

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 June 6, 2004

GOLIATH'S DEFEAT

David was at home looking after his father's sheep. Jesse said to his son, "Take this corn and bread to your brothers and see how they are doing." So David left his sheep for another person to look after and started on his journey early the next morning.

The armies of Israel were gathered together preparing to fight the Philistines. The Israelites stood on a mountain, and the Philistines stood on a mountain facing them. There was a valley between them.

David saw his brothers and went running to greet them. As they were talking, a huge giant named Goliath stood on the other side with the Philistines. Goliath shouted to them, "Choose a man to fight me. If he can kill me, we will serve you. If I kill him, you will be our servants."

David's brothers were afraid. "What will happen to the man that kills this giant? Who is he to make fun of the armies of God?" David asked. "The person that kills Goliath will be given great riches, and the king's daughter's hand in marriage," the people around him answered.

Someone told Saul about David's words. Saul sent for him. "I will go and fight this Philistine," David announced to Saul. Saul said, "You are just a boy. You couldn't fight a giant."

"Once," David said, "I killed a lion and a bear, and I will also kill this Philistine. The Lord will be with me and help me fight."

Saul tried to give David heavy armor to protect him. David would not wear them. Instead, he took his staff and chose five stones from the brook. With his stones in a bag and his sling in his hand David went to meet Goliath.

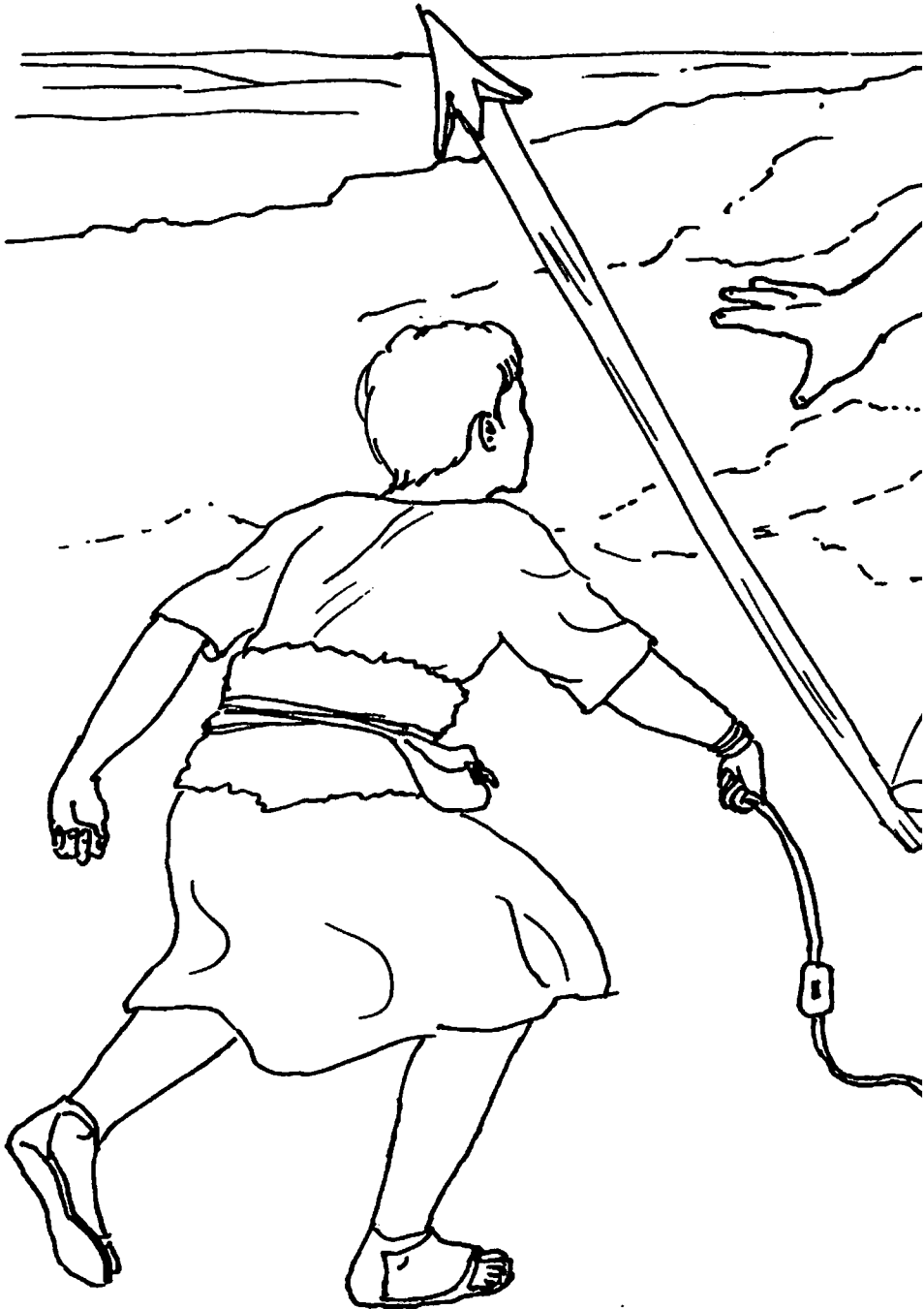
"Am I a dog that you come to me with stones?" Goliath laughed at David.

"You come at me with sword and spear, but I come to you in the name of the Lord," David replied. "The Lord does not save with the sword and the spear. The battle is the Lord's."

David put a stone in his sling. He slung it. The stone hit Goliath's forehead. Goliath fell on his face to the ground. David, with the Lord's help, had won the battle.

—Monica Murphey

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling
and smote the Philistine, and slew him;... I San



l a stone,
.7:50.



Obeying His True Master

Just a small boy of seven years, Damare Garang was sold as a slave to a Muslim family in Tuobon of Sudan, Africa. His stern master told Damare that he was to watch the camels and keep them watered.

Damare did not know how to care for camels but he was too afraid to ask questions of his master who did not bother to instruct the boy. On his own, Damare did the best he could in caring for the camels. Then one day a camel ran away and Damare was not able to find the fast animal. When his master heard about it he was furious.

With an angry voice he said to Damare, "How could you do this? You will surely have to pay! You stupid slave, I should just kill you now!"

Damare shrank down to the ground in fear as his master roared at him. Finally, the mad master left Damare alone. "Thank you, Jesus," prayed Damare. His mother, who had been killed by warring Muslim soldiers, had taught him about Jesus. Oh, how his young heart cried out to Jesus Christ for His love and mercy!

The next day Damare sneaked away to visit a small Christian church service held in a nearby village. He gained strength from the fellowship of other Christians as they prayed and sang unto the Lord.

When Damare arrived back to the camels, his master was waiting for him. "Where have you been?" he asked. Innocently, Damare whispered, "To church."

Extremely angry, the master said, "You have made two bad mistakes. Yesterday you lost one of my camels, and today you worship with infidels!"

The master went to his barn and returned with an old board and some long rusty nails. Taking Damare out to the edge of his property, he forced Damare to lie down on the board, then

this cruel man nailed Damare's legs and feet to the board as Damare cried out in pain. When he had used the last nail, the wicked master silently turned and left Damare in agony.

The Lord heard Damare's cries and sent a kind man to his rescue. Like a good Samaritan this man took Damare to a local hospital where they pulled the nails from Damare's body and cleaned his wounds. A few days later this kind man took Damare to his home and treated him nicely. Later Damare was adopted by a good commander who treats him like his son.

Today Damare is fifteen-years-old and he has asked Jesus to help him forgive the cruel man who harmed his legs and feet. "Jesus was nailed to a cross for me, and He has forgiven my sins, so I will forgive others," Damare said. "Please tell the Christian children in America to pray for the children of Sudan." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did David's father tell him to do?
2. What were his brothers doing?
3. What Philistine scared the Israelites?
4. What rewards would be given to the man who killed Goliath?
5. What did David do?
6. What two animals had David killed?
7. What weapons did David use to fight Goliath?
8. What did Goliath do when he saw David?
9. Did David kill Goliath?

(Answers: 1. Take food to his brothers and see how they were doing. 2. They were with the armies of Israel, facing the Philistines in battle. 3. The giant, Goliath. 4. Great riches and the king's daughter to marry. 5. Told Saul he would fight Goliath. 6. A lion and a bear. 7. A sling and five stones. 8. He laughed at David. 9. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 June 13, 2004

THE KING'S SON-IN-LAW

God's spirit had left Saul. Saul was very unhappy. "The son of Jesse is a very good musician," someone told Saul. "He can play the harp. Maybe it would calm your nerves." Saul invited David to the palace. When David played his harp for Saul, it made Saul feel better. David did what Saul told him to do.

After David killed Goliath the women in all of the cities met Saul singing and playing on musical instruments. "Saul has killed thousands, but David has killed ten thousands." This made Saul very angry.

The next day an evil spirit came upon Saul. David came to Saul and played his harp. Saul remembered the words the women sang. He threw a spear at David, hoping to kill him. The spear hit the wall.

Saul knew that God was with David. He knew that the people of Israel loved David. This made Saul afraid of David. Saul told David, "I will let you marry my oldest daughter, Merab, if you will fight the Lord's battles." Saul thought, "Instead of killing him myself, the Philistines will kill David in battle."

When it came time for David to marry Merab, Saul gave Merab to another man to marry. Saul's other daughter, Michal, loved David. They told King Saul. This made him happy. He thought he could trick David and kill him. David and Michal got married. The king had a new son-in-law.

—Monica Murphey





ul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with
d was departed from Saul. I Samuel 18:12.

On the Run for Jesus

(A true story.)

Looking through a local newspaper, Tara read an interesting ad: "Send in for a free *Bible* Study" it read. A coupon was attached for anyone to put their address on and return to the advertiser. Tara had been raised in a strict Muslim family, but she was curious about the *Bible*.

"This is my opportunity to find out what the difference is between that book and the Koran," she thought.

So Tara wrote in her name and address on the coupon. Then she gave it to a servant to mail, not really expecting a reply. A few days later Tara's first lesson arrived in the mail. Secretly, she studied the course and mailed in her tests. By the time Tara was sixteen-years-old, she had completed all the curriculum covering the Old and New Testament. She had won shiny certificates with her name on them, honoring her for completing the course. She even had a blue, leather bound *Bible* with her name written on the front page.

One day Tara's father found out she had visited a church. Then he caught her reading her *Bible* in her bedroom. Very angry, her father lashed out at her. Verbally he accused her of betraying her family and the Islamic religion. He punched, kicked and beat her with an electrical cord. Finally he left her lying on the floor, unconscious and bleeding.

The Lord heard Tara's cry to Him, and by His grace, she regained her strength. Three days later she escaped through a window from her father's house. She knew he wanted

her dead because she had become a Christian. Ever since then Tara has been a girl on the run.

Living with one Christian family and then another, Tara has moved around the country from village to village. She encourages other young women who are seeking the Saviour, the Lover of their soul. Because she has studied the *Bible* and memorized scriptures Tara is able to give the Word of God to those who do not know it as well.

Tara lives in hiding and she visits women in private, but Tara is not ashamed of her best Friend, Jesus Christ. Quietly and eagerly Tara shares her faith with others who are also under persecution from the Muslims.

Please pray for her and others who are willing to serve their Saviour even under the shadow of death.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Saul unhappy?
2. Why did Saul send for David?
3. Did listening to David's music make Saul feel better?
4. What made Saul angry?
5. What did Saul do to David while he played his harp?
6. How did Saul feel about David?
7. What did Saul promise David?
8. What was Saul's evil thought?
9. Who did David marry?

(Answers: 1. God's spirit had left Saul. 2. He thought music would calm his nerves. 3. Yes. 4. The women of the city praised David more than Saul. 5. Threw a spear at David. 6. Saul was afraid of David; he knew God's spirit was on him. 7. That David could marry Saul's daughter if he would fight for him. 8. That David would be killed in battle. 9. Michal.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 June 20, 2004

ESCAPE BY NIGHT

Jonathan, Saul's son, was a close friend of David's. Jonathan warned David, "My father wants to kill you. Hide until morning. I will see if it is safe for you to come back."

While David hid, Jonathan spoke to his father. "David has done nothing wrong against you. You should not try to kill him. When he killed Goliath, you were glad. Would you kill David for no reason?"

Saul listened to his son's voice. He said he would not kill David. Jonathan called David and told him he was safe.

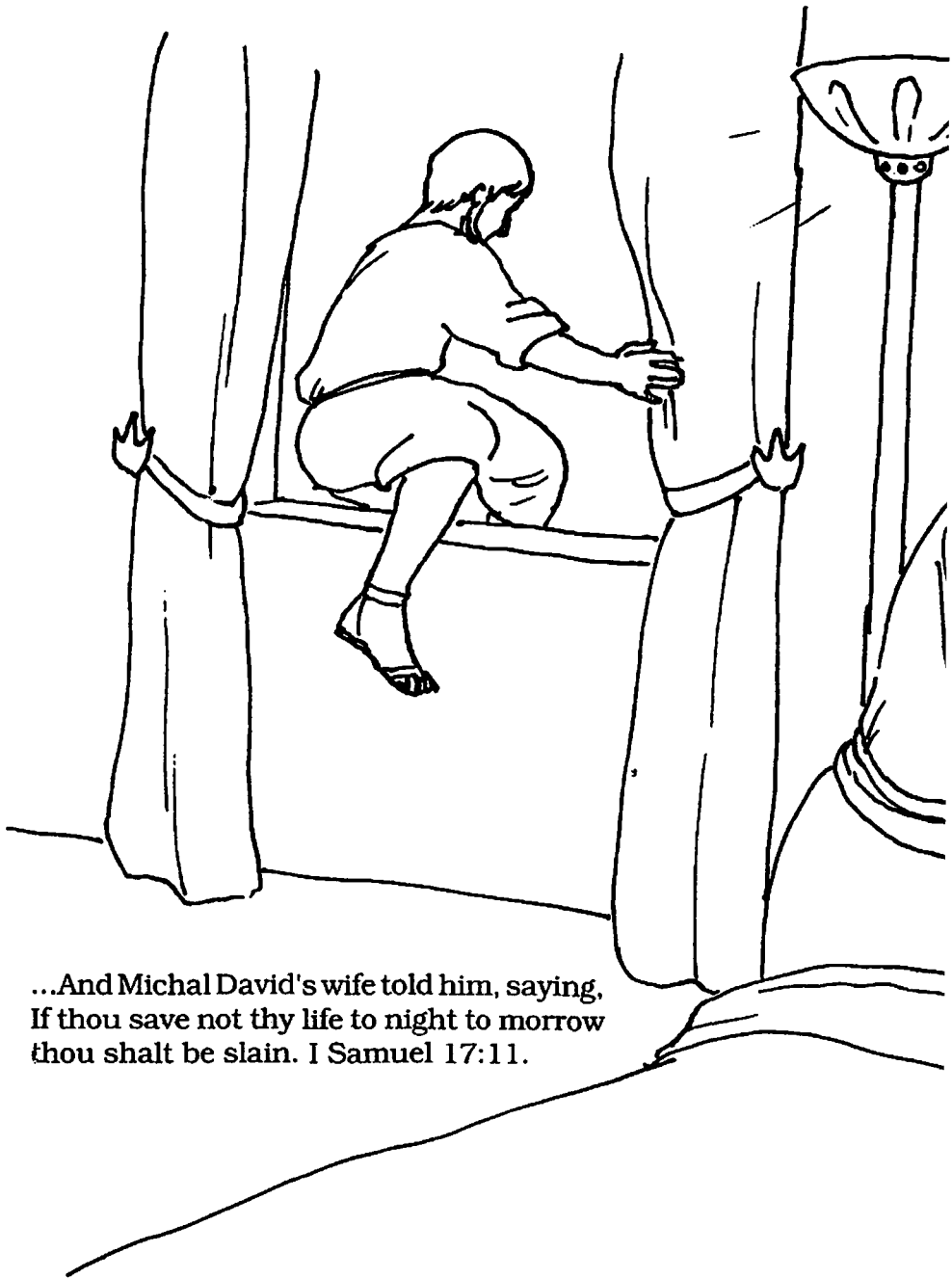
Once again the Israelites fought against the Philistines. David fought, too. David did a good job fighting and was a hero to the Israelites. This made Saul angry. David played the harp to try to make Saul feel better. Saul threw his spear at David. The spear missed. David ran away to his house.

Saul sent servants to David's house to kill David the next morning. "If you do not escape tonight, they will kill you tomorrow," Michal, David's wife, said. Using pillows and goats hair Michal made it look like David was still asleep in bed. Then David went out of a window and escaped.

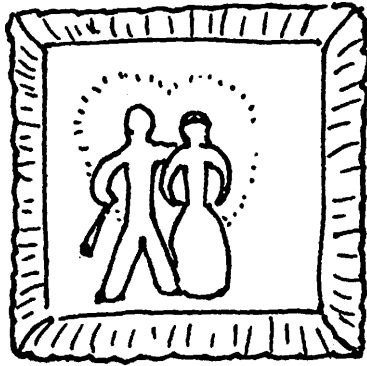
When Saul's servants came the next morning Michal said, "David is sick." Saul sent them back again. Saul told them to bring David back in his bed so Saul could kill David. The men brought the bed to Saul. Saul discovered the pillows and the goat's hair that Michal had made to look like a person.

David had escaped. He stayed with Samuel until Saul tried to find him again.

—Monica Murphey



...And Michal David's wife told him, saying,
If thou save not thy life to night to morrow
thou shalt be slain. I Samuel 17:11.



Sunday Morning Leadership

"Boys, it is time to get up and get ready for church," Dad called down the hall way. "I have let you sleep in a little extra, so you had better get up now. Jerry! Randy! Get up! And you, too, Linda! We don't want to be late for Sunday school and church."

Each child woke up in his own way. Jerry tumbled out of bed and raced to the bathroom while Randy sat up in bed, yawned and stretched. Linda carefully climbed out of bed making sure her legs and arms were awake before she started walking. Mother was already bathing and dressing little Allen.

Randy went into the kitchen to eat cold cereal before he dressed. Dad was already eating his Raisin Bran. "Here, Randy, I'll pour some of this cereal in a bowl for you, and here's some milk. Now I want you to eat all your cereal before I get done and I'm a pretty fast eater."

"Okay, Dad," said Randy as he grabbed his spoon and shoveled in a mouthful.

"I can't find my dress shoes anyway," said Jerry. Then looking at Randy he added, "Someone must have worn them and put them somewhere else."

"I can't wear your ole shoes," replied Randy. "You probably left them on the back porch, and some stray dog took them into the woods and ate them."

"I'm not careless with my shoes," retorted Jerry, as he went toward the back door.

Then Dad spoke up. "I think I saw your dress shoes in the trunk of the car. They were left there from our last Sunday trip."

"Oh, yeah," remembered Jerry as he turned from the back door. "Randy,

you have your shoes on. Go get them for me, okay, good ole boy?"

"I'm not your fetch-it dog," mumbled Randy through a mouthful of cereal.

"Randy, don't talk with your mouth full of food," said Dad. "I'll go get your shoes, Jerry, if you will put away the cereals and the milk after you eat."

"Okay, Dad."

Time passed quickly. Finally everyone was ready for Sunday school and in the car going to the chapel. "Do all of you have a memory verse?" asked Dad. "Be prepared so you can say your verse loud and clear. No skipping your turn or mumbling, understand?"

Everyone did. Bible pages were turned as each one went over the verse they were to recite. As their car parked in front of the chapel doors, Mother sighed. "Thanks, honey," she said, "for helping to get us here for Sunday school and church. I really appreciate your leadership on Sunday morning!" —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jonathan warn David of?
2. What did Saul tell Jonathan?
3. Who did the Israelites fight?
4. How did the Israelites feel about David?
5. How did this make Saul feel?
6. What did Saul do to David?
7. How did David escape from Saul?
8. What lie did Michal tell the servants who came to kill David?
9. What did Saul find when he saw David's bed?

(Answers: 1. That Saul wanted to kill him. 2. That he would not kill David. 3. The Philistines. 4. He was a hero. 5. Very angry. 6. Threw another spear at David while he was playing the harp. 7. He went out the window of his house. 8. That David was sick. 9. Pillows and goat's hair that Michal had made to look like a person.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 June 27, 2004

DAVID IS MERCIFUL

David went and hid in a cave. Four hundred men, who were unhappy with Saul, came to be with David. David was the leader of these men. When he was hiding from Saul, David and his men had to hide in different cities and in the wilderness. Every day, Saul tried to find David, but every time God helped David escape.

Now David had six hundred men that were unhappy with Saul. David's men were hiding with him in a cave again. Saul and his men came by the cave looking for David. Saul was tired and went into the cave to rest. While Saul was resting, David sneaked over and tore off a piece of Saul's clothes. After he had done this David felt bad about doing such a thing to his king.

David went after Saul. He cried out, "My King, while you were in the cave some people told me to kill you. I could have, but I thought, 'I will not hurt someone chosen by God to be king.' I have cut off a piece of your clothing, but I did not kill you. I did not hurt you, yet you keep trying to kill me. The Lord will deliver me out of your hands."

Saul heard David's voice. He wept. Saul told David, "You are better than me, because you have not killed me. I have always been mean to you. I know that the kingdom of Israel shall be yours. Please promise me that my descendants will not be hurt." David promised Saul they would not. Saul took his men and went home.

—Monica Murphey

Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of
robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the ski
thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and
that there is neither evil nor transgressio
mine hand,... I Samuel 24:11.





Veggie Blessings

"Mother, today I get to help Aunt Susan, don't I?" asked Linda as she met her mother in the hall early Monday morning.

"Yes, Linda," said Mother. "I will take you over there when you are dressed and have your hair combed. Put a half dozen or so of those chocolate chip cookies that we baked into a plastic container and take those with you to share with Aunt Susan. You can have a milk and cookie break after you have worked a while."

"Okay, Mom," replied Linda as she hurried to go. Aunt Susan needed Linda to help her with the vegetable garden. It was always hot work but rewarding to see all the ripe tomatoes, green beans, okra, squash and other vegetables put in baskets and ready to sell. Aunt Susan had a vegetable stand in the summer and many neighbors liked to buy her vine ripe produce.

Soon Mother and Linda were ready to go. They slipped away from the house at the break of dawn. Aunt Susan liked to pick her vegetables in the cool of the morning so they would be fresh for 8 o'clock sales.

"Bye, Mom," said Linda as she climbed out of the car in front of Aunt Susan's house. "Pick me up at three o'clock please."

