

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Jan. 2, 2000

SODOM AND GOMORRAH

Lot sat in the gate of the city of Sodom as the sun set. Two angels came toward him in the road. He rose up to meet them and bowed at their feet.

"Please," Lot offered, "Come into my house and have dinner and stay the night."

"We were planning to stay the night in the street," the angels told him.

"No, you should not do that," Lot warned. "It is not safe. You must stay in my house."

So, the angels did. That night the men of Sodom came to the door of Lot's house.

"Bring out your guests that we may know them," they ordered.

Lot went outside the door to talk to them but the men would not go away. They tried to break down the door. The angels reached out and pulled Lot back inside. Then they struck all the men at the door with blindness.

"Take all your family and get out of this city," the angels told Lot, "For God has sent us to destroy it!"

So Lot went to his daughters and sons-in-law and begged them to come with him. But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.

The next morning, Lot got ready to leave. But he was being too slow so the angels took hold of his hands and of his wife's and daughters' hands and pulled them outside the city.

"Don't stay in the plain," they commanded, "Flee to the mountains and don't look back!"

"Oh, please, let us go into this little city over here," Lot pleaded, "Because if we try to get to the mountain we will surely die."

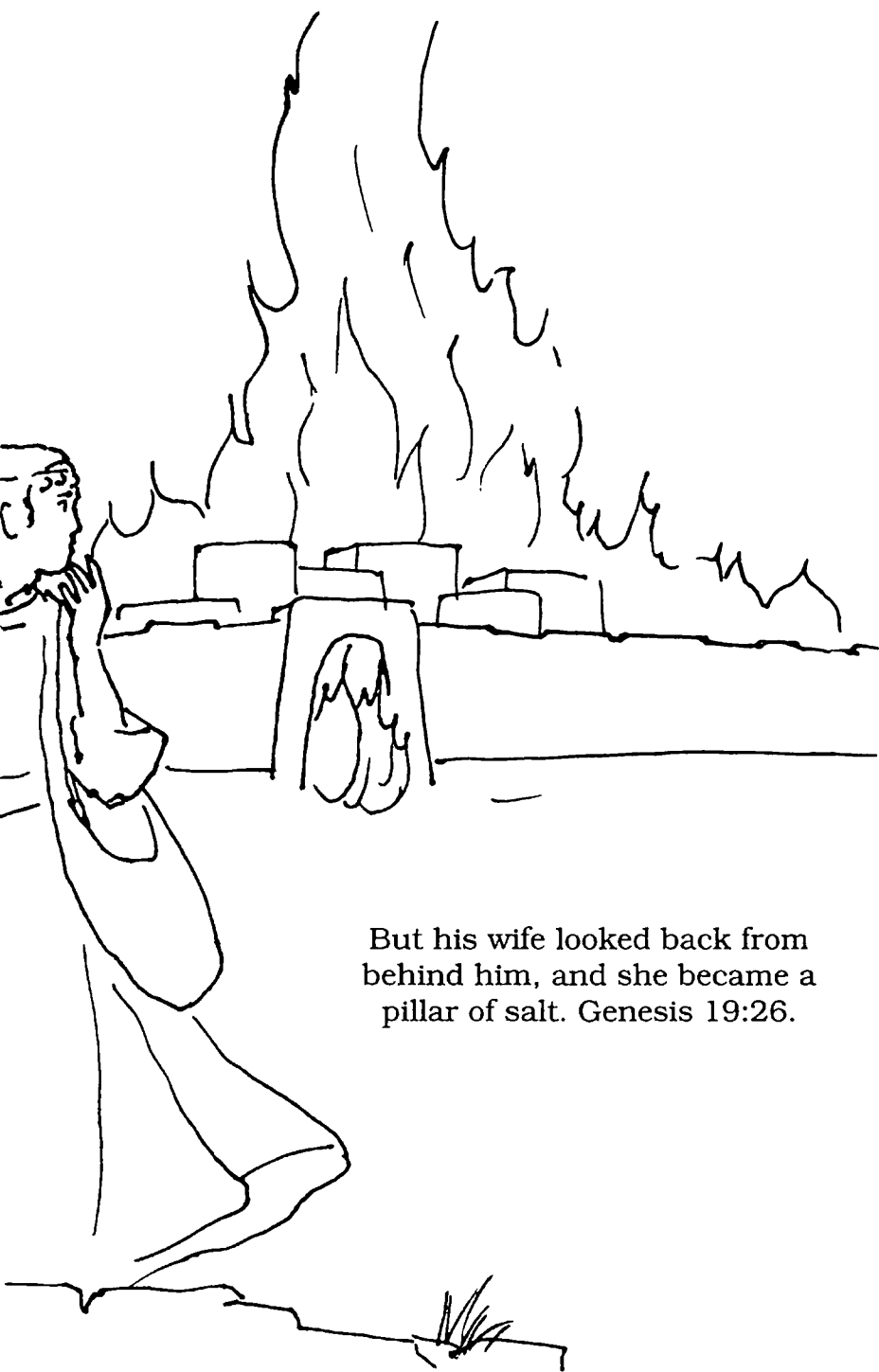
"You may go into the little city," The Lord said, "But hurry, because I can't do anything until you are safely there."

So Lot and his family fled across the plain. But as they went, Lot's wife looked back. She froze in that position—a stiff, white, pillar of salt.

Then the Lord rained fire and brimstone down on those two wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham got up out of his tent and went and looked. All he could see was smoke. It was like a huge furnace that covered the plain.

—Joanna Boohar





But his wife looked back from
behind him, and she became a
pillar of salt. Genesis 19:26.

When Time Won't Be Counted

"So, Brian, how did you celebrate the New Year coming in?" Jerry asked his friend on the first day of school after the Holidays.

"Well, my parents didn't want us to be away from the house so we all were at home when the New Year came in. Where were you, Jerry?"

"We were at home also," replied Jerry. "We all knelt down and prayed about five minutes before twelve o'clock. That's a family tradition to pray the old year out and the new year in. This is a really important new year. Not only is it the end of 100 years of time, but also the end of 1000 years of time. I don't think I will live to see the next century and for sure not the next millennium."

"You will be in heaven and watch it all from there," replied Brian.

"In heaven time isn't counted by days, months, and years. There aren't any clocks or calendars."

"Then how will we know when to go to school?" asked Brian. "Oh, I guess there won't be any school. That's why it will be heaven." "Won't that be great!" exclaimed Jerry. "It is hard to imagine what heaven will be like but I sure want to go there instead of the other place. Right now so many people are talking about a rapture and the troubles the ones left behind will have. That is all wrong. When Jesus comes again He is judging the good and evil and the earth will burn with fire."

Brian nodded. "Yes, I saw that film, *Left Behind* and it was really scary. I didn't want to see any of the other films like it."

"Don't bother," replied Jerry. "That isn't the way it will be. The

Lord is giving everyone a chance right now to get saved from their sins so they can go to heaven. Remember the story about Sodom and Gomorrah? Two angels came into the city to take Lot's family out. Only four left and then Lot's wife looked back and turned to salt. God did what He said he was going to do—He destroyed those two cities with fire and brimstone. That's what He is going to do at the end of time. He's going to burn up this whole earth."

"Do you think we will be alive when it happens?" asked Brian.

"No one knows," Jerry answered. "The most important thing is to be saved and ready to go when Jesus comes."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who came to the gate of Sodom as the sun set?
2. Who invited the angels into his house?
3. Who knocked on Lot's door and told him to bring out his guests?
4. What did the angels do to the men at the door?
5. Did Lot's sons-in-law leave the city with him?
6. Who looked back?
7. What happened to her?
8. What did God do to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah?
9. Who got up out of his tent and went and looked over the plain?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 19:1-28.

(Answers: 1. Two angels. 2. Lot. 3. The men of the city. 4. Struck them with blindness. 5. No. 6. Lot's wife. 7. She turned into a pillar of salt. 8. Rained fire and brimstone down on them. 9. Abraham.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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THE PROMISED SON

When the right time was come, God fulfilled his promise to Abraham. God let Sarah, Abraham's wife, have a son, and Abraham named him Isaac. Abraham was one hundred years old when his son was born and Sarah was ninety. They were both filled with joy at the birth of their son.

"God has caused me to laugh," Sarah said. "Who would have thought that I could have a child when I am so old? God has caused me to laugh and all who hear it will laugh with me."

While Isaac was still very young, Abraham and Sarah threw a feast to celebrate his growth.

One day Sarah saw Ishmael, her bondwoman's son, mocking Isaac. This made Sarah very unhappy. Ishmael was also Abraham's son, by Hagar, but Sarah went to Abraham and said, "Send Ishmael and Hagar away. I do not want Ishmael to receive your lands and wealth and name with my son, Isaac."

Abraham did not like this idea because Ishmael was his son. But God said to him, "Pay attention to your wife on this matter. Isaac is the son that I promised and he is the one that I will make the father of many people. I will also make Ishmael a great nation but Isaac is the promised one."

So Abraham rose up the next morning, gave Hagar and Ishmael some food and water and sent them away. They went out and wandered in the wilderness. Finally, their water was all gone. Hagar put her son under a bush and sat down some distance away.

"I don't want to see him die," Hagar said and started to cry.

God heard her crying and sent His angel. The angel said to Hagar, "What's wrong, Hagar? Don't be afraid, God has promised to make your son a great nation. Lift up your son."

God opened Hagar's eyes and she saw a well of water. She went and filled her water bottle and gave some to Ishmael. God blessed them both. Ishmael grew up and became an archer. He had many children who were known as the Ishmaelites.

—Joanna Booher

And Sarah said, God hath made me to la
laugh with me. Gene



so that all that hear will
1:6.



Good News

"Before we start our lessons, does anyone have any announcements to make?" asked Mrs. Nelson, the teacher.

Linda's hand popped up. "I do!" she exclaimed.

"Okay, Linda, stand up here in front of the class and tell us your news."

With a happy skip, Linda obeyed Mrs. Nelson. Facing the class room of students, she bubbled with excitement. "I have a new baby brother!" she announced. "He is so cute with chubby round cheeks and black hair. He isn't heavy at all—just the same weight as a gallon of milk—but Mom says he is a big baby at eight pounds, three ounces. I get to hold him when he is awake and I even dressed him once. I have to be really careful though because his bones are so tiny and frail. He can sure cry really loud when he wants something. Usually he cries when he is hungry. He's a lot of work but he's fun, too."

"Congratulations!" said Mrs. Nelson. "What is your new brother's name?"

"Mom and Dad named him Allen Wayne. Allen means cheerful and handsome. That name fits him just right."

"The right name is important," said Mrs. Nelson. "We don't notice the meaning of names today like some people did in times past. I think people today pick a name that they like to say."

"Mother and Dad wanted to know what Allen meant before they named him," said Linda. "They de-

cided that should be his name after he was born."

Mrs. Nelson smiled. "Allen is a blessing to your family, I am sure," she said. "Be patient with him. Show him kindness and love and he will love you in return. He won't stay little very long."

"I know," agreed Linda. "Randy use to be little and sweet but now he is big and sassy. I hope Allen doesn't learn any bad ways from Randy."

"Allen will have his own bad ways like the rest of us," said Mrs. Nelson. "That is the duty of parents to weed out the bad ways and encourage the good ones. As his sister, you can help by setting a good example of obedience before him."

"I will," agreed Linda. "Mother says that if I am kind to him today, tomorrow he will be my friend."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who finally had a son?
2. What did Abraham and Sarah name their son?
3. What did Sarah say God had caused her to do?
4. Who did Sarah see mocking her son, Isaac?
5. How did this make Sarah feel?
6. What did she tell Abraham to do to Hagar and Ishmael?
7. Did Abraham send them away?
8. Who found Hagar in the wilderness?
9. What did God cause Hagar to see?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 21:1-21.

(Answers: 1. Sarah. 2. Isaac. 3. Laugh. 4. Ishmael. 5. Unhappy. 6. Send them away. 7. Yes. 8. God's angel. 9. A well of water.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Jan. 16, 2000

ABRAHAM'S TEST

God called to Abraham one night, "Abraham."

Abraham said, "Here am I."

God said, "Abraham, take your son, your only son, Isaac, and go into the land of Moriah. I want you to offer him there for a burnt sacrifice on a mountain that I will show you."

Without questioning, Abraham got up the next morning and saddled his donkey. He took two servants, some wood and Isaac. Then he started out across the country. The group travelled for three days. On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the mountain that God had told him to go to.

"Wait here," Abraham told the two servants, "My son and I will go into the mountain and worship and come back."

He took the wood and put it on Isaac. Then he took the knife and the fire, and began to climb the mountain.

Isaac said to him, "My father, we have the wood, the knife, and the fire, but where is the sacrifice?"

Abraham answered, "God will provide a sacrifice, my son."

When they reached the spot, Abraham built an altar. Then he bound his son, Isaac, and placed him on it. He took the knife and raised it in his hand.

An angel called to him out of heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

Abraham said, "Here am I."

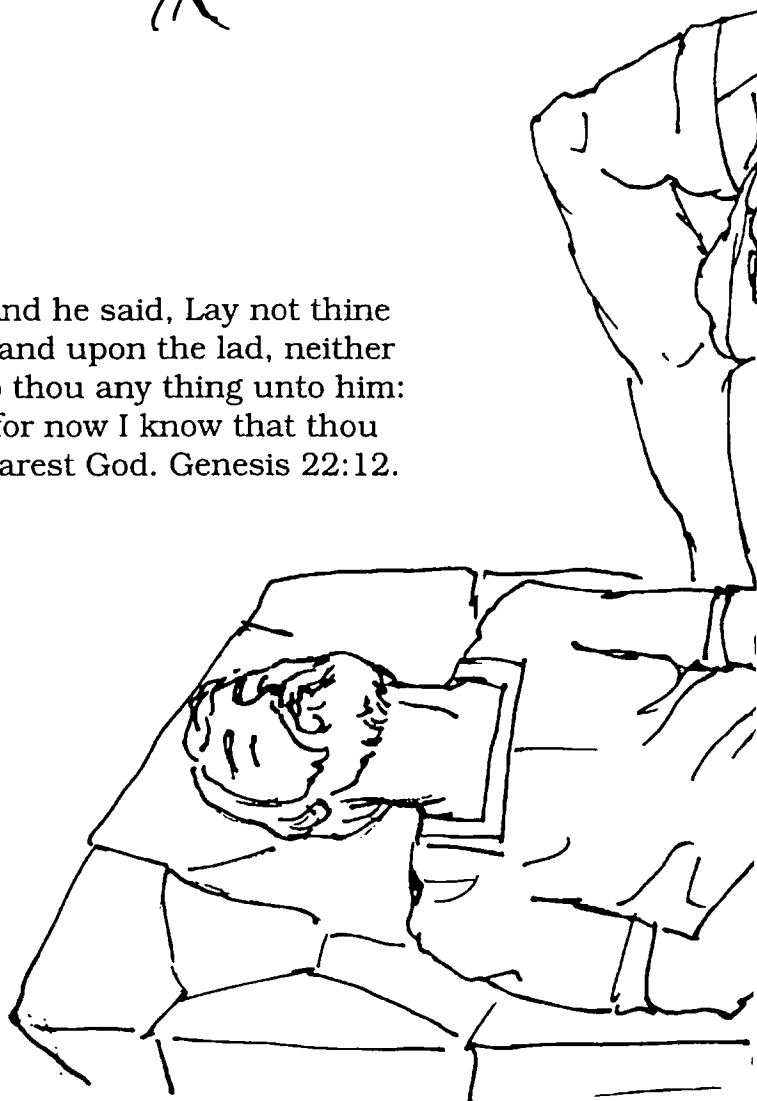
"Do not do anything to your son," the angel told him, "For now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld Isaac, your only son, from Him."

Abraham looked and saw a ram caught in the bushes by its horns. With joy he untied his son and sacrificed the ram in his place.

The angel spoke to Abraham again out of heaven and said, "Because you have obeyed God and not withheld anything from Him, God says He will bless you very greatly. Your children will be as many as the sand of the seashore and the stars in the sky. You will have power over your enemies and through you all the nations of the earth will be blessed. All this will you receive because you obeyed His voice." —Joanna Booher



And he said, Lay not thine
hand upon the lad, neither
do thou any thing unto him:
for now I know that thou
fearest God. Genesis 22:12.





Honor God's Name

Steven and Buddy were playing trucks and cars together. Both boys were laughing and having a fun time. When something silly would happen, Buddy would say, "Oh, my!" and then use God's name in vain, and then both boys would giggle.

Soon Steven's mother called him to come home and eat supper. He hurried home with his cars and trucks. He washed his hands and gathered with the family around the table full of food. After everyone was seated, they bowed their heads and Steven's father thanked God for the food and all his daily blessings. Soon the family was chatting pleasantly as they filled their plates.

Paul, Steven's brother, was passing the bowl of gravy when he accidentally put his elbow in the mashed potatoes on his plate. Steven giggled and said what he had heard Buddy say earlier in the day.

Everyone stopped talking. They looked at Steven, shocked at what they had heard.

"What did you say?" Steven's dad asked sternly.

Sadly, Steven looked down at his plate while his father sat back in his chair.

"Have I not told you to never swear or take the Lord's name in vain?" said Dad.

Steven nodded.

"It will not be tolerated in this house," continued Dad. "We only use the Lord's name with respect and reverence. When I prayed, I thanked God, our Father, for every blessing He has given us. We owe our lives to Him for His mercy and goodness. Never use His name lightly as a swear word, do you understand, Steven?"

"Yes, sir," replied Steven.

"Does Buddy take the Lord's name in vain?" Mother asked Steven.

"All the time," said Steven. "I forgot and said it because I heard it so much this afternoon."

"That is sad," said Mother. "You will not be playing with Buddy so much until he learns better manners."

"A lot of people say that any more," remarked Paul.

"It is still wrong," said Dad. "Usually what most people are saying or doing isn't the right way. It takes a strong man to stand against a crowd of evil doers. Learn to be spiritually strong and resist the wrong. It will make you a winner and gain you respect with God."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who called to Abraham one night?
2. What did God tell Abraham to do?
3. Did Abraham ask God "Why?"
4. How soon did Abraham leave to do as God told him?
5. What did Abraham say when Isaac asked where the sacrifice was?
6. Who called to Abraham when he raised the knife?
7. What did the angel tell Abraham?
8. What did Abraham see caught in the bushes?
9. What did God do to Abraham because he obeyed Him?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 22:1-18.

(Answers: 1. God. 2. Sacrifice his only son, Isaac. 3. No. 4. The next morning. 5. "God will provide a sacrifice." 6. An angel. 7. "Do not harm your son." 8. A ram. 9. Blessed him greatly.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Jan. 23, 2000

ELIEZER'S SEARCH

Like most boys, Isaac grew up. Abraham saw this and decided it was time for his son to get married. Abraham was very old by now so he called his most trusted servant, Eliezer, to his side.

"Eliezer," Abraham said, "I want you to find a wife for my son. But you must promise not to find him a wife here, among the Canaanites. You must go back to my people, where I used to live, and find him a wife from there."

"What if the girl I find doesn't want to come back here with me?" Eliezer wondered. "Should I take Isaac back there to her?"

"No," said Abraham. "God has promised this land to Isaac. Whatever you do, don't take Isaac back to my homeland."

So Eliezer took ten camels and departed. He travelled across the desert to the city of Nahor. Outside the city he made his camels kneel down by a well and then he started to pray.

"Oh, God of my master, Abraham," he prayed. "Please help me and bless my search for Abraham's sake. You see how the girls of the city come out to this well to draw water. Please, let it be that the one I ask for a drink of water will offer to water my camels also, and please let her be the one for Isaac."

Before Eliezer had finished praying, a girl named Rebekah came out of the city carrying her pitcher. She had a beautiful smile and was not married.

