

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 July 5, 2010

Job's Trials

Job lived in the land of Uz. He owned many sheep, camels, oxen, donkeys, servants, and children. Satan came before the Lord. "I have been looking up and down the earth," Satan told the Lord.

"Have you noticed my servant, Job? the Lord asked Satan. "He is a perfect man and obeys God," "You have protected Job from evil. Take away everything he has, and he will turn from you," Satan said. "All that Job has is in your power, but do not kill him," the Lord told Satan.

One day, Job's sons and daughters were having a feast. A messenger came running to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing, and the donkeys were feeding. Some men came, took the animals away and killed the servants. I am the only one left alive."

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

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

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

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“... his sons and his da



ers were eating and drinking . . .”

:13 KJV



Potatoes and Firecrackers

The Fourth of July for the Miles family meant a visit to Covington where Grandpa and Grandma Eck lived on the farm. Grandpa liked to make it his potato digging day.

Connie, Donnie, Lonnie and Cindy crawled out of their beds early that morning, dressed and climbed in to the family car to sleep the hour and a half ride to the farm. They woke up as soon as the car wheels rolled to a stop in front of the gate to the white wood framed farm house. It was the crowing of the rooster and the smell of fried bacon that made them hop out of the car and race up the cement stairs to the screen door leading to the kitchen.

Grandma was ready for them. She was skimming off cream from a fresh gallon of milk so she could whip it with a smidgen of sugar to pour over the warm biscuits. Heavenly stuff.

"Wash your hands and come to the table," said Grandma. "I see Grandpa coming to his water tin. When he comes in, we will be ready to eat."

Connie washed quickly then went outside to watch Grandpa wash up the old-fashioned way. He took his tin basin and filled it with water from the outside pump. He set the basin inside a small wooden rain barrel by the fence post, to which were nailed a soap rack and mirror. A towel hung on another nail. Grandpa washed his hands with lye soap, dumped the water on the ground then gathered a little water to rinse his hands. He dipped his comb in that water to tame down the frizzy sides of his hair. Sometimes Grandpa shaved in front of that mirror. He always told Connie and her siblings to never use his outside lavatory nor go into his outhouse without permission. Indeed, Connie did not want to use his things, she was just fascinated watching Grandpa clean up that way.

After a wonderful breakfast, and the dishes were washed, Connie and Aunt Ruthie joined the boys by the tractor barn. They were shaking out the gunny sacks. Grandpa was hitching up his personally made potato

digger to the green John Deere.

"Climb into the back of the pickup," said Uncle Larry. "I'll take you through the pasture to the potato patch."

They laughed and sang songs as they bounced along the rutted trail to the big potato patch. Soon everyone was busy finding red potatoes in the brown earth. Grandpa's digger uncovered the potatoes, but they had to find them and put them in the gunny sacks. When a bag was full, Uncle Larry tied it and set it in the back of the pickup. The sacks of potatoes were then put in the cellar. Some potatoes were set aside for the Lord and given for camp meeting meals and for the Print Shop meals. It was the farmer's way of thanking the Lord for such a wonderful harvest.

After a long day of work, the family would clean up, and go into Crescent to watch fireworks at night. When they finally arrived home, Mama would spread a clean sheet on the living room carpet, and all four children tumbled down to sleep without moving until morning. That is a child's way of resting in the Lord. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who did God say was a perfect man?
2. What did the devil say about Job?
3. What power did God give the devil?
4. What bad tidings did the messengers bring Job?
5. How did Job's sons and daughters die?
6. Who suggested that Job curse God and die?
7. How did God bless Job for his trust?
8. What are some things you are thankful for?

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 July 11, 2010

Young Men in a Strange Land

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

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

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

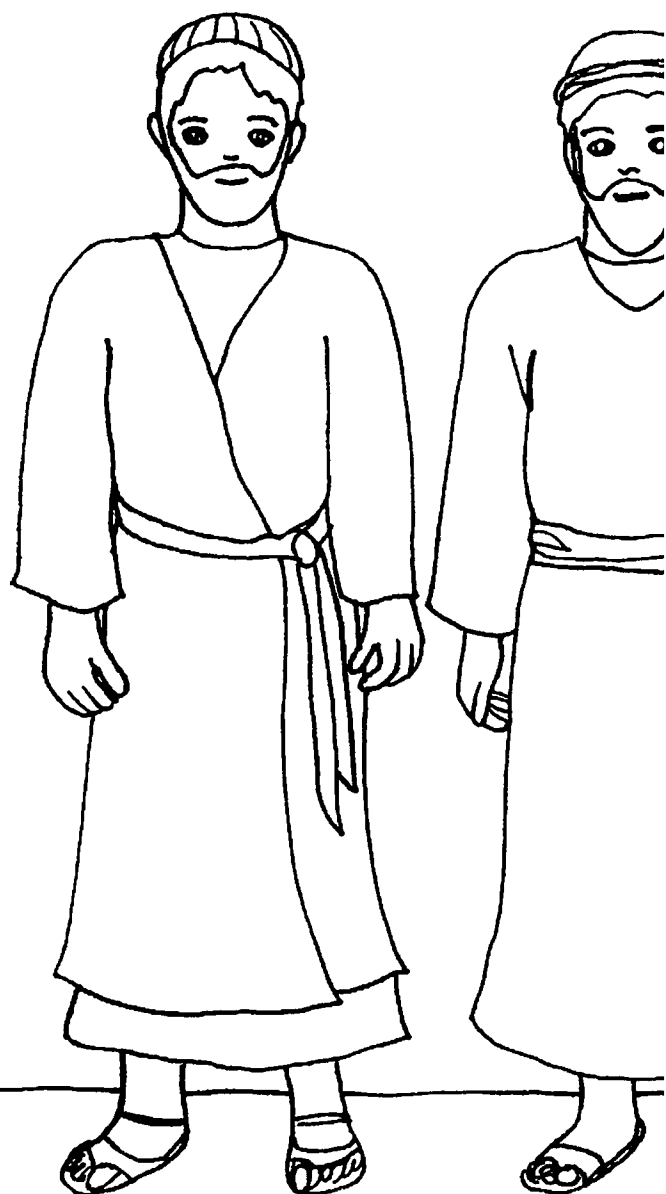
"Instead of feeding us the rich meats and wine, give us herbs to eat and water to drink," Daniel asked the leaders in charge. "Let us have ten days to test this plan. Then you can see if the plan will work or not."

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

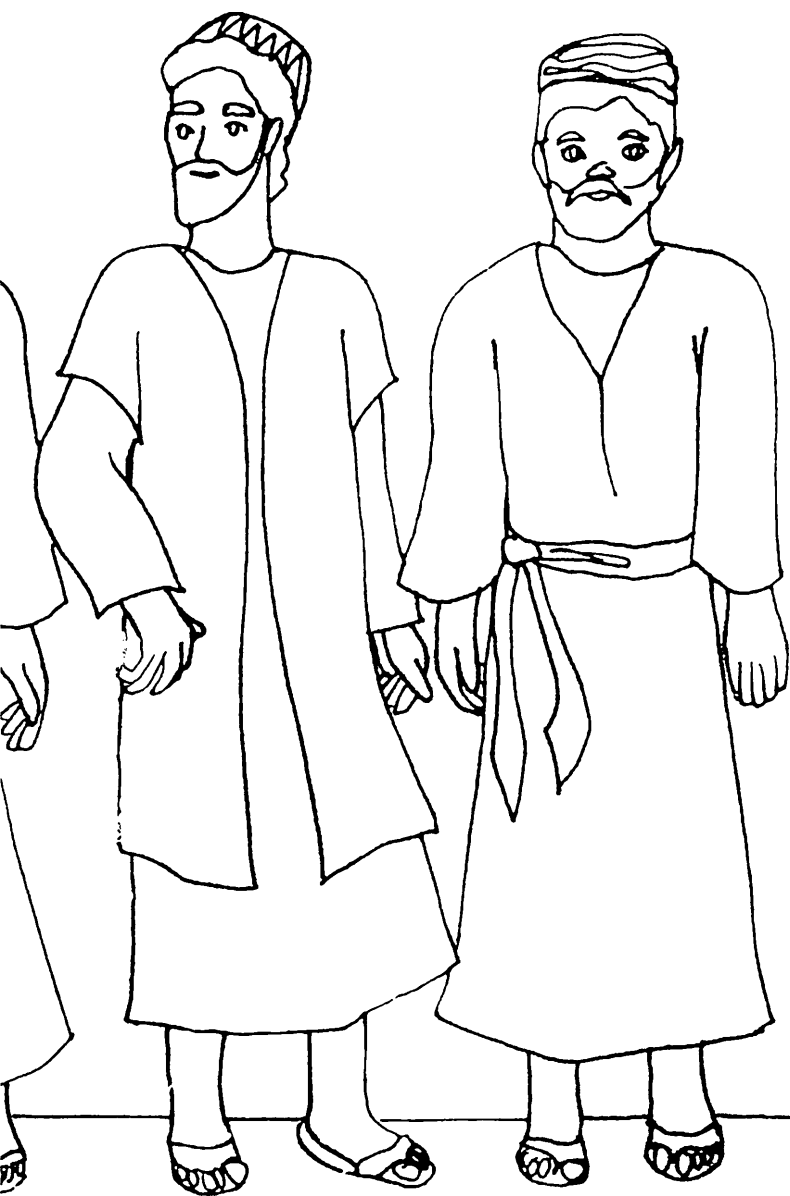
When the men stood before the king, all of the leaders and the king himself agreed that none were as good as Daniel and his three friends. In fact, when the king questioned them, he found them better than any of the famous men in his kingdom. Daniel and his friends were considered very wise men, from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

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of h
Israel, and of the king’s seed



uchs, that he should bring certain of the children of
of the princes;" Daniel 1:3 KJV



The Big Camp-Out

(continued)

With the weather so warm and inviting, some members in the Guthrie congregation decided to have a camp-out by the Cimarron River. Connie was excited! Then she found out that it was only for the men and boys.

"Why do the boys get to have ALL the fun?!" she complained to Daddy and Mama. "Girls can ride horses and set up camp too!"

"Maybe we can work something out with the girls," replied Daddy. "I will talk to Bro. Robert about it."

"Thank you, Daddy! Tell him I am very disappointed!" then Connie ran to her bedroom to cry. She hardly ever cried about things, but this time it seemed so unfair to be left out. *Lord, please talk to Bro. Robert's heart and let him agree to let the girls go*, she prayed. She knew pleading and crying to the men would never get her anywhere, but she could cry and pray to the Lord. He listened. Hadn't the Lord answered her prayers about finding the lost keys and that test? The Lord had answered her prayers different times and surely He could work a miracle for her again.

On Thursday, before the big weekend, Daddy told Connie that the girls could ride horses to the camp site and they could stay and eat around the camp fire with the men.

Connie crossed her arms. "That sounds good, but what about the camp out?"

"Well, you and Mama and Cindy can go and spend the night with Sis. Aquilla," replied Daddy. "It may get too cool and be uncomfortable for you girls in the night."

"That is just a big excuse," cried Connie. "In the old pioneer days, girls slept out under the stars just like the men did!"

"That may be true," said Daddy. "But this time we want only men for the night."

Early Saturday morning Connie helped Mama prepare and pack food for the big camp fire cook out. When they arrived at the Benson's house, she made it clear she wanted to ride a horse to the camp site.

"This spunky pony will be a good one for a spunky girl," said Bro. Robert

as he led a saddled brown pony to her. Daddy helped Connie climb into the saddle. "Now hold her head up firm like this," coached Bro. Robert, handing her the reins. "If you don't she will send you sailing like a bird. You don't want to sing us any sad songs, do you?"

Connie laughed and the pony twitched her ears. "Watch her ears," said Bro. Robert. "If she turns them out, you are doing something wrong. Don't let her bite her bit. Keep her in check and let her know YOU ARE THE BOSS or she will outsmart you. You are smarter than a horse, aren't you?"

Connie thought she was but she soon learned common horse sense was pretty tricky. When the call came for all the horses and riders to line up, her pony tried to go back to the field to graze.

"Connie, make your pony obey you!" ordered Bro. Robert. "Rein her in behind the buggy!"

Connie made her pony follow the buggy as they rode down College Street. The gentle rhythm of the ride made Connie relax and she forgot to hold her pony's reins firmly. Suddenly her pony kicked and Connie sailed like a bird through the air. Thank the Lord she was not hurt badly. It just taught her some common horse sense about being demanding: take the bad kicks in stride with the ride. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

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

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 July 18, 2010

The King's Nightmare

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

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

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

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

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

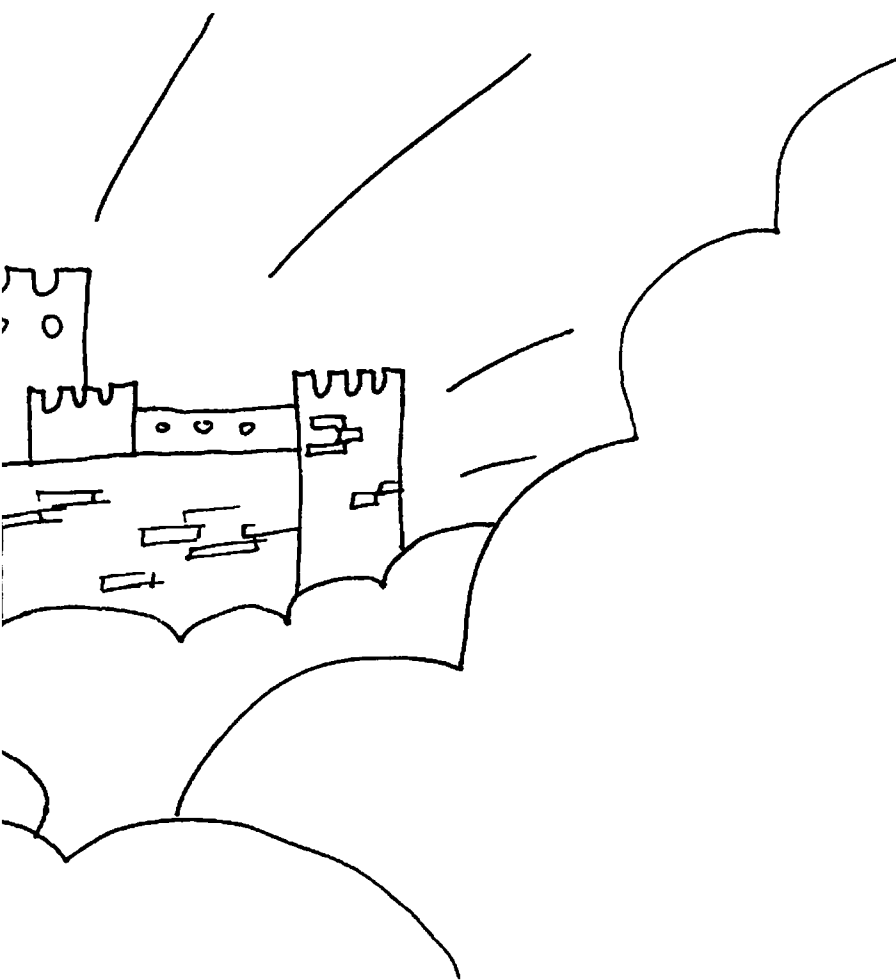
"I believe God has let me know what your dream was. You saw a large image. Its head was made of gold; his breast and arms were silver. His hips were brass; his legs were iron, and his feet were part iron and part clay. A stone hit the image's feet and broke them to pieces. The whole body was broken into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

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

—Sis. Monica Murphey



"And in the days of these kings shall
which shall **never** be c



God of heaven set up a kingdom,
royed . . .” Daniel 2:44 KJV

Traveling with Grandma

(continued)

Monark time again! Connie wanted to go to the camp meeting but Daddy could not get off from work and Mama was not going without him.

"We can't miss Monark!" cried Connie to Mama while they prepared supper. "All year I have looked forward to seeing my friends and now I can't go! Please let me go with someone—PLEASE!"

"Let me talk to your daddy about it," said Mama as she stirred the gravy. "Maybe we can work out something with Grandma."

"Oh, that would be groovy!" exclaimed Connie.

"Connie, don't use that worldly word," said Mama. "Certainly don't use it around Grandma!"

"Whatever!" sighed Connie. "I will be good for Grandma if she will take me. I'm going to pray about it!"

That evening when they asked Grandma about taking Connie, she replied, "Yes, I will be glad for Connie to go with me. I plan to ride with Maude this year so let me ask her if she won't mind Connie going with us. We plan to stop in Tulsa to have lunch with Carl, Senior and he would be glad to see Connie. I'll call Maude tonight."

Aunt Maude agreed that Connie could go with them, and Aunt Maybelle planned to travel with them also. *What a combination!* thought Connie. *I had better practice all of my manners!* For the next three days, Connie rehearsed in her mind "Yes, Ma'am; No, Ma'am; please, thank you, you're welcome; and what may I do to help?"

Connie's suitcase was packed and she was ready to go when Aunt Maude's red car pulled up in the driveway. Aunt Maude hopped out from behind the steering wheel and opened the trunk. "I hope you don't have very much to take," she said to Connie. "The trunk is full!"

"Hello, Aunt Maude," said Connie. "Thank you for taking me. I can hold some of my things on my lap if I need to."

Aunt Maude looked at Connie's two suitcases and hanging clothes. "Oh, I don't know if I will ever get all this inside my car," she said, rearranging things in the trunk.

"You shouldn't have so many things to take. Such a little girl with so many things...."

"Really, Aunt Maude, I can keep some on my lap..." offered Connie but Aunt Maude was not listening. Her hands were as busy as her tongue and Connie stood listening and watching as Aunt Maude stacked her things into the trunk. "There!" exclaimed Aunt Maude as she slammed down the car trunk. "I guess you can go," she said to Connie. "We have your things in the trunk now!"

"Thank you, Ma'am," replied Connie quietly. She found her place on the back seat by Grandma. All the way to Tulsa Connie listened to her aunts and Grandma visit. She was grateful to be with them and to see her Grandpa in Tulsa. They met him at Pic-a-dilly Buffet Restaurant. He was glad to see Connie but she did not get to talk to him because his sisters did that.

On that trip, Connie was to be seen and not heard. However, she learned to be respectful to her elders.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

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

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 July 25, 2010

A Fourth Man in the Fire!

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

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

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

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

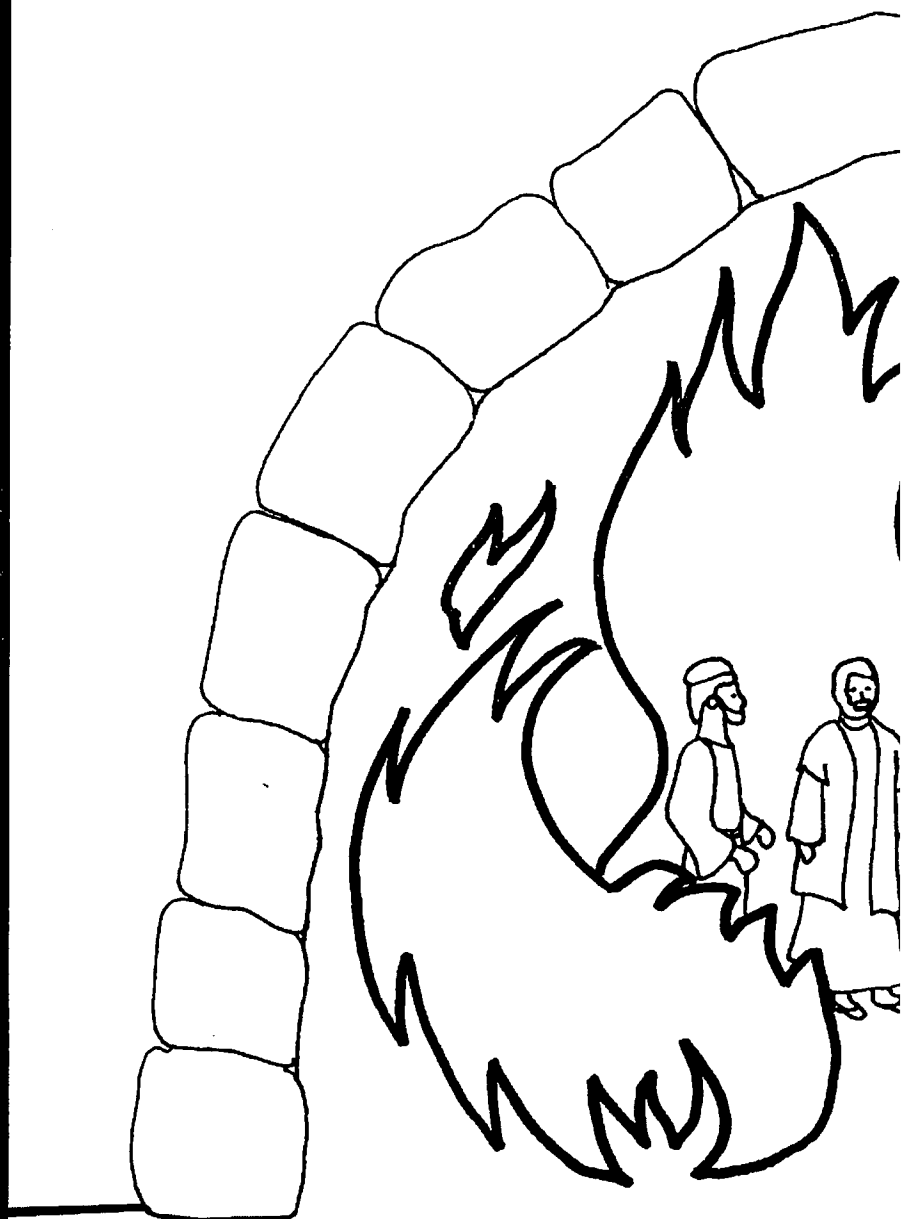
"We will not serve your gods, or worship your golden image," the three Hebrews informed the king.

