

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 14 July 7, 1996

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE

God's people had been captives in Babylon for many years. Daniel was young when he was captured and taken from his home in Judah. Now he was an old man. Some Jews died in captivity but many babies had been born.

The older people never forgot their homeland and their wonderful city, Jerusalem. Jeremiah wrote letters to the captives when they were first taken to Babylon. He told them God would let them return to their homeland after seventy years. Seventy years had passed. God remembered and kept the promise He made to Jeremiah.

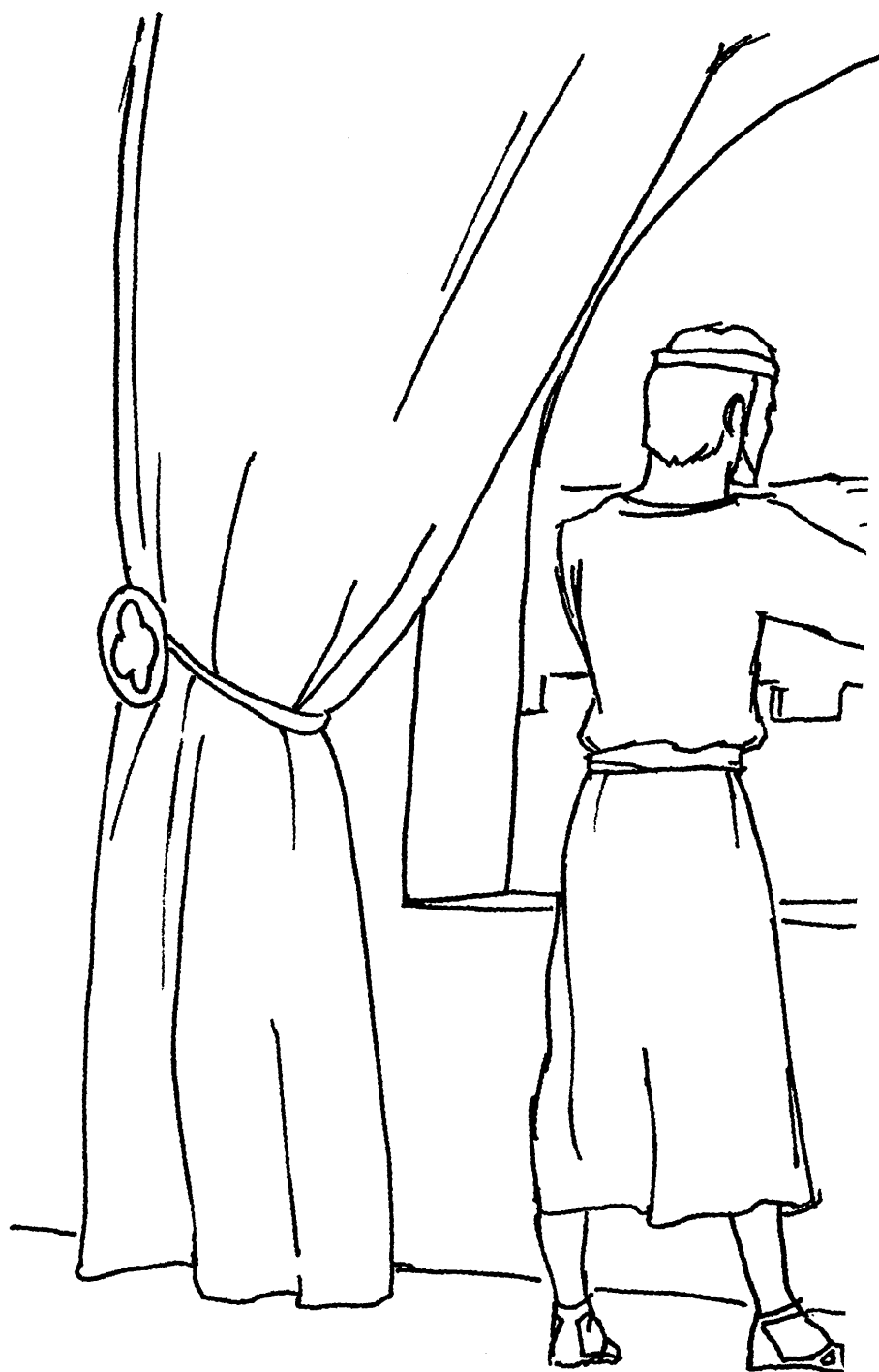
Shortly after Cyrus became king, God spoke to him. When he heard God's message, Cyrus wanted to obey. He sent out a proclamation throughout all the land saying, "The Lord God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. Now He has charged me to build Him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

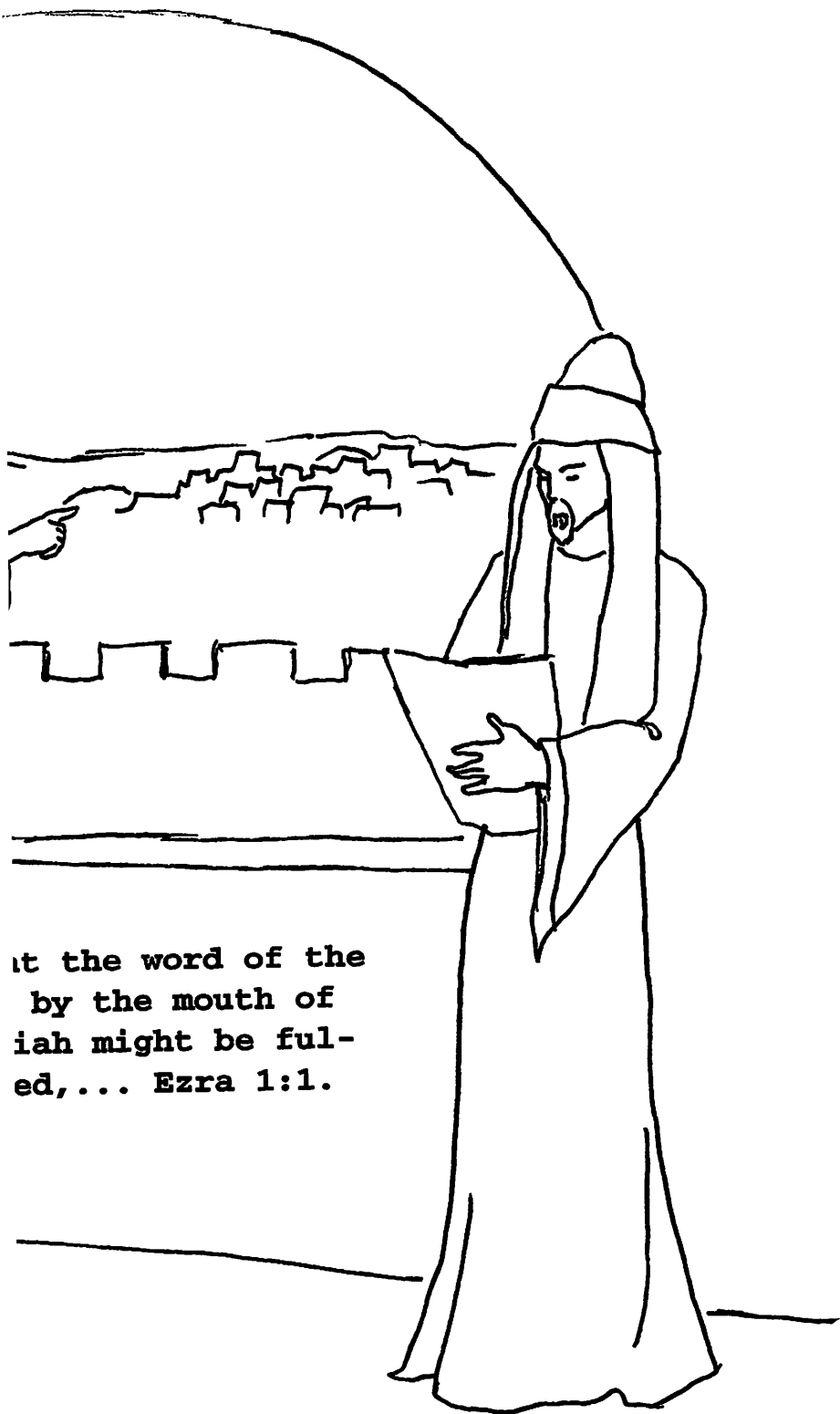
"Who is there among you who will go up to Jerusalem and build the house of the Lord? God will be with him. Whoever chooses to stay in Babylon will help by giving silver, gold, and other supplies besides their offering for the house of God that will be built in Jerusalem."

How happy the Jews were to hear the king's proclamation! Jeremiah's prophecy had come true; they were free to return to their homeland. The chief men of Judah, the priests and the Levites, along with all those whom God inspired, made ready to leave Babylon. There were more than forty-two thousand Jews in the company besides their servants. Those who stayed behind gave silver, gold, animals, and other valuable things to help those who returned to rebuild the house of God.

Cyrus even brought out the vessels that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the house of the Lord. There were thousands of platters, knives and basins made of pure gold and silver. He sent these to be used in the new temple just as they had been used years before in the old.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





at the word of the
by the mouth of
iah might be ful-
ed,... Ezra 1:1.

Jerry Kept His Word

It was Sunday afternoon and Jerry had brought a friend home. Mother said they needed to play quietly inside so they would be clean for night service. In time, the boys became tired of playing Legos so they decided to play a game.

"Could we play with your new Clue game?" Jerry asked his younger sister. "You can play with us."

"No," said Linda. "I don't want to play that right now."

"PLEASE, LINDA!" pleaded both boys, but Linda only shook her head "No."

"Dad or Mother will make you share," said Jerry. "I have to share all my things."

"No, you don't," said Linda. "Yesterday when I wanted to ride your bike, you said I couldn't and this morning you wouldn't share the last piece of cake with me."

"Well, I usually share," said Jerry. "Now where is your game of Clue?"

"I have it hidden," replied Linda, "and right now I don't want to get it out."

On first impulse Jerry thought about finding the game himself, but he knew that would cause a fuss, and he would be punished. His friend suggested they should 'make Linda find it' but Jerry knew better than to hit or bully his sister. There were other games to play but Jerry really liked this game.

Why was Linda so selfish? Maybe he didn't share with Linda like he should. Maybe she was being stubborn because he hadn't shared his bike or that piece of cake. Then Jerry had an idea.

"Okay, Linda," he said, "if you will let us play with your Clue game,

then I will let you ride my bike any time this week."

"Really, Jerry?" asked Linda as her face brightened.

"Yes, it's a deal. If you will let us play Clue this afternoon, then you can ride my bike all this week."

"Alright!" exclaimed Linda as she hurried to get her game. Through the afternoon the three children enjoyed playing Clue together.

Sunday night came and went. Monday morning the sun came smiling in the clear blue sky. Right after breakfast Linda hurried outside to ride Jerry's bike.

Jerry stood at the back door and watched her hop on his bike. He must let her ride it because he had made the deal and must keep his word. Maybe he shouldn't have promised to let her ride it any time all week. He sighed. It was going to be a long week! —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was young when he was captured and taken from his home?
2. Who wrote letters to the captives?
3. How long had the Jews been captives?
4. Who remembered His promise?
5. What king sent out a proclamation?
6. What had God charged him to do?
7. How many Jews returned to Jerusalem?
8. Who had taken the vessels from the house of the Lord?
9. What were the vessels for the temple made of?

LESSON TEXT: Ezra 1.

(Answers: 1. Daniel. 2. Jeremiah. 3. Seventy years. 4. God. 5. Cyrus. 6. To build God a house at Jerusalem. 7. More than forty-two thousand. 8. Nebuchadnezzar. 9. Pure gold and silver.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 15 July 14, 1996

HOME AGAIN!

Finally the day arrived for the great company of captive Jews to leave Babylon. On the appointed day they all gathered in the valley along the Euphrates River. There were grandmothers and grandfathers, mothers and fathers, as well as young people and children. Most of them carried bundles of baggage for their long trip. They were ready to start back to the land of their fathers.

Zerubbabel, a brave young man from the family of David, was made the leader of the returning Jews. When they reached Jerusalem, Zerubbabel was to rule the Jews as a prince under the command of King Cyrus.

The people said their last goodbyes and the long trip began. The company moved slowly up the highway that a few of them had traveled seventy years before. This time they were happy because they were no longer captives in a strange land.

Many walked, some rode on horses and others on camels or donkeys. As they went, they sang songs of joy. At night they made a camp and slept in tents. Finally they crossed the mountains and made their way down to their own land, the land of Judea.

But as they neared Jerusalem they met an unhappy sight. The beautiful city of Jerusalem had been burned by Nebuchadnezzar and it was in ruins. The walls around it were crumbled and broken down, and the temple of God was nothing but ashes.

Those who remembered how the city looked before Nebuchadnezzar destroyed it were very sad. Most of them had never seen Jerusalem because they were born in the land of captivity. Everyone was glad to come back and build their home in the land Nebuchadnezzar had taken away from them.

The people found the place where the temple of the Lord had once stood. In the ruins they found the rock where the altar had been. Here the priests and Levites cleared away the rubbish and gathered stones for a new altar. From the very first, they offered sacrifices to God each morning and evening just as it had been commanded in the Law of Moses.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...The people gathered
themselves together
as one man to Jerusa-
lem. Ezra 3:1.**





Home-Drawn Love

(A True Story)

John looked somewhat like a wild man that day as he stood in line waiting for someone to call out his name. John was at an assembly held by Prison Fellowship Community Service Project. Each prisoner, like John, was waiting for a Christian man to choose him for outside-the-prison work. Several prisoners were chosen, but no one called John's name.

He was a big man with a bald head and his shaggy beard hung all the way to his round waistline. One glance into John's eyes betrayed that he caused trouble. With a shrug of his shoulders, John was ready to go back to his small cell in the prison when another Christian man walked into the room.

Ron had arrived late but he still wanted to take one prisoner with him. "Would he take John?" the chaplain asked. Ron looked at John, breathed a silent prayer, and nodded his head. Ron knew the Lord could help him work with John even if John acted ugly.

Together the two men set out to landscape church property in Briarwood, Alabama. John proved to be a faithful worker—he was so grateful to Ron for taking him. Also, John cut his long beard. He had said he would if someone would choose him with it.

John's mother had sent him to Sunday school when he was a boy, but he had never seen any Christians living like the Bible taught. He had never been saved from sin and he didn't see any spiritual power in Christians, so John thought the story of Jesus was a myth.

Ron talked to John about Jesus and answered John's questions. No, John didn't believe Jesus made life

better. He argued about this until he went home with Ron. Right away John realized that Ron's family was different from any other family he had known. Ron, his wife, and three children lived together in peace and love. They cared about each other and helped one another to get the household work done. This touched John's heart. He had never seen a happy home.

By the end of one week, John was reading the Bible to learn more about Jesus, who made life peaceful and happy. Yes, John had seen that Jesus did make life better. He wanted Jesus to help him have that same peace.

Ron's family was very eager to help John. In time, John asked Jesus to wash away his sins—he got saved. Peace and love took away the trouble and hate that had been in John's heart. A happy, Christian family had shown John the way to peace with God.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was ready to leave Babylon?
2. Who was made the leader?
3. Why were the travelers happy?
4. Where did the people sleep at night?
5. Who had burned Jerusalem?
6. What was nothing but ashes?
7. What rock did they find in the ruins?
8. Who gathered stones for a new altar?
9. What did the people do each morning and evening?

LESSON TEXT: Ezra 2-3:3.