Eliezer ran to meet her. "Please, may I have a drink from your pitcher?" he asked.

"Yes," she said, "And I will draw water for your camels also."

Eliezer stood amazed as Rebekah watered all ten of his camels. Then he took a gold earring and two gold bracelets and gave them to the lovely girl. "Whose daughter are you?" he asked, "And is there room in your house for my caravan to stay?"

"I am the daughter of Bethuel and we have plenty of room for you," Rebekah answered.

Eliezer knelt down and gave thanks to God. For not only had God answered his requests, but Bethuel was a relative of his master, Abraham.

—Joanna Booher

And it came to pass, before he had
that, behold, Rebekah came out,...



speaking,
sis 24:15.



A Pretty Heart For Jesus

One afternoon, David and Karen went in a small dime store to shop with Mother. The store had many specials and Mother took a long time to look, but David and Karen were quiet.

The clerk noticed how good the children were so she said, "Come here and let me give you something special." She reached under the counter and pulled out a yellow bead necklace for Karen and a boy's ring for David.

"Thank you!" said David and Karen. "I've never had a necklace before," said Karen and she put it around her neck. David couldn't decide which finger to put the ring on. Finally, he decided it fit his thumb the best.

On the way home, Karen kept fingering the necklace. After awhile she asked Mother, "Do you think Jesus likes my necklace?"

"Karen," said Mother, "Jesus loves to see a pretty heart. That's what He looks for when He sees people. When you have a necklace, ring, or other jewelry on yourself—if it puts pride in your heart that looks ugly to Jesus. What He wants to see is a pure heart that isn't stained with pride. Would you like to know a little secret, David and Karen?"

"What secret?" they wanted to know.

"When you live for Jesus and let Him rule in your heart, you have a beauty about you that will outshine any jewelry and make it look cheap. That is the kind of good-looks I want you to have and so does Jesus."

All the rest of the way home, David and Karen thought about what Mother had said. When Dad came home from work, he noticed their jewelry right away. They explained to

him where they had gotten it.

"I tell you what," said Dad. "If I bought your jewelry from you for a dollar, would you make the deal?" "Yes, here's the ring," agreed David.

Karen hesitated. She liked the necklace and the feeling that it gave her. Then she remembered what Mother had said about having a pretty heart in the sight of Jesus.

"Here, you can have this necklace also," she said.

Dad took the two items and they never saw them again.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Abraham decide Isaac needed?
2. Who did Abraham tell to go find a wife for Isaac?
3. From where did Abraham tell Eliezer to go get Isaac a wife?
4. What did Eliezer do after he made his camels kneel down by the well?
5. Who came out of the city?
6. What did Eliezer ask Rebekah?
7. What did she offer to do?
8. What did Eliezer give Rebekah?
9. What did Eliezer do after he found out Rebekah had room in her father's house and was a relative?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 24:1-27.

(Answers: 1. A wife. 2. His most trusted servant, Eliezer. 3. His homeland. 4. Prayed to God. 5. Rebekah. 6. For a drink of water. 7. Draw water for his camels also. 8. A gold earring and two gold bracelets. 9. Gave thanks to God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Jan. 30, 2000

A WIFE FOR ISAAC

Eliezer, Abraham's servant, knelt on the ground praying. He thanked God because He had blessed his search for a wife for Isaac. A sweet girl named Rebekah had done each of the things he had asked God to let her do and she was also a relative of Abraham.

As Eliezer thanked God, Rebekah ran to tell her family what had happened. When they heard it, her brother, Laban, came out to meet Eliezer.

Laban invited the traveller into his house and gave him supper. But Eliezer refused to eat until he had told them his reason for being there. He told them how he was sent by Abraham to find a wife for his son, Isaac, and how Abraham was rich and all he had belonged to Isaac. He also told them how God had answered each of his requests concerning the girl to choose. Then he asked Rebekah's father and brother if they would let him take Rebekah. "Yes," they said, "But please wait ten days before you go."

"Please, let me go now," Eliezer asked, "God has blessed me so far, let's not stop now."

"Let's ask Rebekah," Laban and Bethuel said.

"I will go," was Rebekah's answer, so the next day they left.

Isaac, Abraham's son, was out in the field when he saw the ten camels coming toward him.

"Who is this that comes?" Rebekah asked.

"It is my master, Isaac," Eliezer answered.

Rebekah took a vail and covered herself as she got down off her camel. Isaac saw her and loved her and she became his wife.

—Joanna Booher





For she had said unto the servant,
What man is this that walketh in
the field to meet us? And the ser-
vant had said, It is my master:
therefore she took a vail, and cov-
ered herself. Genesis 24:65.

The White Wedding Dress

"Mother, I am dressed and ready to go," announced Linda as she came into the nursery where Mother had just dressed baby Allen. "Here, Linda, please hold your brother while I comb my hair," said Mother. "Then we will be ready to leave for the wedding."

Linda settled down in a rocker with Allen in her arms. She talked softly to him and his little eyes watched her mouth. He moved his lips and waved his arms as he responded to Linda's talk.

Soon Linda, her mother, father, and three brothers were in their van headed to the Church of God chapel where their cousin was getting married.

Linda liked weddings. She had seen several and every one had been different, but in every wedding the bride always wore white. Linda had asked her mother why.

"The white gown symbolizes purity," replied Mother. "It is honorable to be a pure bride. This means that the bride has been modest in dress and conduct. The happiest brides are the ones who have a heart as white as the wedding dress she wears."

Inside the chapel Linda asked if she could sit on the end of bench so she could see the bride better. Soon the wedding music started. Two girl candlelighters walked down the aisle and lit the candles. Then by the altar a door opened and the minister, groom, and two groomsmen stepped to the front. A little flower girl and a boy Bible bearer walked together down the aisle and stood by the men. Next, one at a time, two brides-

maids dressed in long, purple dresses came down the aisle and took their places. Now all was ready for the bride.

As the bride came to the entrance, everyone stood up to honor her. Like everyone else, Linda wanted to see her dress. Yes, it was white and she had a veil over her face. Mother had said that was an old custom from the ancient days when Rebecca had covered her face from Isaac before they were married. When the bride passed by holding to her father's arm, Linda could see that she was smiling.

Linda smiled, too. Weddings are such happy times! Someday she wanted to be a bride with a heart as pure as a white wedding dress.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Rebekah run to tell what had happened?
2. Who came out to meet Eliezer?
3. Did Laban invite Eliezer in for supper?
4. What did Eliezer refuse to do before he had told the reason for his visit?
5. Whom did Eliezer say was rich?
6. Whom did Eliezer say Abraham's riches belonged to?
7. Did Rebekah agree to go?
8. What did Rebekah do when she knew it was Isaac coming toward them across the field?
9. Did Isaac love his wife?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 24:28-67.

(Answers: 1. Her family. 2. Rebekah's brother, Laban. 3. Yes. 4. Eat. 5. Abraham. 6. His son, Isaac. 7. Yes. 8. Covered herself with a veil. 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Feb. 6, 2000

TWIN BROTHERS

Rebekah, Isaac's wife, was going to have twins. She could feel them fighting inside her so she asked God about it.

God said, "Your children are going to be two different nations. One of them will be stronger than the other and the older one will serve the younger one."

Finally Rebekah's sons were born. The elder was Esau and the younger was Jacob. Esau grew up to be a very good hunter and was the favorite of his father. As the oldest he would receive the birthright which was Isaac's land and a very special blessing from God. Jacob grew up to be a peaceable man who enjoyed cooking and was his mother's favorite.

One day Esau came in from hunting. "Jacob, I'm starved," he said. "Give me some of that pottage you are cooking."

"Sell me your birthright for it," Jacob answered.

Esau thought, "I am so hungry, I could die right now if I don't eat. What good would a birthright do me then? All right, I'll sell it to you," he told Jacob.

"Swear to me," Jacob told him. So, Esau swore and sold his birthright that day to Jacob. Then he ate his pottage and went his way.

—Joanna Booher

And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray the
same red pottage; for I am faint:... Genes



n that
30.



The Sled Stunt

Mother was in the kitchen preparing supper when Jerry, followed by Randy, walked in.

"Mother, would you please tell Randy not to follow me?" asked a disgusted Jerry. "Tom and I want to go sledding and Randy will just get in the way."

"No, I won't," declared Randy with a hopeful look. "I have my own sled and I won't get in your way."

"Randy, Tom and I plan to race and we will be going much too fast for you to keep up. I don't want you to get hurt. Please, Mother, tell Randy to stay here and leave us alone."

"I won't get in their way," pleaded Randy. "I want to sled down that big hill, too. I never get to go because Jerry and his friends are always there sledding. When Jerry was my age, he went sledding with the boys. Why can't I?"

"Jerry, why don't you let Randy go with you?" said Mother. "He can slide down the hill on the north side while you and your friends play on the west side where the slope is longer."

Jerry had an unhappy frown on his face. "Okay, Randy, you can go but I'm warning you, don't get in our way."

"Randy, you stay on the north slope and don't bother the older boys," instructed Mother. "Jerry, you can check on Randy once in a while. Dress warmly and be back in an hour."

Quickly the boys put on their winter clothes then ran to get their sleds in the barn. Tom and Jerry had fun racing down the longer slope while Randy played alone on his side. In each race, the two older boys reached the bottom of the hill at the same time.

"Since our sleds stay together, let's do some stunts," suggested Tom. "Let's hop across and trade sleds. When I say, 'hop', then you cross over in front of me and we will climb across to each other's sled."

That sounded like fun to Jerry. Side by side the boys started down the hill. "Hop," called Tom. As the boys went to hop, their sled runners bumped together. Boom! Both boys pitched forward into the snow and their sleds ran into them.

"Ouch! Help! Get these sleds off of me!" yelled Jerry. Tom was wiggling out of the snow when Randy came running to get the sled off Jerry.

"My ankle hurts," said Jerry. Tom and Randy helped Jerry get on his sled. Then they pulled him home. Randy was so helpful that Jerry said to him, "Thanks, brother. I'm glad you came along because I needed you after all."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was going to have twins?
2. Who was the oldest of the twins?
3. Who was the younger?
4. What did Esau grow up to become?
5. Whose favorite was Esau?
6. What kind of man was Jacob?
7. Whose favorite was Jacob?
8. What did Esau ask Jacob for?
9. What did Jacob tell him to trade for?
10. Did Esau trade his birthright?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 25:21-34.

(Answers: 1. Rebekah, Isaac's wife. 2. Esau. 3. Jacob. 4. A hunter. 5. His father, Isaac's. 6. Peacable. 7. His mother's, Rebekah. 8. Some pottage. 9. Esau's birthright. 10. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Feb. 13, 2000

THE BIRTHRIGHT

Isaac was old and going blind. He knew that he could die soon. So, he called for his oldest son, Esau.

"Go out and hunt for meat," Isaac told Esau, "Fix it the way I like it and bring it in to me and I will give you your birthright."

So Esau went out. But Rebekah, his mother, had heard Isaac's words. She did not want Esau to receive the blessing since Jacob was her favorite and God had told her that he was the one who would receive it.

Quickly she called Jacob to her. "Go out and kill two kid goats and bring them in here that I may fix them to eat. For your father is going to give the birthright to Esau and I want you to go in there and get it instead."

"How can I do this?" Jacob asked his mother, "If my father finds that I am not Esau he will curse me instead of bless me."

"Let that curse be on me," Rebekah answered, "Just do as I say."

So Jacob fetched the kids. Rebekah fixed them and found some of Esau's clothes to put on Jacob. Then she put the skins of the kid goats on the backs of Jacob's hands and on his neck.

Jacob went in to his father and said, "Father, it is I, Esau. I have brought you food. Rise and eat so your soul may bless me."

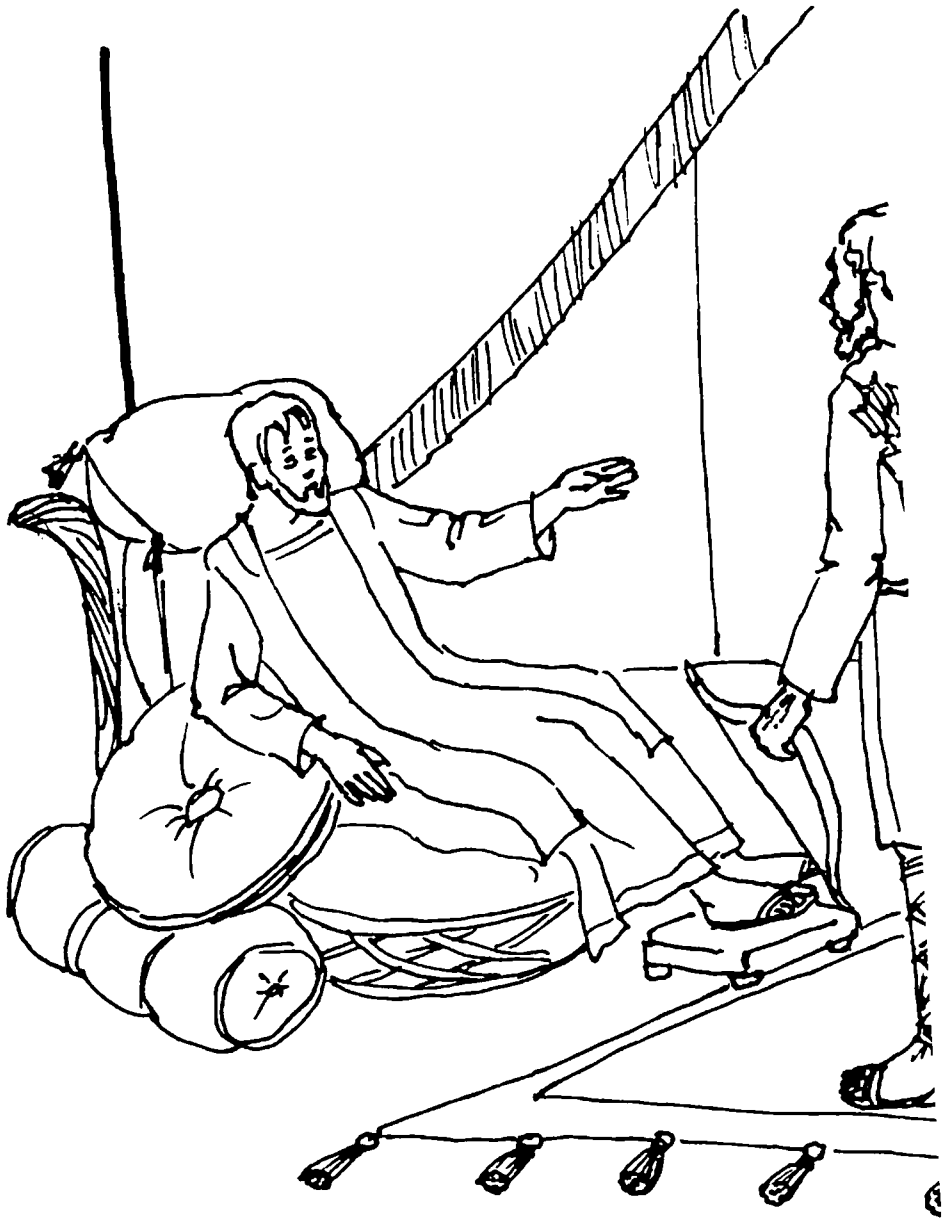
"How is it that you have found meat so quickly?" Isaac asked.

"The Lord brought it right to me," Jacob answered.

"Come near so I can feel you to know that you are Esau," Isaac told him. So Jacob came near and his father felt him. "The voice is Jacob's, but the hands are Esau's," Isaac said. Then he ate the food that Jacob had brought. "Come near, again, my son," Isaac said. When Jacob came near Isaac smelled of his clothes. His clothes smelled of the forests and fields so Isaac was finally sure that this was Esau.

Then Isaac richly blessed Jacob with plenty of rain from heaven and food from the earth. "People will serve you and you will rule over your brothers. Cursed is every one that curses you and blessed is every one that blesses you."

—Joanna Booher



And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to
Esau his son.... Genesis 27:5.



Birth Certificate

"Mother, this big envelope came in the mail with Allen's name on it," said Linda as she brought Mother the mail. "He is only six weeks old and already getting mail. Who knows him at the Oklahoma State Department of Records?"

"Oh, that must be his birth certificate," said Mother. "Here let me have that. This is very important for Allen." Mother opened the envelope and carefully examined the certificate.

"This tells the date, time and place of Allen's birth," explained Mother to Linda, who was looking with her. "Here is my name and your daddy's name. This is the midwife who was attending to me."

"Do I have a birth certificate?" asked Linda.

"Yes, indeed," replied Mother. "Every American citizen has one registered in the state he or she was born in. Then if you ever want to travel to another country, you must show your birth certificate to get a passport."

"Also, in filing income tax, every person is required to have a birth certificate and a social security number. Daddy has to have that information to prove that you are under his care."

"When you turn sixteen and apply for a driver's license, you must have your birth certificate to get a license. When a man and woman file for a marriage license, they must show their birth certificates. There are some legal matters that require a birth certificate. Over all, this sheet of paper is very important to Allen so I will put it in the safety security box where the rest of our valuable papers are kept."

"That is a good idea," said Linda. "Is mine in that box? I would like to see my birth certificate."

Mother turned the key and opened the security box. She found Linda's certificate and explained it to her. Linda was pleased to see it. "This is my very own personal birth certificate," she said. "Nobody can buy it from me, can they?"

"No, you can't sell it like Esau," said Mother with a smile. "Actually, Esau didn't just sell an earthly record of his birth, he gave Jacob his right to be the great-great-great-down-the-line grandfather of Jesus. He gave away his spiritual blessing which was more important than a birth certificate. For us today, that means we need to treasure salvation, our birth certificate into heaven." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Isaac became old and almost _____?
2. Whom did Isaac call for when he knew he was going to die soon?
3. What did Isaac tell Esau to bring him?
4. Who overheard Isaac's words?
5. What did Rebekah tell Jacob to kill and bring to her?
6. Whose clothes did Rebekah put on Jacob?
7. What did Rebekah put on the backs of Jacob's hands and neck?
8. Did Isaac believe Jacob was Esau?
9. Who did Isaac bless with the birth-right?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 27:1-29.

(Answers: 1. Blind. 2. Esau. 3. Meat fixed the way he liked it. 4. Rebekah. 5. Two kid goats. 6. Esau's. 7. The skins of the goats. 8. Yes. 9. Jacob).

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Feb. 20, 2000

JACOB'S FLIGHT

After Isaac had blessed Jacob, Jacob went out. He was barely out of the room before Esau came back with his meat. He had it fixed the way his father liked it and brought it in to him.

"Arise, my father, and eat," Esau said, "that your soul may bless me."

"Who are you?" Isaac asked.

"I am Esau, your oldest son," Esau answered.

When Isaac heard this, he trembled greatly. "What? Who was he that came in before, whose meat I ate? I already blessed him and so he surely will be blessed. I can't take back a blessing."

Esau cried bitterly, "Bless me too, my father!"

"Your brother came in here deceitfully and stole your blessing," Isaac replied.

"That's twice he has taken my birthright from me!" Esau said angrily. Then begged his father, "Don't you have a blessing left for me?"

"I made him your lord," Isaac said, "I gave him riches of food and wine. What can I now give to you?"

"Don't you have even one blessing for me?" Esau wept.

Isaac said, "You will live in a good land. You will stay alive by your sword. You will serve your brother, but finally you will break his yoke from off your neck."