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

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

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

—Sis. Monica Murphey



"... Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the mid
of the fourth is like the S



he fire, and they have no hurt; and the form
God." Daniel 3:25 KJV

The Little Gray Cabin

(Continued)

Connie rode to Monark Springs Camp meeting with Grandma Miles, but she stayed in the cabin with Grandpa and Grandma Eck. They had the gray brick cabin across the road from the ladies dorm and bathroom. Grandma Eck spread a clean table cloth on the white table in the center of the room. She put a clear candy dish on the table and kept it full of wrapped candies.

By the door was a wash stand holding the white porcelain bucket with the matching dipper and wash basin. Beside the wash stand was the little refrigerator. It had a motor that snorted loudly when it turned on and off. Connie learned not to touch the refrigerator handle when she was barefooted because it would shock her fingers.

The dresser with a big mirror sat catty-corner by the refrigerator. It held everything from hair items in the top drawer to paper plates in the middle drawer and linens in the bottom. Grandma's big rocker was next, right beside the baby bed. Many grandchildren spent their first Monark sleeping in that baby bed and rocking with Grandma in the rocker. The baby bed was at the foot of Grandma and Grandpa's bed, and next to it was Uncle Larry's bed, Aunt Ruthie and Connie's bed, and another bed to the side. Clothes racks and shelves were located along the walls and in corners. The old water cooler sat by Aunt Ruthie and Connie's bed unless Uncle Larry put it by him. It and the fans moved around to keep the cabin cool in the hot July summer.

Indeed it was a comfortable cabin and family often came in to visit between service times. Aunt Inez was one who loved to come by in the early morning before breakfast. Grandma would be in her rocker watching people pass by the cabin.

"Hello, Bea," said Aunt Inez as she stepped inside the glass door. "I saw Waldo at the early morning prayer service at 6:00 and he is peeling potatoes at the table now. How are you feeling?"

"Pretty good," replied Grandma, rocking calmly in her chair.

Then Aunt Inez saw Connie and Aunt Ruthie still in bed. "Why, Bea, you should have those girls out of bed and in the kitchen!" exclaimed Aunt Inez. "They are too big to sleep this late in the morning!"

"They will be ready for breakfast," replied Grandma. "I have them help me in here."

"Well, they need to be more responsible for work in the dining hall and even cleaning the ladies bathroom. Our parents taught us to work and sleeping in late was plain lazy!"

Rocking calmly Grandma turned toward the girls' bed. "Girls, wake up and get dressed," she said. "It is time for breakfast."

By now Connie and Aunt Ruthie were giggling under the covers. "Yes, Ma'am," called Connie. Maybe her politeness would cool down Aunt Inez.

Aunt Inez said a few more things but before she left, "Ruthie and Connie, I want to see you girls in children's meeting this morning at 9:00. You can help with the singing. See you then. Good-bye, Bea. See you at morning service."

Connie had so many relatives watching her at Monark that she didn't get by being very naughty. Maybe that was why her parents let her go many times to stay in the little gray cabin.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

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

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Aug. 1, 2010

Pride Before A Fall

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Monica Murphey



is nails like birds' claws." Daniel 4:33 k1v
and his body was wet with the dew of heaven,



"... he was driven from men, and did eat grass as
till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers,

Playing on the Wood Pile

(continued)

When Connie arrived home from Monark Springs, Donnie was eager to tell her about the change in the woods.

"We have been having lots of fun playing in the big pile of trees the bulldozers pushed down," he told her. "It's by the Walnut Bridge so all the guys from that street play in the pile, too. But that doesn't matter because there are many places to make a fort."

Connie finished tying her sneakers. "Okay, let's go!" she told him and out the door they ran. When they reached the woods, Connie was shocked at the change one week of bulldozing had made! Many of the trees that she and her friends had played around were pushed over, roots and all, and piled up in a huge heap in the field by the creek.

"Who did all this?" she exclaimed. "They took out good healthy trees! This is just sinful! When that bulldozer man comes back, I'm going to tell him how wicked this is!"

"I know," said Donnie. "I don't like it either but there is nothing we can do about it. Let's go to the pile and climb!"

"It is wrong to kill good trees for nothing!" declared Connie. "If I had been here, I would have stopped them!"

"No, you wouldn't have!" said Donnie. "They would have run right over you! Stop griping and join the fun!"

Connie could hear other children laughing and then she saw them climbing over the rough bark tree trunks. They were moving small limbs and taking off leaves to make houses or forts and in several trees made caves.

"What if one of these trees fall?" asked Connie.

"Naw, they won't fall," said Mark, a neighbor boy who lived up Walnut Street. "I have pushed on them with my foot and they don't budge."

Connie still wasn't convinced. "You have your brother and sister under

this heavy tree. I don't think we should walk on it—it could crush them."

Mark glared at Connie. "Go away, Big Bad Mama. We don't need you around here!"

Push him over! Thought Connie but another voice said: *No! don't be naughty! Besides, he will hit you back and you don't want to fight with him.* Connie looked down at Allen and Barbara snuggled in a nest Mark was standing over. "Hope you all stay safe," she said to them and jumped off the pile of trees.

"Don't you want to play on them?" asked Donnie.

"No," replied Connie. "It looks like a cemetery to me. These trees were our friends. Remember all the different houses we made under them and in the bushes around them?" Donnie nodded his head. "Besides," continued Connie, "this pile of trees does not look safe."

"We could play on the small branches," suggested Donnie.

"Oh, alright," agreed Connie, "for a little while."

Two weeks later, a tree did slide and break a child's leg and parents forbade their children to climb on the pile. However, some children disobeyed.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

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

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Aug. 8, 2010

Weighed In the Balance

King Belshazzar, King Nebuchadnezzar's son, had a great feast. Many great people attended the feast. Golden vessels were taken out of the temple of God. The people drank wine out of them and praised idols.

Suddenly, the king's face grew pale. His knees knocked together. What he saw frightened him. A hand had appeared over a candlestick on the wall of the king's palace. The fingers of a man's hand were writing words that King Belshazzar could not understand.

"Bring in all of my wise men. Whoever can read this writing and tell me what it means, will be clothed in expensive clothing. They will be made the third ruler in my kingdom," the king commanded.

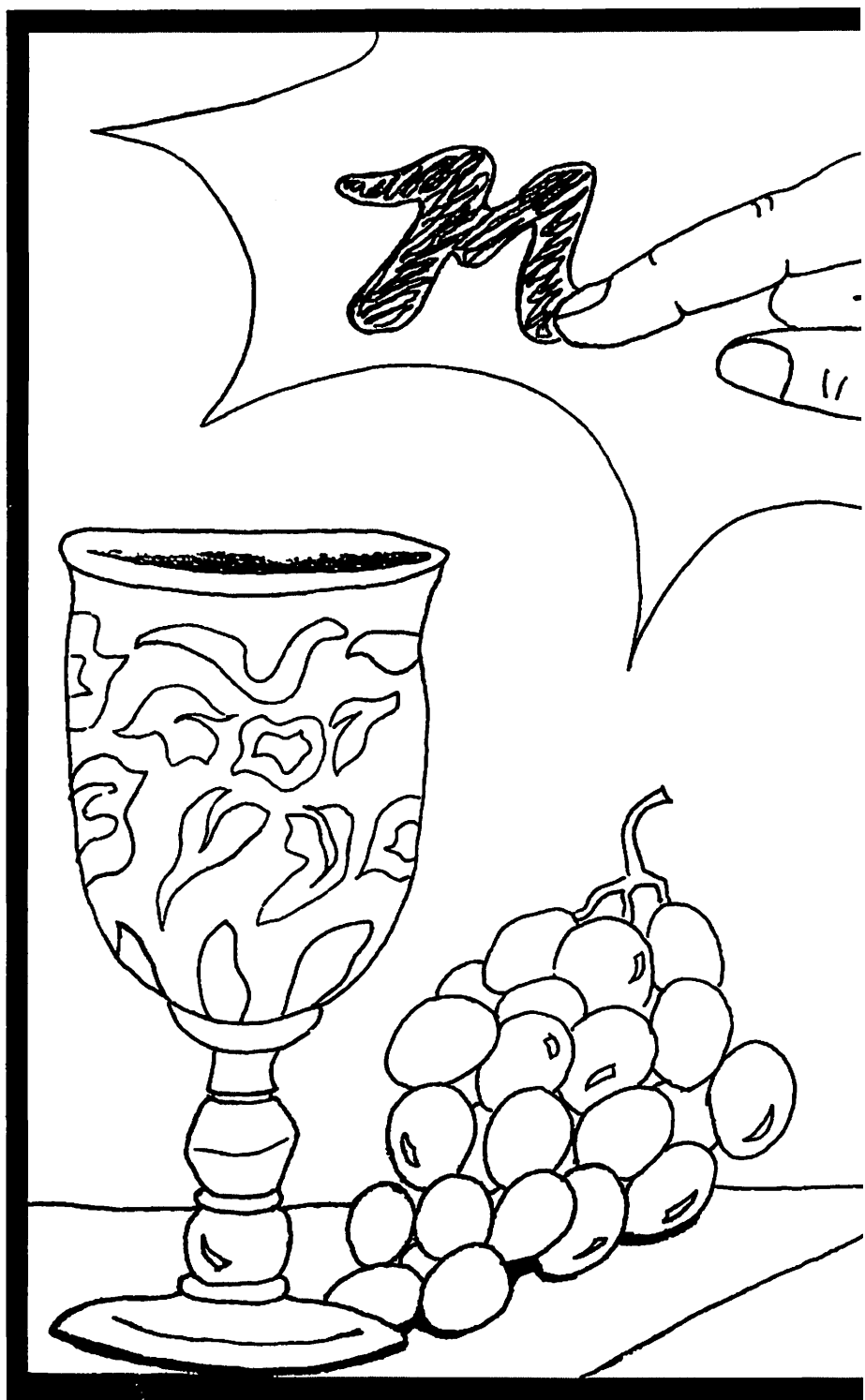
All of the wise men came before the king, but they could not tell him what the writing meant. "Oh, king, there is a man in your kingdom who could show you what the writing means. His God is holy and has given him much wisdom and knowledge. This man's name is Daniel," the queen advised the king.

The king told Daniel, "I have heard that God has shown you many things. If you can tell me what this writing means, I will give you gifts, and you shall be the third ruler in the kingdom."

"Give your gifts to someone else, but I will read the writing to you, and tell you what it means. Your father was given a great kingdom, but when he became proud and hard, his kingdom was taken from him. You, his son, have not humbled your heart, even though you saw what happened to your father. You have brought vessels from God's temple and have worshiped other gods. This was what was written on the wall: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. MENE means that your days as king are numbered, and your kingdom is finished. TEKEL means that you have been weighed in the balance, and are found wanting. PERES means that your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians," Daniel revealed.

That very night, King Belshazzar was killed. A Midianite named Darius became the next king.

—Sis. Monica Murphey





"In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's
hand and wrote over against the candlestick
upon . . . the wall of the king's palace . . ."

Daniel 5:5 KJV

Girls' Time on the Driveway

(Continued)

Connie was with the girls playing hopscotch, jacks and jump rope in Cara's driveway. She picked up the little stick and threw it. Then she counted, "Hop one, one, two, pick-up stick, one, one, two, one—Done!" She had gone through the squares without falling or touching a line.

"You did good!" said Cara. "Now, Barbara, it is your turn."

"Let me help you," said Connie to the younger girl. "Don't throw the stick too far. If it goes out of the boxes, you loose your turn."

Barbara was quick to learn. Her pixie cut red hair framed her cute freckled face as she smiled up at Connie. She had two front teeth missing which made her whistle over some words. Her short legs could barely jump in the squares and even though her feet touched the lines a couple of times, Connie and Cara did not call her out.

Some other girls were playing jump rope so Connie and Cara took Baba (short for Barbara) over to jump the rope. Here again Connie showed Barbara how to watch the rope and run in when the rope was up.

Baba watched closely how Connie ran in and jumped. After a try or two, Baba was able to jump a couple of times before the rope hit her.

"Sorry, you're out!" said Cara. "Take a turn out and then you can try again!"

"Okay," said Baba with a smile. She seemed happy to be included with the big girls. She was the age of Connie's little sister, Cindy, who knew how to jump rope and play hopscotch.

Christy, Cara's big sister, and her friend wanted to play jacks most of the time, so Cara, Linda, Amy, and Connie played jump rope with Carla, Cindy and Baba. It was great fun helping the younger ones do better.

"Good jump!" Connie told Carla, Cara's little sister. "Now it is your turn to hold the rope," she said as she handed her end of the jump rope to Carla. "Hold it steady so it does not trip the jumper."

Cara helped Baba jump this time.

They were laughing and talking so much they did not notice Mark ride his bike down the street toward the driveway. "Baba! You come home now!" he called to her. "We have been looking all over for you! You never told your sitter where you were going! You are in bad trouble!"

"I am not in trouble!" cried Baba in her cute voice. "I said I wanted to play at the big girls' house!"

Mark was off his bike and walking to his little sister. His angry look made Connie quickly say, "Cara and I will walk Baba home, won't we Cara?"

"No, I'll take her home," said Mark with a glare at Connie. "She should not be here anyway!" He grabbed his sister's arm and that did it for Connie. She challenged Mark, "I said I WILL WALK BABA HOME!"

Mark looked at his bike, "Well, since I'm on my bike..."

"Just take your bike home and she will be there," said Connie. Soon Connie and Cara were walking Baba up the steps to her front door. The sitter did not seem very worried about Baba as she came in, but she did not thank the girls for bringing her home.

"At least we know Mark didn't drag Baba home," said Connie. "I pray that she will be okay."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Where were the vessels at the feast taken from?
2. What made the king so afraid?
3. Who did the queen say could tell the king the meaning of the writing?
4. What did MENE mean?
5. What did TEKEL mean?
6. What did PERES mean?
7. What happened to King Belshazzar that night?
8. Who became the next king?

Answer: 1. God's temple. 2. He saw a hand, writing on the wall. 3. Daniel. 4. The king's days were numbered, and the kingdom was finished. 5. The king had been weighed in the balance, and found wanting. 6. The kingdom had been divided and given to the Medes and Persians. 7. He was killed. 8. Darius.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Aug. 15, 2010

Cast into the Den of Lions

King Darius set one hundred and twenty princes over the kingdom. Three presidents were set over the princes. Daniel was the first president over the whole kingdom.

The other princes and presidents were jealous of Daniel. They looked hard to find something that Daniel did wrong, but they couldn't find anything.

"The only way we can get Daniel in trouble with the king is to get him in trouble somehow for worshipping his God," these men decided.

The men came to the king. "O king, we have decided that you should make a decree that for the next thirty days, no one should pray to any god besides you. The person that does pray to another god shall be cast into a den of lions," the evil men suggested.

The king liked the idea, and signed the decree. Daniel always prayed to God three times a day. The men found Daniel praying to God. They went back to the king.

"Have you not signed a decree, that any man who prays to any god besides you should be thrown into a den of lions?" they asked the king. "This is true," the king replied. "Daniel, the captive from Judah, has not obeyed your law, but has prayed to his God three times a day," the men told the king.

The king was sad. Daniel was his friend. He tried to think of some way to save Daniel, but he could not. Finally, King Darius commanded that the men bring Daniel and throw him into the den of lions. "Your God will deliver you," the king told Daniel.

The next morning, King Darius rose and quickly went to the den of lions. "Daniel, was your God able to deliver you from the lions?" the king cried. "My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths. They have not hurt me," Daniel answered. The king ordered that Daniel be taken out and the other men put in the lions' den instead.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

"My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions



ths, that they have not hurt me . . .” Daniel 6:22 KJV



Preparing to Camp (continued)

It was time for the Miles family to take their summer trip before school started. Preparing for a camping trip took a lot of time, but it was worth it. Daddy had made a wooden trailer to pull behind their car. It had the tent, the camp stove, the lanterns, sleeping cots and lots of other necessary items inside. The cook's cabinet had shelves and two drawers for the silverware.

Connie and Cindy helped Mama put groceries away in the cabinet while Donnie and Lonnie helped Daddy load up the big things.

"Here are the fly swatters," said Connie. "We must have them! Buzzing flies at the tent windows drive me crazy!"

"Do you know where the map went?" asked Daddy. "I thought I had it right here."

"Yes, here it is," said Connie moving it from under the telephone book. "I was checking out where Table Rock Lake is located."

"We are going to camp out by Branson, Missouri," said Daddy. "Shepherd of the Hills and Silver Dollar City are close by. We can visit them sometime during our two week camping trip."

"That sounds like great fun!" exclaimed Connie. She was ready to leave right away but there was still packing to do.

"We will leave first thing in the morning," said Daddy. "Let's have everything ready and leave early."

"Yeah," said Donnie. "like ten o'clock."

"No, I'll stay up all night and finish packing so we won't leave that late," said Mama.

"So what do you have left to do?" asked Daddy. "Just leave some dirty laundry and dishes in the sink until we get back home. I'm going to turn off the water soon anyway."

"Oh, I don't like to leave any thing dirty for two weeks!" said Mama.

"Maybe Grandma Miles could come in and finish cleaning for us," suggested Connie.

"Connie! I would never ask Mother Marie to do my work for me!" said Mama. "I'll get it done—just go to bed for a while and let me finish everything. It won't take so long if you all are in bed."

So they all went to bed to sleep a wink or two because Daddy was shaking them awake before the sun was up. They all tumbled into the car and soon everyone was asleep but Daddy who kept awake chewing his red Dentine gum. They arrived at the lake in good time even though the car was pulling a well-loaded trailer.

Connie's heart was singing along with the eight track Daddy was playing in the car. The Sons of the Pioneers were singing about cool water, and Connie was thinking about swimming in the lake water. It is so refreshing for families to take pleasant trips together! Thank you, Lord, for family love!
—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who was the first president over the whole kingdom?
2. Why did the other men try to find fault in Daniel?
3. How many days were the people to pray only to the king?
4. What would happen to the ones who pray to any other god?
5. How many times a day did Daniel pray?
6. How did the king feel about having to throw Daniel in the lions' den?
7. Did the lions harm Daniel?
8. What happened to the other men?

Answers: 1. Daniel. 2. They were jealous. 3. Thirty. 4. They would be thrown into a den of lions. 5. Three. 6. Sad. 7. No. 8. They were thrown into the den and killed by the lions.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Aug. 22, 2010

A Promised Messiah

There are sixty-six books in the Bible. The Old Testament had thirty-nine books in all. Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It means "Beginning." Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles, Esther, Job, Daniel, and Jonah are all books that contain stories about the history of the Israelites. Some of the books tell about Jewish laws. Many of the books were written by prophets.

For hundreds and thousands of years, Hebrew prophets spoke of a promised Messiah. Messiah means 'anointed one'. The Messiah was to be the Holy One of Israel. He was to be the Prophet, Priest, and King of all mankind. Many Hebrews thought that the Messiah would be an earthly king, who would set up a kingdom and rule over the world from Jerusalem.

Isaiah prophesies that the Messiah would set up a kingdom that would have no end. Prophets like Daniel, Micah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Zechariah, and Moses gave hints of what the Messiah's life would be like.

The Messiah was to be born in the city of David to a young girl. Although the Messiah would be set up as Prince and Counselor over all men, He would be a man of sorrows. He would be beaten and punished for the sins of all mankind.

There are four hundred years between the last chapter in the Old Testament and the first chapter in the New Testament. These years are often called the "silent years", because there is no book written during that time. Different countries took over the ruling of Israel. Persia, Greece, Syria, and finally Roman soldiers took control of Israel during these years. Dark times had fallen on the Israelites. Most of the leaders of Israel were not honest men. The people were poor and oppressed. Although a coming Savior had been prophesied for hundreds of years, the hope of a better kingdom aided the Israelites through these tough times.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall
be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called

Wonderful,

Counsellor,

The mighty God,





The everlasting Father,

The Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6 KJV

Camping and Swimming (continued)

"Race you to the lake!" Donnie challenged Connie as he took off running.

"Just wade in the water until I get there!" called Daddy.

Connie reached the lake shore first. They obeyed Daddy and just waded in the water where they could see the bottom. They knew it was best for Daddy to swim the area first and find any underwater cliffs, holes, or jagged rocks under the surface.

Soon all the family was at the water's edge. Mama did not like to swim so she brought a lawn chair and a good book to read. She sat the chair in the water so she could dangle her feet in the coolness.

"Hurry up, Daddy! Plunge in!" called all four children.

"I just got here," protested Daddy. "Give me a minute to wade in."

"Honey, be careful," warned Mama because she knew he was going to dive any minute.

"I'm always careful," said Daddy as the water reached his knees. Suddenly there was a splash and he was gone under the water. They all laughed and Cindy clapped her hands. "Let's see where he pops up!" she said.

"Probably out there by that orange buoy," said Donnie.

"Sure enough—there's his head by that orange thing," exclaimed Donnie.

"Daddy sure went a long way in a short time," admired Connie.

"I'm going to do that some day," said Donnie.

"You can, too," agreed Connie, "if you keep eating your Cheerio's."

Soon Daddy had a report about the water. "We need to move down a ways," he said. "There is a tower of sharp rocks just under the surface and it would hurt if you hit it with your legs or arms."

So they all moved down the shore before going deeper into the water. "Hey, Daddy, I want to dive from your shoulders!" said Cindy.

Daddy made a good "diving board" and great coach. The children took turns diving and swimming under water. They tried to swim the distance Daddy did, but no one ever did.

"Look at your peeling face!" said Mama to Connie that evening. "Have you not put sun screen on? I'm glad you swam in a tee shirt or your shoulders and back would be as red as a beet also."

In the evenings they would eat fried chicken or hamburgers that Mama made on the cook stove. When the sun went down Daddy would light up a lantern or two and Mama would read stories to them.

One day they went into Branson and visited Marvel Cave and a group of old fashioned shops called Silver Dollar City. They also visited the Shepherd of the Hills which Connie had read the book about.

It was wonderful sleeping out in the big blue tent and eating outside, but Connie began to want a nice warm shower at home. So it was with bittersweet feelings that the family began to pack up and put down the tent because Daddy had to be at work on Monday morning.

