

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 July 5, 2009

Israel's First King

Nahesh the Ammonite formed an army and fought against the Israelites in Jabesh. The Ammonites were victorious in battle and wanted to take the people of Jabesh for their slaves. "We will be your servants if you will be willing to have peace with our people," the men of Jabesh promised. "We will be peaceful with you only if we are allowed to take out everyone's right eye," Nahesh replied. "Then you will be humiliated in front of all of the Israelites." "Give us ten days before you do this," pleaded the Israelites. "We will send messengers to all of Israel. If no one comes to save us, we will be your slaves."

Saul had just been anointed king by Samuel. He was working hard in the field watching his animals when he heard the people weeping in sorrow. "Why are you so sad?" Saul asked. The people told Saul what the messengers had said. The news made him feel angry.

He sent messengers to all of the Israelites. "If you do not follow Saul and Samuel, your animals will suffer," Saul threatened. Three hundred thousand men from Israel and thirty thousand men from Judah answered his call. "Tell this to the people of Jabesh," Saul told his messengers. "Tomorrow when the sun is hot you will have help." "If no one comes to help us by tomorrow afternoon, we will be your slaves," the men from Jabesh promised their captors.

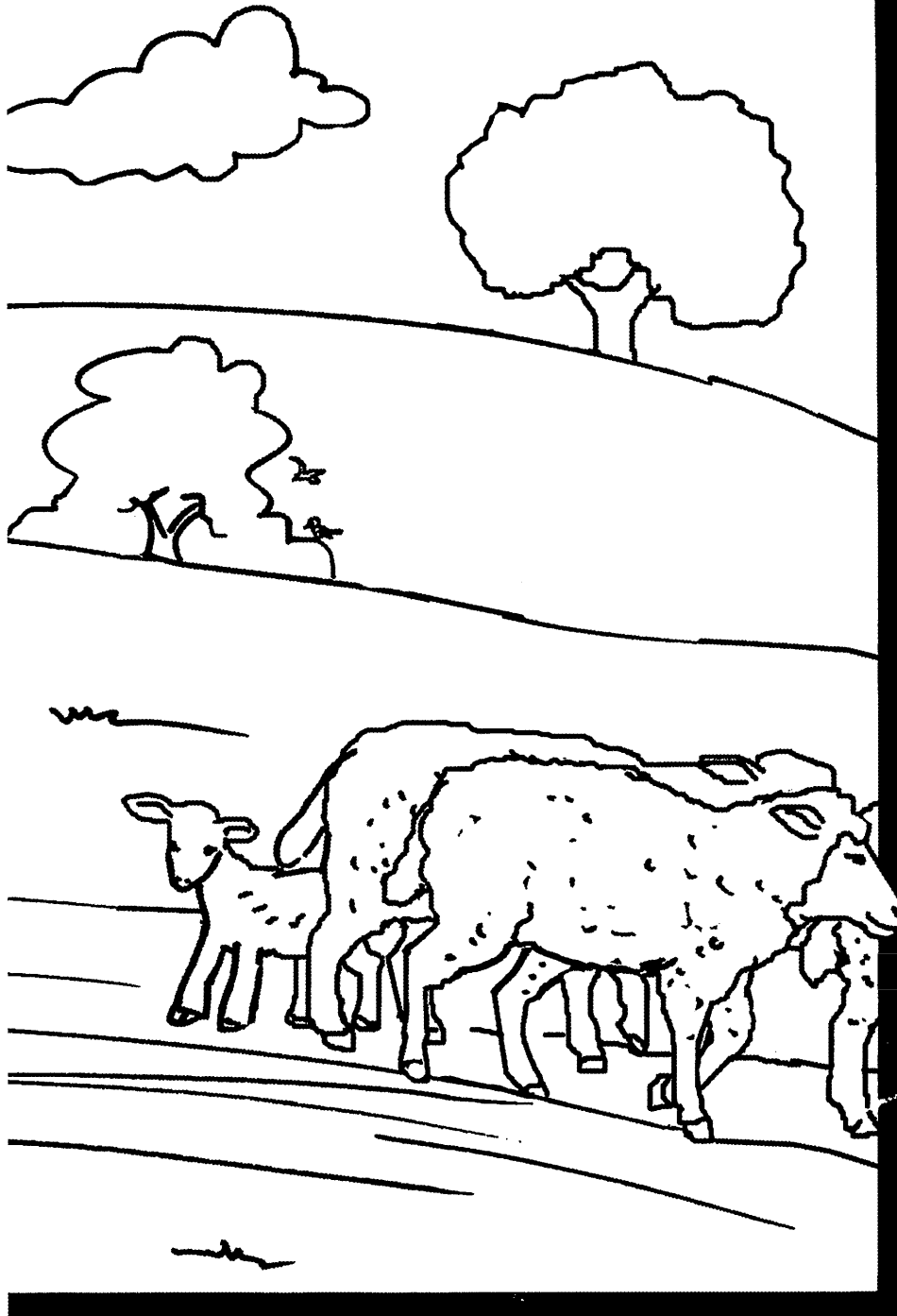
The next morning, Saul divided his men into three different armies. They came into the middle of the Ammonite camp and killed many of the Ammonites. Others ran away. The Ammonite army was so scattered that two Ammonite men could not be found anywhere together. After this victory, Samuel and the Israelites went to Gilgal. The Israelites made Saul king. They offered sacrifices and worshipped the Lord and rejoiced because of their victory.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

" . . . Saul came after the herd out of the field; and



said, What aileth the people . . . ?" I Samuel 11:5



The Fort House

Summer time in the woods behind the Miles house was always a fun place to be. The creek had washed out a hollow in its mud bank and the children helped make it into a cave. They dragged up two wooden flats from Furrows Green Houses down the road and they found some mosquito netting.

"This is going to make a good fort!" exclaimed Damon as he went inside.

"Fort?" said Connie and Kim together.

"This is going to be a playhouse!" Connie informed Damon, Steve, Troy, and Donnie.

"No, it's not!" retorted Damon. "Steve and I dragged those heavy flats and pounded them into place for a roof. You girls only put the mosquito netting on the front which we don't have to have anyway. Now, it is our fort and you all move it!"

"We are NOT going to move," replied Connie angrily.

"No," agreed Kim just as angry. "We helped build this house and we are going to play in it! Connie, let's go tell our dads!"

Damon remembered the last episode with "the dads" so he stuck his head out of the "fort."

"Okay," he agreed. "If you sisters want to keep our fort for us, you can. We guys are going to get some ammunition."

The boys left, so Connie and Kim began to keep house. They put two logs across the bottom of the cave to make seats and they took a bucket, turned it over and made it into a table. They were just sitting down at their table to eat pretend food when the boys came back. They had some black cat firecrackers in their hands.

Kim glared at her big brother, Steve. "YOU know I don't like black cats!" she said. "I'm going to tell Dad!"

"I don't have the black cats," replied Steve as he held out two

empty hands. "Damon is the one with them."

"He's the worst one to have them!" exclaimed Connie. While they were talking, Damon lit a string of black cats.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

Sparks were flying all around the fort. The boys were overjoyed but the girls were angry. Suddenly, one spark hit Kim right on the cheek.

"I'm on fire!" she screamed, jumping around. Connie patted Kim's cheek with her hand while they both hollered and ran toward their houses.

"We won the war! We won the war!" whooped the boys. Their victory was short lived when they saw six parents walking toward the fort.

Damon and Troy's parents took all the firecrackers. Steve's dad scolded the boys for hurting Kim, and all the parents agreed the fort/house was to be shared. The boys could play in it during the morning, and the girls in the afternoon, or they could trade times, but they could NOT play in the fort/house together.

Connie's mother made sure that rule was obeyed which kept any fireworks from going off during tea parties. It wasn't until Connie was grown up that she realized the wisdom in this decision.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who fought against Jabesh?
2. What did the Jabeshites promise?
3. What did Nahesh threaten to do?
4. Where was Saul when he heard the news?
5. How did the news make him feel?
6. What did Saul do?
7. Did the Israelites defeat the Ammonites?
8. What did the Israelites do to Saul?

Answers: 1. Nahesh the Ammonite.

2. To serve the Ammonites, if they were peaceful. 3. Cut out their right eyes. 4. Working in the field. 5. Angry. 6. Formed an army. 7. Yes. 8. Made him king.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 July 12, 2009

A Warning to the Israelites

Samuel watched as the Israelites rejoiced over their newly appointed King Saul. He was disappointed that the people wanted to serve a man instead of serving the Lord. For many years, the Lord had appointed judges to rule over Israel. Samuel had been a judge in Israel for a long time. He had seen the people turn from God and serve false gods. Samuel was worried that this would happen again.

"I am old and gray headed," Samuel told the people. "While I judged Israel, did I ever take anything from you dishonestly? If I have I will return it." "You have never done anything wrong to us," the people answered.

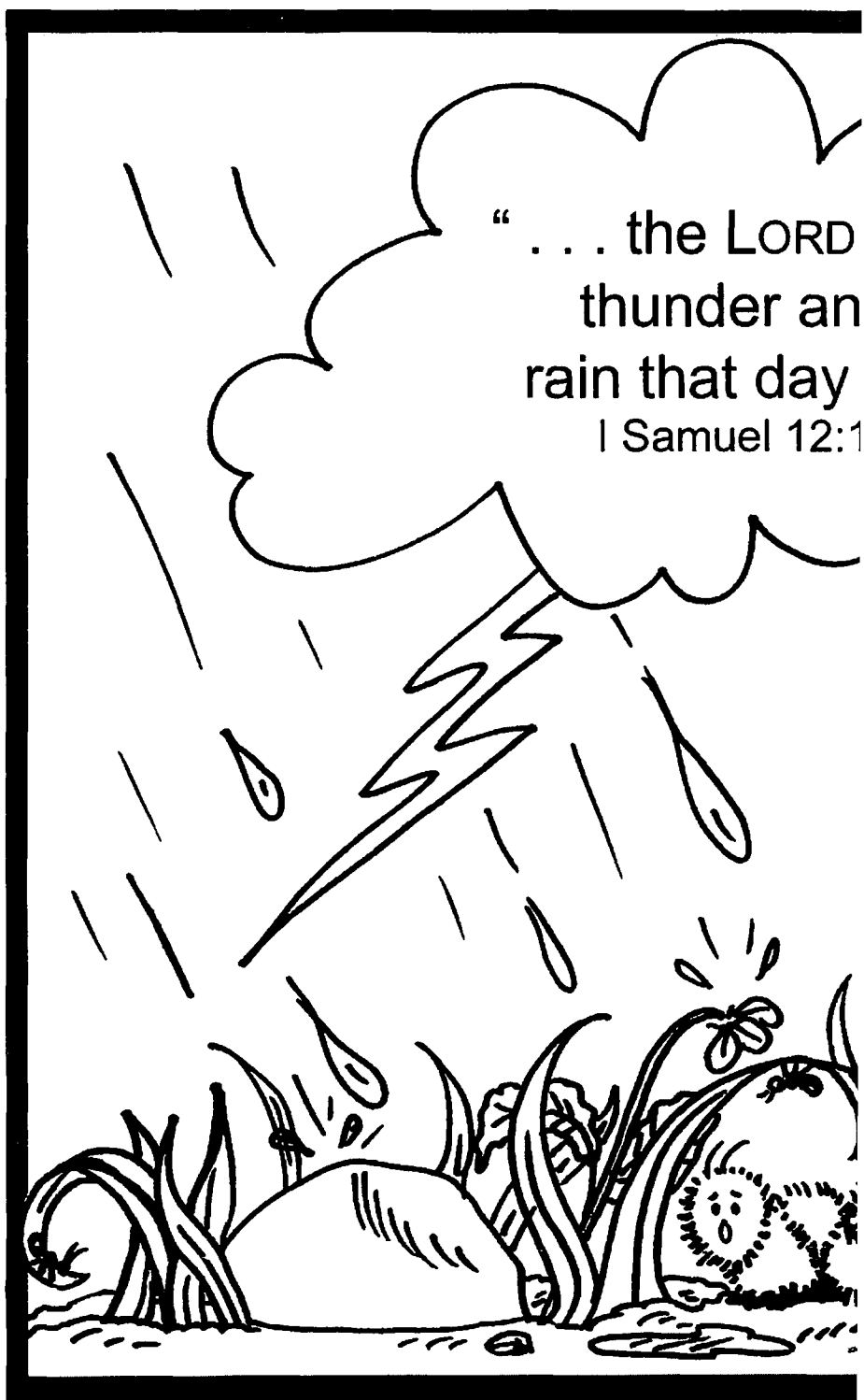
"Let me warn you before the Lord," Samuel said. "The Lord led your ancestors out of Egypt to this place. When the people forgot the Lord, he sold them into the hands of their enemies. Then they cried out for deliverance. The Lord sent judges to help you, and you have lived peacefully. You have cried out for a king, so the Lord has sent a king to rule over you. If you will fear the Lord and honor his commandments, then you and your king will live peacefully. If you do not obey the Lord commands, the Lord's hand will be against you, just as it was against your fathers.

"The Lord will send thunder and rain for a sign," Samuel declared. It only rained certain times of the year in Israel. At this time of the year, it never rained. But suddenly, the skies became gray and the rain and thunder continued all day. The Israelites feared the Lord greatly. "Pray for us," they begged Samuel. "We have made God unhappy by asking for a king."

"You have nothing to fear if you serve the Lord with your whole heart," answered Samuel. "Serve Him in truth and remember the great things He has done for you. Do not continue on in wickedness or you and your king will be punished."

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“... the LORD
thunder and
rain that day
| Samuel 12:1





An Uninvited Visitor

Connie and her two friends, Cara and Kim, were having so much fun playing house in the cave house they had made along the creek bank. The roof was made of wooden flats and the front was mosquito netting. They had layered leaves on the floor so it would not be dirty. They had logs for chairs and a turned over bucket for a table. They used big leaves for plates, and acorn shells for cups. Connie brought her doll, Mary Ann, and let her sleep in a leaf nest.

"Let's go gather some more food," said Cara. "We need some more of these blackberries."

"I'm going to leave Mary Ann here to rest so I won't get berry juice on her," said Connie.

The girls walked along the creek bank to gather what they wanted. It was a lovely warm day with a pleasant breeze blowing through the tree tops above them. Yellow, orange, pink and white butterflies clustered around their favorite flower bushes. Near the flower bushes, Connie could smell their sweetness over the mucky smell of the creek mud. She liked to go barefoot, or wear flip flops where there might be stickers.

"How many berries do we need?" asked Connie. "I can only carry so many in my pockets before they get squishy."

"Just a few," said Cara. "We have such little leaf plates."

Soon the girls walked back to the play house. They walked around the curve in the bank then they stopped dead in their tracks. Right in front of their house was a big black and white skunk! With her nose, she was playing with the mosquito netting!

"Oh, no! Mary Ann is in there!" wailed Connie. "Oh, Lord, please don't let that skunk bother Mary Ann!"

"We don't want that skunk in our house at all!" said Cara.

"What shall we do?" wondered Kim.

They watched the skunk scratch and bite at the netting, trying to raise

it up. Just her body odor was going to make the netting smell. They had to get rid of that skunk!

Together the girls decided to throw their berries by the skunk so she might see them and start eating them. Then they could make her a trail that she could follow away from their house. It was tricky to toss those berries without hitting the skunk, but they did it and the skunk started eating the berries. She started following the trail of berries, straight toward the girls!

Those three girls scrambled up the tall creek bank like scared rabbits and the skunk wobbled contentedly below them on the berry trail. Soon she was out of sight—probably at the same berry bush the girls had just left.

"Whew! She left her stink here!" exclaimed Cara as they entered their house.

"I am thankful Mary Ann is safe," said Connie as she gathered up her doll.

"I hope that skunk doesn't come back!" said Kim.

In her prayer over the berry meal, Connie thanked the Lord for sending that visitor away!

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Why was Samuel disappointed?
2. Who had ruled Israel for many years?
3. What worried Samuel?
4. Why did the Lord put judges over them?
5. What would happen if they honored God?
6. What would happen if they disobeyed God?
7. What did God send for a sign?
8. What did the Israelites ask Samuel to do?

Answers: 1. The people wanted to serve a king instead of God. 2. God through judges. 3. That the people would turn from God. 4. They had cried for help. 5. God would be with them. 6. God would be against them. 7. Thunder & rain. 8. Pray for them.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 July 19, 2009

Saul Disobeys God

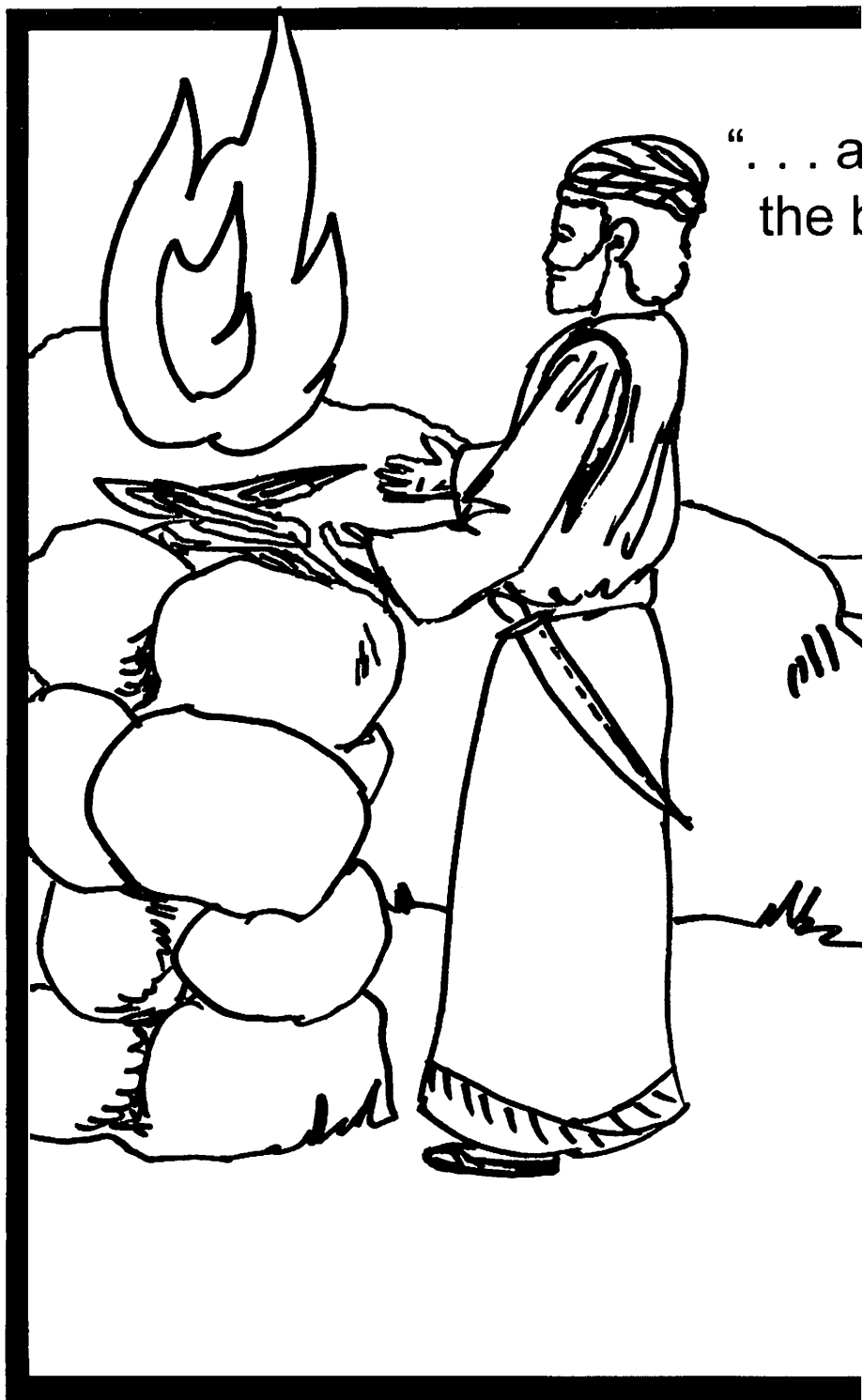
Saul had reigned over Israel for two years. He had two thousand men assembled into an army that was under his command at Michmash and another thousand that his son, Jonathan commanded. Jonathan and his men fought a battle against a garrison that belonged to the Philistines. Jonathan and his men won the battle. Saul sent messengers throughout Israel. They blew loudly on a trumpet and shouted, "Let the Hebrew hear: Saul has defeated a garrison of the Philistines."

This made the Philistines very angry. The Philistines gathered their army together. There were thirty thousand chariots, six thousand horseman, and as many people as the sand that is on the sea shore. They marched towards Israel and set up camp. The men of Israel were afraid when they saw the Philistine army. Some of them ran away. Others hid in caves, thickets, rocks, high places, and in pits.