"I will. May God bless you with a good day," replied Mom.

Aunt Susan was glad to see Linda and put her right to work. They picked eight long rows of green beans, a basketful of okra, corn, squash, cucumbers, and lots of fat, red tomatoes. By the time they were done Linda's back hurt from bending over and she was hot and thirsty.

A few customers were waiting for them to open the stand at eight. Linda enjoyed visiting with the friendly people who liked to buy from Aunt Susan. She noticed that sometimes Aunt Susan would put in the sack an extra cucumber or tomato that the customer didn't buy.

When they had their cookie and milk break, Linda asked Aunt Susan about this habit. Aunt Susan smiled. "Well, I know who has big families and appreciate more than what they can pay for," she said. "It's my way of giving them a blessing. The Lord has blessed me with plenty and I want to help others."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did David hide?
2. Did Saul try to find David?
3. Where did Saul go to rest?
4. What did David do to Saul?
5. How did David feel about what he had done?
6. What did David tell Saul?
7. What did Saul do?
8. What promise did David make?
9. Did David and his men feel safe after that?

(Answers: 1. A cave. 2. Yes. 3. Into the cave where David and his men were hiding. 4. He tore off a piece of Saul's clothes. 5. He felt badly because God had chosen Saul to be king. 6. That David could have killed Saul, but he did not. 7. He wept. 8. That Saul's descendants would not be hurt. 9. Yes.

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THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 July 4, 2004

SAUL VISITS SAMUEL

The Philistines gathered their men together to fight with the armies of Israel.

Samuel was dead. When King Saul saw all of the Philistines ready to fight the Israelites, King Saul was afraid. King Saul wanted to talk to Samuel. Samuel could talk to God and find out what they were supposed to do. King Saul tried to pray, but this did not help. King Saul knew that God was not happy with him anymore. King Saul had disobeyed God. God would not help him fight the battle.

King Saul called to one of his servants, "Find a woman who could help me talk with Samuel." His servant said, "There is a woman living in the city of Endor who possibly could help you." "Maybe she can help me talk with Samuel," Saul thought.

Saul and two of his servants went to see the woman. "I want to talk to Samuel," Saul told the woman. Saul did not tell the woman who he was. The woman was afraid. "If Saul finds out, he will kill me," she cried. God did not like women like her, so King Saul had killed all of the others. "Nothing will happen to you," Saul said.

King Saul was able to talk with Samuel. King Saul told Samuel that the Philistines were getting ready to fight the Israelites. "What should I do?" King Saul asked. "Because you have disobeyed the Lord, your kingdom has been given to David," Samuel informed King Saul. "Israel will be beaten by the Philistines. Tomorrow, you and your sons will be dead."

Saul was very upset. He was very afraid. Saul would not eat or drink all day or all night.

The next day, the Philistines killed many Israelites in battle. All of Saul's sons were killed. Saul fell on his own sword and died. David was very sad that Jonathan had been killed. David and his men wept and mourned for King Saul and his good friend Jonathan.

—Monica Murphey

“...The Lord hath rent the
kingdom out of thine hand,
and given it to...David:
Because thou obeyedst not
the voice of the Lord...”
1 Samuel 28:17-18.





Freedom To Worship

"Mama, after church tonight, can we go see the fireworks?" asked Randy Sunday morning as the family prepared for morning service.

"I believe your dad said we would do that," replied Mother as she straightened Randy's shirt collar. "It is good to remember America's birthday and thank the Lord for the freedom He has given us."

"Yes, in some countries we would not be allowed to attend church openly like we will do today," agreed Randy's big brother, Jerry.

Randy looked sad. "Would I have to hide at church?"

"The church or meeting would be hidden," replied Mother. "We would probably go one by one to a private house or barn and keep quiet so no one would call the police about our meeting. In some places, the Christians meet at night. We are really blessed to have a chapel to meet in and not have a fear that the police will come and arrest us for worshipping the Lord."

Later, as the family drove up to the Church of God chapel, Randy was the first one to hop out of the car. He opened out his arms and in a loud voice exclaimed, "I am an American and I am ready for Sunday school!" Then he started marching to the chapel door.

"What got into him?" asked Linda, Randy's big sister.

"He appreciates his freedom to worship God," replied Jerry.

"That's right! Today is the Fourth of July!" said Linda.

During the morning service, Mother and others thanked the Lord for the freedom in America to wor-

ship the Lord without fear of the police interrupting the service.

"Let's pray for our country," said Mother to the congregation. "Jesus told us to pray for the rulers of our land that we may lead a peaceable life. Our leaders need to have more fear of God upon their hearts when they make decisions that affect us all. Truly America needs the Lord's mercy and help today more than ever before."

"Yes," agreed the pastor, "and let us pray for those in the countries where they are suffering or in prison because they are worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord help them in their afflictions, and have mercy on our nation that we don't slide into slavery too."

That night, Randy did get to enjoy the colorful fireworks at the local park. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Saul afraid?
2. Why was God unhappy with King Saul?
3. Who did King Saul want to talk to?
4. Why was the woman afraid?
5. What did Samuel tell King Saul?
6. How did this make King Saul feel?
7. Who won the battle?
8. How did King Saul die?

Answers: 1. The Philistines were getting ready to fight the Israelites. 2. King Saul had disobeyed God. 3. Samuel. 4. King Saul had punished all of the others like her. 5. That the Philistines would win the battle, and he and his sons would die. 6. Very sad. 7. The Philistines. 8. He fell on his own sword.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 July 11, 2004

ISRAEL'S SECOND KING

After King Saul died, David and the people of Israel mourned his death for many days. Then all of the elders of Israel gathered together and anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he first became king. David was king of Israel for forty years.

The Philistines had captured the ark after a battle with the Israelites. Many bad things happened in the cities where they put the ark. The Philistines got scared and brought the ark back to the Israelites. The ark had stayed in Kirjathjearim for a long time.

One of the first things King David decided to do after he had become king was to bring the ark back to the temple where it belonged. Many people went with King David to get the ark. They set the ark on a new cart. King David and the ones that came with him walked in front of the ark playing many different musical instruments in praise to the Lord.

The ark started to tip off the cart. A man named Uzzah reached out and tried to keep the ark from falling off of the cart. God gave Moses many instructions about the ark. God had told Moses that only the sons of Levi could touch the ark. God was angry that Uzzah did not obey his command. Uzzah died because he disobeyed God. This made King David afraid. He left the ark in the house of Obededom.

After three months King David had the ark brought back to the temple. King David was so glad that the ark was where it belonged that he danced and shouted in the street. Others celebrated with King David, shouting and playing trumpets. They put the ark of the Lord into the tabernacle that King David had built for it. King David burned offerings in thanksgiving to the Lord. King David gave the men and women of Israel some bread, meat and drink. Everyone was so happy and rejoicing, because the ark of the Lord was back where it belonged.

—Monica Murphey



"So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the...trumpet." II Samuel 6:15.



Pray About Small Decisions

Linda wanted to do two fun things Saturday afternoon so she was having a hard time deciding which one to do. When Mother came into her bedroom, Linda asked, "If you were me, Mom, what would you do? Would you go shopping with your friend and her mother or would you play baseball with the neighbors?"

Mother laid down some clean clothes for Linda to put away before she answered her. "Have you prayed about it, Linda?"

"Well, no," replied Linda. "I didn't think it was that important to pray about. Do you think the Lord cares whether I go shopping or play baseball?"

"Does it matter to you?" asked Mom.

"Sort of. I'm having a hard time deciding," replied Linda.

"Then if it matters to you, the Lord cares about it too. He is concerned with the way we spend our time. When you ask Him to direct you in the little decisions of life, it will be easier to hear and obey when He talks to you about the big choices of life."

"Okay," said Linda thoughtfully. "I will pray about it, but how will I know what He wants me to do?"

"Ask the Lord to impress on your mind what He wants you to do. He will make the right way seem the best choice to you."

After Mother left her room, Linda did pray a simple prayer. In a little while she came into the kitchen where Mother was ironing. "I prayed about it," Linda said to Mother, "and I think I will go with Carla and

her mother. The Lord reminded me that Carla is very lonesome because she doesn't have any brothers or sisters, so I think she needs me more than my baseball team."

Mother hugged Linda as she said, "Sounds good to me! I knew the Lord would help you make a good choice."

Linda called her friend who said they were ready to come and get her. Soon Linda called, "Good-bye, Mom!" as she left with her friend.

A few minutes later Jerry came inside for a drink. "Well, Mom, I guess we won't be playing baseball this afternoon," he said. "Some of the neighbors are gone on vacation and some had to go to a wedding, so we don't have enough people to make teams. Tell Linda we will have to play another day."

"She will be glad to hear that," said Mom with a smile.

—Sis Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How old was David when he was anointed king?
2. How long was David king?
3. What did David decide to do?
4. How did the people decide to bring the ark back?
5. What did Uzzah do?
6. What happened to Uzzah?
7. Why did Uzzah die?
8. What made the people of Israel so happy?

Answers: 1. Thirty years old. 2. 40 years. 3. Bring the ark back to the temple. 4. They put the ark on a new cart. 5. He reached out to keep the ark from falling. 6. Uzzah died. 7. Because Uzzah disobeyed God. 8. The ark was finally where it belonged.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 July 18, 2004

MEPHIBOSHETH AND THE KING

"Are any of Saul's relatives still alive? I would like to be kind to them for Jonathan's sake," King David said to one of his servants. "Jonathan has a son with a crippled foot," King David's servant, Ziba, replied.

David sent for Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth. When Mephibosheth came to King David, Mephibosheth fell on his face and said, "Behold, your servant."

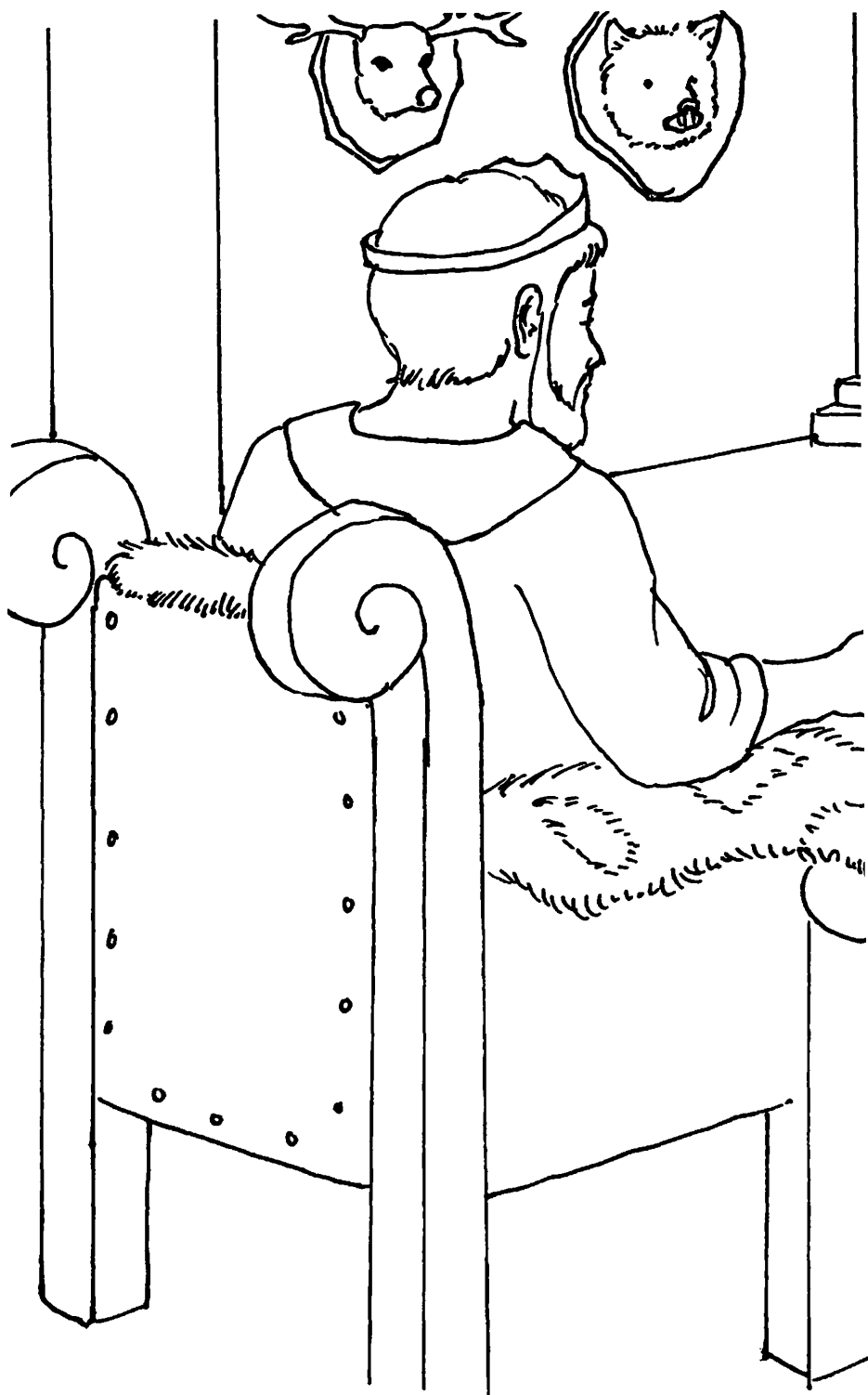
Poor Mephibosheth was lame on both of his feet. King David told him, "Do not be afraid. I will be kind to you for your father's sake. I will give you all of the land that belonged to Saul, and you shall eat bread at my table."

David told Ziba what he had given Mephibosheth. "You and your sons shall work for Mephibosheth," King David told Ziba. "You will till his ground and work in his orchards."

Jonathan had been kind to King David, even though Saul, Jonathan's father, kept trying to kill David. King David had made a promise to Jonathan. Jonathan knew that God was with David. He asked David to always be kind to his family. King David remembered his friendship with Jonathan.

Mephibosheth and his family were given back all of the land that had belonged to King Saul and was allowed to eat the best foods and drinks with the king at his table. Mephibosheth's family also had servants to help take care of their lands.

—Monica Murphey





"And David said, "Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" II Samuel 9:1.

Caring For Others

During family worship one evening Dad said, "Children, I have learned about a family who is in great need right now. A young mother has three little children four-years-old and younger and she doesn't have any place to live. Your mom and I have talked it over, and we agree that we can keep her with us for a little while until she can find another place."

"Ya-hoo!" cheered Randy. "Is the oldest one a boy?"

"It's the Meltons, isn't it?" asked Linda looking at Mom who nodded yes.

"Whose room will they stay in?" asked Jerry.

"Hold on," said Dad with a smile. "Let's talk about it. Yes, the oldest one is a boy, Randy, and his name is Sammy. Then the little girl is two and her name is Louise. The baby girl is five-months-old. Linda, would you be willing to let them stay in your bedroom?"

"Yes, that's fine," agreed Linda.

"You can sleep in your sleeping bag on the floor in our room," said Mother to Linda. "I don't think we will have Donna more than a few weeks."

"Oh, that's okay," Linda said. "It will be fun to have a smaller baby in the house now that Allen is getting bigger."

Dad looked around at his family, then said, "Then it is okay with everyone?" As the family smiled and nodded Dad said, "I am really pleased with all of you. It may not always be fun and we will need to do some adjusting around here, but the Lord will bless us, I know."

The next day, Mother and the children helped Donna and her family move into Linda's room. "This is so nice of you all," said Donna with a grateful smile. "We weren't sleeping too good at the Red Cross center, and there was no place for the children to play. I appreciate your kindness so much."

"You're more than welcome," replied Mother.

That night after the new family had settled in, they gathered with Dad in

the living room for family worship. This was all new to them but they were pleased to be included. For the six weeks that Donna and her children stayed with them, everyone blended together so nicely that even little Allen was sad to see his playmates leave.

In saying good-bye, Donna hugged Mother tightly. "You will never know how much we appreciate your kindness. We have learned so much about the Lord from you all."

"We have learned much good from you too," replied Mother as she held Donna close. "We will be praying for you and your sweet little family. Pray to the Lord for guidance and He will help you."

"I will," replied Donna.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did King David ask his servant?
2. Who was left of Jonathan's family?
3. Who did David send for?
4. What did King David tell Mephibosheth?
5. What did King David give Mephibosheth?
6. Who was supposed to work for Mephibosheth?
7. What had King David promised Jonathan?
8. How was Mephibosheth crippled?

Answers: 1. Is there anyone left in Jonathan's family? 2. Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth. 3. Mephibosheth. 4. Do not be afraid. 5. His father's lands, servants to care for the lands and he was allowed to eat at King David's table. 6. The servant Ziba and his family. 7. To always be kind to his family. 8. Both of his feet were lame.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 July 25, 2004

ABSALOM'S REVOLT

Absalom was King David's son. Absalom wanted to be king. Absalom thought of a way to make the people like him better than King David. He decided to trick the people.

Absalom stood beside the gate of King David's palace. Men came through the gate to ask King David's advice or to help them solve problems. Absalom stopped the men that came through. "No one in the palace can help you," Absalom lied. "If I was king, I would make sure that every man could talk to me, and I would help them with their problems."

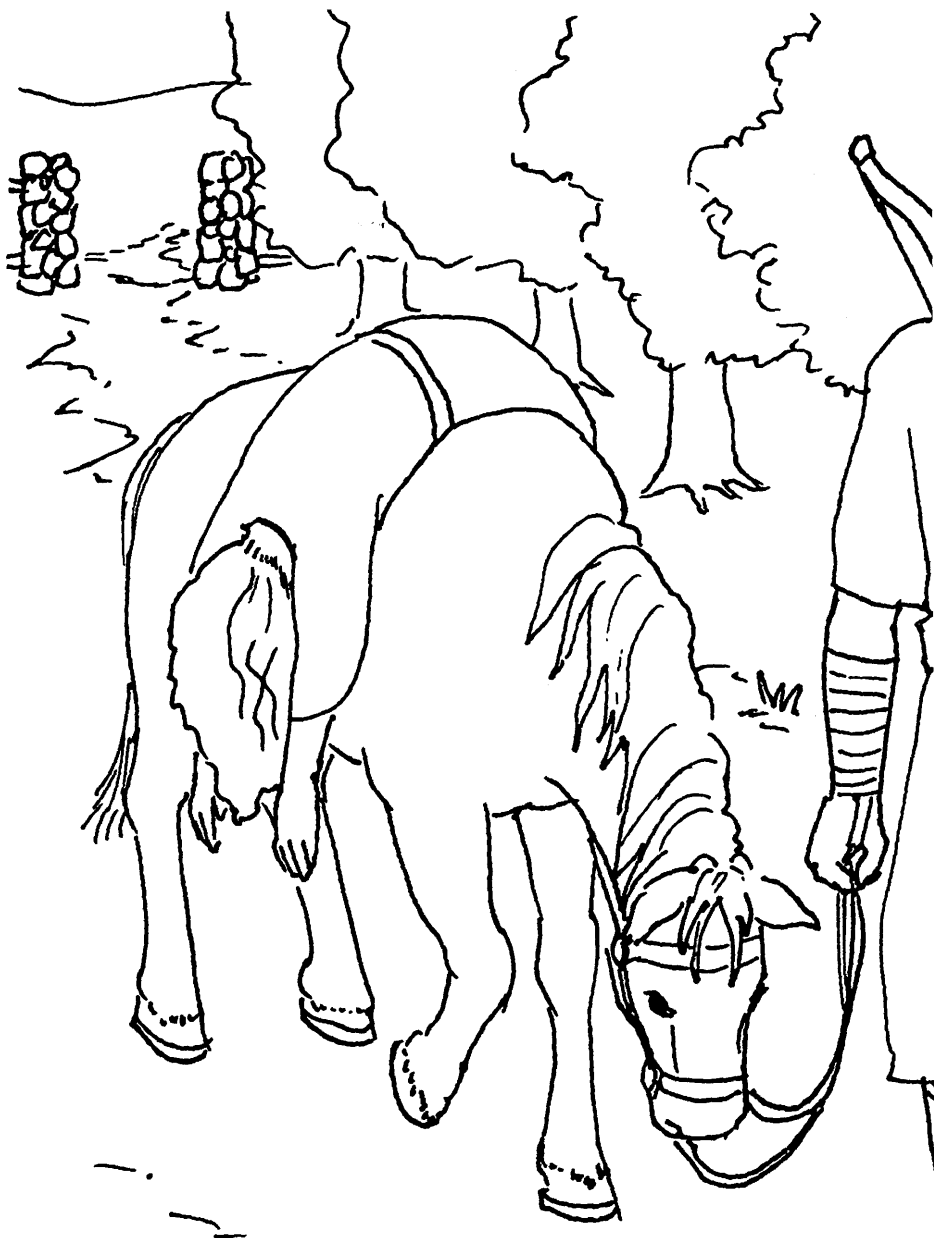
The people of Israel began to like Absalom better than David. One day, Absalom asked King David, "May I go to Hebron?" King David let him go. Absalom began traveling in Israel, and more and more people liked him. Absalom was stealing the hearts of the people from King David.

Absalom got an army together to fight against his father's army. This made King David very unhappy. He did not want to fight with his son. King David told the people in charge of his army, "Be gentle with Absalom."

Absalom and his army fought hard against his father's army. Many of Absalom's men died in the battle. Absalom had very long, thick hair. During the battle he rode on a mule. The mule went under the limbs of a big oak tree. His hair got caught in the branches. Absalom could not get his hair untangled. Absalom's mule rode on without him.

One of King David's servants saw Absalom. He told Joab, one of King David's captains, about it. "Why didn't you kill him?" Joab asked. "I couldn't hurt the king's son," the man said. Joab found Absalom stuck in the tree and killed him. King David wept for his son.

—Monica Murphey



"And the king was much moved, and went to the chamber over the gate, and wept; [for]...his son." II Samuel 18:33.





Mow Now

"Jerry, you need to mow the lawn this morning," said Dad. "There is plenty of gas in the lawn mower and weed eater so you need to get busy before the day is hot."

"Okay, Dad," replied Jerry. He was busy reading that day's newspaper so his reply was rather weak.

"Jerry, get started right now," said Dad. "Put away that paper and you can read it in the afternoon when the day is hot."

"Okay, Okay!" exclaimed Jerry as he continued to read the paper.

Dad stood a minute and waited while Jerry kept reading the paper. "Now, Jerry!" he said as he went back outside.

Slowly Jerry folded the paper and put it in the paper rack. Then he went to get a drink and after that he put on his shoes.