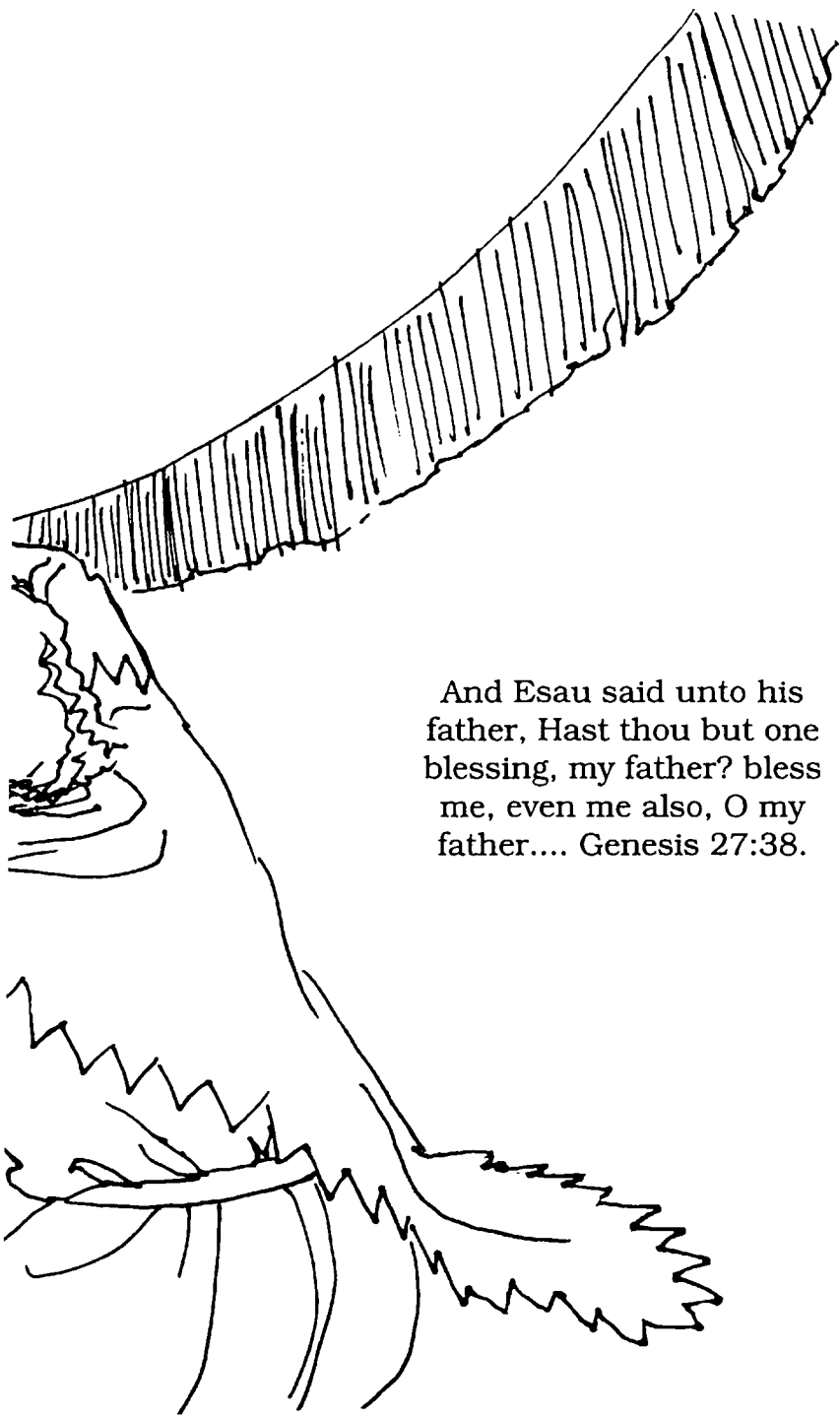
Esau hated his brother, Jacob, because he had stolen his birthright. He said in his heart, "My father will die soon, and when he does I will kill Jacob."

Rebekah heard of Esau's plan and called Jacob. "Rise and flee to my brother, Laban's, because Esau plans to kill you." She told her son. "Stay with my brother until Esau's anger cools down. When Esau is not angry anymore I will send for you to come home."

Then Rebekah went to Isaac and said, "I don't want Jacob to marry a girl of the Canaanites, in this place where we live. Please, send him to my brother, Laban, so he will take a wife from there."

Isaac did as she asked. He sent Jacob away with a blessing, "Be fruitful and multiply and become a great nation. I give you Abraham's blessing. Your children will own this land as God promised Abraham." —Joanna Booher





And Esau said unto his
father, Hast thou but one
blessing, my father? bless
me, even me also, O my
father.... Genesis 27:38.

Two Tales Of Woe

Linda carefully set her plates, cups and plasticware on her play table. Two of her dolls sat in matching chairs, patiently waiting to be fed the dried raisins and gummy bears that Linda had stirred in her little pans.

As Linda spooned out food to the dolls, her older brother, Jerry, came into the den where she was playing in a corner. Jerry was tossing a football back and forth in his hands, anxiously waiting for his football buddies to arrive.

"Playing house?" Jerry asked Linda as he came into her corner. "Yes, and don't bother me," replied Linda.

Then Jerry spied the gummy bears and reached for a couple of them on the doll's plate. Linda saw him reach for them and smacked his hand with a spoon, which caused Jerry to jerk back, dropping his football on her neatly set table.

Plop-plop-plop! The football knocked over three cups and spilled a plate of food on the floor. "Jerry! Look what you've done!" wailed Linda.

"No, I didn't do it—my football did, and if you wouldn't have been so selfish, I wouldn't have dropped it on your ol' table!" retorted Jerry as he snatched some gummy bears while Linda bent to pick up the fallen plate and food.

"You could at least say you're sorry and don't take anymore of my doll's food—do you hear me?" demanded Linda.

Jerry shrugged his shoulders and walked away, chewing on gummy bears. Just then their little brother, Randy, came into the den. He was holding Jerry's remote control jeep.

"Randy, you didn't ask to play with that!" Jerry hollered. He rushed to take it from Randy, who dropped

the jeep on the tile floor and broke a side mirror on it. "Now look what you've done!" hollered Jerry.

"Don't holler at me!" said Randy. "You made me drop it when you hollered at me!"

By now Mother had heard the commotion and came upon the scene to hear the two tales of woe. Jerry had to ask Linda's forgiveness for interrupting her play and taking her gummy bears. Then Randy had to ask Jerry's forgiveness for playing with the jeep without permission, and Jerry said he was sorry for hollering at Randy.

A peacemaker learns to be responsible, respectful of others and forgiving. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who came back right after Jacob received his blessing?
2. What did Isaac do when he realized it was Esau?
3. What did Esau say Jacob had stolen twice from him?
4. What did Esau ask if Isaac had left for him?
5. Whom did Isaac say Esau would serve?
6. How did Esau feel toward Jacob after that?
7. What did Esau plan to do to his brother?
8. Where did Rebekah tell Jacob to go?
9. What last blessing did Isaac give to Jacob?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 27:30-28:5.

(Answers: 1. Esau. 2. Trembled greatly. 3. His birthright. 4. Just one blessing. 5. His brother, Jacob. 6. Hateful, angry. 7. Kill him. 8. To her brother, Laban's. 9. Abraham's blessing.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Feb. 27, 2000

THE HEAVENLY LADDER

Jacob left his father and mother and travelled across the wilderness toward his uncle Laban's home. The sun began to set so he looked about for a place to sleep. He found a nice spot and put a rock under his head for a pillow.

That night Jacob dreamed. In his dream, a ladder was set on the earth. One end stood on the ground and the other end reached all the way up to heaven. Angels went up and down on this ladder and the Lord of heaven stood at the top!

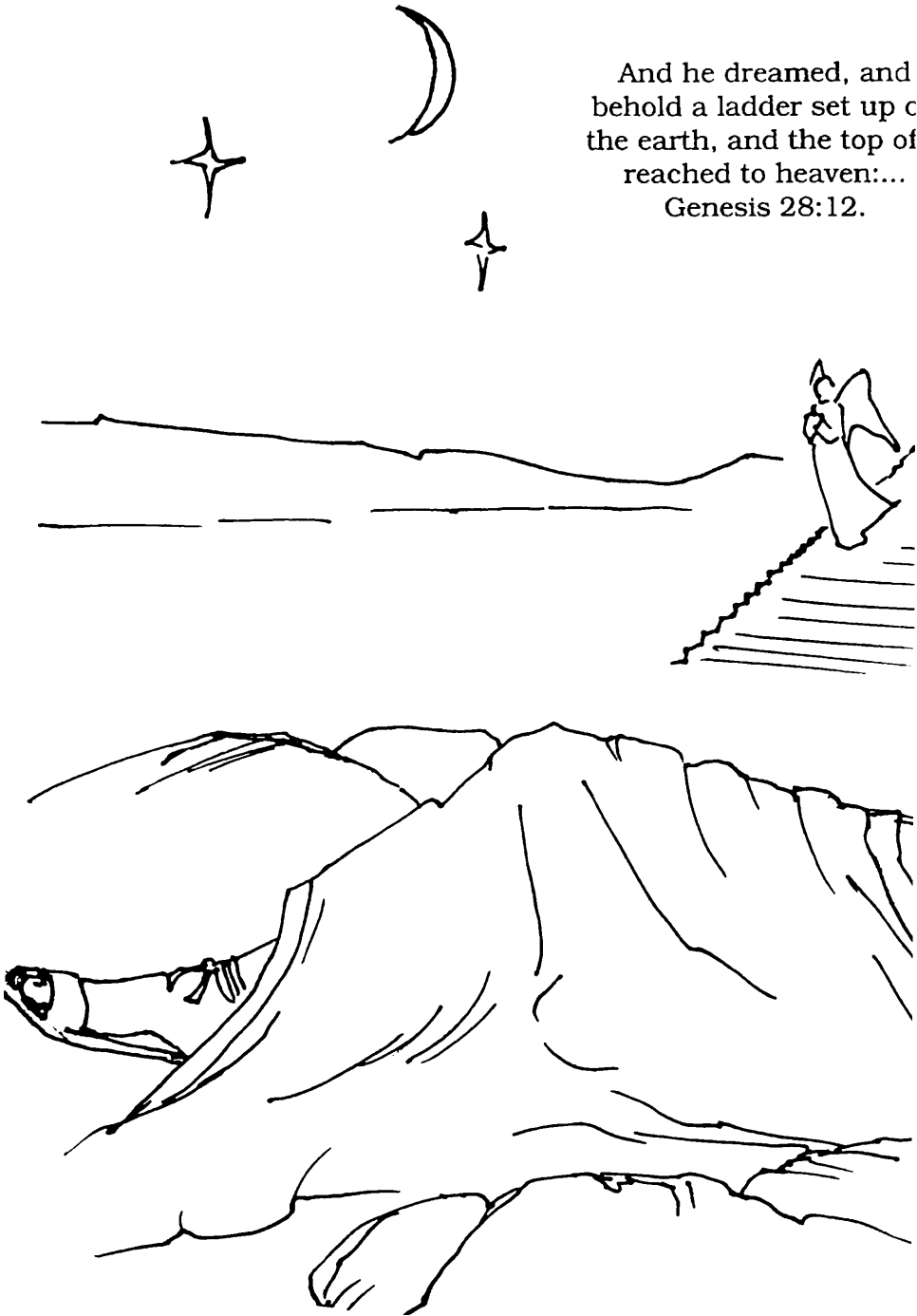
The Lord said to Jacob, "I am the Lord God of Abraham and your father, Isaac. The land you are sleeping on I will give to you. You will be a great nation through which all of the earth will be blessed. I promise to be with you and keep you and never leave you until I have fulfilled this promise."

Jacob woke up. "Surely the Lord is in this place and I knew it not," he said in fear. "For this is the House of God and this must be the very gate of Heaven."

Jacob got up early the next morning. He set the rock he had used for a pillow up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. Then he made this vow, "If God will be with me and bless me so that I can return to my home in peace, then will the Lord be my God. And of all that God gives me I will give a tenth back to Him."

Then Jacob went on his journey. —Joanna Booher

And he dreamed, and
behold a ladder set up o
the earth, and the top of
reached to heaven:...
Genesis 28:12.





Please Pray For Her

Here are some sentences from a letter that a woman in prison wrote asking for prayer.

"...I need advice and help. You see, I'm 35. I've been on my own since age 13. I carry anger that has made my heart harder than stone...I guess I can't let go of 33 years of abuse as easily as I keep being told. You see, I am angry because people tell me how loving the Lord is and how precious His children are, yet I was sexually, physically and mentally abused from age two. My family was very legalistic and political, so no one would listen to me. It wasn't only me who was abused; it was also my older sister and brother...

"I not only lost myself. I lost my children, my life, my home, every single thing attached to me...I'm angry, yet, have the desire to love and be loved. I still seek for the kingdom of God.

"I've done a lot of things that were wrong. I took drugs to escape the pain, and I sold them. I became a bully. I hated the world, the people in it, and life to the point that I killed myself twice and both times I was sent back, being told it was not my time. This only made me madder. When was it to be my time for the pain to stop and the love, peace and joy to begin?

"Why do I see all these people filled with the light I so desire to be filled with? When will I be able to shatter this heartshaped stone and feel the Holy Spirit?...

"I pray and say, 'Lord, here I am, make me a vessel unto You to do as You desire me to do,' and yet I'm still feeling it all. I pray that the sin will be washed away and made clean. Why does He still not come?...

"I can't do it on my own, Lord. You've got to help me. Yet I'm not whole. I need help. Maybe, just maybe, someone out there, through prayer, can help me....

"I'm not capable of relationships because of this stone in my chest. What must I do to get the Lord to save me? I want to be in the Book, and I want to be in Heaven. I would appreciate all prayers. My soul is lost. I don't want to die and go to hell, and I know I'm not the only one in the world who feels this way. I don't need tough love. I need God's love. I'm crying out for help...."

Children, be thankful for the truth and the light that you have and never stray from it. Also, pray for this woman and other lost souls like her.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jacob look for when the sun began to set?
2. What did Jacob use for a pillow?
3. What did Jacob dream about?
4. What went up and down the ladder in Jacob's dream?
5. Who stood at the top of the ladder?
6. When Jacob woke up, whom did he say must be in this place?
7. What did Jacob pour on the rock he had used for a pillow?
8. What did Jacob make to God?
9. What did Jacob vow to give back to God of all that God gave him?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 28:10-22.

(Answers: 1. A place to sleep. 2. A rock. 3. A ladder. 4. Angels. 5. God. 6. The Lord. 7. Oil. 8. A vow. 9. A tenth.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Mar. 5, 2000

RACHEL

Jacob finally arrived in the land of the people of the east. He looked out over the field and saw three flocks of sheep gathered around a well. The shepherds had brought their sheep to the well to be watered, but there was a stone on top of the well.

"Do you know Laban?" Jacob asked the shepherds.

"Yes," they answered.

"How is he?" Jacob questioned.

"He is well and here comes his daughter, Rachel, now with her sheep," the shepherds replied.

As soon as Jacob saw his cousin, Rachel, he went to the well and heaved the stone off the top. He quickly drew water for her sheep and then kissed her. "I am your relative, Jacob!" he said excitedly. "I am Rebekah's son!"

When Rachel heard this she ran home to tell her father. Laban came out to meet his nephew and brought him home. Jacob told them his story. Laban welcomed him as one of the family, so Jacob stayed for about a month.

At the end of a month, Laban said, "You shouldn't work for me for nothing. What would you like as pay?"

Jacob had fallen in love with Rachel. "I will work for you seven years if you will give me Rachel to be my wife," he said.

Laban said, "All right."

So Jacob worked seven years for Rachel, and they seemed as but a few days to him because of the love he had for her. At the end of seven years, he told Laban, "I'd like to get married now."

Laban agreed and they had the wedding. The next morning Jacob woke up and discovered that Laban had tricked him! Instead of marrying Rachel he had married Rachel's older sister, Leah.

Jacob was very angry. "What have you done to me?" he said to Laban. "Didn't I faithfully serve you seven years for Rachel?"

Laban said, "It is not our custom to let a younger daughter get married before the older. But, if you will work for me seven more years, I'll let you have Rachel too."

So Jacob did. He received Rachel as his wife and began to work yet seven more years. He now had two wives, but he loved Rachel more than Leah.

—Joanna Booher

And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother." Genesis 29:10.





Two New White Dresses

A ten-year-old Filipino girl stood outside the doorway of a chapel where the worship of God was taking place. Seeing the lonesome look in the girl's eyes, a missionary went to her and invited her to come inside.

Politely, the girl shook her head and turned to leave. Her father had strictly forbidden her to enter a chapel or have anything to do with Christians. She was afraid to disobey her father, yet she hungered for the love and joy she saw in the Christians' worship to Jesus Christ.

As the girl walked away, the missionary bowed her head and silently prayed for her. The next week the girl was back at the chapel door again. Quietly, she stood without, her eyes shining as she listened to the lovely singing. Oh, how she wished to go inside!

Like a moth drawn to light, this little girl was drawn to the love and happiness that she felt glowing in the worship service. It was so different from the sad cruelty of her home, where her father ruled by fear.

Every time the missionary saw this girl at the doorway, she would go and invite her to come inside. Finally, one day the girl went inside and joined in the worship service. Her face shone as she listened to the story of Jesus Christ, God's dear Son, who shed His blood on the cross for her sins. The missionary said that Jesus died so she could go to heaven where there is no sickness, sorrow or suffering.

"Ask Jesus into your heart," said the missionary, "and He will wash away all your sins and take you with Him to heaven some day."

The girl obeyed. She knelt in prayer and soon felt the love of Jesus glowing in her soul. No longer would

she stand outside the chapel door and listen but now she would eagerly come inside and sing praises to the Lord.

A few weeks later, the missionary bought her a lovely white dress to wear to church. "Thank you!" exclaimed the girl as she took off her ragged dress and put on the new one.

The next worship service, the missionary watched for her at the chapel door, but the girl did not come. Worried, the missionary hurried to the girl's home where she found her lying on the dirt floor, beaten and kicked by her drunken father.

Her new dress was soiled and torn, but as she entered the gates of heaven, Jesus gave her a more beautiful white robe to wear.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What were the flocks of sheep gathered around in the field?
2. What was over the top of the well?
3. Who came to water her sheep?
4. What did Jacob do when he saw Rachel coming?
5. What did Rachel do when she heard that Jacob was her relative?
6. Did Laban welcome Jacob as one of the family?
7. How long did Jacob say he would work to have Rachel as his wife?
8. How did Laban trick Jacob?
9. How many years did Jacob end up working for Rachel?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 29:1-30.

(Answers: 1. A well. 2. A stone. 3. Rachel. 4. Rolled the stone off the well. 5. Ran home to tell her father. 6. Yes. 7. Seven years. 8. He gave him Leah instead of Rachel. 9. Fourteen.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Mar. 12, 2000

DECEITFUL RICHES

Jacob continued to live by his uncle, Laban. He had gained two wives. The first was Leah, who had given him several sons; and Rachel, his favorite wife. She had not been able to give him any children. This made Rachel jealous of her sister.

But, Jacob had not gained any cattle or sheep because Laban had changed Jacob's pay many times. All this was bothersome to Jacob.

Finally, Rachel had a son and this made her very happy. She named him, Joseph. Jacob decided it was time to take his family and go back to his own land so he said to Laban, "I'd like to go home now. Let me take my wives and children and go."

"I hate to see you leave," Laban said, "Because I see how the Lord has blessed me by your being here. But, very well. Tell me what you'd like as wages."

"I will not ask anything but this," said Jacob. "You see how the Lord has blessed you by my being here. You have very much cattle, goats and sheep now. Just let me take all the spotted, streaked, and speckled ones and you keep all the rest."

Laban agreed so they divided up the cattle, goats and sheep. Then Laban went on a journey and left Jacob in charge of the animals.