Saul stayed in Gilgal with his men. King Saul's men were very afraid. Samuel had given King Saul specific instructions from the Lord. Saul was supposed to stay in Gilgal until Samuel came. Then Samuel would offer sacrifices to God.

Saul waited for Samuel and watched as his men trembled and hid in fear. Finally he decided he couldn't wait for Samuel any longer. "Bring the sacrifice to me and I will offer it to the Lord," Saul said. As soon as he was finished burning his sacrifice, Samuel walked in to his camp. King Saul went out to greet him. "Why did you do this?" Samuel asked. "When we heard that the Philistines were coming, many of my men ran in fear," King Saul replied. "I did not want to face the Philistines in battle without making a sacrifice." "You have been foolish," Samuel reprimanded. "You did not obey the Lord's commandment. Now your kingdom will not last. The Lord will look for someone else who will obey Him and follow His commandments to be captain over His people."

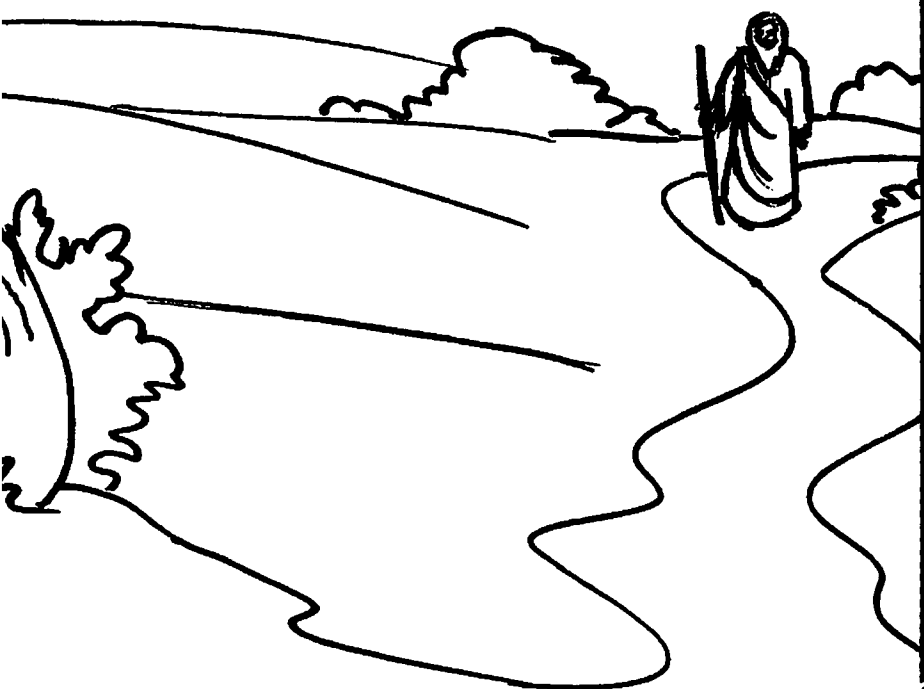
—Sis. Monica Murphey



“... a
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... as he had made an end of . . .
... offering . . . Samuel came . . .”

I Samuel 13:10



The New Dog

The Miles family decided they wanted a dog. They were going to get a German Shepherd dog from Bro. Kenneth Probst who lived in Vinita, OK.

While the family was in the car on the way to their house, Connie dreamed of training this dog to be her close companion. He would walk right beside her and whenever someone even talked angry at her, her dog would growl. She giggled thinking about Damon and how he would run in terror should she decide to sic her dog on him. Yes, this dog was going to really help her gain respect from the boys.

When they arrived, the families were glad to see each other. Sis. Laverna Probst had made a nice meal of fried chicken and mashed potatoes. Connie and Cindy talked with Anita and Vonda, who were cousins younger than Connie. Donnie and Lonnie stayed with the men because there were no boys to play with.

Soon Connie realized the men were going to look at the puppies. She was ready to go also—Donnie wasn't going to see her puppy first! At first, the mama dog wasn't happy to see visitors around her babies. Bro. Kenneth had to let her out of the pen.

"As you can see she is a very good watch dog," said Bro. Kenneth. "I think she roamed with the wolves some at night and I have wondered if her pups aren't half wolf. That's why I don't plan on registering this litter."

Wow! thought Connie. I will have my own personal WOLF to protect me!

"Do you have any males?" asked Daddy. "We don't want puppies later on."

"If you want a good watch dog, you want a female," said Bro. Kenneth. "I'll tell you that girl right there is already barking and growling. She will make a good watch dog."

Connie went to the puppy Bro. Kenneth pointed to and patted her head. She did growl, but Connie talked to her and the dog wagged her tail. She was black with silver feet and silver marks—really pretty!

"Here, girl!" called Donnie to the puppy.

"She isn't coming because she likes me," said Connie.

"Here, Connie, I want to look at her," said Daddy. "She will be the family dog, not just one person's dog."

Donnie made a face at Connie and she wished she could make that puppy sic him. Some day soon that dog would be obeying her!

That evening Daddy paid \$50.00 for the puppy of Connie's dreams. Lonnie and Cindy were not very fond of her moving jaws and wagging tail, but Donnie kept getting in the way of Connie's training. Every time she just about had the puppy sitting, Donnie called her to him.

"How are we going to take this dog back home in the car?" Donnie asked Daddy.

"We will put a plastic sheet on the floor in the back and tie her down so she won't jump around."

Connie was shocked. Daddy must really want this dog to let it ride in his car! But then, how else was she going to go home with them? The ride home was rough but Connie just knew her dog was going to learn fast.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who defeated the Philistine garrison?
2. How did the Philistines react to this?
3. What did the Israelites do when they saw the army?
4. Why did King Saul stay in Gilgal?
5. What did King Saul decide to go ahead and do?
6. Who was supposed to make sacrifices?
7. Why was God displeased with Saul?
8. What was Saul's punishment?

Answers: 1. Jonathan & his men. 2. They prepared for battle. 3. Many ran & hid. 4. Samuel told him to. 5. Make a sacrifice. 6. Samuel. 7. He disobeyed God's commands. 8. His kingdom would not last.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 July 26, 2009

Jonathan is Victorious

"Come with me to the Philistine's garrison," Jonathan said to his armor bearer. "The Lord may deliver the Philistines to us," Jonathan said. "He can work through two men just as he can through many." "Do what your heart tells you," Jonathan's armor bearer said. "I will go with you." Saul and a company of six hundred men were resting in Gibeah underneath a pomegranate tree. Jonathan and his armor bearer left the camp without King Saul's knowledge.

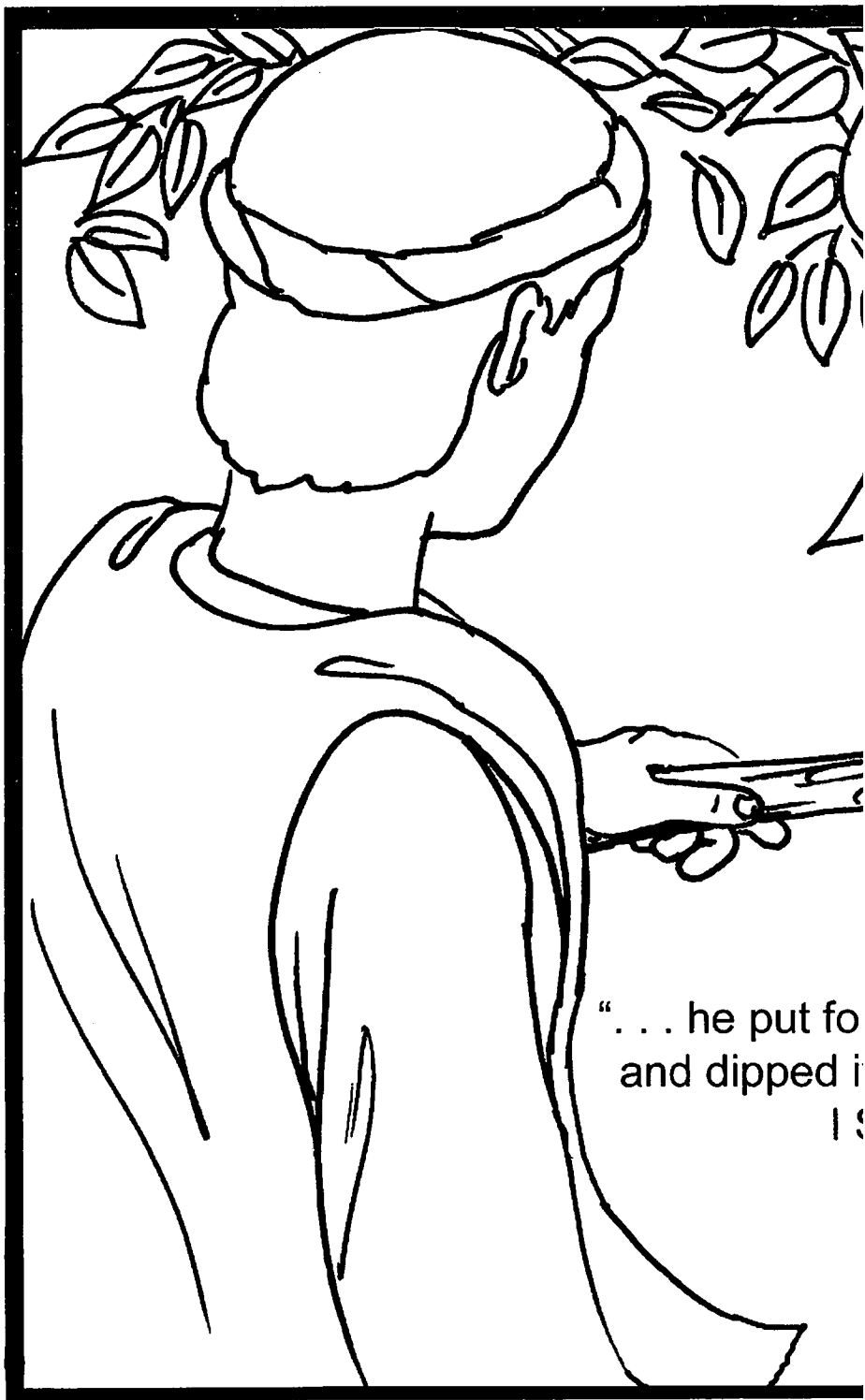
"If the Philistine guards tell us to wait, then we will not go into their camp," Jonathan explained his plan. "If they say to come and visit them, then we will go in. This will be a sign that the Lord has delivered them into our hand."

Jonathan and his armor bearer approached the men guarding the garrison. "Come in, we have something to show you," they invited. Jonathan and his armor bearer killed all twenty of the men that were in the fort. Other Philistines were very afraid when they heard the news.

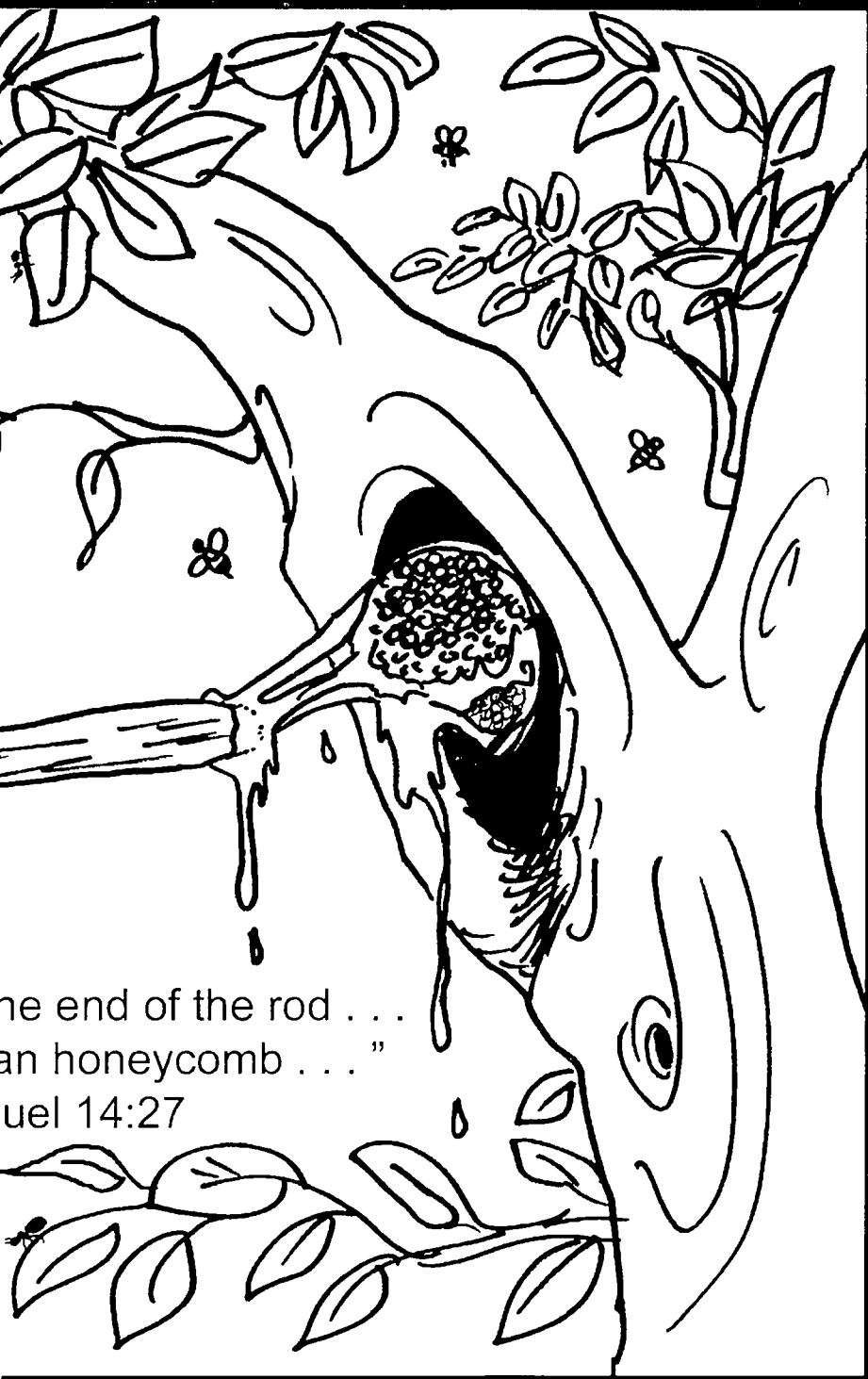
Meanwhile, King Saul's spies brought back an amazing report. There was confusion in the Philistine camp. Many of the men were running in fear. Saul quickly counted his men. They discovered that Jonathan and his armor bearer were missing. The Israelites ran after the Philistines. The men who had hid in fear came out to join the battle.

King Saul made a decree that no one should eat until the Philistines were defeated. Jonathan did not hear about his father's command. He found some wild honey and ate it off of the honeycomb. Jonathan felt much better. Saul made sacrifices and prayed for advice from God. God did not answer. "Someone has sinned," Saul decided. When Saul found out what Jonathan had done, he said, "Jonathan must die." "Why should Jonathan die?" the people protested. "He has saved Israel and worked with God today." King Saul spared Jonathan's life because of the people's words.

-Sis. Monica Murphey



“... he put fo
and dipped i



the end of the rod . . .
an honeycomb . . . ”
uel 14:27

The New Dog Trouble

The Miles family discussed a name for their new dog on the way home from Vinita, Oklahoma. She was not happy about the ride home. She howled and wiggled as much as she could between four sets of legs and the back seat.

"I think she should be called Barker," said Lonnie above her barks.

"No, call her Frisky," said Donnie. "That's more of a girl's name."

"Don't let her get on me," said Cindy. "She likes to bite!"

"I'm watching her," replied Connie. "She likes to chew, Cindy, not bite."

"Well, just keep her teeth away from me," said Cindy.

"We could call her Chewer," said Donnie.

Connie frowned. "You don't know how to name dogs," she told Donnie. "That one puppy we had you named Puddles because you had to clean up his puddles in the garage. That was a dumb name for a dog. We need to name this dog something pretty because she is a beautiful girl."

"Okay, what do you want to name her?" asked Daddy as he drove.

Connie thought for a while. She may have even prayed. Then she said, "I think we ought to call her Misty. She has a silver, misty shine in her black fur."

"That sounds like a good name," replied Daddy. "Do we want to call her Misty?"

"Sounds fine with me," said Mama. She wasn't very excited about having a new dog to look after.

Connie was determined to train Misty so that all the family would be proud of her, including Mama. Late that night Daddy and Connie tied Misty to the clothes line in the back yard. They fed her and left water in a dish nearby. Misty was not impressed. She whined and howled most of the night. Connie had to check on her constantly which meant by morning, she was very tired. Finally, Misty got

quiet and Connie fell into a deep sleep in the early morning.

Suddenly, Mama was standing by her bed gently shaking her shoulder. "Wake up, Connie. Your dog is loose and she is in the neighbor's yard! Get dressed and go get her now!"

Oh, no! Connie slowly rolled out of bed and rubbed her eyes. "Have Donnie get Misty," she said. "Daddy said Misty is a family dog."

"Donnie is trying to get Misty," said Mama. "She won't mind him. Hurry and get dressed and get your dog."

This made Connie move faster. I'll get Misty to mind me, she thought.

Soon she was outside looking for Misty, which didn't take too long—she could hear Misty barking and Donnie calling in the neighbor's yard across the street. Misty did not want to mind Connie either. When Connie pulled on her collar to lead her home, she snapped at her.

"You bad girl!" scolded Connie. She pulled Misty home and double tied her to the clothes line. "Now I'm going to feed you and you must be quiet! Aren't you sleepy? I am!"

Connie thought Misty's barking sounded like a NO.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Where did Jonathan want to go?
2. Who did Jonathan take with him?
3. Did King Saul know Jonathan left?
4. What would be a sign to go in?
5. What happened to the other Philistines?
6. What did King Saul decree?
7. What did Jonathan do wrong?
8. Why was Jonathan's life spared?

Answers: 1. The Philistine garrison. 2. His armor bearer. 3. No. 4. If the guards said come in. 5. They were confused & ran in fear. 6. Not to eat anything. 7. Ate honey. 8. The people pleaded for him.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Aug. 2, 2009

God Is Unhappy with Saul

While Moses was leading the children of Israel out of Egypt to Canaan, Amalek came up from Egypt and attacked them. When Moses held up his hands during the battle, the Israelites beat the Philistines, but when his hands fell to his sides, the Philistines won. After this battle, Moses built an altar to God. Moses said, "The Lord has promised that He will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

The Lord spoke to Samuel. He remembered what Amalek had done to the Israelites. God commanded Saul to destroy Amalek and everything in his kingdom. Saul and his army fought the Amalekites and won. Saul spared Agag, the king, out of the Amalekites, but all of the other Amalekites were killed in battle. The Israelites also took the best animals and all that was good back to Israel.

The Lord was not pleased. God told Samuel, "I am sorry that I made Saul to be king. He has turned his back from Me and refuses to obey." Samuel met with Saul. "You are the Lord's blessed," Saul praised. "I have done everything God has told me to do."

"Then why do I hear the bleating of sheep?" Samuel asked. "The people have brought them from the Amalekites," Saul replied. "The Lord told you to destroy everything of the Amalekites," Samuel rebuked.

"And I have obeyed what the Lord commanded," Saul said. "I have destroyed the Amalekites, and brought back the king. The people brought back the oxen and the sheep to sacrifice to God."

Samuel answered, "To obey God's word is better than to sacrifice, and to listen to God's voice is better than the best meats. Because you have disobeyed the Lord, He has rejected you from being king."