Dad came back inside. "Jerry, you are taking too much time. I want to show you a few places to do special and I need to leave here in a little while."

"I'm coming as fast as I can!" exclaimed Jerry.

"Don't holler at me," said Dad. "I'm the one who has been waiting for no reason. Get your poky self out here right now!"

Right away the door shut as Dad and Jerry went out together. Soon the lawn mower was going over the lawn in a pattern of squares. Jerry mowed and trimmed the lawn until noon.

"Time for lunch," Mother called to Jerry, as he turned off the weed eater.

"Whew! I'm ready for a break," replied Jerry, as he came inside to wash his hands and eat a sand-

wich. "It is getting hot out there!"

"Aren't you glad you obeyed your dad and went out to mow this morning?" said Mother, as she sat a plate of food before Jerry.

"Yes," replied Jerry. "Hey, where is that newspaper? I want to finish reading it."

While the summer heat warmed the newly mowed lawn Jerry was inside cooling off with a tall glass of lemonade. Later, Dad came inside for a cool drink.

"The lawn looks pretty good, Jerry," he said. "Tonight we will water the grass and keep it green if possible. Thanks for mowing it."

"You're welcome," replied Jerry. Now he realized how wise Dad had been about mowing the lawn in the morning. Obeying your parents is very important.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Absalom want?
2. Where did Absalom stand?
3. What lie did Absalom tell the people that came to see David?
4. What made King David sad?
5. What did King David tell the people in charge of his army?
6. What happened to Absalom in the battle?
7. Who found Absalom?
8. What made King David cry?

Answers: 1. To become king. 2. At the palace gate. 3. That no one in the palace could help them. 4. His son wanted to fight him. 5. To be gentle with Absalom. 6. His hair got caught in a tree limb. 7. One of King David's servants. 8. The death of his son.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Aug. 1, 2004

DAVID'S SUCCESSOR

King David was very old. He had promised his wife, Bathsheba, that their son, Solomon would be the next king. However, Adonijah, one of his other sons, thought that he would be king. Adonijah invited many men to a feast to celebrate. Nathan, the prophet, came to King David and warned him about Adonijah and his plans.

"Call Bathsheba," King David ordered.

"Your son, Solomon, will be the next king of Israel. He shall sit on the throne after me," King David informed Bathsheba.

Nathan, a prophet in Israel, put Solomon on King David's own mule. Nathan led Solomon to the tabernacle, where he and Zadok the priest anointed Solomon king. They blew a trumpet, and all of the people shouted, "God save King Solomon." Adonijah and the men at his feast heard the noise. "What is going on?" Adonijah wanted to know. "Solomon has been anointed king," a man told Adonijah. The people that were with Adonijah were afraid. They left the feast. Adonijah became afraid also. Someone told Solomon that Adonijah was afraid of him. "If he will be kind, he shall not ever be hurt," Solomon said.

King David was about to die. "Obey the Lord and keep His commandments," King David advised Solomon. King David had been a very good king over Israel. Although King David had done some things wrong, he always showed the Lord how very sorry his heart was for the bad things he had done. King David wrote many of the beautiful songs and prayers in the book of Psalms in the Bible. When King David died, he had been king of Israel for forty years.

—Monica Murphey



"...David...charged (told) Solomon...keep the charge of the Lord
walk in his ways, to keep his...commandments." I Kings 2:1, 3.



The Fifth Son

(Based on a true story.)

Even in October, San Antonio, Texas can be a warm place to live. It was here, October 4, 1881, that another baby boy was born to Mary and Harrison Pruitt. As the mother held her soft, innocent baby son in her arms, her husband sighed.

"Now, Mary, we have five sons and I'm already workin' hard as I can to feed the first four," he said.

"He won't be eatin' food for awhile, Harrison, and the three older boys already help you in the field. I needed a girl to help with the housework, but the boys can take turns helpin'." This little fellar is strong and healthy. It won't be long 'til he's helpin' ya too."

"I hope so," replied the father. "I need all the help I can get."

The mother gently kissed her baby's warm cheek. "What shall we name him?" she asked.

"Didn't you have a name already picked out?" he replied.

"Sorta. I like the name, Fred," said the mother. "Let's call him Fred."

"Sounds fine to me," said the father as he went to the door. After he left, the mother cuddled her newborn close to her and together they went to sleep.

Life really wasn't easy for the Pruitt family. The father was not a healthy man and he depended on his sons to help keep food on the table. Little Fred learned at a young age to do his share of the work. He helped his mother with the scrub board, washing clothes and hanging them on the clothesline. There was garden work to do, chickens

and other animals to feed and fruit to pick and dry.

In the next few years, two more sons and a daughter was added to the family. The parents knew a little about the Lord, but they did not attend church regularly. Instead, they usually spent Sundays resting from a week of hard work.

The boys would go hunting and fishing at the nearby creek. They learned to chew tobacco like most boys, because they weren't taught it was bad. The parents worked hard to make sure their children were clothed and fed, but they did very little to train them about God and how to live right.

If you have parents who teach you about God's Word and take you to church, you should be thankful.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was supposed to be the next king of Israel?
2. Who wanted to be king?
3. What did Adonijah plan to do?
4. Who warned King David about Adonijah's plans?
5. What did King David tell Bathsheba?
6. What did Nathan do to Solomon?
7. What did Adonijah and the men at his feast hear?
8. What did King David advise Solomon?

Answers: 1. Solomon. 2. Adonijah. 3. To have a feast to celebrate his becoming the next king. 4. Nathan the prophet. 5. That Solomon would be the next king. 6. He took him to the tabernacle and anointed him king. 7. The people crying, "God save King Solomon." 8. To obey God and keep His commandments.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 3 Primaries (USP5549-000) Part 19 Aug. 8, 2004

WISE KING SOLOMON

King Solomon loved God and wanted to obey Him. God came to King Solomon in a dream. "Ask what you want, and I will give it to you," God said.

"I would like an understanding heart. I want to be able to decide what is good and what is evil," King Solomon replied.

The Lord was very pleased with King Solomon's response. "Because you have not asked to live a long life, or for money, I have given you a wise heart. No one shall be as wise as you. You will also have many riches and great honor as long as you keep my commandments."

Soon after King Solomon's dream, two women came to him for advice. "Both of us live in the same house," one of the women said. "We both had babies on the same day. This other woman's baby died. She came and took my son and put her dead son in its place. When I woke up, I knew that it was not my son. She said to me, 'Your son is dead. My son is alive.'"

King Solomon had listened carefully to the story. He said, "Bring me a sword. Divide the living child in two. Give half to the one, and half to the other."

The woman whose son was living said, "Do not cut him in two. Give him to the other woman, but do not kill him." The other woman said, "Do not let it be mine or hers. Go ahead and divide it in two."

Now King Solomon knew who the boy's real mother was. "Do not kill it. Give it to the first woman."

Everyone in Israel heard the story and knew that the wisdom of God was in Solomon.

King Solomon built a great temple for the Lord. King Solomon was a wise king as long as he obeyed the Lord. He is credited for writing three books of the Bible—Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon.

—Monica Murphey

"The king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other." I Kings 3:25.





Moving And Changing

(Continued from last week.)

"Where are we moving to?" five-year-old Fred asked his mother.

"Well, your dad is wanting to move up north where it isn't so hot like San Antonio," replied his mother. "Now help me get these kitchen tools loaded into the wagon, Fred, and don't get in the way of your brothers and Dad when they hitch up the horses."

Moving in the 1880's was a lot different than today. The family could only take what they could pile into a wooden wagon, but then the Harrison Pruitt family did not have many earthly possessions anyway. The mother put a small cage of three hens and a rooster in the back of the wagon so she would have fresh eggs for cooking. All other animals were sold to the neighbors.

After the wagon was full and everything that wouldn't fit in the wagon was sold or given away, then the father called, "Let's go!"

"Can I ride on the wagon seat?" asked little Fred.

"Okay, but your brothers can walk," replied his father.

During the next weeks the family wagon pushed through dusty prairie grass, floated across rivers and passed Indian camps where the natives stared at them as they went by. Finally, when the wagon stopped in southeastern Kansas, Fred's family was tired of traveling.

"I think we will make our home right here in Neosho County," said his father. "With the horses and a borrowed plow we can plant some corn and a garden. Boys, let's get started."

In time they built a dugout house to live in and got acquainted with the neighbors. Every person in the family had a job to do—laziness was called a sin—because to eat meant to work.

When the boys reached school age, they only went to school when they weren't needed at home. So they were only allowed about three months of schooling during the year.

At school Fred learned how to read and write, add and subtract numbers, but he had to study and teach himself many things. One of his greatest enjoyments in life was playing baseball. When he was playing a good game with his brothers and friends, Fred would rather keep playing than stop to eat. Many Sundays were spent hunting, fishing and swimming on the Neosho River or on Big Creek.

Fred's parents seldom took their children to church though they had joined a Christian Church that was nicknamed the *Campbellites*. He heard some about the Lord and read a little in a Bible, but he did not know about salvation. He and his brothers fell into much mischief and learned the wicked ways of the world. They took up smoking, drinking, dancing and gambling. Many times the Lord had mercy and kept him from danger though he did not know it at the time.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did King Solomon ask God for?
2. What did God tell King Solomon?
3. Who came to Solomon for advice?
4. What did the women ask King Solomon?
5. What did King Solomon do?
6. What did King Solomon decide?
7. How did King Solomon know who the real mother was?
8. What did King Solomon build for the Lord?

Answers: 1. Wisdom. 2. That he would be the wisest man ever, as long as he obeyed God. 3. Two women. 4. To decide who was the real mother of the child that was still alive. 5. He said he would cut the child in half and let each woman have half. 6. To let the child live with his real mother. 7. She offered to let the other woman have it as long as it wouldn't be cut in half. 8. A great temple.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Aug. 15, 2004

A VISIT FROM A QUEEN

As God had promised, King Solomon was the wisest king throughout all of the lands. King Solomon built a great house for himself and had many servants and great riches. The news of King Solomon's wealth and wisdom spread to countries far away.

One day camels rode into Jerusalem bearing much gold, fine spices, precious stones and a great woman, the Queen of Sheba.

The Queen of Sheba had heard of King Solomon's wisdom. She wanted to find out if King Solomon was as wise as she had heard. The queen of Sheba thought of some very hard questions to ask King Solomon. King Solomon had answers to all of the queen's hard questions.

When the queen of Sheba had seen King Solomon's servants, his house, fine things, and had heard the answers to all of her questions, the queen of Sheba was amazed.

"Everything I had heard about your wisdom was true," the queen of Sheba told King Solomon. The queen realized that God could give Solomon the wisdom that he had. She praised God that Israel had such a wise king to judge their country.

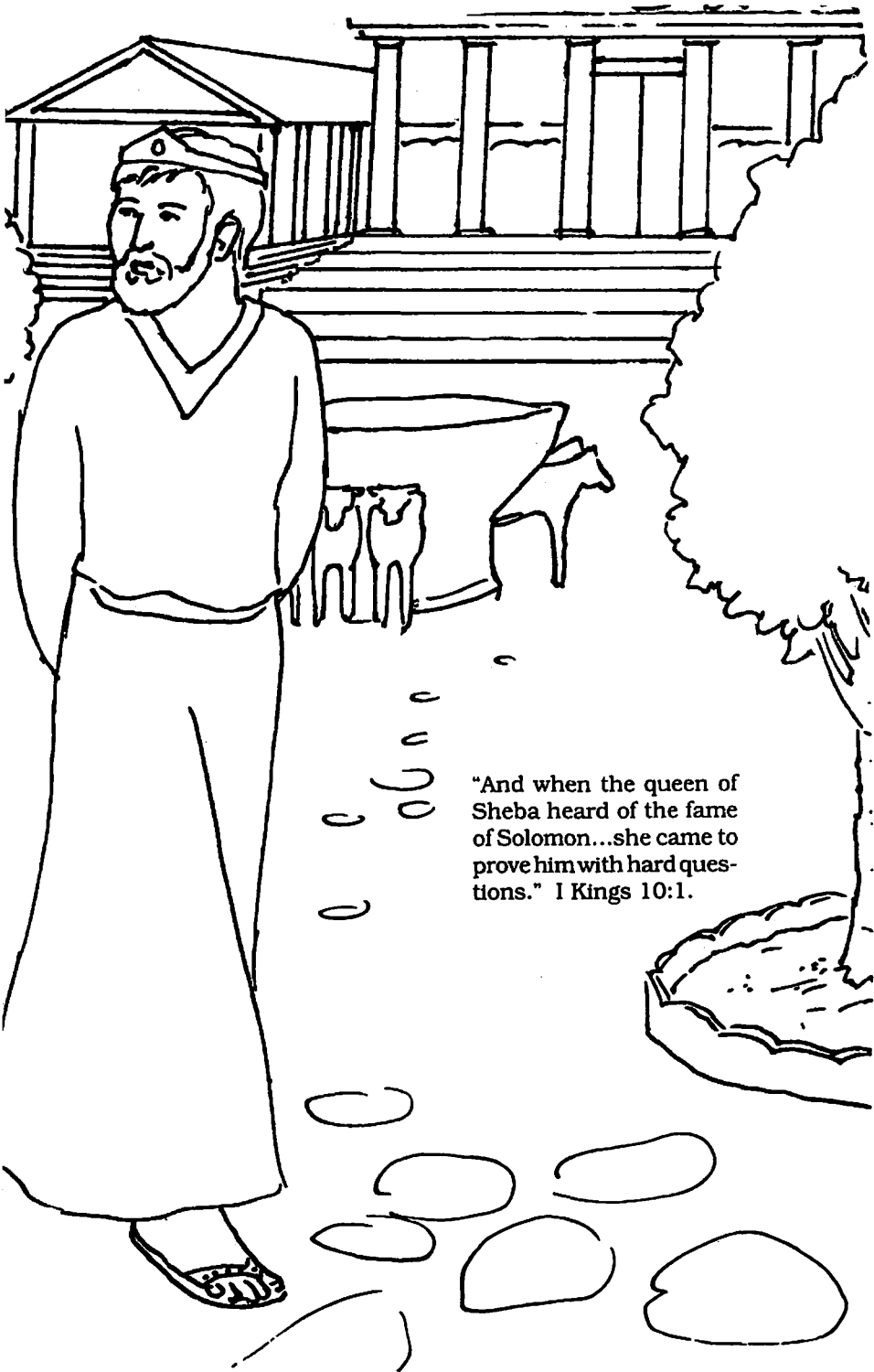
The Queen of Sheba left King Solomon with the nice gifts that her camels had carried so far. King Solomon gave the Queen of Sheba nice gifts to carry back with her to her country.

People from far away continued to come to King Solomon to ask for advice. Every man that came brought King Solomon presents.

King Solomon left us with his own words about wisdom in the book of Proverbs in the Bible. In Proverbs 9:10, King Solomon tells us about wisdom. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."

—Monica Murphey





"And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon...she came to prove him with hard questions." 1 Kings 10:1.

Becoming A Man

(Continued from last week.)

Living in Neosho County, Kansas, Fred Pruitt followed in the footsteps of his four older brothers and fell into the evils of sin. He had a tender heart and wanted to do right but he received very little encouragement to do so. His mother tried to teach him to do right, but being a rowdy boy, he did not listen very well.

One day when Fred was working for a cousin, a neighbor boy held out two apples to him. "Here, take an apple," said the friend.

Fred glanced at the apples and saw right away that one was quite larger than the other.

"I want the biggest one," replied Fred, as he grabbed the larger apple leaving the smaller one for his friend. After he walked away, munching on his apple, he felt very selfish and greedy for taking the larger apple. *"You should have taken the smaller one and been thoughtful,"* a still small voice said to his mind.

For this reason, his apple did not taste quite as good as he had thought it would. At the time, Fred did not know that it was the Lord dealing with his heart, but he decided to try and be more thoughtful.

At the age of sixteen, Fred joined the Christian Church and was baptized along with a group of other boys and girls his age. Though the pastor told him he was a Christian, Fred knew he was not living right. He watched others who said they were Christians but they lied, cheated, gambled and smoked. There wasn't any difference in them than those who weren't church goers. So in time Fred gave up attending church because he did not see the need of it.

When he was twenty-one-years old, he and two other boys decided to visit the state of Washington. One time when the train stopped in Utah, a large group of children crowded around the train passengers, holding up baskets of fruit for them to buy from. Fred noticed that the big boys pushed away the younger children and were making more sales. Remembering back when he had taken the bigger apple, Fred sought out a little girl who quietly stood alone with small fruit in her basket. Fred handed her some money and bought her peaches. When the little girl's face lit up with happiness, he felt very good inside. *"That was a very good deed you did,"* said the still voice within. Later, he knew the Lord had blessed him for his kindness.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What had God promised King Solomon?
2. Who came to visit King Solomon?
3. What did the Queen of Sheba want to find out?
4. What did the queen think of King Solomon?
5. Did she finally believe everything she had heard?
6. What did the Queen of Sheba bring King Solomon?
7. Where does King Solomon tell us about wisdom?
8. What does King Solomon say about wisdom?

Answers: 1. That he would be wise. 2. The Queen of Sheba. 3. If King Solomon was as wise as she had heard. 4. She was amazed. 5. Yes. 6. Many nice gifts. Gold, spices and stones. 7. In the book of Proverbs. 8. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Aug. 22, 2004

KING SOLOMON GROWS OLD

The Lord had promised King Solomon, in a dream long ago, that as long as he kept the Lord's commandments, King Solomon would be wise, wealthy and live a long life.

King Solomon was growing old. King Solomon kept people around him that liked to worship idols. God had given a strict commandment to Moses about worshipping idols. "You shall have no other gods before me," God had instructed Moses. Now, King Solomon's friends were turning the wise old man away from God to worshipping false gods.

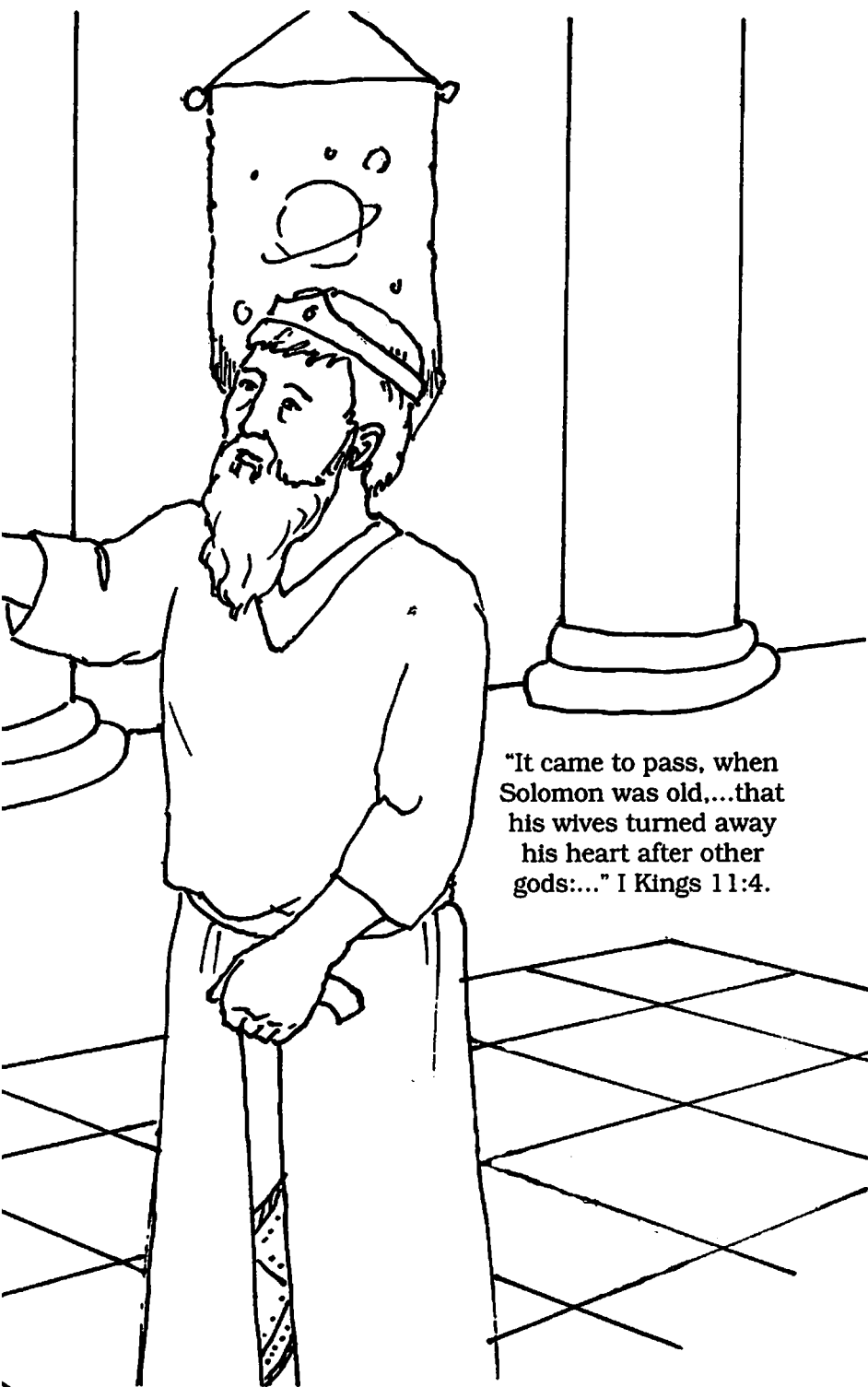
The Lord was very angry with King Solomon. The Lord told King Solomon, "Because you have not kept your promise to Me and have stopped keeping My commandments, you will no longer be king over Israel. Even your son will not be able to be king over Israel. For David's sake, I will give one tribe for your son to rule over."

King Solomon began noticing a mighty man named Jeroboam. King Solomon gave Jeroboam all of the house of Joseph to rule. There were twelve tribes in Israel named for the sons of Jacob. Joseph did not get a tribe named after him, but both of his sons did. So there were two tribes in the house of Joseph that Jeroboam looked after.

One day a prophet named Ahijah found Jeroboam outside of Jerusalem. Ahijah wanted to talk to Jeroboam. Ahijah had a new garment. He had the garment in his hands and tore it into twelve pieces. The prophet told Jeroboam, "Take ten pieces. The Lord will tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand and give ten tribes to you. If you will obey My commandments as David did, I will be with you and help you be a king over Israel."