While Laban was gone, Jacob took rods of the green poplar tree, and of the hazel and chestnut trees and put streaks in them. He put these rods in the watering and feeding troughs of Laban's strongest cattle, goats and sheep. The animals saw them while they were eating and mating and it caused them to have spotted, streaked and speckled babies. Soon, Jacob had a lot more animals because so many were spotted, streaked and speckled.

—Joanna Booher

And it
had bo
unto L
may ge
to m



to pass, when Rachel
Joseph, that Jacob said
Send me away, that I
mine own place, and
try. Genesis 30:25.



The Winter Mission Work

Donna picked up a worn jacket and looked at it carefully for tears that would need repair. She tagged only one tear found in the lining so she laid that jacket aside to be fixed and then she reached for another jacket.

As a volunteer, Donna helped in a worldwide mission to send winter items into foreign countries where the people did not have coats or jackets to protect them from the freezing weather. While she worked, Donna sang a song about the Lord, because it made her heart joyful to be a part of such a helpful mission.

Hundreds of Christians across the United States had sent jackets, coats, mittens, hats, scarves and other winter items to the headquarters where Donna was working. Many other Christians volunteered to come and sort these items and to fix any that needed repair. Some Christians boxed the winter items and loaded the boxes into airplanes. Other Christians volunteered to go with the boxes and give out these items to the needy in foreign countries.

Not only did the volunteers give coats and jackets to the people, but they also told them about Jesus Christ and put Bibles into the people's hands.

The cold, shivering people were grateful for the coats and things, but they were thrilled to receive a Bible of their very own. Some older people had heard about a Bible but they had never seen one. Many of the children did not know what a Bible was. Most people tucked their Bible into a pocket or fold in their clothes for fear that the government might take it away from them.

These people had lived under a Communist government for many years and they remembered how that government had punished anyone with a Bible. Now they were allowed to have such a wonderful treasure and they would guard it with their life.

Though Donna never saw the happy faces of the people who received the winter items and Bibles, yet she shared in sending God's love to those in need. It takes many Christians working together to do mission work in foreign lands and in our own country. The Lord will always bless those who willingly give money, items, or time to share the gospel with other people. Give your part and find this out yourself.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How many wives did Jacob have?
2. Did Jacob have any cattle or sheep?
3. What did Jacob decide to do after Rachel had a son?
4. Did Laban want him to leave?
5. What did Jacob want as pay?
6. Whom did Laban leave in charge of his animals while he was away?
7. Where did Jacob put the streaked rods of the poplar, hazel and chestnut trees?
8. What kind of babies did the animals start having a lot of?
9. Who gained a lot more animals?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 30:22-43.

(Answers: 1. Two. 2. No. 3. Leave and go back home. 4. No. 5. All the streaked, speckled and spotted cattle, goats and sheep. 6. Jacob. 7. In the watering and feeding troughs. 8. Streaked, speckled and spotted. 9. Jacob.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Mar. 19, 2000

GOOD-BYE, UNCLE LABAN

Jacob had gained much cattle, goats, sheep, camels, asses and servants. Laban's sons noticed that he was getting rich off of their father. They didn't like it. Jacob also noticed this and figured it was time for him to leave.

The Lord said to him, "Go back home, now, Jacob, and I will be with you."

So, Jacob called Rachel and Leah to him and told them the news. They said, "We are almost strangers to our father now anyway. If the Lord has told you it's time to go, let's go."

They got all their stuff together, got on their camels and rode away. Jacob did not tell Laban that he had left. After three days, Laban found out and he also discovered that his idols were gone too. Rachel had taken them secretly and not told Jacob. Quickly, Laban set out after his daughters and son-in-law.

Laban overtook them at Mount Gilead. But before he came upon them, he and his men camped for the night. That night the Lord spoke to Laban.

"Do not speak to Jacob either good or bad," the Lord said.

The next day, Laban and his men rode into Jacob's camp. "What have you done?" Laban said, "Why have you snuck away like this and taken my daughters almost captive? God spoke to me last night and said I must not speak to you either good or bad and I understand you want to go home. But why have you stolen my idols?"

"I was afraid you might not let me take my wives," Jacob said. "But as to your idols, I don't have them. If anyone here does, he shall die." Jacob did not know that Rachel had taken them.

So Laban searched through Jacob's tent and Leah's tent. When he came to Rachel's, she was sitting down on the camel's saddle. She had hidden the idols in it so she said to her father, "Please, don't make me get up. I'm not feeling well."

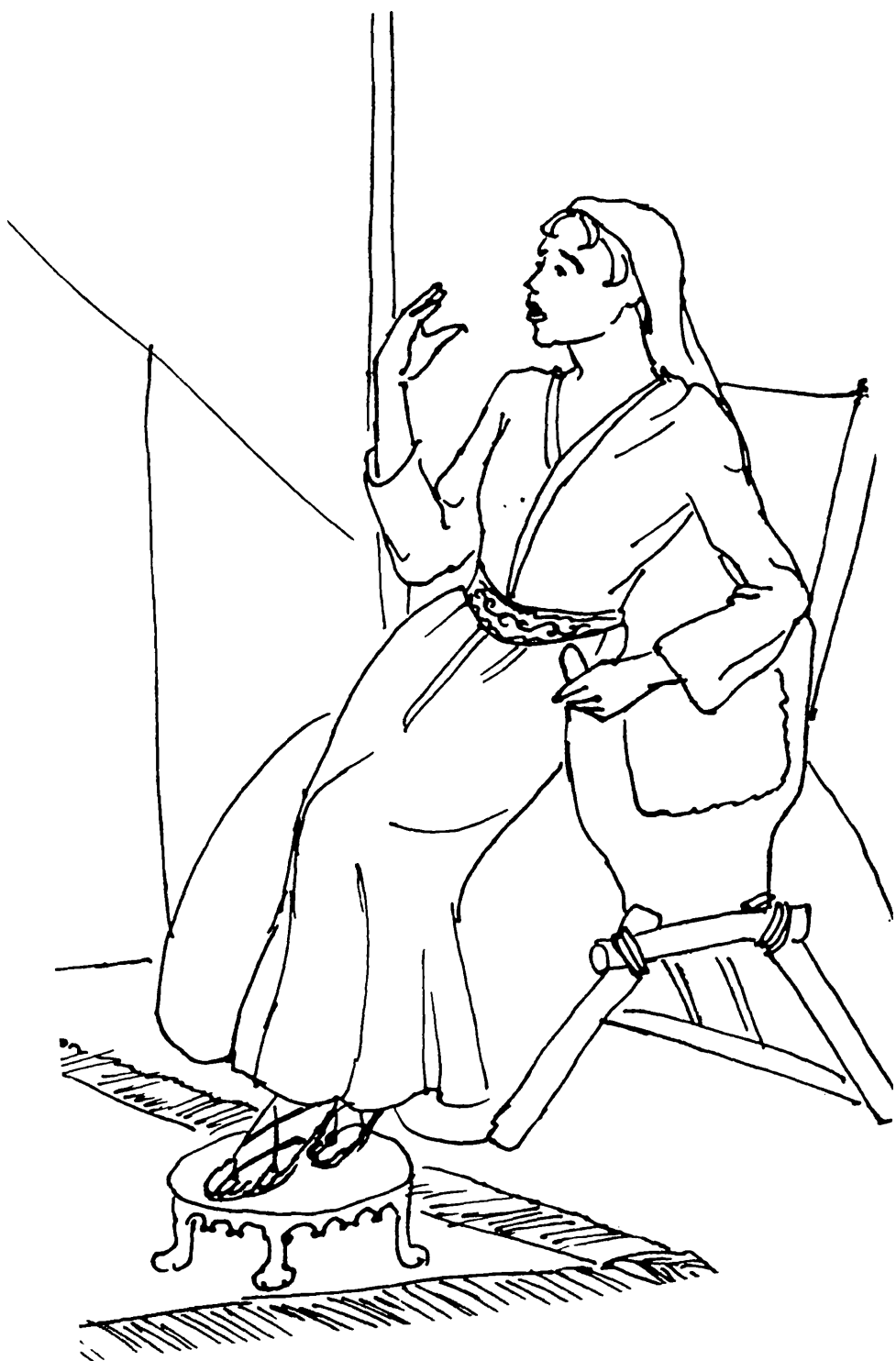
Laban searched in vain. He didn't find the idols. Jacob scolded him, "Why did you accuse me of this? What did I do to you? I worked for you twenty years and you have come riding so hotly after me for what reason?"

So Jacob and Laban made a covenant of peace and set up a pillar as a witness. Then Laban kissed his daughters and grandchildren and left in peace.

—Joanna Booher

Now Rachel had taken the images, and
put them in the camel's furniture, and
sat upon them...." Genesis 31:34.





Eat Your Bowl Of Stew

Linda sat at the table and stared at a bowl of stew that was set in front of her. Why did Mother put onions in the stew? She didn't like the blackeyed peas in it either but it was really the slimy tomatoes and awful onions that made the stew terrible.

Daddy said she had to eat all her stew before she left the table, so she guessed she would spend the night on that chair staring at that bowl of stew.

Mother said it was healthy food for her but it sure didn't look healthy to her—in fact, it made her sick to look at it. When she grew up, she would never eat a bite of stew!

Mother came into the kitchen and glanced at Linda. "Do you want me to warm it again in the microwave?" she asked her daughter. Linda shook her head. Hot or cold, she didn't think the stew would taste good either way.

Mother warmed the stew and sat down by Linda. "Now I want you to eat a bite and then I will eat a bite," said Mother. "You are being very stubborn about something that is not such a big deal. Everything in this stew is good for you. You must learn to eat the things you really like along with the things you don't like so well. That is the way life is."

As Mother talked, she had Linda eat a bite of stew, then she took a bite. Linda wrinkled her face and choked a time or two, but she finally ate the last bite.

"Now go clean up and get ready for bed," said Mother. Linda stood up to obey. Though she didn't want to admit it, she did feel better. Mother drew Linda close and gave her a hug and a kiss, and Linda skipped away to prepare for bed.

Sometimes in life we don't want to eat healthy foods or do the hard things, but when we learn to take the bad with the good, then we are happier.

Linda did eat stew again and she will probably eat stew when she grows up. Strong, healthy grown-ups know it is wise to eat healthy food.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who noticed that Jacob was getting rich?
2. Did Laban's sons like it?
3. What did Jacob decide to do?
4. Did Jacob tell Laban he was leaving?
5. What did Laban do when he found out they were gone?
6. Who told Laban not to speak either good or bad to Jacob?
7. What had Rebekah stolen?
8. Did Laban find his idols?
9. What did Jacob and Laban make between each other?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 31:1-55.

(Answers: 1. Laban's sons. 2. No. 3. Leave. 4. No. 5. Set out after them. 6. The Lord. 7. Laban's idols. 8. No. 9. A covenant of peace.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Mar. 26, 2000

JACOB'S HOMECOMING

Jacob went on his way back to his home. Before he got too close to home, though, he sent messengers to his brother, Esau.

He told his messengers, "Tell Esau, 'Your servant, Jacob, is coming home.'"

The messengers came back to Jacob with this news. "Esau is coming to meet you with four hundred men."

Then Jacob was very afraid. He divided all his people and animals into two groups. "For," he said, "if Esau fights one group, the other group can escape."

Then Jacob prayed to God, "Oh, Lord God of Abraham and Isaac, You said that I should come home and that You would be with me. I am not worthy of the least of Your mercies. But please rescue me from my brother so he doesn't kill us all. You promised to make my people a great nation."

Jacob stayed there for the night. He split his animals into several groups and sent them ahead with servants as gifts to Esau.

Then by night, Jacob sent his family in groups over the brook, Jabbok. He stayed behind and there wrestled with a man all night. Finally, the sun was about to rise so the man touched Jacob's thigh and put it out of joint. But Jacob would not let go.

The man said, "Let me go, for day is coming."

"I will not let you go, unless you bless me!" Jacob answered.

"What is your name?" the man said.

"Jacob," he replied.

"You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel," the man told him, "Because like a prince you have power with God and man." Then he blessed him and left.

Jacob went over the brook to meet his brother. As he came near Esau, he bowed himself to the ground seven times. Was Esau still angry at him?

Suddenly, Esau ran forward and hugged and kissed his brother.

"What is all this?" said Esau.

"It's my family that God has blessed me with and gifts for you," answered Jacob.

"Keep them," said Esau.

"No, but let me give them to you," Jacob pressed him. So Esau accepted. Then Esau went back home and Jacob followed a little ways behind. He came to Shalem, which is in the land of Canaan, and pitched his tent there.

—Joanna Booher

And he passed over before th
seven times, until he came :



1 bowed himself to the ground
his brother. Genesis 33:3



God Visits Death Row

(A True Story)

Rick was considered the scumbag of the prison where he had been locked up for seventeen years. He had scraggly hair, a scraggly beard and a red rag tied around his head. Rolled-up sleeves on his army shirt showed several tattoos on his arms. The way Rick walked and talked said to others: "Don't mess with me!"

Rick stood in the back of the prison chapel as a Prison Fellowship chaplain named Terri sang gospel songs, read a few scriptures and testified about the change Jesus Christ had made in her life.

After the service, Rick spoke to Terri. "Liked what ya said. Liked yer singing, too."

"Thank you," said Terri with a smile. Then she felt prompted to talk to the rough looking inmate. In time, she learned more about Rick and his past.

Rick's stepdad had been a cop who had mistreated him as a little boy. Rick became rebellious and began to steal from stores. Then he started taking street drugs and running with a gang. Finally, the law enforcers caught Rick and he was sent to prison at the age of 18.

Potosi Prison in Missouri is a cruel place to be at such a young age. Rick learned more ways to fight for survival and in two different fights he killed two other prisoners. This put Rick on "Death Row"—his life would be taken because he had taken other lives.

The Lord put a heavy burden on Terri's heart to pray for Rick's salvation. She knew he was a very hard, wicked man, but the blood of Jesus was able to wash all the hate and sin away and make a new person out of

Rick. Terri requested prayer for Rick and many Christians prayed for him.

One day Terri got a call that Rick was in trouble and locked up in solitary confinement. "Rick is hurting real bad—could you come?" asked the caller.

Terri went. For four hours they talked together over phones on opposite sides of a glass partition. Rick told Terri that God had dealt with his heart. He realized his awful sins and felt ashamed. He had curled up on the cell floor and cried like a baby, asking God to forgive, pleading the blood of Jesus, and surrendering his life to the Lord. Terri could see in Rick's eyes that he had made a change to do right. His life began to prove it. Later, Rick died a saved child of God.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Jacob send a message to when he neared home?
2. What did Jacob call himself in his messages to Esau?
3. What did Jacob hear was coming with Esau?
4. How did Jacob feel then?
5. What did he send ahead to Esau?
6. Who did Jacob wrestle with in the night?
7. What did the man do to Jacob's thigh?
8. What did Jacob want the man to give him?
9. What was Jacob's new name?
10. Did Esau accept his brother back gladly?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 32:3-33:18.

(Answers: 1. His brother, Esau. 2. Your servant. 3. Four hundred men. 4. Afraid. 5. Gifts of animals. 6. A man. 7. Touched it and put it out of joint. 8. A blessing. 9. Israel. 10. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 April 2, 2000

THE DREAMER

Jacob's name had been changed to Israel now and his beloved wife, Rachel, gave him two sons. The first she named Joseph. She died giving birth to the second and as she died she named him Benoni, which means "Son of my sorrow." But Jacob, who loved her so much, named this son Benjamin instead, which means "Son of my old age."

Joseph, Rachel's oldest son, grew to a young man and his father loved him more than all of his other sons. To show his love, he gave Joseph a coat that had many different colors in it. When Joseph's brothers saw the coat of many colors and knew that their father loved Joseph more than them, they hated their brother. They could not talk nicely to him.

Joseph dreamed a dream and told his brothers, "I dreamed that we were binding sheaves in the field and my sheaf stood upright while all of your sheaves fell down and bowed to it."

Joseph's brothers were very angry to hear this. "Do you think you're going to rule over us?" they accused him. And they hated him more for his dream.

Another dream came to Joseph. This one he told to his father as well as his brothers. "I dreamed that the sun and moon and eleven stars bowed down to me."

When Israel heard it he got onto Joseph, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Do you really think that I and your mother and your brothers are going to bow down to you?"

Joseph's brothers envied Joseph, but his father stored these dreams away in his memory.

—Joanna Booher





Now Israel loved Joseph
more than all his
children,...and he made
him a coat of many
colours. Genesis 37:3.

Hidden Magazines

(Based on a true story.)

Bill sat quietly on the chapel bench and listened to his mother's sweet voice. She stood alone before the congregation as she sang another gospel song she had written. It was about loving Jesus more than anything else on earth. Some in the congregation lifted their hands to agree with the song. Others said "Amen" and "Praise the Lord!"

"She sounds just like an angel," thought ten-year-old Bill. When his mother had finished and sat down beside him, Bill snuggled close to her. He felt the warmth of her love and it made him contented.

Then his father preached a message against sin and the evil in the world. "Those who sin will go to hell," said his dad. "Hell is an awful place of fire and torment." As Dad described hell, Bill knew he did not want to go there!

On the way home from church, Bill rode in the back seat of the car and listened to his parents pleasantly visit. Sundays were quiet days at Bill's home unless they had company come home for dinner. Then the house was noisy with talking, laughing and eating. This afternoon it was quiet, so after the dishes were washed, Bill decided to get a book from Dad's study and lie down with it in his bedroom. Bill turned on the light to the study then paused a moment before entering. He really wasn't permitted to enter the study if Dad wasn't in there but Dad and Mom had stepped outside to speak with a neighbor and Bill didn't think Dad would mind if he just got a book from a shelf.

Quickly Bill sneaked behind his dad's desk and looked along the row of Trailblazer books. He was pulling out one when he heard the front door open. Mom and Dad had come inside! The book slipped from Bill's fingers

and slid under Dad's desk. Bill crawled after it and stayed hidden away a few moments.

"What magazines are these?" Bill wondered as his hands found some tucked beneath the desk drawer. Out of curiosity, Bill brought them into the light. He gasped when he saw the front covers. These were ungodly magazines such as his mother had told him never to look at! A sick feeling swept over Bill as with shaky fingers he put them back where he had found them.

Bill left his dad's study with stirring questions on his mind. Why did Dad have such ungodly magazines? Did Mom know they were there? Should Bill ask his parents about them?

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. How many sons did Rachel have?
2. What happened to Rachel after she had Benjamin?
3. What was Rachel's oldest son's name?
4. What did Jacob give to Joseph to show his love for him?
5. What did the other brothers think of Joseph?
6. What did Joseph dream about the first time?
7. What did the other brothers' sheaves do to Joseph's sheaf?
8. What bowed down to Joseph in his second dream?
9. What did these dreams mean?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 35:16-19, 37:1-11.

(Answers: 1. Two. 2. She died. 3. Joseph. 4. A coat of many colors. 5. They hated him. 6. Binding sheaves in the field. 7. They fell down and bowed to it. 8. The sun, moon and eleven stars. 9. That Joseph's brothers and father and mother would bow down to him someday)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 April 9, 2000

SOLD INTO SLAVERY

Joseph's brothers took their father's flocks of sheep to Shecem to graze there. One day Israel said to Joseph, "I want you to go to Shecem and see how your brothers are doing and bring me word again."

So Joseph went to Shecem. But his brothers were not there. A man saw Joseph walking through the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

"I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are?" Joseph asked.

"I heard them say they were going to Dothan," the man told him.

Joseph's brothers saw him coming from way across the fields. "Look, here comes the dreamer," they mocked. "Let's kill him," they said. "We can throw his body into a pit and say some beast ate him. Then see what becomes of his dreams."

But the oldest brother, Reuben, heard them and said, "Let's not kill him. We don't want his blood on our hands. Just throw him into this pit." Reuben said this because he planned to afterwards rescue Joseph.