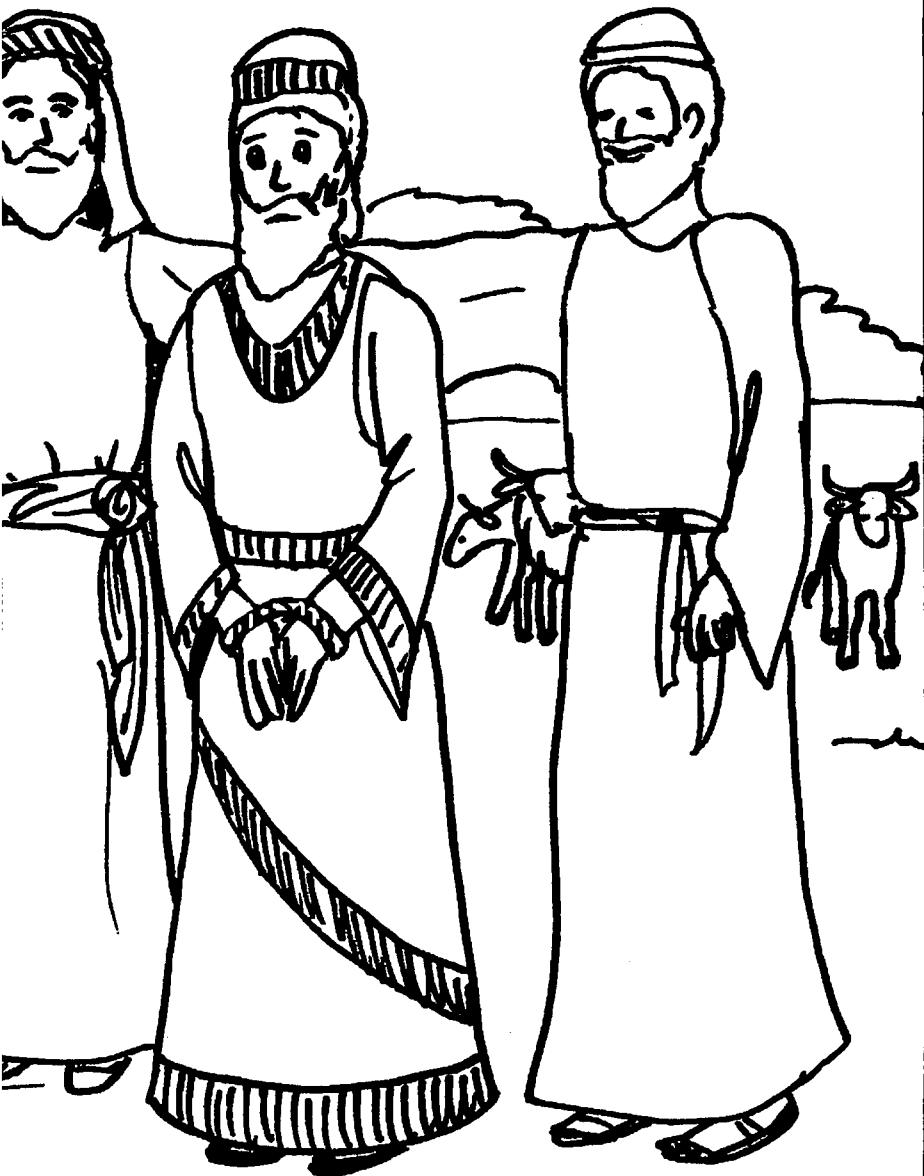
Saul said, "I have sinned. I have disobeyed God's commands. Forgive me, please, and come with me, so that I may worship the Lord." Samuel tore his clothes. "The Lord has taken away the kingdom of Israel from you today, just as I have torn my clothes apart." Saul was truly sorry. "I have sinned. Please help me, that I may worship God again." Samuel could see that Saul meant his words, so Saul was again able to worship the Lord. The Lord remembered Saul's disobedience, and was still unhappy that Saul was king.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“But Saul . . . spared Agag, and . . .



“All that was good . . .” | Samuel 15:9



Training Misty

Misty, Connie's new dog, was definitely a stubborn dog. She would act lazy and tired when Connie tried to teach her things, like sit and fetch a stick. She knew what Connie wanted, but she acted like it didn't matter whether she minded or not. Misty would lay down on her tummy and look at Connie with a teasing Make-me-do-it look. This tried Connie's patience very much.

Connie went to talk to Mama about it, who was at her sewing machine making a dress for Cindy. "Mama, how do you make someone mind you? I've tried everything with Misty and she still won't listen to me."

"Well, what method are you using?" asked Mama as she stopped her sewing machine to look at Connie.

"What do you mean?" asked Connie. "I just ask her to do things, and she won't do it so I can reward her. That means I have to punish her most all the time."

"Maybe you need to spend some fun time with her before you start training her," said Mama. "You can command someone by love and respect, or by fear and punishment. I think it is best to train by love and respect."

"Okay, so how do I do that?" asked Connie.

"Do nice things for Misty," replied Mama. "You see, I am making your sister a dress that she wants. This will cause a bond of love between us and she will obey me much better if she knows I cared enough for her to sew her a dress."

"With Misty, find out where she likes to be patted and rubbed. Give

her treats when she puts her head on your lap. Do kind things for her. Remember, we reap what we sow. Show love and respect to Misty, and she should respond back."

Connie was pleased with Mama's advice. "Thank you, Mama!" she said and hurried outside to love and respect Misty right away.

Misty had already trained herself to lay down on her tummy and cock her head at Connie when she saw her coming. This meant, "Don't make me fetch a stick" or "I'm not sitting for you."

Connie ignored her cockiness and sat down beside her to pat her head and rub her back. Misty was surprised and laid her head on Connie's lap. Oops! Connie had forgotten to have a treat in hand so she jumped up to get one.

Soon Connie learned that Mama was right. Misty did like to be loved and given treats no matter what. In time, she saw she was winning Misty's respect. However, Misty had other bad habits that got her into trouble. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Why did God tell Saul to destroy the Amalekites?
2. Who won the battle?
3. Did Saul obey God and destroy all of the Amalekites?
4. What else did the Israelites take?
5. Did this make God happy?
6. What did Samuel tell Saul?
7. How did this make Saul feel?
8. Was Saul still allowed to worship God?

Answers: 1. The Amalekites treated the Israelites badly. 2. The Israelites. 3. No. 4. All that was good. 5. No. 6. "Obedience is better than sacrifice." 7. Sad. 8. Yes.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Aug. 9, 2009

A New King is Anointed

The Lord spoke to Samuel. "How long will you sorrow over King Saul? Since he has disobeyed me, Saul will no longer be king over Israel. Take your oil. Go to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem. One of his sons will be the next king." Samuel was afraid Saul would find out and kill him for anointing someone else king, but Samuel obeyed God.

Samuel met with Jesse's sons in Bethlehem. They were so strong and handsome. Samuel looked at Jesse's son, Eliab. Surely he was the one. God said, "Do not pay attention to what they look like on the outside. Man sees what they look like on the outside. I see what they look like in the heart."

Seven of Jesse's sons came before Samuel. "No, none of these are the ones. Are all of your children here?" Samuel asked.

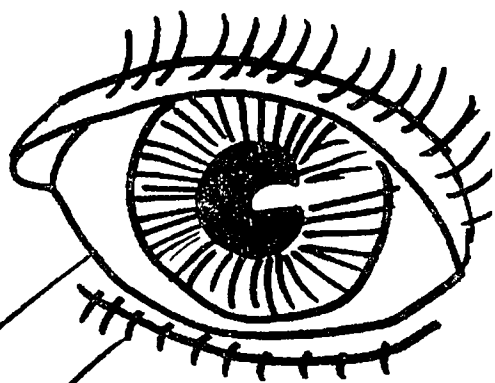
"There is still the youngest. He is watching the sheep." Jesse told Samuel. "Go and get him," Samuel replied. "I will not sit down until he comes."

Jesse's youngest son was brought in. He was also very handsome. The Lord told Samuel, "Go and anoint him, for he is the one to be king."

Samuel took his oil and anointed David. God's spirit stayed with David from then on. But God's spirit had departed from King Saul. The Lord sent an evil spirit to trouble him. "Find a man who can play the harp," Saul's servants advised. "Maybe it will help you be calm when this evil spirit comes on you." "One of Jesse's sons in Bethlehem is a very talented musician," one of Saul's servants said. "The Lord is with him." Saul sent messengers to Jesse, saying, "Send David to me." King Saul came to love David. David became his armor bearer. Whenever the evil spirit came upon King Saul, David would play his harp. This always made King Saul feel refreshed.

—Sis. Monica Murphey





“ . . . man looketh
on the outward
appearance,
but the LORD
looketh
on the heart.”
I Samuel 16:7

Misty and the Nights

"Let's build a dog house for Misty," said Daddy on a pleasant Saturday morning. "We need to put her down by the woods so she won't tear up the flower beds, and maybe her barking won't bother the neighbors so much."

"I've tried to train her to stay out of the flower beds," said Connie. "but she lays on the wet ground where the flowers are watered to stay cool. It makes her all muddy."

"It makes your mama unhappy," said Daddy. "We don't want the cook upset, you know. Misty likes her gravy on her food just like we do!"

"We had better start building!" agreed Connie.

Daddy had bought some lumber, shingles, and nails for the job. All four of the Miles children helped Daddy to make this the best dog house ever. Mama brought snacks to them while they were working so hard and she was happy to see it done.

"If that dog will stay away from my tomato vines for a while, I might get them to grow a few more tomatoes," Mama said. She mixed vegetable plants among her flowers and claimed their blooms were just as pretty.

"Maybe we will have some quiet nights without her howling at our back door," said Daddy.

The family brought Misty down the hill by the woods to her new home. She played around the house and looked inside, but she did not really want to go in. Connie and Donnie took turns showing Misty how to crawl in and out of her house, but she wasn't interested in following their example.

"She will learn to like it," said Daddy as he drove in the big stake that anchored down Misty's chain. However, Misty did not want to learn to like it. She liked sitting on top of

the dog house instead. That night, she set her pattern of sitting on the dog house and howling at the moon.

Around midnight, the phone rang, but it did not wake any one up because no one could sleep. It was Mrs. Jones who lived next door. "Mr. Miles? Is that your dog? I can't sleep because of her howling. If you don't get that dog to hush, I am calling the police!"

"I'm sorry," said Daddy. "I will try to get her quiet."

Daddy rolled up a newspaper as he walked down the hill and to the woods where Misty was waiting to greet him from on top of her dog house. She stopped barking and howling and wagged her tail in greeting. Daddy found it hard to swat her when she was so glad to see him. He scolded her about being noisy, then walked from the woods, up the hill to the back door where the family was watching. As soon as Daddy came inside, Misty started barking and howling again.

Everyone sighed. Connie didn't want the police to come and arrest Misty! She began to pray for her dog.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did God tell Samuel to do?
2. How did this make Samuel feel?
3. Where did Jesse live?
4. What did God tell Samuel about Jesse's sons?
5. Where was Jesse's youngest son?
6. What was his name?
7. Who did the Lord choose to be the next king?
8. What did God tell Samuel to do to David?

Answers: 1. Go to find the next king. 2. Afraid. 3. Bethlehem. 4. Not to look at the outward appearance. 5. Watching his sheep. 6. David. 7. David. 8. Anoint him with oil.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Aug. 16, 2009

Goliath is Slain

David was at home watching 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 with 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 one 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? How dare he 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.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



e battle is the LORD'S . . . ”

I Samuel 17:47



Helping Misty Through the Night

Misty was really unhappy with her dog house down by the woods. She would not go inside, even when it rained. She slept beside it during the day when the dark shade of the woods kept her cool from the hot sun. Then at night she sat on top of the house and barked or howled.

It became a game to her with Daddy going out in the night to swat her with a rolled up newspaper. She would whine at his scolding, but as soon as he was inside the house, she would start barking again. By now Mrs. Jones was not the only neighbor calling the Miles family in the night.

Connie thought Misty's barking and howling sounded so lonesome. She prayed for Misty. Finally, she decided what she should do. She slipped on her flip flops, grabbed up her pillow, and snuck out the back door. Connie hurried down the hill and to the black woods where Misty waited for her.

"I will spend the night with you, ole girl," she whispered as she patted her head. She was careful to put her pillow on the side of the dog house away from sight of her home. Connie laid down in the dirt and put her head on her pillow which was also on dirt. Misty laid down beside her and was quiet.

It worked! thought Connie, though she didn't know if she could sleep on such hard dirt. The mis-quotes were buzzing and biting very badly also. However, she took comfort in knowing Misty was quiet.

Suddenly a hoot owl hooted and swung down over the dog house with her big wings spread wide. Misty jumped up and began to howl no matter what Connie said or did

to try to make her stop. Then she heard the back patio door slide open and knew Daddy was coming out to scold Misty again. He would also scold Connie too!

Where could she hide? The woods! While Daddy was walking down the hill, she ducked and rushed behind a big tree. She watched him scold Misty and leave. Poor Misty! She could not tell Daddy that a big hoot owl had scared her! Connie went back to Misty to comfort her and Misty was quiet for a while.

Then a rabbit ran in front of the dog house and Misty started barking again. Connie couldn't stop her. Misty pulled at her chain, trying to get the rabbit. Why was she so active at night? Connie prayed in her heart that some way Misty would learn to be quiet at night. She could not sleep outside every night and really it wasn't keeping Misty totally quiet. What were they going to do? —Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did David's father tell him to do?
2. What Philistine scared the Israelites?
3. What rewards would be given to the man who killed Goliath?
4. Why did Saul think David could not kill Goliath?
5. What two animals had David killed?
6. What weapons did David use to fight Goliath?
7. What did Goliath do when he saw David?
8. Did David kill Goliath?

Answers: 1. Go see how his brothers were. 2. The giant, Goliath. 3. Riches and Saul's daughter for a wife. 4. He was just a boy. 5. A lion and a bear. 6. Five stones and a sling. 7. Laughed. 8. Yes.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Aug. 23, 2009

David is Married

Saul watched as David killed Goliath. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they ran. The Israelites followed the Philistines and killed many of them. "Whose son is this?" King Saul asked as he watched David fight the Philistines. No one could tell King Saul who David was. Finally, David was brought before Saul. "I am the son of your servant, Jesse," David told him.

David and Jonathan soon became good friends. David did whatever Saul asked him to do and behaved himself very wisely. Saul placed David over all of the army. 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. "They say David has killed ten thousands and I have killed but thousands," Saul grumbled. "What is left for David to take from me but my kingdom?"

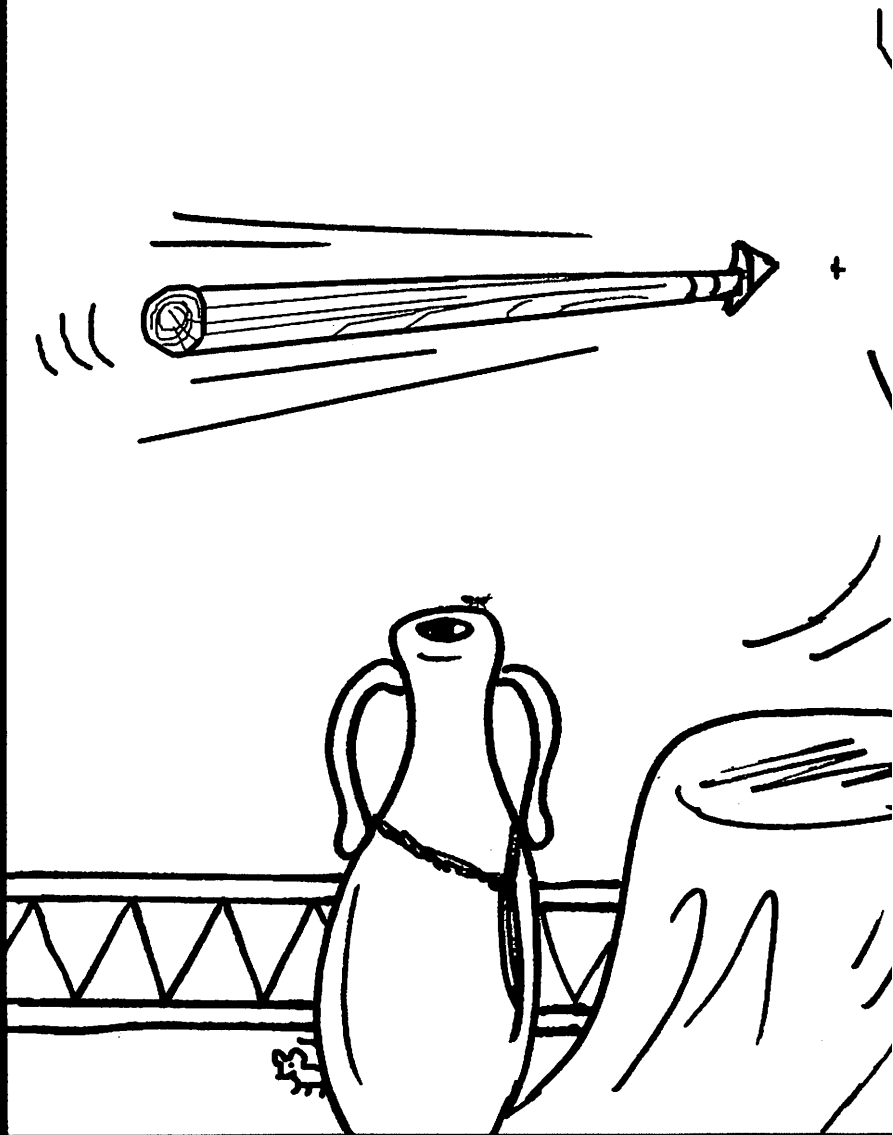
The next day, an evil spirit came upon Saul. David came to Saul and played his harp. Saul remembered the words the women sang. He threw a spear at David, hoping to kill him. The spear hit the wall.

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 his daughter would help him trick David and kill him. David and Michal got married. The king had a new son-in-law.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“And Saul cast the javelin .



I Samuel 18:11



The New Fort/House Location

A flooding rain did damage to the fort/house on the creek bank in the woods by the Miles house. The pounding rain broke down the wooden skids and the rushing creek water washed away the netting. After the creek went down, the children tried to repair the fort/house, but the water had reshaped the creek bank and would not hold up the skids.

"Let's find us another place to play," said Connie.

"How about checking out that pile of dead trees at the end of the woods," said Damon. So the children walked down to where a bull dozer had pushed over several trees to make a clearing at the Walnut Street bridge. They climbed over the big trunks and checked out nooks and cubby holes that might make a good fort or house. Neighbor children up the street on Walnut heard them playing and came to join them. Mostly it was the four Bowman children, three brothers and a little sister nicknamed BB. She had curly red hair and freckles sprinkled across her nose. Connie liked to protect her from her bossy big brother, Mark.

"BB, you want to come with me and get my dog, Misty? She would love to play in this pile of trees!" said Connie.

"BB is supposed to stay with me," Mark told Connie. "Besides, we don't want your howling dog over here."

Connie didn't reply. She just took off walking to get Misty. Mark does not want Misty there because she is such a better dog than his old white German Shepherd dog, she thought. Misty was glad to be free from her chain. She jumped and ran ahead of Connie toward the tree pile.

She knows just where I want

her to go, thought Connie. She is so smart.

Misty did like the tree pile. She climbed around and found a den where a fox or some animal was living. The girls set up house among the leaves and branches of the trees, and the boys liked the big trunks for fort walls.

Time passes quickly when having fun and soon it was supper time. Daddy was home and supper was ready when the Miles children came in to wash up. Connie hurried to set the table.

"Connie, there is a tick crawling on your arm," said Mama. The children told about the tree pile and the wonderful fort and play house they had made in them. Mama was not impressed. "All of you need a bath tonight and check for ticks," she said. "Misty probably has ticks all over her. I don't think that tree pile is the best place to play."

The children disagreed, but later, they learned Mama was right.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Why did the Philistines run from battle?
2. Who became good friends with David?
3. Why was Saul angry with David?
4. What did King Saul throw at David?
5. What did Saul promise David?
6. Did King Saul keep his promise?
7. Who did David marry?
8. What did King Saul think his daughter would do?

Answers: 1. Their leader was dead.
2. Jonathan. 3. People gave David credit for killing many. 4. A spear.
5. His daughter, Merab, to marry.
6. No. 7. Michal. 8. Help him trick David.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Aug. 30, 2009

Michal Tricks King Saul

King Saul was very angry with David. David was a hero in Israel because he had helped defeat the Philistine army. King Saul had tried to kill David twice with his spear, but David escaped. Now King Saul told his servants and his son Jonathan that they must kill David. 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 once again considered a hero to the Israelites. This made King 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.

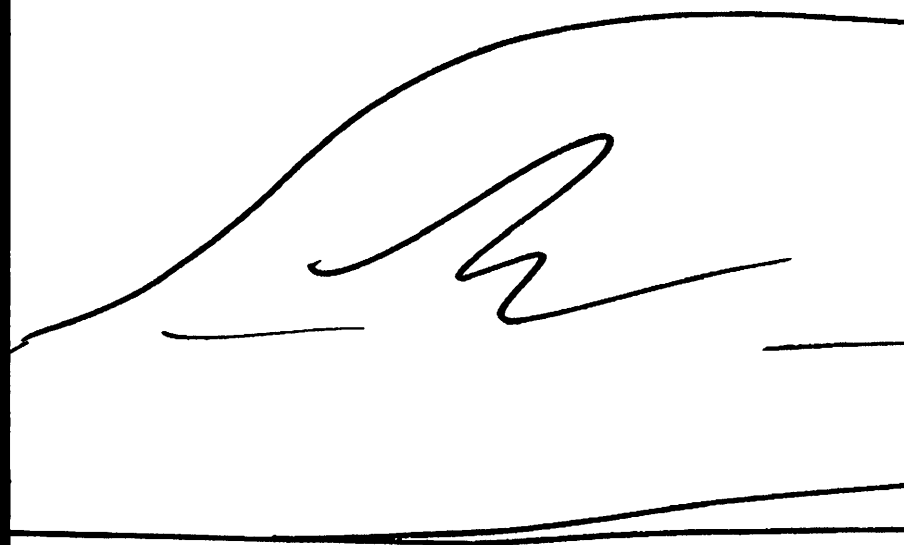
Saul sent servants to David's house, to kill David the next morning. "If you do not escape tonight, they will kill you tomorrow," Michal, David's wife, said. Using pillows and goats hair, Michal made it look like David was still asleep in bed. Then David escaped through a window.