"Thank you, Lord, for a peaceful camping trip," said Mama softly as their car and trailer pulled in to the home driveway.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. How many books are in the Bible?
2. How many books are in the Old Testament?
3. Can you name some of them?
4. What does 'Messiah' mean?
5. What was the Messiah to do?
6. What were some of the prophecies about the Messiah?
7. How many years went by between the Old Testament and the New Testament?
8. Why are they called the silent years?

Answers: 1. Sixty-six. 2. Thirty-nine. 3. Answers may vary. 4. Anointed one. 5. Be the Prince, Prophet, and Priest to all mankind. 6. Answers may vary. 7. Four hundred. 8. No book was written during that time.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Aug. 29, 2010

Zacharias and the Angel

In the days when Herod was king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias. His wife was named Elisabeth. Elisabeth and Zacharias were both old. Elisabeth and Zacharias had no children, although they had hoped and prayed for children.

Zacharias' job in the temple was to burn incense before the Lord. People would pray outside of the room while Zacharias was burning incense. One day, when Zacharias began burning the incense, he found an angel sent from God standing on the right side of the altar of incense. Zacharias was afraid.

"Fear not, Zacharias. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife, Elisabeth shall bear thee a son. You will name him John. Everyone will be glad at his birth, because he will be great in the Lord's eyes. He will not drink wine or strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Ghost. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord," the angel informed Zacharias.

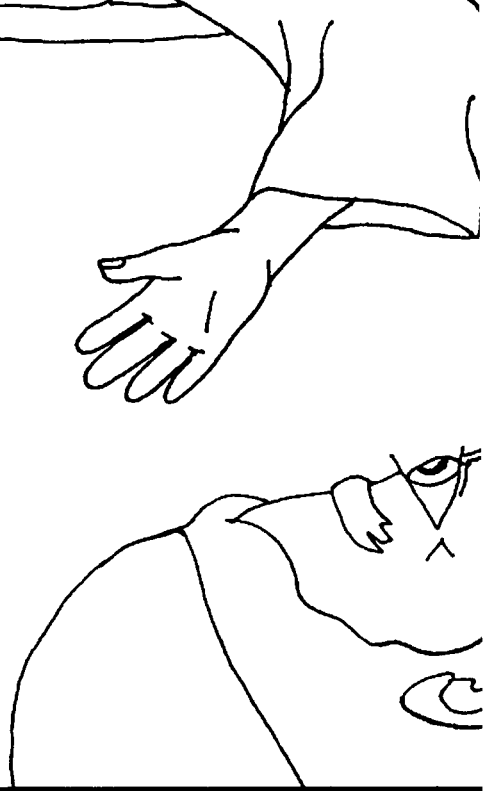
"How can I know this will really happen? I am an old man, and my wife is old also," Zacharias doubted.

"I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God. Because you do not believe my words, you will not be able to speak until your son is born," Gabriel answered.

While Zacharias was conversing with an angel, the people outside waited. "Why is he taking so long?" they wondered. When Zacharias finally came out, he could not speak to them. They thought he had seen a vision in the temple. When Zacharias' duties at the temple were completed, he returned home. Soon, they found that Elisabeth was going to have a baby. Elisabeth was very happy.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“ And there appeared unto him
an angel of the Lord standing
on the right side of the altar of
incense.” Luke 1:11 KJV







Back Home and Reporting

(Continued)

After helping Mama unpack most of the things from the camping trailer, Connie was anxious to go see Cara. "Can I go now, Mama?" she asked, bringing in an armload of bedding to be washed.

"Oh, I guess," said Mama.

"Thank you, Mama," said Connie as she shut the door behind her. She raced up the hill and stood panting for breath as she rang Cara's doorbell. Mrs. Drake opened the door. "Hello, Connie. Did you have a nice trip? I see you are sunburned! Come on in. Cara is in her bedroom."

"Thank you, Mrs. Drake," said Connie. "Yes, we had a neat trip. How is Cara doing?"

Mrs. Drake nodded her head, "She will be glad to see you, so hurry on, kiddo!"

Cara met her in the hallway and they exchanged greetings. "Tell me about your trip!" said Cara. Connie told glowing stories about swimming, camping, and trips to Branson. After a while she asked Cara, "So what have you all been doing while I was gone?"

"Well," said Cara slowly. Her blue eyes filled with tears and she looked down.

"What happened?" asked Connie.

"Well," said Cara again. "Baba got sick. She had a high fever so her parents took her to the hospital. They did all they could do and worked with her, but she died."

Connie was stunned. "She died? What was she sick with? Are you sure?"

Cara was crying. Connie felt hot and weak as she sat on Cara's bed. She just laid down in disbelief until Cara could talk again.

"The doctors did not know what Baba had at first," said Cara. "She slept and did not want to eat. They ran tests but before the results came back, she died. None of us went to visit her at the hospital. We went to the funeral, though, and it was so sad. They did not open the casket because they had shaved off all her pretty red hair."

"Oh, that's terrible!" cried Connie remembering Baba's cute smile framed with her pixie hair cut. "Why did they cut off her hair?"

"That's where the nurses found a fat tick embedded in Baba's head. After she died, the doctors said she had Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever."

"She died just from a little tick bite?" asked Connie in a shocked whisper. "I've had tick bites before, but I did not think you could die from it!"

"Mama said it has to be a tick diseased with the germ before it bites you," explained Cara. "Only ticks carrying that germ will give you that fever, but you can't tell which ticks are germy and which ones aren't."

"Where did she get a germy tick?" asked Connie.

"Oh, remember that pile of trees by the woods? That is where the neighbors think the germy ticks are so they called the city and some of the trees were sawed up for lumber and the rest has been burned."

"I knew it was a mistake for those trees to be cut down!" declared Connie. "This just makes me so sad!"

Later at home Connie told her family about Baba dying. Connie and her family found time to go to the cemetery and put flowers on her grave. It made Connie realize how quickly death can come to anyone.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who was king during this story?
2. What was Zacharias' job?
3. What did Zacharias and Elisabeth wish for?
4. Who was standing on the right side of the altar?
5. What did the angel tell Zacharias?
6. What was the baby's name to be?
7. How was Zacharias punished for his unbelief?
8. What did the people think was wrong with Zacharias?

Answers: 1. Herod. 2. A priest, to burn the incense. 3. Children. 4. Gabriel. 5. He was to have a son. 6. John. 7. He could not speak until the baby's birth. 8. He had seen a vision.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Sept. 5, 2010

Gabriel's Message to Mary

God sent Gabriel to visit a girl living in a city in Galilee, called Nazareth. The girl's name was Mary. Mary was engaged to marry a man named Joseph.

"You are highly favored. The Lord is with you. You are blessed among women," an angel had appeared to Mary and made this statement in praise of her. When Mary saw the angel, she was afraid. What did he mean?

"Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You shall have a son. His name will be called Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end," the angel promised. "Your cousin Elisabeth is also having a son in her old age. With God, nothing is impossible."

"I am the servant of the Lord. Let it happen according to your words," Mary replied.

Mary quickly went to visit the house of Zacharias and Elisabeth. Both women realized that the babies they were going to have would be very special. Elisabeth and Mary praised God and rejoiced together at the miracles, which had come to pass.

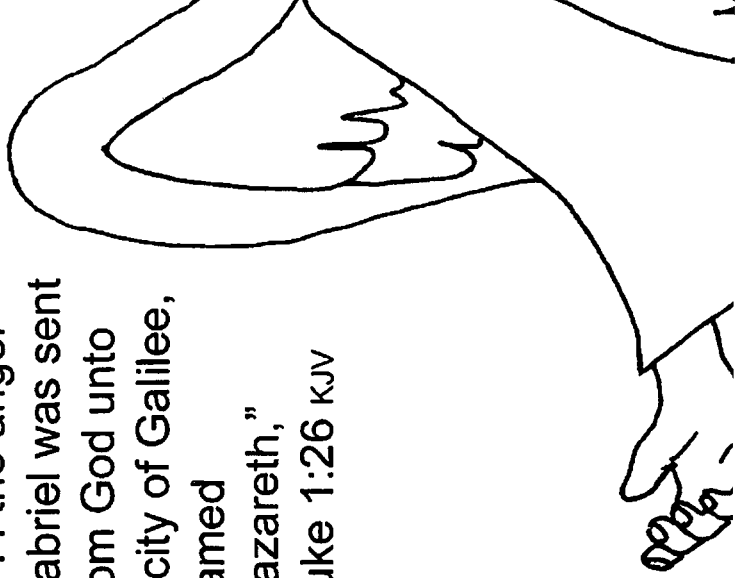
When Elisabeth had her baby, her neighbors and family rejoiced with her. Eight days after the baby had been born, some decided his name should be Zacharias, after his father. "No, he shall be named John," Elisabeth contradicted. "But we have no relatives named John," their friends protested.

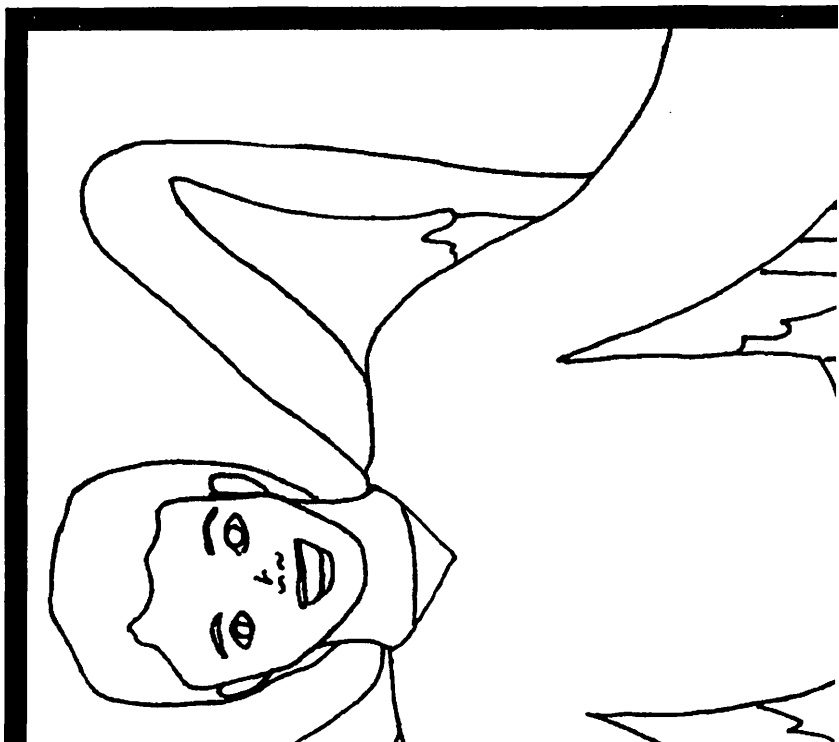
Zacharias reached for a notepad and writing utensil. He wrote, "His name is John." Then, Zacharias was able to speak. Zacharias praised God for His many wondrous miracles. "The child will be called the prophet of the Highest," Zacharias prophesied. "He will give people knowledge of salvation by repenting of their sins. He will give light to those that sit in darkness."

And John grew strong in spirit.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

" . . . the angel
Gabriel was sent
from God unto
a city of Galilee,
named
Nazareth,"
Luke 1:26 KJV







Class of Fifth Grade

Back to school again for fifth grade, Connie was glad to see old friends she had not seen during the summer. She had a home-room class in the morning and then four other teachers in the afternoon. She really liked changing rooms, but her class was always the same.

As she sat in her assigned desk, she watched the students come in. Some she had gone to school with since first grade, some she had seen before but did not know very well. Then there were new students that she had never met before.

This year there were five new students in her room. Connie thought, As soon as break time comes, I will go and meet them. In roll call, she learned their names were Debra, Joyce, Rhonda, Gilbert and Junior.

Later at the drinking fountain, Connie had her chance. "Hello, my name is Connie," she said to Rhonda. "I'm glad to meet you, Rhonda."

"It's nice to meet you, too," replied Rhonda.

"Do you have any brothers or sisters?" asked Connie.

"Yes, I have an older brother and two sisters younger than me. What about you?" replied Rhonda.

"I am the oldest and I have two younger brothers and one sister," replied Connie. "We live about 10 blocks from here so we all walk to school."

"I have to ride a bus," said Rhonda. "We live with Grandmama on Perkins."

"We used to ride a bus," said Connie, "but now one does not come to our neighborhood. Buses can be hot to ride in during the afternoon."

"Tell me about it, girl," said Rhonda with a giggle. "I'd rather walk! But that would take too long."

Connie liked the way Rhonda giggled. She knew they would make good friends. At lunch break, Debra asked

Connie if she could comb her hair.

"Sure," agreed Connie. "I'll get my comb out of my book bag." She did not like her hair in a pony tail anyway and Debra knew how to braid really well.

When Connie came home that night with her hair all braided, Mama asked her "Who did that fancy braiding?"

"My new friend, Debra," replied Connie. "She loved playing with my hair."

"Honestly, Connie!" exclaimed Mama. "You will find any way you can to take down your hair! Please don't undo your hair every day. Find some other creative things to do with your new friends."

It wasn't hard to think of games to play at school. Not only were there playground swing sets and monkey bars, but some like to play baseball or shoot basket balls in the net. Connie liked most to play jump rope or chase, so that is what her friends did the most.

Every day Connie told Mama about the games they all played and how she liked her new friends. Mama smiled, "Every friend is a special treasure," she said. "Old friends are like gold and new friends become gold in time."

Connie learned that Mama was right. She felt rich having so many friends.

Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who was Mary's visitor?
2. What was the angel's message?
3. What was the baby's name to be?
4. Who did Mary visit?
5. What did some of the relatives want to name the baby?
6. What did Zacharias write?
7. Did Zacharias always stay unable to speak?
8. What did Zacharias say?

Answers: 1. Gabriel. 2. She would have a very special son. 3. Jesus. 4. Elisabeth and Zacharias. 5. Zacharias. 6. "The baby's name would be John." 7. No. 8. Answers may vary.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Sept. 12, 2010

His Name Will Be Called Jesus

Mary told Joseph she was going to have a baby. At first, Joseph didn't believe Mary. Then, he was angry. Joseph decided not to marry her.

While Joseph was thinking of these things, an angel appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary for your wife. She will have a son, and His name will be called Jesus. He will save people from their sins," was the angel's message to Joseph.

Joseph did take Mary for his wife. The Romans were in control of Israel. The emperor of Rome sent out a decree that all of the world would be taxed. He wanted to know how many people lived in each city. Every man was to take his family and go to the city where his family had lived. There, everyone would be counted by the Romans. Joseph's family was from the city of Bethlehem. Joseph and Mary began the long journey to Bethlehem.

Tired and weary, Mary and Joseph entered Bethlehem. "Do you have a place where my wife and I could stay?" Joseph asked over and over at each inn. "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.

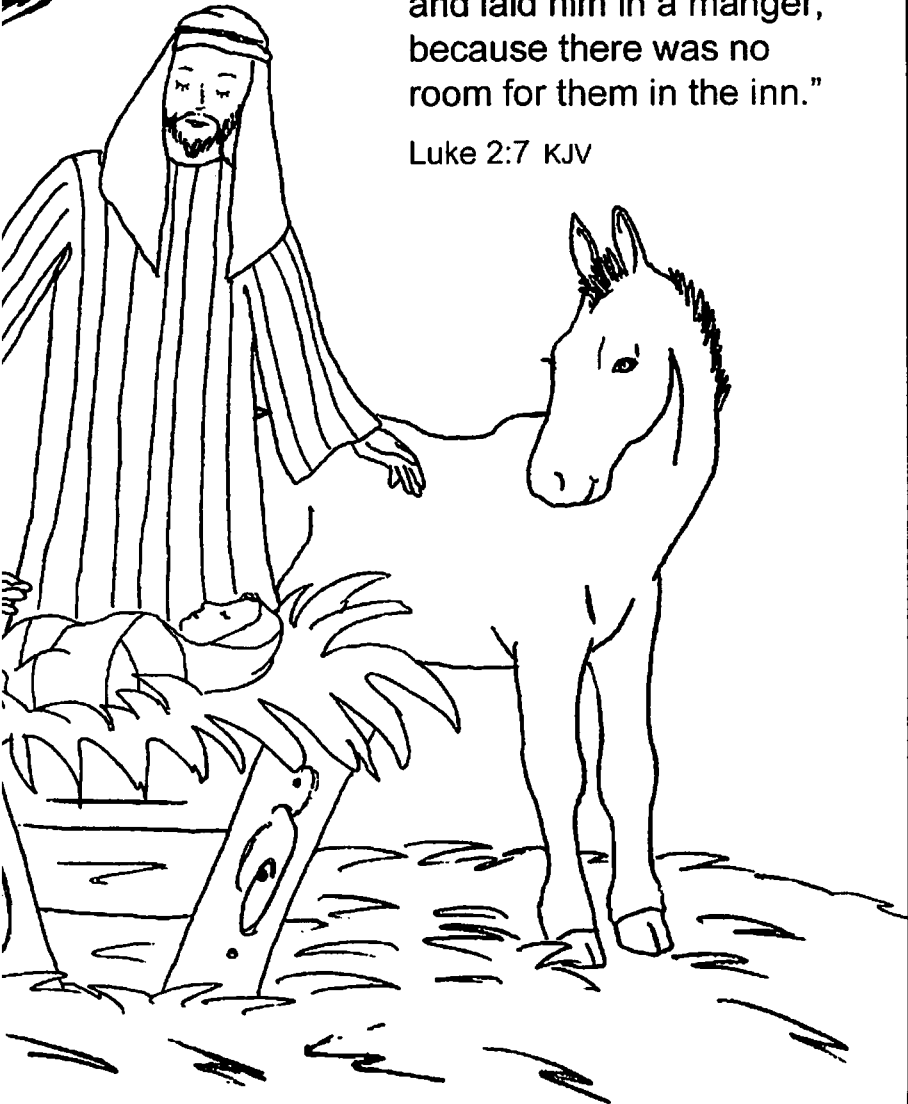
That night, baby Jesus was born. Baby Jesus was very special. His father on earth was Joseph, but God was His real father. Jesus was wrapped in cloth and placed in a manger.

No one is sure what day Jesus was born. Years later, followers of Christ adopted a popular holiday to celebrate Jesus' birth. This holiday is now called Christmas. Although Jesus may not have been born on December 25, it is a time we set aside to celebrate the birth of such a special baby boy. —Sis. Monica Murphey



"And she brought forth her
firstborn son, and wrapped
him in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger;
because there was no
room for them in the inn."

Luke 2:7 KJV



Fifth Grade and Mrs. Chiga

Connie's fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Chiga, reminded her of chiggers and itch. She was an elderly slim lady with round wire rim glasses that helped her see everything from nose passing to pencil dropping even when she was writing on the blackboard.

Mrs. Chiga was an artist and on Friday she would have her students clear their desks, get out a sharp pencil, crayons and art paper to draw a picture that she put in front of them. Sitting in the middle, third seat from the front, Connie could see very well.

"Now in this painting of the road in the woods," said Mrs. Chiga, "You need to draw in the road first. Notice how it is to the left side and how it curves upward. That look is made by starting the road larger at the bottom and making it curve smaller as your pencil moves upward."

Mrs. Chiga illustrated with her pencil and paper. Connie watched closely because she wanted to learn how to illustrate her own books some day. (Gary had moved away.)

"Now draw in the trees," continued Mrs. Chiga. She showed how to make the trunks bigger at the bottom and a little smaller going upward. Sometimes Mrs. Chiga would move her pencil hand upward to her forehead, probably to scratch, thought Connie.

Then Connie noticed something that made her smile. Every time Mrs. Chiga "scratched" her forehead, her whole head of short gray hair moved backward just a smidgen. Mrs. Chiga wore a wig! It kept slipping and she had to move it back!

Connie was going to whisper the secret to Jeff, the boy in front of her, but then she thought, *What if Mrs. Chiga sees me? I wouldn't want to tell her what I said. I better wait until lunch time to tell Jeff.*

When lunch time came, she was so busy with her new friends that she forgot to mention it to anyone, but that night at the supper table Connie remembered again.

"Hey, guess what," she said while the rest of the family was eating. "Mrs. Chiga wears a wig! Sometimes it slips and she has to scratch her forehead to move it back in place. Isn't that funny!"

"So?" said Donnie, "She probably wears false teeth, too."

"Probably so!" agreed Connie laughing.

"All old teachers are flakes like that," continued Donnie.

"No, stop this talk right now," said Mama who was sitting by Daddy. "Don't talk disrespectfully about your teachers. They are not perfect, but because they are in authority, you obey them and don't make fun of them. Right, Daddy?"

"If you say so," agreed Daddy.

"Now, Honey," said Mama, "Your mother taught you the same thing. If you're disrespectful to your teacher, you will be punished at home. Laughing at a teacher is not polite."

"Yes, I remember my mother telling me that, too," agreed Daddy. "We want you to learn and you must be respectful in order to learn."

"Connie," said Mama. "Don't be telling all the other children about Mrs. Chiga and don't laugh at her. Understand?"

"Yes, Mama," replied Connie and that was the end of it.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did the angel tell Joseph to do?
2. What did the emperor wish to do?
3. Where was every man to go?
4. Where was Joseph's family from?
5. Where did an innkeeper put Mary and Joseph?
6. Who were Jesus' parents?
7. Where was Jesus put?
8. When do we celebrate Jesus' birthday?

Answers: 1. To take Mary for his wife. 2. To tax the entire world. 3. The city where his family was from. 4. Bethlehem, the city of David. 5. In a stable. 6. Mary and Joseph. 7. Wrapped in cloth, and laid in a manger. 8. Christmas day, December 25.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Sept. 19, 2010

Jesus Visits the Temple

Shepherds were in a field near Bethlehem, 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 proclaimed.

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. The shepherds came to the stable where Mary and Joseph were still staying. After they saw the baby, they hurried away to spread the good news.

Eight days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph brought him to the temple, to present him to the Lord. Mary and Joseph also came to offer a sacrifice to God.

A devout and elderly man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem. Simeon had waited for years to see the Messiah. Simeon felt that the Holy Ghost had revealed to him that he would see the Messiah before he died. On this day, Simeon felt the Holy Spirit urging him to come to the temple. There, he saw Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus. Simeon knew that this was the Promised Child. He took Jesus in his arms and praised God. "Now I can die in peace, because my eyes have seen your salvation. This child will be a light to the Gentiles, and the glory of Israel," Simeon predicted.