When King Solomon heard what had happened, he wanted to kill Jeroboam. Jeroboam had to flee into Egypt. —Monica Murphey





"It came to pass, when
Solomon was old,...that
his wives turned away
his heart after other
gods:..." I Kings 11:4.

The First Married Days

(Continued from last week.)

At the senior age of twenty-four, Fred Pruitt decided to settle down from his travels. He had met a young lady living near Walnut, Kansas, and though she was only fifteen-years-old, her grandmother had already taught her how to cook, sew and keep house. She had the same first name as Fred's mother: Mary.

When Mary was a little girl, her mother contracted tuberculosis, a deadly disease, that eventually took her life. Her father was very grieved. He left Mary and her two older brothers with his wife's parents and he never came back again. By the time Mary was fifteen, her grandparents were getting feeble and wanted to make sure their granddaughter would have someone to care for her after they were gone.

So when a mature young man like Fred came along, Mary and her grandparents warmly welcomed him. In the spring of 1906, Fred and Mary were married by a County Judge. Her grandparents planned a lovely wedding reception on their front lawn and many neighbors and friends attended.

After the summer passed by, Fred said to Mary, "We need to move now to the 160 acres of land I filed for in Clovis, New Mexico. Let's put together what few things we have into our wooden wagon and I will hitch up the horses."

"Oh, Fred," said Mary, "New Mexico is so far from Kansas and my grandparents! It will be hard to say good-bye to them because I may never see them again!"

"I know, Mary, but the U.S. government offered this land at such a bargain, I couldn't pass it up. We will work real hard, make some money and I will buy a train ticket so you can come back home to visit."

It was hard for the grandparents and Mary's brothers to say good-bye, but they did, and soon Fred and Mary

were living several hundred miles away on a very dry, treeless piece of land.

With his shovel, Fred dug into the ground about 4 feet down, 8 feet wide, and 10 feet long. Then he built a platform 2 feet above this hole, and added a room made from wooden boards he had bought in Clovis, a small town about 18 miles away. This was their house for over a year. Sometimes rattlesnakes would crawl into their dugout and bugs were a constant nuisance.

Fred and Mary did not know how to pray and ask the Lord to help them. Neighbors sometimes helped, but mostly they struggled to survive in their own strength. They needed the Lord so badly, but neither Fred nor Mary knew Him. However the Lord knew about them and He was watching out for them many times when they did not know it. In different ways the Lord began to talk to their hearts.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What had God promised King Solomon?
2. How did King Solomon break his promise?
3. What commandment did God give to Moses about idols?
4. What did God tell King Solomon?
5. Who did the Lord choose to be the next king?
6. What did Ahijah show Jeroboam?
7. What did Ahijah tell Jeroboam?
8. Why did Jeroboam have to leave?

Answers: 1. That he would be wise as long as he obeyed God. 2. He worshiped other idols. 3. "You shall have no other gods before me." 4. That his kingdom would be taken away from him and his son. 5. Jeroboam. 6. He rent a garment into twelve pieces. 7. That he would be king over ten tribes. 8. King Solomon wanted to kill him.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Aug. 29, 2004

A PUNISHED PROPHET

Jeroboam was made king of Israel after the death of King Solomon. Jeroboam was not a good king for long. He soon turned away from God and was very wicked. A prophet of God came to Jeroboam to warn him to turn from his wicked ways. He showed Jeroboam many marvelous signs that his words were true. King Jeroboam offered food and drink to the prophet. "I will not eat with you. The Lord told me to eat no bread or water."

The prophet left, going through the town of Bethel. Now there was an old prophet living in Bethel who had heard of all of the great things this prophet had done that day. The old prophet went to look for the man and found him sitting underneath an oak tree.

The old prophet asked, "Are you the man of God?" The other prophet answered, "I am."

"Come home and eat with me," the old prophet invited.

"The Lord instructed me not to eat or drink," the man answered.

"I am also a prophet. An angel came to me from the Lord and told me to come and bring you to my house so you may eat and drink," the old prophet lied.

So the man obeyed the old prophet. As they sat at the table the Lord told the man of God, "You have disobeyed the Lord and have eaten bread and drunk water."

On his way home a lion jumped out at the man of God and killed him. The man of God did not obey the Lord. Instead, he obeyed an old prophet's lies. Because of this he was punished.

King Jeroboam still did not turn from his wicked ways. King Jeroboam became very sick. He also died because he disobeyed the Lord's commands.

—Monica Murphey





"And when he was gone,
a lion met him by the
way,..." I Kings 13:24.

The Dealings Of God

(Continued from last week.)

The land was very dry and crops seemed to refuse to grow on the 160 acres that Fred and Mary owned in New Mexico. Mary's vegetable garden struggled to produce. They needed the food to live on because there was not a grocery store to buy food from. So three or four times throughout the week, Fred would hitch the horses to the old lumber wagon and travel around 35 miles or so for water. He had to haul enough water in the barrels for their chickens, cows and horses as well as for their personal use.

All this hard work and stress began to harm Fred's health. "Honey," he said to Mary. "We have a little money to pay a doctor. Please send someone for him."

"Yes, Dear," replied Mary. She was very worried about her husband. When the neighbor man came to help with the chores that morning, Mary asked him to get the doctor. The doctor gave Fred some medicine, but it did not help him much. Fred just grew weaker and sicker.

Lying quietly on his bed, Fred weakly called Mary to him. "Honey; I don't think I will be here long. I want to tell you how to care for things after I leave."

Mary began to cry. She could not bare the thought of living without her husband. She did not know how to pray so she was in great despair. The neighbors came to help with the chores but only one person ever mentioned God to the young couple. This set Fred to thinking. He did not know how to pray, so he just talked to the Lord. "If you will

heal me of this sickness, God," he said. "I will try to live better."

The next day around 4:00, the pain in Fred's body began to leave. It left him weak but he did get out of bed and walked a little with help. He had a limp, but he knew that God had touched his body, so in his own strength, Fred tried to do better. He tried to stop cursing and hitting the cows when he was angry. He wanted to stop smoking a pipe but he just couldn't stop. He had a desire to do better, but his nature was stronger than his will.

The Lord saw that Fred wanted to live better so he sent some messengers his way to tell him about the Gospel. Hearing the truth of salvation made a complete change in Fred and Mary's lives.

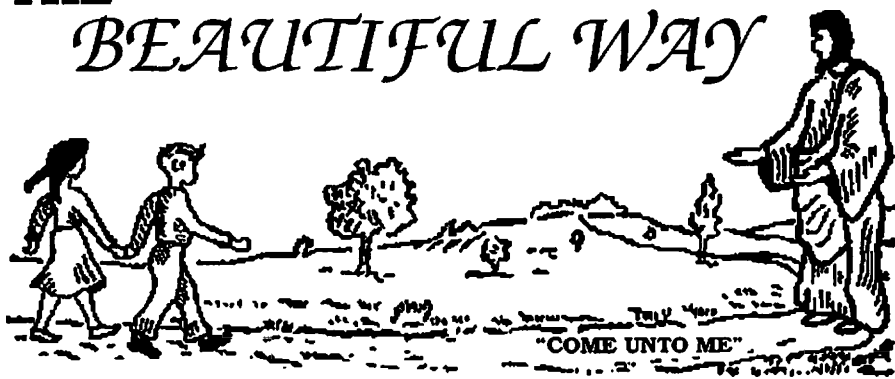
(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Was Jeroboam a good king?
2. Who came to warn Jeroboam to turn from his wickedness?
3. What did the Lord tell the prophet not to do?
4. Where did the old prophet find the man of God?
5. What lie did the old prophet tell him?
6. Did the man of God obey the old prophet?
7. What happened to the man of God on the way home?
8. What happened to Jeroboam?

Answers: 1. No. 2. A man of God. 3. Eat or drink. 4. Sitting under an oak tree. 5. That God told him to invite the man to his house to eat and drink. 6. Yes. 7. A lion killed him. 8. He died.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Sept. 5, 2004

THE WIDOW'S MEAL

Elijah was a prophet of God. King Ahab was now king of Israel. King Ahab and his wife, Queen Jezebel, were very bad people. "There shall be neither dew nor rain on the land for three years," Elijah told Ahab.

The Lord told Elijah to hide beside a brook called Cherith. "You will drink from the brook, and I have told the ravens to feed you," God said to Elijah.

The ravens brought bread and meat to Elijah every morning and evening. Elijah drank out of the brook. After a while the brook dried up because there was no rain. The Lord spoke to Elijah again and told him what to do. "Go to the city of Zarephath. I have told a widow there to take care of you."

When Elijah came to the gate of the city the widow was there picking up sticks. Elijah called to her, "Please bring me some water to drink." As she was walking back to get the water, Elijah called to the widow, "Please bring me some bread."

"I have no bread, but I do have a handful of meal in a barrel. I also have a little oil. I am getting two sticks so I can make a cake for my son and me. This is the last food we have. After we eat this, we will starve," the widow replied.

"Do not be afraid. Go and make a cake for you and your son, but first make a cake for me. The Lord has said that neither the meal or the oil shall ever run out until there is rain again on the earth," Elijah informed the widow.

Elijah stayed with the widow and her son for many days. Their barrel always stayed filled with meal and their oil never ran out until the rain returned, just as the Lord had said.

—Monica Murphey

"And the ravens
and bread and
brook." I Kings



ht him bread and flesh in the morning,
in the evening, and he drank of the



Hearing The Gospel

(Continued from last week.)

"Have you heard this new preacher that is coming around?" a neighbor asked Fred Pruitt.

"He's preaching over in the little schoolhouse tonight. You need to come and hear him."

"I haven't been over there myself," replied Fred, "but I've heard a lot about that preacher. Guess I need to go and hear him for myself."

"Better come early—the house is packed. Well, I've got to go—see you there!"

That night Fred arrived on time but the house was already full so he stood outside and watched from the doorway. Bro. A. J. Hammond preached so earnestly and with such authority that Fred listened intently. Then the congregation sang a beautiful song that spoke to Fred's heart. It is number 307 in the Evening Light Songs book: *He is Just the Same Today*.

Fred knew that the Lord had eased his pain and had raised him out of bed, but he still was afflicted. Was it really true that Jesus could heal him? Could Jesus help him live better? Fred became more interested in attending meetings. Then some neighbors that Fred did not get along with became saved.

"*You do not want to go there and mix with those people,*" said the devil to Fred.

"No, I surely do not," agreed Fred. He did not realize the devil had cheated him from hearing the Gospel.

Later, in another school district closer to Clovis, N. M., a revival meeting was held under a tent. Fred and Mary attended this meeting, and they were impressed by the two ministers: Bro. George Harmon and Bro. Erle Forbes.

Riding in their wagon under the night sky on the way home from meeting, Fred said, "Mary, I think we need to make some changes in our hearts. I think we will need to ask Jesus to help us because I've been trying to do better on my own but it just isn't working."

"Yes, Honey, I agree," said Mary. "Let's try to pray tonight at our house. I think we are supposed to tell Jesus about our sins and apologize for them. He is supposed to take away our sins and help us do better."

At home together, in tears, Fred and Mary sought the Lord, and he showed mercy on their poor hearts. From then on, they felt such peace and happiness! They had a new love of each other and for other people. Fred even felt a love in his heart for the neighbors that he had disliked and he was willing to attend church services with them.

Oh, they had never felt such joy before!

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was the new king of Israel?
2. Where did the Lord tell Elijah to hide?
3. How did Elijah get fed?
4. How did Elijah get water?
5. Where did the Lord tell Elijah to go?
6. Where did Elijah find the widow?
7. What problem did the widow have?
8. Did God keep His promise to the widow?

(Answers: 1. King Ahab. 2. Beside the brook Cherith. 3. The ravens brought him meat and bread. 4. From the brook. 5. To Zarephath to the house of a widow. 6. At the gate of the city, picking up sticks. 7. She was almost out of food. 8. Yes.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Sept. 12, 2004

ELIJAH ON MOUNT CARMEL

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel did not serve the one true God. Queen Jezebel served idols. She made all of the prophets of God leave the land of Israel. One of King Ahab's servants, Obadiah, hid all of the prophets in a cave.

Elijah told King Ahab a prophecy from the Lord, "There will be no dew or rain for the next three years." When three years had passed, God told Elijah, "Go and see Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."

Elijah met Obadiah, who was searching for water for King Ahab. "Tell King Ahab that Elijah has returned," Elijah told Obadiah.

King Ahab met with Elijah. "Gather all of Israel on Mount Carmel. Bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the other false prophets who eat at Jezebel's table," Elijah demanded.

So all of Israel met with Elijah on Mount Carmel. "Let us build two altars, one for the prophets of Baal and one for the God of Israel. Put pieces of meat on the altar, but do not set fire to them. They will call on the name of their god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The God who answers by sending fire to burn the offering will be the true God in Israel," Elijah said. Two altars were prepared. Then the prophets of Baal began to call on the name of Baal to send fire. "Cry louder. Maybe he is on a vacation and cannot hear you. Maybe he is sleeping," Elijah taunted. They prayed but never got an answer.

Elijah's altar was made of twelve stones. He dug a ditch around it and had a servant fill a barrel with water and empty it into the ditch seven times. When Elijah prayed to God a great fire came down from heaven. Everything was burned, even the water. After this miracle everyone believed in God. All of the false prophets were killed. Then, while the people were celebrating, the miracle at a feast, the rains came after three long years. —Monica Murphey



"Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, the dust, and...the water that was in the trench." I Kings 18



the wood, and the stones, and

Obeying The Lord

(Continued from last week.)

"Fred, I would like to be baptized under the water like Jesus was," said Sis. Mary to her husband. They were discussing baptism because the minister had told them they needed to be baptized now that they were saved.

"Well, I don't think I need to be put under the water again," said Bro. Fred thoughtfully. "I was baptized back when I was a boy. I already have the peace of God in my heart so if they just sprinkle me, I think that will be good enough."

So that was the way it went. However, Bro. Fred was not quite certain that he did the right thing. Later, he questioned Bro. George Harmon about the true reason for baptizing. When he understood that it was a sign to the world of being dead to sin and being resurrected with Christ and living a new life, then Bro. Fred Pruitt had Bro. Harmon put him under the watery grave and up again also.

Now life was so different for Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary. They had so much joy and peace and one reason why was that Jesus had put His love into their hearts for everyone—even the people they had not liked! The cows knew their master was saved because he did not hit them or curse at them anymore. Bro. Fred tossed his tobacco and pipe to the back of the kitchen cabinets and told the Lord he did not intend to smoke again.

A few weeks passed and Bro. Fred was in the neighbor's field cutting feed when he saw a reddish-looking can laying on the ground. The words *Prince Albert Smoking Tobacco* were written across the top. Bro. Fred stopped the horses, picked up the can, and put it into his pocket. "It is probably the neighbor's," he said to himself. "I will return it to him later."

At noon Bro. Fred took a break for lunch. Before he was saved, he would smoke his pipe after a meal. Up to this time, he had forgotten about his pipe but now a voice said to him, "*Your pipe is on top of the cabinet. You had better smoke a pipe full of that tobacco before returning it. Your neighbor won't care.*"

Sad to say, he listened to that bad voice of the devil. Finding his pipe, he sat down on the porch and began to smoke. Suddenly, he felt very sad and miserable. Everything looked dreary and even the sun seemed to be hiding behind a cloud. Bro. Fred realized he had greatly displeased Jesus Christ.

Through the next three days, Bro. Fred repented in bitter tears and asked the Lord to help him never, ever to smoke again. The Lord heard his prayers and forgave him. Little by little Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary learned more how to please the One who had delivered them from sin and had given them such peace.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Did King Ahab and Queen Jezebel serve God?
2. What prophecy did Elijah tell King Ahab?
3. How long had it been since it had rained?
4. What servant did Elijah meet?
5. Where did Elijah and the prophets of Baal build their altars?
6. What did Elijah want to prove?
7. What did his servants put in the ditch around his altar?
8. Did God send fire?

Answers: 1. No. 2. There would be no rain for three years. 3. Three years. 4. Obadiah. 5. Mount Carmel. 6. Who was the true God of Israel? 7. Seven barrels of water. 8. Yes.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Sept. 19, 2004

A STILL SMALL VOICE

When Queen Jezebel heard that all of her prophets had been killed on Mount Carmel she was furious. Queen Jezebel sent Elijah a message. "I am going to have you killed, just as you killed my prophets," the Queen's messenger reported to Elijah.

This message made Elijah afraid. Elijah fled to find a hiding place from Queen Jezebel. While he was traveling, Elijah became tired and discouraged. He sat underneath a tree and thought that he might as well die. Elijah fell asleep under the tree. He felt someone touch him. He looked up. It was an angel! There was a cake to eat and water to drink. The angel fixed a meal for Elijah two times. Then Elijah went and hid in a cave.

The Lord asked Elijah, "Why are you here?"

"The children of Israel do not serve the God of Israel anymore. I am the only prophet for the Lord left, and they want to kill me," Elijah answered.

"Stand on the mountain before the Lord," God commanded Elijah.

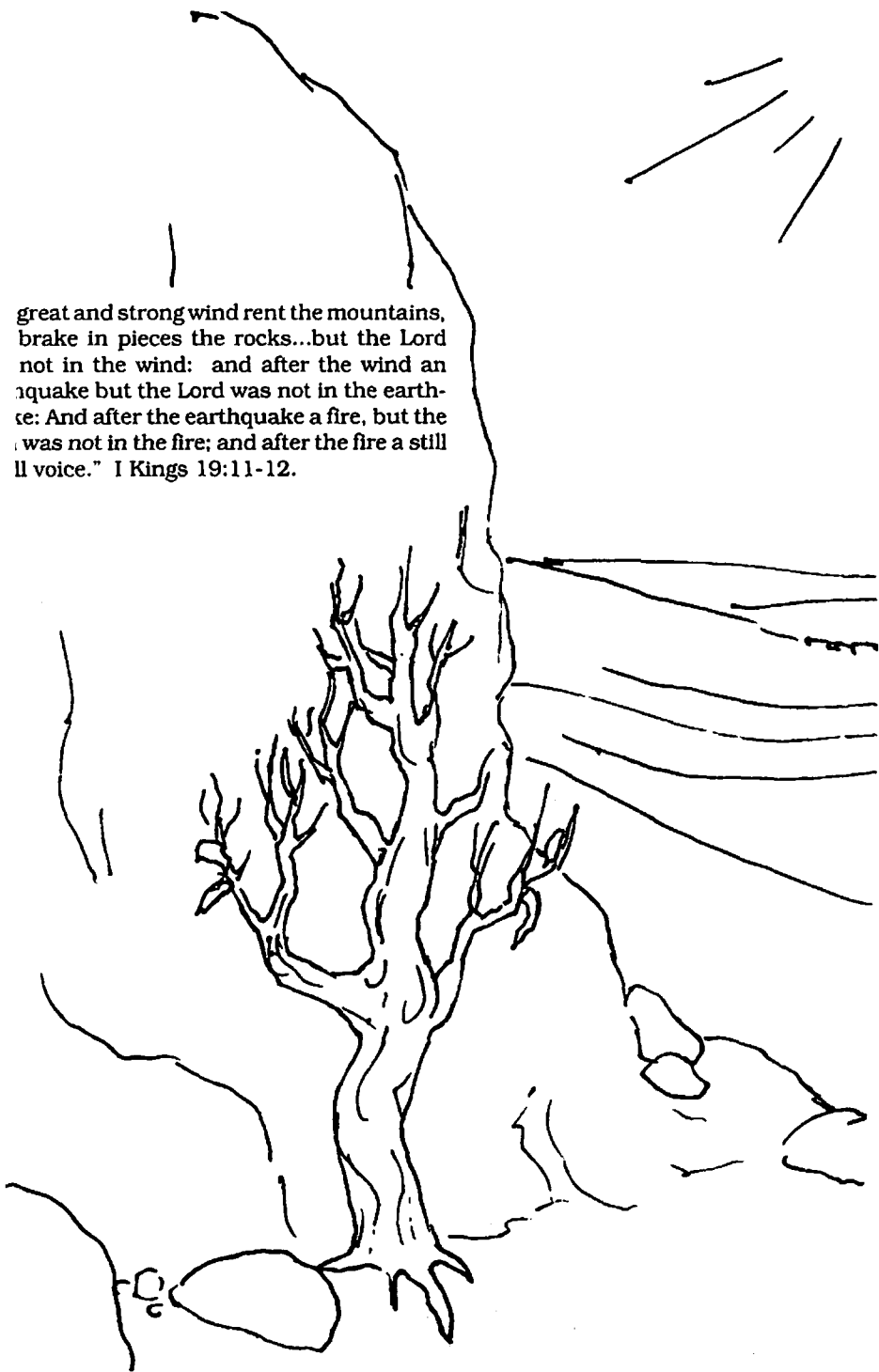
Suddenly, there was a gust of great wind. The wind shattered the rocks into pieces and shook the mountain. But God was not in the wind. After the wind, there was a mighty earthquake, but God was not in the earthquake. Then there was a terrible fire. God was not in the fire. Finally, there came a still small voice. The Lord spoke to Elijah in this still small voice.

"Why are you here?" the still small voice asked. "Go back. Anoint a new king over Israel. Elisha shall take your place as My prophet when you die. There are seven thousand people in Israel that still worship Me."

—Monica Murphey



great and strong wind rent the mountains,
brake in pieces the rocks...but the Lord
not in the wind: and after the wind an
quake but the Lord was not in the earth-
ce: And after the earthquake a fire, but the
was not in the fire; and after the fire a still
ll voice." I Kings 19:11-12.



Seeking The Holy Spirit

(Continued from last week.)

Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Pruitt were so happy now that they were saved. It did not mean that they never had troubles or trials, but they felt at peace with God and mankind. The Lord had delivered Bro. Fred from smoking tobacco and from cursing. His lips that had said God's name in swearing now said God's name in prayer. He did not want to talk bad about God and Jesus Christ because they were his personal friends.

The Lord had also delivered Bro. Fred from a bad temper. He had several cows to milk twice a day and it was a trying job to do. Before he was saved, Bro. Fred would hit the cows with his three legged stool when he was angry. After he was saved, his stool stayed in one piece and the cows were treated better.

However, Bro. Fred felt there was a force within him that he was not conquering. He read in Matthew five where it says: "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God."

"Oh, Lord," he prayed, "I do want a pure heart. Please give me a pure heart like Yours."