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.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“ . . . Michal took an image,
laid it in the bed . . . ” I Samu





d

9:13



Changes for Misty

"Next weekend starts my two week vacation," Daddy told the Miles family while they were eating supper around the dining room table. "How about if we went camping around Table Rock Lake?"

"That sounds fine to me," replied Mama.

"Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!" cheered all four of the children. They loved the feel of everyone sleeping in their tent; the taste of camp stove cooking; and the fun of swimming in the lake.

"We need to get our things prepared and packed this week," said Daddy.

Connie was excited and ready to help pack, and then she remembered Misty.

"Who is going to take care of Misty, Daddy?" she asked. "I wish we could take her with us."

"Not me!" disagreed Donnie. "We want to get away from that howling hound. You haven't done a very good job in training your dog."

"She is doing better," Connie defended Misty. "How would you like to be away from your mama in a dark, spooky woods all night?"

"I don't think I would howl about it," replied Donnie. "Look, you might as well admit that dog is too wild and dumb to be taught to be quiet."

"That isn't true!" Connie disagreed.

"Hey, stop the fussing," said Daddy. "Let me tell you what I have been planning to do. Bill, this guy at work, lives 'way out in the country. I asked him if he would like to keep Misty for us and see if she likes the country."

"Oh, Daddy, you aren't giving Misty away?" wailed Connie. All her dreams for Misty came tumbling down in her mind.

Mama spoke kindly. "You want

Misty to be happy, don't you, Connie? She has not been happy in town. We have tried everything. I make her gravy for her dog food, you spend so much time working with her, and she still digs up flower beds and howls most of the night. She has been a nuisance to us and to the neighbors."

"But we have only had her 6 or 7 weeks. Give her a chance," pleaded Connie in tears.

"Honey, you have done your best," said Mama kindly. "Misty needs more room to roam and Bill said he will let her run free. That is what she wants and she can't do that in town with us."

Connie cried when Bill came to pick up Misty. He was a nice man and promised to take good care of Misty, but Connie knew she would never see her Misty again. She hugged her neck and Misty laid her head in Connie's lap for a moment. Then she jumped into the back of Bill's pickup, and he tied her in.

"Good-bye, Misty! Have fun chasing rabbits!" called Connie in tears. For some time she prayed for Misty who lived to be an old dog, happy in the country. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did Jonathan warn David about?
2. Did King Saul listen to Jonathan?
3. Who did the Israelites fight against?
4. What made King Saul angry?
5. Who came to kill David?
6. What lie did Michal tell?
7. How did David escape?
8. What did Saul's servants bring back to him?

Answers: 1. His father wanted to kill David. 2. Yes. 3. The Philistines. 4. David was a hero again. 5. Saul's servants. 6. That David was sick. 7. Through a window. 8. David's bed.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Sept. 6, 2009

David's Friend

King Saul became angry with David when David began to become more popular than he was. King Saul tried to kill David with a spear three different times. Jonathan and Michal, David's wife, had helped David escape from being killed by King Saul's servants. David fled from a city when Saul followed him there. Then he met with Jonathan. "Why is your father so angry with me?" David asked. "My father always tells me his plans," Jonathan said. "I don't think he would try to hurt you without telling me." David had an idea. "Usually I would eat dinner with the king at this time of the month, but tomorrow I will hide in the field. If your father misses me, then give him an excuse for me. If he is not angry that I am gone, then everything will be fine. If he becomes very angry, then we will know he is thinking of doing evil towards me," David said.

Jonathan and David loved each other and enjoyed their friendship. Jonathan and David made a covenant with each other. "Let the Lord punish David's enemies," Jonathan said. And Jonathan and David promised that they would always care for each other. They exchanged clothing as a token of their covenant.

"After three days have passed come and hide beside the stone Ezel," Jonathan suggested. "I will shoot three arrows. I will send a boy out to get my arrows. If I tell him to go beside you to get the arrows, that will be a sign that all is well. If I tell the boy to go past you to get the arrows, you had better leave."

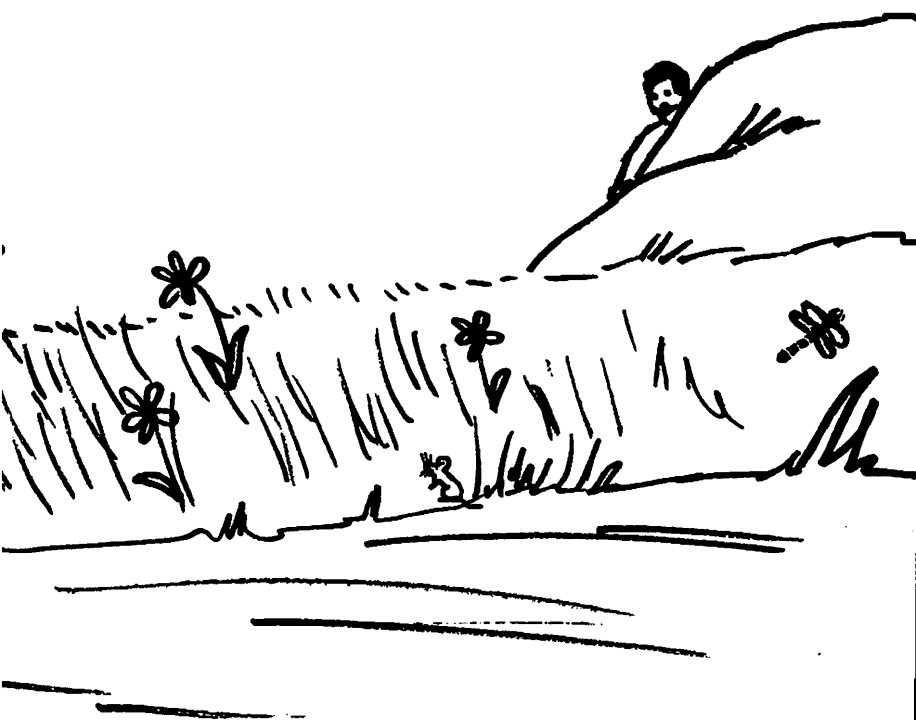
So David hid in the field while Jonathan attended the feast with his father. Just like always, the king sat at his seat by the wall. Jonathan and Abner sat by King Saul's side, but David's seat was empty. "Why isn't David here?" King Saul asked Jonathan. "David asked me if he could go to Bethlehem to make a sacrifice," Jonathan replied. King Saul spoke angrily to Jonathan and threatened to kill David. Jonathan knew that David was not safe. He went out to the field, taking a boy with him, and shot his arrow beyond David. David knew he was not safe. After the boy had left, Jonathan and David hugged one another goodbye.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



will shoot three arrows. . .”

I Samuel 20:20



The Stray

Shawn fell in love with the cute little fur ball as soon as its big brown eyes met his. He saw the puppy peeking out from underneath the bush at the corner of the yard. His dad said he thought it was a stray.

"Can I keep him then, Daddy?" he asked.

"Well, . . . we'll see," his dad said. His parents agreed to let it stay IF Shawn would take care of feeding and watering it everyday. That was fine with him. He was just thrilled to have a puppy all his own.

It took no time persuading it to come to him, and before long, they were running all over the yard together. His mom insisted the puppy have a bath if it was going to stick around. After much coaxing, that was taken care of with a big tub and a water hose out on the back porch. Although he got just about as wet as the puppy did, the bath was soon over.

During the next few days, Shawn spent much of his free time with his new found playmate, and the puppy seemed to enjoy him as much as Shawn did the puppy.

On his way to church with his parents one morning, he waved to the puppy as they pulled out of the driveway. "I'll be back," he called to it from the car window.

Once at church, Shawn sat with his parents during the song service and prayer that followed. He then joined his friends on their way to their Sunday School class. "You won't believe what I have," he whispered to one of his friends as they slid into their seats. "I'll tell you all about it during the break after class." "Ok," his friend whispered back as their teacher took her seat and smiled at them.

"I'd like to talk with you about God's love to us," she began. "He loves us so much that He sent His Son to die for our sins. When we give our lives to God, we become one of His children.

It's like being adopted into a family. When people sign certain legal papers so that a child who is in need of a new home becomes THEIR child, it is called an adoption. That's what God does for us. Because of sin, we are in need of a good washing up on the inside and then a new Father. Jesus' blood that He shed on the cross seals our adoption into God's family. Don't we have a wonderful spiritual Father? He will take us in, wash us up, and claim us as His own. He then has promised to supply our every need. A verse in Philippians 4:19 says, 'But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.' Wouldn't each of you want to be God's children? When He talks to your heart, listen and obey His voice.

"Wow!" Shawn thought.

In the car going home after the church service was over that day, Shawn told his parents about his Sunday School lesson. "So do you think my puppy is like one of God's children? I mean, I don't have as many blessings to give my puppy as God can give to us, but God accepts us like I did my stray puppy, right?" —Sis. Patrice Doolittle

Questions:

1. Who did David ask about King Saul's anger toward him?
2. Who was David supposed to eat with?
3. Did David eat with him?
4. How did King Saul act at the feast?
5. What did King Saul's anger mean?
6. How did Jonathan tell David of King Saul's feelings?
7. What did Jonathan mean by asking the boy if the arrow was past him?
8. Did David stay near King Saul?

Answers: 1. Jonathan. 2. King Saul. 3. No. 4. He became angry. 5. He wanted harm to come to David. 6. By shooting arrows. 7. David was in danger. 8. No, he left.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Sept. 13, 2009

David Is Merciful

Saul was jealous of David and tried to kill him several different times. David left Saul and hid in a cave. Four hundred men who were unhappy with Saul came 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 Saul came close to finding David, 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 descendents will not be hurt."

David promised Saul they would not. Saul took his men and went home.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



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The Last Minute

Nellie hopped on her bike and pedaled off. She held a letter to her best friend tightly in her hand. Her mom had told her that if she got the letter written in time, she could take it to the Post Office which was a block from her house. It was now nearly 4:00pm, closing time! She rushed a little faster. "Why did I take so long getting this letter ready today?" she wondered.

Earlier that morning, there was a picture she wanted to color. Then the swing in the back yard had beckoned to her from the cool shade of the large oak outside her bedroom window. "I just thought I would have time later," she thought.

Things kept coming up that day. Before she knew it, the day was half spent when Nellie finally sat down with her pencil and a blank sheet of paper. She began thinking of what to write, but just then her mom called from the kitchen with a few chores for her to do. Her pencil dropped on the blank sheet as she hurried off to help. The letter would have to wait.

Later, with even less time, she finally sat down and began to write. Halfway through, she looked up at the clock—thirty minutes until the Post Office would close! She felt she would never think of exactly what to write in time, but as the hand on the clock was saying five minutes till, she was sealing the envelope. Telling her mom, "I'll be right back," Nellie was out of the door, racing around the house to her bicycle, and out of the yard gate with still a few minutes to go.

Nearing the Post Office, Nellie thought, "I should have planned ahead NOT to be late." Coming to a stop, she noticed through the clear glass windows that the sliding door that blocked off the counter from the lobby was still open! Once inside, she glanced at the clock nearing 4:00pm

and hurried to hand her letter to the lady behind the counter. The lady weighed and stamped her letter and then turned and handed it to a man standing nearby. Nellie asked the lady, "Will that go out in today's mail?"

She answered, "Yes, that was the driver for the mail truck that I handed it to."

"Wow!" Nellie thought. "That was close!"

As Nellie turned to leave the man re-entered the room. The lady asked him, "Could you get the door for me please?"

"Sure," he said, and the sliding door was pulled closed behind Nellie as she walked out.

When she got back home, Nellie told her mom what had happened. Her mom said, "Yes, sometimes we do that with God too. God asks us to do something for Him, or maybe He talks to our heart about letting Him come into our lives so we can become His children. If we keep putting Him off, one day we will run out of time to do what He is asking us to do. When God asks you to do something, listen closely, and do exactly what He says, when He says to do it."

—Sis Patrice Doolittle

Questions:

1. Where were David and his men hiding?
2. Why did Saul go inside the cave?
3. What did David do to Saul?
4. How did David feel later?
5. Why didn't David kill Saul?
6. How did Saul react to David's story?
7. Did Saul realize David would be king?
8. What did David promise Saul?

Answers: 1. In a cave. 2. To rest. 3. Tore off a piece of his clothing. 4. Bad. 5. God had chosen him to be king. 6. He wept. 7. Yes. 8. He wouldn't hurt Saul's offspring.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Sept. 20, 2009

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 might 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 does 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.

“ . . . Saul went in [the cave] to



ver his feet . . .” | Samuel 24:3



Flash

Flash was such an ornery horse. Every time Jake entered his stall, he had to watch out for a set of teeth that seemed to inevitably reach out for him. Although Flash didn't really do it maliciously, and it seemed more like a "leave me alone please" gesture, it was still unpleasant to deal with.

This was quite unlike the gentle horse that occupied the stall next to him. Blaze was a much milder mannered horse. He never tried to bite Jake. He would let Jake pet him and would stand while being brushed, seeming not to mind it.

Flash, on the other hand, instead of standing still during his brushing would sometimes start walking in circles around Jake while Jake was trying to get the last of the dirt and stall shavings off of his coat before turning him out to pasture. When he WAS standing still while being brushed, Jake had to keep his arm extended to ward off the possibility of being bitten while he wasn't looking.

"You'll never have any friends if you keep acting this way," he jokingly scolded Flash one day. Flash just shook his head at the sound of Jake's voice and turned away from him in the direction of the water trough. As Jake thought more about what he had just told Flash, he realized that at times he had acted a little like Flash himself. No, he wasn't biting people—not with his teeth that is, but he remembered that he had used biting words the other day with some of his friends. He had noticed they seemed a little hesitant to spend time with him after that. His friends hadn't meant to hurt him, and he could sense that he had hurt them by his reactions. He thought about that now as he finished cleaning out Flash's stall. As he came to Blaze's stall, he had made up his mind. He stopped a moment and asked God to forgive him for being unkind to his friends. He decided he would also ask his friends' forgiveness. He didn't want to be like Flash, but more like Blaze.

He knew that if he wanted his friends as well as other people to enjoy him being around them, he would have to behave like he would want them behaving around him. "What was that verse?" he wondered. His parents read it often in family worship. It was coming back to him now. "Yes! That's it," and he quoted, 'A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly...' Proverbs 18:24. "There's another verse also," he thought. "It says: 'Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.' Matthew 7:12. These verses make more sense to me now," he realized, and in his heart he prayed that God would help him to become a better friend.

As he closed the empty stall doors and gave Flash and Blaze one last glance to make sure they were doing fine out in the pasture, he had to smile. It wasn't going to be easy not being like that horse, but he knew—as with anything else—"... with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26.

—Sis. Patrice Doolittle

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 & his sons would die. 6. Very sad. 7. The Philistines. 8. He fell on his own sword.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Sept. 27, 2009

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 of the cart. A man named Uzzah reached out and tried to keep the ark from falling off of the cart. God had given 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 Obedom.

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.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

"So David and all the
the ark of the Lord with sh

II S



house of Israel brought up
ting, and with the . . . trumpet.”
nuel 6:15



They're Out

Who opened a gate? Where are all these cows from? How am I ever going to get them all back in? These questions raced through Chelsey's mind as her eyes quickly surveyed the sight before her. She had been gathering eggs and feeding animals for her grandparents who were away, when she heard one of their cows making an unusual bellowing sound. Going to check, she soon discovered the reason. The fence separating her grandparent's cow pasture from the rest of their farm was lined with about half a dozen cattle that she didn't recognize. This wasn't going to be easy—especially not with a bull in the bunch. Now she, or someone—if she could just figure out who that someone was—had a job on their hands.

As Chelsey finished up her chores, she saw the cattle hurrying toward a back fence. "Maybe they will get themselves back in!" she hoped. Because of the lay of the land, though, she couldn't see where they had actually gone, and they were already a good distance away by now. She decided to just go check with the neighbors, who also owned cattle, to see who was missing any. At the first stop, no one was home, so she tried the next neighbor. The farmer checked to see if any of his cattle were missing, but returned saying they were all safe.

Chelsey decided to go back to the first neighbor's place thinking the cattle probably belonged to them. She hated to leave the cattle still possibly loose and no one home to get them in. If they were to go to the unfenced section of her grandparent's farm, they could enter a highway and cause an accident. She didn't want that to happen.

Knowing the farmer wouldn't mind, she entered his pasture to look for a break in his fence. She saw it only had one cow and a little calf in it. Now she was sure there should be more than that in their field. As she started walking cautiously toward the back of the unfamiliar pasture, she spotted

a group of cows on the other side of what looked like a small opening in the fence. She also spotted a bull—IN the pasture! It looked like the one she had seen at her grandparent's place. It must have come back in, but there were still the cows and calves on the other side of what she could now see was a little opened gate. If she could only ease past the bull. Slowly, carefully, keeping an escape route in mind, she edged past. Soon, the rest of the escapees were back in their pasture, and the opened gate was locked. Thanking the Lord for safety, Chelsey left a note for the farmer and headed back to her grandparent's house.

Chelsey thought of how the Lord—like she had just done for the loose cattle—goes to extra effort to bring souls into His care and to keep them from harm. When a soul is astray from God, they are in danger. It is God's desire to keep us from sin and bring us to Heaven. As John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Won't you enter His kingdom and be safe? —Sis. Patrice Doolittle

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. 30 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. 59, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Oct. 4, 2009

David Mourns the Death of His King

The Israelites were fighting a tough battle with the Philistine army. King Saul saw many of his fine men being killed. His sons were also killed in the battle. King Saul could not bear to see Israel defeated. He killed himself with his sword.

David's men had been staying in Ziklag for a few days when one of King Saul's men came to them with the terrible news. The man came into David's camp with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. "Where did you come from?" David asked. "Tell me what has happened."

"The Israelites have fled from the battle," the man replied. "Many of the people are dead. King Saul and his son Jonathan are dead also."

"How do you know that King Saul is dead?" David asked.

"I came upon King Saul on Mount Gilboa by accident," the man told David. "I saw King Saul kill himself with his sword. The Philistines were very close upon him. I took his crown and the bracelet on his arm and brought them to you."

David was very sad. He tore his clothes in sorrow. All of his men did the same. They cried and fasted until late in the evening. David talked about the two mighty men of Israel who had died. "The beauty of Israel is killed in high places. The mighty have fallen. Do not tell this in the streets, lest the Philistines hear the news and rejoice. Let there be no dew or rain on the mountains. Let there be no crops in the fields, for the shield of the mighty has been cast away. Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives. They were swifter than eagles, and stronger than lions. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan. Your love was wonderful. How the mighty have fallen and the weapons of war destroyed!"

The men of Judah came and anointed David king over the house of Judah, but Abner took Saul's son Ishbosheth and made him king over Israel. The men of Judah still followed after David. For two years there were many battles between David and Saul's family. Eventually, Ishbosheth died, and David was king over Israel.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“ Then David
took. . . his
clothes, and rent
them . . . and they
mourned . . . ”

II Samuel 1:11-12





Meet Mrs. Chappel

Mrs. Chappel's classroom was the first one to the left from the front door of Fogarty School. It was a big room with tall windows across two walls. One set of windows opened to the front street where parents drove up their cars and dropped off or came to pick up their child. The other set of windows showed the busy traffic on Highway 77. Cement trucks barreled down that highway. Gas tankers streamed down it, and farm trucks whizzed past.

Connie knew because she often watched what was going on outside the windows of that classroom. Of course, she tried to have her school work done before staring out the window, but sometimes a little bit more was left to do before a loud truck caught her attention. Then Mrs. Chappel would look Connie's way and say, "Let's keep our mind on our lesson, class."

Mrs. Chappel's tone of voice made Connie obey right away. She did not want to stand in a corner or write I will do my work sentences one hundred times on the blackboard. Actually, Mrs. Chappel made learning fun because she told stories and did projects with her students.

One thing Mrs. Chappel did not like was a dirty, smelly student. They would come into her classroom in the afternoon and right away Mrs. Chappel would ask, "Did all of you go to the rest room and wash your hands before you came to class? Jim, don't come into my room next time with your hair uncombed. Go to my mirror in the back of the room and comb your hair. You too, Linda. After Jim, go comb your hair. Bobby, you need to wash your mouth. Here is a clean wipe to do so. Next time, look in the mirror before coming to class and make sure your face is clean. Cleanliness is next to godliness and I don't want a bunch of heathen children in my classroom. Soap and water is cheap and I want you all to learn how to use them. If you don't learn anything else in my class, I want you to learn how to be

clean with your person."