(Answers: 1. The captive Jews. 2. Zerubbabel. 3. They were no longer captives in a strange land. 4. In tents. 5. Nebuchadnezzar. 6. The temple. 7. The rock where the altar had been. 8. The priests and Levites. 9. Offered sacrifices to God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 16 July 21, 1996

TROUBLE COMES

The people did not begin rebuilding the temple of the Lord at once. Winter was coming on and they must have homes to live in. So they built themselves houses first. When spring came, they started the work of rebuilding the temple.

Zerubbabel and Jeshua, the high priest, hired carpenters and masons for the new building. Every man who was over twenty years old worked on the temple.

It was a happy time when the foundation was laid. The priests, Levites and musicians praised the Lord. The people sang together for joy. Everyone was happy that the great work had begun. While most of the people shouted, some cried because they remembered the first temple.

Living near Jerusalem were some people called Samaritans. These people did not like having the Jews back in Jerusalem. They did not want to have the temple rebuilt. They wanted to keep the land for themselves and decided to hinder the work any way they could. They came to Zerubbabel and said, "Let us help you build the temple. We worship the same God as you do."

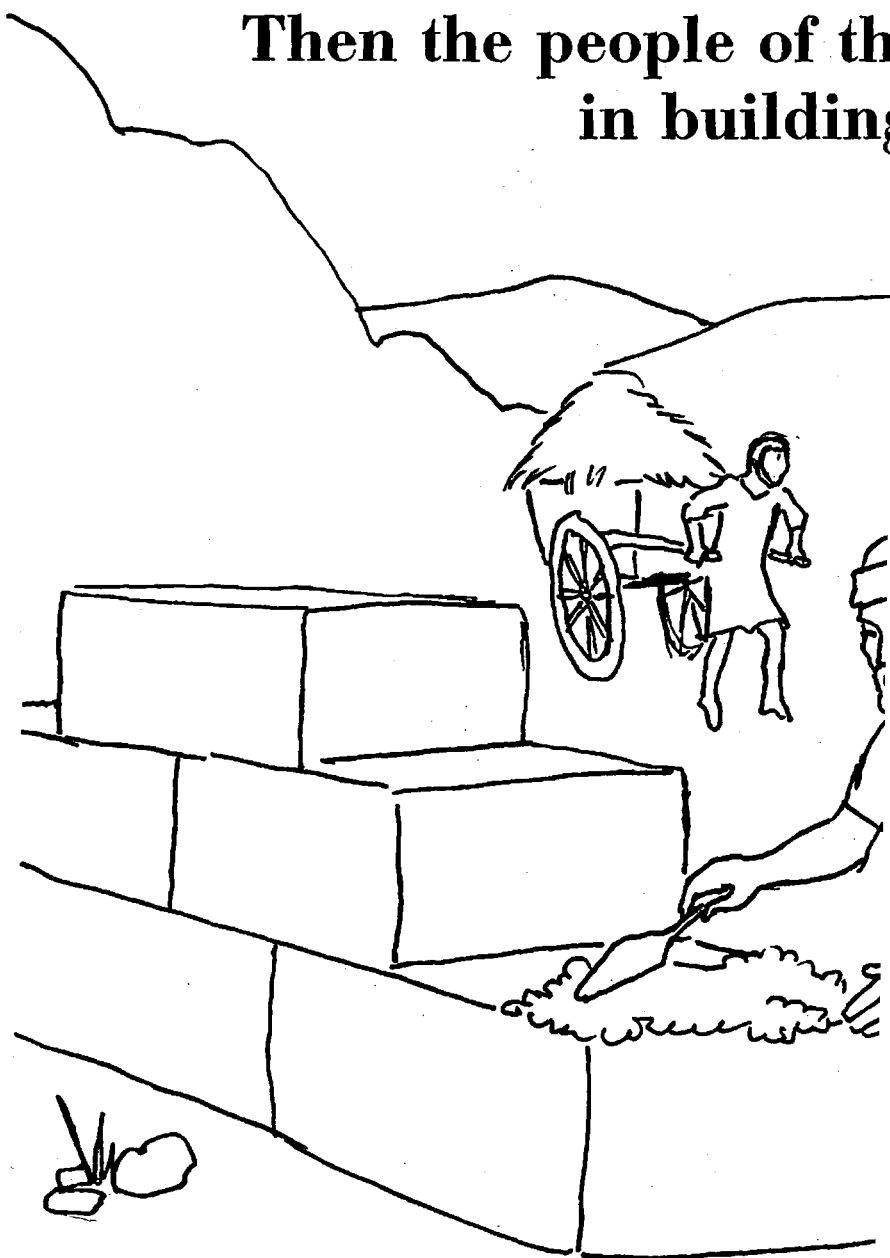
Zerubbabel knew the Samaritans were not true worshipers of God. "You will have nothing to do with the building of the house of God," he told them. "We will build it ourselves, just as King Cyrus commanded us."

Now the Samaritans were angry. They hired people just to make trouble for the Jews and keep them from working on the temple. When King Cyrus died they wrote a letter to the new king. They complained to King Ahasuerus about the Jews at Jerusalem. They wrote, "The Jews who returned to Jerusalem are building a rebellious city that will cause you trouble. They are finishing the walls and repairing the foundations. When they have finished, they will no longer pay taxes to you."

King Ahasuerus did not want his kingdom endangered. He thought the Samaritans had written the truth. He ordered the building be stopped. The temple was left unfinished as long as Ahasuerus was king.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**Then the people of the
in building**



l...troubled them
a 4:4.



Only Barks

It was evening time and the Roberts family was relaxing in the cool shade of the backyard trees. Mother and Linda were pulling weeds from the flowerbed edging the patio and sidewalk. Jerry was helping Dad with the new water sprinkler and Randy was riding his tricycle up and down the driveway.

Now everything would have been very peaceful indeed if it had not been for the neighbor's dog. The Roberts' driveway was straight in line with the next door neighbor's fence. Behind this chainlink fence was a big Rottweiler dog. Each time Randy raced his tricycle up the driveway toward the family garage, this dog would run alongside of Randy. The dog barked and growled at Randy. Sometimes Randy didn't even look at the dog but he would turn his tricycle around quickly and race back down the driveway, the dog barking in protest. Once in awhile Randy would stop by the garage and holler, "Hush up, Spike!"

That big Rottweiler was twice as big as Randy, but Randy didn't seem a bit afraid of the dog. He continued to ride his tricycle while Spike barked and complained.

Finally, Jerry decided that Spike had barked enough. He came over to the fence and commanded Spike to be silent. Spike was quiet for a short time, but he soon began to bark short complaints and then was running by Randy's tricycle again.

"That dog needs to be punished," said Jerry in disgust. "Why can't his owner hear him? I think I will go next door and tell Mr. Scott to make his dog leave you alone."

"Mr. Scott isn't home, Jerry," said Randy. "I saw him leave. Don't worry

'bout Spike—he can't hurt me."

"Spike is awfully noisy!" declared Jerry. "I would like to tape his mouth shut!"

"I am racing him on my tricycle!" boasted Randy. "See how fast I can go?" Randy raced off down the driveway while Spike remained more quiet and watchful with Jerry nearby.

Soon Spike, and then Randy, tired of the race. The tricycle was parked for the evening and as darkness fell over the yard, the Roberts family went inside.

It was time for family worship. After Dad read the Bible, each one took their turn to pray. Everyone smiled when Randy prayed. He thanked the Lord for the fence.

The devil is just like that dog—he is fenced in by the power of God.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why didn't the people begin rebuilding the temple at once?
2. What did they build first?
3. Why were the people so happy when the foundation was laid?
4. Who lived near Jerusalem?
5. Why didn't they want the temple rebuilt?
6. What did they ask Zerubbabel to let them do?
7. What did the Samaritans hire people to do?
8. Who wrote to King Ahasuerus?
9. What did the king order?

LESSON TEXT: Ezra 3:4-4:12.

(Answers: 1. Winter was coming on. 2. Houses for themselves. 3. The great work had begun. 4. The Samaritans. 5. They wanted the land for themselves. 6. Help build the temple. 7. To make trouble for the Jews. 8. The Samaritans. 9. That the building be stopped.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 17 July 28, 1996

ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN

Esther was only a little girl when both her parents died. Her cousin, Mordecai, took her to live with him. Esther was like a daughter to Mordecai. Every day he went to work in the king's household to earn their living. Mordecai was one of the Jews who chose not to return to Jerusalem.

When Esther was a young woman, King Ahasuerus gave a great feast in his palace. He invited all the nobles and rulers of his kingdom. The feast lasted for one week. While the king entertained the great men of his kingdom, his wife, Queen Vashti, gave a great party for the women.

On the last day of the week Ahasuerus decided to show all the men of his kingdom how beautiful his wife was. He sent a servant to bring her. But Queen Vashti knew this was a foolish request. She refused to go to the king.

Ahasuerus was angry that his wife had refused to come. "What is to be done with Queen Vashti for disobeying the king?" he asked his advisors.

"The queen has wronged you," one of his advisors answered. "When the women of the land hear about this they will not be afraid to disobey their husbands. Let Vashti be queen no longer. Find someone better to take her place."

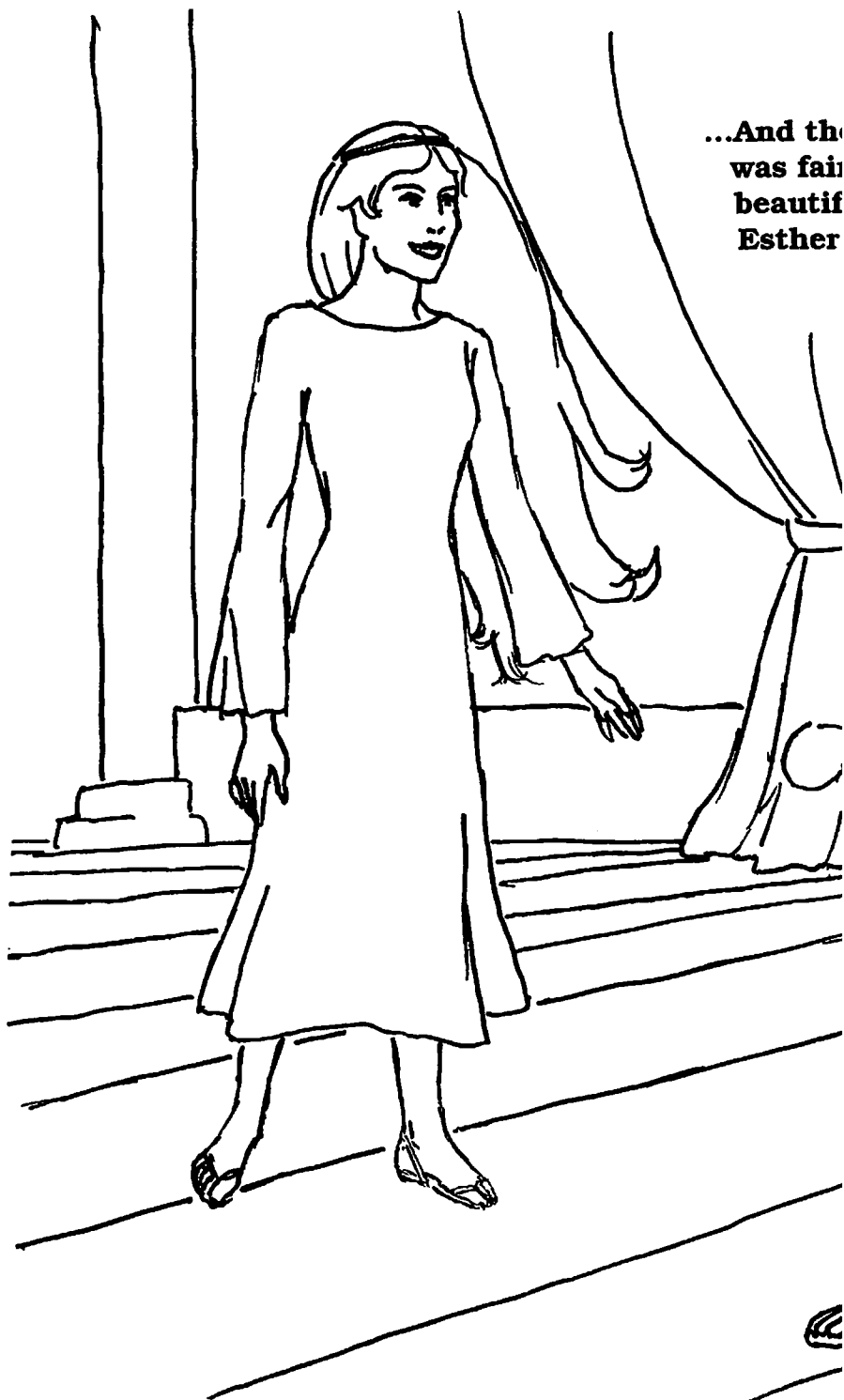
King Ahasuerus was pleased with this advice. Vashti was removed from being queen. Someone else would be chosen to take her place.

The king commanded that the most beautiful young women in his kingdom should be brought to his palace. Mordecai knew Esther was very beautiful. He believed she would make a good queen. When the young women came from all parts of the kingdom to the palace, Mordecai sent Esther too. He advised her, "Don't tell anyone we are related or that you are a Jew."

At the palace the young women were taught how they must behave if they were chosen to be queen. The king took a long time to decide, but when Esther was brought to him he knew at once that she was the one he wanted to be the queen.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...And th
was fair
beautif
Esther**





Shoes To Step In

Linda came into the sewing room where Mother was cutting out a dress. She watched as Mother's scissors snipped around a pattern piece.

"Mother," she said, "do you have any old dress shoes that you don't want? Kim and I want to play dress-up and we need some high heels."

"Oh, I might have some old ones that you can have," replied Mother. "Let me help you get them. I keep my old shoes in the storage closet."

Linda followed Mother to a nearby closet where Mother brought out her box of old shoes.

"I like these soft, white shoes," said Linda, "but they don't have a high heel."

"I wore those shoes when your daddy was my boyfriend," said Mother. "See these navy shoes, Linda? They were my favorite shoes my last year in high school. I wore them with my navy suit."

Linda looked at each pair of shoes as Mother set them out of the box. She liked the stories Mother told about the different pairs of shoes but none of the shoes suited Linda.

"Well, Mother," she said with a sigh. "I don't see any shoes that I want. None of them look very dressy." Then Linda thought of something. "Mother, where are your wedding shoes? I want some shoes like those."

Mother smiled and shook her head. "I will show them to you again but you can't play in them."

Linda giggled with pleasure when she saw the dainty white high heels that Mother drew from a clean shoe box. "May I just try them on, please, Mother?"

"Yes, but be very careful," replied Mother.

Linda carefully put on the shoes and walked around the room. She felt so grown up. "When I get married, I want to wear these high heels," she declared.

"We shall see," said Mother with a smile. "There are several years ahead before you take that step. The shoes you wear are not as important as the path your feet take. Remember: 'The steps of a good man (or girl) are ordered by the Lord.' This means that the Lord will direct your steps or decisions as long as you ask Him to do so. I am praying for your steps, dear."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What happened to Esther when she was a little girl?
2. Who did she live with?
3. Where did he work?
4. Who gave a great feast?
5. Who refused to go to the king?
6. Who were to be brought to the palace?
7. Why did Mordecai send Esther to the palace?
8. Who warned Esther not to tell she was a Jewess?
9. Who did the king choose to be the new queen?

LESSON TEXT: Esther 1-2:17.