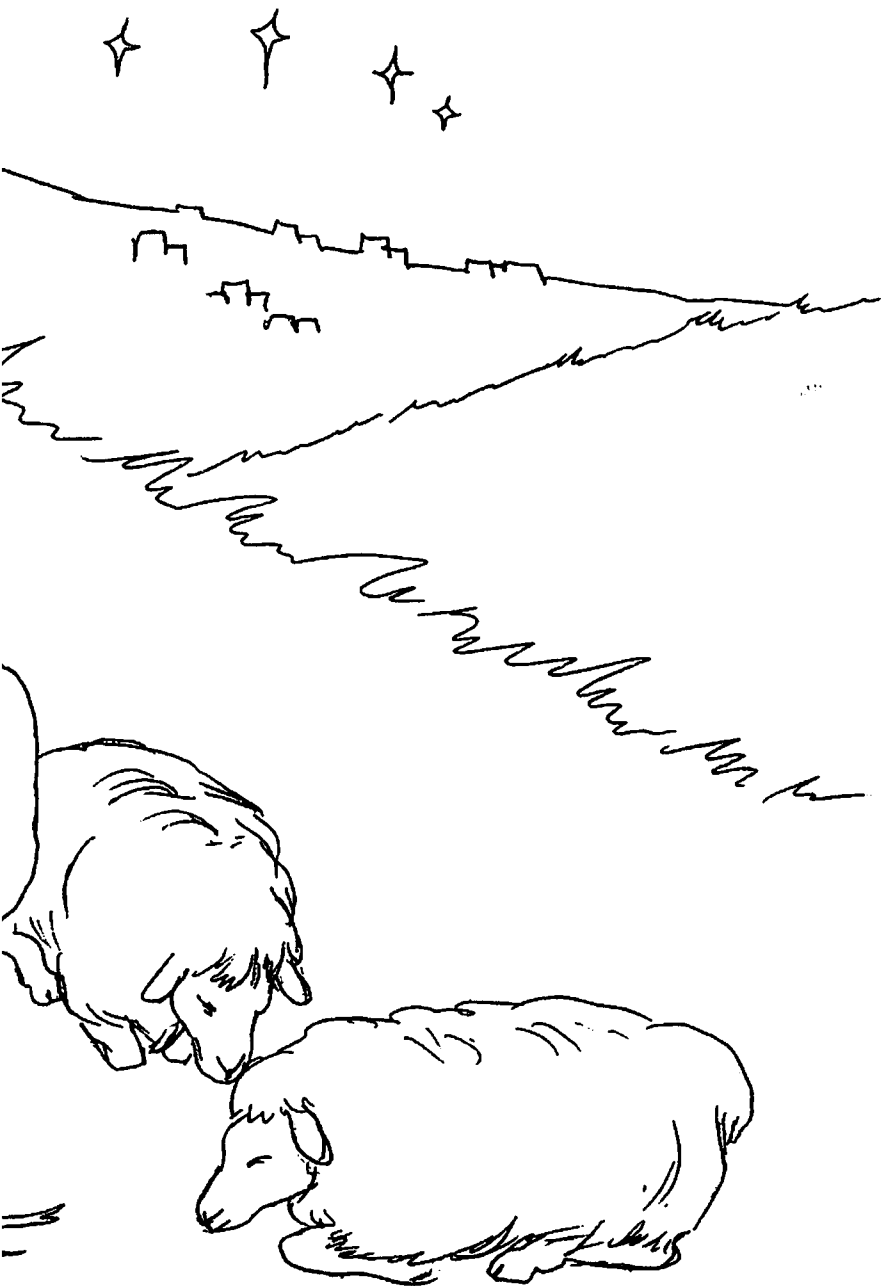
Anna, a widow for eighty-four years, and a prophetess, was also at the temple. Anna came to the temple often, to fast and pray night and day. When Anna saw Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus, Anna gave thanks to the Lord. "He will be the redemption of Israel," Anna prophesied.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

And lo, the angel of the
shone round about them:



“And lo, the angel of the
shone round about them:



ame upon them, and the glory of the Lord
ey were sore afraid." Luke 2:9

The Accident

(continued)

Connie loved to ride her green bicycle around the neighborhood. The freedom in the breeze refreshed her mind. Pumping the pedals made her heart beat faster and that warmth made her feel good on autumn evenings.

"Mama, I want to ride my bike for a while," she told her mother after school one day. "I want to go down Walnut Street and around in the old east neighborhood."

"I don't know," said Mama hesitantly. "Walnut has more traffic than most streets. I really don't like you riding along more traffic."

"I'll be careful and stay on the shoulder of the road, facing traffic," Connie assured her mother. "I don't want to be hit by a car either, you know."

"Don't take any risks," warned Mama. "Come home soon because we will eat supper at 5:30 when Daddy comes home."

"Okay," agreed Connie as she went for her bike. Soon she was sailing along with a happy heart. Going down Walnut hill, across the bridge, and up the next hill, she obeyed road safety rules and watched the cars whiz by her. She stopped at the stop sign like cars do, and looked all ways to make sure the intersection was clear before going through it. She rode up Warner and then had to make a decision. Should she circle down Broad and go home another way or should she make a U-turn and go back home the way she had come. She looked at her watch: 5:15. She had better go back the way she had come because it was a shorter route and she did not want to be late for supper.

As she was coming down Warner, she heard a screeching of car brakes and a sudden crash—an accident! Coming over the hill Connie could see the cars at the intersection. Suddenly her heart did a flip-flop when she recognized the old green Rambler in the accident. Grandma!

Connie raced to the corner, laid her bike on the grass, and ran to Grandma who was already out of her car. Her face was pale as she hugged Connie.

"Thank the Lord I am alright," she said. The other driver was walking toward Grandma.

"It is just a little fender bender," he said. "I think you can drive your car and I can still drive mine. I don't think we need to call the police."

However, the police had already arrived. Grandma was crying by now. "Connie, go get your daddy," she said.

"Okay, I'll be right back," said Connie. She prayed for Grandma as she felt the wind rush past her face. She took a short cut through the neighbor's lawn because this was an emergency. *Thank the Lord—Daddy's car is in the drive way!*

Within seconds Connie burst through the kitchen door, "Daddy! Go quick to the corner of Walnut and Warner—Grandma has been in an accident!"

Soon Daddy and Connie were in their car and then at Grandma's side. The police were glad Daddy came because they were concerned that Grandma would faint. Daddy took over answering questions and Connie hugged Grandma. She was so thankful the accident had not hurt her kind, gentle, loving Grandma. She could not imagine what life would be without her.....she did not want to even think about that. The Lord had been good to protect her, and that was what mattered at the moment.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who came to see the shepherds?
2. What did the angel tell the shepherds?
3. Where did the shepherds go?
4. Where did Mary and Joseph take baby Jesus?
5. Who was waiting to see Jesus at the temple?
6. What had the Holy Ghost told Simeon?
7. Did Simeon recognize Jesus was the Messiah?
8. What did Anna do in the temple?

Answers: 1. An angel. 2. A special baby had been born in Bethlehem. 3. To see the baby. 4. The temple. 5. Anna and Simeon. 6. That he would see the Messiah before he died. 7. Yes. 8. Fasted and prayed.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Sept. 26, 2010

Foreign Visitors

King Herod stared at the three great men that had traveled from a country so far away. They had just asked him, "Where is he that has been born the Christ, and the king of the Jews? We have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

King Herod gathered his scribes and wise men together. "Where is this Christ supposed to have been born?" he inquired. "The prophets wrote that He would be born in Bethlehem of Juda," they revealed.

"It appears the child has been born in Bethlehem," King Herod informed the wise men. "Go and search for the child. When you have found Him, come back and tell me so that I can come and worship Him, too."

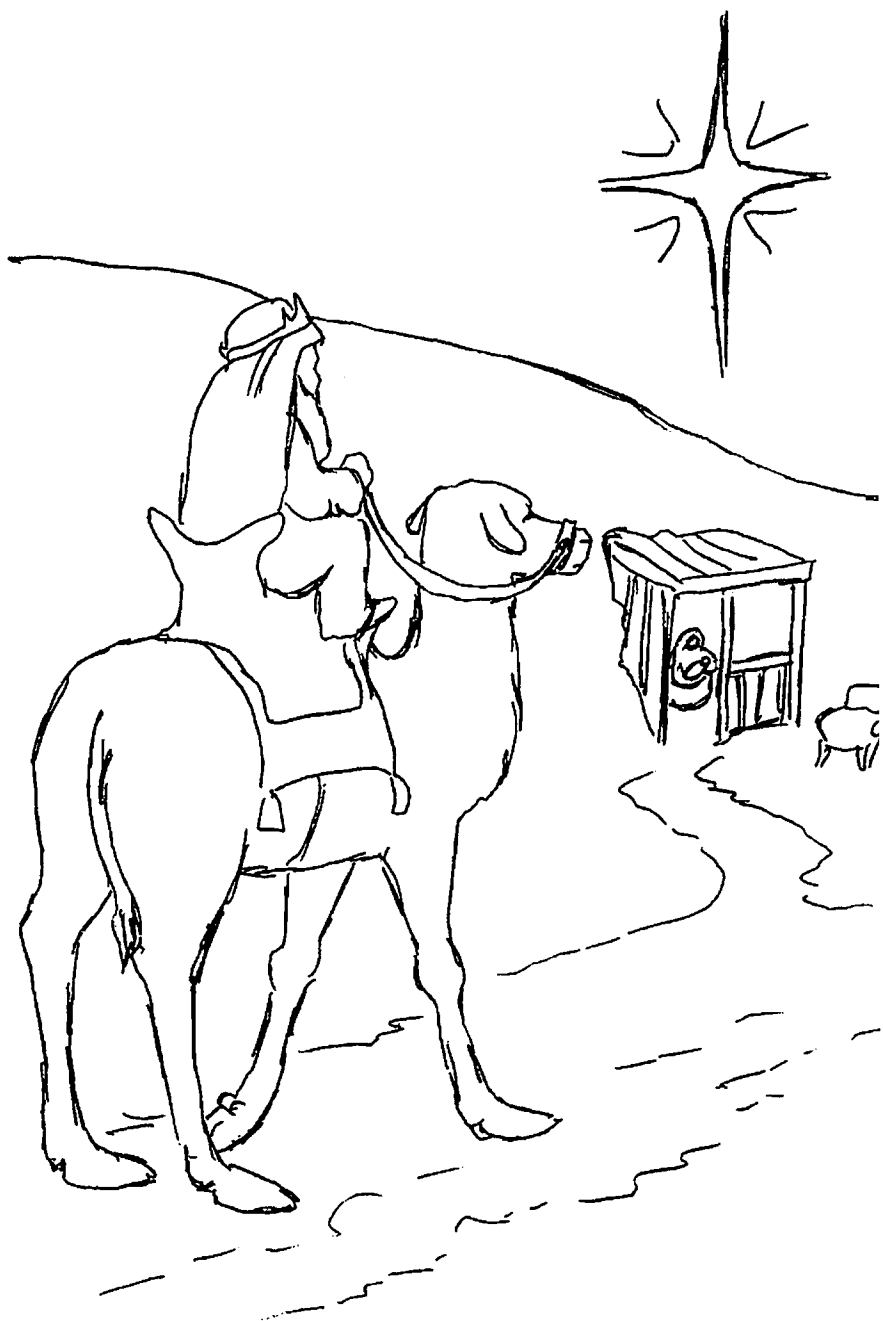
The wise men continued to follow the star, until they reached the stable where Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus were. When the wise men saw the child, they fell down and worshipped Him. The wise men brought baby Jesus fine gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The wise men had been warned in a dream that they should not return to King Herod. Joseph also had a dream. "Wake up. Take the young child and His mother and go into Egypt. Wait there until I tell you to come back. Herod will search for Jesus and try to destroy Him," Joseph was told. So Mary, Joseph, and Jesus lived in Egypt for a while.

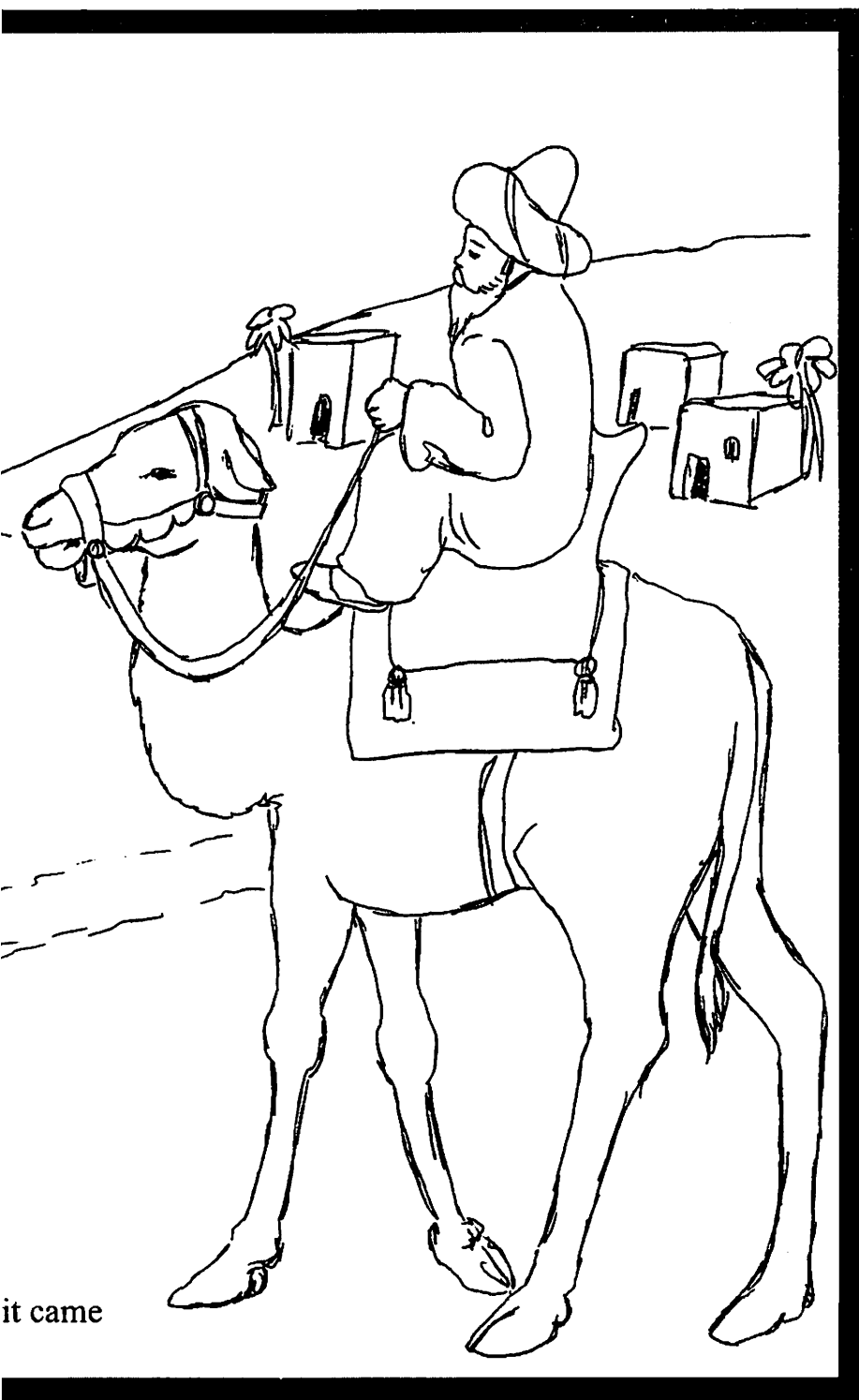
When Herod figured out that the wise men were not coming back, he was angry. "Kill all of the children in Bethlehem that are two years old and younger," Herod ordered. All of the children were killed, but the one that Herod wanted dead had escaped.

"Take the child and His mother back to Israel. King Herod, who has sought for the child's life, is dead," Joseph was advised in another dream. Joseph took Mary and Jesus, and they returned to their own city, Nazareth. Joseph worked as a carpenter. Jesus grew to be a strong boy, full of wisdom and God's grace.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“...Lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them and stood over where the young child was.” Matthew 2:9



it came

Grandma on a Jet Plane

(Continued)

As usual, Grandma Miles dropped by Connie's house on her way home from the Print Shop. Daddy was already relaxing in his recliner.

"Hello, Vernon," she said as she walked into the living room. "Remember to sit up straight. You don't want to be round shouldered and have a hump back when you get old." She patted Daddy on the shoulder as she sat down on the couch.

Connie smiled as she saw her daddy straighten his shoulders. *If I ever need anything from Daddy, I will go through Grandma,* she thought.

"Well, I have been thinking about going to California to visit Mary Lola," said Grandma. "I haven't seen my sister since Spring when she was here. I would like to go before Christmas so I can get a little something for her for Christmas."

"Have you checked out the cost?" asked Daddy.

"Yes," replied Grandma. "and I have saved for the trip. I have enough to pay for it and a little extra. Also, I want to go before I need to write on the Beautiful Way papers and Bible Lessons. If I go in two weeks and stay a week, that would be just perfect."

"That would be fine with me," said Daddy. "I will help you with whatever you need to make the trip."

"First of all, I will need a ride to the airport," said Grandma.

"That is no problem," replied Daddy. "Find out when you can get a flight out and I will tell my boss I need that time off."

"I will try to get a flight out on a Saturday," said Grandma. "and come home on a Saturday so you won't need to leave work."

"Whatever works out," replied Daddy. "I will help."

Connie hoped that it would be on a Saturday so she could go to the airport and see those big jets come in and out on the runway.

Sure enough, Grandma left on Saturday afternoon. All the family piled into the blue Chevy, which Grandma had bought from Daddy after her green Rambler was wrecked in the accident.

"It's a good thing this car has a big trunk," said Daddy as he closed the lid over several pieces of luggage ready for the trip. Grandma rode in the back seat by Connie who was crocheting on a linen hankie.

"It sure looks pretty," said Grandma as she watched Connie's fingers take the needle in and out of the thread. "Mary Lola will like it, especially since you made it just for her."

"She will remember you when she uses it, Grandma," said Connie with a giggle, "because the edging is green in honor of you!"

At the airport, all the family went with Grandma to the terminal. They watched the plane land, and Daddy carried her carry on things to her assigned seat. The pilot let Connie sit in his seat and Donnie in the co-pilot seat.

"With all these buttons and dials I hope you don't get lost," she said to the pilot. "I'll be praying for you because you have my grandma on this plane!"

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who did the wise men visit first?
2. What did King Herod ask them to do?
3. What showed the wise men where to go?
4. What gifts did the wise men give to Jesus?
5. Where did Mary and Joseph go?
6. What did King Herod command to be done to the children?
7. Where did Joseph and Mary return?
8. How did Jesus grow?

Answers: 1. King Herod. 2. Find the child, so he could worship Him. 3. A star. 4. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 5. To Egypt. 6. Kill all children two and under. 7. To Nazareth. 8. Strong, full of wisdom and God's grace.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Oct. 3, 2010

The Boy Jesus

It was a custom of the Jewish people to go to Jerusalem each year to celebrate the Passover. Several scriptures in the Old Testament urge the Jews to observe the feast each year in remembrance of the time that God helped Moses lead the Israelites out of the bondage of Egypt. The Israelites had been slaves to the Egyptians for hundreds of years.

When Jesus was twelve years old, His family went to Jerusalem to attend the feast. For seven days, Jesus and His family had special things to eat, including the unleavened bread their ancestors ate while preparing to leave Egypt. Jesus probably heard stories told and scriptures quoted about Moses and the Israelites. Finally, it was time to return home. Mary and Joseph began the journey to Nazareth with their friends and relatives.

Mary and Joseph traveled for a day with their family when they realized Jesus wasn't with them. Imagine the panic they felt as they asked their friends and relatives if they knew where Jesus was. Mary and Joseph had to travel back to Jerusalem to find Jesus. For three days they searched and searched Jerusalem for their son. They found Jesus in the temple, sitting with some doctors and teachers. He had been listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone that heard Jesus was amazed at His wise answers.

Mary and Joseph were shocked! "Son, why have you done this to us? We have been so worried about you," Mary said. "We have searched all over Jerusalem for you." "Why were you searching for me?" Jesus asked. "Didn't you realize I had to be in my Father's house?" Jesus' parents did not understand what He meant.

Jesus and His parents made the long journey back home to Nazareth. Mary treasured in her heart the memories of Jesus as a boy. The boy Jesus continued to grow in wisdom and stature. He also grew in favor with God and man.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“... they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the d
Luke 2:46





A Fall for Healing

All her young life, Connie sometimes suffered with a stiff neck. When the weather would get cool and damp, the right side of Connie's neck would get tight and by evening time it would ache. Mama would put hot water in the red rubber water bottle then put a soft towel over it so Connie could lie on it at night. This would ease the stiffness and pain so she could sleep.

At the Monark Springs camp meeting, Grandma Miles talked to Connie about being anointed and prayed for at the altar. "Jesus can heal you from this stiff neck," she said to Connie. "We need to obey the scripture in James 5:14 and have you anointed by the elders of the church. I am going to fast and pray especially for your healing. You pray too. I will go with you to the altar if that would help."

Connie agreed and obeyed. Grandma sat beside her on the altar as the ministers gathered around them. Grandma explained to them about Connie's stiff neck. A sister put a touch of oil on Connie's forehead and then the ministers laid their hands on her shoulders and head. Someone prayed a simple prayer while the others agreed in prayer. Connie started crying to release her emotions. She felt quiet peace inside her heart, but her neck was not any better.

As the warmth of summer slipped away and the cool winds of autumn blew darkness in at night, Connie felt her neck stiffen more than ever. "I don't think Jesus cares about healing necks," thought Connie. "I just hope I don't get any worse!"

One Friday evening Connie was in Cara's backyard playing on the bars. The bars were the metal frame from the back of an old army truck. Cara's dad had set this frame on 4 six foot poles so that the top was about 10 feet from the ground. Cara's mother

tried to grow grape vines over it, but the poor vines never did grow probably because four to six girls trampled on them several times a week.