Mrs. Chappel made a believer of cleanliness out of Connie. She would eat her lunch and play hard on the play ground, but as soon as the bell rang for everyone to come inside for class, Connie went straight to the rest room to look in the mirror and clean up. She did not want Mrs. Chappel to find her dirty when she called the name roll of her students.

Not only did Mrs. Chappel have good eyes, but she also had a good nose. Connie sometimes overheard her whisper in a student's ear that he or she need to wash their hair that night or take a bath. That year Mama never had to tell Connie to take a bath or wash her hair because Connie was determined Mrs. Chappel would never smell her!

One day, Mrs. Chappel asked Connie if she would like to tidy the classroom after school. Because she walked home from school, the fifteen to thirty minutes that it took to tidy the room did not matter and Mama said it was okay. During this time Connie became good friends with Mrs. Chappel, and when she cleaned the windows, she got to watch what was going on outside with Mrs. Chappel's permission.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who were the Israelites fighting?
2. What happened to King Saul?
3. What report did the man bring David?
4. How did David show his sorrow?
5. Why did David not tell the news everywhere?
6. Why was David so sorrowful over Jonathan?
7. Who did Abner make king over Israel?
8. What tribe followed after David?

Answers: 1. The Philistines. 2. He died. 3. They were losing the battle, Saul & Jonathan were dead. 4. Tearing his clothes, fasting & weeping. 5. He didn't want the Philistines to hear it. 6. Jonathan had been a dear friend. 7. Ishbosheth. 8. Judah.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Oct. 11, 2009

The New King of Israel

David began to reign over the tribe of Judah when he was thirty years old. King Saul's son took over as king of Israel and ruled for two years before he died. For seven years David reigned over the tribe of Judah. Now David and his men started toward Jerusalem. The Jebusites had been in control of the city for many years, and a lot of Jebusites still lived in Jerusalem. David and his men were able to force the Jebusites to leave. David made Jerusalem his capital city. He built a huge palace out of cedar trees and stone. David grew to be a great king. The Lord was with him. David reigned over all of Israel for thirty three years. In all, David was king in Israel for forty years.

Many Philistines still lived throughout the land of Israel and ruled some of the cities. When they heard that David was king, they put an army together and came to confront David. David saw the Philistine armies spread out in the valley of Rephaim and asked God what he should do. "If I go fight the Philistines will you deliver them into my hands?" David asked. "Go," God answered. "I will deliver the Philistines into your hands." After a fierce battle, David defeated the Philistine army.

"The Lord helped us to be victorious in battle," David said. He and his men destroyed all of the idols the Philistines had left. Another wave of Philistines had come to fight David. "Should I go fight them?" David prayed. "Do not go yet," the Lord warned. "Take your troops and stand by the mulberry trees. When you hear the sound of marching, then you will go fight. I will go before you and you will defeat the Philistines." David did as the Lord commanded him. The Philistines lost the battle. Many of them were killed.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

"The Phil



es also came and spread themselves in
alley of Rephaim." II Samuel 5:18



Fourth Grade Folly

In the morning of fourth grade, Connie changed classes. This was a new experience to be in one classroom for fifty-five minutes, then when the bell rang, all the students in that classroom would leave, and go to another classroom. Connie would walk with her friends down the wide hallway to the next classroom where they would stay for another fifty-five minutes until the bell rang.

Connie liked changing classes. It made her feel older and it relieved the tension of sitting for a long time without talking. Now every hour she could walk a little bit and talk without a teacher frowning at her. They only had five minutes to get from one classroom to another, so they did not have much time to visit or get a drink of water, but it was better than sitting.

Also, Connie was assigned a locker in the hallway and she put a combination lock on it. That meant she had to turn the dial on the lock to just the right numbers and in the correct direction in order to get her lock open. In her locker, she kept the books for each class on the shelf, and she had her coat hanging on the hook with her sack lunch setting below. She felt so grownup to have a locker of her very own! She kept it neat and clean.

The morning classes were science, math, and Physical Education or music. Actually, Connie wasn't fond of these subjects. She liked English, but instead she had to sit through a whole hour of math every day. Mrs. Redman was the math teacher and she liked to tell stories, so some of the class time was taken up in hearing about her dog, grandchildren, or husband. Then she would start addition drills and teach multiplication and new methods of math that made Connie's head spin. Numbers were always changing on her and crossing up her mind. Mrs. Redman seemed to pick Connie for the answer more times than she liked,

and Connie seemed to get the answer wrong more than she wanted to.

At home Connie complained to Mama about math, but Mama loved math and did not like to hear any complaint about numbers. After helping Connie with her homework several times, and after hearing her complain so much about math, Mama decided to visit Mrs. Redman.

"No, Mama, please don't talk to Mrs. Redman about my math," groaned Connie. "She loves it just as much as you do, and she doesn't understand how dumb it is, either!" Connie just knew those two would gang up on her and she would really have to study math then!

"What hour do you have math?" asked Mama.

"Sometime in the morning," replied Connie.

"I'll walk to Fogarty and be there myself," said Mama. "You can do better in math than what you are doing."

Connie groaned. That morning Donnie and Lonnie could hardly keep up with her because she walked so fast to school. She was going to warn her friends that her mama was coming to school.

To be continued.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. How old was David when he became king?
2. Who was living in Jerusalem?
3. Where did David make his capital city?
4. How long was David king of Israel?
5. Who came to fight David?
6. How did David make a decision to fight?
7. What did David & his men destroy after the first battle?
8. What did God tell David to listen for before he fought?

Answers: 1. Thirty. 2. The Jebusites. 3. Jerusalem. 4. Forty. 5. The Philistines. 6. He prayed. 7. Idols. 8. The sound of marching.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Oct. 18, 2009

David Returns the Ark

While Moses and the Israelites were escaping from Egypt, God told them to build a tabernacle, a place where they could worship God. God gave Moses many instructions about how to build the tabernacle and what should go in it. One of the things that the Israelites were supposed to make for the tabernacle was the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark was shaped like a chest. It was made of wood and covered with gold inside and out. Many times when a great miracle happened, God would tell the Israelites to save something to put in the Ark of the Covenant. Some of the things in the ark were: a gold jar of manna, and the stone tablets on which Moses had written the Ten Commandments. The Ark of the Covenant was very special to the children of Israel. God gave specific instructions about the ark. No one was to touch it except for members of the tribe of Levi. During a battle, the Philistines stole the ark from the Israelites. It stayed in the land of the Philistines for many years.

David remembered that the Philistines had the ark. He decided to go get it. Thirty thousand people went with David. They were all very excited. They set the ark on a new cart. Uzzah and Ahio drove the cart. David and the thirty thousand Israelites went before the ark, playing instruments such as harps, cymbals, trumpets, and tambourines.

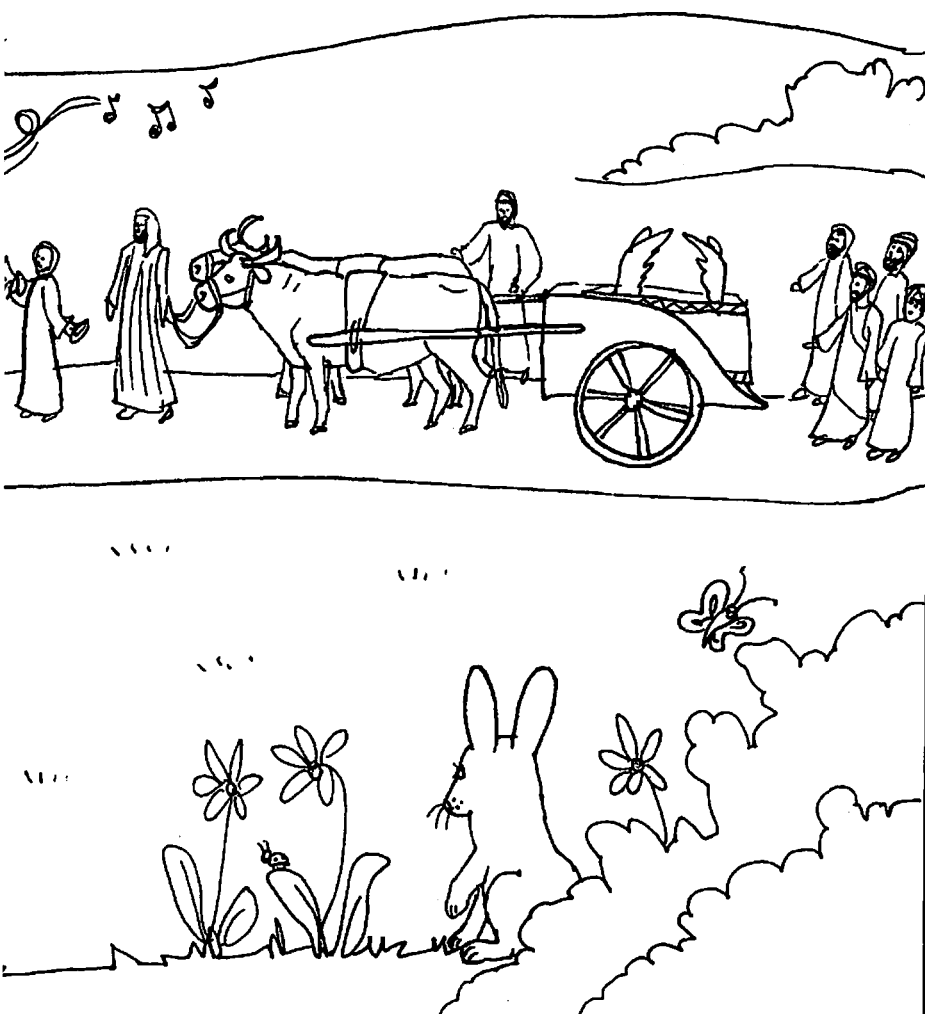
The cart went over a bump in the road and the ark looked like it was going to fall off of the cart. Uzzah forgot about the Lord's law that only the son's of Levi could touch the ark. He reached out his hand to keep it from falling. The Lord was angry that His law was not obeyed. God killed Uzzah because of his disobedience. David was afraid. "How will I get the ark to Jerusalem now?" he wondered. David left the ark in the house of Obededom the Gittite. It was there for three months before David went to get it. Finally, the ark made it to Jerusalem. David made offerings of praise to God and danced in the streets with joy.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“ . . . David and all th
before the LORD on all man



house of Israel played
of instruments. . .” II Samuel 6:5



Dreading Math

Continued

Connie was sure that if Mrs. Redman, her math teacher, talked with her mother that they would come up with some bad plan to make her study math. For some reason she felt like it would help to tell her friends so they could feel sorry for her and give her comforting looks when she would be enduring the drilled math lesson by both her mother and her teacher.

In the hallway by her locker, Connie saw Cara near her locker. She called out to Cara, "Good morning, Cara. Guess what! My mother is coming this morning to see Mrs. Redman about math!"

"Oh, you poor thing!" exclaimed Cara as she came to Connie's locker. "Do you think they will make you do all those long division math problems over again?"

"They better not!" declared Connie. "I'll just get sick all over those problems!"

"Oh, gross!" said Cara, wrinkling up her nose. The girls laughed at the thought of slow moving Mrs. Redman jumping out of the way of something so awful.

"What are you girls laughing about?" asked Linda.

"Oh, my mother is coming to talk to Mrs. Redman about math," said Connie. "If they make me do any more of that borrowing and carrying stuff they'll just have to carry me right out of the room. I might try to faint!"

"Oh, that would be pretty groovy!" said Linda with a giggle. "You need to make sure you fall where some boy is sitting to catch you."

"I don't need any body to catch me," said Connie. "I will go down easy like."

"No, fall on Mrs. Redman," said Cara. "She has plenty of cushion

around her to break your fall!" They all laughed.

BR-R-R-ING! Rang the first bell. "See you later," Connie told her friends.

"Tell us what happens!" said Linda.

"When what happens?" asked Kim.

"Oh, my mother is coming to see Mrs. Redman today," answered Connie in a 'pity-me' voice.

"So?" said Kim. "Your mother may be good for Mrs. Redman. She needs someone to encourage her."

Connie should have known Kim wouldn't understand her problem because her mother was a teacher. "I don't think it will be encouraging for me," she replied dryly and went on to class.

There were social studies, P.E., and science classes before math which was right before lunch. Connie had all morning to dread math. Maybe I should pray about this, she thought.

To be continued.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did God tell Moses to build?
2. What was supposed to go in the tabernacle?
3. What were some of the things in the ark?
4. Who had stolen the ark?
5. Who decided to return the ark?
6. What did Uzzah try to do?
7. Why did God kill Uzzah?
8. What did David do to praise God?

Answers: 1. A tabernacle. 2. An ark. 3. Manna, Aaron's rod, the Ten Commandments. 4. The Philistines. 5. David. 6. Steady the ark. 7. He did not obey God. 8. Made sacrifices and danced.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Oct 25, 2009

David Repents

David's men were fighting a fierce battle with the Ammonites. After the Ammonite king died, Hanun, his son, took his place as king. David sent a kind message to Hanun to show his support and sympathy. Hanun reacted angrily. He shaved the beards off of David's messengers and cut their clothes. David was very angry. The Ammonites formed armies in preparation for battle. For a year the Ammonites fought the Israelites. Joab was in charge of the Israelite army.

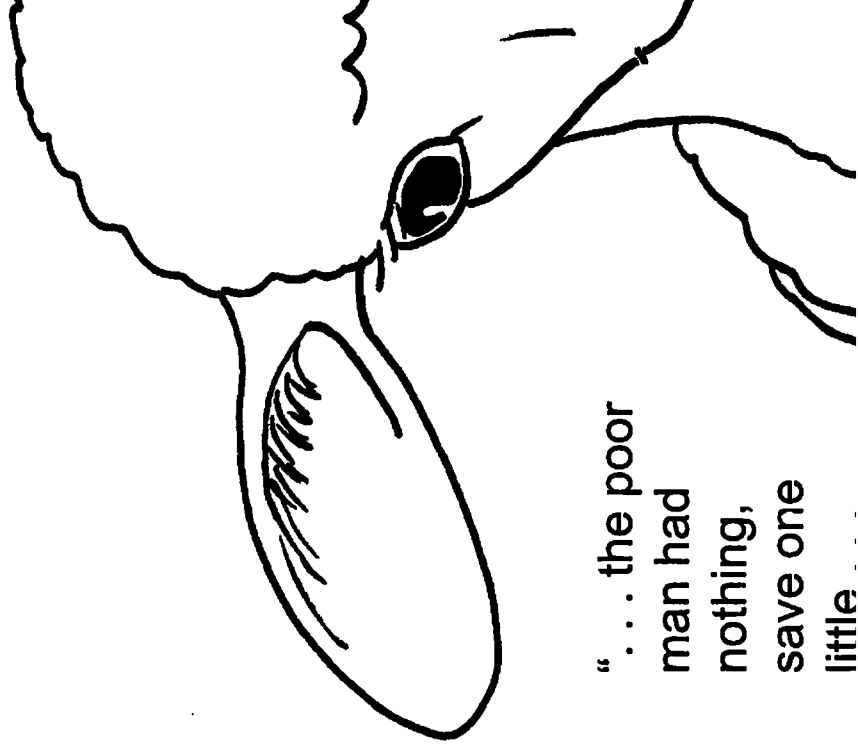
One night, David woke up and restlessly decided to take a walk. David was walking up on his roof when he spotted a lovely woman named Bathsheba. He decided he wanted to marry her. David found out her husband was one of the men fighting in his army. David sent a letter to Joab. "Place Uriah on the front line in the middle of the worst battle going on," David demanded. That day Uriah and several other brave Israelites died in battle.

When Bathsheba heard that her husband was dead, she was sad. The next morning, David sent for her. They got married and had a son. God was very unhappy with the way David had acted. God sent Nathan, a prophet, to talk to David. Nathan told David a story, "A rich man and a poor man both lived in the same city. The rich man had many flocks, but the poor man had nothing except for one pet lamb. His children played with it. He let it drink out of his own cup, and loved it very much. One day a traveler came to the rich man. He did not want to take one of his own sheep to feed the traveler, so he took his neighbor's pet lamb and killed it and ate it."

The story made David very angry. "Whoever has done this will surely die," David decreed. "You are the man," Nathan stated. "Why have you disobeyed the Lord's commandment and killed Uriah the Hittite? I will cause evil things to happen in your home because of your secret sin."

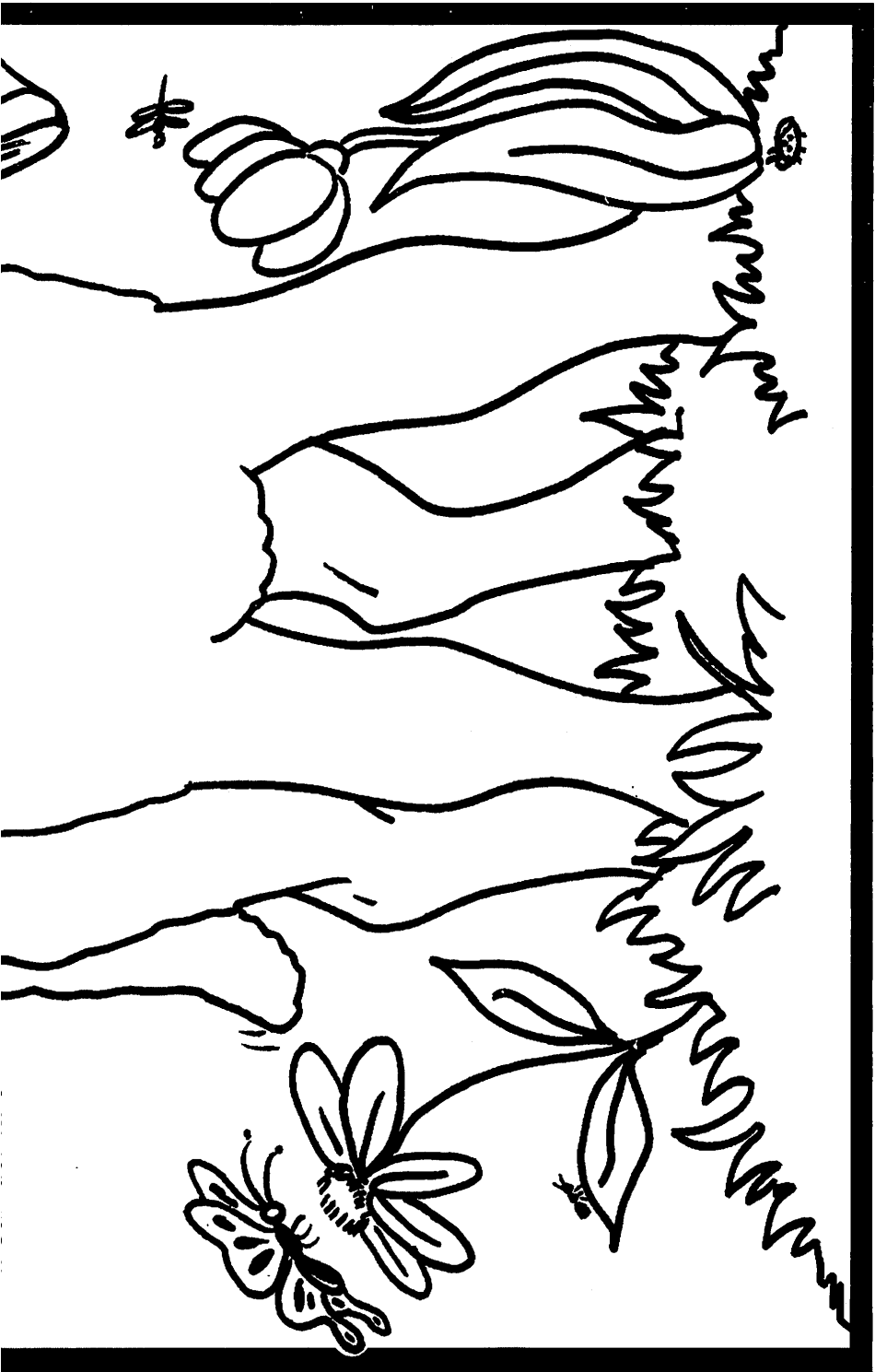
"I have sinned against the Lord," David realized. He was very sorry for what he had done. "The Lord has forgiven you," Nathan said. "But your child will die because of what you have done." For seven days, Bathsheba's baby was very sick. Finally the baby died. David and Bathsheba were very sad.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“ . . . the poor
man had
nothing,
save one
little . . .





What a Relief!

Continued

When Connie entered Mrs. Redman's class, she was prepared to see her mother in the room, but her mother wasn't there. Connie found her seat, like everyone else in the class. Mrs. Redman called the roll of students, then she had them open their books and she started talking like usual.

What if Mama decided not to come, thought Connie. Maybe I shouldn't have told Cara and Linda about Mama coming because if she doesn't come, then they will laugh at me.

Connie couldn't think about numbers and lines at all. She could not decide whether to pray her mother would come or pray that she wouldn't come.