(Answers: 1. Both of her parents died. 2. Mordecai. 3. In the king's household. 4. King Ahasuerus. 5. Queen Vashti. 6. The most beautiful young women. 7. Because she was beautiful and would make a good queen. 8. Mordecai. 9. Esther.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 18 Aug. 4, 1996

MORDECAI SAVES THE KING

King Ahasuerus selected Esther to be queen. He placed the royal crown of Persia on Esther's head. He gave her rooms in the palace and servants to wait on her. Then the king gave a great feast in her honor. Everyone throughout the kingdom knew that Esther had been chosen as the new queen.

Mordecai seldom got to see Esther after she moved to the palace. She was like a daughter to him and he missed her. Every day he walked by her window before returning to guard the king's gate. He sent messages to Esther by faithful servants and she sent messages to him.

One day Mordecai overheard two men plotting to kill the king. At once he sent a message to Esther. She sent a servant to tell the king, "Mordecai has discovered that two men are planning to take your life."

When Ahasuerus heard Esther's words he investigated and found that the report was true. The men who planned to kill the king were immediately hanged.

The king wrote down in his records how Mordecai had saved his life. But he did nothing to repay him. King Ahasuerus did not know that Mordecai was like a father to his wife, Esther.

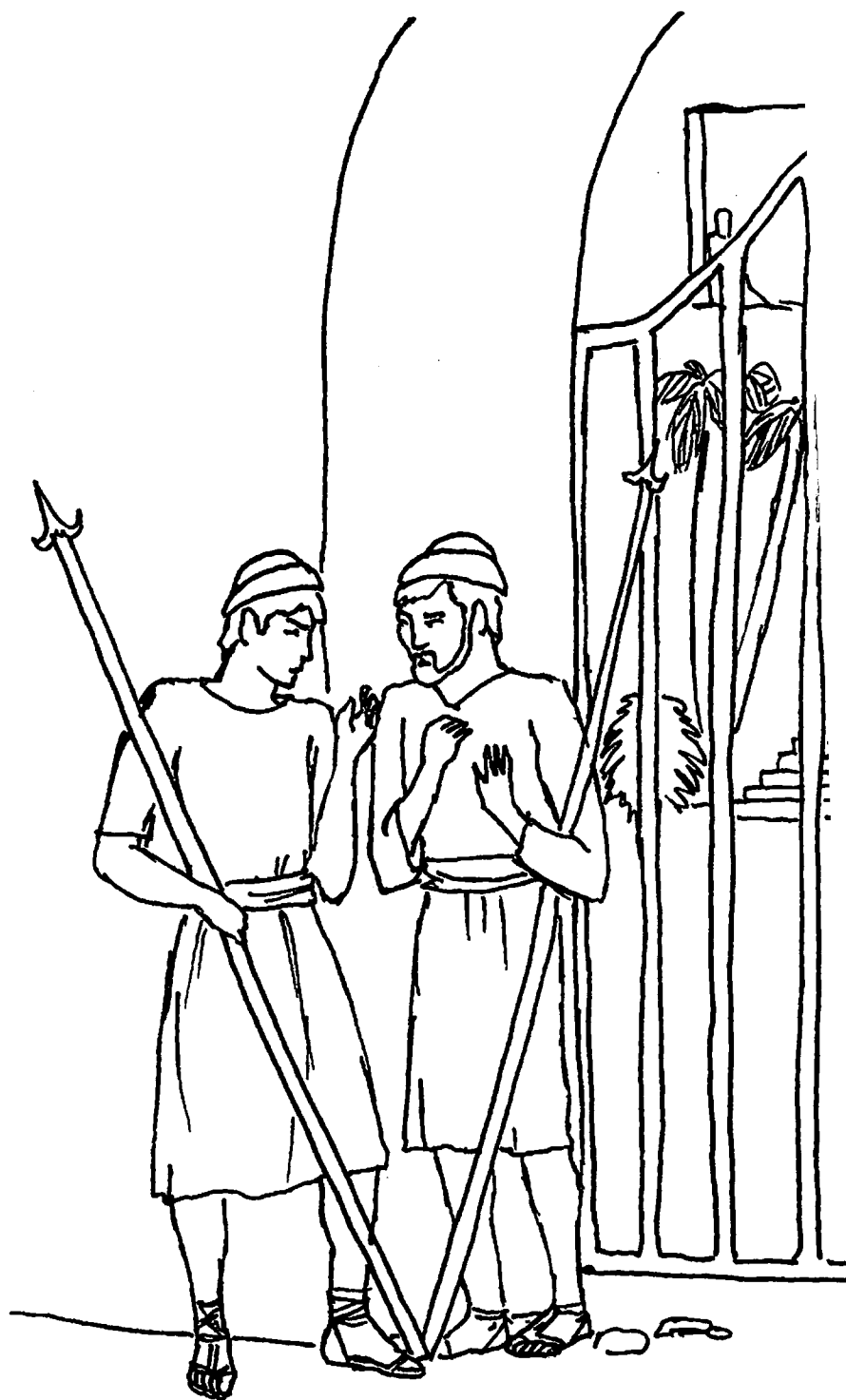
Some time after this Ahasuerus promoted Haman to be over all the other princes of his kingdom. Now Haman was very rich and proud. But he was also very clever. He knew just what to do to please the king.

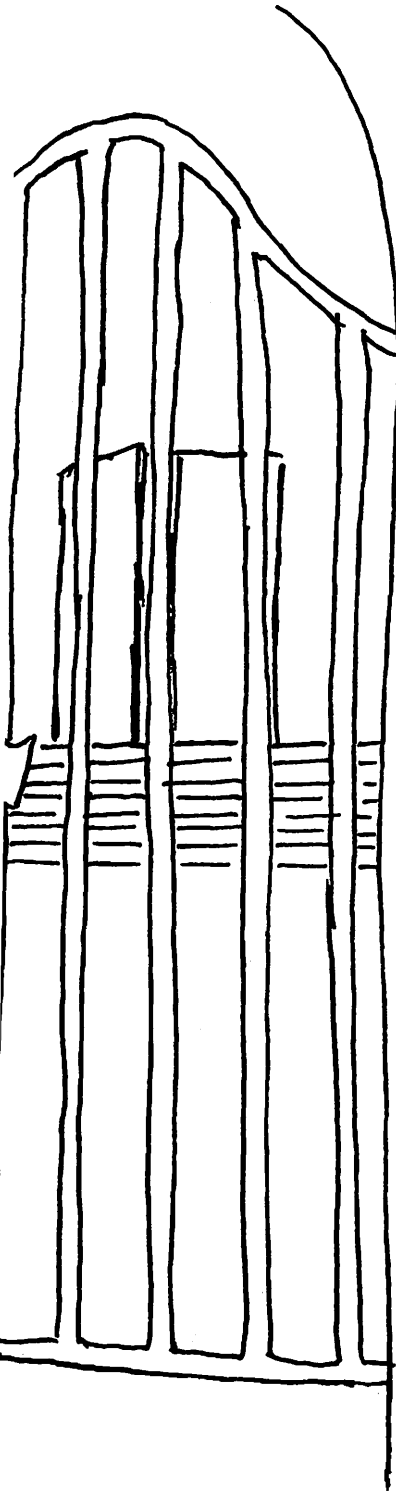
The king commanded all his people to bow before Haman when he passed by. So, when Haman passed through the city gate everyone bowed—except Mordecai. He refused to bow before any man and give him the honor that belonged to God.

The servants were afraid when they saw that Mordecai did not bow before the honored prince. They asked, "Why are you disobeying the king's commandment?"

"I am a Jew," Mordecai answered. The servants knew that Jews bowed only to God.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





And the thing
was known to
Mordecai,
who told it
unto Esther
the queen;...
Esther 2:22.



The Bible Has Saving News

(A True Story)

In the communist Soviet Union of Russia, it has been illegal to have Bibles or any Christian books. Such laws displease God. He wants Christians to read the Bible and learn to obey Him. If the laws of the land do not agree with God's Word, then Christians must obey God first.

Vanya was a Russian Christian who loved to read the Bible. He prayed for his country, that the government would see its mistake in making such bad laws and that more Russians could have Bibles to read and obey. Vanya had his Bible torn in sections so he could hide it in different places. Then when he went to fellowship meetings, he only took one section with him. He did not want the police or KGB to take all his Bible if they stopped him and asked for it. He knew it was dangerous to have a Bible—the police arrested anyone who was found with part of the Bible in their house or on their person.

One day in May of 1983, Vanya came home from work and found two well-dressed men at his apartment, talking to his wife. Quickly, his wife said, "These men have come from Paris, France. They want to help Russians receive more Bibles. They say they need our help."

Vanya did not trust these strangers. What if they were spies sent to trap him? He looked at them closely, saying very little.

"I will get you something to eat," said his wife. Soon she laid out a little food on the table for Vanya and the two strangers. Immediately, the two men bowed their heads and blessed the food. Vanya watched and listened to them. Their spirit told him that they were sincere Christians indeed.

"How can we bring more Bibles into Russia?" Vanya quietly asked these two brethren.

That evening the three men made plans for Russian Bibles to be printed in the country of France. Then Vanya agreed to accept one hundred Bibles at a time. Secretly, he would give these Bibles to other faithful Christians.

Several times Vanya was followed by the KGB, arrested, and for awhile in prison. However, he continued to give out the Russian Bible to needy souls.

Today in Russia, it is easier to have a whole Bible. Some government men now agree the Bible is an important book that will make a good change in their country. Men and women like Vanya still give out Bibles and pray for Russia.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was chosen to be queen?
2. What did the king put on her head?
3. Who missed Esther?
4. What did he do every day?
5. Who heard two men planning to kill the king?
6. What did he do about it?
7. What did the king write in his records?
8. Who was promoted over all the princes?
9. Who would not bow before Haman?

LESSON TEXT: Esther 2:18-3:3.

(Answers: 1. Esther. 2. A crown. 3. Mordecai. 4. He walked by her window. 5. Mordecai. 6. He told Esther. 7. How Mordecai had saved his life. 8. Haman. 9. Mordecai.)

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 19 Aug. 11, 1996

HAMAN'S PLAN

The king's servants knew that Jews bowed only to God. When Mordecai told them he was a Jew, this explained why he would not bow down before Haman though the king had commanded it. Perhaps they were afraid they would be punished along with Mordecai or maybe they thought Haman would reward them for reporting Mordecai. For whatever reason, the servants finally told Haman to watch Mordecai.

The next time Haman passed through the king's gate he did watch Mordecai. When he saw that he would neither bow before him nor reverence him, he became very angry. He was determined to find some way to punish him. Then he decided to not only punish him but all the Jews. He would find some way to have them all killed.

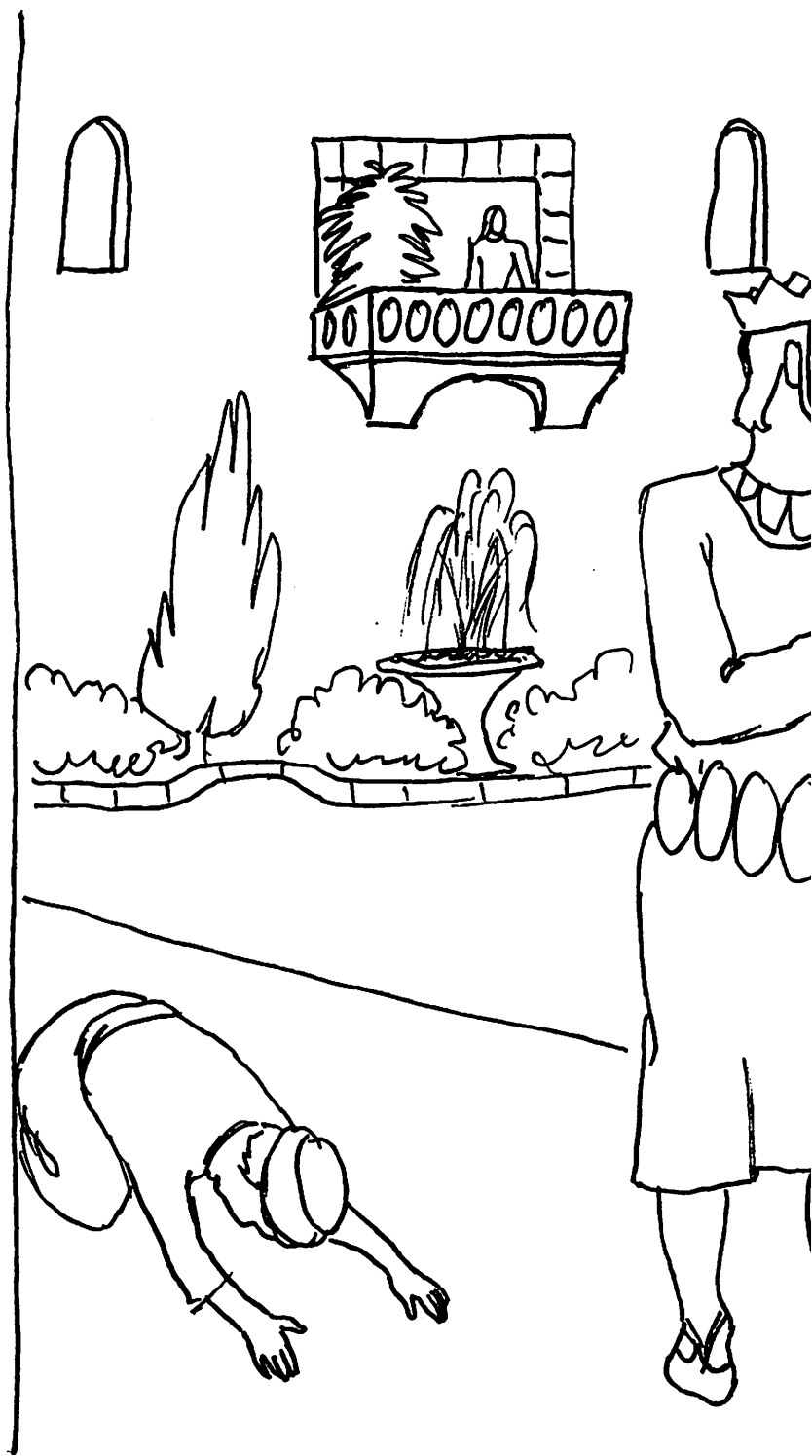
Haman helped rule the great kingdom of Persia so he was often with the king. He planned carefully how he would get the king's consent to have all the Jews killed.

One day he told Ahasuerus, "O King, there are certain people scattered throughout your countries who obey their own laws instead of yours. This is not good for your kingdom. Let a law be made that these people be killed. I will even pay the soldiers who do it."

Ahasuerus did not know much about the Jews or how they worshiped. He did not even know that his own wife, Esther, was a Jewess. He trusted Haman's judgment so he gave his consent. Haman had letters written to the rulers of every part of the kingdom under the king's seal. These letters announced that all Jews of every age would be killed on a certain day. Royal messengers carried these letters throughout the kingdom. Haman thought he would surely get even with Mordecai now.

When the Jews heard about this letter, they could hardly believe what they heard. Why was the king displeased with them? They had always lived peacefully and never caused trouble. Now they were about to be killed!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...Haman
sought to
destroy all
the Jews...
Esther 3:6.**



A Lurch Of Pride

(A True Story)

One day a young Italian man came to America seeking fame and fortune. He became interested in juggling and in time became a professional juggler. A juggler must have good eyesight, know timing, and keep rhythm as he tosses items into the air to catch and toss again without dropping any of the tossed items.