It was one such time that Connie, Cara, Kim and Linda were swinging on the bars playing chase when suddenly, Connie's right hand missed the top bar and she had already let go with her left hand. Down, down she fell, crashing on the ground and rolling to one of the poles. The others jumped down beside her.

"Are you okay?" Cara asked her.

"No, I'm dying!" moaned Connie.

"I'll get my dad!" Cara rushed up the hill to her house.

"I'm dying! I'm dying!" moaned Connie.

Linda cried, "No, don't die!"

"I'll go get your dad!" said Kim. Soon Cara's parents and Connie's were kneeling beside her. "You're not going to die," said Daddy as he started lifting Connie's legs and arms to see if any were broken. Grandma Miles had walked down the alley with them. "Let's have a little word of prayer and then your daddy can help you get up," she said.

After prayer, Connie did get up and walk home. She also noted that from then on her neck stopped hurting and did not get stiff in the cold. Jesus had used this fall to heal her!

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem?
2. How old was Jesus in this story?
3. What did Mary and Joseph realize?
4. How long did they search for Jesus?
5. Where was Jesus?
6. What was He doing?
7. Where did Jesus live at this time?
8. Who did Jesus grow in favor with?

Answers: 1. To celebrate the Passover. 2. Twelve. 3. Jesus was missing. 4. Three days. 5. In the temple. 6. Listening to doctors and teachers. 7. Nazareth. 8. God and man.
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THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Oct. 10, 2010

Call from the Wilderness

Some people from Judea, Jerusalem, and the Jordan Valley became interested in listening to a man named John preach the Gospel. John lived in the wilderness. He wore clothes made of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. John ate locusts with wild honey. John was Jesus' cousin.

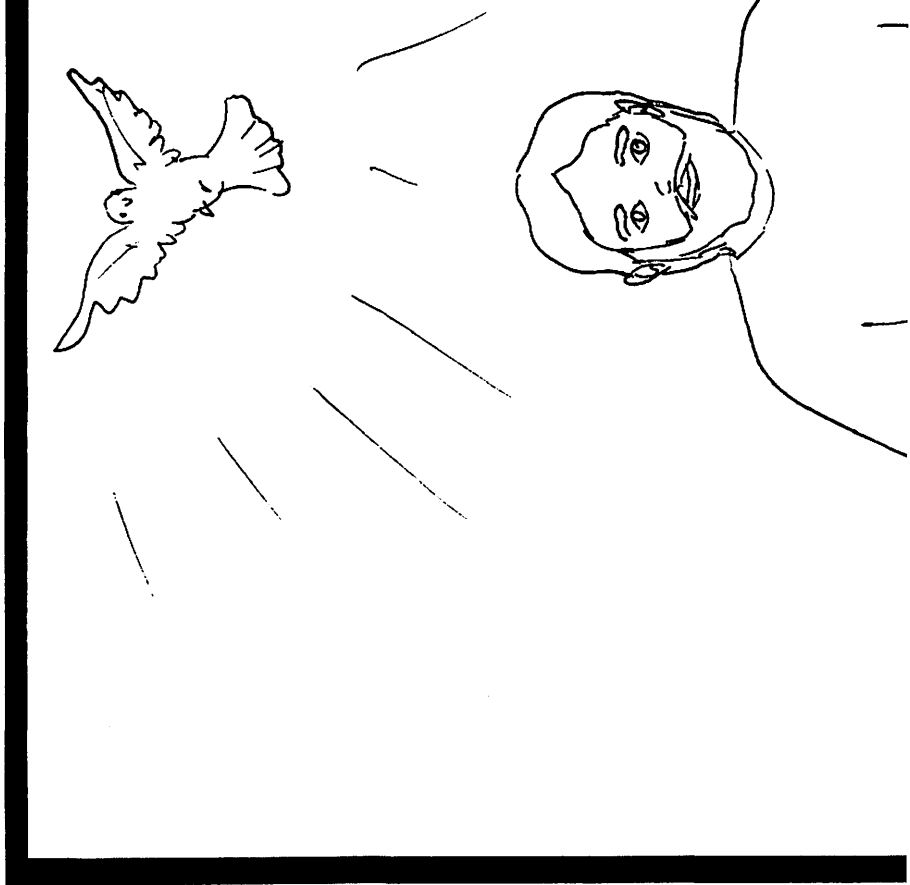
"Repent!" John would cry. "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" John was prophesying about Jesus and God's plan for salvation. In Isaiah 40:3, there is a prophecy about John. "A voice is calling from the wilderness. It says to be ready for the Lord's coming. Make smooth paths for Him." John taught people to confess their sins. Then they were baptized in the Jordan River.

John wasn't afraid to speak about his beliefs. Some Pharisees and Sadducees came to make trouble one day while John was preaching. "Oh, you generation of snakes," John called. "Who warned you to run from the judgment that is coming? Show that you have repented by the way that you live. The axe is at the root of the tree. Any tree that is not producing good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire." John had more to say about Jesus. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but there is One who will come that is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry His sandals. I baptize with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire," John prophesied.

One day while John was preaching, Jesus came to John and asked to be baptized. "You should baptize me," John protested. "Why do you ask me?" "This is how it should be," Jesus replied. "I have to do this to fulfill righteousness."

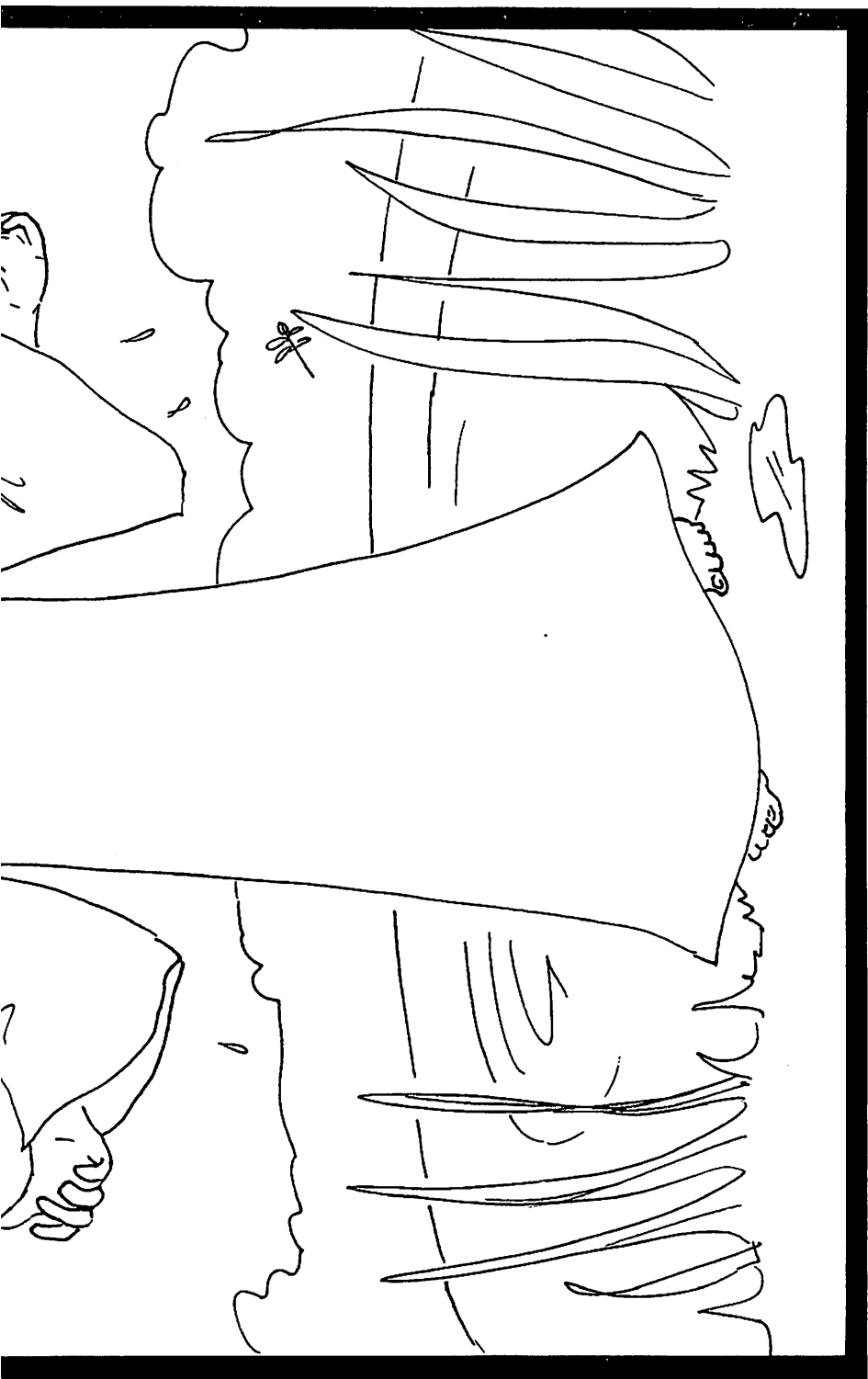
When Jesus came up out of the water, the Heavens opened. The spirit of God descended like a dove and rested on Jesus' shoulder. A voice from Heaven said, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." Even today, we continue the teaching of baptism started by John the Baptist. After someone gets saved, confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness, the Bible says that they should behave as a new person. Baptism symbolizes the death of the old, bad life, and the beginning of a new life. It is a way to let the world know that you have chosen to follow Christ. After all, being baptized was the first recorded act that Jesus did when He was a grown man.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“... when he was baptized
... he saw the
Spirit of God
descending
like a dove...”

Matthew 3:16



A Naughty Prank

"What are you going to be for Halloween?" Cara asked Connie during school lunch time. "I want to be the good witch from the east and Christy wants to be the wicked witch from the west."

"You are good at being a witch alright," teased Connie. Cara wrinkled her nose and pretended to be insulted. "My mother doesn't like for me to dress up like a witch so I don't think I will dress up very much."

"Oh, I heard about this really groovy prank," said Cara, her blue eyes twinkling with mischief. "I'm going to play it on Christy tonight."

"What is it?" asked Connie

"I'm going to take one of my dad's boots and a pair of his pants and fix them to look like a man is under Christy's bed. It's really easy to do. Just put the pants under the bed with only part of the leg showing that is pulled over the top of the boot. The fullness of the boot makes the pant leg look like a man's leg is inside. I'm going to lay it at the foot of the bed so Christy will think the rest of the man is under the bed."

By now Connie and Cara were laughing as they imagined tall, long legged Christy screaming and jumping around when she turned on her bedroom light and saw this pant leg and boot sticking out from under her bed.

"I'll probably be grounded for a week," said Cara, "but it will be worth it!"

"I think I will try that prank on Cindy," said Connie.

While walking home from school, Connie and Cara let the other children walk ahead while they whispered and giggled about the fun the pranks would bring that night. Before they parted ways, they agreed to call each other on the phone if they were not allowed to leave their homes, hence being grounded to their home for being naughty.

That evening Connie tried not to talk very much for fear she would tell

about the prank. At the supper table it seemed very quiet.

"Did you get in trouble at school again?" Donnie asked Connie. "I saw you talking a lot to Cara but now you are too quiet."

"I can be quiet if I want to be," replied Connie.

Donnie shrugged. "Either you're in trouble or you're going to be."

Connie smiled. Maybe she should scare him too! While the family was visiting after supper, Connie went down the hall to Daddy's bedroom. Quietly she took a pair of his jeans and one boot. In a minute she had the perfect look sticking out from under Cindy's bed. She turned off the light and went back to the living room.

After a while Mama took Cindy down the hall to the bedroom. Suddenly, Mama and Cindy laughed. "Who put Daddy's pants under my bed?" asked Cindy as she carried the boot and dragged the pants to the living room. "Here, Daddy, you might need these in the morning," she said as she gave them to him.

Connie got up and went to bed. Next morning Cara had a similar story to tell.

"We just have dumb sisters," said Cara. "They didn't get the joke."

"Maybe God turned the joke on us for trying to be naughty," said Connie thoughtfully. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What were John's clothes made of?
2. What did John like to eat?
3. What did John say was at hand?
4. What did John mean?
5. What prophet prophesied about John?
6. Who did John warn about judgment?
7. Who asked John to baptize him?
8. What came down as a dove?

<p>Answers: 1. Camel's hair. 2. Locusts and wild honey. 3. The Kingdom of Heaven. 4. Salvation, Jesus coming. 5. Isaiah. 6. Pharisees and Sadducees. 7. Jesus. 8. The Holy Spirit.</p>

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Oct. 17, 2010

Offer from Satan

After John baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit prompted Jesus to go into the desert to fast and pray. Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights. He was very hungry and probably very tired. A voice said, "If you are the son of God, make bread out of these stones." It was *satan*. "It is written, 'Man should not live by bread alone, but by God's word.'" Jesus responded.

Satan took Jesus to the highest point in Jerusalem and together they looked down at the city. Many people who study history think that the devil took Jesus to a very tall tower that stood on the edge of the valley, or to the top of the temple on one of the golden spikes.

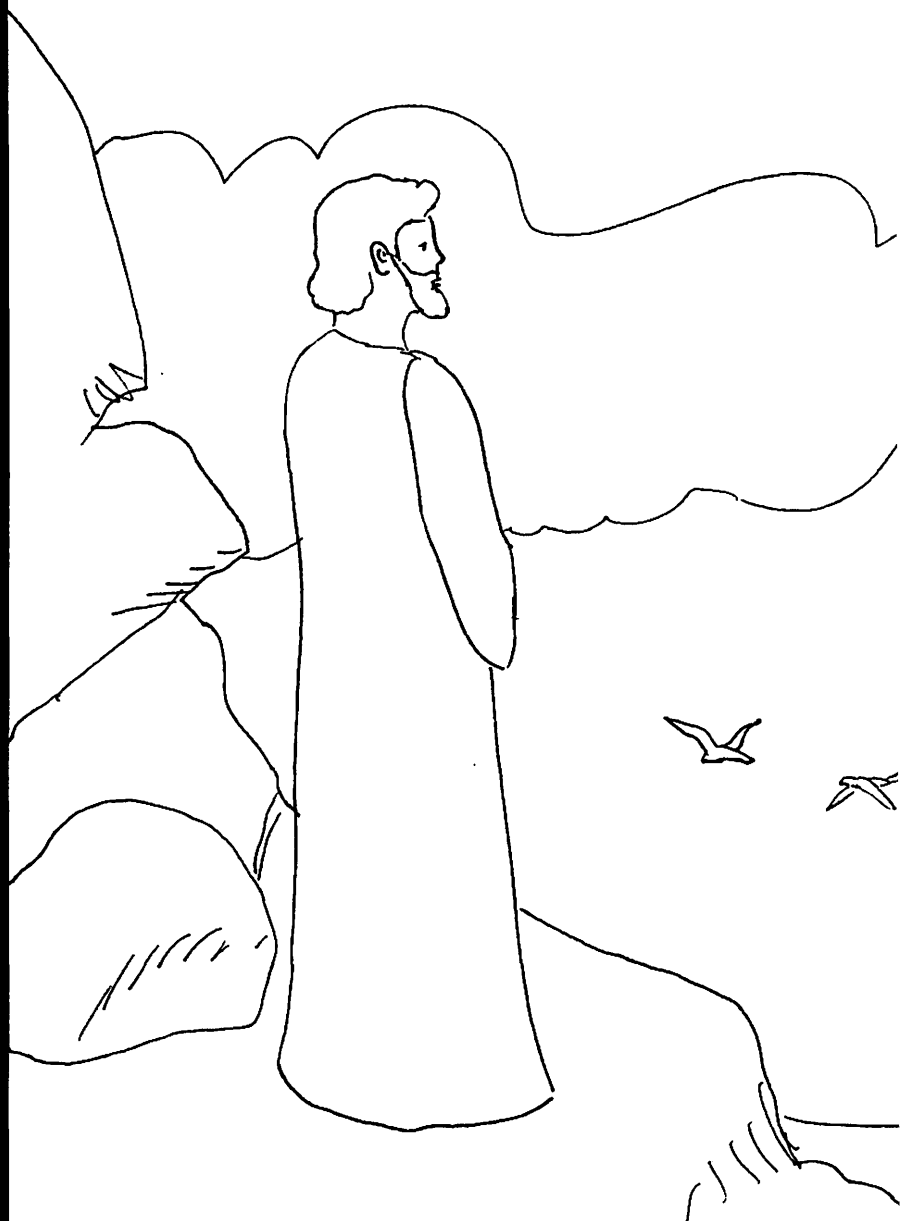
"If you are the son of God," the devil ridiculed. "Throw yourself down. The Scriptures say that angels will watch over you and carry you in their hands." "Scripture says that we should not tempt the Lord our God," Jesus answered. Jesus was referring to a scripture in Deuteronomy 6:16, "You shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted him in Massah."

The devil took Jesus to the peak of an extremely high mountain. Satan and Jesus looked upon all of the kingdoms of the world in their beauty and glory. "I will give all of these to you if you will worship me," Satan offered. "Away from me, *satan*," Jesus commanded. "It is written, 'You should worship God alone. You should only serve Him.'"

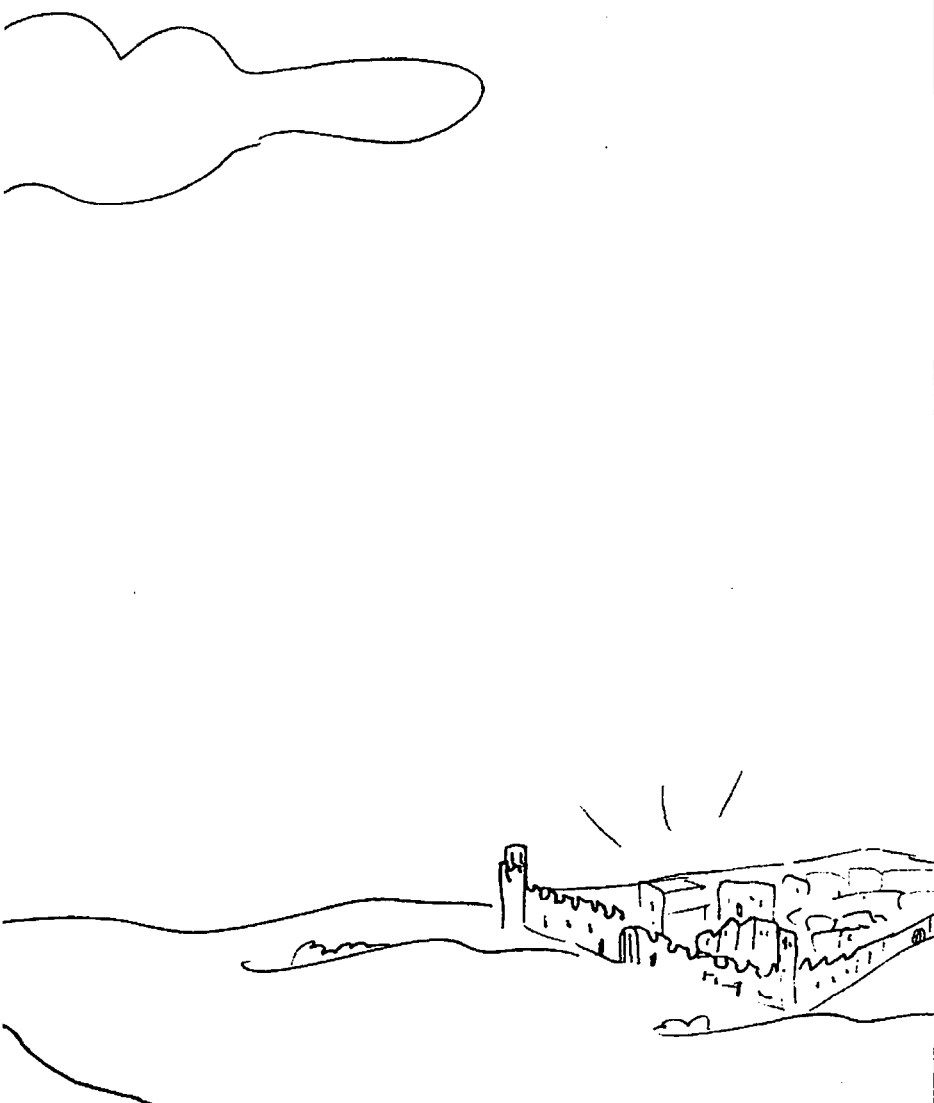
Finally, Jesus was left alone. Angels came to minister to Jesus. Jesus heard that His dear cousin John was in Galilee, so Jesus left the desert to live in Capernaum. Isaiah had made a prophecy about where the Messiah would live. "In the land of Zebulon, along the Jordan River, in Galilee the people who sat in darkness will see a great light. A light has risen in a land overshadowed by death."

—Sis. Monica Murphey

"... the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high place
Matthew 4:8



ain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms . . .”



Scratch, Scratch

It was one of those long evenings when Daddy had to work late. Mama was sewing in their bedroom and everyone seemed to be unhappy. Connie tried to play school with Lonnie and Cindy, but they did not want to sit at their play desks.

"Okay, just break all the rules and get into trouble!" Connie told them. "Class is dismissed! I'm going to get a book to read, and don't bother me!"

Connie gathered up the pencils, crayons and papers and put them away while the younger two stood up from their chairs and stretched with their new freedom. Donnie was taking a nap, so wouldn't be bothering them.

Connie picked up a good book and stretched out on the couch to read. Soon Lonnie and Cindy were fussing over hot wheel cars and how to set up the track. Connie ignored them, but Mama heard them. She came out of the bedroom.

"What are you two fussing about?" she asked. Like usual, they blamed each other for not sharing. "Connie, why don't you play with them?" asked Mama.

"I tried but they did not want to play right," replied Connie from behind her book.

"Well, if you two can't play together then I will send you to bed," said Mama.

They agreed to be good, but as soon as Mama left the room, they were fussing again. "Okay," she said, coming back up the hall. "Get your pajamas on and go to bed. I don't have time to read to you right now, so we will read in the morning."