Mrs. Redman looked at Connie. "You need to pay attention, Connie. Your mother was here earlier this morning and she wants you to learn how to work these problems."

Mrs. Redman must have noticed a scared look on Connie's face, because she said, "You have a very sweet mother who is very smart in math. You need to listen to her and let her help you with your homework. Maybe she will be able to teach you what I am not getting across. You can do this work if you will just try to learn it."

Connie smiled and sighed. Yes, she did have a sweet mother who was good in math and would be very helpful with her homework. Their meeting must have gone well, and not at all like Connie had expected it to be. Her mother had not come to sit beside her and make her learn her math nor was she sitting by Mrs. Redman frowning at her. Mama had come secretly and visited with Mrs. Redman. What a relief!

Then she really felt relieved when Mrs. Redman said to her class, "I wish

all of you had mothers like Connie's mother who cared enough about her to come and visit with me. If you are having trouble learning something, let me or your parents know. Surely one of us can help you understand how to do long division and move on to other math lessons. I really appreciate caring parents who will do like Connie's mother and come and visit with me when you may need extra help."

Now Connie felt badly that she had even felt embarrassed and worried about her mother coming to school. All that talk with her friends about the "dreaded meeting" seemed goofy now.

When the bell rang, Connie was ready to leave for lunch, but Mrs. Redman stopped her at the door. "Connie," she said, "tomorrow plan to stay a little longer after class and I will get us a bottle of pop to share while we work on your lesson together." She winked at Connie and Connie smiled back.

"Maybe I can learn this math stuff after all," she thought. "Mrs. Redman must have really liked Mama for her to want to buy me pop! Thank you, Lord, for working this out!"

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who was David fighting against?
2. Who did David decide to marry?
3. Why couldn't David marry her?
4. What did David decide to do with Uriah?
5. What happened to Uriah?
6. Who came to talk to David?
7. How did David feel after the story?
8. What happened to David's baby?

Answers: 1. The Ammonites. 2. Bathsheba. 3. She was already married. 4. Have him killed in battle. 5. He was killed. 6. Nathan the prophet. 7. Repentant. 8. He died.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Nov. 1, 2009

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.

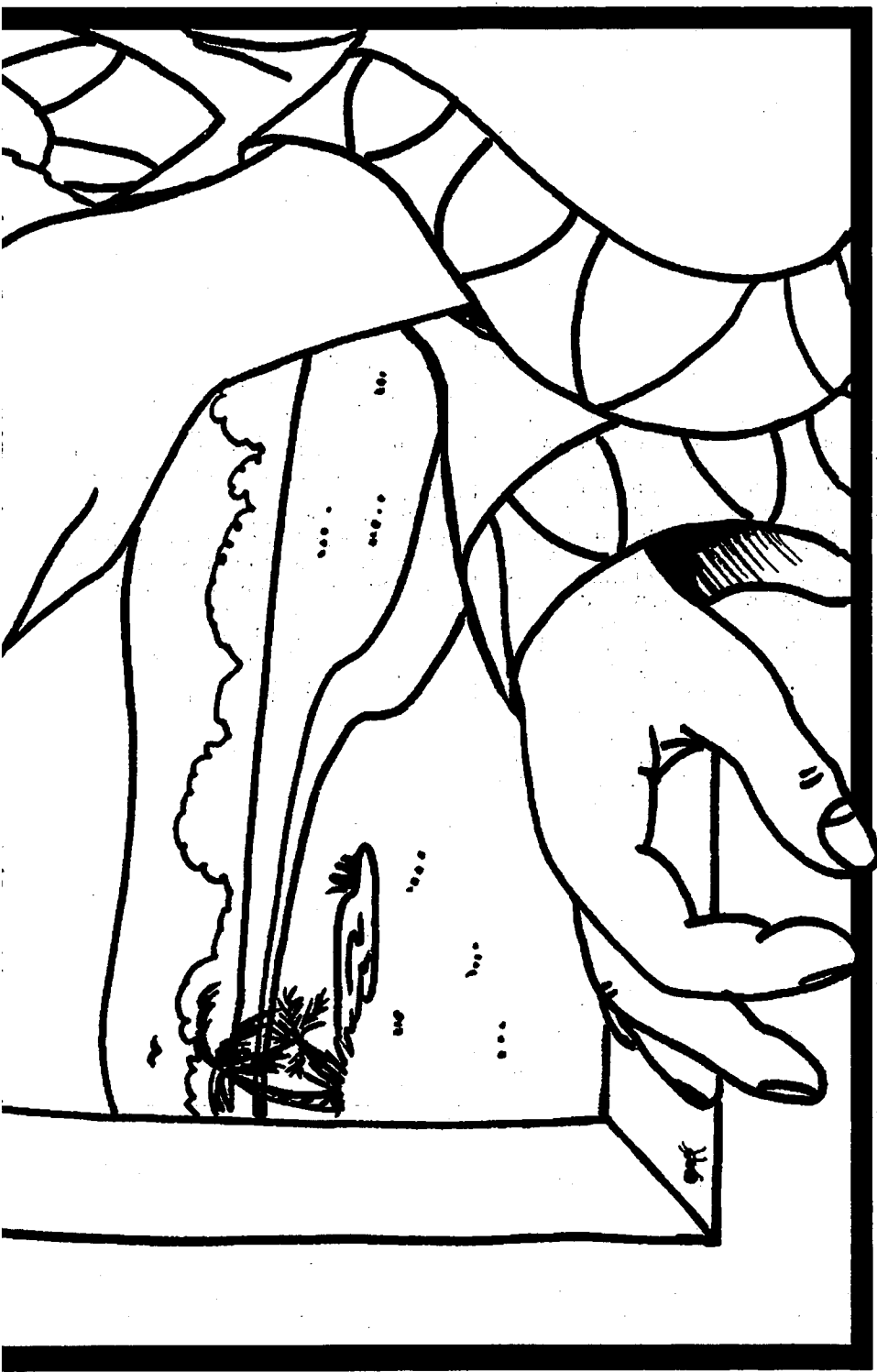
Absalom got an army together to fight against his father's army. This made King David very unhappy. He did not want to fight with his son. King David told the people in charge of his army, "Be gentle with Absalom."

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.

—Sis. Monica Murphey





"And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber . . . and wept . . ." II Samuel 18:33

An Awards Day

It was a cold November day, and the heaters under the windows in Mrs. Chappel's classroom were hot. As usual, Mrs. Chappel was checking her students to make sure they were tidy and clean before starting their lessons. Connie looked up with a smile at Mrs. Chappel's look. She knew she had washed her hands and face before coming into class and that her hair was tidy. She saw Mrs. Chappel's smiling lines crinkle as she looked at her. They had become friends in the afternoons when Connie helped clean the room after class hours.

"Attention, class," said Mrs. Chappel in her announcement voice. "Today Fogarty School will have an Awards Meeting in the auditorium. We will file out of our classroom and walk single file down the hall to the auditorium. We will sit as a group in our assigned seats. Each teacher will give awards to students for different things. I also have some awards to give out to some of you. I want you to be on your best behaviour. That means no talking, pushing, or bothering your neighbor. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Mrs. Chappel," everyone said. They were all happy to leave the classroom of lessons for a while. Soon they were sitting in their folding chairs in the auditorium trying hard not to whisper or bother each other. One boy didn't put his seat down before sitting down and he fell on the floor. Of course, everyone who saw it laughed and Connie felt like she should whisper to the boy, "I am glad you didn't get hurt." Then she saw Mrs. Chappel write her name down on her "talkers" list and she wished she had not said anything. It was so hard to know if she should be quiet or polite at times like this.

Mr. Murry walked on stage and the students became very quiet as he took the microphone to speak. Connie liked Mr. Murry who often visited with the students as they stood in the lunch line waiting for Mrs. Hardesty to take their lunch ticket. Mr. Murry had gray hair clipped in a short crew cut, and his cheek had a dignified scar. He told all sorts of tales about how he had gotten that scar. He told some boys he got

hurt whipping up on a mean boy who wouldn't sit still in class, and he told some girls he got scratched by a wild cat girl who never trimmed her fingernails. Connie and her friends thought he had gotten in an argument with his wife and she did it. They had seen his wife and she had long, painted nails and wore lots of makeup to cover her scratches.

Connie wasn't seeing Mr. Murry's scar from her seat in the middle of the auditorium. She was watching as teachers came to the front when their name was called. Then the teachers talked and started giving out awards for good penmanship or handwriting, neatness, good grades, and so on. When Mrs. Chappel finally went to the stage, Connie sat up straighter in her seat. It was more interesting to listen when she thought her name might be called.

Mrs. Chappel talked and talked, then she called out names for neat handwriting—and Connie's name was called! She also received an award for being clean and tidy and for helping keep the room clean. That afternoon Connie hurried home to show Mama her awards. One was a pencil sharpener with a little globe on top. Connie kept it for a long, long time because it reminded her that it pays to keep clean and neat, for herself and others.

—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. 59, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Nov. 8, 2009

David Sins Against God

King David's armies grew strong and were mighty. The children of Israel defeated many nations in battles. David began to have more faith in his army to protect the Israelites and win battles than he did in God. "Go count the number of my soldiers that are in Israel and Judah," David told Joab. Joab was in charge of David's army.

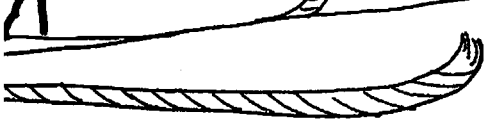
"May the Lord multiply the Israelites a hundredfold, and may you live to see it," Joab told David. "But why do you wish to do this?" Joab did not understand why King David wanted to do this. He protested against King David's plan, but David insisted that Joab obey him. Joab had to do what the king said. Joab and several men went throughout the land of Israel to count all of the Israelites. It took them nine months and twenty days. Joab finally returned to report to the king. "There are eight hundred thousand men in Israel and five hundred thousand men in Judah."

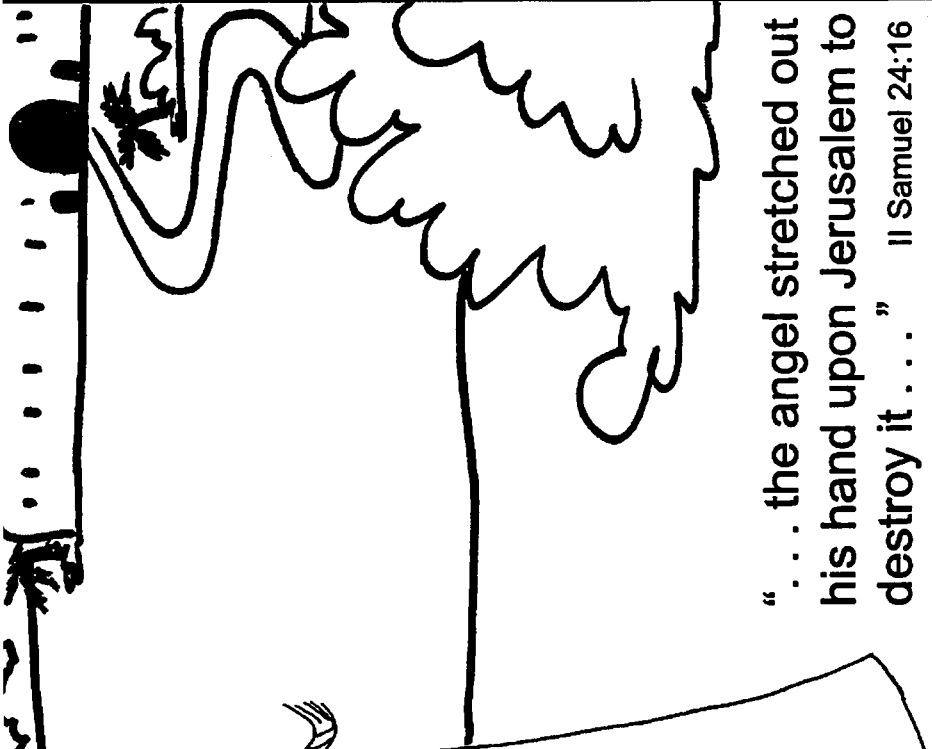
God was angry with David. He sent a great sickness into the Israelite cities. Seventy thousand men died. Then God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem. When David saw the angel, he cried, "I have sinned. Please do not punish these innocent people. Punish me instead."

"Go build an altar to the Lord," God told David. David built an altar to the Lord on Araunah the Jebusite's threshing floor. He offered burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord. The Lord caused the terrible plague to end. David did what God told him to do and intreated the Lord to spare his people. The Lord heard David's prayer and stopped the angel from destroying the city. "The sickness has been enough," the Lord said. "Do not destroy the city."

—Sis. Monica Murphey







“ . . . the angel stretched out
his hand upon Jerusalem to
destroy it . . . ” II Samuel 24:16

Autumn Leaves and Fun

The two sycamore trees in the Miles' back yard shed many large, golden leaves which made great piles to jump on. Connie, Donnie, Lonnie, Cindy and their friends had lots of fun raking up the leaves into two huge piles. They would form two lines and race each other down the slope and see who could hop on their pile the quickest. After a few times of jumping, the leaves would be crushed and smashed enough to put into big black trash bags. Then they would all go to another neighbor's yard to rake and smash their leaves.

Cara always had lots of leaves in her back yard because the Drakes had lots of trees. Usually Dr. Drake came outside and supervised their raking. He didn't want any child to get hurt. Of course, if they broke a tooth or had any other mouth trouble, Dr. Drake could help them because he was a dentist. Connie's dad said he was a good dentist too. One time when Connie's dad had visited Dr. Drake for his teeth to be cleaned, Dr. Drake had talked about Cara and Connie and what good friends they were. He had said nice things about Connie, so she thought he was a pretty good dentist, too.

Old Mrs. Gooch did not like the neighbor children raking leaves in her yard because she had two nice pecan trees. She raked and gathered her pecans and watched that no child got one pecan from her yard. Sometimes the pecans would fall on the street. Then Connie and her friends felt like it was okay to get them because it wasn't on Mrs. Gooch's property. Besides a car tire would just smash it anyway.

Connie, Cara and Kim put these rescued pecans in their coat pockets. They walked farther up the street, out of Mrs. Gooch's sight, sat down on

the street curb, and cracked open the pecans with a rock. Connie was careful to hit the pecan just hard enough to crack the shell but not smash the tender meat inside. Eating fresh pecans in the tangy autumn air was delicious! No wonder squirrels ran around so frisky with their bushy tails.

"Let's play squirrels," said Cara. "Let's climb up in that big tree in my back yard and eat more pecans."

"Sounds fun to me!" agreed Connie, but Kim did not like climbing so much.

"I will make a nest of leaves under the tree," said Kim. "and don't either one of you two squirrels fall into it!"

The girls laughed as they ran down the hill to the big tree. It was perfect weather for a little nap lying on two forked limbs of that sturdy tree. Connie scampered up the rough bark and found her bed. She laid on her branches and looked up through the bare limbs of the tree into the clear blue sky. At times like this she liked to think that God who lived 'way up there in the sky,' could see her smiling at Him from the tree top. He certainly had given her a wonderful family, many good friends, and lots of blessings to smile about.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did David want to do?
2. Who did David send to do it?
3. How many men were in Israel?
4. How many men were in Judah?
5. What did God cause to happen?
6. What did God send an angel to do?
7. What did David do when he saw the angel?
8. Did God destroy the city?

Answers: 1. Count his soldiers. 2. Joab. 3. 800,000 4. 500,000 5. Sickness. 6. Destroy Jerusalem. 7. Repented. 8. No.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Nov. 15, 2009

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.

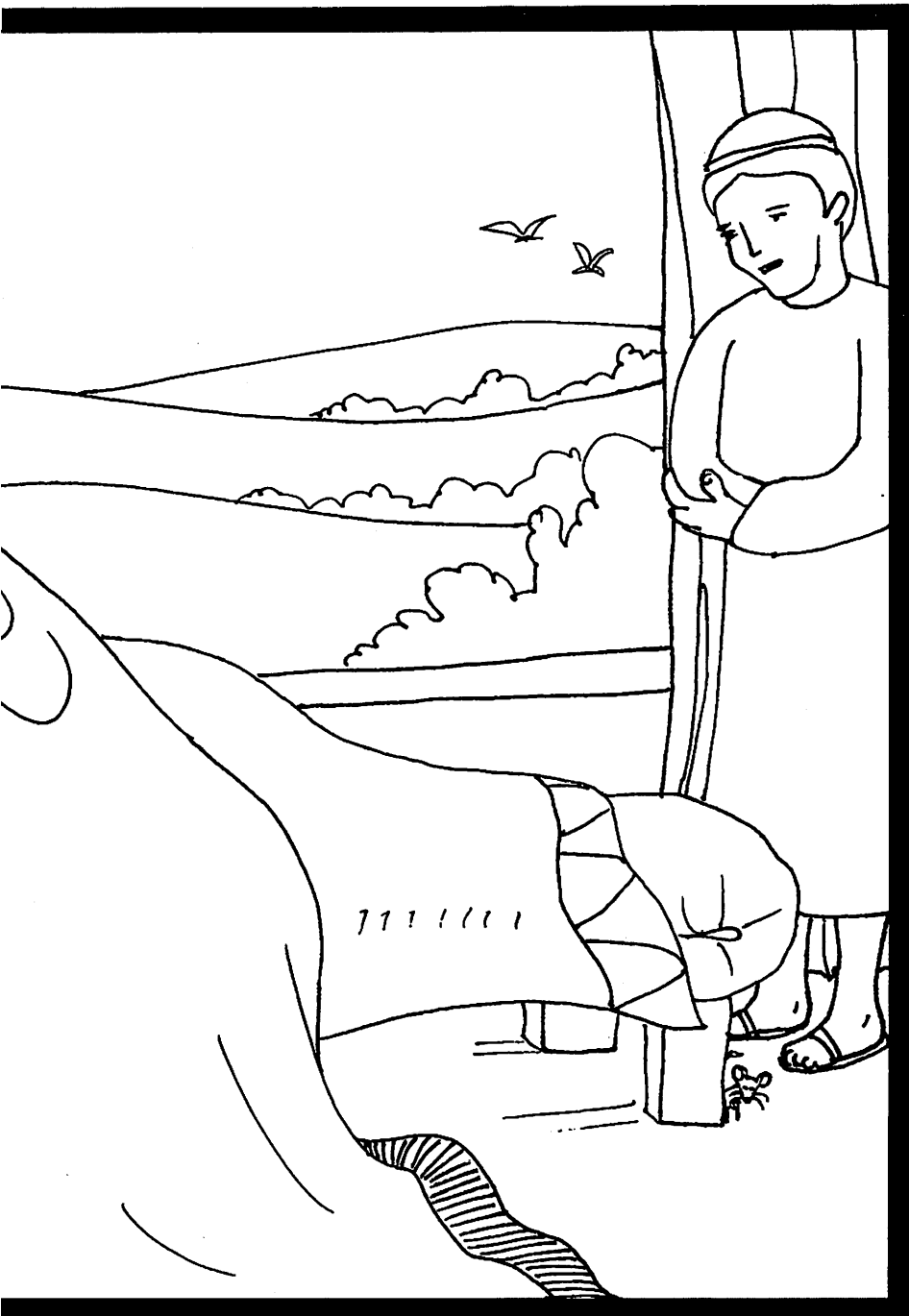
Nathan, a prophet in Israel, put Solomon on King David's own mule. Nathan led Solomon to the tabernacle, where he and Zadok the priest anointed Solomon king. They blew a trumpet, and all of the people shouted, "God save king Solomon." Adonijah and the men at his feast heard the noise. "What is going 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.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“... David ... charged Solomon his son
God, to walk in his ways, to keep ... his



ying, . . . keep the charge of the LORD thy
mandments . . .” I Kings 2:1-3

A Cheery Friday Night

Friday after school, Connie and her brothers walked home from Fogarty school. The sun was shining, but the wind was cool and they were ready to get home before the cold November night darkened the skies. They liked to take the short cut and walk down a driveway of Furrow's Green Houses, through the woods, across the hump, and to their back yard and door. Through the clear canopies over the high hoops in the green houses, they saw beautiful red poinsettias growing in long rows on tables and it made their hearts happy.

Connie began to sing, "It's starting to look a lot like Christmas..."

And Donnie inserted, "...so you better be nice, you better be good..."

Lonnie added, "...I'm telling you why..."

Connie went on, "...all you need for Christmas is your two front teeth..."

They were laughing by now which made the Furrow's manager hear them. They saw him walking toward them, and they took off running. They knew he would make them go back the way they had come, and take the long street route home.

"Stop! Stop!" he shouted, but they kept running.

Connie took hold of Lonnie's hand to make sure he kept up with her and Donnie. Lonnie's eyes looked scared, so Connie panted, "Don't worry—we will get to the woods before he does!"