For several years this juggler was famous and fairly rich. Finally, he decided to retire and quit traveling around as a juggler. He wanted to go back to Italy where he had family he had not seen in years.

So the juggler sold all his worldly possessions and bought a ticket to sail on a ship to Italy. With the rest of his money, he bought a huge diamond. This diamond he hid in his plush bedroom on the ship.

While sailing, the juggler showed a boy how he could juggle a bunch of apples. In a short time a crowd had gathered to watch this magnificent juggler. The pride of the moment went to his head. He ran to his stateroom and got the diamond. A murmur of admiration rippled through the crowd as he showed them the diamond and explained that it represented all his life's savings.

"Now I will juggle this diamond and show you tricks you have never seen before!" boasted the juggler.

Some of the crowd cheered the juggler. He tossed the diamond high into the air and the crowd gasped. Everyone knew he had an expensive jewel and some covered their eyes for fear the juggler would not catch the diamond. Again and again

he tossed and caught the diamond.

In total confidence in himself and his ability, the juggler said, "I will now toss the diamond so high that it will be lost in sight for a moment. Yet I will catch it again when it returns."

Up, up into the air went the diamond. No one saw it for a moment. Then down it came, flashing in the sunlight. Just at that moment the ship lurched forward with a big wave and the diamond dropped into the sea. The juggler never caught nor saw his diamond again.

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who bowed only to God?
2. Why wouldn't Mordecai bow before Haman?
3. What did the servants tell Haman to do?
4. What happened when Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow?
5. What did Haman want to do to Mordecai?
6. Who said he would pay the soldiers?
7. Who did not know much about the Jews?
8. Why did the king consent to Haman's plan?
9. What did Haman's letters announce?

LESSON TEXT: Esther 3:3-15.

(Answers: 1. The Jews. 2. He was a Jew. 3. To watch Mordecai. 4. He became very angry. 5. Punish him. 6. Haman. 7. Ahasuerus. 8. He trusted his judgment. 9. On a certain day all the Jews would be killed.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 20 Aug. 18, 1996

THE JEWS ARE TROUBLED

The Jews throughout Ahasuerus' kingdom wondered why he had passed a law that all of them should be killed. At once they began fasting and praying. Only God could save them.

Mordecai was among the first of the Jews to hear about the new law. Immediately he knew that Haman was responsible for it. This meant that even Queen Esther would be killed if the law was carried out!

Mordecai tore his clothes, wrapped himself in sackcloth, and threw ashes on himself. He went through the streets crying bitterly. He could not go near the palace because he was dressed in sackcloth. He knew he must get a message to Esther. She might think of some way to save their lives.

Each day Esther watched for Mordecai to pass her window. One day he did not come. She knew something must be wrong. Later one of her servants told her Mordecai was dressed in sackcloth and was going through the city streets crying.

Esther longed to run after Mordecai herself and find out what was wrong, but she could not. So she quickly gathered some new clothes for the servant to take to Mordecai, hoping he would come to her.

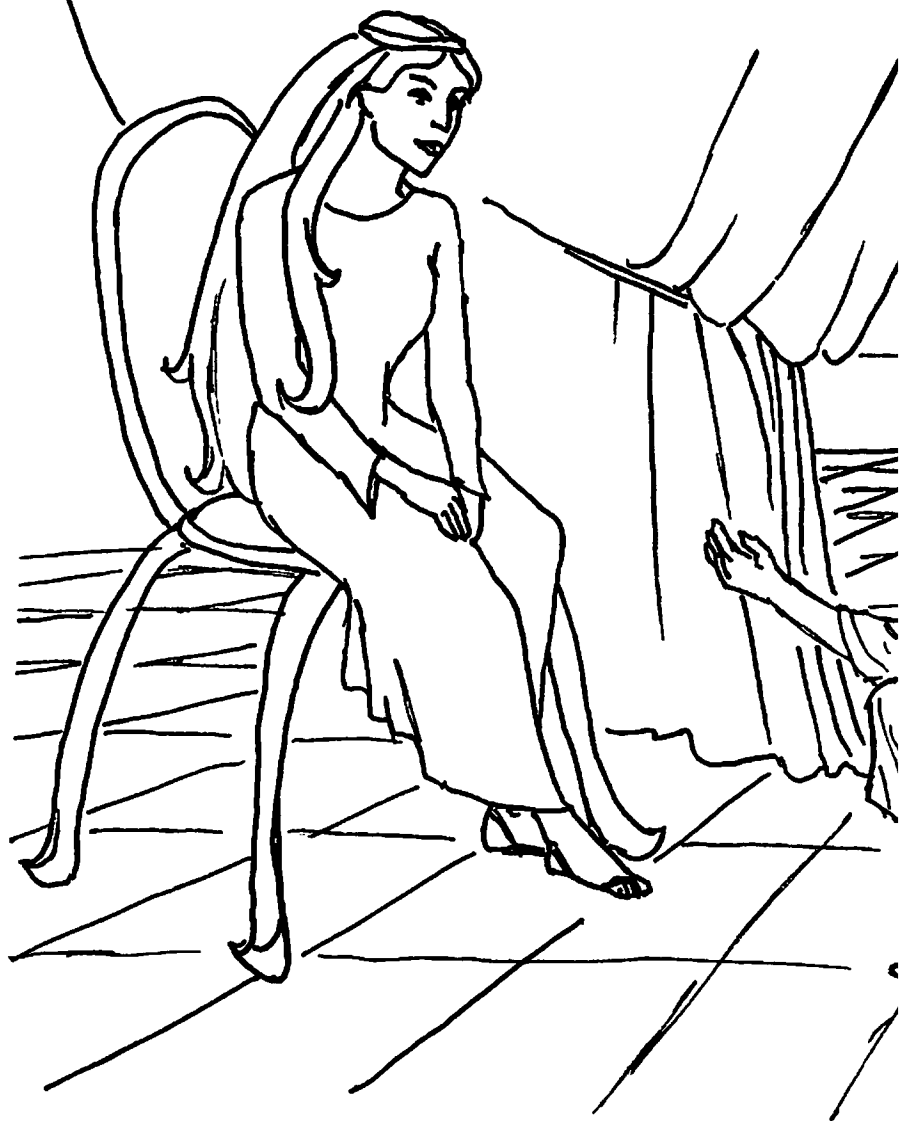
Before long the servant returned with the clothes. Mordecai would not take them. Now she knew something terrible had happened. Quickly she called for the adviser the king had given her. She sent him to find out what was wrong.

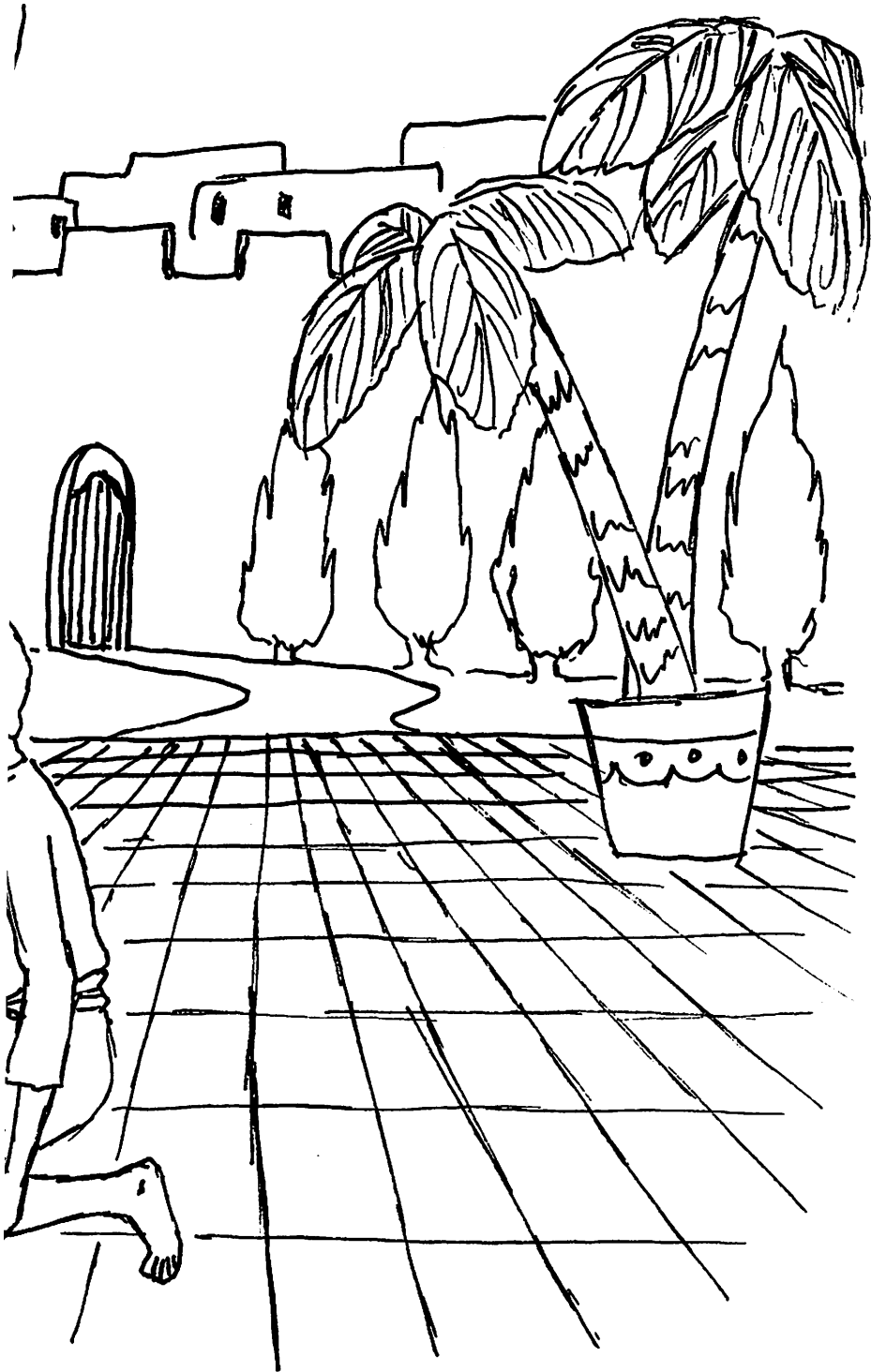
Mordecai told the adviser about Haman's plan to kill all the Jews. He gave him a copy of the letter Haman had written. "Go tell Esther to go to the king and plead for her people," Mordecai told him.

The adviser brought the letter to Esther and gave her Mordecai's message. Esther told the adviser to take this answer back to Mordecai, "You know that anyone who goes to the king without being called will be killed unless the king holds out his scepter to that person."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...Charge her that she should
go in unto the king,...to
make request before him for
her people. Esther 4:8.**





Hid Behind The Pitcher

"This is going to be a great day!" said Linda to herself as she jumped out of bed one sunny morning. It didn't take Linda very long to wash her face, brush her teeth, dress, comb her hair and skip to the breakfast table.

"My, you look bright and cheery," said Daddy with a smile. "Are you going somewhere special today?"

Linda giggled. "Are you ready to take me? We must leave early, you know, so you can leave me at Grandma's on your way to work."

"Oh, are those the plans?" teased Daddy. "Eat a bite of breakfast and let's go!"

Soon Linda was knocking on Grandma's front door. "Come on in, my dear," said Grandma as she opened the door. "We are just sitting down to eat breakfast. Have you eaten?"

Linda hugged Grandma and said she had eaten. Grandma insisted that she come into the dining room anyway, so Linda did. Grandpa teased Linda for a little while then he and Grandma talked about some business matters.

While they talked, Linda began to look around. She saw the lovely dishes Grandma had arranged in her glass China cabinet. After Grandpa left, Linda asked Grandma about her pretty dishes.

"Some of my dishes are very old, Linda," replied Grandma. "See this candy dish? It was my grandmother's dish and it's over 100 years old. This big blue pitcher was given to my parents when they married. You may look at these dishes but don't take them out of the cabinet. I don't want anything to happen to them."

Grandma left Linda by the china cabinet while she went to make a few phone calls. Linda counted the plates, then the cups and saucers. "I wonder

if there are more plates behind this big pitcher," said Linda to herself. She tried to see through the glass. "If I just open this door," she thought. "then I could look back there better. Grandma didn't say I couldn't open the door."

Snap. The front glass door swung open. Linda stood on tip toe and stuck her head into the cabinet to look in the back. She forgot about the cups hanging on hooks from the second shelf.

Bang! She bumped her head on a cup which fell off the hook and hit the plates below it. When Linda picked it up, the handle was broken. She felt so badly! Quietly, she set it in the back behind the big pitcher. Then she shut the china cabinet door.

(To be continued next week.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the Jews do when they heard they would all be killed?
2. Who could save the Jews?
3. Who was among the first to hear about the new law?
4. What would happen to Esther if the law was carried out?
5. Why couldn't Mordecai come to the palace?
6. What did Esther send to him?
7. What did Mordecai tell Esther's adviser?
8. What did he tell Esther to do?
9. What happened to anyone who went to the king without being called?

LESSON TEXT: Esther 4:1-11.

(Answers: 1. Fasted and prayed. 2. Only God. 3. Mordecai. 4. She would be killed. 5. He was dressed in sackcloth. 6. New clothes. 7. Haman's plan to kill all the Jews. 8. Go to the king and plead for her people. 9. They were killed if he did not hold out his scepter to them.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 21 Aug. 25, 1996

ESTHER GOES TO THE KING

Esther was afraid to go to the king to beg him not to kill the Jews. Anyone who dared come before him without being called would be killed unless he held out his scepter to them. The king had not called for Esther all month. She dared not go to him.

When Mordecai received Esther's message that she was afraid to do as he had asked, he quickly sent another message to her. "Esther, do not think that you will escape death just because you live in the palace," he told her. "All Jews will be killed. If you do not go to the king, who knows what might happen? Perhaps you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this!"

Esther was still afraid, but she knew she must help her people. She would do as Mordecai asked. She sent word to him asking that he gather all the Jews of the royal city together. They were to fast and pray to God for three days that she would find favor with the king. If the king did not send for her during that time she would go to him even against the laws of the palace. She would plead for herself and for her people.