Lonnie and Cindy obeyed Mama. In a few minutes the house was quiet. Then Connie had a funny thought. I could scare those two really easy and make up for the other night when Cindy did not get scared about the pants and boot.

Quietly, Connie got up from the couch and slipped out the back patio door. Though it was dark outside, she knew where to step and what windows to scratch. Stacking a few bricks to climb upon, she reached up and let her fingers scratch over

the screen on the boys' bedroom window. "E-e-e-e-e!" she screeched in an eerie voice. Then she moved to Cindy's window and did the same thing.

Connie jumped from the bricks and put them back where they had been. She slipped back through the patio door and hurried to her book, chuckling at the thought of Lonnie and Cindy being too scared to call for help.

After a while, Mama decided to check on them. Lonnie was asleep, but Cindy was sitting up in bed, white as the sheets wrapped about her.

"What's wrong, honey?" asked Mama.

"Th-there's a ghost at my w-window!" cried Cindy. "I can't s-sleep!"

"No, honey, there is no ghost," replied Mama as she put her arms around Cindy. "If you heard something it might be the wind but not a ghost. Let's pray and then you get to sleep."

After Mama had Cindy quiet, she came into the living room where Connie was hiding behind her book, struggling with laughter.

"Connie, did you do something outside Cindy's window?" asked Mama. Though Connie did not answer, Mama said, "Just remember, if you play pranks on others, pranks will be played on you. You must learn to take what you dish out." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Where did Jesus go to fast and pray?
2. What did satan ask Jesus to make into bread?
3. Man should not live by _____.
4. But by God's _____.
5. Where did satan take Jesus the first time?
6. Who did satan say would protect Jesus?
7. What would Jesus have to do to gain the kingdoms?
8. Where did Jesus live?

Answers: 1. The desert. 2. Stones. 3. Bread alone. 4. Word. 5. The highest point in Jerusalem. 6. Angels. 7. Worship satan. 8. Capernaum.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Oct. 24, 2010

Jesus' Disciples

The day after John baptized Jesus, John stood by the River Jordan again with two disciples. When John saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God." The two disciples that heard this followed Jesus. Jesus turned around and saw the two men following Him. "What are you looking for?" Jesus asked.

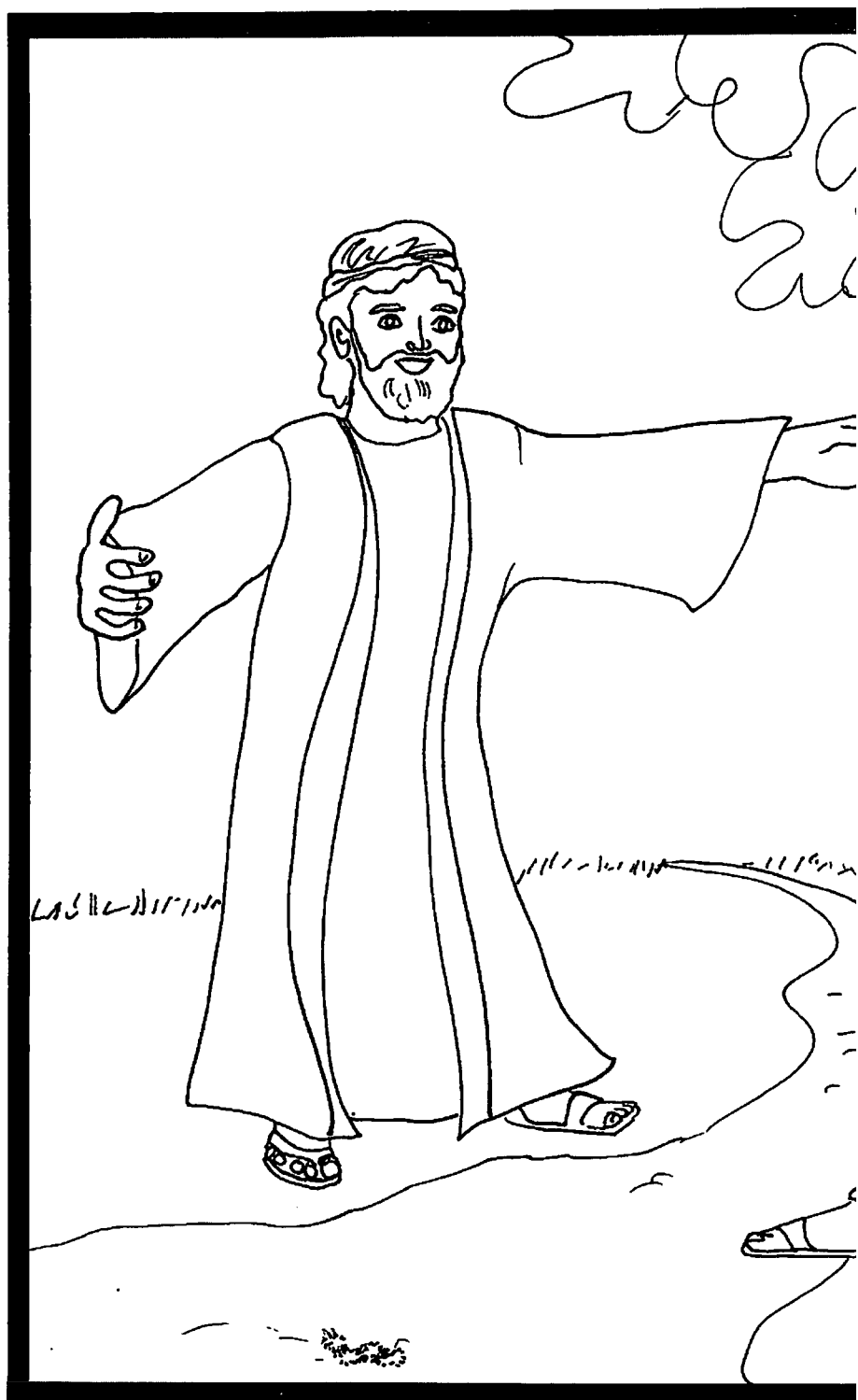
"Rabbi (Teacher)," the disciples answered, "Where are you staying?" "Come and see," Jesus told them. So the two disciples went to Jesus' home around 4:00 that day and spent some time with Him. Andrew, Simon's brother, was one of the two disciples who followed Jesus. Andrew went immediately to find his brother. "We have found the Messiah," Andrew said. Andrew took Simon to see Jesus. "You are Simon, the son of John," Jesus said. "But from now on you will be called Cephas (Peter)."

The next day Jesus went to Galilee where He found Philip. "Follow me," Jesus told Him. He joined the other three disciples. Andrew, Peter, and Philip were all from Bethsaida. "We have found the One that Moses and the prophets wrote about," Philip told his friend, Nathaniel. "It is Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Nathaniel asked. "Come and see," replied Philip.

Philip and Nathaniel approached Jesus. "Look! Here is a true Israelite who is sincere and honest," Jesus said. "How do you know me?" Nathaniel wondered. "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you," Jesus answered. "Rabbi, you are truly the Son of God and the King of Israel," Nathaniel declared. "You believe because I saw you under the fig tree," Jesus said. "You shall see greater things than that." Men who study the history of the Bible believe that Nathaniel is the disciple Bartholomew.

Many other disciples left their jobs to follow Jesus. James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were working in their fishing boat with their father when Jesus called to them. Matthew was a tax collector. Jesus had twelve disciples in all: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Simon, Thaddeus, and Judas Iscariot.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



"Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him,
We have found him . . ."
John 1:45



A Heart Attack!

"Good Morning, class," said Mrs. Chica. "Please sit up straight in your chairs and get out one piece of notebook paper and a pencil. I want to give you a spelling quiz before your brain gets tired."

A round of groans went up as notebooks opened and clipped shut. "I feel like my brain is already tired," whispered Jeff who sat in front of Connie.

"Better wake it up," replied Connie with a giggle.

"There will be no talking," said Mrs. Chica looking straight at them. "This test will not go against your grade, but I want to see how many of these words you can spell without studying first. Ready—here goes!"

Connie wasn't too fond of spelling, but she was not a bad speller. The way Jeff wiggled in his chair let her know he wanted so badly to ask her about a letter or so, but she just could not whisper. That would not be honest and Mrs. Chica's good ears would hear. Finally, the test was over and the room filled with the sighs of relief and shuffle of papers as they were handed to the front.

Jeff looked at Connie's paper. "Oh, yes, the 'i' did come before the 'e' in receive," he said. Connie hoped she had it right herself.

So began a normal school day. After school Connie and Cara went back to the classroom to get Connie's hair barrettes. When they hurried into the room, they stopped and gasped together. Mrs. Chica was lying on the floor with a strained look on her face.

"Let's get Mr. Murray quick!" said Connie.

They rushed down the hall. "Mr. Murray, Mrs. Chica passed out!" they called. Mr. Murray came running and so did other teachers.

"Stay back, girls," said someone. "Everything will be okay. Just go on home."

Instead Connie and Cara stood against the wall in the hall and watched and listened. Soon there was an ambulance siren sounding and it stopped right at the school door. Two men in blue uniforms carried in a stretcher and went into the classroom. In a few moments Mrs. Chica was on the stretcher and out the door. Then the sirens sounded again as they rushed her to a hospital. Connie and Cara held hands, feeling cold and helpless.

What had happened to her? Would she die? Who was going to be their teacher if Mrs. Chica did not come back to school?

"Let's get out of here!" Cara said, so they did.

At home, Connie told all about it at the supper table. "We need to pray for Mrs. Chica," said Mama. "The Lord can help her recover."

"Yes," said Connie thoughtfully. "I did not like her spelling tests, but I did like how she drew pictures."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did John say as Jesus passed?
2. Who was one of the disciples that followed Jesus?
3. What did Jesus call Simon?
4. Who did Philip tell about Jesus?
5. Where did Jesus see Nathaniel?
6. What brothers followed Jesus?
7. What was Matthew's job?
8. Name the twelve disciples.

Answers: 1. "Behold the Lamb of God." 2. Andrew. 3. Cephas, or Peter. 4. Nathaniel. 5. Under a fig tree. 6. James and John, also Andrew and Peter. 7. A tax collector. 8. See last paragraph. **Interesting trivia:** Judas Iscariot is always mentioned last on lists of disciples, because he betrayed Jesus.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Oct. 31, 2010

Jesus' Teachings

Jesus taught in the Jewish synagogues and preached the Gospel. His fame spread through Israel. Large crowds began following Jesus and His disciples.

One day, Jesus took His followers up a mountain. Jesus encouraged His followers. He told them that they would be blessed if they were poor in spirit, mourning, meek, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, persecuted, made fun of, or if they sought after righteousness.

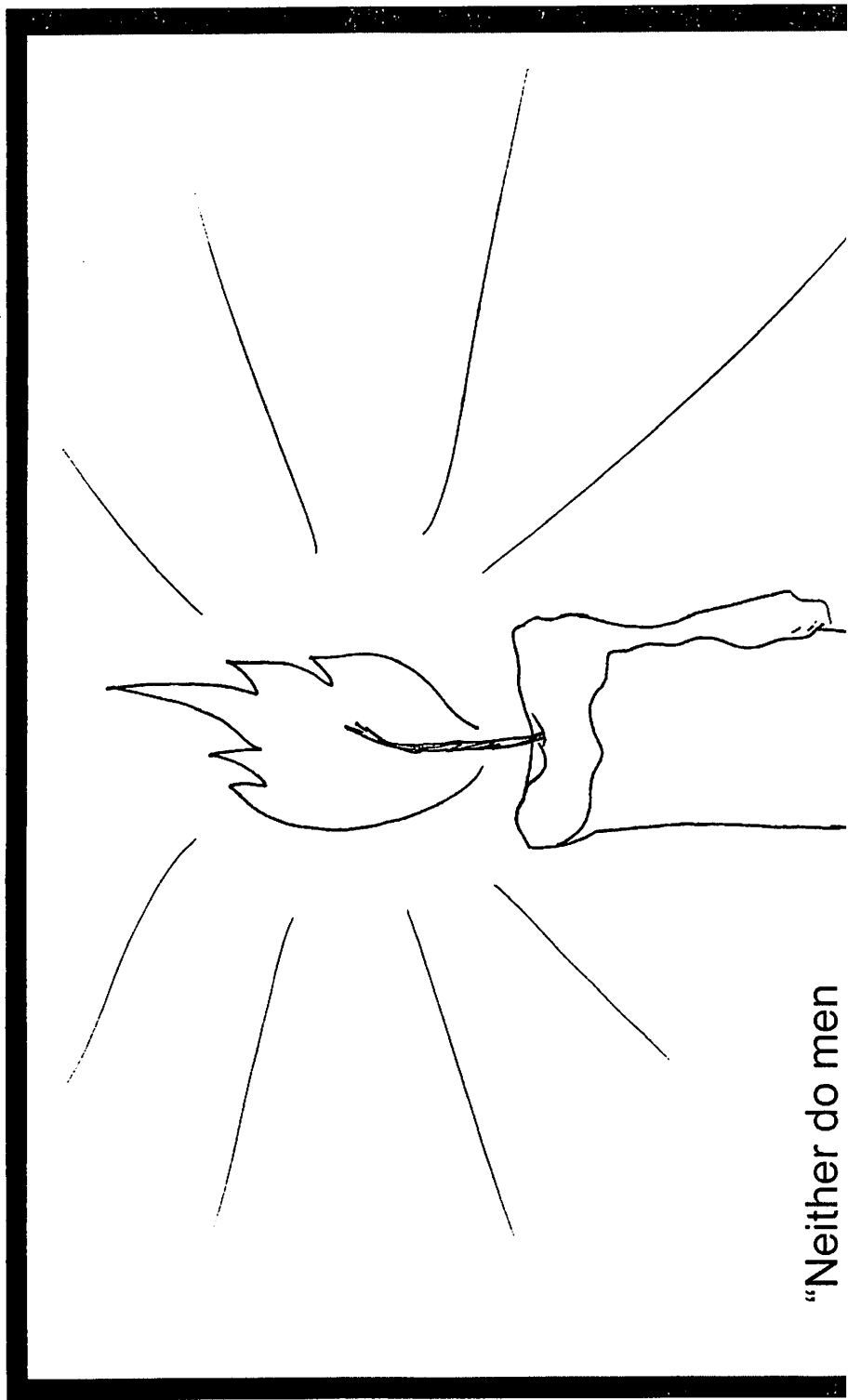
"Those that are poor in spirit are blessed, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Those that mourn are blessed, for they shall be comforted. The meek are blessed, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those that are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be filled. Blessed are those who are merciful, because they will receive mercy. Blessed are those who are pure in heart. They shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. Blessed are the ones who are persecuted for my sake. The kingdom of Heaven is theirs. Remember to rejoice, when men make fun of you and persecute you for my sake. Your reward will be great in Heaven." Jesus encouraged.

"Go out, be a light to the world. Let men see your good works. Glorify your Father in Heaven. It has been said that you should love your neighbors and hate your enemies. I tell you to love your enemies. Bless the ones that curse you. Do good to those that hate you. Pray for the ones that badly use you," Jesus instructed.

"When someone hits you on your right cheek, turn your other cheek to him. also. If anyone would like to take your coat, give him your cloak also. If someone wants you to go one mile. go two miles with him. Give to whoever asks you," Jesus continued.

Jesus taught that we should do good to everyone. This includes our neighbors and our enemies. We are to love everyone.

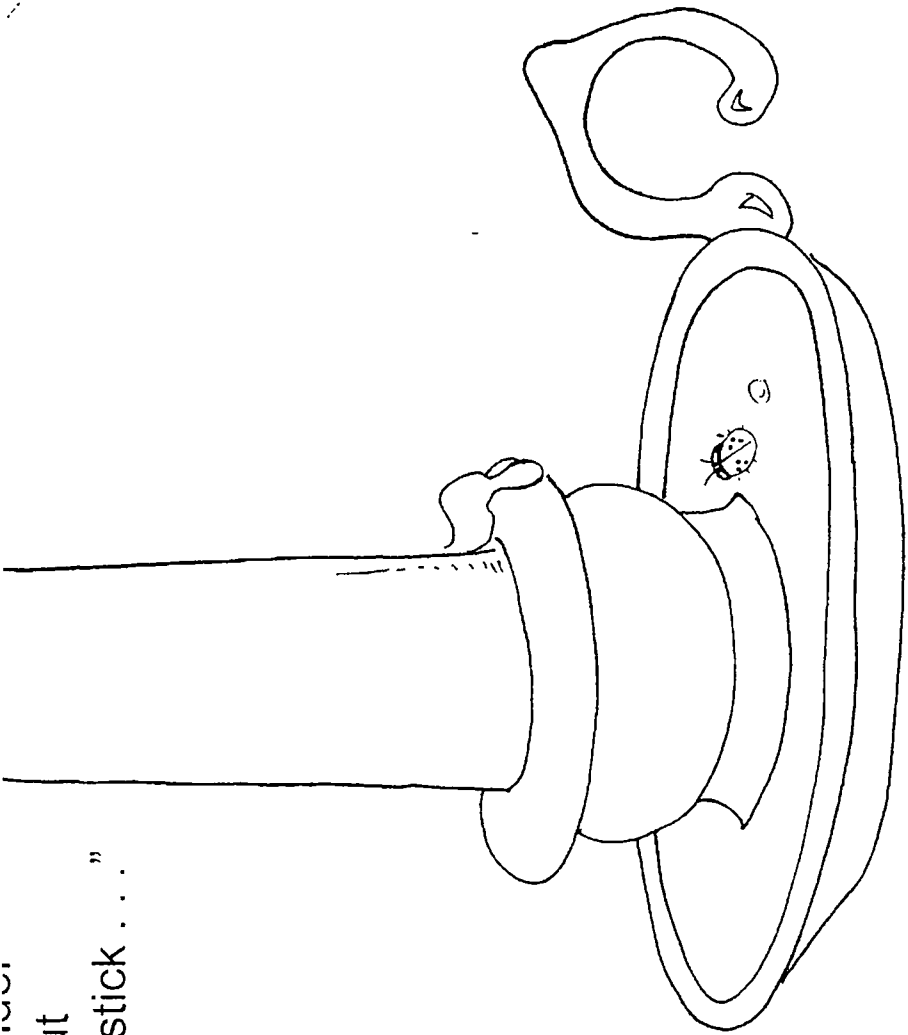
—Sis. Monica Murphey



“Neither do men

and put it under
a bushel, but
on a candlestick . . .”

Matthew 5:15-16



Old Mrs. Williams

The next day after Mrs. Chica's heart attack, the class was greeted by Mr. Murray, the school principal. "Good morning, class," said Mr. Murray. "I will be the teacher until Mrs. Williams comes in. Mrs. Chica will probably not return for a while, so I have arranged for Mrs. Williams to come. Now I am expecting all of you to show her the utmost respect because this teacher once taught me when I was in school. Yes, she is very old, but she is good. I will be checking through the door window from time to time and if I see any talking, note passing or any other such disrespect, you will be called out and disciplined. Understand, everyone?"

"Yes, Mr. Murray," said the roomful of fifth graders. Who would want the principal to call them into his office for whispering? Connie determined to glance at the two hall doors once in a while to check when Mr. Murray might be watching. It was hard not to ever whisper.

The room was quiet, with all the students spelling words, when Mrs. Williams walked in loaded with a big purse and paper bags.

"Here, let me help you!" exclaimed Mr. Murray as he got up from the desk chair.

"Thank you, Bob," exclaimed Mrs. Williams patting his shoulder. "Whew! I made it! So here are the teacher-less children! What a nice looking batch of children! We will get along just fine. Bob, don't you worry!"

By this time all the class was in love with the new teacher who could call Mr. Murray "Bob" and get away with it! Mrs. Williams settled down with a rustle of papers and a thumping of books. "Now run along to your office, Bob," said Mrs. Williams, "and I will take care of these children."

"Okay, dear," replied Mr. Murray. He gave the class a stern you-better-behave look and walked out of the room.

"Now, class, I know you all need a little refreshing after what has happened," said Mrs. Williams. "A little laughter does the heart good. I want to read to you all a couple of good poems that my past students have always enjoyed. Sit back in your chairs, shut your eyes, and just listen."

Connie did sit back but she had to watch old Mrs. Williams. Her silver hair was combed neatly into a swirl on her head and through her thick glasses, her gray eyes twinkled at anyone who dared to stare at her. Mrs. Williams opened a book. "This is a poem called 'Li'l Ofan Annie' which is very appropriate for this time of year."

By the end of the poem, the children were saying, "Ef ya don't watch out!" along with Mrs. Williams. Every morning they wanted her to read this poem because she accented it so funnily. Mrs. Williams' voice would quiver and her head would nod to accent words. Mr. Murray would stop by, especially at first, in the morning because he had always liked that poem, too. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Why should the poor in spirit feel blessed?
2. What is the reward for those that are pure in heart?
3. What will the peacemakers be called?
4. Who are we to be a light to?
5. Who did Jesus say we should love?
6. What should we do to those who badly use us?
7. When someone hits your cheek, what should you do?
8. If someone asks you to go a mile, what should you do?

Answers: 1. The kingdom of heaven will be theirs. 2. They will see God. 3. The children of God. 4. The world. 5. Our enemies/Everyone. 6. Pray for them. 7. Turn your other cheek. 8. Go two with them.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Nov. 7, 2010

The First Miracle

When Jesus met Nathaniel, Jesus told Nathaniel that He had seen him before they met. Nathaniel was amazed, but Jesus told him, "You shall see greater things than this." Soon afterwards Jesus, His mother, Mary, and His disciples were attending a wedding at Cana in Galilee. Many people were probably there, celebrating by feasting for seven days. But the host of the party had a problem. "There is no more wine," Mary informed Jesus. "Why do you come to me?" Jesus asked. "My time has not yet come."

"Do what He tells you to," Mary informed the servants. Six stone water pots stood nearby. The Pharisees and the Jews had strict rules about thoroughly washing their hands before they could eat, just as their ancestors had done. Each pot could hold twenty to thirty gallons of water.