So the brothers grabbed Joseph and threw him into the pit. Then the brothers sat down to eat. As they ate they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites going toward Egypt.

Judah, another of the brothers, said, "Let's profit by getting rid of our brother; let's sell him to the Ishmaelites." All the brothers agreed this was a good idea except Reuben, who was not there.

The brothers drew Joseph up out of the well and stripped the coat of colors off him. Then they sold him as a slave to the band of Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver.

When Reuben came back and found the pit empty, he tore his clothes in sorrow. "He's gone!" he cried to his brothers, "What shall we do?"

The brothers killed a goat and dipped Joseph's coat in it and took it to their father. "We found this. Is it Joseph's coat?" they asked.

Israel tore his clothes when he saw the coat. "My son, Joseph, must have been killed by an animal!" he said. He dressed himself in sackcloth and refused to be comforted.

—Joanna Booher





And they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit,
and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty
pieces of silver:... Genesis 37:28.

Hiding Shame

(Continued from last week.)

After Bill had found those ungodly magazines under his dad's desk, he doubted his dad's life as a Christian. In time Bill became disrespectful to his parents.

When a visiting minister came to hold a revival, Bill did not want to go to the services. He felt weighted down with the knowledge of those magazines under his dad's desk but he did not want to share the secret with anyone else. So when Dad told Bill to get ready for church on Monday night, Bill said, "Can't I stay home and do my homework?"

"No, you need to come and hear the Word of God," replied Dad. "Have you ever heard the Lord Jesus talk to your heart about getting saved? Listen for the Lord's voice and He will lead you to repentance."

The sight of those hidden magazines flashed before Bill's eyes and he muttered, "I'm not as bad as some grown people."

Dad frowned. "Bill, we all are sinners and need the grace of God to save us from sin. Unless you personally repent, you won't make it to heaven."

"Well, I'm not the only one who won't make it."

"Bill, I'm shocked at you!" exclaimed Dad. "You get ready and go with us to church. Your attitude needs help in the worst of ways."

Bill obeyed his dad but in a grumbly manner. How could his dad preach to him when he himself did not live right? All through the week Bill went to church with his parents but he did not move forward to ask Jesus to save him from his sins.

The thought of those magazines haunted Bill's mind and in time he decided to check again and see if they were still there.

Sad to say, they were there. Half hidden under Dad's desk, this time Bill boldly opened the cover of one magazine and looked at some of the pictures. He was afraid and ashamed that someone might find out. Finally, he put them up and left as quietly as he had come.

No person saw what Bill had done, but it made him nervous with fear that someone would tell his parents. Actually, Someone more powerful than his parents had watched what Bill had done. Who was the One who saw him?

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Jacob send to check on the brothers?
2. Were the brothers in Shechem?
3. How did Joseph find out where his brothers were?
4. Were Joseph's brothers glad to see him coming?
5. What did they plan to do to him?
6. Who stopped them from killing Joseph?
7. Where did they put Joseph?
8. What did the brothers do with Joseph?
9. What did the brothers give to Jacob?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 37:12-35

(Answers: 1. Joseph. 2. No. 3. A man told him. 4. No. 5. Kill him. 6. Reuben 7. In a pit. 8. They sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. 9. Joseph's torn, bloody coat).

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 April 16, 2000

POTIPHAR'S HOUSE

Joseph was taken away by the Ishmaelite caravan. They stopped in Egypt and he was sold there to a man named Potiphar. Potiphar must have been rich and powerful for he was captain of the guard to the king, or Pharaoh.

The Lord was with Joseph in his slavery. He blessed Joseph so that all he did worked out and was good. Potiphar noticed this and made Joseph the boss of his house, under himself. Joseph now was the one who told the workmen what to do in the fields and told the servants what to do in the house. The Lord blessed Joseph more and even blessed Potiphar because Joseph was in his house.

Joseph was a good-looking person, too. One day Potiphar's wife noticed this and decided she wanted Joseph to pay more attention to her and be unfaithful to her husband. But Joseph would not do it.

He said, "My master has made me in charge of all that is in his house and has given me everything except you. I will not wrong him or sin against God."

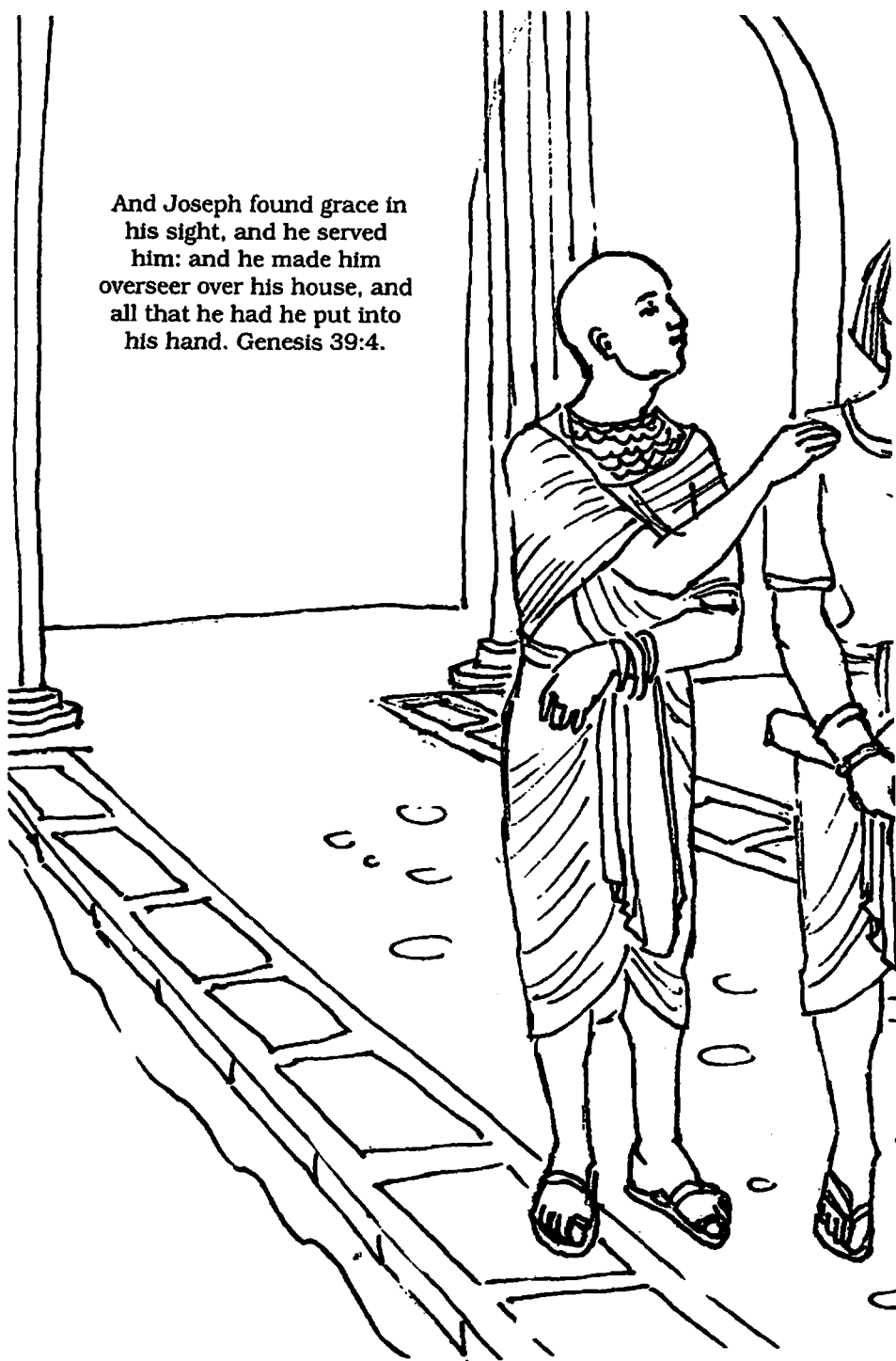
Potiphar's wife kept bugging Joseph but he would not listen to her or even be around her. One day she caught him when he was alone in the house. She grabbed hold of his garment but he ran and left the garment in her hand.

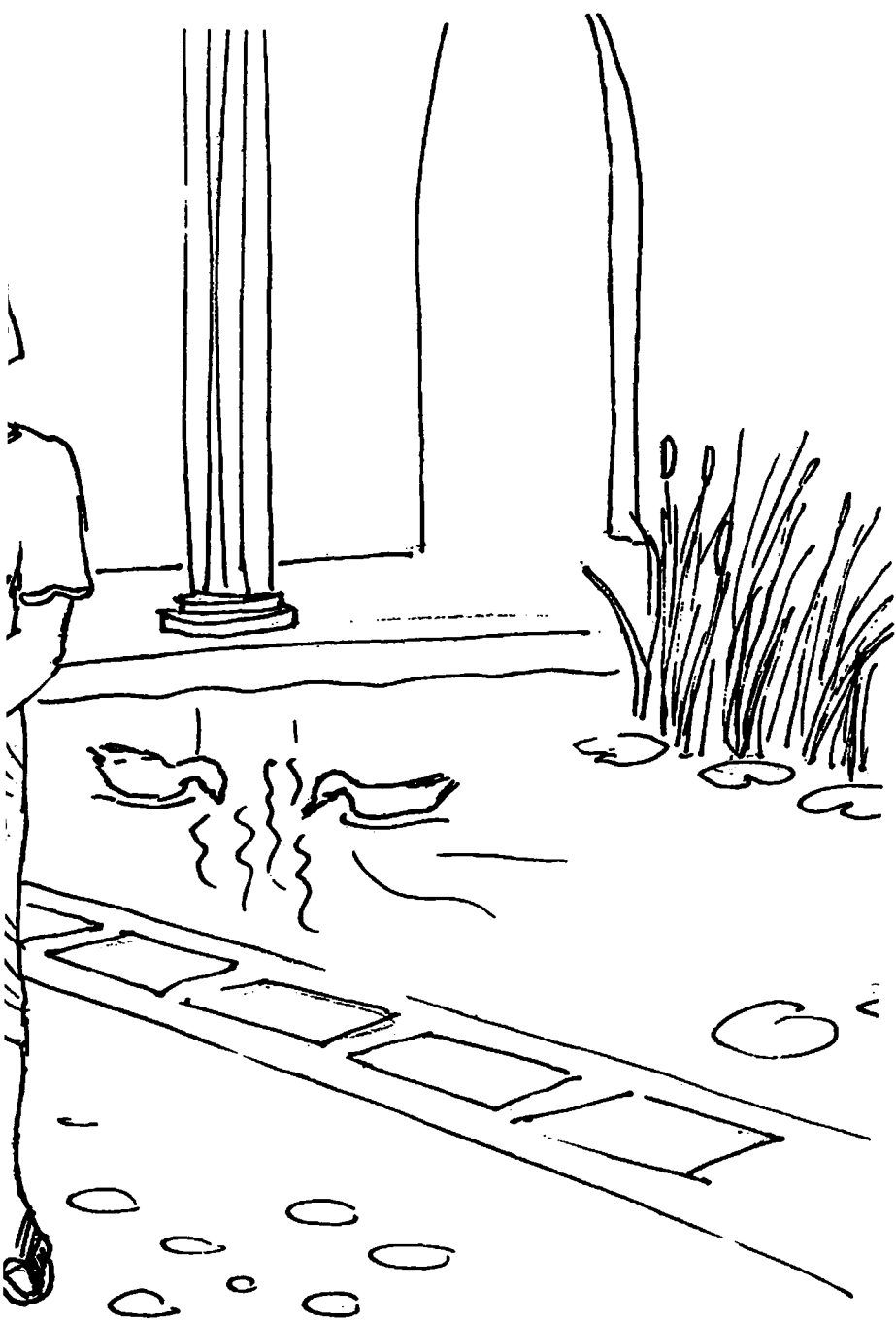
Then Potiphar's wife lied to her husband. "Your servant, Joseph, tried to attack me," she said. "When I called out, he ran. See, here's his garment."

Potiphar believed her. He was very angry at Joseph and threw him in prison. But the Lord was with Joseph, even in prison. He caused the keeper of the prison to like Joseph. The keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all of the other prisoners. The keeper of the prison no longer had to take care of anything, but Joseph did it instead because the Lord blessed all that he did.

—Joanna Booher

And Joseph found grace in
his sight, and he served
him: and he made him
overseer over his house, and
all that he had he put into
his hand. Genesis 39:4.





The Dealings Of The Lord

(Continued from last week.)

At sixteen years old, Bill was running with a wild group of friends. During the week he worked as a part-time shelf stocker at a grocery store. Over the weekends he went to parties and drank beer with girls and guys.

His parents were grieved and tried to reason with him. Bill didn't go to church very often because he did not want to hear his dad preach, but his mother's songs still touched his heart. She was so honest and saintly. Often Bill wondered if she knew about Dad's ungodly magazines under his desk. Maybe Mom had discovered them and that was why she looked so tired and sickly these days, Bill thought.

One late evening after work, Bill came home and heard his mother crying in the family room. As he drew near the doorway, he stopped when he knew she was praying.

"...Please, Lord, have mercy on my son. Talk to his heart and show him Your way. Please save his soul from destruction, oh Lord, and make him a servant in Your kingdom. Lord, I know my time on earth is short. By the doctor's words, this cancer will take me in six months or so. In the few days I have left, please give me your wisdom that I may know how to talk with my husband and my son. Please deal with my husband and let him know every secret thing will be made known at the final judgment. Deal with their hearts, oh Lord...

Bill turned away from the doorway and hurried to his bedroom. Through his mother's prayer he had learned three important things. 1. She was sick and dying with cancer. 2. She knew about his dad's

secret stack of magazines. 3. She wanted Bill and his dad to be saved.

That night Bill could hardly sleep. The Lord was dealing with his heart. "Bill, you know the wages of sin is death. If you stay with these wild friends, continue drinking beer, and looking at ungodly pictures, you will live a hard life of sin that will bring you no peace. Ask Me to help you leave these sinful things alone. My blood can wash all your sins away and make you feel clean. Do you want peace, Bill?"

Yes, Bill wanted peace but could he trust God to keep him from sin when his own dad who preached wasn't living above sin? Then Bill thought of his mother who was a true saint. What should he do?

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who bought Joseph?
2. What did Potiphar give to Joseph?
3. Who wanted Joseph to pay attention to her?
4. What did Joseph do when Potiphar's wife grabbed hold of him?
5. Did Potiphar's wife lie about Joseph?
6. How did Potiphar feel toward Joseph then?
7. What did Potiphar do to Joseph?
8. Who was with Joseph through all this?
9. What did the keeper of the prison do to Joseph?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 39:1-23.

(Answers: 1. Potiphar, a captain of the guard. 2. Charge over all his house. 3. Potiphar's wife. 4. He ran. 5. Yes. 6. Very angry. 7. Put him in prison. 8. The Lord. 9. Put him in charge.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 April 23, 2000

THE BUTLER AND THE BAKER

After some time in the prison, two more men became prisoners. They were the Pharaoh's butler and baker. The king had gotten angry at them and had them thrown into the dungeon.

The captain of the guard gave Joseph charge of them. One day when Joseph came in to care for these two men they looked sad.

"Why are you so sad this morning?" Joseph asked them.

"We have both dreamed dreams," the butler and baker said, "and no one can tell us the meanings of them."

"Isn't it God who knows the meanings of dreams?" Joseph asked. "Tell me."

So the butler told his dream. "I dreamed there was a grapevine in front of me that had three branches. And the vine budded flowers and then the flowers turned to grapes. I squeezed the grapes so their juice ran into a cup and I gave it to my master, the king."

"This is the meaning of your dream," said Joseph. "The three branches are three days. In three days the king will give you your job back and you will serve him his cup as before."

The butler was glad to hear this.

"But, please," said Joseph, "Remember me when you have your job back, and make mention of me to the king, because I was stolen out of my own country and was lied about and thrown into this dungeon."

When the baker heard how the butler's dream had such a nice interpretation he told his dream too. "I dreamed I was carrying three baskets on my head. And in the top basket were lots of breads for the king. But the birds ate them out of the basket."

"The three baskets are three days," said Joseph. "In three days the king will hang you on a tree and the birds will eat your flesh."

In three days the king threw a party. He gave the butler his job back, but he had the baker hung as Joseph had interpreted. But the butler forgot about Joseph.

—Joanna Booher



And they dream both of the
man his dream
night,... Gene



a
ach
ne
5.



Bill Sees His Mistake

(Continued from last week.)

Bill's mother became worse and within a few months she could not get up out of bed on her own. This troubled Bill. He spent less time with his friends and more time with his mother.

One evening Mom called Bill to her bedside. "I want to talk with you, son," she said. "Please bring a chair close to the bed and sit down."

"Yes, Mom," replied Bill as he obeyed. After he had sat down, she reached out her hand and he took hold of it. "Son, I love you very much and I will always love you. It makes me sad to leave you so soon but I know before too long I will be going to heaven. My greatest desire," Mom's voice broke with a sob, "is to know that you and Dad will come and join me some day. Son, you have been taught the way to heaven. Why do you not want to give your life to the Lord? He will give you peace and help you through life's problems. At the end, you will have heaven to gain."

Quietly, Bill listened to his mother. Should he tell his mother what had been bothering him for years? She already knew about his dad's bad magazines but she didn't know that Bill knew also.

Mom continued, "Bill, I'm concerned about your dad. All these many years he has claimed to be a Christian but he has not forsaken sin. He has a bad habit that he will not give up. It is wrong to look at evil pictures. He must let go of this awful sin or he will not make it into heaven. Bill, give your heart to Jesus and don't be a hypocrite. Be a true man of God."

Bill couldn't be quiet any longer. With tears on his cheeks, he said, "Mom, I love you and I have confidence in your life. You have been faithful to the Lord and He has given

you such good songs to sing. I appreciate that. But I can't understand Dad. Why does he continue to preach when his heart is not right with God?"

Mom sighed and shook her head. "Son, I have talked to your dad but he has excuses the devil has him believing. Do not ever put so much confidence in a person that if that one fails, you do also. Put your trust in Jesus only. He has saving grace and power to keep your heart free from sin."

That's what Bill had done wrong all those years! Because his dad wasn't a true Christian, it had hindered Bill from trusting the Lord for his salvation. Should Bill miss heaven because his dad did wrong?

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did the king throw in prison?
2. Who was in charge of the butler and baker in prison?
3. Why were the butler and baker sad?
4. Whom did Joseph say knew the meaning of dreams?
5. What had three branches in the butler's dream?
6. What did Joseph say the butler would receive after three days?
7. What was the baker carrying on his head in his dream?
8. Did the butler's and baker's dreams come true?
9. Did the butler remember Joseph?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 40:1-23.

(Answers: 1. His butler and baker. 2. Joseph 3. They had dreamed dreams and did not know the meanings. 4. God. 5. A grapevine. 6. His job back. 7. Three baskets of sweet breads. 8. Yes. 9. No.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 April 30, 2000

PHARAOH'S DREAM

One night, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, dreamed a dream. He dreamed that seven fat cows came up out of the river and after them came seven skinny cows, and the skinny cows ate up the fat cows. Pharaoh woke up.

He fell asleep again and dreamed another dream. Seven ears grew up on one stalk. The ears were fat and full and good. Then, seven thin ears of corn sprang up after the good ears and ate them.

When Pharaoh woke up in the morning, he was very troubled. He called for all his magicians and wise men. What did his dreams mean? But none of them could tell him.

Suddenly, the butler remembered Joseph. "Oh, king, I remember how you were angry with me once and threw me into prison. And in prison, the baker and I both dreamed dreams which troubled us. But there was a man there, a Hebrew, who interpreted our dreams and what he said came true."