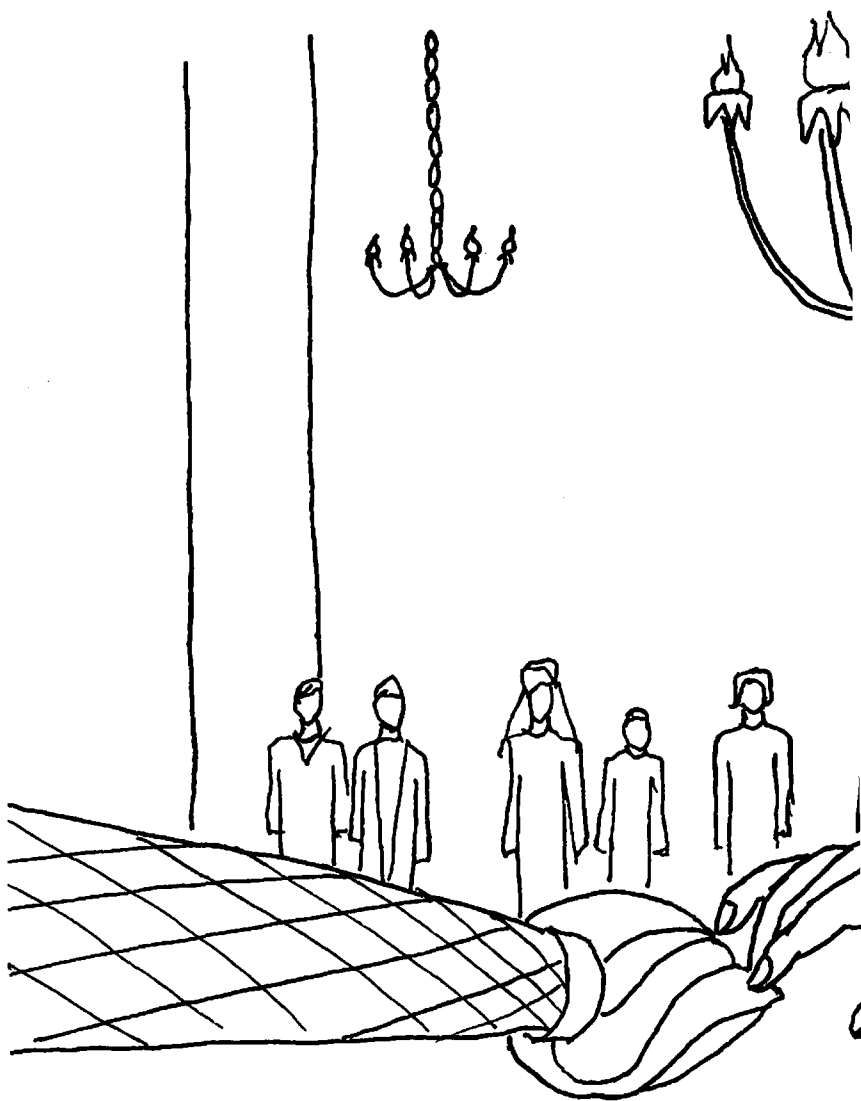
Mordecai did as Esther asked. Three days passed and the king did not call for her. On the third day she dressed in her most beautiful robes and went to see the king. How surprised he was to look up and see Esther standing in the court before his throne. He knew she would not have come without an important reason. Because he loved her, he held out the golden scepter that was in his hand.

Esther knelt before the throne and touched the scepter.

"What do you want, Queen Esther?" the king asked lovingly. "I will give you anything you ask, up to half of my kingdom."

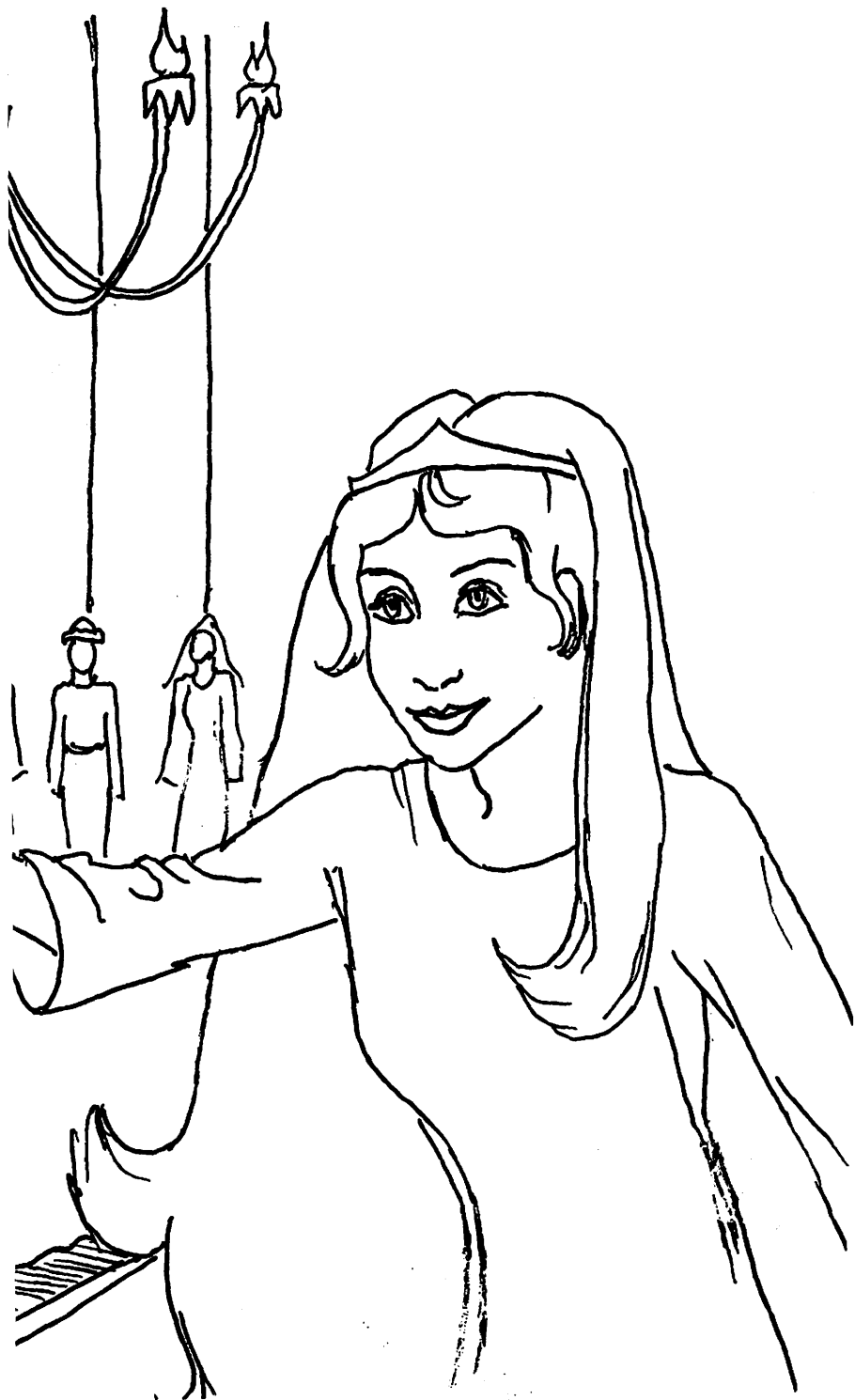
"O King," she answered, "if it pleases you to grant my request, let the king and Haman come to a banquet that I have prepared for you today."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...She obtained favour in his sight: and
the king held out to Esther the golden
sceptre... Esther 5:2.**





Relief

(Continued from last week.)

"Did you have a nice day at Grandma's house?" Daddy asked Linda as he picked her up after work.

"Yes, I did," replied Linda quietly.

On the way home, Linda didn't talk very much. At home, Daddy said to Mother, "Linda must be very tired."

"I am tired," agreed Linda. "I need to go to my room and rest."

Daddy and Mother looked at each other with raised eyebrows as Linda went to her bedroom. Really, she wasn't so tired as she was troubled. All she could think about was that broken cup behind the big blue pitcher in Grandma's china cabinet. Why hadn't she had the courage to tell Grandma about the broken cup? She was so embarrassed and ashamed.

Linda fell across her bed as hot tears stung her eyes. She should have never opened that china cabinet door! What will Grandma say when she finds that broken cup? Linda cried herself to sleep.

Late that evening Mother came into Linda's room and found her still dressed, lying across her bed. Mother sat down beside her and began stroking her hair. "Linda, what happened today?" asked Mother. "You seem troubled. Did you do something wrong at Grandma's?"

Linda pretended not to hear Mother, but guilt was so heavy on her that she started crying in spite of herself. Then she spilled out the sad story about how the cup was broken and where she had hid it.

"Don't you think you had better tell Grandma?" asked Mother. "Let's

pray and ask Jesus to give you courage to explain it all to Grandma and apologize."

Linda was ready to pray, and after a night of sleep, she felt ready to tell Grandma what had happened. So Mother and Linda went to visit Grandma again. In tears, Linda explained what had happened and said she was very sorry for opening the china cabinet door.

Grandma forgave her and then they found the cup. With some superglue, Grandma had the handle back on the cup in no time—and they couldn't even see the crack.

This time Linda felt so much better when she came home from Grandma's house. She sang and played happily until bedtime.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was afraid to go before the king?
2. What did she ask Mordecai to do?
3. How long did she ask them to fast?
4. Did the king send for Esther?
5. What did Esther do on the third day?
6. Why did the king hold out the golden scepter to Esther?
7. What did Esther do when the king held out the scepter?
8. What did the king offer to give her?
9. Who did Esther invite to the banquet?

LESSON TEXT: Esther 4:11-5:4.

(Answers: 1. Esther. 2. Gather the Jews of the city. 3. Three days. 4. No. 5. Went to see the king. 6. Because he loved her. 7. Kneel before the throne and touched the scepter. 8. Anything she asked. 9. The king and Haman.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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

ESTHER INVITES HAMAN

King Ahasuerus agreed to grant Esther's request. He and Haman would come to the banquet she had prepared. Then he sent his servants to call Haman. "Cause Haman to hurry so he can do as Queen Esther has asked," he told them.

So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared. The king knew Esther had something on her heart that she was not telling him. "What is your request? I will grant it, even to the half of my kingdom," he assured her.

Esther answered, "My request is that the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them tomorrow. Then I will tell you what is on my heart."

The king again agreed to do as Esther asked. Haman was delighted to accept the queen's invitation. He felt highly honored to be the only guest of the king and queen.

Haman hurried out of the palace with a glad heart. He couldn't wait to tell his wife and friends of this great honor. But then he passed Mordecai at the king's gate. His gladness quickly turned to intense anger when he saw that Mordecai did not bow with the other servants. He longed to be rid of Mordecai! Since Mordecai would die with the other Jews when the law was carried out, Haman controlled his anger.

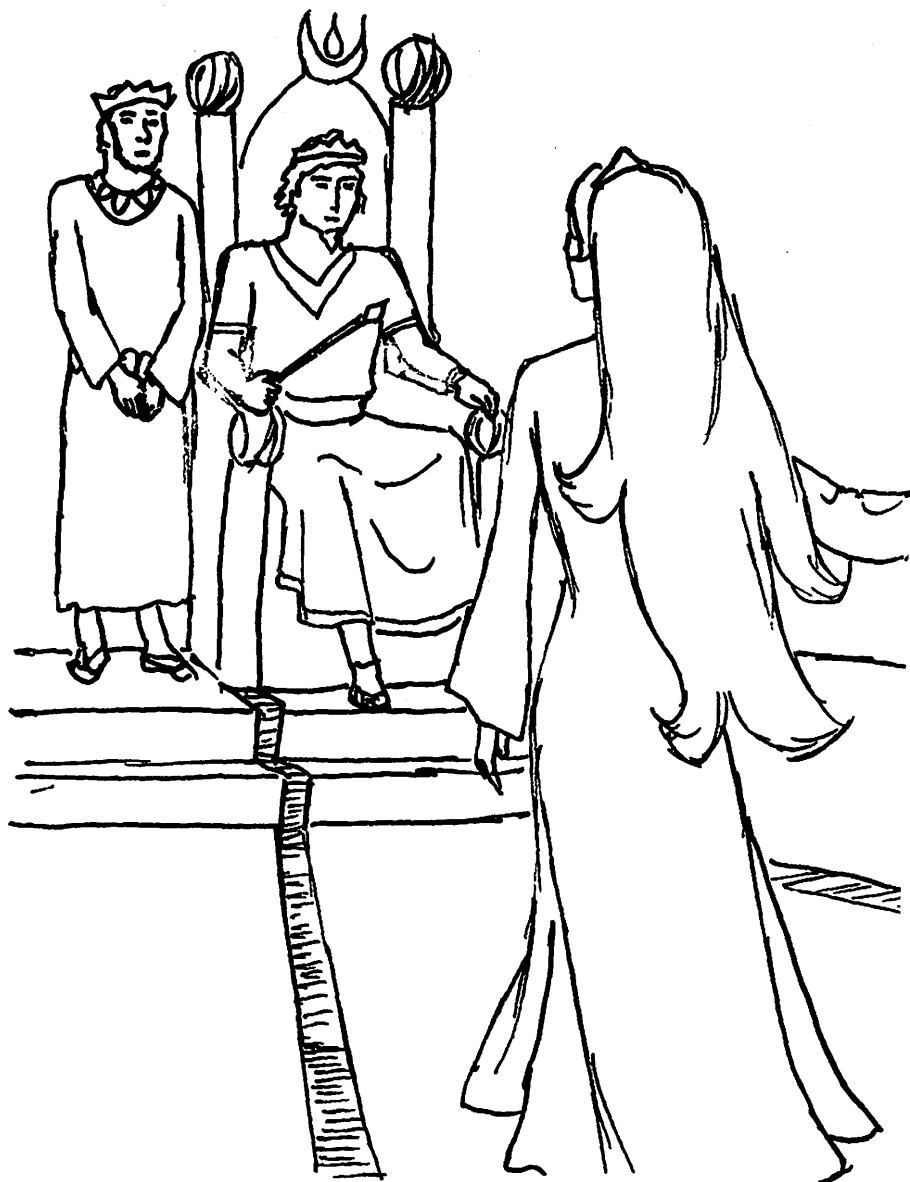
When Haman reached home, he called for his wife and friends. He told them how rich he was, how many children he had, and how the king had set him over all the other princes and servants of the kingdom. Then he bragged, "Esther, the queen, did not let any man come in with the king to her banquet but me! And tomorrow I am also invited with the king.

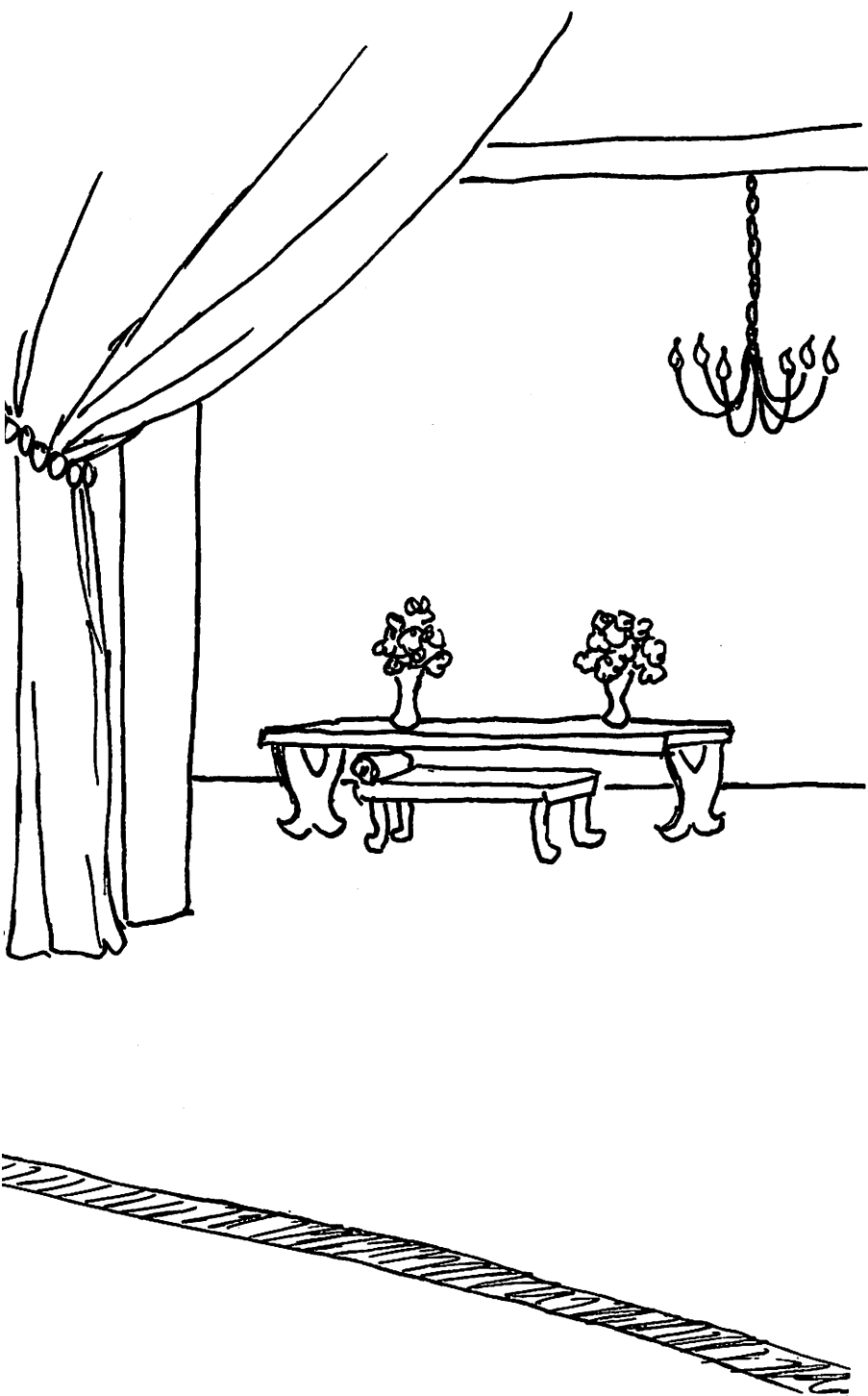
"Yet all this can't make me happy as long as I see Mordecai, the Jew, sitting at the king's gate!" Haman continued.