One Sunday night Bro. Fred was asked to lead the prayer meeting. He searched the scriptures to prepare for teaching when he came across Romans the seventh chapter. Apostle Paul wrote that he could not live for God in his own strength but by the Holy Spirit of God he was able to conquer his fleshly desires.

"Hmm," thought Bro. Fred. "I want to overcome my flesh and be more like God. *Dear Lord, please lead me to a closer walk with You.*"

That night in prayer service, Bro. Fred taught what the Lord had given

him even though he did not fully understand what the Lord was teaching to him. Then in the night, still seeking help, Bro. Fred lay on his bed and cried to the Lord. He gave his life and all his possessions to the Lord. He asked the Holy Spirit to dwell in his heart. The Lord heard his cries and sent him help. Bro. Fred knew when the Holy Spirit came into his heart. He felt the sweet peace and inner strength that only sanctification can give.

The next morning when Bro. Fred went outside he felt like he was walking on air. He was so happy that God was now living within his heart! His wife saw the wonderful power of God in her husband and she wanted what he had. Soon she asked the Holy Spirit to live within and control her heart.

The Holy Spirit did not make them act silly and out of control, but it taught them more about God's ways and gave them the power to overcome. No longer did Bro. Fred have to fight off the devil's voice alone, but he had the Holy Spirit to help him.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Queen Jezebel tell Elijah?
2. Who came to Elijah while he slept?
3. What did the angel fix for him?
4. Where did Elijah go to hide?
5. What did God ask Elijah?
6. Was God in the great wind?
7. Was God in the fire?
8. How did God speak to Elijah?

Answers: 1. That she was going to kill him. 2. An angel. 3. A cake and water. 4. A cave. 5. Why are you here? 6. No. 7. No. 8. In a still small voice.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Sept. 26, 2004

NABOTH'S VINEYARD

A man named Naboth owned a vineyard beside King Ahab's palace. One day King Ahab called to Naboth, "Your vineyard is so near our palace. I would like to have it. I would give you another, better vineyard somewhere else, or I will give you money for it."

"This vineyard was my family inheritance. I will not give it to you," Naboth said.

King Ahab was very unhappy. He lay on his bed all day and would not eat or talk to anyone. Queen Jezebel asked, "What is bothering you?"

When King Ahab told Queen Jezebel what had happened, Queen Jezebel told King Ahab, "I will get Naboth's vineyard for you. Get up and be happy."

Queen Jezebel told the elders of the city exactly what to do. Queen Jezebel told the elders that King Ahab wanted them to carry out her plan. The elders had many people meet together. They accused Naboth of taking God's name in vain and speaking badly about the king. Of course, this was not true. They were only saying what they had been told to say. The people took Naboth outside of the city and stoned him. Naboth died. Queen Jezebel told King Ahab that Naboth's vineyard was his. He was very happy.

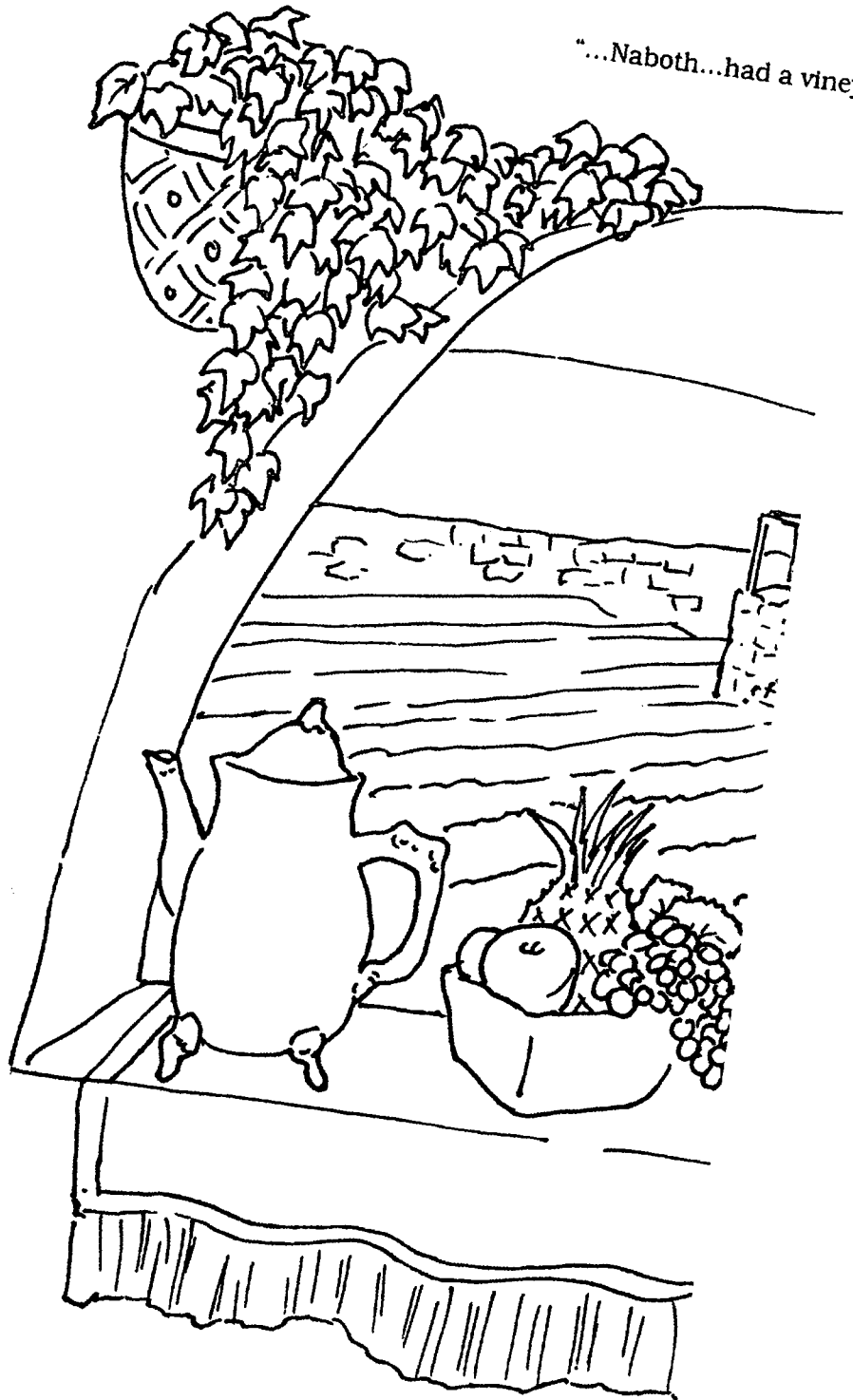
Elijah came to visit King Ahab and Queen Jezebel with words brought to him from the Lord. "Because of their evil deeds, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel will die," Elijah warned.

When King Ahab heard these words he was sorry. King Ahab cried and prayed to God. God saw how sorry King Ahab was. "See how sad King Ahab is for what he has done?" God asked Elijah. "Because he has shown Me his sorrow, I will not punish him for his evil deeds."

Queen Jezebel died because of the evil she had done. Later, King Ahab died, too. The king and queen who had been so wicked no longer reigned over Israel.

—Monica Murphey

“...Naboth...had a viney



y the palace of Ahab...." I Kings 21:1.



Conquering Power

(Continued from last week.)

It was not long before the Lord called Bro. Fred Pruitt to preach the gospel to his neighbors. By nature he was a quiet person, so it was only by the power of the Holy Spirit that he was able to overcome his shyness and speak before others. It was a thrill to his soul to feel the Holy Spirit give him the inner strength to boldly speak the truth.

However, not everyone wanted to hear about full salvation, complete baptism and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The devil was at work also.

One Sunday while Bro. Fred was preaching in the nearby schoolhouse, a woman kept calling out to him, "You are fanatic! You are fanatic!" This was a hindrance to his preaching so he said to her, "If you had the love of God in your heart, you would not say that." This stopped her rudeness.

A couple Sundays later, this woman's two grown sons came to the schoolhouse during service time. After Bro. Fred preached, they called him outside with the intention of whipping him for what he had said to their mother.

In a calm voice, Bro. Fred said, "I am sorry if I spoke harshly to your mother, but I am not sorry about the truth that I was preaching."

"You are just a liar!" accused the older boy as he doubled up his fists.

If Bro. Fred had not been saved, he would have gotten angry and there probably would have been a fist fight. Instead the Holy Spirit gave him the inner strength to give a soft answer that was stronger

than his fist.

"I am sorry you say that," he said, "I will apologize to your mother for showing her disrespect but I still stand by the Word of God that He gave me."

After a few more muttered words, the two boys left without laying a finger on Bro. Fred. Later, Bro. Fred did apologize to their mother as he said he would. The sweet peace of victory settled over his soul and he praised God for the conquering power over anger and ill will toward others. It had not been his old ugly, nature that had won the victory but the Holy Spirit had fought the battle within and without. He learned that living for the Lord was a humble way, but if he kept faith in the Lord, the victory would come by and by.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did King Ahab want?
2. Who owned the vineyard?
3. Would Naboth sell his vineyard?
4. How did Queen Jezebel cheer up King Ahab?
5. What did the elders accuse Naboth of doing?
6. What did Elijah tell the king and queen?
7. How did King Ahab feel?
8. What did God tell Elijah about King Ahab?

Answers: 1. A vineyard. 2. Naboth. 3. No. 4. She said she would get the vineyard for him. 5. Taking God's name in vain and speaking badly about the king. 6. They would die for their evil deeds. 7. Sorry. 8. That he would not be punished for his evil deeds since he was sorry.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 4 Primaries (USP6549-000) Part 14 Oct. 3, 2004

THE FIERY CHARIOT

It was time for the Lord to take Elijah to heaven. God had told Elijah that Elisha would take his place as a prophet for God when Elijah went to heaven. Elijah called for Elisha to go with him on a journey. The two men walked to the river Jordan. Fifty other prophets accompanied them. When they came to the river, Elijah took off his coat and hit the water with it. The waters parted, making a dry path for Elijah and Elisha's feet.

Now Elijah and Elisha were across the river. "What would you like for me to do for you before I am taken away?" Elijah asked Elisha.

As Elijah and Elisha talked a chariot of fire appeared driven by horses of fire. Elijah was caught up in the chariot and a whirlwind took him up into heaven. Elisha did not see Elijah again. Elisha was very sad but he knew he had been chosen to be a leader in Elijah's place.

Elisha took up Elijah's coat that he had used to part the waters of Jordan. The fifty prophets waiting on the other side knew Elisha would be a great prophet just as Elijah had been. But where was Elijah?

"Let us go look for Elijah," the prophets implored.

Elisha told them not to go look for Elijah. The other prophets begged and pleaded until Elisha said for them to go and look for Elijah. For three days the prophets looked for Elijah but they did not find him.

"Did I not tell you not to look for Elijah?" Elisha asked when the prophets came back from their search empty-handed and tired. Elisha knew that he had seen a miracle.

Elijah had served the Lord for many years as His prophet. No one else has been taken to heaven in a fiery chariot like Elijah. The Lord honored Elijah's years of service to Him by bringing Elijah up to heaven in a chariot.

—Monica Murphey



"...As they...talked...there
of fire,..." II Kings 2:11.



prepared a chariot

George The Thief

(A true story.)

George's hand reached for the knife in its sheath hanging at his waist. He was hungry and his eyes had seen a wealthy-looking man walk around the corner of the street he slept on. In Bombay, India, there were many poor beggars pleading for money but George and his gang of young men did not take that poky way of gaining money. George had never killed someone but he made his victims think he would.

Silently, George followed the wealthy man who was walking quickly as if he were to be some place at a certain time. Down one street, around a corner and down another street, George kept this man in sight. Suddenly George stopped when he saw the man disappear behind a big heavy door.

That man is going to church, thought George. It isn't a Catholic church like the one I went to as a boy. I wonder what kind of people come here?

George quietly opened the big, heavy door and followed the man inside. He stood by the door and let his ears adjust to the calm singing so different from the city noises outside. The peaceful spirit of the people relaxed George and he forgot about the knife at his waist. He had even lost sight of the man he was trailing but his eyes did find two people he knew.

Twin brothers who had been his boyhood friends sat together on a pew about halfway up the aisle. Without thinking, George went and sat down by them. His old friends looked surprised to see him but they made him feel welcome.

George had never been in a church service like this one. Instead of stern chanting the people sang worship songs. Prayers were not recited but were more like a conversation with Jesus. George was amazed to see his

friends had their own Bible and were allowed to read out of it along with the preacher.

George loved reading good books. He had been an excellent student in school and had passed his exam for college with a high grade. Then came the crushing news from his parents.

"We cannot afford to send you to college when we are struggling to feed your five sisters and two brothers," said his mother. "You must go and join your father in Bombay. He will find you a decent job to help support our family."

With bitterness in his heart George obeyed his mother. He had rolled his graduation certificate and his one change of clothes in an old newspaper, then traveled three days by bus and train to meet his father. For a while George worked at a motor bicycle factory but the cruel boss underpaid his help which angered George. In time he began to run with a gang who stole from the rich to survive. George knew it was wrong and now he had ended up at church where Jesus could help him out.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who would take Elijah's place?
2. Who did Elijah take with him on his journey?
3. Where did Elijah and Elisha go?
4. What did Elijah do when he came to the river?
5. What happened to the river?
6. What came down to take Elijah up to heaven?
7. What did Elisha take of Elijah's?
8. What did the other prophets want to do?

Answers: 1. Elisha. 2. Elisha. 3. To the river Jordan. 4. Took off his coat and hit the river with it. 5. The waters parted. 6. A fiery chariot. 7. His coat. 8. Look for Elijah.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Oct. 10, 2004

ELISHA AND THE SHUNAMITE

One day Elisha's travels took him past Shunem. A man and woman who lived there asked him to stop and eat. When Elisha went through Shunem after this, he stopped at the home of this man and woman.

The woman went to her husband one day and said, "This man of God has come to visit us many times. Let's build a little room for him. When he comes to visit us, he can stay there."

Her husband built the room for Elisha and now, when Elisha came to stay at their house, he had a room to himself. Elisha was grateful for the thoughtfulness of his host and hostess. Elisha asked his hostess, "You have been so good to care for me, what is something I can do for you?"

The woman would not tell him a way he could return her favors. Elisha asked a servant, "What can I do for her?"

"She has no child and her husband is old," the servant informed Elisha.

"You will have a son about this time next year," Elisha told the woman. It was true. The next year the Shunamite man and woman had a son.

The boy grew and became big enough to help his father out in the fields. One day as the father and son were working, the son cried out, "My head! My head!"

"Carry him to his mother," the boy's father said to a servant. The boy's sickness was so very bad that he died. His mother was very sad. But she had an idea. "Send me a donkey so that I can go tell the man of God to come," she told her husband.

Elisha followed the woman to where the boy lay. He went in and prayed hard for the boy. The child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. There was much rejoicing in the household for this great miracle.

—Monica Murphey



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



Changes For George

(Continued from last week.)

After the church service the twin brothers invited George to come to their apartment for a visit. Eagerly George accepted and soon they were sitting around a table talking about boyhood memories. When the evening was late, one friend said, "Do you live close by, George? You may want to go before it is much later."

George shrugged, too ashamed to admit that he lived on the streets. "Where do you guys work?" he asked.

"We have steady jobs at a boot factory," they informed him.

"I have been looking for another place to work," said George. "Do you think they may have an opening?"

So George spent the night with his friends and then was hired at the boot factory. In time he found an apartment of his own. Most important of all, he began to read the *Bible*.

George had learned about Marxism, Leninism, Maoism, and lived in a Hindu community but George had never studied and learned from the *Bible* about Jesus Christ. He was fascinated with the love Jesus showed to the poor and sick. He could relate to Peter and the other disciples who had questions like he had. Jesus had the answers to all of their questions—yes, even the answers to George's questions.

In the depths of his heart George felt a deep hunger for righteousness. How he longed to feel such love and forgiveness in his life! One day George fell on his knees at the altar before Jesus Christ and repented of his past sins. With tears streaming down his face he asked Jesus to take out the bitterness he felt toward his parents, past employer and others. He begged for mercy and forgiveness for the six years of stealing that he had done, for the drinking of liquor, lying and wicked living.

After he had poured out and confessed all his sins, Jesus kindly forgave George and made his heart white as snow. No longer did George feel dirty inside! He praised the Lord for the freedom and happiness he felt in his heart. In December of 1973, George was

baptized in water to let the world know he was a born again Christian.

George's family saw the difference in him. His mother was thankful he was working a decent job and living better but his father was angry that George was not a Roman Catholic.

"You must give up this nonsense of reading the *Bible* and meeting with those other people," demanded his father. "I will have no son of mine be a poor preacher!"

Though George was beaten and starved by his father he continued to bring home food and income for his parents. In his heart he was happy to know that Jesus gave him the victory to forgive and love his father through all the wrong done to him.

Finally, after trying to change his son for three and a half years, George's father said, "Leave and do not come back under my roof again!"

Out on the streets again, George remembered the words of Jesus: "Take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?... For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.... But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Mathew 6:31-32.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the woman suggest to her husband?
2. What did Elisha ask the woman?
3. What did the servant tell Elisha?
4. What happened the next year?
5. What happened while the boy worked in the field?
6. Did the boy die?
7. What idea did his mother have?
8. What did Elisha do?

Answers: 1. To build a room for Elisha. 2. What he could do for her. 3. The woman had no son. 4. She had a son. 5. His head began to hurt. 6. Yes. 7. To find Elisha. 8. Prayed for the boy and he came back to life.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Oct. 17, 2004

NAAMAN THE LEPER

Naaman was a great and mighty man. Naaman was a friend of the king of Syria, as well as a captain in the king's army. But Naaman had a problem. He was a leper. Leprosy is a scary disease. People that had leprosy were expected to die.

There was a servant girl who worked for Naaman and his wife. The girl came to her mistress one day and said, "There is a prophet in Samaria that can heal Naaman's leprosy." Naaman told the king what she said. "Go to Israel. I will send a letter to the king as well as money and gifts of clothing," the king said.

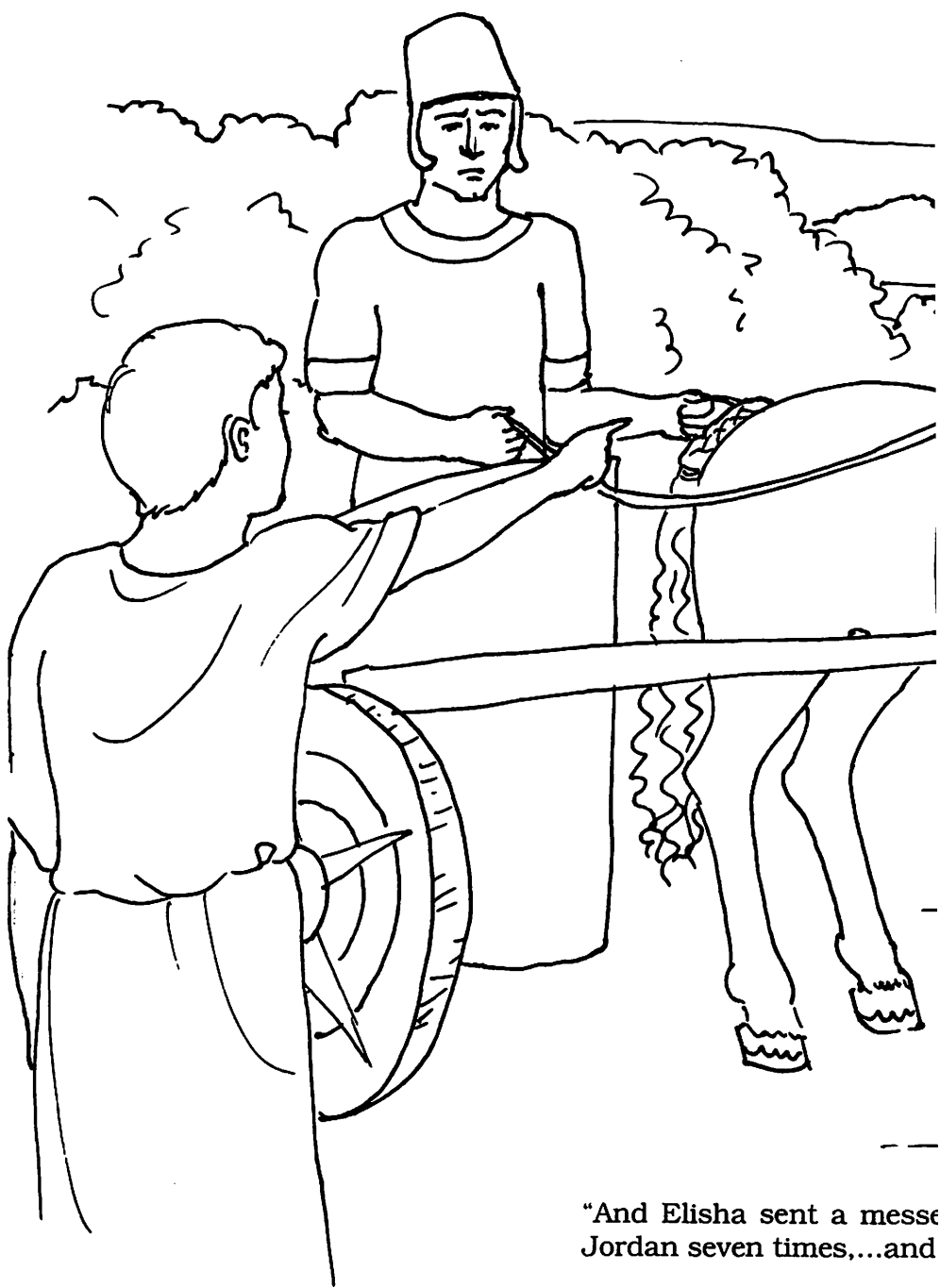
The king of Israel could not help Naaman. Elisha heard about Naaman. Elisha sent a messenger to the king of Israel. "Send Naaman to me."

Naaman's horses and chariot pulled up at Elisha's door. "Go and wash in the river Jordan seven times. Then your skin will be clean and you will be healed," Naaman was told. This made Naaman angry. "Why do I have to wash in that dirty river?" Naaman asked.