"Fill the pots with water," Jesus told the servants. The servants filled the pots to the brim. "Now take it to the host of the feast," was Jesus' next command. The servants did so.

The host of the feast tasted the wine from the water pots. He did not know where it came from. He called out to the groom, "Usually men serve the best wine first, but you have saved the best for last."

The disciples saw the glory of Jesus and believed in Him. After this Jesus went with His mother and brothers and disciples to Capernaum where they rested for a few days. This was the very first of many miracles Jesus performed while on the earth. Another miracle that Jesus performed also occurred in Cana.

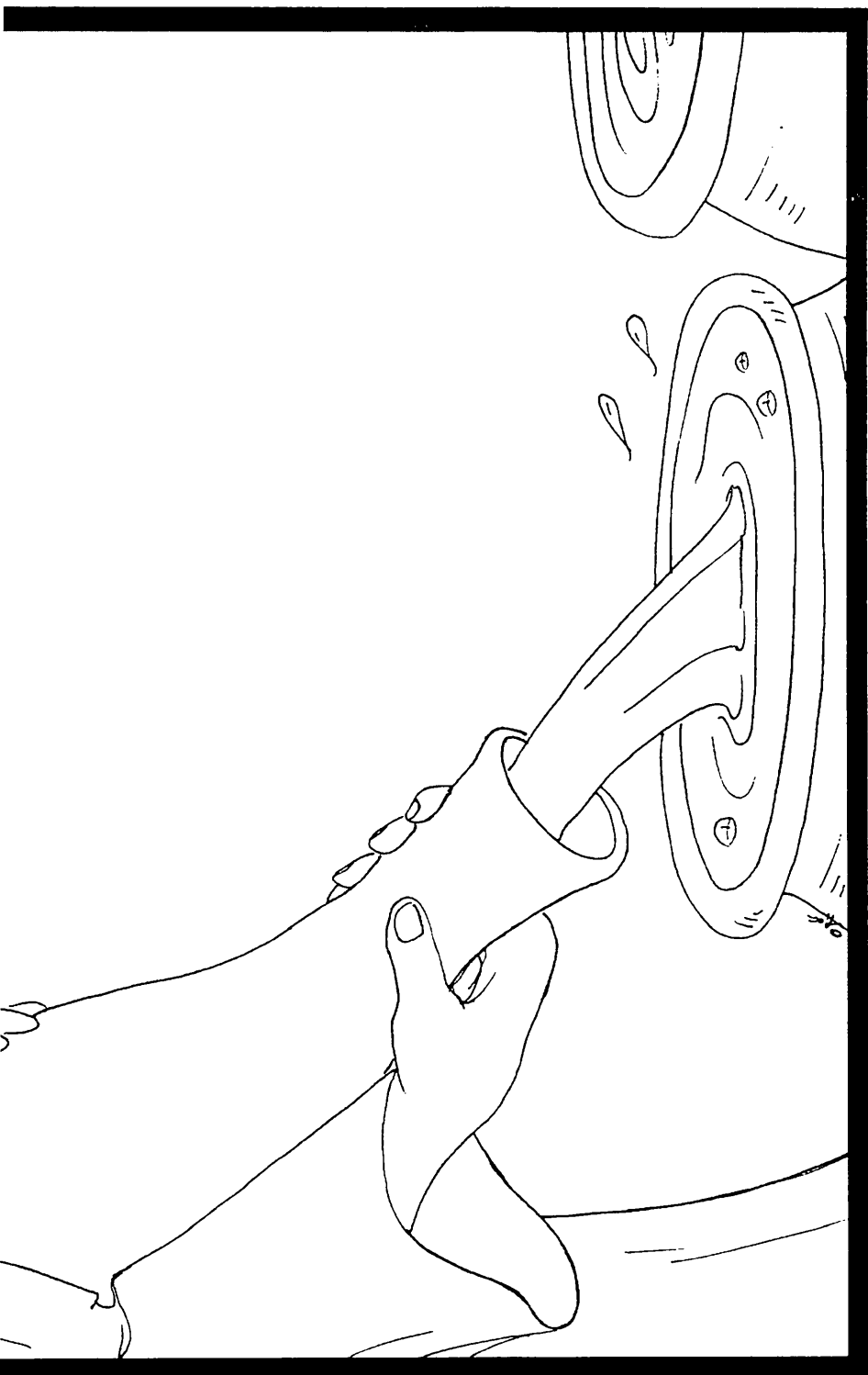
A nobleman who lived in Cana had a sick son. When he heard that Jesus was visiting Cana, he went to Jesus. "Will you please heal my son? He is about to die," the nobleman asked. "Go home. Your son lives," Jesus replied. The nobleman believed that his son was healed, and he started for home. While he was on his way, some of his servants stopped him. "Your son lives," the servants said. From that time on, the nobleman was a believer in Jesus, and everyone that lived in his house believed, also.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“ . . . they filled them
up to the brim.”

John 2:7



Lonnie's Pumpkin

The pumpkin vine in the back yard flower bed had really grown! Connie remembered when Lonnie had proudly brought home the tender baby plant in a paper cup.

"My teacher said if we would plant it and give it plenty of water, it will grow and have pumpkins by Thanksgiving," he had said.

So Mama and Lonnie had planted the little plant among the flowers where it would surely get water. The vine had taken over the flower bed by October and one bloom had survived to become a fat orange pumpkin.

Lonnie showed it to his grandparents. "You need to help your mama make you a nice pumpkin pie with that big one," said Grandpa as all the family stood admiring the perfect pumpkin.

"It's a lot more work, though, Daddy," said Grandma Eck who was a very good pie maker. "His mama may not have time to clean it and cut it up and cook it down and run it through the sieve."

"Well, it tastes better than that canned stuff," replied Grandpa.

"I like to bake the pumpkin seeds," said Grandma Miles. "I spread out the washed seeds on a cookie sheet. Put a little garlic butter on them and toast them in the oven. They are as good as nuts."

Connie remembered toasting pumpkin seeds with Grandma last Fall.

Lonnie patted his distinguished pumpkin. He could already imagine it as a cinnamon brown pumpkin pie with lots of white whipped cream dabbled on top.

All the neighbor children knew about his pumpkin. Shy Lonnie had shown it to any one who would come to the backyard. Then one day something terrible happened. An older neighbor girl decided to pick the pumpkin. She severed the pumpkin from the vine and carried it to the front yard where the other children were playing.

"That's my pumpkin!" exclaimed

Lonnie in dismay. "We aren't supposed to pick it yet!"

"I think it is ready," said Joanie. "Let's check it out and see!" Connie came outside just in time to see Joanie throw the pumpkin on the cement street.

"WHY DID YOU DO THAT!" she hollered at Joanie.

"To see if it is ripe," replied Joanie.

Connie rushed to the pumpkin! It was smashed and splattered all over the dirty street! Lonnie started crying.

"Oh, you mean, wicked thing!" exclaimed Connie. "You had better go home right now because....you had better leave now!"

Joanie ran home. The poor pumpkin could not be put together again. A lot of the tender insides were mixed with the street gravel.

"I am so sorry, honey," said Mama as she hugged her son. "The pumpkin won't be better but your feelings can be. I think a pumpkin pie will make you feel better. Also, Connie, hollering at Joanie won't help. Let me talk to her parents. Let's not make war over a broken pumpkin."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What was Jesus attending?
2. What problem did the host have?
3. What did Mary say to the servants?
4. What were the water pots used for?
5. "You have saved the _____ wine for _____."
6. Where was Jesus when this miracle took place?
7. What did the nobleman ask Jesus?
8. What news did the servants have for him?

Answers: 1. A wedding. 2. He ran out of wine. 3. To do what Jesus asked. 4. Washing hands, as was the custom. 5. Best, last. 6. Cana. 7. To heal his son. 8. His son lived.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Nov 14, 2010

Zeal for His Father's House

A scripture in Deuteronomy 16:1 tells the Jews to "remember and celebrate the Passover during the month of Abib. It was in this month that the Lord your God brought you out of Egypt during the night." It was almost time for the Passover, so Jesus left Capernaum for Jerusalem.

Jesus was astonished at the sight that greeted Him when he visited the temple. People were buying doves. Men were selling sheep and oxen. Other men were sitting at tables ready to change money for customers who needed it. Only Jewish coins could be used to buy things in the temple.

Jesus made a whip out of cords and threw the merchants out of the temple. He turned over the tables where the money changers were sitting. Coins spilled over the floor. "Get out of here," Jesus told the men selling doves. "My father's house is not a place of business."

The Jews that were in charge were very angry. "What gives you the authority to do this?" they asked. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will rebuild it," Jesus replied. "It took forty six years to build this temple, and you think you can rebuild it in three days?" the Jews asked incredulously. The Jews did not understand that the temple Jesus was talking about was His body. Later, when Jesus was raised from the dead after three days, His disciples remembered what He had said to the Jews.

As Jesus' disciples watched, they remembered a scripture in Psalms that prophesied about this event. "The zeal of your house has eaten me up," the scripture read. Another verse in Malachi says, "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom you seek shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom you delight in: behold, He shall come, says the LORD of hosts." During the feast of the Passover, Jesus performed many miracles. Many people believed that Jesus was the Messiah.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“... he drove them all out of the temple
John 2:15



temple . . . ”



Apples at Covington

Connie loved visiting the farm at Covington. On the Friday evening visits, the Miles family traveled when the bright yellow sun colored the blue sky like a red, orange and purple bowl over the reddish brown and yellow fields. Connie liked to roll down the car window and let the cool air blow into her face, stinging her eyes and echoing in her ears. The crop stubble in the fields smelled so delicious—she didn't blame cows and horses for eating it, but smelling it was good enough for her.

She thought about Grandma's homemade fried chicken dinner, fresh homemade bread, garden vegetables, apple pies, and whatever else Grandma would have ready. Probably in her big apron pocket. Grandma would have some candy. Either it would be the pink powder sugar peppermints or the orange marshmallow circus peanuts. Connie thought it was the best candy because it came from Grandma's apron pocket.

From the front seat of the car, Mama turned her head so Connie could hear her. "Grandma has four or more bushels of apples to be canned," she said. "We need to go right into the house to help her put them up. You can peel the apples and I will cut, clean and slice them. We can get a lot done by team work."

"Okay, I'll be there," replied Connie. Canning apples made the kitchen have a sweet, happy aroma. First the apples needed to be peeled, washed, sliced and placed into jars with some sugar and cinnamon. Lids and rings were screwed on the top of each jar. Then five to seven jars were put into a big pressure cooker. A wire rack kept the jars from touching the bottom and water was poured around the jars until the cooker was one fourth full. The important looking lid with its gauge and steam whistle was screwed down on the pressure cooker. The heat was turned up until the right amount of pressure was reached. The whistling, dancing

steamer was tempting to touch, but Connie knew it would burn her badly if she ever tried it.

As their car tires crunched down the red shale driveway, dogs barked and cats ran under the wash house. Grandma was gathering the evening eggs and Grandpa was in the milk barn doing the chores. After hello's were said, Connie and Aunt Ruthie went into the wash room to carry out a bushel of apples. Aunt Ruthie had cleaned inside the little building so they could play house there. Grandma's old metal cupboard held odds and ends of dishes and pans. The wringer washer was under one window and a table set across and under the other window that faced the back yard. Grandma did wash some clothes in this room but she took most of the clothes to the laundry mat in Enid.

Connie took the apples down two steps and a few feet on a path leading to the outside water pump. She primed the handle and drew water in a tub so they could wash the apples and peel them easier.

"I hope I marry a farmer," said Connie to Aunt Ruthie. "It feels good to work on God's good earth."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What Jewish month was the Passover celebrated in?
2. Where did Jesus go to celebrate the Passover?
3. What did Jesus see in the temple?
4. What did Jesus make from cords?
5. "My father's house is not a place of ____."
6. How long did Jesus say it would take to rebuild the temple?
7. What temple was Jesus talking about?
8. What two books of the Bible prophesied about this?

Answers: 1. Abib. 2. Jerusalem. 3. People buying and selling goods. 4. A whip. 5. Business. 6. Three days. 7. His body. 8. Psalms and Malachi.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Nov. 21, 2010

Born Again

There was a Pharisee, named Nicodemus, who was a ruler among the Jews. One night, he came to talk with Jesus. "Rabbi," Nicodemus said. "We know you are a teacher sent from God. No man could do these miracles you have done without God being with him." "A man cannot see the kingdom of God unless he is born again," Jesus said in reply.

"How can a man be born again if he is old?" Nicodemus queried. "Surely his mother cannot give birth to him twice!" Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth. No man can see the kingdom of Heaven unless he is born again by the water and the spirit. People can produce human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. The wind blows where it wishes. You can hear it, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. That is the way that it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. "You are a ruler in Israel and you do not understand these things?" Jesus questioned. "We have told you what we know and have seen. But many of you still do not believe us. If you do not believe me when I speak to you of earthly things, you will not believe me when I speak to you of heavenly things. No one has been to Heaven except for the Son of God. God loved the world so much that He sent His only Son, that whoever believed in Him wouldn't die, but would have everlasting life. God did not send His son to judge the world, but to save it. Light came into the world, but men clung to the darkness, because they were evil. Men who do evil hate the light. They will not come to it, in case their wickedness is discovered. Those who follow after truth will find the light. Their good deeds will be seen by others, and men will know they are of God."

We do not know if Nicodemus ever wholly accepted Jesus' teachings. Later, during Jesus trial, Nicodemus spoke up for Jesus. Witnesses were coming forward accusing Jesus. "Is it in our laws to find a person guilty without letting them speak?" Nicodemus asked. Nicodemus also accompanied Joseph of Arimathea when he asked permission to take Jesus' body for burial. Nicodemus donated seventy-five pounds of spices for Jesus' burial.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

"The same [Nicodemus]
John 3:2



me to Jesus by night . . .”



Gathering Pecans

Grandma Miles was on the telephone talking to Mama. Connie could not hear everything Grandma was saying, but she knew Grandma wanted them to come to the print shop.

"Please, Mama, let us go!" pleaded Connie.

Mama gave her a stern "be quiet" look. "Okay," she said to Grandma. "I will get the children ready if you are sure all four of them won't be too much."

"Yay!" said Connie. "I'll go tell the others to get ready!"

While they combed their hair and put on shoes, Mama talked to them. "Grandma wants you all to pick up pecans on the ground," she said. "I don't want you in the print shop bothering the workers, and don't go into the print shop house where the Wilsons live. Remember your manners. Be polite. Obey Grandma. I expect you all to be good."

"We will!" all four of them promised. Soon Grandma's blue Chevy pulled up in the driveway. They rushed to her car, anxious to get to the print shop.

"Now you rest and get a lot of book keeping done," said Grandma to Mama. "I'll give them some supper and we will have a grand ole time!"

"I will," said Mama with a smile.

"Don't have too much fun without us," said Donnie.

"We want supper here tomorrow night," said Lonnie.

"Good-bye! Love you!" they called to Mama as the car backed out of the driveway. When they arrived at the print shop, they saw pecans all over the back yard. Grandma gave each of them a bucket and they were filling them in no time flat. While gathering pecans around the garage, they could hear Bro. Clifford Wilson whistling.

"Let's go in and see Bro. Clifford," suggested Connie.

"No, Mama told us to stay out of the way of workers," replied Donnie.

"She told us to stay out of the house and the print shop, but she did not say anything about the garage," said Connie.

"Besides she told us to mind our manners and it is only polite to say 'Hello' when you are nearby someone."

Donnie shrugged and kept gathering pecans but Connie went into the garage. "Hi, Bro. Clifford," she called. "I know the song that you are whistling: *My Jesus, I Love Thee*. What are you making?"

"Hello, little miss," he greeted her. "I'm attempting to make another mail order cabinet for the print shop. The old one is pretty worn."

"Oh, this must be the tract holder," she said pointing to several small pieces of wood.

"Yes," answered Bro. Clifford. "I must keep my eyes on the wood and my fingers away from the saw."

"Connie!" called Grandma. "Are you gathering pecans?"

"Oh, I have to go!" said Connie. She slipped outside. "I was only being polite, Grandma," she said.

"Stay away from sharp tools and machinery," said Grandma. "Besides it is time for supper."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did Nicodemus think of Jesus?
2. What needs to happen to see the kingdom of Heaven?
3. What does the Holy Spirit give birth to?
4. What will happen to those who believe?
5. Why do some men hate the light?
6. What will happen to those who follow truth?
7. When did Nicodemus speak up for Jesus?
8. What did Nicodemus give for Jesus' burial?

Answers: 1. That he was a teacher, sent from God. 2. We must be born again. 3. Spiritual life. 4. They will have everlasting life. 5. Their wickedness would be discovered. 6. Their good deeds will be seen by others. 7. At Jesus' trial. 8. 75 pounds of spices.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Nov. 28, 2010

A Thirsty Woman

Jesus started on his journey back to Galilee from Judea. As Jesus was traveling through Samaria, He came to the small town of Sychar. Jesus was very tired from His journey and sat down to rest by a well Jacob had dug. Jesus' disciples went to the city to buy food.

A woman came to the well to draw water. "May I have something to drink?" Jesus asked. "You are a Jew, and I am Samaritan," the woman said. "How can you ask me for a drink?" The woman had a good reason to ask that question. For many years the Jews and Samaritans disagreed about many things and were unfriendly towards each other. The Samaritans thought that the temple should have been built in their area of the country. They also felt like the Samaritan priests were in the true bloodline. The Samaritans only accepted the Law of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy.) They did not believe that scriptures written by the prophets and other writers were Divinely inspired.

"If you knew about God's gift to you, and who was asking you for a drink, you would have asked Him for a drink," Jesus told the woman. "He would give you living water." "You have no bucket to draw water with," the woman replied. "Where do you get living water?" "People who drink water from this well will soon be thirsty again," Jesus informed the woman. "Those who drink the water I give will never thirst."

"Sir, give me this water so I won't be thirsty again," the woman pleaded. "Go call your husband and come here," Jesus instructed. "I have no husband," the woman protested. "You are right when you say that you have no husband. You have had five husbands and the man you are living with now is not your husband," Jesus said.

"Sir, I think that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you say that Jerusalem is the place to worship," the woman replied. "The hour has come now when the true worshipers of God will not worship in the mountain, or in Jerusalem, but will worship in spirit and in truth," Jesus told her. "I know that a Messiah is going to come, who is called Christ. When He has come He will tell us all things," the woman said. "I am He," Jesus revealed. The woman was so excited that she left her waterpot and went into the city, telling the men of the city. "Come see a man who told me everything I ever did. Isn't He the Christ?" People went out of the city to hear Him speak. A great number of Samaritans began to believe that Jesus was the Christ.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



"There cometh a woman of Samaria
to draw water . . ."
John 4:7



A Criminal in the Woods

It was to be a quiet Friday morning. The children were home from school because of a teachers meeting. Connie planned on playing out in the woods all day because it was cool and the tree leaves were beautiful, yellow, red, brown and orange. The lovely leaves decorated the bush and tree houses that Connie and her friends created.

But the fun in the woods was all canceled when Mama received an alarming telephone call. While eating pancakes and chocolate syrup for breakfast, Connie heard the concern in Mama's voice.

"So there is an escaped convict hiding in the woods near our home?" she questioned. "Yes, I will lock all our doors and keep my children inside! Thank you for calling, Sheriff. Good-bye!"

"What was that about?" asked Donnie.

Mama walked to the back patio door to check the lock. "The sheriff said a dangerous man escaped from the county jail this morning and they think he is hiding in these woods." She pulled back the drapes and all the children ran to the glass doors to look out.

"What does he look like?" asked Lonnie.

"If he is dressed in orange, he will blend into the tree leaves," said Connie.

"If he has a brown beard and yellow hair, he would blend even better," teased Donnie.

"Look! I see a helicopter flying over our woods!" said Lonnie.

"And there's a police car in front of Mrs. Ellis' house!" said Cindy.

"I hope they get him!" said Lonnie.

"He's probably hiding in Connie's house sitting on her tree stump chair," said Donnie. "You had better go see."

"No one is leaving this house until we know it is safe," said Mama firmly. "Now go finish your breakfast and then

we can play a game of Monopoly."

At the table the conversation was lively as each one imagined tales around this dangerous criminal hiding in their special woods. Then Connie decided to look out her bedroom window to get a better view toward her play house area.

When she and Donnie looked out the window, they started laughing. Sitting on his patio in a lawn chair was Damon, holding a banged up BB gun in his lap.

"Boy, we for sure better stay inside," said Donnie. "That dude IS dangerous!"

"He's reckless," said Connie. "He couldn't hit the broad side of a barn even if he tried to miss it!"

When Mama saw Damon, she called Mrs. Nelson who soon had Damon inside the house. "Children," said Mama. "Let's gather around and have prayer. Let's pray for our safety, but let's pray for this poor man. He has a soul and he needs salvation just like anyone else. I am sorry that he is in trouble."

After prayer, Mama turned on the local radio station and they heard that the man was soon caught. The sheriff called and said the woods were safe again.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Where did Jesus stop to rest?
2. What did Jesus ask the woman?
3. Why was the woman surprised Jesus spoke to her?
4. What did Jesus offer the woman?
5. Who did Jesus say He was?
6. What did the woman leave at the well?
7. Where were the disciples?
8. Who did the woman tell about Jesus?

<p>Answers: 1. Jacob's well. 2. "May I have a drink of water?" 3. The Jews and Samaritans were not friendly to each other. 4. Living water. 5. The Messiah. 6. Her waterpot. 7. Getting food in the city. 8. The men of the city.</p>
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THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Dec. 5, 2010

Rejected by Countrymen

Jesus returned to His hometown, Nazareth. On the Sabbath day, Jesus went to the temple to worship, just as He always did. He stood up to read the lesson. A minister handed Him a scroll containing Scripture written by the prophet Isaiah. Jesus unrolled the scroll and turned to the scripture that reads, "The Spirit of the Lord is with me. He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to slaves, to give sight to those who are blind, to set free those who have been oppressed, and to tell everyone that it is the year of our Lord."

Jesus closed the scroll and handed it back to the minister. Every eye in the room watched Jesus carefully.