Haman's wife and friends advised him to build a high gallows and ask the king for permission to hang Mordecai. "Then you can go to the banquet with a merry heart," they told him.

Haman liked their idea. He had the gallows built. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...Let the king and Haman come
to the banquet that I shall pre-
pare for them,.. Esther 5:8





Flying Folly

(A True Story)

Larry Walters wanted to fly. He wanted to fly more than anything else in the world. Larry joined the Air Force in hopes of becoming a pilot but because of his poor eyesight he was never allowed to fly alone. So he would sit in his lawnchair in his backyard and watch airline jets fly over Los Angeles, and he would dream about flying.

One day Larry had an idea. He went down to the local army-navy surplus store and bought a tank of helium and 45 weather balloons. These were not the brightly colored party balloons, these were heavy duty ones measuring more than four feet across when blown up.

Back in his yard, Larry used straps to attach the balloons to his lawn chair. Then he tied the chair to the bumper of his jeep with one cord. Next he filled all 45 balloons with helium so that they would float. Now the balloons were tugging on his chair.

Quickly, Larry packed some sandwiches and drinks. Then he sat down in his chair with his lunch beside him and a loaded BB gun across his lap. Larry cut the last line holding his chair to earth.

ZOOM! Larry shot up into the air as if fired from a cannon! He had planned to float 200 feet or so in the sky, just below the clouds, but the balloons took Larry 11,000 feet above the clouds. Larry had thought that when he wanted to come down, he could shoot some BB's into the balloons and then float back to earth but contrary air currents would not allow him to do so. Larry could not come down. He floated in his lawnchair for 14 hours.

Finally, an airline pilot radioed to the LA International Airport tower and reported seeing a guy with a gun floating in a lawn chair under many balloons. The Navy was alerted and they sent out a rescue team in a helicopter. The rescue team had a hard time getting to him because the draft from their propeller kept pushing the balloons farther out of reach. Finally, they were able to hover over him and drop a rescue line with which they slowly hauled him back to earth. As soon as Larry hit the ground, he was arrested. He was illegally floating in airline traffic zones.

"The simple inherit folly: but the prudent (sensible) are crowned with knowledge." Proverbs 14:18.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Esther invite to the banquet?
2. What did Esther ask of the king?
3. Who was delighted to accept the queen's invitation?
4. Who did he see at the king's gate?
5. Did Mordecai bow with the other servants?
6. What did Haman do when he got home?
7. What did he brag about?
8. What kept Haman from being happy?
9. What did Haman have built?

LESSON TEXT: Esther 5:4-14.

(Answers: 1. The king and Haman. 2. To come to her banquet the next day. 3. Haman. 4. Mordecai. 5. No. 6. Called for his wife and friends. 7. He was to be the only guest of the king and queen. 8. Seeing Mordecai at the king's gate. 9. Gallows.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 23 Sept. 8, 1996

MORDECAI IS HONORED

That night King Ahasuerus could not sleep. Finally he commanded his servants to bring the book of records. Then he ordered them to read the things he had done since becoming king. In the records was written how Mordecai saved the king's life by telling him about the two men who were planning to kill him.

"What honor has been given to Mordecai for doing this?" the king asked.

"Nothing has been done for him," the servants answered.

By now it was early morning and the king thought he heard someone in the court. "Who is it?" he asked. The servants looked and then told him Haman had come.

When the king invited him in, Haman entered proudly. He had come to ask permission to hang Mordecai on the gallows he had made.

"What shall be done for the man the king delights to honor?" the king asked Haman.

Haman was sure he was the only one the king wished to honor. He thought a few minutes and then answered, "Let the man you wish to honor be dressed in your royal robes. Let him ride on your horse and wear your crown. Let one of the most noble princes put the royal robe and crown on the man. Then have that prince go before the honored one through the streets of the city and cry out so everyone can hear, 'This is done to the man the king delights to honor!'"

The king was pleased with Haman's answer. He said, "You are my noble prince, so I command you to take my royal robes and crown and put them on Mordecai at once. Then have him mount my horse and lead him through the city, crying out to all, 'This is done to the man the king delights to honor!' Be sure you do everything just as you have said to honor this man."

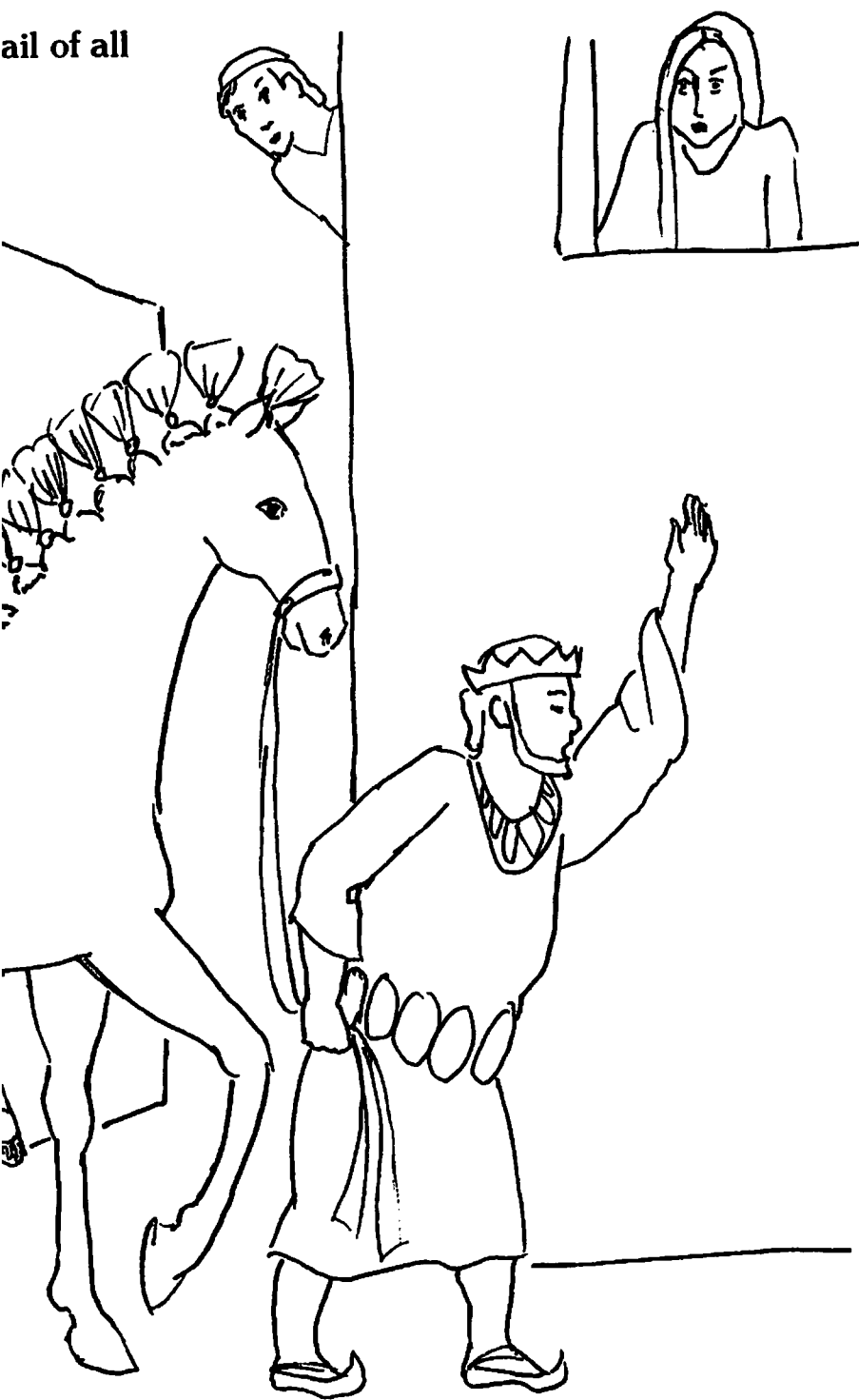
Haman dared not disobey the king though he hated having to honor Mordecai in this way. When he could escape, he ran home and covered his head in shame and sorrow. Now he could never get the king's permission to hang Mordecai.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...Do even so to Mordecai the Jew,...le
that thou hast spoken. Esth



ail of all



A Good Name Chosen

(A True Story)

As a Christian living in modern Israel, Keith Cromdell has had many trials, tests and persecutions. It is not illegal for a Christian to live in Israel, but there are organized gangs who persecute Christians and the police will not punish these gangs for their crimes.

Mr. Cromdell is a very successful businessman who works with electronic technology in the export market. His business has greatly enriched Israel and the government likes him. Mr. Cromdell is honest, dependable and intelligent. He has around 60 workers and most of them are Christian Jews. They join other Christians in daily prayer at Mr. Cromdell's business.

The leader of a crime gang heard about Mr. Cromdell and his Christian prosperity. "We will check out this Christian establishment," sneered the leader to his gang. He went to the next Christian fellowship service held at a hotel in Tiberias. This wicked man just walked right into the service and began taking pictures of those who were there. Mr. Cromdell asked him to leave but finally had to take this man by the arm and lead him outside.

Soon bad talk was spread around about the Christians who were at the service. The wicked gang leader had lies told about Mr. Cromdell and some were even printed in the local newspaper. This caused all the Christians much trouble and sorrow and they prayed to the Lord for help.

On his way to work one morning, Mr. Cromdell stopped by a downtown candy store. The clerk who helped him said, "Have you heard of the terrible things that are going on in our city? Our children are being kidnapped and brainwashed!"

Mr. Cromdell replied, "I heard those rumors but they are not true. Christians are not kidnapping any children."

"How do you know it isn't true?" she asked.

"Because I am a Christian and I know we don't harm children or adults."

The clerk looked at Mr. Cromdell's kind, honest face. "You are right," she agreed. "These rumors can't be true."

Though the crime gang lied about the Christians, threw rocks at them and set fire to their meeting house, yet many people of Tiberias still liked the Christians.

Why? Anyone who is truly acquainted with Christians knows that they are good, honest people who only show kindness and love to others.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who could not sleep?
2. What did he have his servants bring?
3. Who had saved the king's life?
4. Who was in the court so early in the morning?
5. Why had he come?
6. Whom did Haman think the king wanted to honor?
7. Who did the king command to be honored?
8. Who led Mordecai through the city?
9. What did he do when he could escape?

LESSON TEXT: Esther 6:1-12.

(Answers: 1. King Ahasuerus. 2. The book of records. 3. Mordecai. 4. Haman. 5. To ask permission to hang Mordecai. 6. Himself. 7. Mordecai. 8. Haman. 9. He ran home and covered his head in shame.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 24 Sept. 15, 1996

ESTHER PLEADS FOR HER PEOPLE

After honoring Mordecai, Haman was so upset he went home in shame and sorrow. He completely forgot the invitation to have dinner with the king and queen. The king had to send a messenger to bring him to the palace.

At the banquet the king again asked Esther, "What is it that you want?"

"If I have found favor with you, O King, save my life and the lives of my people," Esther begged.

Ahasuerus was amazed to hear that anyone would threaten the queen's life. "Who is he and where is he who would dare do such a thing?" he stormed.

"The enemy is this wicked Haman!" Esther answered.

Haman was terrified when he heard the queen's words. He had never guessed that the queen was a Jewess or that she had been brought up by Mordecai!

The king was so angry he left the room. Haman fell before Esther, begging for mercy. Meanwhile the king paced back and forth in the palace garden wondering how to punish Haman. When he returned he found Haman had fallen across the queen's bed as he pleaded with Esther. The king called for his servants and commanded them to take Haman away.

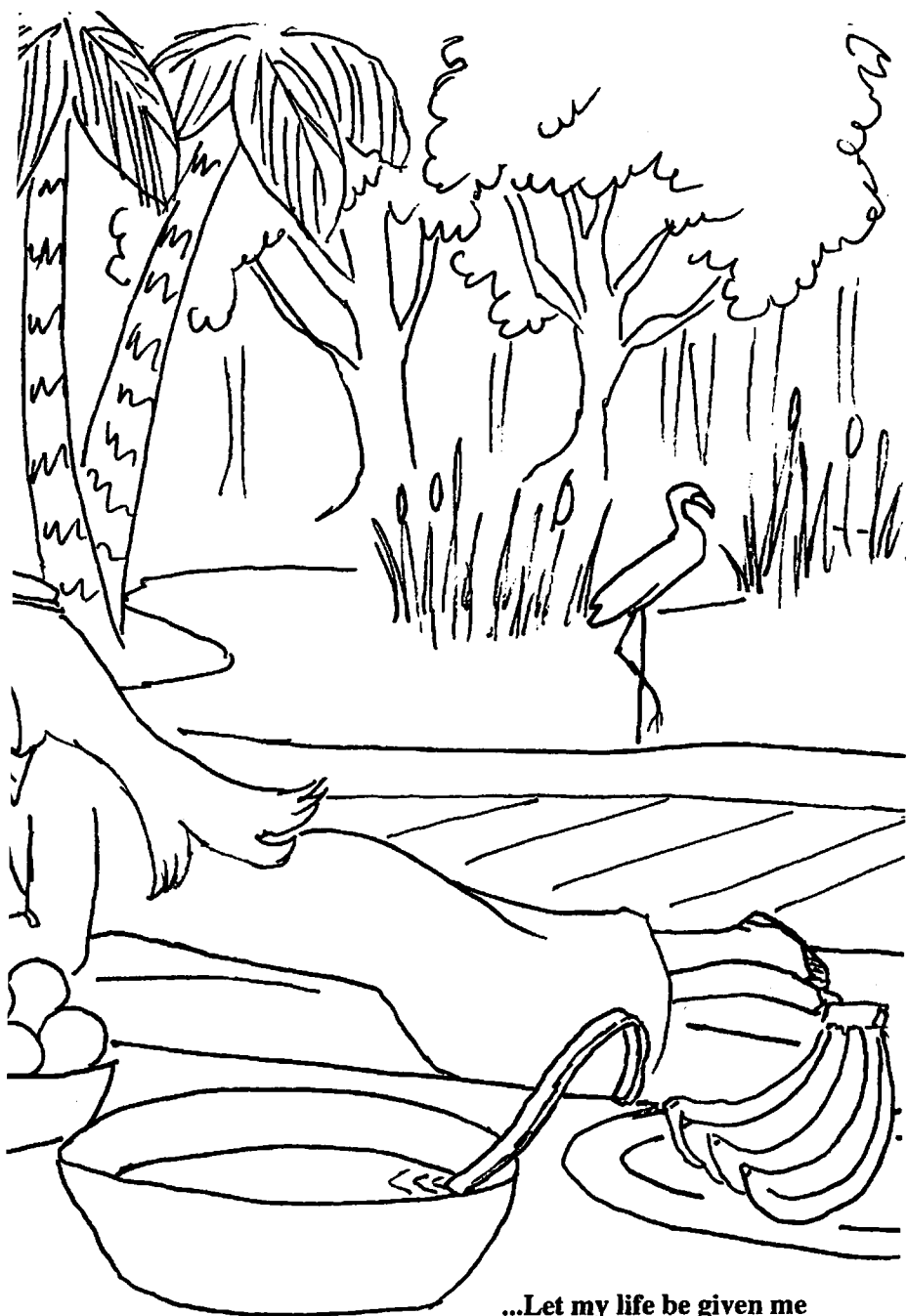
One of the servants told Ahasuerus about the gallows that Haman made to hang Mordecai. "Hang Haman on the gallows he prepared for Mordecai!" he commanded.