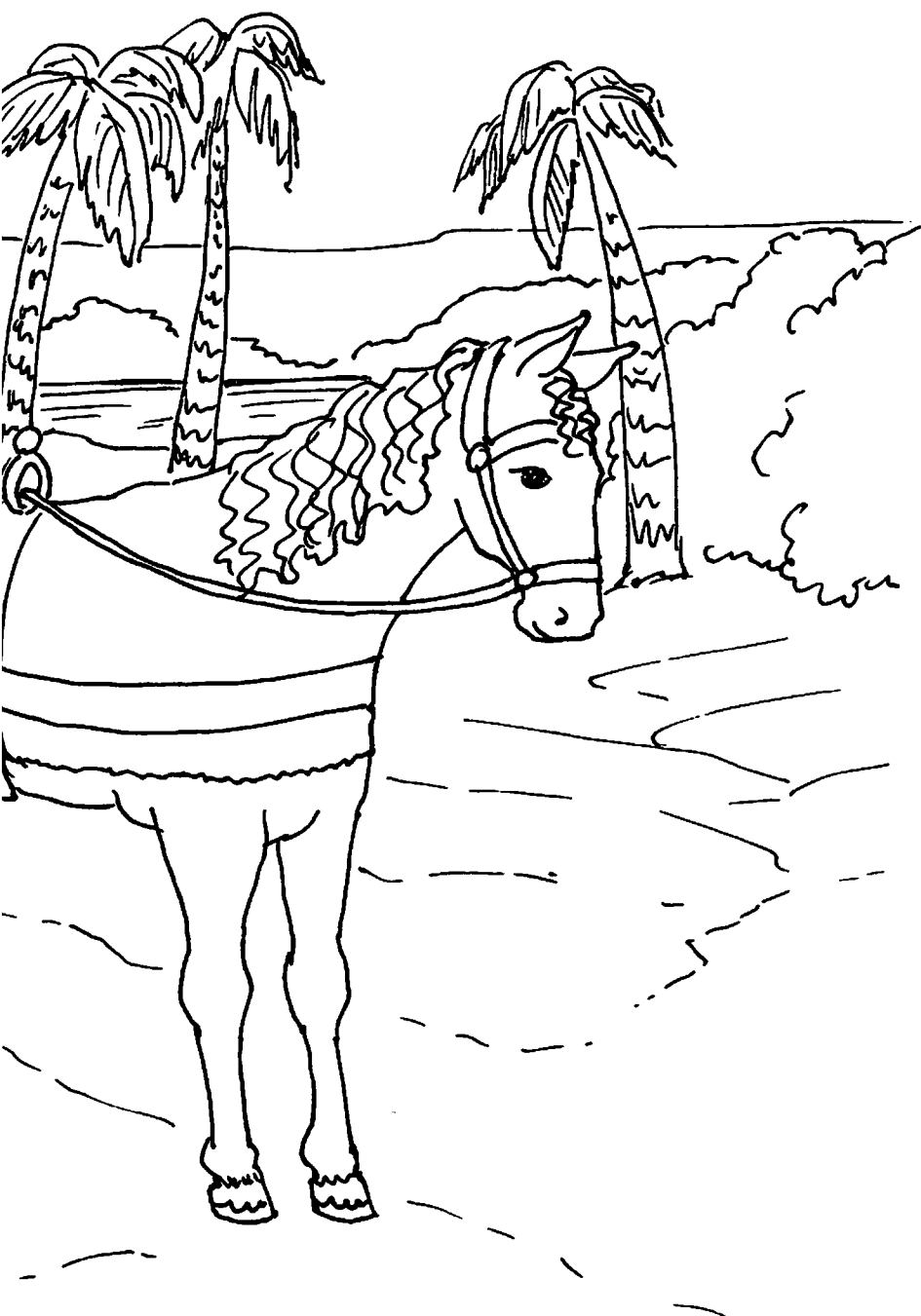
A servant came to Naaman. "If the prophet had asked you to do some big thing, would you have done it? Is it too much to ask you to wash in the river?"

So Naaman went to the river Jordan and dipped himself seven times in the waters. Naaman was healed! He went back to Elisha. "Now I know the God of Israel is the true God. Please take these gifts as a thank you from your servant," Naaman pleaded.

Elisha would not take any gifts. Naaman left to return to Syria. One of Elisha's servants ran to catch up. "My master has changed his mind about the gifts. He has sent me to bring some back." When Elisha heard about what the servant had done he was upset. "You will now have the leprosy that Naaman had because you disobeyed me," Elisha told the disobedient servant. —Monica Murphey



"And Elisha sent a messenger
Jordan seven times,...and



unto him, saying, 'Go and wash in
thou shalt be clean.' " II Kings 5:10.

George Moves On

(Continued from last week.)

George was happy to have Jesus as his friend and he diligently read the Bible. Working a steady job, George paid for a place for his mother and her younger children to live at in Bombay, India.

"Oh, my George, you are such a good boy now!" exclaimed his mother as she hugged her son.

His father was not happy with his new life. "You must stop going to that church, George," he demanded. "You must remain a good Catholic like me!"

For three years and a half years, George's father would beat and curse him for attending church and for reading the Bible. He did not want his son to be "religious" and waste his life away on Bible studies.

The more George read and worshipped the Lord, the deeper his love for Jesus grew. Finally, his father realized George was not giving up the Bible nor Jesus. "Get out of my house and don't you come back!" he told George. Just before this George had lost his job.

Out on the street again, this time George had Jesus with him and he did not join any street gang. He remembered the promise Jesus gave when He said, "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or Where-withal shall we be clothed?...for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:31-33.

A friend let George live with him but he was poor and could not afford much food. George did not complain but another friend realized George was starving.

"I heard there is a job open at the United Arab Emirates Office," this friend told George.

He helped George get a passport and George hurried to the office. Fourth in line, George prayed he would get the job. The three men in front of him were not qualified so George was hired!

In April of 1977, George joined other Indian men who sailed across the Arabian Gulf to a peninsula of industry. Here the men worked hard from six in the morning until ten at night. That left them very little time to eat and sleep. George missed his time to read and study the Bible. Also, he felt lonesome for his church family.

After a year of this hard work the Indians complained about the long hours and little pay. The government listened and the men were given more time off. When he wasn't working, George would be hiding in his secret closet of prayer having a Bible study.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was a captain in the men's army?
2. What was Naaman's problem?
3. How did Naaman find out about Elisha?
4. What did the king of Syria say to Naaman?
5. What river was Naaman supposed to wash in?
6. How many times did Naaman dip in the river?
7. Would Elisha take any gifts?
8. What punishment did the servant take?

Answers: 1. Naaman. 2. Leprosy. 3. His servant girl. 4. To go to Israel. He sent gifts along. 5. Jordan. 6. Seven. 7. No. 8. He got leprosy.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Oct. 24, 2004

JOASH THE KING

Ahaziah was now the king of Judah. Ahaziah had a wicked mother named Athaliah. When Ahaziah died, Athaliah killed everyone that might be the next king. There was one more little boy that Athaliah had not killed. Joash was Ahaziah's son. When Joash's aunt heard what Athaliah was trying to do, she hid Joash and his nurse.

For six years, Joash and his nurse hid in a temple while his grandmother Athaliah reigned over Israel. Athaliah was a bad queen. After six years had passed, many of the rulers of Israel and the captains of the army came to Joash's hiding place. Men stayed to guard the little king's hiding place. The captains and guards stood around the king with their weapons as a crown was put on Joash's head. The priest Jehoiada anointed Joash king. Everyone was so excited that they clapped their hands. All of the men shouted, "God save the king!"

Athaliah heard the noise as the people shouted. Athaliah went to the temple to see what the noise was all about. When Athaliah looked into the temple, she saw the new King Joash standing by the pillar. She saw the leaders of Israel and all of the others gathered around the king. She saw men blowing trumpets and the people rejoicing. Athaliah tore her clothes. "This is a wrong against me!" Athaliah cried.

Some of the men took Athaliah away. Athaliah was killed for her many wicked deeds. The people were so happy to get a new ruler. They tore down the temple of the false god, Baal. They brought Joash out of the temple and to the king's house. The young King Joash was set on the throne. Joash was only seven years old when he became king.

—Monica Murphey



"Seven years old was Jehoash when he began to reign." II Kings 11:21.



George Hears God's Call

(Continued from last week.)

George knew the Lord had given him the job at the United Arab Emirates but he was very lonesome for Christian fellowship. The Lord heard his heart's prayer and He sent a new worker to the camp named Varghese. Together they prayed and read the Bible after work time.

One time when George was on a ship sailing in the Arabian Gulf, an Indian named Sivadasan tried to jump into the sea and end his life. George talked with the man and persuaded him to seek God for help. George realized the man needed deliverance from sin so he explained to him about the power in the blood of Jesus. Through patient days of talking to Sivadasan, George taught him about Jesus Christ. Finally, Sivadasan wanted to be saved. He was happily delivered from sin.

George and Sivadasan rented an apartment together and life was really going nicely for George. He had rupees in his pockets, a good place to live, food, and other Christian friends he met. They rented a big house by the seaport to worship in and some interested sailors came to the services.

The Lord had more work for George to do. One day the Lord asked George, "Do you love me more than earning money? Are you in Arabia just to gain earthly wealth or are you laying up treasures in heaven?"

These questions and others began to bother George until he said, "Okay, Lord Jesus, what do you want me to do?"

"George, I want you to witness to the Muslims about you. I want you to pass out gospel tracts and New

Testaments. There are souls about you hungry for the Truth and you need to be a light for Me."

This was not an easy command to obey because it is forbidden in Saudi Arabia to preach or talk about Jesus to a Muslim. "But, Lord," reasoned George, "what if I am caught and put in prison? What if I am tortured and even killed?"

Then the Lord would remind George of the times he had helped him. "Haven't I been there for you when you needed me? I will give you my strength and grace for each daily test. Trust me, George, trust me."

When George told his Christian friends about his calling among the Muslims they warned him not to do so. Only two faithful Christians stood beside him—Solomon and John.

"We will join you, George," they said. "Together, with the Lord's help, we will tell the gospel to the lost Muslims about us."

(To be continued next week.)

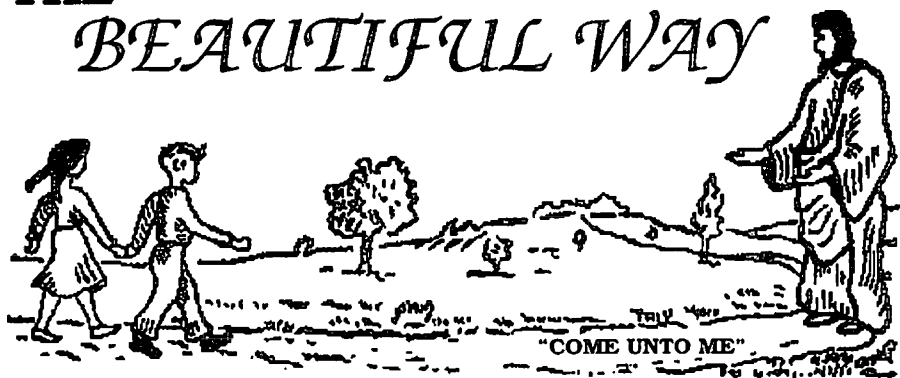
QUESTIONS:

1. What was the name of the King's mother?
2. What did Athaliah do after Ahaziah died?
3. Who saved Joash?
4. How many years did Joash hide?
5. Where did Joash hide?
6. Was Athaliah a good queen?
7. Why did Athaliah come to the temple?
8. How old was Joash when he became king?

Answers: 1. Athaliah. 2. Killed anyone who might become king. 3. His aunt. 4. Six. 5. The temple. 6. No. 7. She heard the people shout, "God save the king!" 8. Seven.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Oct. 31, 2004

QUEEN ESTHER

King Ahasuerus was searching for a new queen. The most beautiful girls in his kingdom were brought to the palace. Esther was one of the beautiful young girls that came to the king's palace. The girls were given servants to look after them. They were given many things to help them to look even more beautiful for the king.

After one year every girl was brought to the king. Esther's turn to see the king finally came. King Ahasuerus loved Esther more than any of the other women. King Ahasuerus set a crown on Esther's head. Esther was the new queen.

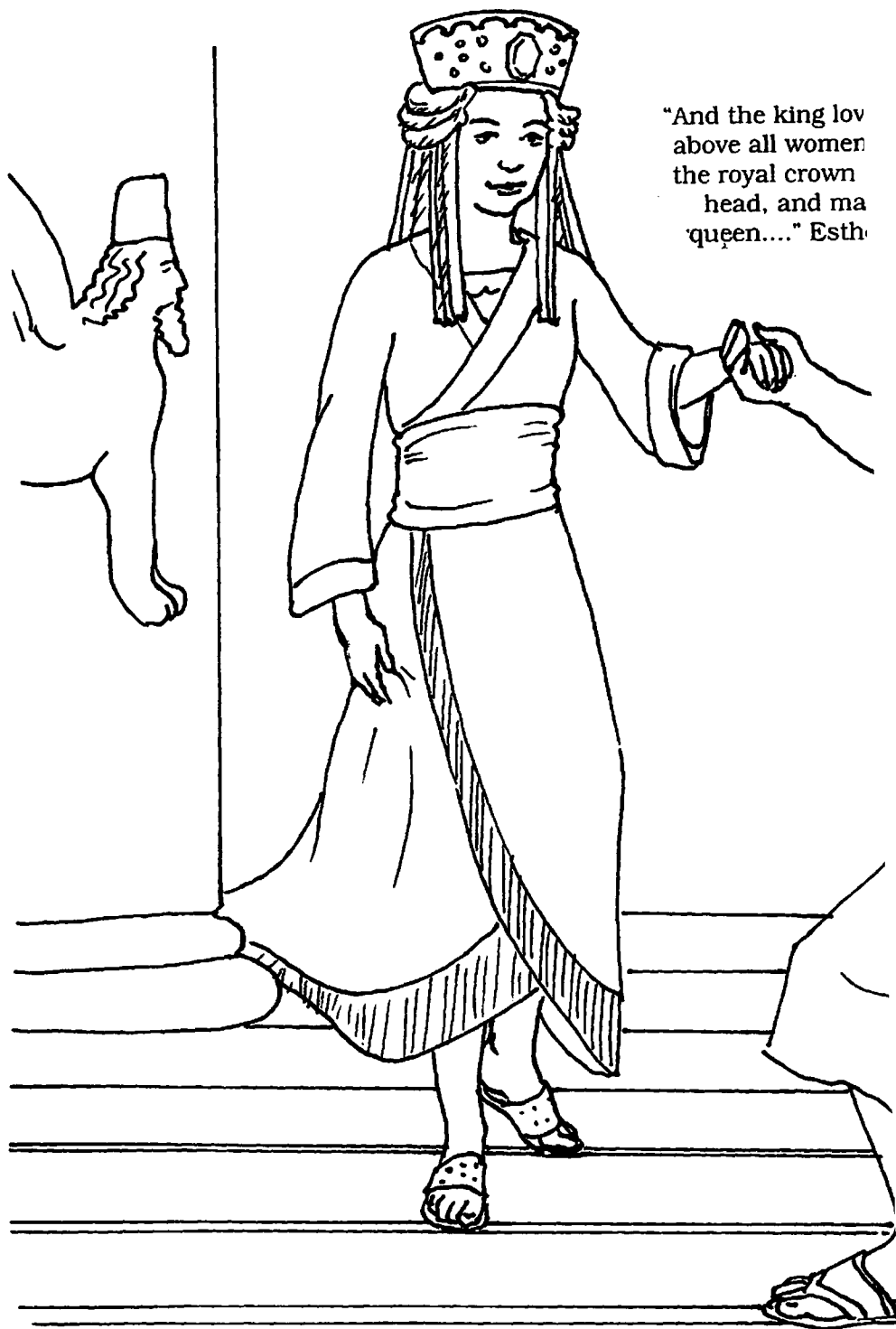
Queen Esther had an uncle who was a servant in the palace. His name was Mordecai. Esther had no father or mother. While she was growing up, Esther lived with Mordecai. "Do not tell King Ahasuerus that you are a Jew," Mordecai had warned Esther. So King Ahasuerus did not know that his new queen was a Jew.

Two of the king's servants, Bigthan and Teresh, did not like King Ahasuerus. Bigthan and Teresh made a plan to kill King Ahasuerus. Queen Esther's uncle, Mordecai, heard Bigthan and Teresh as they were talking over their plan.

"Bigthan and Teresh are planning to kill the king," Mordecai informed Queen Esther. Queen Esther quickly told the king about Bigthan and Teresh and their wicked schemes.

"Your servant Mordecai told me of the plot to kill you," Queen Esther told King Ahasuerus.

Bigthan and Teresh's plan was stopped. King Ahasuerus was very glad. King Ahasuerus had a servant write down Mordecai's good deed in his book about his reign. —Monica Murphey



"And the king lov
above all women
the royal crown
head, and ma
queen...." Esth

Esther
set
her
r
7.



George And The Plan

(Continued from last week.)

When the Lord called George to share the gospel with the Muslims of Arabia only two of his friends agreed with him.

"You are right, George," said Solomon. "Mark 16:15 says: 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel' and that includes Arabia."

"I know the Muslims need to know about salvation," said John. "They need deliverance from sin just like the rest of us."

"In the Koran, the Muslim's holy book, they read about Jesus the prophet but they will not see him as the Son of God nor as a Saviour," said George. "We must ask the Lord to give us the right opportunity to witness. Also, we need New Testaments in the Arabic language. I am willing to lay down my life if the Lord so wills it that these lost souls may hear the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Solomon and John agreed. Secretly these three met and planned how they would smuggle into Saudi Arabia New Testaments and other Christian literature.

Solomon said, "George, if I am caught and questioned about who is helping me in this Christian work, I promise that I will not tell on you. Even if I am tortured and they threaten to kill me."

John nodded. "I vow the same pledge," he said.

"I will do the same for you two," promised George.

All of their missionary work had to be carefully planned and covered. One small mistake could throw suspicion upon them and cause the authorities to arrest them. They wanted to have many months, hopefully years, to spread the gospel before they would be discovered and stopped.

Arabic New Testaments and Christian tracts were printed in America,

flown to Bombay, and there George would pack them into tight bundles. Because he was a member of the airport staff he could take the bundles with him and not be checked by customs. So the printed gospel went into the hostile Muslim country where it was illegal to go.

The men prayed and asked the Lord to open up the way for them to spread the literature. During prayer, a heaven-sent message came to them: use the telephone directory to get addresses and mail the gospel to them. It was a dangerous mission but within weeks Arabians in seven different states began to receive the gospel from different places in Saudi Arabia.

After sealing and stamping an envelope carrying the gospel, Solomon, John and George laid hands on it and prayed that it would plant seeds of Truth into the homes in which it went. In four years many homes were reached. God protected and blessed their work.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Esther brought to the palace?
2. Who did the king choose to be queen?
3. Who did Esther live with while she was growing up?
4. Why did Esther live with Mordecai?
5. Where did her uncle work?
6. Who plotted to kill King Ahasuerus?
7. Who overheard the plot?
8. What did Mordecai do about it?

Answers: 1. King Ahasuerus was searching for a new queen. 2. Esther. 3. Mordecai. 4. Her parents were dead. 5. At the palace. 6. His servants, Bigthan and Teresh. 7. Mordecai. 8. He told Queen Esther, who warned the king.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Nov. 7, 2004

HAMAN'S PLOT

Haman was one of the king's most trusted friends. He was a ruler in the kingdom. When Haman walked through the king's gate, everyone bowed down with respect. Everyone bowed down, that is, except for Queen Esther's uncle, Mordecai. God had commanded the Jews not to bow down to anything or anyone except to Him. When Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow to him, he was very angry. Haman found out that Mordecai would not bow down to him because Mordecai was a Jew. The wheels in Haman's mind began spinning a terrible plot. "I will destroy all of the Jews," Haman vowed.

"There is a certain race of people who will not obey the king's laws," Haman told King Ahasuerus. "If it please the king, send out a letter saying that these people will be destroyed."

The king did as Haman asked. Mordecai found out about Haman's plan. He told Queen Esther. "Go get all of the people together and have them pray hard for me," Esther told Mordecai.

Queen Esther put on her royal garments. She went to the king and invited him and Haman to a feast. After the meal, the king asked, "What can I do for you, Esther? Whatever you wish will be given to you."

"Come to another banquet tomorrow," the queen requested.

Haman left the banquet feeling glad. When he came to the gate and saw Mordecai just sitting there, he again became very angry.

At his home, Haman bragged to his friends and his wife about his riches and his friendship with the king. "Queen Esther had a feast. No one but the king and I were invited," Haman informed his friends. "But when I pass by the gate and see Mordecai just sitting there, it makes me so angry."

"Build a gallows. Tomorrow go to the king and ask that Mordecai be hanged on it," Haman's wife suggested. Haman did as his wife said.

—Monica Murphey



"And all the
were in the kir
Mordecai bow



s servants, that
ate bowed,... But
t,...” Esther 3:2.

George Sending God's Word

(Continued from last week.)

"Look at this!" exclaimed an Arabian woman to her daughter. "This looks like a Christian book we have received in the mail. Oh, your father will be very mad!"

"Let's hide it," whispered the daughter.

"Why should we keep it?" asked the mother.

"It is an expensive book," replied the daughter. "Father could sell it on the black market."

"No, he won't do that," disagreed the mother. "I'll show you what he will do with it." And she tossed it into the stove fire.

The daughter looked away sadly. She had wanted to read some of the book because she had heard it was through the Bible that men were taught to love their wives as their own flesh. Muslim men treat their wives like servants but she had seen foreign Christian men show kindness and love to their wives. She would love for her husband to live by the Christian book.

As George, Solomon and John sent the Arabic Bibles into Muslim homes they prayed that each one would plant a seed of truth. Not every Bible was read but most of them probably were read secretly. However it became publicly known that infidels were mailing illegal Christian material to Muslims.

George saw a big crackdown at the airport. The custom officials began to inspect packages and luggage for any gospel literature. He was thankful that they already had plenty of material in storage inside the country. When the airport officials were not finding Christian literature in packages, the authorities began to raid printing companies. Who would dare to print the Bible in Saudi Arabia?

The government officials were angry because they could not stop the spread of the gospel in Arabia.

They would not admit it publicly but a lot of Muslims were interested in reading the Bible. In the privacy of their homes, many Muslims were reading for the first time about Jesus the Saviour and His deliverance from sin. Some had heard the Bible was a good book of history. Some had heard about the miracles of Jesus. Others liked the parables that Jesus told. Whatever they read, more understanding was shone on their pathway.