Furrows did not own the woods so they were safe once they slipped among the trees. The run made them warm so they opened their jackets as they walked home. Mother would be waiting at the house to welcome them home.

"Do you think Mama will have some cookies ready?" asked Lonnie.

"Maybe so," said Connie. She knew the thought of cookies waiting would make Lonnie move faster.

Sure enough, when they pushed open the back patio door, the aroma of baked chocolate chip cookies greeted them.

"Hello, my dears!" called Mama from the kitchen. "Wash your hands

and face and come get a cookie and glass of milk.

They did not have to be told a second time. Oh, Mama's cookies tasted so yummy! "What are we having for supper?" asked Connie.

"How about tuna on toast?" said Mama.

"Yeah!" cheered Connie, but the boys were not excited about it. When Daddy worked nights, Mama fixed tuna on toast on Friday nights because Daddy did not like it.

Mama showed Connie how to melt the butter in the pan, stir in the flour, then the milk. They poured in a can of tuna fish, and added three cut up boiled eggs, and chopped onions. Connie put the end-of-the-week bread pieces into the toaster, and soon supper was ready.

The four children took turns taking their baths, and after they were all in their pajamas, Mama gathered them on the living room couch and she read stories to them. Mother was a very good reader. At the end of each short story, they would plead for her to read **JUST ONE MORE STORY**. All good things come to an end and after a while they said their prayers and went to bed. — Sis. Connie Sorrell

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 & keep His commandments.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Nov. 22, 2009

Wise King Solomon

King Solomon walked in the ways of his father. He offered sacrifices to God and followed the Lord's commandments. King Solomon loved God and wanted to obey Him. This pleased God. One night, 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."

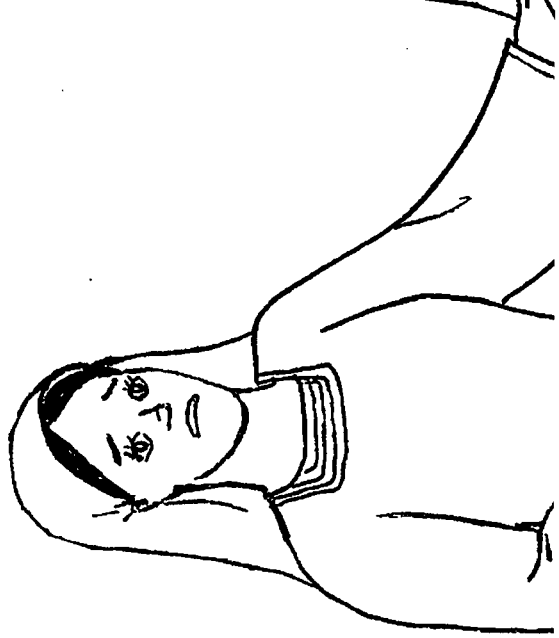
Now, King Solomon knew who the boy's real mother was. "Do not kill it. Give it to the first woman."

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 wrote two books of the Bible, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon.

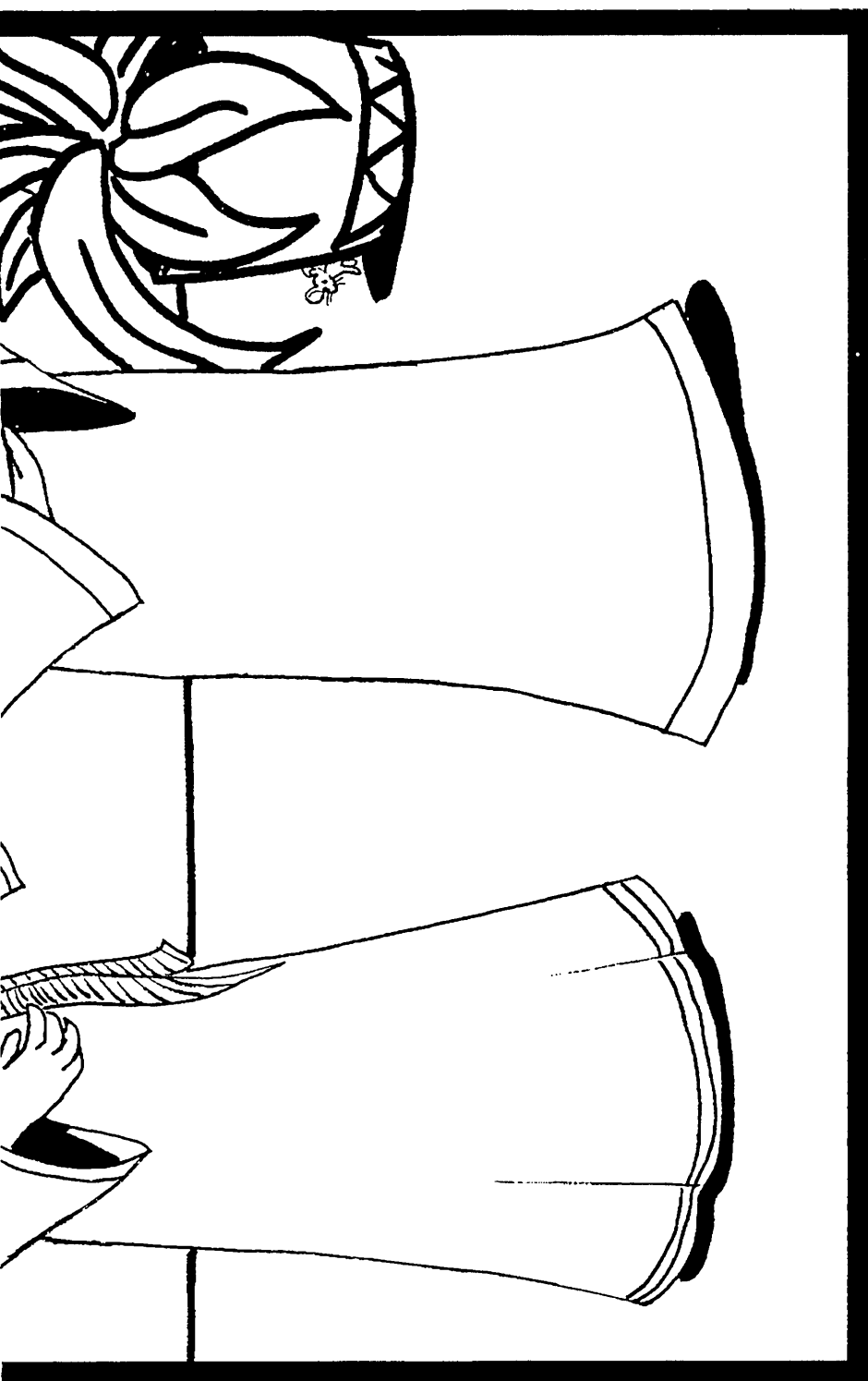
—Sis. Monica Murphey

**“Then came there two women
king, and stood before him.”**



... unto the
Kings 3:16





A Story about Sharing

One story that the Miles children liked to hear Mama read was about the last marshmallow in one of Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories books. The story was about a family of four children, just like their own family. All of them liked to eat large marshmallows for dessert after the meal.

Connie thought they must have been a very poor family to get only one marshmallow but think that was a nice dessert. She liked chocolate cake, chocolate chip cookies and chocolate candy bars. A marshmallow by itself seemed to be a lonesome treat.

The mother in the story thought there were six marshmallows in the box, one for each family member, but when the round box was opened up after the meal, the family saw only one fluffy marshmallow in the box. Everyone looked at the puff of powdered sugar that seemed so small.

"We could cut the marshmallow into six pieces," said Daddy.

"That would make tiny bites for each one," frowned Big Sister. "I think Mama should get the last marshmallow."

"I think so too," said Big Brother. "Let mother have the last one."

"I agree, said Little sister. "Let Mama have the last marshmallow."

"No," said Little brother. "I want the last one." His chubby little hand reached for the last marshmallow, but Daddy stopped it.

"You sound very selfish," said Daddy. "Besides, it looks like Mother has the highest vote for her to eat the last marshmallow."

"But I want that marshmallow!" cried Baby Brother.

Then the mother talked to Baby Brother. She was willing to give the last one to Baby Brother, but she wanted him to give it to her first.

"Baby Brother," said the Mother, "if there was only one marshmallow, wouldn't you share it?"

"No," replied Baby Brother. "I would eat it myself!"

"Then I shall eat this one myself," replied the Mother. And she did.

All the Miles children thought that Baby Brother was very selfish. Often when one of them was tempted to be selfish, the question would be asked, "Are you willing to share the last marshmallow?" This reminded the selfish one to share. They were taught to give the bigger, better pieces to adults. Also, if one of them divided a candy bar or anything, then the one who divided the item had to take the last piece. This taught them to be fair in dividing and sharing.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

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. 59, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Nov. 29, 2009

A Queen's Visit

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

One day, camels rode into Jerusalem bearing 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.

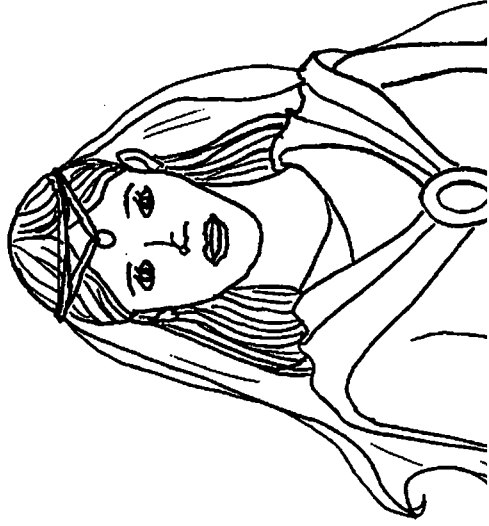
The queen of Sheba left King Solomon with the nice gifts that her camels had carried so far. King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba nice gifts to carry back with her to her country.

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." Many people believe King Solomon also wrote Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon, two books in the Old Testament.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“AND when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon
... she came to prove him with hard questions.” I Kings 10:1





Shopping with Grandma and Aunt Maybelle

Grandma Miles called one Friday morning and asked Mama if Connie could go with her and Aunt Maybelle to buy groceries. It was an out-of-school Friday so Mama said, "Yes," and Connie hurriedly got dressed to go.

Soon Grandma and Aunt Maybelle came to get her. Like usual, Grandma was driving, but Aunt Maybelle told her where to go and where to turn. They were in the Faith Publishing House van because Grandma wanted to get many supplies for the coming holidays. Often they had extra company drop in and Grandma wanted to have plenty of food on hand for the noon meal. It was always a custom that if anyone arrived around lunch time at the print shop, they were invited to eat with the workers. Sometimes that meant opening another can of green beans and adding more items to the meal.

When Grandma drove, she had tunnel vision. She seemed to see only what was in front of her. That meant that Aunt Maybelle watched on both sides and the back. Connie had to be quiet so they could drive, but she often covered her mouth to force down laughter at what she was hearing. The conversation went something like this:

Aunt Maybelle: "Don't go yet, Marie. There is someone coming from the right. Okay, you can go now after this blue car."

Grandma: "Which way do I turn?"

Aunt Maybelle: "Turn left. Oh, now, Marie, wait a minute. There is someone else coming from the right."

Grandma: "I think I better wait for this one to the left, Maybelle."

Aunt Maybelle: "You can go now, but hurry! We don't want to slow down that car and have another person honk at us."

Grandma: "I don't remember going down this street last time we went to Ramsey's. Are we on the right street?"

Aunt Maybelle: "Yes, but you need to turn to the left at the next corner."

Grandma: "Okay. Now I know where we are."

Aunt Maybelle: "No, I think we turned at the wrong corner. We should have gone down a few more blocks."

Grandma: "Oh, look, Maybelle, there is another furniture store we haven't shopped at! Let's stop a minute and check and see if they have a folding table and chairs like we need for the dining room at the print shop house."

They stopped and found just what they needed at just the right price. Connie helped them load it into the van. Grandma testified later that the Lord worked it all out perfectly. They made a wrong turn, but the Lord sent them to the right place for a needed table, and she said she was glad Connie was with them to help load it in the van.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

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. Gold, spices, and precious stones. 7. In the book of Proverbs. 8. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Dec. 6, 2009

King Solomon Grows Old

The Lord had promised King Solomon in a dream long ago that if 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 worshiping 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 worshiping 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."

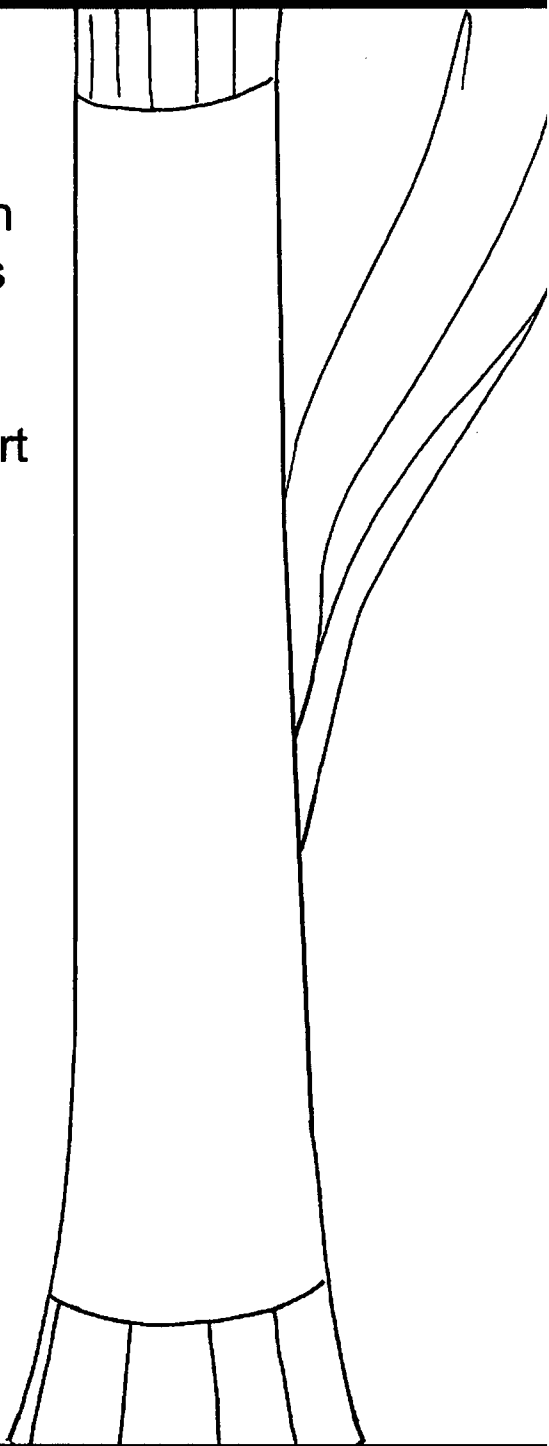
King Solomon began noticing a mighty man named Jeroboam. King Solomon gave Jeroboam all of the house of Joseph to rule. There were twelve tribes in Israel, named for the sons of Jacob. Joseph did not get a tribe named after him, but both of his sons did. So there were two tribes in the house of Joseph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

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“For it came
to pass, when
Solomon was
old, that his
wives turned
away his heart
after other
gods”
I Kings 11:4





The Founder of English Hymnody

Born a long time ago, on July 17, 1674, Isaac Watts loved to read at an early age. He lived in Southampton, England so his first language was English, but by four years-old he was learning to read and speak Latin, then Greek, and then Hebrew. His mother could not seem to keep enough books around for her oldest son to read. They did not have much money, but Isaac became a favorite friend of a local physician who supplied young Isaac with books.

Isaac and his family met with other worshipers who were dissenters from the English Anglican Church. This meant they did not want the King or Queen to tell them how to worship God. They wanted to serve the Lord with a free will and by the Word of God. They sang only the Psalms of David with music written to match the words.

When young Isaac was singing, his mind would create poems of rhyming words that matched the music. He would write these poems on paper. One day he showed a poem to a musician who set it to music. His home congregation decided to sing *We're Marching to Zion* and really liked it! So young Isaac wrote more songs, and soon other congregations wanted copies of Isaac Watt's songs.

Isaac had attended an independent academy in London and graduated with honors. He was at home for two years, writing his poems and songs, then he returned to London to be a teacher and later a preacher. During this time, Isaac did not write poems because he was too busy preparing lessons.

In March of 1700, Isaac received a long letter from his brother, Enoch, who wrote: "Dear Brother, ...I am confident whoever has the happiness of reading your hymns (unless he be either sot or atheist) will have a very favorable opinion of their author...There is...a great need of a pen, vigorous and lively as yours, to quicken and revive the dying devotion of the age..." Enoch encouraged Isaac to publish his hymns, which seemed risky to Isaac.

If the Anglican Church did not like his hymns, they could make him pay them money (fine him) or even arrest him. Finally, in 1707, Isaac published his hymns, selling the copyright to a Mr. Lawrence for ten pounds. Right away people loved his songs and even the Anglican church started singing them. This song book was enlarged and republished again in 1709, making Mr. Lawrence richer, but not poor Isaac.

This hymnal enriched the world with the song: *Joy To The World* which millions of people have sung through the centuries and we still sing every Christmas. Isaac was inspired from Psalm 98:4-9: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise... for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Later, a wealthy couple, Sir Thomas and Lady Abney, invited Isaac to live in their mansion outside of London. That was Isaac Watts home until he joyfully went to his heavenly home in November, 1748.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

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 idols. 3. "You shall have no other gods before me." 4. That his kingdom would be taken away from him & 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. 59, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Dec. 13, 2009

A Wicked King

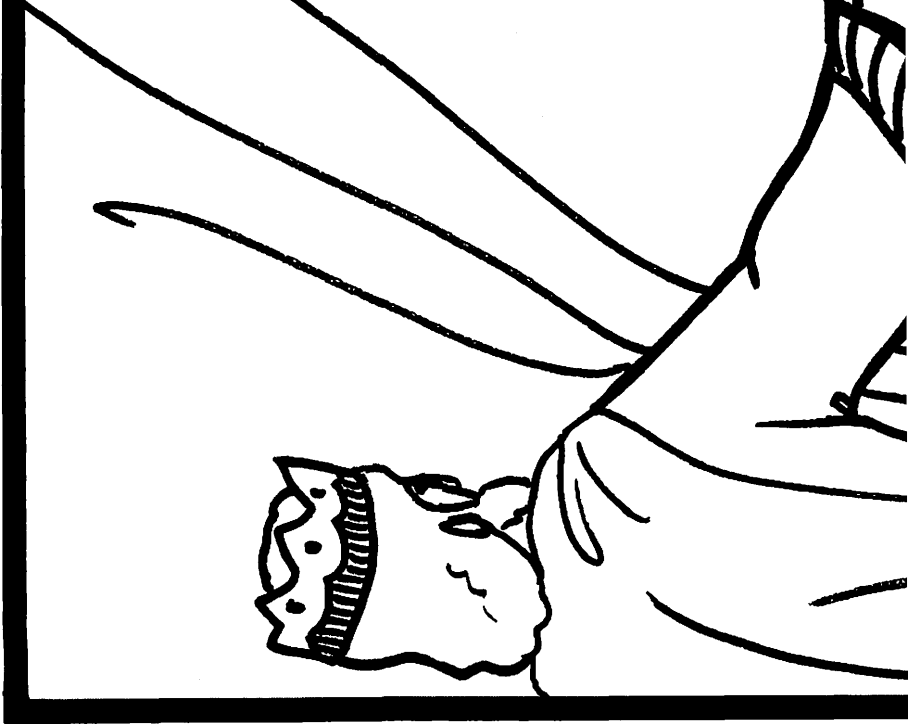
After King Solomon died, Rehoboam ruled two tribes of Israel and Jeroboam ruled ten. Rehoboam and thousands of soldiers ruled in Jerusalem, where the temple of God was built. The Israelites went to the temple to worship God and make sacrifices to Him. "If my people go to the temple, they will become sympathetic with Rehoboam and want him for their king," Jeroboam worried. "Then they will come back and kill me." So King Jeroboam made two calves out of gold. He called his people together and told them, "It is too far for you to travel to Jerusalem. Here are your gods that delivered you up out of Egypt."

Jeroboam made temples for the idols and appointed priests to live in the temples. A holiday was declared in honor of the false gods. The Israelites celebrated by having a big feast. A prophet of God came to the feast. He stood beside the altar that Jeroboam built to worship the false gods. "A son will be born to David's family," the prophet cried. "He will destroy these temples and the false priests. This will be a sign that the Lord has spoken. The altar will fall apart and the ashes on top of it will fall to the ground."