After Haman's death, the king made Mordecai a man of great honor in his kingdom. To make sure that the Jews were not killed on the day Haman had ordered, the king sent new letters to every part of the land. He decreed that the Jews should not be killed. If they were attacked, they were to defend themselves.

So the Jews were saved. To celebrate the day of their great victory, an important feast was held. They called it the Feast of Purim. Even to this day, the Jews keep this feast and tell the story of beautiful Queen Esther who saved the lives of her people.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**...Let my life be given me
at my petition, and my
people at my request:
Esther 7:3.**

A Savior For Shadow

(Based on a True Story)

It was a cool summer morning—just perfect for a nice walk down a quiet, country road. Jim, a young, single man, closed his front door behind him and began just such a walk. He loved to greet the sunrise on a nearby hill that overlooked a clear stream and green pasture.

Jim was whistling a tune as he drew near a concrete bridge that spread across the stream. He paused just a moment to breathe in the misty fragrance of the wildflowers when he heard something whimpering.

Calm and quiet stood Jim as he listened closely. Then he followed a narrow cattle trail that went under the bridge. Here Jim found a poor dog with a big cut on his head. He could see that the dog's feet were bound tightly with a cord. Someone had thrown this dog over the bridge expecting to end its life. How cruel!

As Jim walked closer to help, the dog curled his lips and growled. Jim squatted seven or eight feet away and began to talk softly to the dog. He could tell that the dog was in much pain. Little by little Jim was able to move close enough to untie the cords on this medium-sized, black dog. But when he reached out his hand and touched the swollen legs, the dog growled meanly.

It seemed like a long time to Jim before he was able to gently untie the cords. The dog was too weak to really bite hard but it continued to snap at Jim even when he washed its stiff legs. Carefully, Jim carried the injured dog home where he fed it and dressed the ugly cut on its head. Often he talked kindly to it.

"What is your name, ole girl? Since you and I don't speak the same language, I guess I will need to give you a name I can remember. Let's see, what shall I call you? How about Shadow? Do you like that name—Shadow?"

With Jim's patient nursing, Shadow soon was walking. For several weeks she would growl at Jim if he moved toward her. She had been so mistreated by someone else that it took time before she trusted Jim.

Winter passed and spring came again. Early one cool morning Jim went for a walk down this same quiet, country road. Following close behind him was his Shadow. She never left Jim's side for he was her savior. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Haman so upset?
2. What did he forget?
3. What did Esther ask the king to do for her?
4. Who was terrified at Esther's words?
5. Why did the king leave the room?
6. Who told the king about Haman's gallows?
7. What did he order them to do to Haman?
8. Who was made a man of great honor?
9. Who saved the lives of her people?

LESSON TEXT: Esther 6:12-10.

(Answers: 1. Because he had to honor Mordecai. 2. The invitation to have dinner with the king and queen. 3. To save her life. 4. Haman. 5. Because he was angry. 6. A servant. 7. Hang him on the gallows he had made for Mordecai. 8. Mordecai. 9. Esther.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 25 Sept. 22, 1996

THE TEMPLE IS FINISHED

While Ahasuerus was king of Persia, the Jews did not work at rebuilding the temple. The Samaritans convinced the king that the temple should not be rebuilt. He ordered that the work stop. So instead, the people built comfortable homes for themselves and worked in the fields around Jerusalem.

When Darius became king, the Jews did not ask his permission to rebuild the temple. They had given up on finishing it. But God was not pleased. He sent the prophet, Haggai, to them with a message.

"Why should you live in fine houses when the house of the Lord is still in ruins?" he asked them. "God wants you to consider your ways. You work hard at farming the land and yet you don't have enough to eat. God commands that you go up to the mountain and bring wood and build His house. You cannot expect God to bless you until you finish His house."

The people listened to Haggai's message from the Lord. They obeyed his words and again started rebuilding the temple. It was not long before the Samaritans saw what they were doing. "Who gave you orders to do this?" they demanded.

"Cyrus, the king of Persia, commanded us to rebuild the house of God," the Jews answered.

The Samaritans again wrote to the king asking that he command the work to stop. When Darius got their letter, he searched the records. There he found that Cyrus had commanded the Jews to return to Jerusalem and build the house of the Lord.

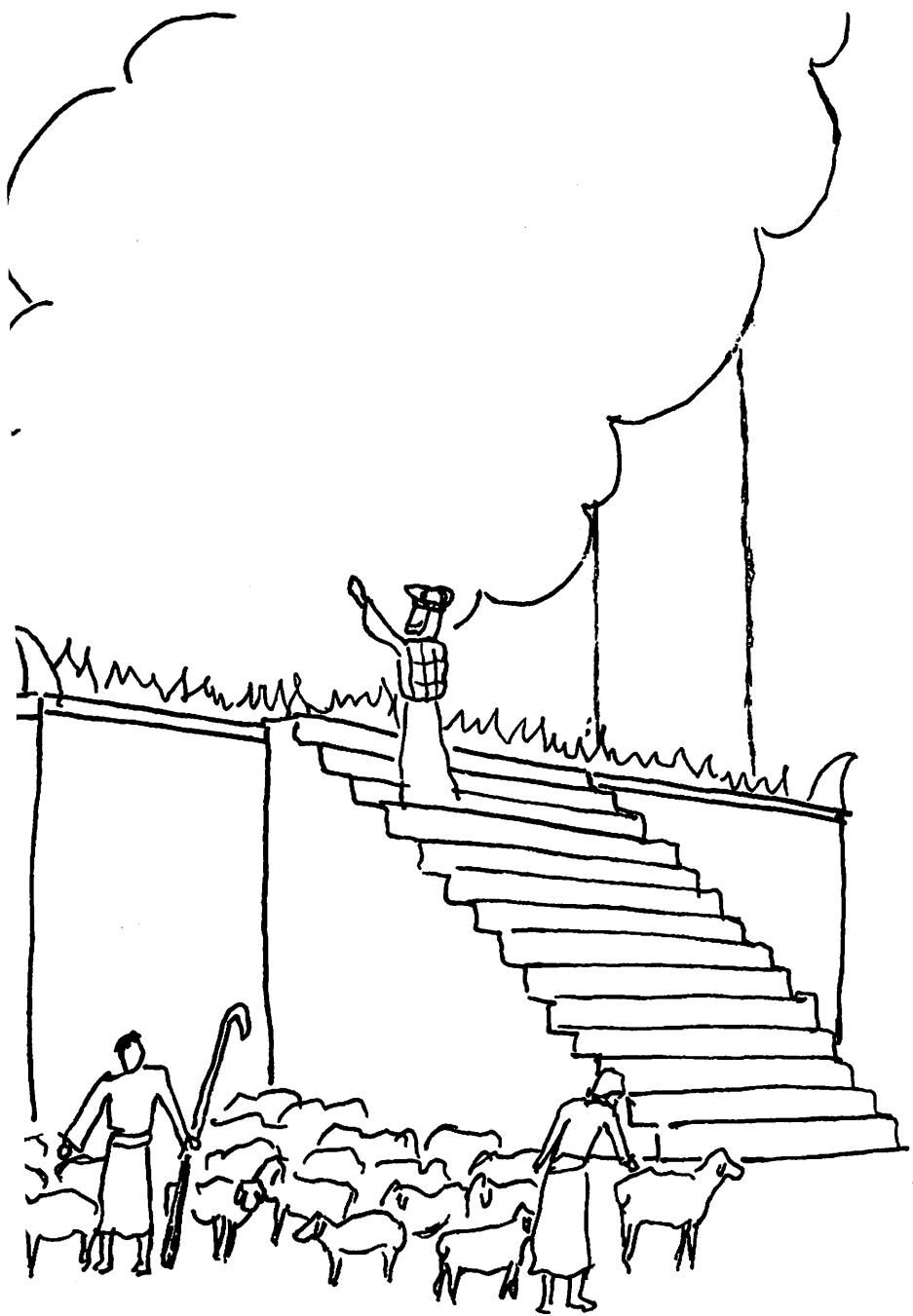
He sent word back to the Samaritans saying, "You Samaritans are to let the men at Jerusalem alone. Let them build this house of God. From now on you will send your taxes to be used in rebuilding the temple instead of sending them to me. You will also send sacrifices for the altar. Anyone who disobeys this decree will be killed!"

After this the Jews were not troubled by their enemies. They finished the temple and gave thanks because God had given them a new king who helped them.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And this house was finished
on the third day of the
month... Ezra 6:15.





A Vision Of Restored Sight

(A True Story)

One Saturday afternoon twelve-year-old Anne and a couple of her friends were out riding bikes together. Some mischievous boys threw crab apples at the girls and one hit Anne in the left eye. When Anne went home, her mother looked at her eye but didn't see any swelling or redness.

Later that evening, Anne began to have terrible pain in her left eye. "Mom, help me—I can't see!" she cried out in terror. Quickly Mom took Anne to an eye specialist who examined the eye.

The doctor had bad news. Anne's eye was bleeding from behind. She had traumatic hyphema which can cause permanent damage to eyesight.

"Anne must lie quietly for at least five days," said the doctor as he bandaged both of her eyes. "We will admit her to the hospital so she will not be disturbed and re-injure her eye. I hope she will regain some of her vision."

Mom went with Anne to her assigned room. The nurses made Anne comfortable, laying her heavy brown hair fanned out above her head on the pillow. Mom and Anne tried to cheer each other and then Mom kissed Anne goodnight. On the way home Mom prayed and cried.

Early the next morning Mom called a couple of close friends for prayer. "Please tell others to pray, also," she pleaded.

Norma told her husband, Jim. "That is terrible," said Jim. "I wish we could help Anne." Through the day Jim thought about Anne and prayed for her.

Driving home from work, Jim again remembered Anne and breathed a prayer for her. As he stopped at a stop sign, he had a vision of Anne's face, both eyes bandaged, her hair spread

out above her head. Then he saw from the chest down a tall man in a white robe. The man's hand came down and gently cupped Anne's left eye. Suddenly, the vision was gone.

As soon as Jim reached home, he called Anne's mother. "Are both of Anne's eyes bandaged?" he asked. Then he told her about his vision.

Within five days, the eye specialist took off Anne's bandages and checked her eyes. "I expected Anne to lose at least 30% of her vision, perhaps more, but both of her eyes are perfect. It's as if nothing ever happened," said the amazed doctor.

Yes, something had happened. Jesus had visited Anne and had healed her eye. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who ordered that the work stop on the temple?
2. What did the people build instead?
3. Why didn't they ask Darius for permission to finish the temple?
4. Who came with a message from God?
5. Why was God not blessing them?
6. What did the Samaritans ask?
7. What did Darius do when he got the Samaritan's letter?
8. Where were the Samaritans to send their taxes?
9. What did they do when they finished the temple?

LESSON TEXT: Ezra 5-6; Haggai 1-2.

(Answers: 1. King Ahasuerus. 2. Homes for themselves. 3. They had given up on finishing it. 4. Haggai. 5. Because they had not finished His house. 6. "Who gave you orders to do this?" 7. Searched the records. 8. To help rebuild the temple. 9. Gave thanks to God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 26 Sept. 29, 1996

A MAN WHO LOVED GOD'S LAW

Not all the Jews returned to Jerusalem when King Cyrus gave them permission. Many stayed in Babylon. Ezra stayed in Babylon. He served God faithfully and loved to study His law. He wrote the words of God in books and longed to teach the Jews everywhere these laws God had given to Moses.

One day the king made a decree that anyone who wished could go up to Jerusalem. He also sent silver and gold for use in buying vessels and sacrifices for the temple. Ezra was glad when the king asked him to return to Jerusalem. The king told him, "According to the wisdom of your God, judge the people of Jerusalem who know the law of your God. Teach God's law to those who do not know it."

This is just what Ezra had wanted to do. He was so thankful that God had put it on the king's heart also. He prayed, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God who has put it in the king's heart to beautify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem!"

Other Jews were also going with Ezra to Jerusalem. They met by the river side where they fasted and prayed for God's protection. They would have to travel through many dangerous places and they had no soldiers along to defend them.

Then Ezra and his friends started on their long trip. They traveled for four months. At last they reached Jerusalem safely. They were very thankful that God had protected them.

Ezra soon saw that things were not going well in Judah. The Jews had become discouraged and were not teaching God's laws to their children. Some had even married the idol worshipers who lived around them. He saw the walls of the city all crumbled and broken down.

Ezra was deeply troubled by the needs he saw. He knew God could not help the people unless they obeyed His laws. Some had never heard the Books of the Law read. So Ezra faithfully read the law to the people and taught them how to live by the things it commanded.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**For Ezra had prepared his heart
to do it,...**



the law of the Lord, and
10.



Listening For God's Answer

(A True Story)

Dan Sheridan was a firefighter who took his job seriously. Most of the time spent at the fire station was routine and rather boring, but when a real call for help sounded out, Dan prepared quickly to do his part. Also, Dan believed in God and he prayed for fire victims while on a run. Maybe that was why he was given the job as Forcible Entry Man. He was assigned to look for victims in a fire.

One day in November, 1990, everything started out as usual. The firefighters were checking tools and washing the floors when a fire alarm sounded on an apartment building three blocks from the fire station.

The fire alarm had rung at this location a few times before and usually the fires were small and put out quickly. "No need to dress in heavy gear," murmured the men as they rushed to the fire truck. However, Dan felt differently. He felt a need to put on his heavy, fire resistant coat and big helmet.

As the fire truck roared up to the apartment, flames were already licking outside the third floor windows. Each man began his assigned duty. Dan ran to the apartment house and raced up the outside fire escape staircase. He reached the top, fourth floor and shoved open the door. Amazed that suffocating smoke was not already in this apartment, Dan began his search for victims. No one was in the living room, kitchen, nor dining room. Smoke and heat were now pouring into this top floor apartment but somehow Dan felt he must not leave until every room was checked.