Just before George began his outreach, he had made arrangements to marry a lovely Christian girl. After they were married he included his wife in their secret mission. She was a great help to him and he loved her as his own flesh. Soon they had two little daughters. Now George was a working husband, father and busy missionary.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was one of the king's trusted friends?
2. What happened when Haman would walk through the gate?
3. What made Haman so angry?
4. Why would Mordecai not bow to Haman?
5. What plot did Haman think of?
6. What did Queen Esther ask the king?
7. What did Haman do when he got home?
8. What did Haman's wife suggest?

Answers: 1. Haman. 2. Everyone bowed. 3. Mordecai would not bow. 4. God said to only bow to Him. 5. To kill all of the Jews. 6. To come to a feast. 7. Bragged about his wealth and high position. 8. That he build a gallows to hang Mordecai on.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Nov. 14, 2004

A HAPPY ENDING FOR ESTHER

King Ahaseurus could not sleep. A servant read the book about King Ahaseurus's reign aloud to him. When the servant read the story that described Mordecai saving the king's life, King Ahaseurus asked, "What reward has been given to Mordecai?" The king found that nothing had been done.

Haman was still furious because Mordecai would not bow down to him. Haman did as his wife suggested and began construction on a gallows. Now Haman had come to see the king and ask if he could have Mordecai hanged. A servant told King Ahaseurus that Haman was in the palace to see him.

"What should be done for a man who pleases the king?" King Ahaseurus asked Haman.

"Let the king's own clothing be put upon him. Let him ride the king's own horse and wear the royal crown. Get one of the king's most noble men to lead him through the city, shouting, 'This is what is done to those the king delights in,' " Haman suggested.

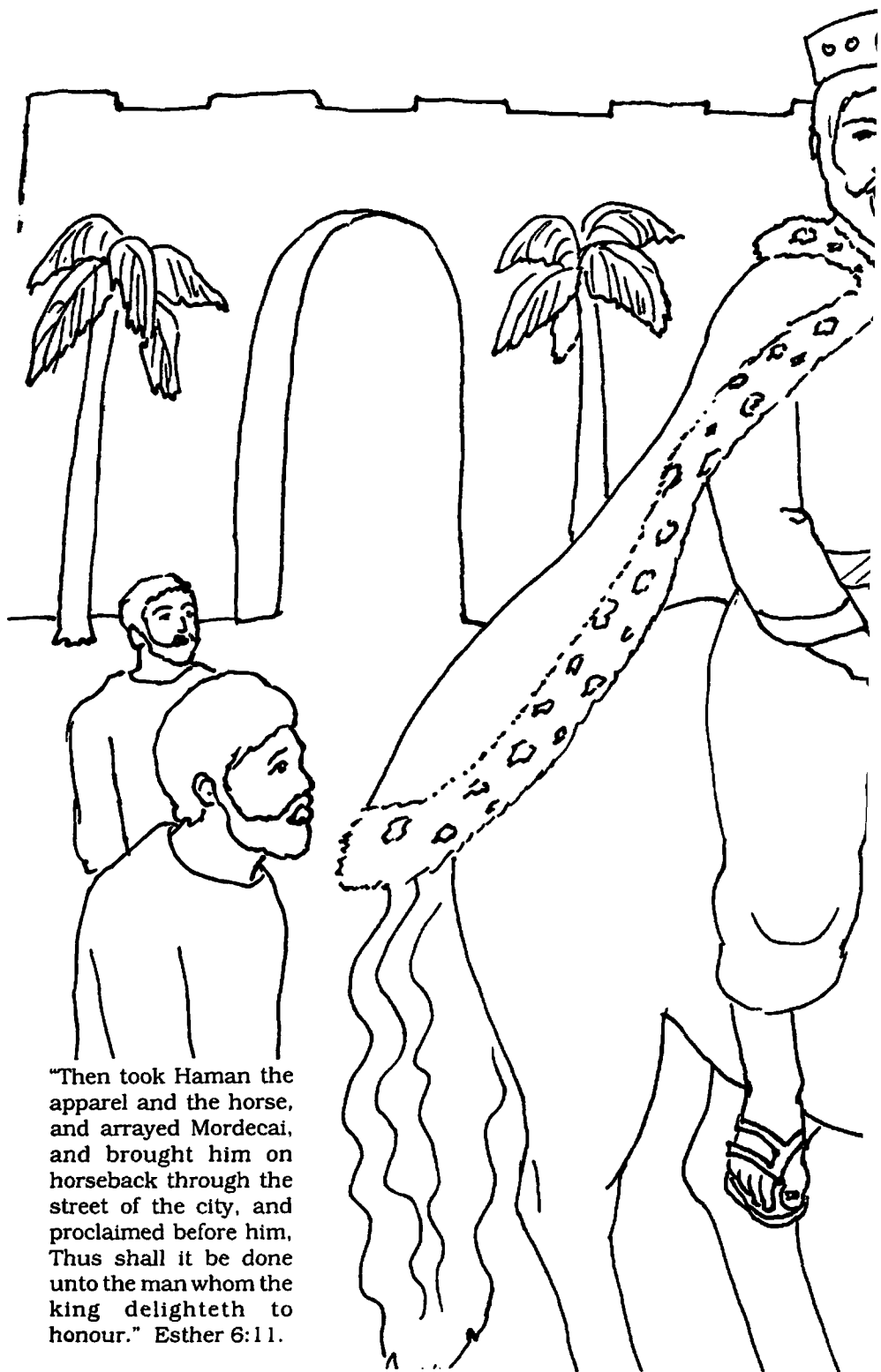
"Hurry. Get my clothing and my horse and do everything that you have suggested for Mordecai," the king told Haman. Haman had no choice but to do so.

When Haman went home, he told his wife and friends of the humiliating thing he had to do. As he was telling his tale, a servant came to remind him of the banquet Queen Esther had prepared for him.

"What can I do for you, Esther? Anything that you request shall be yours," King Ahaseurus asked after the feast was over. "Please save my people. They are all going to be killed," pleaded Esther. "Who dares to hurt the queen's people?" questioned King Ahaseurus. "It is this wicked Haman," said Queen Esther.

A servant came to the king. "The gallows that Haman is working on for Mordecai's hanging is complete," he said. The king was very upset. "Hang Haman on it," the king commanded. The queen's people were saved and the wicked Haman was destroyed.

—Monica Murphey



"Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour." Esther 6:11.



What Is The Matter?

(Continued from last week.)

"George! Look! The police are at Solomon's apartment!" exclaimed his wife as she dashed from her window to find her little girls. George and his family lived on the top floor of a four-story building. John and Solomon lived with their families on the first floor. From their high windows George could see the band of police encircling their building. Some were knocking on Solomon's door. He was not home so they broke open his locked door and raided his apartment.

John's wife heard and saw what the police were doing and she ran up the stairs to warn George and to call John who was away from home. "Let us pray for strength and protection," George told the women. "The Lord has been with us so far. He will not fail us now."

After warning Solomon and John about the police raid George walked down the stairs and went to Solomon's apartment. "What is the matter?" he asked the police in Arabic.

"We are hunting for illegal literature and for the three men who are working against Islam," answered one big officer. "Who are you?"

"I am a friend of this man's," said George. "I don't want to see any harm come to him."

"Then you come with us to the police station," said the big officer. "You may be helpful to us."

All the way there George was praying for the Lord's grace and protection. For some odd reason the officers never asked him who he was nor where he lived. George saw that some of the police were reading parts of the literature about Jesus. *Lord,*

please touch their hearts with your love and give them your mercy, George prayed as he sat on a chair and waited.

In the afternoon Solomon and his wife were brought to the police station. They were arrested and put in two separate cells. "You may go now," the big officer told George.

Half thankful, half sad, George took a taxi home to his wife who was crying and praying for him. "See the Lord has protected us so far," George comforted his wife. "He will not fail us now!"

George and his family joined other Indian Christians for a season of prayer. He knew it was just a matter of time before he would be in jail also.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who had not been rewarded for their service to the king?
2. What was Haman building?
3. What advice did the king ask from Haman?
4. What did Haman suggest the king do for a reward?
5. Where was Haman invited to dine?
6. What did Queen Esther ask the king?
7. What did the servant tell the king?
8. What did the king command?

Answers: 1. Mordecai. 2. A gallows. 3. What shall I do to honor someone who has pleased me? 4. Let the man wear the king's clothing and crown, and ride his horse. 5. Queen Esther's feast. 6. To save her people. 7. "The gallows Haman is building is finished." 8. To hang Haman on them.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Nov. 21, 2004

JOB'S TRIALS

Job lived in the land of Uz. He owned many sheep, camels, oxen, donkeys, servants and children.

Satan came before the Lord. "I have been looking up and down the earth," Satan told the Lord.

"Have you noticed my servant, Job? He is a perfect man and obeys God," the Lord asked Satan.

"You have protected Job from evil. Take away everything he has and he will turn from you," Satan said.

"All that Job has is in your power but do not kill him," the Lord told Satan.

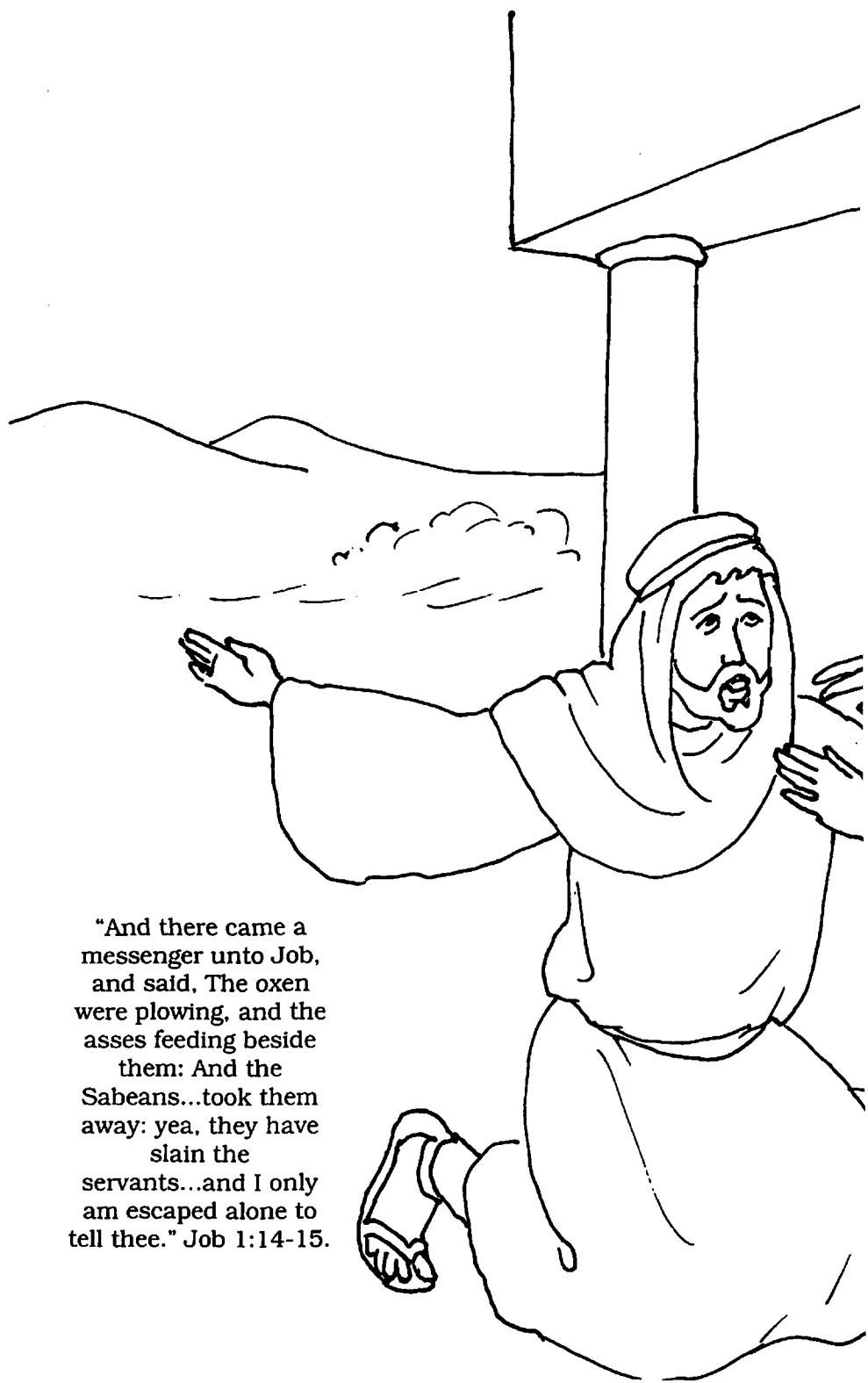
One day Job's sons and daughters were having a feast. A messenger came running to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were feeding. Some men came, took the animals away and killed the servants. I am the only one left alive." As he was talking, another messenger came running to Job. "The fire of God has fallen from heaven. It burned the sheep and the servants. I am the only one left alive," this servant said. Before he could finish his story, another servant came to Job, saying, "Men came and took the camels. They have killed the servants. I am the only one left." Even another servant came running up to Job. "Your sons and daughters were having a feast. A wind blew in from the wilderness. The house fell. Everyone died except for me," the man told Job. Job was sad but he still did not turn away from the Lord.

The devil noticed that Job had not turned from God. He caused great boils to grow on Job's skin. Job was miserable. Job's wife said, "Curse God and die." Job would not. Although Job did wish he would die, he finally saw that God was in control of his life. "Even if God kills me, I will still trust Him," Job said.

God blessed Job for his trust. Job had many more sons and daughters born to him. God gave him even more animals and servants than he had had before. Job was thankful.

—Monica Murphey

"And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: And the Sabeans...took them away: yea, they have slain the servants...and I only am escaped alone to tell thee." Job 1:14-15.





Arrested!

(Continued from last week.)

Taking the opportunity of freedom George and his wife met with other Indian Christians for a long night of prayer. He knew that soon the police would come to arrest him for spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ in the Islamic country of Saudi Arabia. George did not feel like a criminal because he knew the Arabs needed the truth about Jesus just as much as any other people in the world. Many Arabs are eager to hear or read the New Testament but they are afraid to be seen with God's Word because the government punishes any Muslim found with it.

George knew the danger of giving out the Gospel of Jesus. He had seen Arabs with one hand cut off because that hand had held a Bible. Christians were still stoned, beheaded, or shot in a public place to put fear in other Muslims not to have anything to do with a Bible or Christians and their literature. Soon the Islamic police would be coming for George who had sent New Testaments and Gospel tracts through the mail to many Muslim homes. What would they do to him?

Holding his baby daughters close to him George and his wife made plans for their family's safety. The next morning he went to his office at the Dubai Airport and told his boss that he would be arrested.

"George, you are a good man," said his boss. "You must leave this country right away. I will help you board a cargo plane that is going to India."

George shook his head. "I cannot leave my family. They would be taken hostage and mistreated so I would return. No, I will trust in the Lord to help me through the trial I will face."

After saying good-bye to his office friends, George went to visit some cousins. One cousin, Babichan, offered to pay for George and his family to fly right away from Arabia.

"I think it is too late," George told

him. "They are already looking for me by name. The Lord will be with me. Please help my wife and daughters."

"You know I will," said Babichan with tears in his eyes. "I will do all I can to have your charges dismissed and to release you, George."

"Thank you," replied George. "May the Lord bless your efforts."

Babichan took George in his big car and drove near his home. As George climbed out of the car he saw the police cars at the apartment building. Then his wife came running to him with tears on her face. "The police have come...." she sobbed.

George was handcuffed and taken to the Sharjah police station. His only crime was giving out gospel literature and telling Muslims about Jesus Christ.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did God say was a perfect man?
2. What did the devil say about Job?
3. What power did God give the devil?
4. What bad tidings did the messengers tell Job?
5. How did Job's sons and daughters die?
6. Who suggested that Job curse God and die?
7. How did God bless Job for his trust?
8. This week we had a holiday reserved for thanking the Lord for His many blessings to us. What are some things you are thankful for?

Answers: 1. Job. 2. If God took away everything of his, he would turn from God. 3. He gave power over all Job owned except for Job's life. 4. That Job's animals, servants and sons and daughters had been killed or taken. 5. A wind blew the house down. 6. Job's wife. 7. God gave Job much more than he had in the beginning. 8. Answers will vary.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Nov. 28, 2004

YOUNG MEN IN A STRANGE LAND

Nebuchaddnezzar, king of Babylon, fought with the king of Israel. Nebuchaddnezzar won the battle and took over the country of Israel.

"I would like for the best young children, who are healthy, smart, and good looking to be brought to the king's palace so that they can learn the language and ways of our people," Nebuchaddnezzar commanded the leaders of Babylon. "Give these young people the very best wine and meat. In three years bring them before me." So several young Israelites came to stay in a foreign land at the king's palace.

Among the young Israelites that were brought to the palace were Daniel and three friends: Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The Hebrews were given different names, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

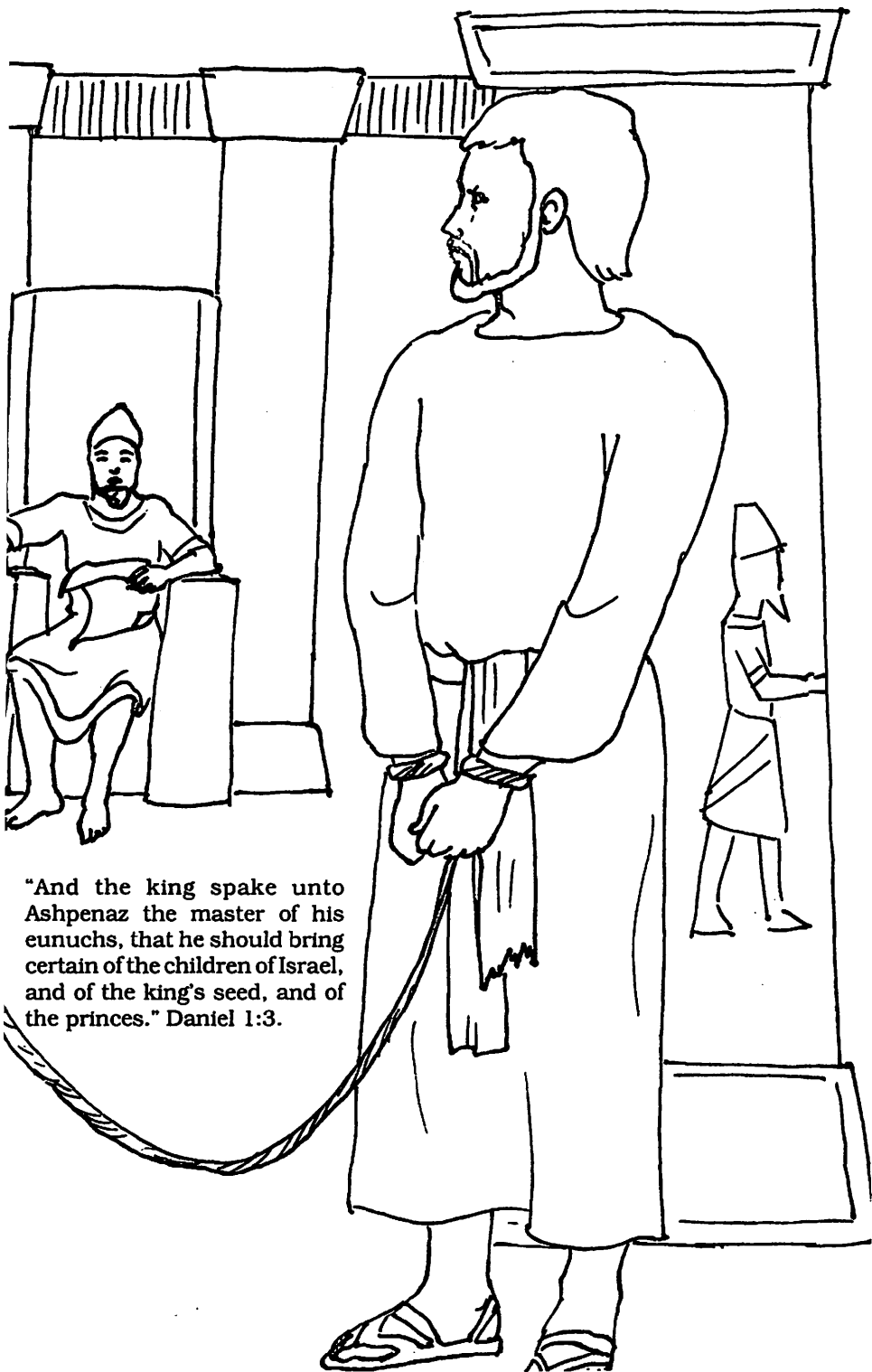
"Instead of feeding us the rich meats and wine, give us herbs to eat and water to drink," Daniel asked the leaders in charge. "Let us have ten days to test this plan. Then you can see if the plan will work or not."

The princes agreed. At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends were better looking and fatter than the other young men who had eaten the fine foods and drank the wine from the king's table. God gave Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knowledge and wisdom. God gave Daniel the ability to understand dreams.

When the men stood before the king, all of the leaders and the king himself agreed that none were as good as Daniel and his three friends. In fact, when the king questioned them he found them better than any of the famous men in his kingdom. Daniel and his friends were considered very wise men from whom the king sought advice. Although they were four Hebrews in a strange land, they still served the one true God and God rewarded them for it.

—Monica Murphey





"And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes." Daniel 1:3.

George Answers A Question

(Continued from last week.)

Under guard at the police station, George was forced to eat food by filthy toilets and to watch the beating of another criminal who had been selling illegal drugs. Then George was shoved into the beating cell. Trembling, George lifted his voice to God as Daniel had done in the lions den. The Lord heard his prayer. George only received one blow—it was a miracle.

Then George was marched into the office of a handsome young Arab named Khalifa. He was to question George about his illegal activities.

Looking up from a pile of papers on his desk, Khalifa said to George, "Sit down! I have a record here of all your offences. John, your so-trusted friend, has told me everything about you."

George did not believe Khalifa but he did not react or say anything. Khalifa continued, "I understand that you and your two friends took the telephone directory and mailed noble citizens of Arabia your religious material. The religious books came from America through India and you brought them here."

Khalifa leaned forward right into George's face. He narrowed his eyes and said, "I cannot believe that a gentleman such as you would do such a terrible crime. Answer me, why did you do this?"

George felt the strength of the Lord come upon him. "I am a Christian," he said. "The words of the Bible are the foundation of my faith. I am bound to obey the teachings of the Bible. One of them says that a Christian should go all over the world and tell the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is what I tried to do."