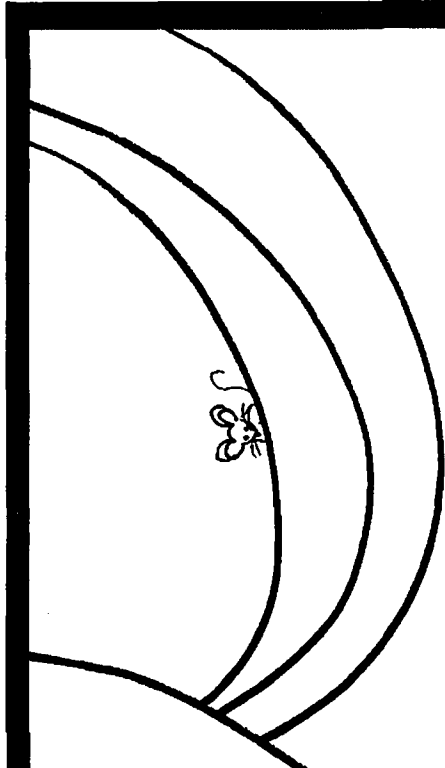
Jeroboam was very angry. How dare this bold stranger speak against the religion he had created. Jeroboam motioned for his guards. "Seize him," Jeroboam demanded. He tried to move his hand, but found that it was withered. Jeroboam was afraid. Suddenly, the altar fell apart. The ashes poured off of the altar, just as the man of God had predicted. The king pleaded, "Ask the Lord to restore my hand." The prophet prayed for the king, and the king's hand was restored. "Come with me and eat at my palace," Jeroboam requested. "I would like to give you a reward."

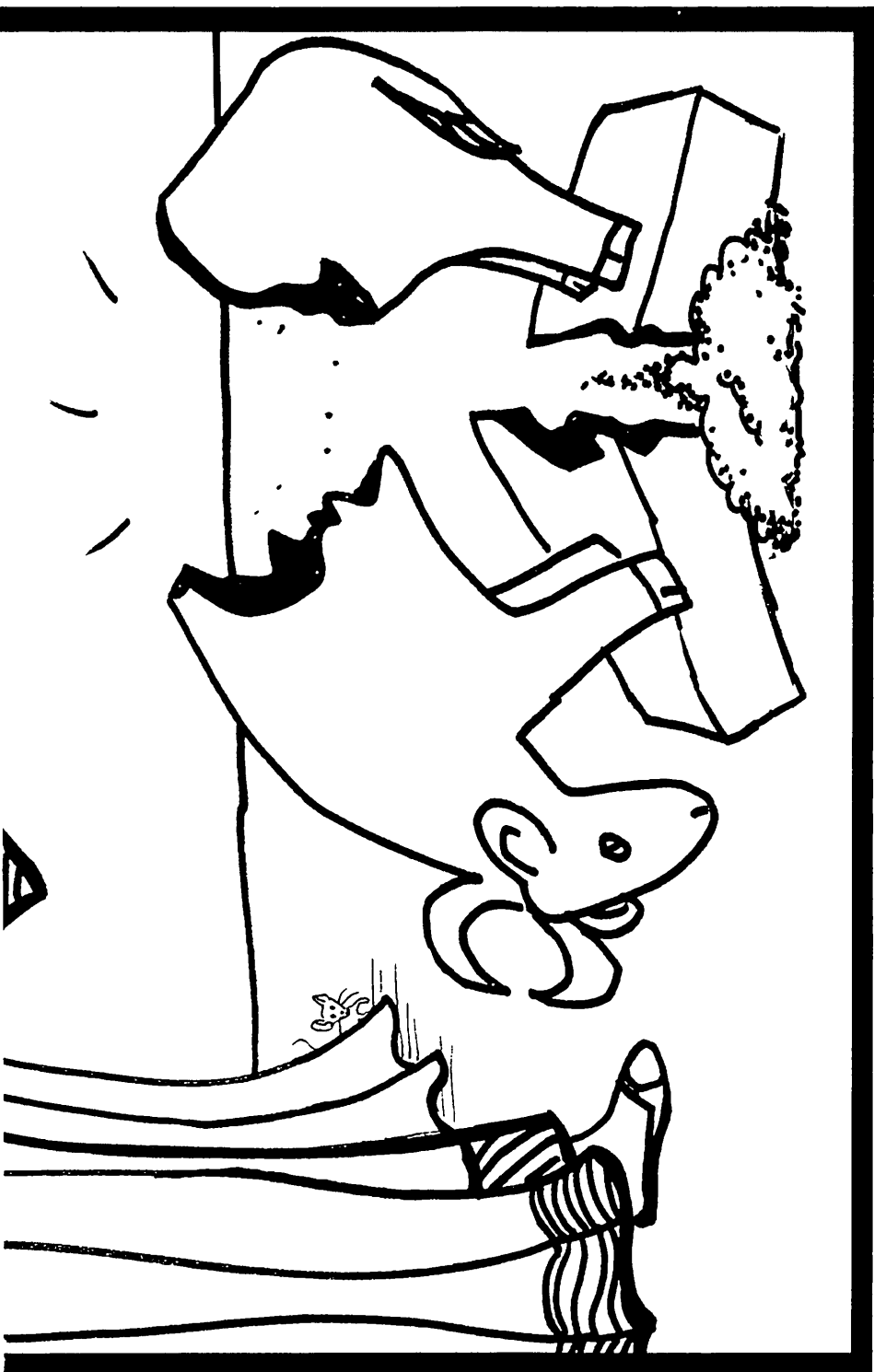
"The Lord told me I couldn't eat or drink anything," the prophet refused. The prophet left Jeroboam and went another way.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



"The altar also was rent, and
the ashes poured out from
the altar . . ." | Kings 13:5





Why There Are Christmas Cards

Sir Henry Cole was a mover and shaker in the 1800's. Living in London, England, Sir Henry was friends with many people of the rich class, including Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. This knight of honor was a thoughtful man who wrote books on art, published children's books, and began the magazine *Journal of Design*. He also was an assistant at the public records office, and a director of the London Museum. Often he was a popular guest speaker at social events sometimes held at the royal palace.

Living in a nice home and having plenty to eat, Sir Henry remembered to give to charities that cared for the poor. He would give money to John Booth who started the Salvation Army, or to George Mueller who built orphanages for homeless children. He liked to give gifts to family and friends and let them know he loved them.

Of course Christmas was Sir Henry's favorite time of the year. He enjoyed preparing gifts for family members; he liked the surprised look on their faces when they opened the paper and box to get the item inside.

In December of 1843, Sir Henry sat at his desk and looked at a huge pile of Christmas notes and letters. How am I going to thank all these friends? He wondered. He picked up a piece of paper and folded it in such a way that it resembled a book. As he looked at this folded paper, he recalled an assignment his grammar teacher had given to her students when he was a schoolboy. She had each of them draw and color a holiday scene showing what Christmas meant to them. After it was finished, they enclosed their pictures in envelopes and gave it to their parents for Christmas.

"Ah-ha! I know what I'll do!" thought Sir Henry. He left his office early that day and went to visit a friend, John Calcott Horsley, who was a talented

artist. Handing Horsley the folded paper, Sir Henry said, "Inside the card, please draw a happy family around a holiday table. On the outside, please show a scene of poverty with someone in need. In this way, I want to remind my friends to give to the poor."

Horsley understood what Sir Henry wanted drawn, and he was quick at creating the pictures. He was happy to do this because he knew his drawings would enter the home of wealthy people who might want him to draw for them as well. Sir Henry took his original "card" to a printer friend who printed 1000 cards with these pictures and the greeting: "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You."

Everyone who received one of Sir Henry's Christmas greeting cards was excited about them. Within two years, hundreds of English families were making and sending Christmas cards, which kept the British postal service so busy they had to hire more help. Sir Henry's creative plan to greet his friends not only blessed them, but it created more jobs for the poor.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. How many tribes did Jeroboam rule over?
2. Why didn't Jeroboam want the people to go to Jerusalem?
3. What did Jeroboam make?
4. What did the prophet say would happen?
5. What did Jeroboam tell his guards to do?
6. What happened to Jeroboam's hand?
7. What did Jeroboam ask the prophet to do?
8. Did God heal Jeroboam's hand?

Answers: 1. Ten. 2. Rehoboam ruled in Jerusalem. 3. Two golden calves. 4. The temples, priests, and altar would be destroyed. 5. Seize the prophet. 6. It withered. 7. Pray for him. 8. Yes

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Dec. 20, 2009

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.

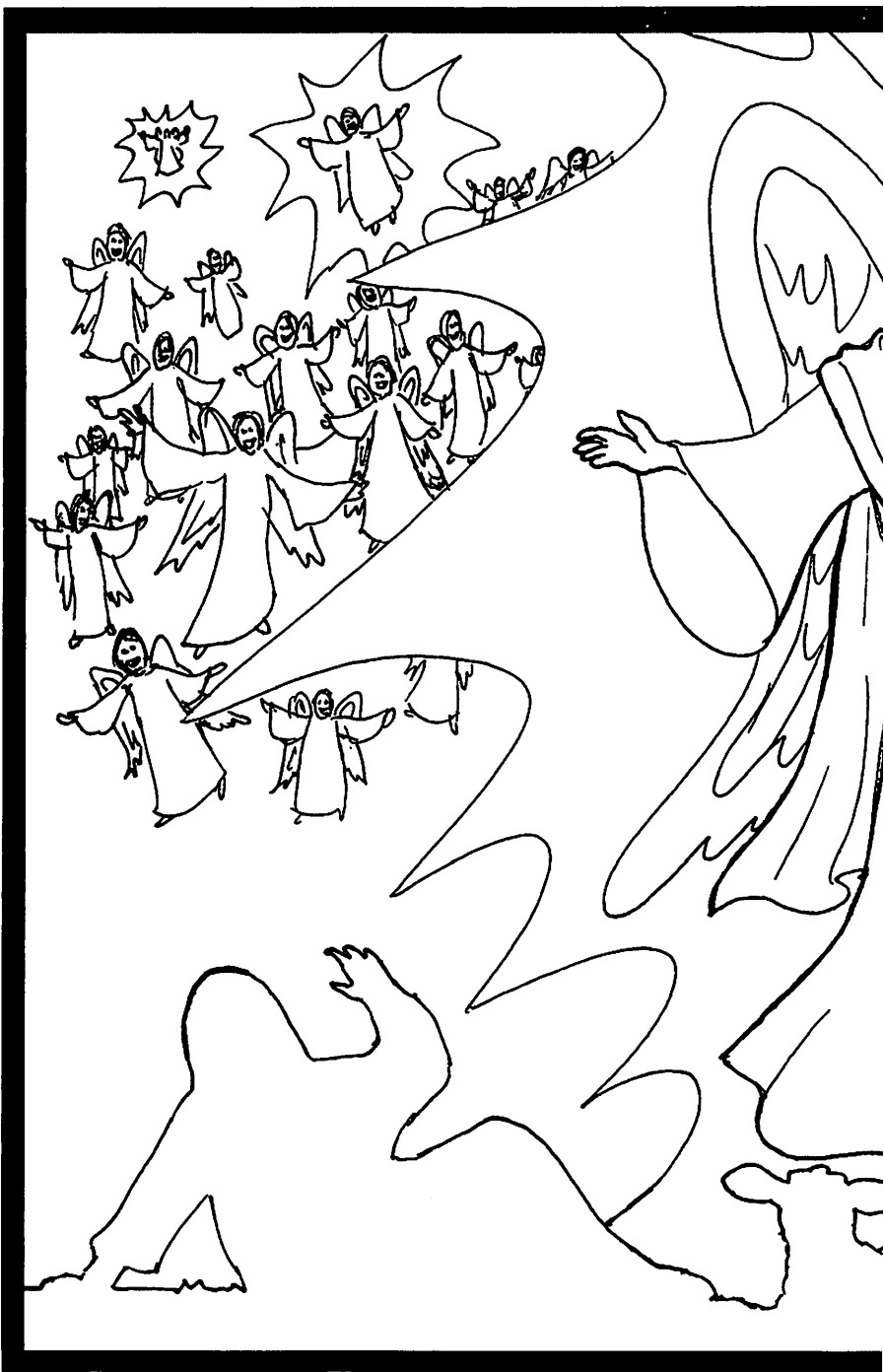
For many years, the people of Israel looked for a Messiah. Prophets had said that a man would come who would save the people of Israel. The Israelites thought that the Messiah would be their king.

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 the 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 happened to them.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of angels singing a new song, saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace'



e of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
"Good will toward men." Luke 2: 13-14

Missing the Son

(A True Story)

It was Christmas time when everyone should be happy, singing carols and shopping for gifts, but there was not any happiness nor singing at the Wardlaw house because sorrow was in their hearts. The first of December their oldest son had died and his parents were very grieved.

"Let's go to Florida, Honey," said Mr. Wardlaw. "Maybe the change in scenery will help us, and we can get away from all the Christmas singing."

Mrs. Wardlaw sighed. "We can go, but I don't think we will get away from the heaviness we have in our hearts."

"True," said Mr. Wardlaw, "but I think the change will help us."

They packed some clothes and drove 400 miles to the Atlantic coast to a cottage they often rented for vacations. The clean ocean air refreshed them, but they still missed their son so much.

On the way back home, Mrs. Wardlaw could hardly bear her sorrow, and she began to pray. "Father, I know we can't have our son back, but could You somehow bring Your Son back into our Christmas? We need Him so much!"

Just after they crossed the Georgia state line they passed a couple walking by the road. "Did that woman have a baby?" Mrs. Wardlaw asked her husband.

"She was carrying something," he replied.

"Let's go back and check on them," said Mrs. Wardlaw.

Mr. Wardlaw drove to the shoulder of the road and backed the car to the young couple. "Hello," called Mr. Wardlaw. "Can we help you?"

"Are you traveling along this road?"

asked the man as they stood by the car. "We need a ride to Tennessee. My baby girl here got sick and then my wife and I lost my job. I have a friend in Tennessee who said I could come drive a truck for his company if I can get there."

"Climb in and we will help you," said Mr. Wardlaw. Right away they saw that the wife and baby would not be able to walk hundreds of miles to Tennessee.

"Let us get you a motel room for the night," said Mrs. Wardlaw. They bought them supper, the man called his friend and Mr. Wardlaw learned where they were going. Next morning they bought bus tickets for the family and gave them some money to buy a meal or two along the way.

The young mother smiled as she hugged Mrs. Wardlaw. "Thank you all so much! I didn't know if little Christine and I would be able to walk that far."

When the Wardlaws left the bus station, their hearts felt light and peaceful. In helping this family, they felt the love of Jesus return to their hearts again. —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. 3. Bethlehem. 4. Many other angels. 5. Bethlehem. 6. "Do you have a place where my wife and I could stay?" 7. In a stable. 8. Mary and Joseph.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Dec. 27, 2009

A False Prophet

At the beginning of his reign, it looked like Jeroboam was going to walk in the ways of David and Solomon and follow after God. 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 that came from Judah?" The other prophet answered, "I am."

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

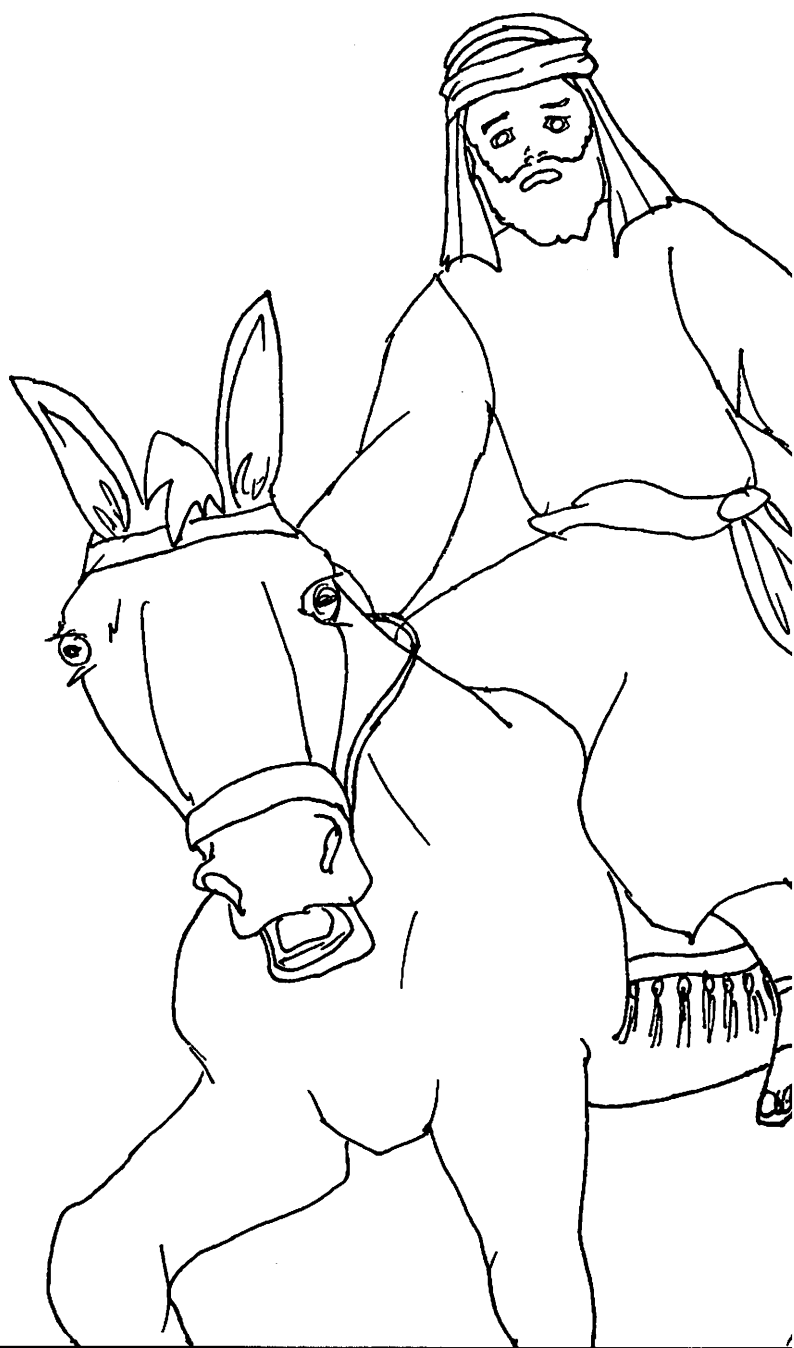
"The Lord instructed me not to eat or drink," the man answered.

"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 drunken 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. The old prophet buried the younger prophet and was very sad that such a terrible thing had happened because of disobedience.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



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



Meeting Barbara

Taking a new position as chaplain at a women's prison, Kay was meeting some of the prisoners for the first time. When she saw Barbara, a chill ran down her spine. Barbara's face was scarred from knife cuts and her hair looked wild like her eyes.

"Don't mess around with Barbara," whispered the ward matron. "She is a bad one."

Kay wanted to shake hands with each one of the women, and she offered her hand to Barbara who glared at her, then without taking Kay's hand, Barbara spun around and walked back to her cell. She was the only one who did not greet Kay nicely.

Warden Kates said, "Barbara is considered hopeless for rehab. Those face scars are from knifings, and that awful skin on her neck and arm is where a bucket of lye was thrown at her in a fight. She is so mean that none of the other prisoners will have anything to do with her. One time a prisoner made the mistake of sitting by Barbara in the dining hall. Suddenly this woman jumped up screaming! Blood was running down her leg from a slit Barbara had given her with a stolen spoon that she had sharpened on the cement floor of her cell. Just don't get too close to Barbara."

Even with the warning and knowing Barbara did not want her friendship, Kay still felt the Lord wanted her to be kind to Barbara. When Kay would see Barbara sweeping the floor or out on a walk, she would smile at her and say, "Hello!" Barbara would look away and spit on the floor or ground.

Kay was supposed to visit with each prisoner through the month, so when it came Barbara's turn, Kay took time to search Barbara's file to see if there was something she could talk about like a good mother, children, or some honor Barbara had won. No family was known to visit, she had lived in foster homes all her life; she was divorced and had no children. Kay felt a deep wave of sorrow sweep over her as she thought about the sad life Barbara had lived. Lord, please give me wisdom to know how to help Barbara, she prayed. Please show Barbara your love and mercy.

When Barbara walked into Kay's office, she had a frown on her face. She plopped down on the chair and looked back at the door like she was ready to leave before saying anything.

Kay cleared her throat. "Barbara, I want to be your friend."

"Yeah, what for?" growled Barbara.

"Because you were created by God and He cares about you."

"Ain't nobody cares about me," mumbled Barbara.

"Yes, God does and so do I," replied Kay.

"That's a lie!" snarled Barbara. "It's just words without meaning. I won't listen to none of your preachin' stuff, ya hear!" Then Barbara walked out the door.

Kay bowed her head in prayer. She felt that the hard shell Barbara had built around herself was to keep from being rejected again. Because she had been rejected and hurt so many times, she did not want to be hurt again. If Kay could prove to Barbara that she really cared, and if God would talk to Barbara and show her His love, maybe there would be hope for a good change in Barbara. Deep in her heart, Kay felt Barbara could become a new and better person.

To be continued

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

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

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