Pharaoh quickly sent for Joseph. He was shaved and washed and brought before the king.

Pharaoh told him, "I have dreamed a dream that no one can interpret. But I have heard that you can interpret dreams."

"I cannot interpret dreams, but God can," Joseph said.

So Pharaoh told Joseph his dreams and Joseph said, "Both dreams mean the same thing, the seven fat cows and the seven fat ears of corn are seven years of plenty of food. The seven skinny cows and ears that followed and ate up the good cows and ears are seven years of famine and hunger. God has shown you what is going to happen so you can get ready for it. He gave you the dream twice because it will happen soon."

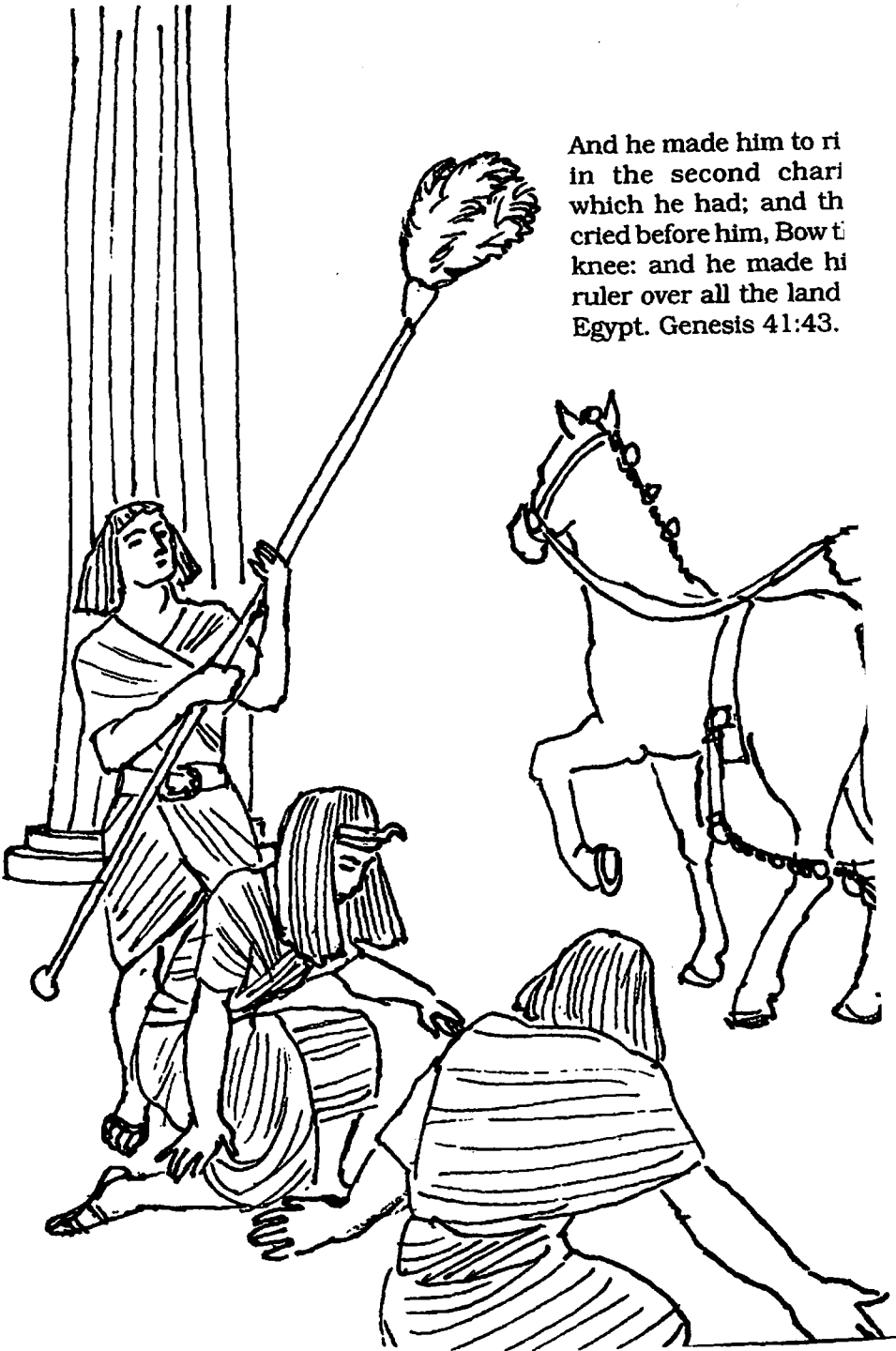
"Here is what you should do," said Joseph, "Put a man in charge of gathering and storing food from the years of plenty so we will have food in the years of famine."

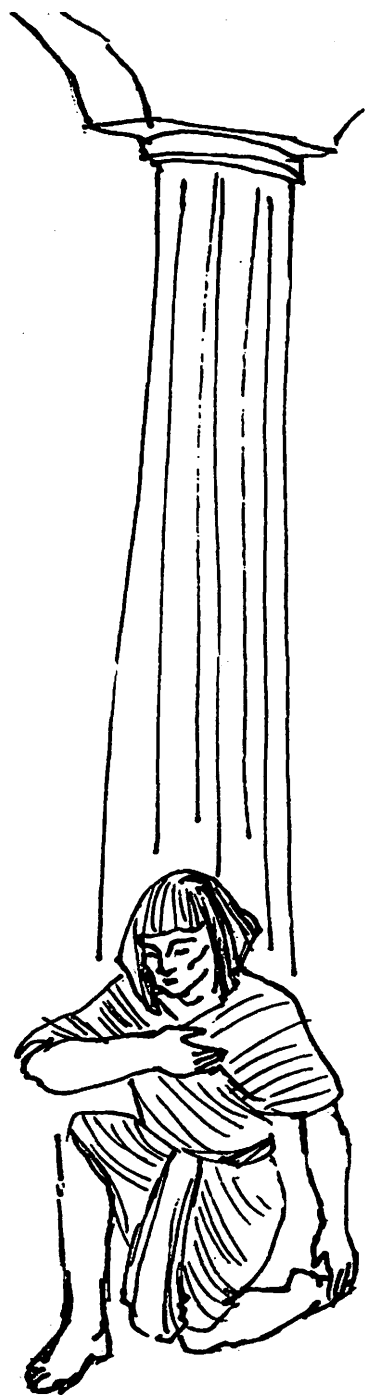
"That's a good idea," said Pharaoh, "And I can't think of a better man for the job than you. For who else has God to show him things like you do?"

Pharaoh took off his ring and gave it to Joseph and gave him fine robes and put a gold chain around his neck. He had him ride in a chariot and they cried before him, "Bow the knee!" Pharaoh made Joseph the highest man in the land, second only to Pharaoh himself.

—Joanna Booher

And he made him to ri
in the second chari
which he had; and th
cried before him, Bow t
knee: and he made hi
ruler over all the land
Egypt. Genesis 41:43.





Changes For Bill

(Continued from last week.)

Mom's funeral made a difference in Bill's life. He realized that she had been his best friend on earth. Now that she wasn't at home, he didn't care to be there as much. Sad to say, Bill moved away from his dad and spent more time with his worldly friends. His mother had pleaded with him to get saved from sin, give his life to Jesus, and start for heaven but Bill had already tasted beer and knew how to drown out the voice of the Lord by getting drunk. So when he thought about his mother and the Lord, he would drink more beer to dull his mind and senses.

Bill had a girlfriend and one day he said to her, "My mom died not long ago and I really need someone to be with me through these difficult days. Would you come and live with me and help me?"

Bill knew it was wrong to live with a girl without being married first. He was falling into a big trap the devil sets for any fool who can be deceived. He needed help but he wouldn't listen to the Lord.

In time Bill and Donna had two little boys. He loved his sons but he still liked to drink beer with the men on the weekends. During this time his girlfriend felt empty and alone. A friend invited Donna to church and she went.

That evening Donna said, "Bill, I enjoyed going to church with Linda but there's two things I really wish we would do."

"I'm not magic," replied Bill. "I can't make all your wishes come true."

"You don't have to be magic—just be real. We have two little boys now and we need to make a secure home for them. Bill, do you love me? Do you love the boys?"

"Oh, I know. You want us to get married. I guess we should."

"Good!" exclaimed Donna. "I will get things ready for a simple wedding with just a few friends and relatives. We really need to be a lawful family and then we need to go to church every Sunday together. Somehow I just know it would make us happy, Bill, if we would go to church together."

"Well, I will have to think about that," said Bill. "I'm not one who likes to listen to preachers. I heard my dad enough when I was a boy."

"Because your dad was not faithful doesn't mean all preachers are that way." —Sis. Connie Sorrell
(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was troubled in his sleep by dreams?
2. Could Pharaoh's magicians and wise men tell him the meanings of his dreams?
3. Who finally remembered Joseph?
4. Whom did Joseph say could interpret dreams?
5. What were the seven fat cows and fat ears of corn?
6. What were the seven skinny cows and lean ears of corn?
7. What did Joseph say they should do during the seven years of plenty?
8. Whom did Pharaoh say was the right man for the job?
9. What did Pharaoh make Joseph?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 41:1-43.

(Answers: 1. Pharaoh. 2. No. 3. The butler. 4. God. 5. Seven years of plenty of food. 6. Seven years of famine. 7. Store up food. 8. Joseph. 9. The highest man in the land, second only to himself.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 May 7, 2000

FAMINE

Seven years of plenty of food came, like God had shown. And during those years Joseph had the corn stored away. He had so much corn stored away it was the like the sand of the sea and could not be numbered.

Then the seven years of famine began to come. The earth would not grow corn and the fields were bare. The people became hungry and cried to Pharaoh. Pharaoh said, "Go to Joseph and whatever he tells you to do, do it."

So all the people came to Joseph. He opened his storehouses and sold corn to all the people and they were fed.

The famine stretched very far. It stretched all the way back to Joseph's homeland. Jacob, Joseph's father, heard there was corn in Egypt and sent all his sons, except Benjamin, there to buy for them. The ten brothers came to Egypt and asked to buy food of Joseph, but they did not recognize it was him. They bowed with their faces to the ground. Joseph knew it was them but he made himself strange to them and spoke roughly to them. "You are spies. You've come to see how poor we are in Egypt, haven't you?" he said.

"No," the brothers said. "We have only come to buy food. We are all the sons of one man. We have another brother at home and another brother who is not. But we are not spies."

Joseph pretended not to believe them. "I will keep one of you here in prison until you bring your other brother back to see me. Then I will believe you are not spies."

"Oh, no," the brothers said to one another in Hebrew. "This is happening because of what we did to our brother Joseph. God is punishing us."

They did not know that Joseph could understand every word they said. He quickly left the room to cry by himself. When he came back he had one of the brothers bound and put into prison. Then he gave the others their corn and sent them on their way. —Joanna Booher



...And Jos
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Genesis 4



Counting The Cost

(Continued from last week.)

After Bill and Donna were married, Donna continued to attend church with her friend. Bill went once in awhile just to please Donna. Their sons, Jake and Jetson, were growing up without mealtime prayers or family worship.

Bill worked to pay the bills and keep food on the table. He loved his wife and children but he also liked to spend time with his friends at the local bar, drinking and playing in sinful things.

"Honey, I wish you wouldn't waste so much time and money with those men," Donna would say. "Why won't you do something with the boys and me?"

"I give you and the boys time in the evenings. Look, Donna, I work hard through the week and I feel like I need to relax with the guys over the weekend. You knew I went to the bars before we were married so don't think I will change now that we are married."

Donna sighed. "I will pray for you."

In the evenings Bill would drink a can of beer or two while watching TV. One evening Bill caught Jake sipping from his can.

"Hey, boy, what do you think you're doing?" demanded Bill. "Don't you drink beer—it isn't good for you!"

"Then why do you drink it?" demanded eight-year-old Jake.

"Well, I need it to relax," stammered Bill, "but don't you get hooked on it, you hear?"

Bill saw Jake's frown of disgust as he turned away from his dad. Suddenly Bill's memory carried him back to his father's study when he had found those hidden magazines

under the desk. He remembered how disappointed he felt toward his dad. Would Jake and Jetson feel that way toward him? Was he saying one thing and doing another? Had he even spent time teaching the boys right from wrong?

Once again the Lord began to deal with Bill's heart. He remembered his mother and the last things she said to him before she died. Didn't he want to see her again in heaven? What about his sons? He certainly wasn't showing them how to live right and make it to heaven. Bill began to count the cost of sin and salvation.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. How much grain did Joseph store away during the years of plenty?
2. Where did Pharaoh send the people when the years of famine began to come?
3. Who came from Joseph's homeland to buy corn?
4. What did the brothers do when they came before Joseph?
5. Did the brothers recognize Joseph?
6. Did Joseph act like he knew them?
7. What did Joseph say they were?
8. What did Joseph do to one of the brothers?
9. What did Joseph say they must bring with them when they came back?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 41:47-49, 53-42:24.

(Answers: 1. As much as the sand of the sea. 2. To Joseph. 3. Joseph's brothers. 4. They bowed with their faces to the ground. 5. No. 6. No. 7. Spies. 8. Put him in prison. 9. Their youngest brother.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 May 14, 2000

BENJAMIN GOES TO EGYPT

Joseph's brothers travelled back toward Caanan with their sacks loaded heavily with corn. They stopped at an inn to rest. When one of the brothers opened his sack to give food to his donkey, he found all of the money he had paid for the corn still in his sack! He told his brothers and they all worried, "What is God doing to us?"

The brothers finally got home and told Jacob all that had happened. They told how the man in Egypt had spoken roughly to them and kept one of them in prison and how he said he would think they were spies unless they brought their youngest brother, Benjamin, back with them.

Then the other brothers opened their sacks. They were very frightened to see that the money each had paid was still in each of their sacks.

"Everything is against me," Jacob said. "Joseph is not and Simeon is in prison and you want to take Benjamin too."

Reuben spoke up, "Kill my own two sons if I don't bring Benjamin safely back to you."

But Jacob would not hear of Benjamin leaving.

Finally, their food was about to run out and they needed some more.

"Go down to Egypt again and buy corn," Jacob told his sons.

"We can't unless we take Benjamin," his sons told him.

So, Jacob let Benjamin go. He also sent gifts and double the money they had paid the first time plus the money they had found in their sacks. "God Almighty give you mercy before the man," Jacob said.

The brothers came to Joseph again in Egypt. As soon as Joseph saw that Benjamin was with them he ordered his steward to prepare a feast for them at his house. At first the brothers were worried.

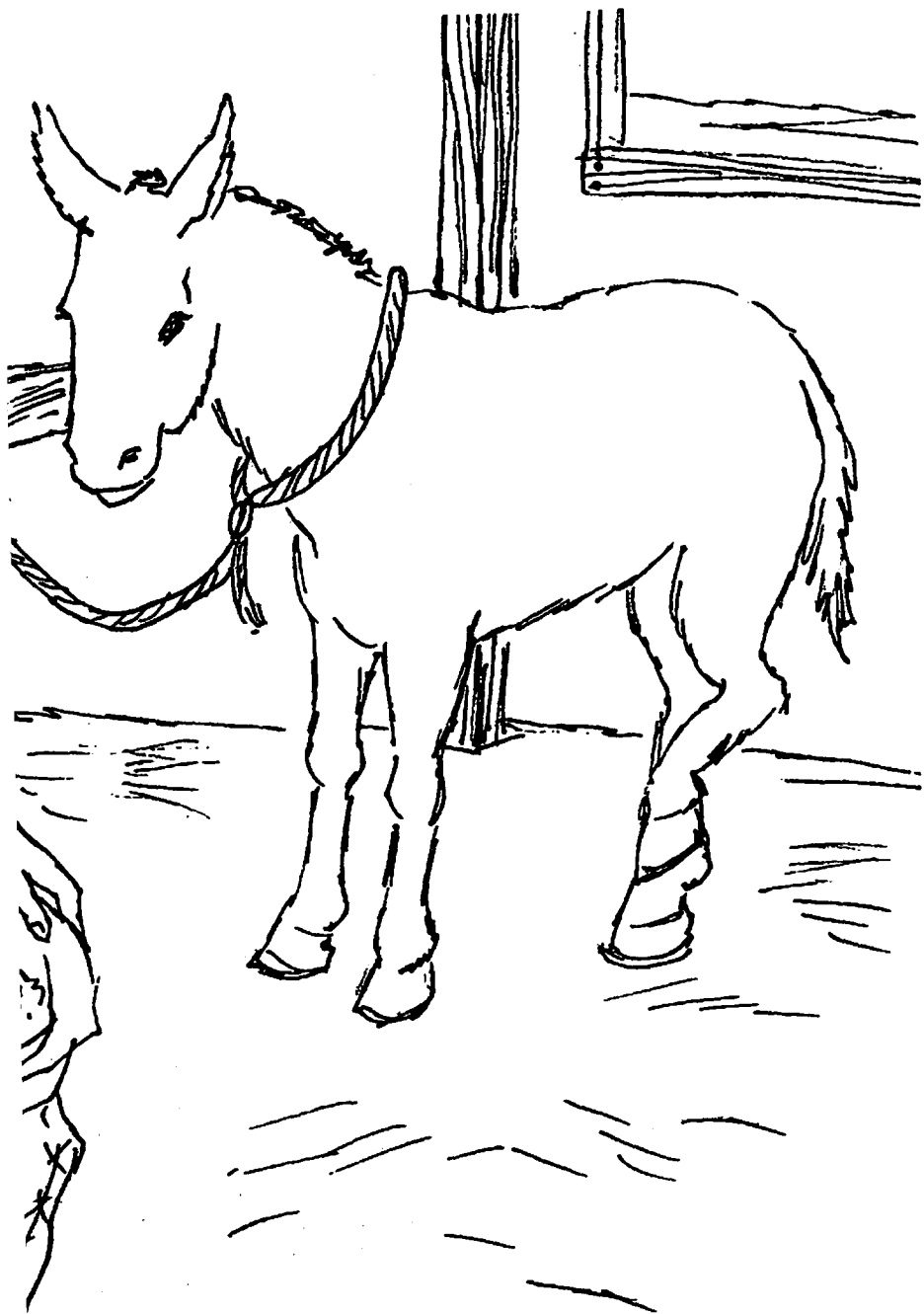
"He knows about the money that was in our sacks and he's going to say we were thieves and throw us into prison," they thought.

They told the steward what had happened but the steward said, "Fear not, your God gave you treasure. I had your money."

The steward brought out their brother that had been in prison. Then he had their animals fed and brought the brothers into Joseph's house.

—Joanna Booher





And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender in the inn, he espied his money; for, behold, it was in his sack's mouth. Genesis 42:27.

A New Bill

(Continued from last week.)

Sunday morning Bill was dressed and ready for church before his wife and two sons.

"Mama, is Daddy really going to church with us?" whispered Jake as his mother combed his hair.

"It looks that way," nodded Donna. "We have been praying for Daddy to go to church. Now we need to have faith that he will get saved and make a change. Let's keep praying!" They exchanged smiles then joined Bill and Jetson in the car.

Since it was Mother's Day, the preacher talked about the value of mothers and how important they are to us.

Bill could not help but remember his mother, her sweet singing and faithful life. On her deathbed she had asked Bill to get saved and join her in heaven. He had not done what she wanted. Now he had two sons whom he had not taught the way to heaven.

What had he been doing with his life? The Lord had been dealing with Bill about the cost of sin and salvation. It was time for Bill to make a decision. When the altar call was given, Bill stepped out and made his way down the aisle to the front. He was ready to wash away all the anger he felt toward his dad. He was tired of drinking beer with the men at the bar—he was sick of all sin!

Bill left the altar a changed man. His wife and sons rejoiced with him. Up in heaven, no doubt Bill's mother was singing with the angels.