Khalifa held up the Koran. "Show me in the holy book where that teaching is?"

With great courage George replied,

"That book was written by one prophet. The Bible was written through the Holy Spirit by many men of God. The Bible is the true, pure Word of God."

Khalifa's face flushed with anger as he grabbed a thick cane to beat George. Then a sudden change came over him. "You are educated and I respect that. I was educated in London and know some about Christians. I will not beat you."

"May I give you my testimony?" asked George politely.

Khalifa nodded.

George told how he had been a thief in India until he was saved by the blood of Jesus Christ which changed his life completely. Now he wanted to share the message about freedom from sin with others so they could have joy also.

Khalifa listened and took notes. Then he shook his head. "Maybe you are sincere, but you are a criminal before the law of Islam. Such a criminal cannot escape the death penalty!"

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who took over Israel?
2. What country was Nebuchadnezzar from?
3. What did Nebuchadnezzar ask the leaders to do?
4. What were the names of Daniel's three friends?
5. What did Daniel ask?
6. How many days did they test Daniel's plan?
7. What was the result after ten days?
8. What unusual ability did God give to Daniel?

Answers: 1. Nebuchadnezzar. 2. Babylon. 3. To pick the best young Hebrews to teach. 4. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. 5. That they just be fed water and herbs. 6. Ten. 7. Daniel and his friends were fatter and better looking than anyone. 8. To understand dreams.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Dec. 5, 2004

THE KING'S NIGHTMARE

With a jolt, Nebuchadnezzar awoke. Another dream! These dreams had been bothering King Nebuchadnezzar and interrupting his sleep. "Call my magicians, astrologers and sorcerers—anyone who can help me find out what my dream means!" commanded King Nebuchadnezzar.

"I have had a terrible dream," King Nebuchadnezzar told the people who had gathered to help him.

"Tell us your dream and we will tell you the meaning," they answered.

"That is the problem! I don't know what my dream was!" King Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed.

When his wise men could not tell him what his dream was, King Nebuchadnezzar was frustrated. "Kill all of these so called wise men," he told the captain of the guard. He did not realize there was one man who God had given the ability to know dreams. Daniel and his friends found out that the king had made a decree to kill them. "Take me to the king. I think God will help me to see what his dream is," Daniel said to the captain of the guard.

"I believe God has let me know what your dream was. You saw a large image. Its head was made of gold; his breast and arms were silver. His hips were brass; his legs were iron, and his feet were part iron and part clay. A stone hit the image's feet and broke them to pieces. The whole body was broken into pieces. The pieces were blown away by the wind. The stone that broke the image became a mountain and filled up the whole earth," Daniel informed the king. "This was your dream, now I will tell you the meaning. God has given you a great kingdom. You are the head of gold. After you, a smaller kingdom and a third kingdom, made of brass, will rule the earth. This kingdom will be divided. In the days of these kings God will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. This is the great stone."

The king was very happy that Daniel could help him. He made Daniel ruler over all of the provinces of Babylon.

—Monica Murphey



"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed:..." Daniel 2:44.



Prison Despair

(Continued from last week.)

Inspector Khalifa looked at George sadly, "The only way I can help you escape the death penalty for your crime is for you to admit your guilt of speaking against the holy Koran, become a Muslim, and plead for mercy for offending the Islamic law. You may be in prison for awhile but you will be able to live."

George stood up. "Become a Muslim!" he exclaimed. "I will not forsake my Lord Jesus Christ who gave me eternal life. He died for me and through His blood I have found freedom from sin. I am ready to die for Him. I have no regrets for what I did."

After a long silence, Khalifa wrote on George's charge sheet, "The accused does not regret his guilt." He handed George the pen. "Sign it," he stated.

George took the pen and signed.

Around 10 o'clock George was taken to a dark cell on the bottom floor of a prison. The guard opened a thick door and shoved George into the small cell with 30 other inmates. The stink of the cell made George gag and he slipped on the wet, slimy floor. In horror he realized he was ankle deep in human waste.

He had been given two lumpy blankets to sleep on the floor. He saw that the other men had used their blankets as a wall against the filth so he scooped aside a place to sit and rest. Though he was tired he could not sleep. Neither did many of the other men. To survive, they told naughty stories and sang filthy songs, cursing and fussing at each other.

"This must be like what men will do in hell," thought George. "I wish I could share the gospel with them, but they seem so hardened."

Day followed night and George was left in this filthy cell. He had no appetite and he struggled to breathe. Songs came to his mind and prayers were in his heart but his lips stayed shut. He

testified to one Pakistani about Jesus. Otherwise George struggled to survive in such filth.

In a few days, George was moved to a smaller cell by himself. He had no chance to clean up so the stink went with him. The darkness and silence was frightening. He lost track of time. The devil said, "You will stay here forever and never see your family again! You did a good job serving the Lord and now look at your reward! He has forsaken you and left you to rot in a stinky prison cell!"

George cried out for help. "O Lord, the bonds of death are about me! Help me, O Lord!"

Suddenly Someone entered the cell. George could see a soft light and he heard a musical voice recite Hebrews 12:1, "We are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

Greatly comforted, George knew Jesus was with him.

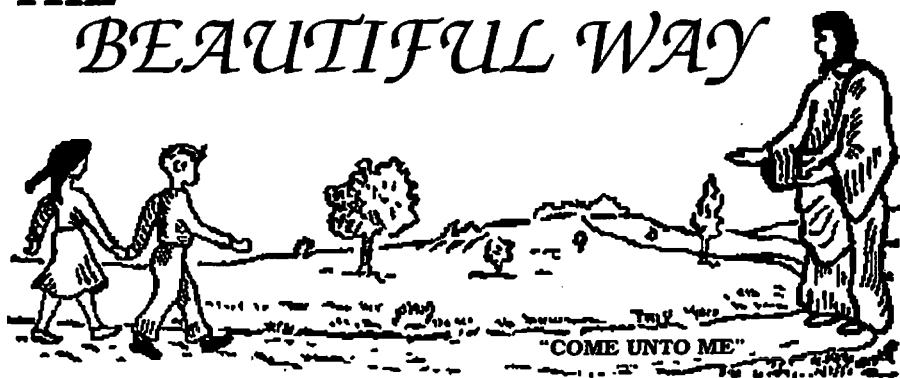
(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What was King Nebuchadnezzar's problem?
2. What question did he ask his wise men?
3. What did his wise men tell him?
4. What did Nebuchadnezzar command the captain of the guard?
5. Who was able to tell the king his dream?
6. What was the great stone?
7. How did this make the king feel?
8. What reward did he give to Daniel?

Answers: 1. He was having bad dreams. 2. What was my dream? 3. That no man could tell dreams, only the meaning. 4. To kill all of the wise men. 5. Daniel. 6. A kingdom set up by God. 7. Happy. 8. He made Daniel ruler over all of Babylon.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 55, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Dec. 12, 2004

A FOURTH MAN IN THE FIRE!

King Nebuchadnezzar made a great image of gold. Then Nebuchadnezzar sent for all of the important leaders of Babylon to come to the dedication of the image. They all came to the great gathering.

"It is commanded to you that when you hear the sound of music, you must fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar set up," a man cried to the people. "If you do not fall down and worship the golden image, you will be cast into a fiery furnace."

The music played and the people bowed down to the golden idol. Some of the king's helpers came to the king. "There are three men who have not obeyed your command. When the music played they would not bow down and worship your statue. They are the Jews that you have set over Babylon," the men informed the king.

The king was angry. "Bring these men to me," he commanded. "Is it true that you will not worship the golden image I have set up?" King Nebuchadnezzar asked Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. "I will give you one more chance. If you do not bow down to the idol when the music is played, I will have you thrown into the fiery furnace."

"We will not serve your gods or worship your golden image," the three Hebrews informed the king.

"Make the fire seven times hotter. Tie these men up and throw them into the fire," the king said.

The three Hebrews were cast into the fire. The king looked at the fire. He looked a little closer. "Did we not throw three men into the fire?" he asked the ones around him. "I see four men walking in the fire, untied and unharmed. The fourth man looks like the Son of God."

The king told his helpers to bring the men to him. The king was amazed! Not a hair on the head of any of the men had been burned! "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! Him only will we worship!" Nebuchadnezzar praised. —Monica Murphey

" He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the forth is like the Son of God." Daniel 3:25.





Gospel Sharing In Prisons

(Continued from last week.)

In time George and John were moved from one prison to another to hear the charges against them in each state since the New Testaments had gone into seven different Arabic states.

They never did see Solomon. So when George and John prayed together, they prayed earnestly for Solomon and his family.

At every prison, George saw starving men living in filth. He became accustomed to the conditions where he could speak to the men. In each prison, someone would ask him why he was a criminal. Then George would give his testimony and tell about Jesus Christ the Saviour. He found men hungry for the Truth. Often there were Arabs, Indians, Pakistanis, Egyptians, and other nationalities in the same cell with George. Not any of them knew Jesus as a Saviour.

Many of the prisoners had stories to tell George. Sad stories of cruelty and neglect. Some of them were angry and bitter about their lives. Some of them just existed, numb to conditions about them. Most of them felt hopeless, unloved and useless.

George and John brought the message of hope to these lost souls. They quoted scriptures from the Bible about Jesus Christ. At every prison where they were, George and John left behind men who were believing and praying to Jesus Christ as their Saviour from sin and Giver of eternal life. Many of them would not live much longer because of starvation and disease in the prisons.

Though George and John were out of touch with the outside world, their families knew the Arab newspapers had many articles about them

and their arrest. The Arabs condemned them and some said they should be hanged, stoned or beheaded. A few of the tracts that they had been sending were even published in the newspaper for all to read and see how "bad" they were. Actually they were spreading the gospel without knowing it.

In India newspapers had picked up on their story but more in their favor. The news of their arrest reached London and America. Wherever Christians heard or read about it, they prayed for George and John's release.

George's cousin, Babichan, and others were talking with government authorities to buy them out of prison. They also used the news coverage to explain that Americans and Britains would be mad at the Arabian government for holding Christians in prison. God was working out His master plan through it all.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar make?
2. What did he command his people to do?
3. Who would not bow down to the idol?
4. What did the three men tell the king?
5. How many times hotter did the people make the fire?
6. Who did the king see in the fire?
7. Why was the king so surprised?
8. Who did Nebuchadnezzar worship?

Answers: 1. A golden statue. 2. Bow to it. 3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 4. They would not worship his idols. 5. Seven. 6. Jesus. 7. Not even a hair on their heads had been burned. 8. The God of the Hebrews.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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PRIDE BEFORE A FALL

"I, Nebuchadnezzar, had a dream which made me afraid. All of the wise men must come before me so that they can tell me the meaning of my dream," a royal proclamation read.

All of the king's wise men came and heard the dream. They did not know what it meant. Daniel was one of the last wise men to see the king. "These were my dreams. I saw a tree that was so very tall it reached heaven. The tree grew and was strong. Animals and birds lived under the tree. Fruit grew on the branches. A man from heaven cried, 'Cut down the tree! Leave the stump in the earth, in the grass of the field. Let him live with the beasts in the grass. Let a beast's heart be given unto him and let seven times pass over him. This will show him that the most High rules in the kingdom of men.' This was the dream I have seen," Nebuchadnezzar related to Daniel.

The king waited for Daniel's answer. "Do not be afraid to tell me what the dream means," the king said.

"O king, this is the interpretation of your dream. The tree that you saw was you. The man that came down from heaven told of things that will happen to you. Your enemies will drive you from men. You will live with the beasts of the field. They will make you eat grass. You will live like a beast for seven years, until you know that God rules in the kingdom of men, and God will give His kingdom to whoever He desires. O king, stop your sins. Be good to the poor," Daniel entreated.

The king walked around his palace. "Is this not a great kingdom I have built?" Nebuchadnezzar bragged.

"O king Nebuchadnezzar, your kingdom is taken from you," a voice from heaven informed the king. Everything that Daniel told the king came to pass. The king lived with the oxen. He ate grass and his hair grew like the eagle's feathers. His nails grew like bird's claws. After seven years Nebuchadnezzar knew that God was the Most High. His kingdom was given back to him, and he praised and worshiped God for His wonders.

—Monica Murphey

“...And he was driven
heaven, till his hairs v



men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of
down like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws." Daniel 4:33.



I Want Them Out!

(Continued from last week.)

"Why are you still keeping them in this country?" boomed a commanding voice over the telephone at the Sharjah prison.

"Who?" asked the prison official, alarmed at the Mulla's tone of voice.

"John and George!"

"Yes, they are here!" replied the official.

"I want them out of Arabia immediately!" commanded the Mulla, who is the supreme ruler and judge of the land. His orders were always carried out right away.

"Yes, sir!" replied the official.

Guards were sent to their cells. Soon John and George appeared, dirty, tired and hungry, expecting to be sentenced to death immediately. Instead the official ordered them to be loaded into a van and taken to the Dubai Airport.

The men felt like Peter the night an angel escorted him out of prison. In numb quickness they obeyed and found themselves surrounded by society people again. George was permitted to visit his old office before loading onto a jet. His old friends did not recognize him because his hair was long, his beard grown out, his clothes smelly, and he was skinny.

"Hello, I am George!" he exclaimed.

In amazement his friends gathered around him, asking questions, glad to see him alive. It was another opportunity to tell about the greatness of Jesus Christ and His saving power. All their friends rejoiced in the victory of their release but there was some sadness because they could never come back to Arabia again.

A big amount of money had been paid for their release and also for their families to leave safely. On March 16, 1983, at 11:00 p.m. the prison chains were taken off of John and George. They were given their passports, plane tickets to Bombay, India, and their bosses gave them work money due to them. They had learned that Solomon was released from prison after serving 18 days. He now was in Bombay waiting for them along with hundreds of other Christians.

Finally, George greeted his wife and two little daughters amid the cheers of his friends. Even the prison guards cheered and said, "Jesus is Lord!" All George had suffered for Jesus Christ seemed as nothing now because he was thankful he had told the gospel to hundreds of hungry souls. After all, giving the gospel is the best gift a Christian can give.

(The end.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What made the king afraid?
2. Who did the king ask to come tell him the meaning of his dream?
3. What did the king see in his dream?
4. What did the voice say to do to the tree?
5. Who did the tree represent?
6. What did Daniel ask the king to do?
7. Did the king's dream come to pass?
8. Did the king realize that God was the Most High?

Answers: 1. A dream. 2. His wise men. 3. A very tall tree. 4. Cut the tree down! 5. King Nebuchadnezzar. 6. To stop sinning and to give to the poor. 7. Yes. 8. Yes.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Shepherds were in the field, watching over their sheep. It was nighttime. Suddenly an angel came to the shepherds. A bright light shown all about him. The shepherds were very afraid.

"Do not be afraid. I have good news, which shall cause joy among all people. A baby has been born in Bethlehem. This baby is our Savior, Christ, the Lord. You will find the baby wrapped in cloth, lying in a manger," the angel told the shepherds.

Many other angels appeared in the night sky. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men," the angels praised.

For many years the people of Israel had looked for a Messiah. Prophets had said that a man would come who would save the people of Israel. The Israelites thought that the Messiah would be their king.

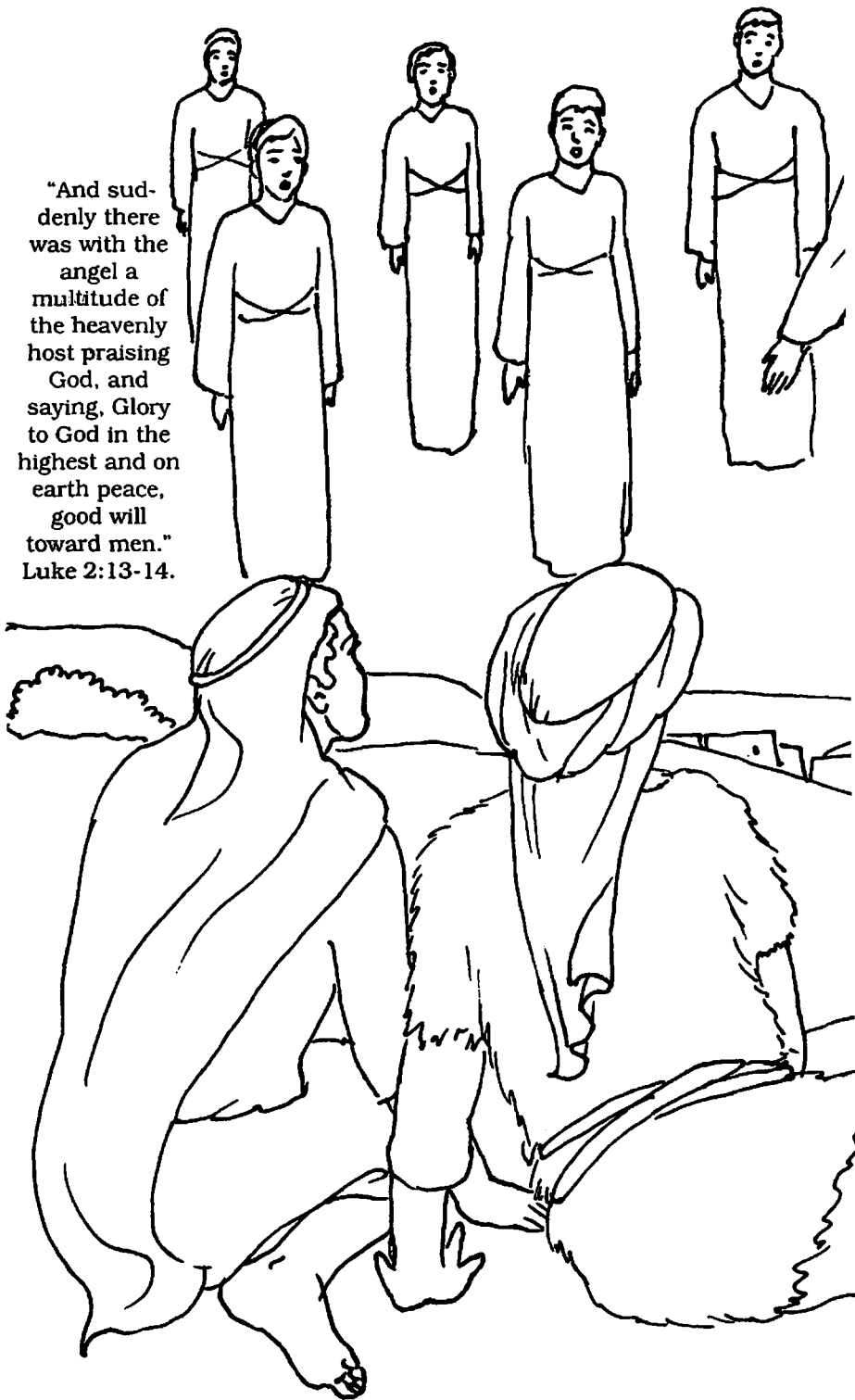
An angel had come to the baby's parents, Mary and Joseph, to tell them that this very special baby was going to be born. The Romans had decreed that every man should go to the city where their family was from. They wanted to know how many people lived in Israel. So Mary and Joseph started the long journey to Bethlehem.

Tired and weary, Mary and Joseph entered the city. Joseph made an inquiry at each inn. "Do you have a place where my wife and I could stay?" Joseph asked over and over. "We have no room," the innkeepers all replied. Finally, one innkeeper allowed Mary and Joseph to stay in his stable. People kept their animals in the stables. But Mary and Joseph were very grateful to have a place to stay.

That night, baby Jesus was born. Baby Jesus was very special. His father on earth was Joseph, but God was His real father. The shepherds were some of Baby Jesus' first visitors. When they had seen the Baby, they hurried and told everyone what had happened to them.

—Monica Murphey

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."
Luke 2:13-14.





Safe To Trust

Mother was in the kitchen stirring pumpkin bread when Linda came in from the cold outside. "Take off your boots, Linda," said Mother. "You have been in the barnyard and your boots are dirty."

"Yes, ma'am," replied Linda as she obeyed. She took off her jacket and washed her hands before sitting down at the kitchen table.

"Mother, Meow has had her kittens in the hay barn and I can't find them," said Linda. "Why does she always hide them from us? I don't want to harm them."

"Well, you will have to win Meow's trust," said Mother. "She is a shy barn cat and she doesn't like noisy children. Let her know you can be quiet and careful."

"So how do I do that?" asked Linda, as she poured herself a glass of milk and took a couple of cookies from the jar.

"Have you ever laid in the hay and been quiet for an hour?" asked Mother. "I think you and your brothers climb the hay bales and holler so much that Meow herself hides from you."

Linda laughed because she remembered seeing Meow peek out from around different hay bales. "I guess she does watch us from a safe distance most of the time," replied Linda. "She looks like a miniature tiger in the wild."

"Take her a little warm milk," said Mother. "Sit very still while she laps it up. Then keep quiet and watch her. She will probably go to her kittens to nurse them. Don't talk, and move quietly. Meow probably won't mind if you are careful around her kittens."

"Okay," said Linda as she finished her milk. After preparing some milk for Meow, she bundled up and went back to the barn. Meow was nowhere to be seen.

"Here kitty-kitty-kitty!" called Linda softly. Meow was such a quiet cat she probably wouldn't hear her.

Suddenly Linda heard a loud cat's angry screech! Then she heard "Fist-Fist." It sounded like a cat fight! Linda hurried outside and around a corner of the barn. There was Meow fighting off a big tom cat!

"You go away!" shouted Linda as she rushed at the male cat. He took off running and Linda chased him off their land. Meow was very grateful and she liked her milk. Linda was quiet while she drank it. When she was done, Meow headed for another place in the barn. Linda watched Meow go in an old car tire. Quietly she peeked in and saw three little kittens snuggled together on a nest of hay.

"What a safe place to hide," whispered Linda as she stroked Meow's head. "I'll help you keep your babies safe from that mean old tom and I will pray for you because no matter what dangers are before us, we can trust the Lord." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did the angel visit?
2. What did the angel tell them?
3. Where was the baby born?
4. What appeared in the sky with the angel?
5. Where were Mary and Joseph traveling?
6. What question did Joseph ask the innkeepers?
7. Where did Mary and Joseph stay?
8. Who were Jesus' earthly parents?

Answers: 1. The shepherds 2. A special baby had been born in Bethlehem. 3. Bethlehem. 4. Many other angels. 5. Bethlehem. 6. "Do you have a place where my wife and I can stay?" 7. In a stable. 8. Mary and Joseph.