Jesus proclaimed, "As everyone can hear, today this scripture is fulfilled." People listening to Jesus were amazed at His words. "Isn't this the son of Joseph, the carpenter?" they asked. Jesus said, "I am sure you will tell me the proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself. We have heard of the many things you have done in Capernaum. You should do them here, as well.'

"No prophet is accepted in his hometown. I am sure there were many widows close to Elijah's home, because there was a horrible famine in the land that lasted three years. Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow who lived in a different city. There were likely many lepers in the land where Elisha lived, but he only healed Naaman, the Syrian."

The townspeople of Nazareth were very angry when they heard this. The angry mob forced Jesus to leave the city. They led Him to a steep cliff at the edge of the city, intending to push Him off. Jesus was able to escape by walking right through the crowd. He went on His way. Jesus continued preaching in other places. Many were amazed at His wisdom.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“ . . . and led him unto the brow of the hill
that they might cast him down . . . ”

Luke 4:29





Young Mrs. Williams

At school, Connie could tell that Old Mrs. Williams was tired of teaching. After she would give an assignment and the children were working, Mrs. Williams' eyes would close behind her thick glasses and her head would nod.

A paper airplane would fly across the room. Someone would talk. The room would fill with chatter and chuckles. Then the door would open. Mr. Murray would step inside and suddenly everyone was writing and Mrs. Williams was saying, "You need to be done in five minutes!"

One morning Mr. Murray introduced a new teacher to the class. Her name was also Mrs. Williams and although she did not look that young to the children, because she was younger than Old Mrs. Williams, they all called her Young Mrs. Williams. She said she liked that adjective added to her name, so from then on, she was "Young Mrs. Williams."

Young Mrs. Williams had a very pointed nose, and she liked to sniff-sniff with it when she was upset at something.

Jeff, who sat in front of Connie, dropped his pencil on the floor and nearly fell out of his chair to get it. Connie laughed with the class.

"Young man, next time leave the pencil on the floor and get another one from your notebook," said Young Mrs. Williams and her nose went sniff-sniff.

"Now you drop something," whispered Jeff over his shoulder to Connie. She was going to drop her eraser but Young Mrs. Williams said, "Any more items dropped on the floor will be permanently mine. You are old enough to not drop things like a baby."

Connie did not want to lose her only eraser because she needed it often, besides she was not a baby. No one else dropped anything so Young Mrs. Williams continued to teach. At

lunch time, Connie and her friends tried to decide whether they liked her or not.

Then at the evening supper table, Connie told her family about Young Mrs. Williams. "Jeff thinks she looks like a witch," said Connie, "but I think he is upset because she sorta hinted that he had acted like a baby when he dropped his pencil."

"You children don't even know her yet," said Daddy.

"It's her pointed nose that makes her look sorta witchy," said Connie.

"You can't always judge a book by its cover," said Mama. "In other words, what she looks like may not tell you who she is until you get to know her. Decide to like her and look for the good things about her."

The next morning, when Connie was leaving for school, Mama gave her a little tube of Avon hand cream. "This is a gift for Young Mrs. Williams," she said. "Make friends with her."

Connie listened to Mama and in time the class, including Jeff, decided Young Mrs. Williams was okay.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Where was Jesus' hometown?
2. What did Jesus usually do on the Sabbath?
3. What prophet wrote the scripture Jesus read?
4. "Today the scripture is _____."
5. "No prophet is accepted in his _____."
6. Who did Jesus give as examples of that?
7. Where did the people take Jesus?
8. How did Jesus get away?

Answers: 1. Nazareth. 2. Goworship in the temple. 3. Isaiah. 4. Fulfilled. 5. Hometown/country. 6. Elijah and Elisha. 7. To a cliff at the edge of town. 8. He walk. ! out through the crowd.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Dec. 12, 2010

Overflowing Nets

People were beginning to come from all over to hear Jesus preach and to watch Jesus perform miracles. One day, many people were gathered around listening to Jesus as He spoke. They were standing by the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus spotted two ships sitting by the sea, but there were no fishermen in them. The fishermen were out washing their nets.

Jesus went into one of the boats. The boat belonged to Simon. Jesus asked Simon to pull away from the shore. For a little while, Jesus taught the people while sitting in Simon's boat. "Go out into the deep water," Jesus told Simon. "Let down your nets for fish."

"Master, we have fished all night, and we haven't caught any fish!" Simon protested. "But I will obey your orders."

They went out into the deep waters. Simon let down his net. How surprised they were when they brought it back up and realized they had caught many fish! Their net broke under the strain. Simon hollered over to the other ship. They came to help. The men filled both of the ships with fish. There were so many fish that the ships began to sink! Simon fell down and worshiped Jesus.

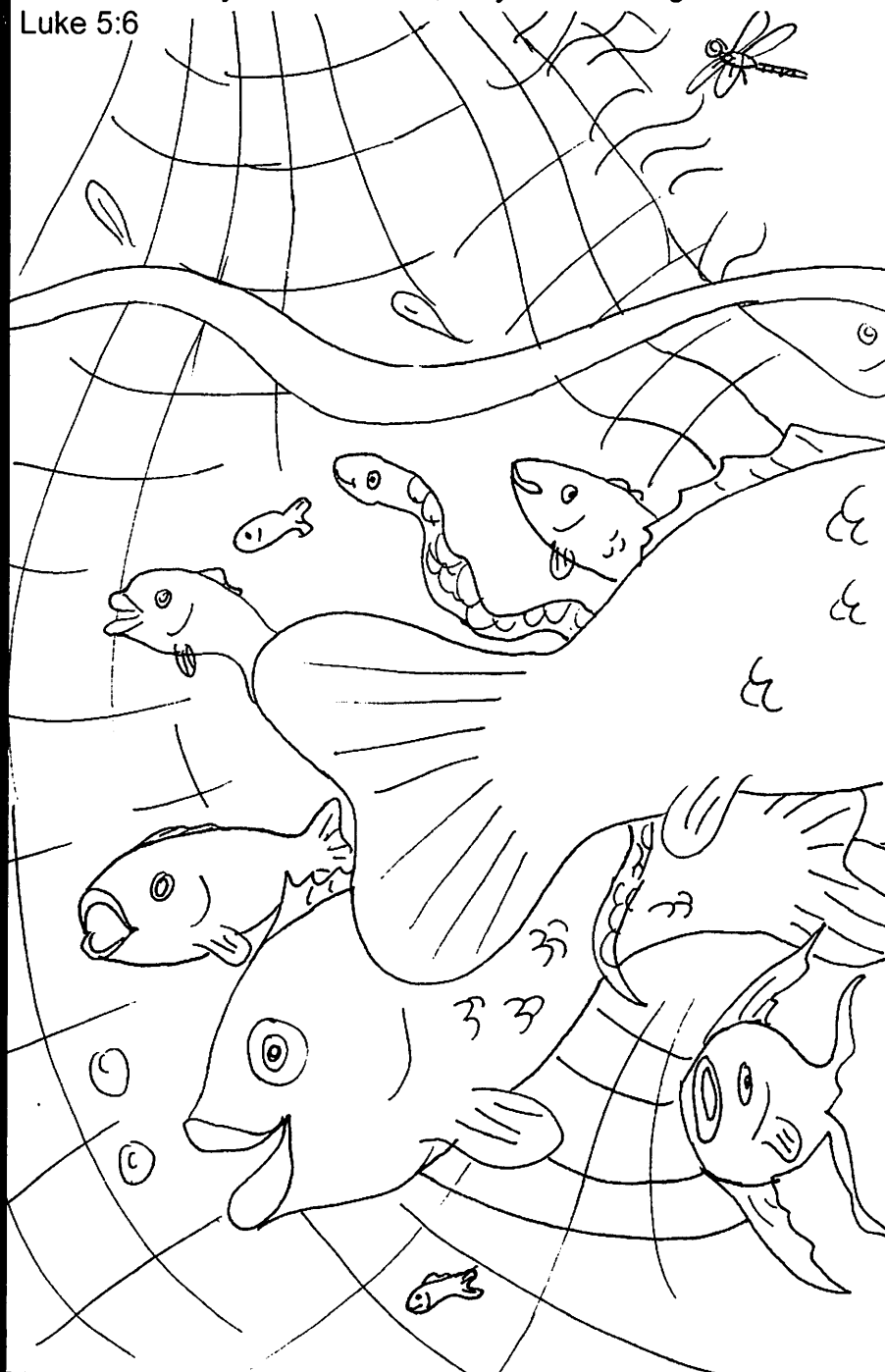
"From now on, you will catch men, instead of fish," Jesus informed Simon and the men with him. After that, Simon left everything that he had and followed Jesus.

We, too, should leave everything behind and follow Jesus. "Whoever loves his father or mother or son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me," Jesus taught. "Whoever will not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me."

Once while Jesus was teaching the people, His mother and brothers stood outside of the crowd, wanting to speak to Him. "Who is my mother? And who are my brothers?" Jesus asked. "Whoever will do the will of my Father are my brothers, and sisters, and my mother."

—Sis Monica Murphey

"And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude
Luke 5:6



es: and their net brake."



The Sunday School Christmas Party

Sunday morning at the Guthrie Church of God chapel, Connie went to her Sunday school room with eight others her age. After they were seated Sis. Emma Dilley asked them to bow their heads in prayer. She called each student's name in prayer, asking the Lord to bless each one and help them to live for Jesus.

"Before I pass out the Beautiful Way papers," said Sis. Dilley. "I want to tell you about a little surprise. I want to invite each of you to my house for a Christmas gathering. I have invitations made out for you to take to your parents. We need to draw names today for our gift exchange. The gift does not need to cost more than a dollar, but get something nice that you would want to receive."

Everyone was eager to draw a slip of paper from Sis. Dilley's dish. Connie hoped someone with lots of money would draw her name and make a mistake and buy her a five dollar gift instead.

Sis. Dilley read the lesson to them and they answered the questions, but Connie dreamed about the Christmas party. She could taste Sis. Dilley's soft melt-in-your-mouth sugar cookies topped with green icing. She pictured the neat back yard that Mr. Dilley kept trim. In the summer the flower beds were beautiful with color, but in the winter short stubs poked through the brown earth behind the white picket fencing.

"Connie, what is your verse for today?" asked Sis. Dilley's quivery voice.

Connie cleared her throat. "And she brought forth her first born son and laid him in a manger for there was no room for them in the inn."

"Very good," said Sis. Dilley. "We must remember that God gave. So we must think more about giving than

receiving at Christmas time."

Oh, yes, Connie thought, she was supposed to get someone a gift. Connie felt for that slip of paper in her pocket. Mama would help her get the right gift for her person.

That week, Grandma took all the family (except Daddy, who was at work) to Ben Franklin's in downtown Guthrie so they could shop for the perfect gift, as Donnie was in Connie's class, and Lonnie and Cindy had a gift exchange in their class, too. Connie looked and looked at things, but what she liked did not seem to be what Dorcus would like.

"Let's go a head and get her this nice purse," said Mama. "It cost more than a dollar, but let's be generous."

"Okay," agreed Connie. "It's pretty neat."

They bought a little gift for Sis. Dilley also. At home Connie and her siblings wrapped their own gifts. She was ready to go now that she had her gift to give.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What sea was Jesus standing by?
2. What did Jesus see by the shore?
3. Whose boat did Jesus go into?
4. What did Jesus tell Simon?
5. How long had Simon been fishing?
6. What happened when Simon let down his net?
7. What happened to the boats when they were filled with fishes?
8. Who did Jesus say was His mother and brothers?

Answers: 1. The Sea of Galilee. 2. Two ships. 3. Simon's 4. "Go into the deep waters and let down your net." 5. All night. 6. The net broke; there were so many fish. 7. They began to sink. 8. Anyone who did His will.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Dec. 19, 2010

Jesus Casts Out Demons and Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law

Every Sabbath day, Jesus taught at the synagogue in Capernaum. Everyone was astonished at the authority with which He taught. One Sabbath, a man possessed by a demon was in the crowd listening to Jesus' teachings. "Leave us alone," the tormented man shouted. "What business do we have with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the Holy one of God."

"Quiet!" Jesus rebuked the demons. "Come out of him." The demon caused the man to fall down on the floor. Then the demon came out of him, without hurting the man. "What are these words?" the people in the crowd wondered in amazement. "He commands the demons to come out with authority and power, and they obey him."

People living in the surrounding areas heard this story and Jesus' fame grew in the region.

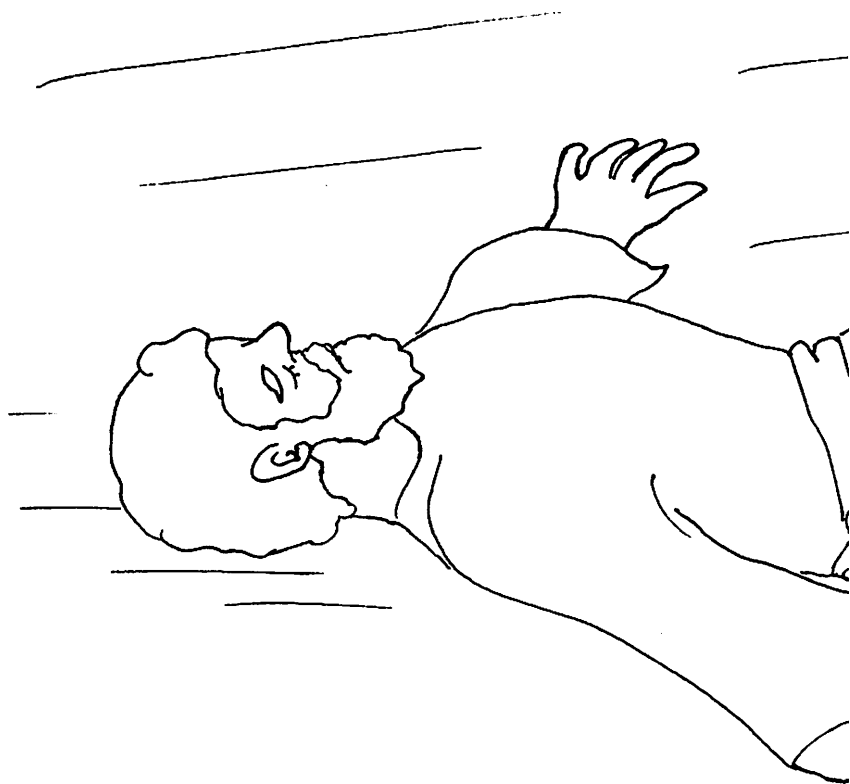
When Jesus left the synagogue, He went to Peter's house. Peter's mother-in-law was sick with a high fever. Jesus entered Peter's house and went in to stand beside the sick woman's bed. Jesus ordered the fever to leave. Peter's mother-in-law was healed! Immediately she got up and served them.

At sunset, people began coming to Jesus to be healed. Jesus laid His hands on each one of them and healed them. Among the sick people who came to be healed were people with demons. "You are the Messiah," the demons would cause the people to shout. Jesus rebuked the demons. They submitted to His authority and came out because they knew Jesus had power over them.

At dawn, Jesus tried to find a place where He could be alone. When His followers finally found Him, they tried to persuade Him to stay and teach them. "There are other cities that need to hear about the Kingdom of God, too," Jesus replied. "I must do what I am sent to do." Jesus preached in many synagogues in Galilee.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

"... And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he ca
Luke 4:35



it of him . . . ”



Christmas at Sis. Dilley's House

"Now you two be good," said Daddy as his car pulled up to Sis. Dilley's house.

"We will be!" exclaimed Connie and Donnie as they climbed out of the car with their gifts in hand.

"Be polite and obey Mr. Dilley if he tells you something to do," said Daddy.

"We will be!" they called over their shoulders as they rushed to join their friends. Light glowed from every window of the house and they could hear laughter behind the front door.

"Come on in!" greeted Sis. Dilley at the door. "Put your coats on the hooks and join the game."

Soon Connie and Donnie were in the circle laughing with all the other children.

"Now, let's not be too loud," said Sis. Dilley. "Mr. Dilley is in the other room and we don't want to disturb him."

Connie thought Mr. Dilley seemed to be a lot like her Grandpa Miles. He did not go to church, he liked children to be quiet all the time and he liked cats. After a while Connie told Sis. Dilley that she had to go to the bathroom, and she did, but she also wanted to see where Mr. Dilley was.

Connie walked down the hall and opened a closed door. There was Mr. Dilley watching TV. "Oh, hi, Mr. Dilley," she said. "I was looking for the bathroom."

"Oh," he said in surprise. "You missed it by one door. Tell all those noise makers in there to pipe it down, will you?"

"Okay," said Connie. "We are supposed to be gone by 9:00 so you won't have to hear us much longer!" With that she shut the door.

After a while Mr. Dilley came into the den, and then it was Sis. Dilley who acted surprised. They were doing the gift exchange. Connie was pleased to see Dorcus smile when she opened her gift.

"Oh, I like this purse!" exclaimed Dorcus. "Thank you, Connie!"

"You are welcome," she replied. When she received her gift she saw it was from Dorcus. "Stationary," she said. "Thank you, Dorcus."

"You are welcome," replied Dorcus. Connie did not want to tell her that she already had lots of stationary. That would not be polite.

Mr. Dilley watched for a while, and then he said, "Well, I'm glad you all have had some fun. You have a wonderful teacher. I think she is pretty special, and I hope you think so, too."

"Yes!" exclaimed all the children.

"Thank you, Sis. Dilley, for the cookies, treats and for the fun time," said Connie as she and Donnie put on their coats.

"You are more than welcome," said Sis. Dilley with a smile and hug for each. Her warm smile stayed with them all the way home.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions: (True/False)

1. Jesus cast a demon out of a man.
2. The demon said Jesus was a good teacher.
3. The demon caused the man to hop up and down.
4. Peter's mother-in-law was sick with a fever.
5. Jesus did not heal Peter's mother-in-law.
6. Jesus cast demons out of others.
7. Jesus' followers told him to leave.
8. Jesus was sent to preach the Gospel.

Answers: 1. True. 2. False. 3. False. 4. True. 5. False. 6. True. 7. False. 8. True.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Dec. 26, 2010

Jesus' Birthday!

Baby Jesus' birth did not take place in a hospital or even in a comfortable room like many children are born in today. Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a barn, which was probably a cave. Instead of having grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters waiting outside to hear about His birth, Jesus had cattle and sheep surrounding Him. In fact, after Jesus was born, His mother didn't have a nice cozy cradle or crib for Him. Instead, Mary wrapped Jesus up in a piece of cloth and laid Him in a manger filled with hay for the cattle to eat.

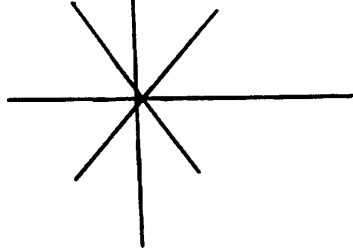
Later, several visitors did arrive to see the baby. Some of them were shepherds. While they were watching their sheep, an angel had appeared to them and announced that a baby Savior had been born. The shepherds hurried down to Bethlehem to see the baby.

Jesus had some very important visitors, as well. Three wise men came from very far away, following a strange star that they had spotted in the night sky. The star was hanging right over the place Jesus was staying! The three visitors bowed down and worshipped the baby king and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Many Jewish prophets had predicted things about the coming Messiah. They talked about the town He would be born in, the ancestors the Messiah would descend from, and they even predicted that the Messiah would die for everyone's sins. All of the pieces came together when Jesus was born. Every single prediction made about the Messiah happened in Jesus' life.

Christmas is a time of remembering Jesus birthday. How thankful we should be that our Savior was willing to come down to be born in a dirty barn and later die for our sins! We can give Jesus a gift, too. A believing, willing heart is what Jesus would like as a Christmas gift from us.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



— “... she . . . wrapped
him in swaddling
clothes, and laid him
in a manger . . . ”
Luke 2:7





Christmas at Grandma's

The table was loaded with the big turkey on the platter in the center of the table. Daddy had already carved the meat from the bone, but the sliced meat was really stacked. Green beans and corn, mashed potatoes and gravy, homemade hot rolls, pecan and pumpkin pies—Connie wished her stomach was bigger!

"Let's gather in for prayer," said Grandma Miles. "We want to thank the Lord for each one that is here. I am so happy to have my two sons with me, their wives, and all my eight grandchildren. Truly the Lord has been good to me! His presence and love is the greatest gift of all. Let's bow our heads in prayer."

After the meal and the dishes were done, everyone gathered into the living room where a stack of Christmas gifts were piled under the bay window. Connie had already checked and there were at least two gifts in the stack with her name on them.

"Before we open gifts," began Grandma. "I want us to record on my cassette player. Each one of you needs to say your name, and tell what the Lord did for you that was special this year."

"Aw-w-w, do we have to?" groaned Donnie, but Connie was ready to talk. "Do you want me to go first?" she asked.

"We will go by age," said Grandma. "Your daddy will speak first, and then down the line."

Daddy didn't want to talk either but he had to because Grandma had the microphone right at his mouth.

Each one told what the Lord

had done that was special to them. There was teasing and laughter as memories were shared. Then it came time for the gifts. Grandma always gave Connie some books. She knew how much Connie liked to read. Grandma always said, "What you read is how you think." She wanted Connie to only read good books that pointed her to the Lord.

One time Grandma had given Connie some money to buy books at the school book fair. Connie bought two books about monsters and space ships, which disappointed Grandma very much. "I had hopes that you would have better judgment than this," she had said which made Connie feel sad. This time Grandma bought Connie books about Peggy, a girl who struggled at school to live for God.

"Maybe these books will give you courage to live for the Lord at school," said Grandma when Connie thanked her for the gift. "The greatest gift is to know God is pleased with your life."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Where was Jesus born?
2. What city was Jesus born in?
3. Where did Mary lay Jesus?
4. Who told the shepherds about Jesus?
5. What did the wise men follow?
6. What did the wise men bring Jesus?
7. Who predicted things about the Messiah?
8. What should we remember at Christmas?

<p>Answers: 1. A barn/stable/cave. 2. Bethlehem. 3. A manger. 4. Angels. 5. A star. 6. Gifts. 7. Prophets. 8. Jesus birthday.</p>
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