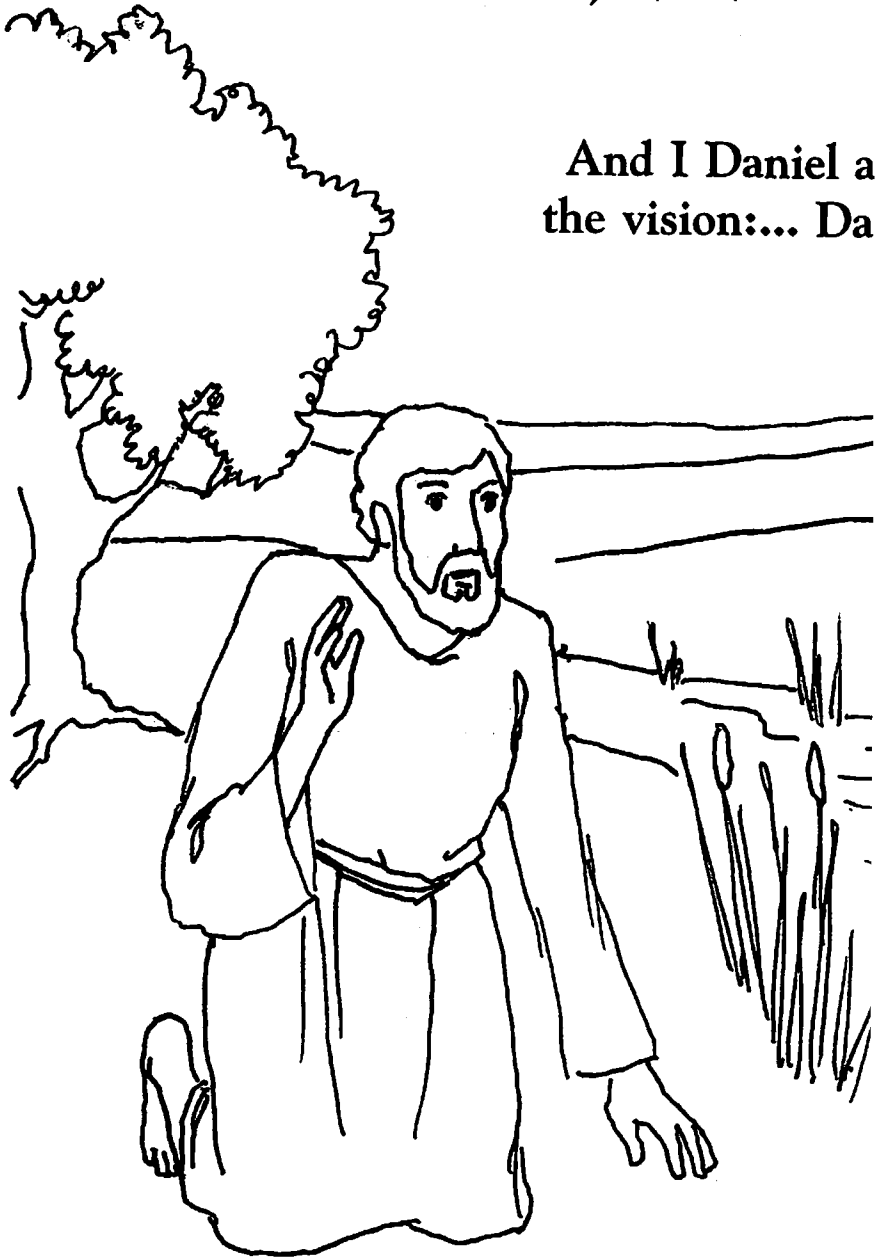
Daniel was both a great statesman and a great prophet. By his courage and loyalty to God, he helped several heathen kings respect the one true God.

King Cyrus finally allowed the Jews to return to their homeland. How happy Daniel was to see his prayers answered and God's promise fulfilled!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



And I Daniel a
the vision:... Da





Thunder and Lightning Prophecy

It was a warm summer day. Jerry, Linda, Randy and their cousins were out in the back yard playing games.

"Let's play, 'Captain, May I?' and I will be captain first," said Jerry. "Line up between the two sycamore trees. Here, Linda, stand here. Randy, David, Lisa, and Maria—there, now you're all in place. Now I will stand out here by the play house. Linda, you are first. Take two giant steps."

"Captain, may I?" asked Linda.

"Yes, you may," replied Jerry.

Linda took two big banana split steps.

"Okay, Randy. Take three scissor-cut steps," said Jerry.

"Captain, may I?" asked Randy.

Jerry said, "Yes," and Randy took the steps. "David, take five baby steps," said Randy. "Captain, may I?" asked David.

Suddenly, there was a flash of lightning followed by a loud **boom!**

"It's going to rain!" cried some of the children. "Run to the house!"

Jerry was looking up at the sky. "It isn't going to rain very soon," he said. "The dark clouds are just now coming in from the west. We still have time to finish this game."

"I'm scared," whined Randy.

"Oh, don't be a scaredy-cat," said Jerry. "Let's be brave. David, did you say, 'Captain, may I?'"

"Yes, I did," replied David.

Flash! Flash! Boom! Boom!

"We are going inside," announced Linda. Randy and her little cousin, Lisa, already had hold of her hand.

"Let 'em go," Jerry said to David

and Maria. "Let's finish the game. David, take your steps."

David took his steps and now it was Maria's turn. "Maria, take nine pigeon-toe steps." Maria began to step without asking.

"No, Maria, you didn't ask," said Jerry.

Flash! Flash! BOOM! BOOM!

David and Maria were running to the house when Mother appeared at the door to call the children in. "Aw," said Jerry to his mother, "we had plenty of time to finish the game! They were just scaredy-cats!"

"No, Jerry," replied Mother. "It is not safe to play outside when there is lightning and thunder. They are warnings that a storm is coming." Soon hard rain was pounding down.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was carried to Babylon when he was very young?
2. Where was his childhood home?
3. Who promised that the Jews would return to their homeland?
4. How many years would soon be up?
5. What did Daniel long to see his people do?
6. Who came to comfort Daniel?
7. What did Daniel write in a book?
8. How did Daniel help several heathen kings respect God?
9. What king finally allowed the Jews to return to their homeland?

LESSON TEXT: Daniel 7-12.

(Answers: 1. Daniel. 2. Jerusalem. 3. Jeremiah. 4. Seventy. 5. Return to their homeland. 6. An angel. 7. All the angel told him. 8. By his courage and loyalty to God. 9. King Cyrus.)