At home Bill began to clean house. All the cans of beer and ungodly magazines were thrown into the trash. The TV stayed off and Bill stopped going to the bar. Bill was not going to be a hypocrite, but he was going to be an honest, faithful man of God.

The pastor gave Bill a new Bible and he began to read it.

"At our table from now on, we are going to bless the food before we eat it," announced Bill. "We need to have family worship at night, too. Maybe I can get the Bible story book my mother read to me. I need to visit my dad and I will get the Bible story book then."

Bill and his dad had a good visit. His dad said he was sorry for doing wrong and he had also cleaned house. "If we will stay faithful to the Lord, we will see Mother some day," Bill said to his father.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell
(The end.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the brothers find in their sacks with their corn?
2. How did they feel when they found the money?
3. Did Jacob want to let Benjamin go?
4. Why did Jacob finally let Benjamin go?
5. What did Jacob send with the brothers to the man in Egypt?
6. What did Joseph tell his steward to prepare for the brothers?
7. How did the brothers feel about that?
8. Whom did the brothers tell about the money in their sacks?
9. Was the steward mad?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 42:25-43:24.

(Answers: 1. The money that they had paid for the corn. 2. Frightened. 3. No. 4. Because they needed food. 5. Gifts, the money they had paid the first time and double the money to pay for this time. 6. A feast. 7. Worried. 8. The steward. 9. No.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 May 21, 2000

JOSEPH REVEALS HIMSELF

When Joseph came home to the feast his steward had prepared, his brothers were there waiting. As his eyes fell on his youngest brother, Benjamin, he was overcome with love and emotion. Quickly he excused himself. In private he shed tears of joy for the brother he had missed so much.

Returning to his brothers, Joseph ordered the food to be served. As they took their places, the brothers noticed they were arranged in order from the youngest to the oldest. How could this Egyptian ruler know their ages? Joseph also had Benjamin served five times as much food as his older brothers. Before the brothers left to go home, Joseph told his steward to put all of their money back into their sacks. He also told him to put his own silver cup in Benjamin's sack.

The brothers had not gone far when Joseph's steward came pounding after them. "Why have you stolen my lord's silver cup?" he demanded.

"We have not done this," the brothers declared. "If you find it in any of our sacks, that person shall die and we will all be your lord's servants."

While searching, the servant found the cup in Benjamin's sack. When the brothers saw it, they tore their clothes in alarm. They got on their donkeys and followed the steward back to Egypt.

Coming before Joseph, they fell on their faces. "God is punishing us and we are all your servants," the brothers said.

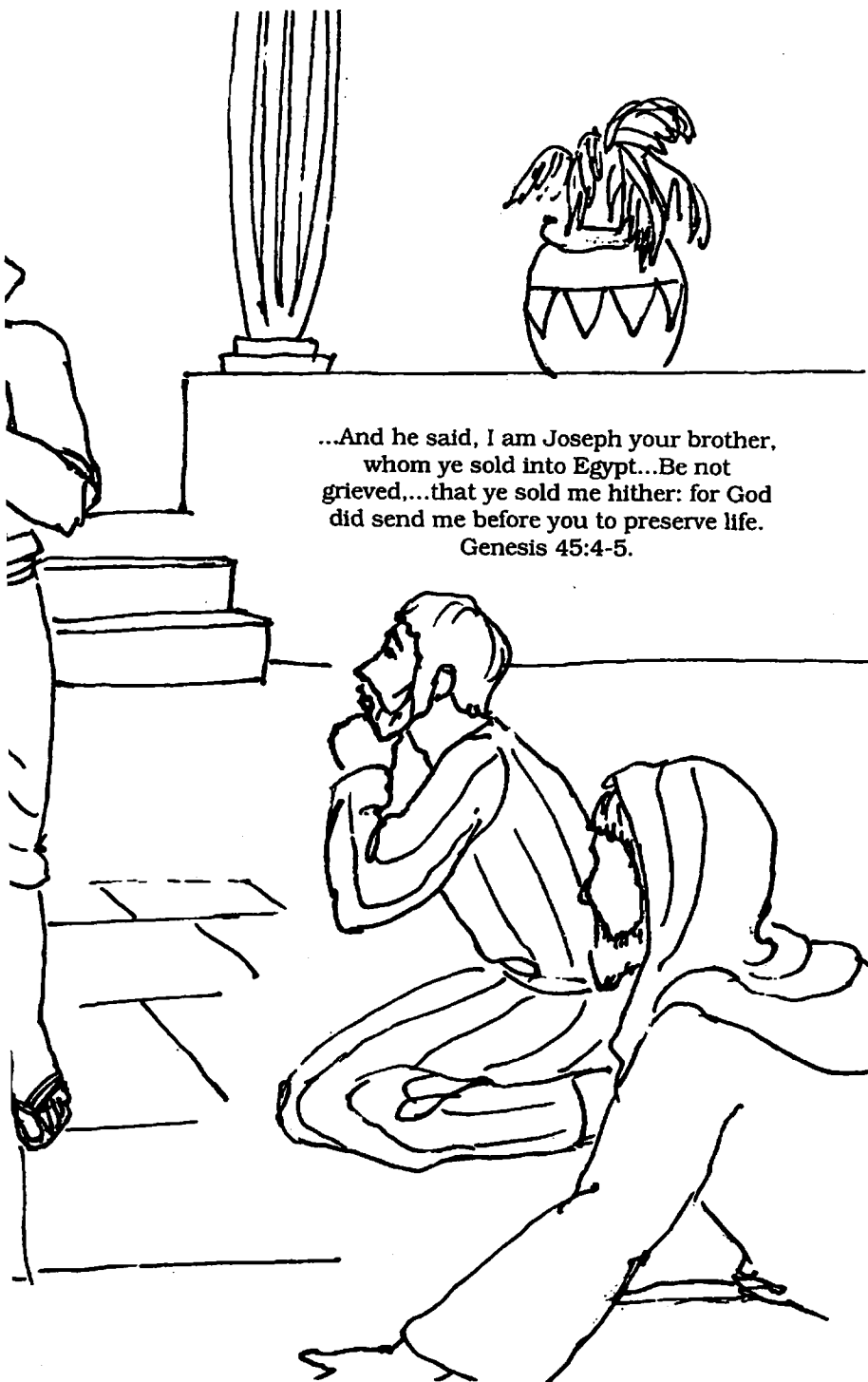
"No, only the one in whose sack the cup was found shall be my servant," Joseph answered.

"Please have mercy," Judah begged. "Our father loves this son more than all of us. He had another son who he believes is dead and if Benjamin were taken away from him too, he would die. Please, make me your servant in his place."

Joseph commanded his servants to leave the room. When they were alone he finally told them who he was. "But don't be afraid," he assured them. "You meant it for evil but God planned this, so I could save all of your lives." Then Joseph embraced each of his brothers and told them to bring their father and their families to live in Egypt where there was plenty of food.

—Joanna Booher





...And he said, I am Joseph your brother,
whom ye sold into Egypt...Be not
grieved,...that ye sold me hither: for God
did send me before you to preserve life.
Genesis 45:4-5.

Spiritual Hunger In Iran

(A true story.)

On a map or globe, find the country of Iran. It is to the east of Iraq and to the northeast of Saudi Arabia. In the country of Iran, only one half of one percent of the people are Christians. The rest of the citizens are Muslims. It is illegal to be anything but a Muslim, yet the gospel of Jesus Christ is being broadcast into this country by satellite radio, and many Muslims are hungry for the freedom the truth will give.

Within the last few months, a missionary named Tom White visited Iran. He was with a lay pastor who spoke very little English. The pastor held his wrists together to let Tom know that he had been arrested and then he held up three fingers meaning he had been arrested three times. He could not tell Tom about all the suffering he had been through but scars on his body showed some of it.

The pastor took Tom to an apartment building. It was evening time and hard to see. Tom followed his Christian brother up a concrete stairwell and into a dimly lit room. Crowded into this room were many other Christians waiting to hear some words read from the Bible.

They were sitting on carpets that had been spread out over the floor. Tom sat down among them and joined in as best he could with the singing. Together they prayed earnestly. Through an interpreter, Tom read scriptures of encouragement to the eager listeners. Then he gave them a treat—a New Testament in their language for each one present.

How pleased they were to receive these rare treasures! Many kissed their's before finding a place to hide it on themselves.

Plates of fruit were spread out and quiet fellowship was shared as they were passed around. When Tom left their presence, he knew he might never see them on earth again but they were heaven bound souls. The Lord is faithful to those who are faithful to Him. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. When Joseph came home, who was waiting for him?
2. What happened when Joseph saw Benjamin?
3. Why did he cry?
4. How were the brothers arranged at the table?
5. Who got the most food? How much more?
6. What did the steward put in Benjamin's sack besides his money?
7. Which of the remaining sons did their father love most?
8. Who planned that Joseph would become a slave in Egypt?
9. What did Joseph tell his brothers to do?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 43:26-46:7.

(Answers: 1. His brothers. 2. He was overcome with love and emotion. 3. He had missed his brother so much. 4. According to age—from the youngest to the oldest. 5. Benjamin. 6. Joseph's cup. 7. Benjamin. 8. God. 9. Bring their father and families to live in Egypt.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 May 28, 2000

THE BABY IN A BASKET

Jacob, who was called Israel, died and was buried. Joseph and his brothers lived and had children in Egypt until they too, died. These children of Israel became very many.

The Pharaoh, who was Joseph's friend, died also and another man became Pharaoh. This Pharaoh said to his people, "Look, the children of Israel are many and mightier than we. They may rise up and join our enemies and overcome us. Let us make them slaves."

So, that is what they did. The Pharaoh put harsh taskmasters over the Israelites who made them work very hard all day long. The Israelite men and women had to make bricks and build them into great cities for the king to store his treasures in.

But the Pharaoh still was not satisfied that he was safe. He commanded that all the Israelite boy babies should be thrown into the river.

A man named Levi had a wife who had a son. This woman did not want her baby to be killed, so she hid him for three months. Finally he was too big to hide, so she wove a basket of rushes and smeared it with slime and pitch to keep out the water. She put her little boy in it and set it afloat in the rushes on the edge of the river. She had her older daughter to watch the basket.

The Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river to bathe and saw the little boat. She told her maidservant to go and get it for her. When Pharaoh's daughter opened the basket the little baby began to cry. The princess felt sorry for the child.

The little baby's sister came up to the princess and asked, "Would you like me to find a nurse for the baby?"

"Yes," said Pharaoh's daughter. So the girl ran and brought her own mother, the mother of the baby.

The child grew and his mother brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter. Pharaoh's daughter named him "Moses."

"Because I drew him out of the water," she said. —Joanna Booher





And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water. Exodus 2:10.

Finding Mom In A Sea Of Faces

(A true story.)

One hot Saturday morning in 1946, Dennis and his big brother, John, were pleased to hear their mother announce, "Let's go to Coney Island today."

Soon they were ready then off they went with their mom who carried a small basket packed with lunch goodies. From New York City, they took the hour-long subway trip to the beach.

The velvety white sand was covered with blankets and people. Carefully, Mom led the way to a spot close to the Atlantic Ocean. Here she spread out an old army blanket for them to sit on. Right away John was ready to dive into the water.

However, Dennis had seen an ice cream man and he decided he wanted to cool off with some ice cream. Without telling his mother, he quickly hopped around several people until he reached the ice cream man's sleeve.

"Please, Mister, how much is an ice cream cone?"

"Special for you, Kiddo," he replied. "Ten cents today."

"Ten cents! It's only a nickle on the block!"

"Well, there ain't no blocks here, kiddo. This is the beach, and why don't cha just look around."

Frustrated, Dennis turned away as the ice cream man went on. His mother couldn't afford a dime for one ice cream cone so he had better get back to her.

Dennis raised his hand to shield his eyes from the sun and he looked for his mother. There were so many people but no one looked familiar. He began to walk toward the way he thought he had come.

"If you are ever lost," his mother had told him, "go to the place we were last together, and stay put."

That old army blanket was the last place. Hot and worried, Dennis went from one blanket to another but none of them were his mother's old army blanket. Which boardwalk stairs did they come down? Dennis looked along the wall and saw many stairways just like the one they had come down. Which one should he stand by?

Suddenly, he saw his mother who was looking for him. A smile spread over his face as he raced toward her. Mother put her arms around Dennis and he stayed with her the rest of the day.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Which Pharoah died?
2. Whom did the new Pharoah say were many and mighty?
3. What did the new Pharoah make the Israelites become?
4. What did the Israelites have to build?
5. What did the new Pharoah command to be thrown into the river?
6. What did Levi's wife make to put her little baby in when he got too big to hide?
7. Where did Levi's wife put the basket?
8. Who found the basket?
9. What did Pharoah's daughter name the baby?

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 49:33, Exodus 1:6-2:10.

(Answers: 1. The one who knew Joseph. 2. The children of Israel. 3. Slaves. 4. Cities. 5. All Israelite baby boys. 6. A basket. 7. In the rushes by the river. 8. Pharoah's daughter. 9. Moses.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 June 4, 2000

MOSES FLEES TO THE DESERT

Moses grew up into a young man. One day he went out to see how his brothers, the Israelites, were being treated. He saw an Egyptian hitting an Israelite. This made Moses angry. He looked to make sure no one was watching and then killed the Egyptian.

The next day, when he went out, he saw two Israelites fighting. "Why are you fighting each other?" he asked the one who had done wrong.

"Who made you a judge or a prince over us?" the man said back. "Do you plan to kill me as you did the Egyptian the other day?"

This made Moses afraid. "This thing I have done must be well known," he thought.

Pharoah did find out about how Moses had killed the Egyptian and tried to kill Moses. Moses fled from him into the desert.

He sat down by a well and seven sisters came to water their sheep. There were other shepherds too and they tried to drive the girls' sheep away. Moses stood up for the girls and helped them to water their flocks.

When the sisters went back to their tents their father asked them, "Why were you gone so short a time today?"

"An Egyptian helped us and kept the other shepherds away," they answered.

"Well, where is he?" their father, Jethro, said. "Did you just leave him by the well? Tell him to come and eat bread with us."

So Moses came and stayed with them. He liked it there and Jethro was glad to have him. Jethro gave Moses one of his daughters, Zipporah, to be his wife.

And it
that



to pass in those days, when Moses was grown,
went out unto his brethren, and looked on their
burdens:... Exodus 2:11.



Jesus is Good!

(A true story.)

In the country of China, it is against the law to be a follower of Christ. The communist government has destroyed, burned, or changed chapels into barns or factories. The police arrest anyone who preaches or testifies about Jesus Christ but all this has not stopped Christians from serving Jesus. They worship in houses, fields, or in woods and they witness to anyone who will listen.

According to the Chinese Communist government, there are 98 million Christians in China. This angers the communist leaders and they are arresting and persecuting Christians more than before.

Pastor Li De Xian has been arrested nine times in three months. Each time he was beaten and told not to preach again, but Pastor Li wants others to know about his Jesus. He says, "Christ was the first to suffer. We just follow Him. There are many thorns, but we are just injured a little..."

One time after the police arrested Pastor Li, while he was preaching to several hundred people, a little old woman took his place and began to preach. This really angered the police. They pounced on her, questioned her, then hauled her off to prison because she would not deny Jesus.

The prison guards did not care that Sister Ling was old. She had to work out in the field all day with the rest of the prisoners. In the evening, after a small bowl of watery rice, all the prisoners were forced to attend a communist meeting. The prison authorities would shout a statement, and the prisoners were to shout it back.

"Prison is good!" shouted the leaders.

"Prison is good!" shouted all the prisoners but one. Sister Ling said, "Jesus is good!"

"Prison food is good!" shouted the leaders.

Sister Ling shouted, "Jesus is good!"

When the guards heard her, they made Sister Ling do many push-ups. The next evening, after a day of hard work, the prisoners were gathered for another meeting. Sister Ling shouted back, "Jesus is good!" every time and again she had to do push-ups. The prison leaders increased the number of push-ups until it became very hard for her. Frustrated, they finally let her out of prison. Sister Ling says, "I rejoiced that I could witness in front of the prisoners and the prison authorities. Jesus is good!"

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who grew to be a young man?
2. Who did Moses see beating an Israelite?
3. What did Moses do to the Egyptian?
4. Did Pharaoh find out about Moses killing the Egyptian?
5. What did Moses have to do when Pharaoh found out?
6. What did Moses sit down by?
7. Who came to water their sheep?
8. Who was the father of the seven sisters?
9. What did Jethro give to Moses?

LESSON TEXT: Exodus 2:11-21.

(Answers: 1. Moses. 2. An Egyptian. 3. He killed him. 4. Yes. 5. Run away. 6. A well. 7. Seven sisters. 8. Jethro. 9. One of his daughters as a wife.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 June 11, 2000

GOD CALLS TO MOSES

Pharaoh made life miserable for the children of Israel. They cried to God to help them. God heard them and remembered His promise He made to Abraham, their father, to bless them.

Meanwhile, Moses was tending sheep in the wilderness. One day he saw a bush on fire but the bush did not burn up. As Moses went close for a better look, God spoke to him saying, "Take off your shoes because this is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

Moses hid his face in fear. God continued to speak to him, "I have seen how My people, Israel, are treated. I am going to deliver them. I want you to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let them go."

"I will be with you," God assured Moses. "Pharaoh will not let you go at first but I will work many wonders before him. Finally, he will let you go."

Moses felt he could not do as God asked. He told Him all the reasons why he could not obey.

Finally God asked, "What is in your hand?" Moses looked at the rod that he held. "Throw it on the ground!" God commanded.

Moses did and the rod turned into a snake. "Pick it up by the tail," God told him. When he did it became a rod again. Then God told him to put his hand into his bosom and when he did it became white with leprosy. When Moses put his hand into his bosom and drew it out again it was normal. "These are the signs that you will tell Aaron who in turn will speak to Pharaoh and the people."

So Moses took his wife and sons and went toward Egypt.

—Joanna Booher

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xodus 3:3.



3 Nov

A Bold Stand

(Based on truth.)

Zeba is a young Christian girl living in Pakistan. Her family struggles to raise enough food to eat and money to pay rent. In order to help her family pay their bills, Zeba went to work as a servant in a wealthy family's house.

"I do not like for our daughter to work in a Muslim household," her mother told her father. "If they learn that she is a Christian, they may beat her."

"We will pray that Jesus will be with her and help her," replied her father, Sharif Masih.

Zeba was a willing, cheerful helper in the home and soon the family was very fond of her. When it came time to pray to Allah, the Muslim god, Zeba would quietly withdraw from the room. In time the master of the house noticed her quiet refusal to pray.

The master questioned Zeba about this. "I have noticed you leaving for the prayer hour which is disrespectful to our great god. Why do you do this?"

Zeba was quiet for a moment. "I believe there is a higher power than Allah," she replied.

The master was angry. "If you remain in this household, you will learn the Koran and live by it. Here is a copy of the Koran. You must recite some of it before every meal or you will not eat."

All the family's attitude changed toward Zeba and she was treated with disgust. Because she wasn't eating, her strength and health began to fail.

When Zeba's mother heard about her daughter's treatment, she went to the master and talked with him. This enraged the man even more. He poured out his anger on Zeba's mother. She was beaten and burned

to death. With a sick heart, Zeba went home to tell her father and sister what had happened.

"Ah, he killed my wife!" exclaimed Sharif Masih in grief. "Where is her body that we may bury it?"

Because he is a Christian, Sharif Masih could not have the master arrested for such a terrible crime. Zeba's sister was so grieved, she died. Sharif Masih did not have much money to bury his dead so he had to borrow money from a Muslim man. When American friends heard about Zeba and her family, money was sent to pay for the family debts so that she would not have to work in a Muslim home.

"I will never deny Jesus Christ. He has been so merciful to us," says Zeba and her father.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who made life miserable for the children of Israel?
2. What did God remember?
3. Where was Moses?
4. What did he see one day?
5. Who spoke to Moses?
6. Why should he take his shoes off?
7. Where did God want Moses to go?
8. What happened when Moses threw his rod on the ground?
9. Who did God send with Moses to speak for him?

LESSON TEXT: Exodus 3:1-17.

(Answers: 1. Pharaoh. 2. His promise to Abraham. 3. In the wilderness tending sheep. 4. A bush on fire. 5. God. 6. He was standing on holy ground. 7. To Pharaoh. 8. It turned into a snake. 9. Aaron.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 51, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 June 18, 2000

"LET MY PEOPLE GO"

Moses came back to Egypt and met his brother, Aaron. Moses told Aaron all the words that God had given him. Together they went to Pharoah.

"God says to let His people go so they can worship Him in the desert," they told Pharoah.

"Who is your god and why should I listen to him?" Pharoah said. "I don't know your god. Get back to work."

"The God of Israel has met with us," Moses and Aaron said. "Let us go so we can worship Him or He might become angry."

"You must not have enough work to do," Pharoah said.

Pharoah commanded that the Israelites should not be given straw to make bricks with anymore. Instead they had to find their own straw and still make the same number of bricks they were making before. Pharoah's taskmasters beat them if they did not make enough bricks.

The children of Israel came and cried to Moses and Aaron, "Don't talk to Pharoah anymore for us. You're just making things worse."

Moses went to the Lord, "Lord, why are You letting this happen? I thought You were going to rescue Your people."

The Lord said, "Watch what I am going to do now to Pharoah. I am going to work mighty works before him until he will drive you out of Egypt. The Egyptians will see that I am God when I lead you out."

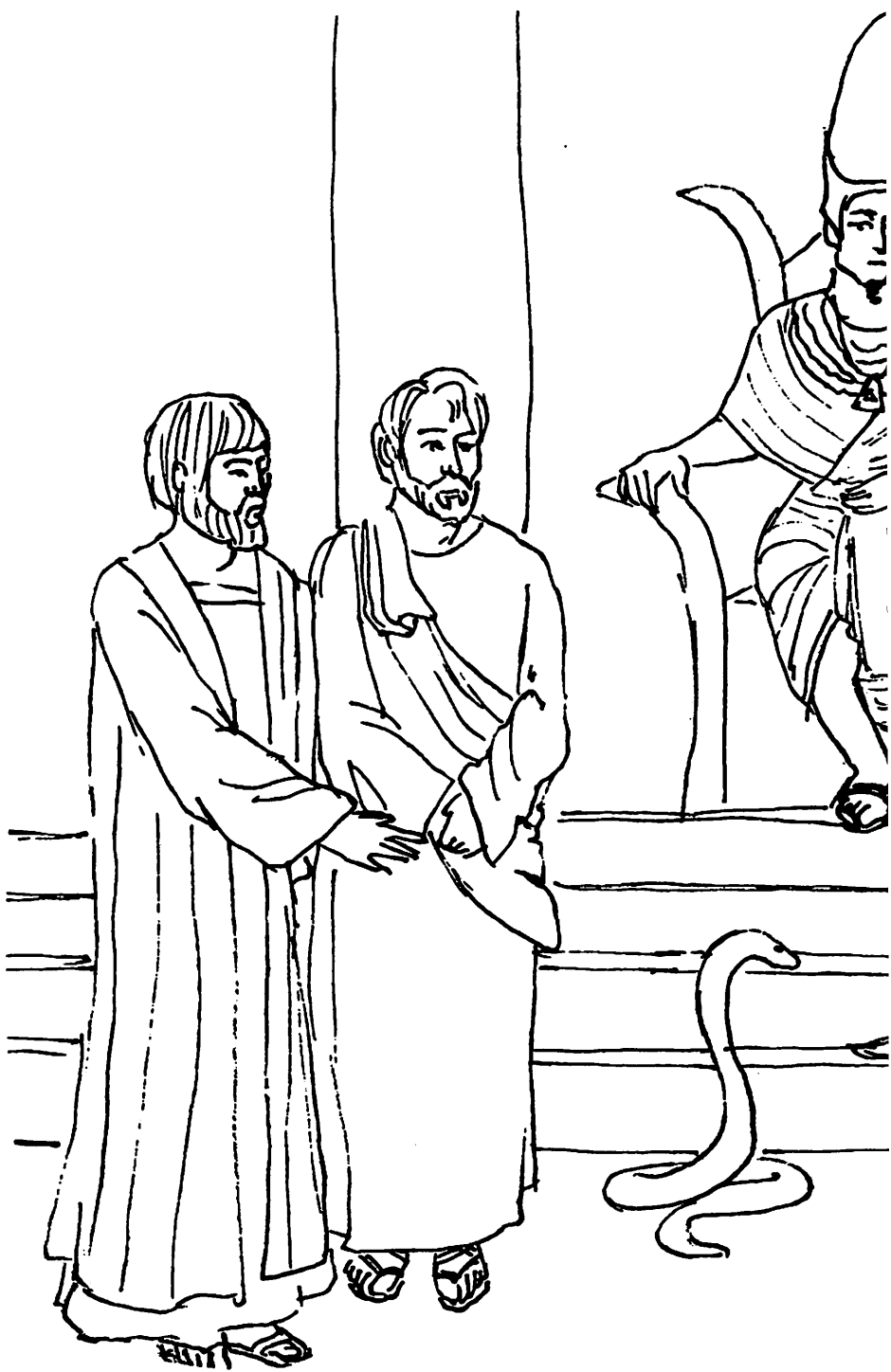
So Moses and Aaron went again to Pharoah, "God says 'Let my people go.'"

As a sign that God was with them, Aaron threw his rod down in front of Pharoah and it turned into a snake.

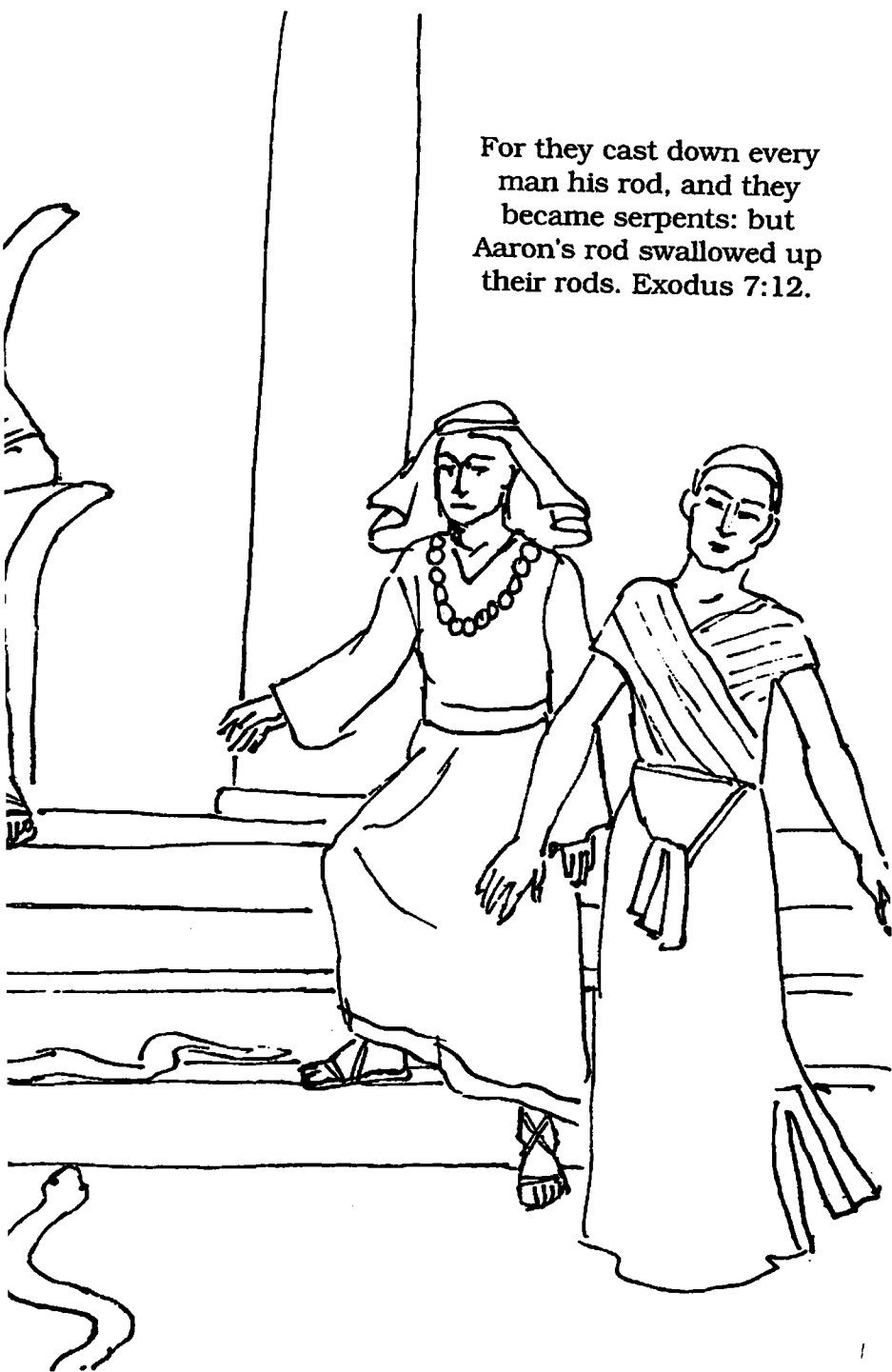
Pharoah called for his magicians. They threw rods down and they also turned to snakes. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their snakes.

But still Pharoah's heart was hardened and he would not let the children of Israel go.

—Joanna Booher



For they cast down every
man his rod, and they
became serpents: but
Aaron's rod swallowed up
their rods. Exodus 7:12.



Fighting Tigers

Seven pairs of eyes quietly watched the candle flame David held in his right hand.

"Now hold up your left hand and repeat this promise after me," said the president of the Fighting Tigers Club. David obeyed and Ryan began, "I promise to defend my fellow Tiger brothers and to keep all their secrets private. I promise to never tell anyone about our club without the club's permission. I promise to never tell any of the club's business or activities. I promise to meet with the Fighting Tigers every Monday afternoon and fulfill my duty as 'Keeper of the Flame.'"

"Okay, Tigers, do we accept this new member?"

All the members raised their right hand and pretended to claw the air. "Gr-r-Grr-r!" they said.

"David, you are officially part of the Fighting Tigers," said Ryan. "Now it is your duty to take care of the candle and matches. Make sure they are here at every meeting."

David nodded with a grin on his face. Carefully, he blew out the flame, let it cool, then put the candle in the box with the matches. After a short business discussion, the boys closed the meeting and each one went home for supper.

"How did your day go, David?" asked Dad at the supper table.

"Okay," he replied with a smile.

"You sound cheerful. Did you do something exciting today?"

"Yes! Well, ah, not too exciting. I just played with some guys in some hay forts we've made in a barn. That's all."

"Whose barn are you playing in?" asked Dad.

"Oh, the McGriffins' barn. Terry's dad said we could play there if we wouldn't pull the hay out of the bales."

"I see," said Dad. "You boys be

careful and don't make the fort walls too tall where they might cave in on top of anyone. Be careful with your pocket knife—it's easy to loose in a hay barn. And for sure don't light any matches. Not too many things burn quicker than a barn full of dry hay. Did you hear me, David?"

David nodded as he looked down at his plate. Dad seemed to know what the club was doing in the barn. Now he was told not to have a fire in the barn and he was the Keeper of the Flame. What should he do?

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Moses and Aaron tell Pharoah that God wanted His people to do in the desert?
2. Did Pharoah believe in Moses' and Aaron's God?
3. What did Pharoah say the Israelites must find on their own to make bricks?
4. How many bricks did the Israelites have to make now?
5. What did the Egyptians do if the children of Israel did not make enough bricks?
6. Were the Israelites happy with Moses and Aaron for asking Pharoah to let them go?
7. What did God say the Egyptians would see when He led them out?
8. What did Aaron's rod turn into when he threw it down?
9. What did the magicians' rods turn into when they threw them down?
10. What did Aaron's snake do to the other snakes?

LESSON TEXT: Exodus 4:27-6:1, 7:1-13.

(Answers: 1. Worship Him. 2. No. 3. Straw. 4. The same number as before. 5. Beat them. 6. No. 7. That He is God. 8. A snake. 9. Snakes. 10. Swallowed them up.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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BLOODY RIVERS, FROGS AND LICE

The Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and tell him I will turn the Nile River to blood because he has not let My people go."

So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him God's words. Then, as Pharaoh watched, Aaron stretched Moses' rod out over the river and pools and ponds. All the waters turned to blood. The fish died and it began to stink. There was no water to drink.

To try to prove that they were powerful, Pharaoh's magicians also turned water to blood. Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he would not let the children of Israel go.

Next, the Lord told Moses, "Say to Pharaoh that if he does not let My people go I will send frogs upon the Egyptians. They will have frogs in their houses, in their beds, in their kitchens and in their dishes. There will be frogs all over the place."

So Moses and Aaron did as the Lord told them and frogs came upon the Egyptians. Pharaoh's magicians also brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh finally called for Moses and Aaron and told them, "Ask your God to take away these frogs and I will let you go."

Moses asked God to take away the frogs and He did. All the frogs died and the Egyptians carried them out and piled them in heaps. The piles stank.

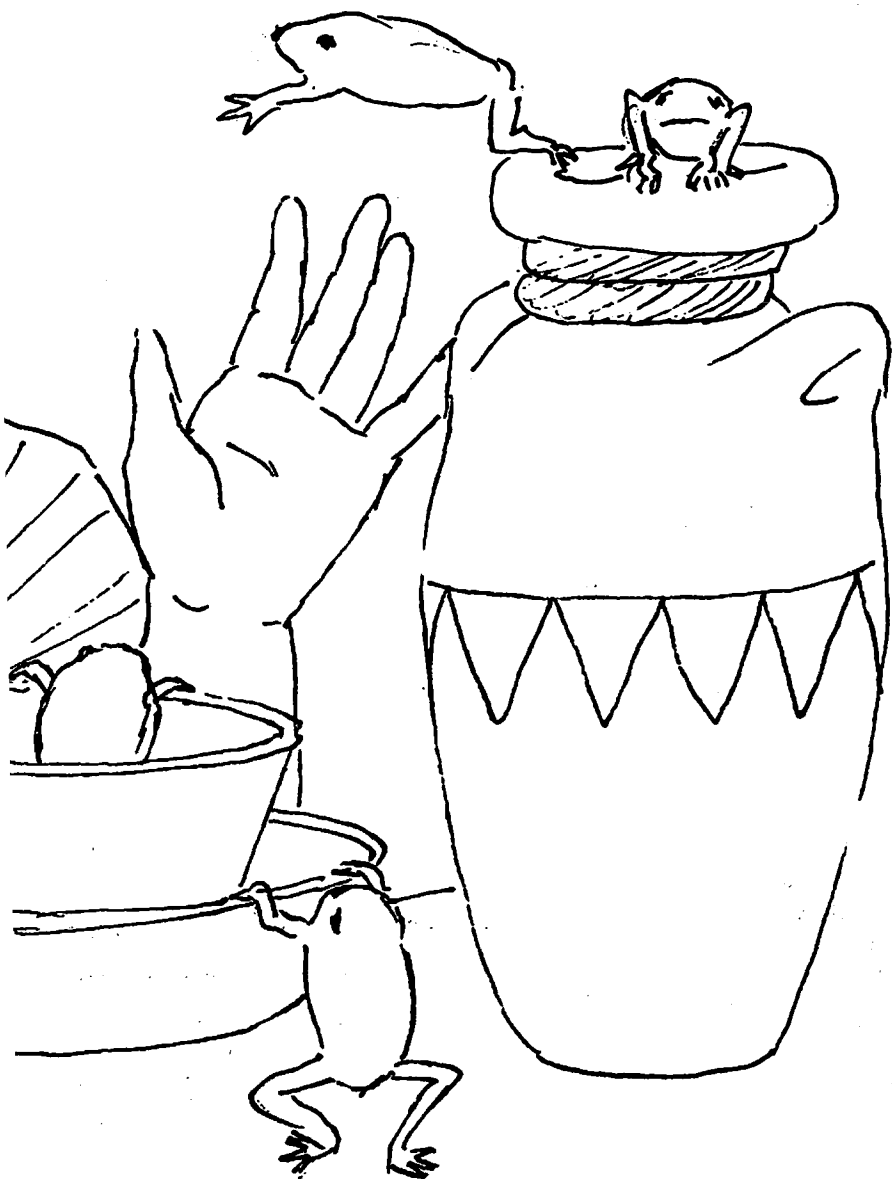
Pharaoh's heart was hardened again and he would not let them go. So God told Moses to tell Aaron to smite the dust of the earth with his rod that it would turn to lice. Aaron did so and the dust became lice in all the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh's magicians tried to turn dust to lice, but they could not. "This is the finger of God," they told Pharaoh but he would not listen to them. His heart was hardened and he would not let the children of Israel go.

—Joanna Booher



And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly,
which shall...come into thine house, and into thy
bedchamber, and upon thy bed,... Exodus 8:3.



Eliminating The Candle

(Continued from last week.)

David took the candle and matches out from under his mattress. It was Monday afternoon and time for another Fighting Tigers meeting. His heart beat rapidly as he raced across the field to the McGriffins' barn.

"Here is David!" said Ryan. "Now we are all here. Let's start our meeting. Light the candle, David, so John can see to read the minutes from the last meeting."

David's fingers trembled as he lit the match and then the candle wick. As soon as the minutes were read, he blew out the candle.

"Don't be so snappy, David," said Ryan. "We need the light to see in this dark hay fort. Put the candle back on."

David obeyed but he felt bad in doing so. Finally, the meeting was over and he was allowed to blow out the candle, let it cool, then carefully put it back into the box.

It was fun playing in the fort with the boys after the candle was put away. David wondered what he should do about the candle. He decided to talk to Ryan privately.

"Ryan, I don't like having a fire in this hay barn," David said. "It could start a fire."

"If you're careful, it won't," replied Ryan.

"Oh, I'll be careful, but what if I used something else like a flashlight. That would be better."

"It would have to be a good flashlight," said Ryan. "Where are you going to get one—from your dad?"

"Well, maybe."

"Then you would have to tell him all about the club and you promised not to tell."

"I won't tell everything," said David. "But would a flashlight be okay if I can get a good one?"

"I guess," grumbled Ryan as he walked away.

That evening, David went into the den to talk to his dad privately. "You know, Dad," he began. "It is kinda dark in that hay fort. How much does a good flashlight cost? Would you help me buy one?"

Dad put down his newspaper. "Well, I might have an extra one you could use if you take care of it and replace the batteries when they are low. I know how dark hay forts can be because I played in them myself when I was a boy. I don't mind you boys having a club in the hay barn but play safe."

"We will!" grinned David.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did God say He would turn to blood if Pharoah did not let His people go?
2. What died in the river?
3. Did Pharoah let them go after the rivers were turned to blood?
4. What did God bring next on the Egyptians that filled their houses and beds?
5. Were Pharoah's magicians able to bring up frogs too?
6. What did Pharoah say he would do if God took away the frogs?
7. What was turned to lice when Aaron struck it with his rod?
8. Were Pharoah's magicians able to turn dust to lice?
9. Did Pharoah let the Israelites go after the lice?

LESSON TEXT: Exodus 7:14-8:19.

(Answers: 1. The Nile River.
2. The fish. 3. No. 4. Frogs.
5. Yes. 6. Let the people go.
7. The dust. 8. No. 9. No.)