Dan worked quickly as sweat ran down his face and neck and the heat grew hotter. He checked both bedrooms and the bathroom. "Lord, is there anyone here?" he prayed.

Then he heard a sound: a cough. It was a baby coughing in the second bedroom! He crawled back into the room and found the crib and baby. Tucking the baby inside his heavy fireproof coat, Dan made his way to the exit door.

A waiting crowd let out a cheer as Dan staggered outside with the ten-day old baby. "We were praying for you—and for Joel," said a woman as she took the baby.

In the panic of the fire, a babysitter had forgotten to take the baby with her but God had not forgotten him. He had sent Dan to find baby Joel and Dan had tuned his ears to hear God even though He spoke as quietly as a baby's cough.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Ezra stay?
2. What did Ezra love to study?
3. What did he long to teach other Jews?
4. Who asked Ezra to return to Jerusalem?
5. Where did the travelers meet?
6. What did they do before they started?
7. How long did they travel?
8. Who had become discouraged?
9. What did Ezra read to the people?

LESSON TEXT: Ezra 7-10; Nehemiah 8.

(Answers: 1. In Babylon. 2. God's law. 3. The laws God had given Moses. 4. The king. 5. By the riverside. 6. Fasted and prayed. 7. Four months. 8. The Jews. 9. The law.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 14 Oct. 6, 1996

NEHEMIAH

Ezra was a great help to the people of Jerusalem. He taught them how to follow God's law. Now the people knew that they were pleasing God. They were sure He would be with them and help them.

Jews in other parts of the world heard about the troubles the people were having who returned to Jerusalem. They wanted to help in some way, just as Ezra had. Nehemiah was one who was touched by the stories of the trouble in rebuilding Jerusalem. Nehemiah lived in Persia and had a very high office in the palace of the king of Persia. He was the king's cupbearer. The king respected and trusted Nehemiah.

One day Nehemiah's brother and certain other men returned from the land of Judah. Nehemiah was anxious to hear about the Jews who had returned to Jerusalem and their work there. Eagerly he asked the men concerning the Jews who had returned to their homeland and about Jerusalem.

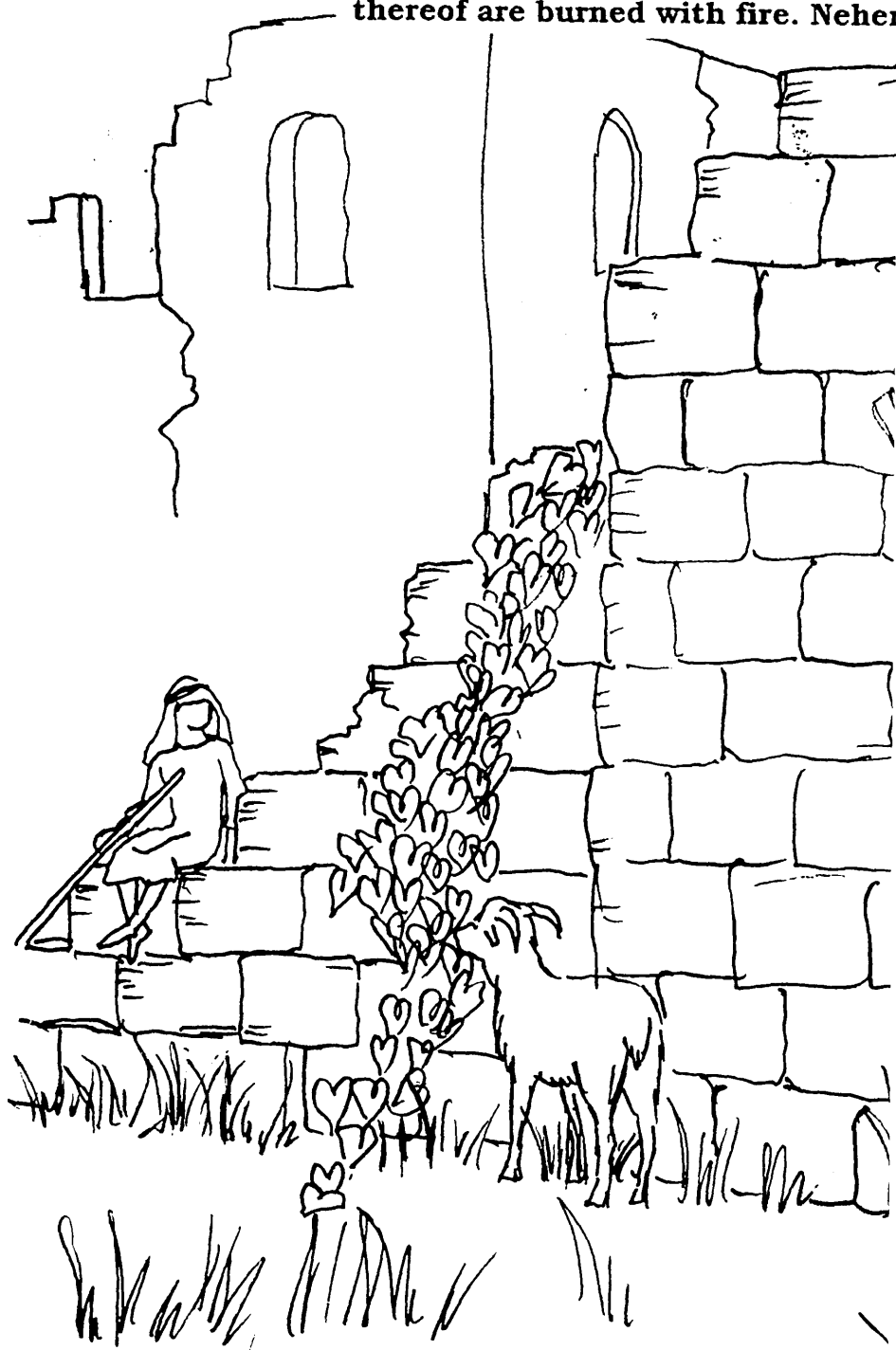
Sadly the men told Nehemiah, "Things are not going well in Jerusalem. The people are very poor and their enemies give them great trouble. The wall of Jerusalem has never been repaired. It is still broken down and the gates have been burned."

Nehemiah was shocked by such bad news. When he heard the report he sat and cried. For several days he mourned and fasted and prayed for the people and the work in Jerusalem. Nehemiah reminded God of His promise to be merciful to His people if they would repent of their sins and again obey His law. "O Lord," he prayed, "I beg You, listen to my prayer and the prayer of my people. Help me this day to find mercy before the king."

Nehemiah returned to his work in the palace. But as he poured the king's wine, the king suddenly asked, "Nehemiah, what makes you look so sad? You are not sick. Your heart must be very sorrowful!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...The wall of Jerusalem also is broken down
thereof are burned with fire. Nehemiah**



e gates



The Monster In Beer/Liquor

(Based on a true biography)

One foggy evening in 1863, William Booth walked the streets of east side London. His steel gray eyes looked into the candle-lit pubs where men and women sat at tables or at the bar on bar stools. In grief he shook his bushy gray head as he heard piano dance music, the foolish giggles of women, and the careless laughter of men.

These fathers were wasting all their money on poisonous beer and liquor. In the dark hours of the night, some of them would stumble out onto the sidewalk and fall into a drunken stupor. Some would make it home in a bad rage and beat their wife and children. A few would get into a fight and then the bobbies or police would haul them off to jail to sober up. How sad to see the evils of sin!

The mothers that were in the pubs had left their children at home alone. In selfish pleasure these mothers played away the evening while their hungry children cried themselves to sleep. Sometimes the mothers would even beat their children when they came home from the pub. Oh, the awfulness of such hardened hearts!

Walking at a brisk pace, Mr. Booth would speak a kind word to anyone who would listen. "Jesus saves from sin. Aren't you tired of drinking this burning stuff? Don't you want to change for the better?"

The people would stare at this tall, neatly dressed man in a suit. Why did he care what they were doing? Hadn't they worked hard all day? Didn't they deserve evenings of "fun"? Who was this man to speak guilt and fear to their hearts? Through it all Mr. Booth kept walking and speaking to each one that he met.

Then he saw a little boy hiding behind his mother's skirt. She was headed for a pub with this small child. Mr. Booth reached out and took the mother by the elbow.

"Missus, do you love your little boy? If you do, you would take him from this evil place."

The woman only gave Mr. Booth a cold look and slipped into a nearby pub. Mr. Booth watched as the child was seated on a short stool at the bar. Then the bartender gave the toddler a glass of beer.

Tears filled Mr. Booth's eyes and his broad shoulders shook with a sob. How could he save souls from this monster of evil drunkenness? There were not even laws in London to protect the children. With God's help, he had to do something!

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who taught the people to follow God's law?
2. Who was the king's cupbearer?
3. Where did he live?
4. Who respected and trusted Nehemiah?
5. Who had just returned from the land of Judah?
6. Who was Nehemiah anxious to hear about?
7. What did Nehemiah do when he heard the bad news?
8. Where did Nehemiah work?
9. What did the king ask Nehemiah?

LESSON TEXT: Nehemiah 1:1-2:2.

(Answers: 1. Ezra. 2. Nehemiah. 3. In Persia. 4. The king. 5. Nehemiah's brother. 6. The Jews who had returned to Jerusalem. 7. Sat down and cried. 8. In the palace. 9. "What makes you look so sad?")

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 15 Oct. 13, 1996

THE KING FAVORS NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah was very much afraid. As he served the king, the king noticed how sad Nehemiah was. Nehemiah feared the king would be angry because he looked so sad. When the king questioned him, Nehemiah answered respectfully, "Let the king live for ever. I cannot help being sad. The city of my fathers lies in ruins and its gates have been burned up!"

"And what do you ask for?" the king answered.

Nehemiah prayed that God would help him say the right words. Then he answered, "If it please the king, and if I have found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Jerusalem to rebuild the city of my fathers.

The king and queen listened carefully. "How long would this take you?" the king asked. "When would you be back?"

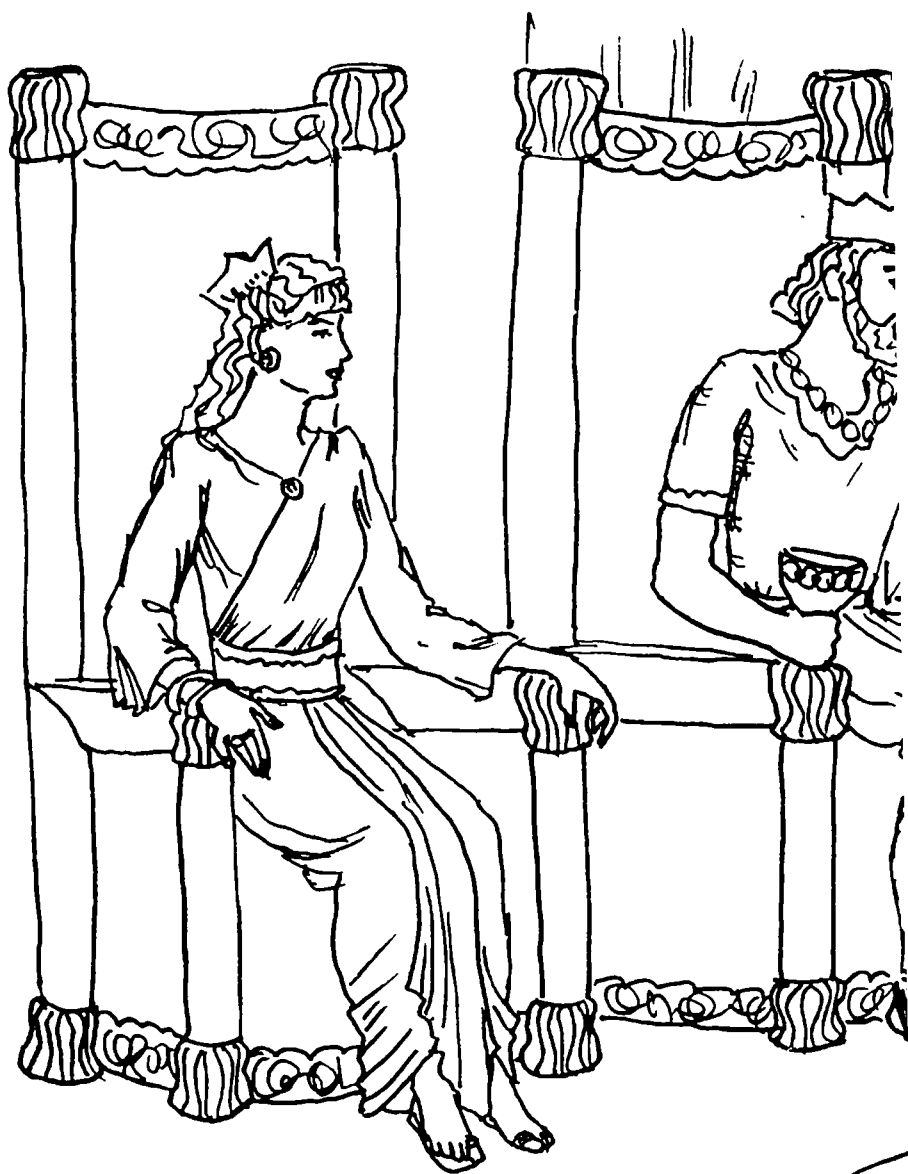
Nehemiah explained to the king that it would take him a long time to go so far and rebuild the crumbled walls of Jerusalem. He set a time that he would return and the king agreed to send him.

Nehemiah knew he would need much help to do the great work of rebuilding Jerusalem. Taking courage he asked the king, "If it please you, give me letters to the governors beyond the river so they will help me on my journey. Then give me a letter to the keeper of your forest, so he will give wood for this great work."

The hand of God was upon Nehemiah, directing him to do this work. He put it in the heart of the king to grant Nehemiah's request. The king even sent captains of the army and horsemen with Nehemiah.

After many days Nehemiah and his men came to the countries near Judah. Nehemiah showed the rulers of these countries the letters from the king. These rulers did not like the people at Jerusalem. They did not want the city rebuilt. But Nehemiah had royal orders. His enemies did not dare to stop the work the king had commanded him to do.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**...And the king granted
me, according to the
good hand of my God
upon me. Nehemiah 2:8.**



The War Cry

(Continued from last week.)

A small band of musicians and singers marched outside a big brick building at 101 Queen Victoria Street. Each young player took his place to form five short lines in their marching band. Their commander, General William Booth, called out, "Forward, march!"

"TOOTLE-TOOT-TOOTLE-TOOT," played the flutes. "BOOM-BOOM-BOOM," beat the drums. "DO-DA! DO-DA!" blew the trumpets.

The Hallelujah Band began marching through the streets of London playing and singing gospel songs as they went. A peddler steered aside his wheelbarrow of apples to let them pass. A lady waved to General Booth as her fine carriage and prancing horses passed by. Little children left the narrow porch steps of houses and began to follow the exciting music. Even tired looking mothers and ragged, unshaven fathers tapped their feet to the music and some followed the band to see what the band would do.

Five blocks down the street and two more over, the Hallelujah Band stopped on a busy street corner. They began to play softly while two young people sang a duet about Jesus. The song told the listening crowd that Jesus loved them and knew all about their troubles. After the song, General Booth began to preach to the street people.

He told them that "the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." He let the crowd know that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" but "the blood of Jesus Christ...cleanseth us from all sin." His message condemned the sin of drinking beer, liquor, gambling, and

loose living, but he also offered hope by the way of Jesus Christ.

People began to listen to these messages and the Lord dealt with their hearts. Fathers who were wasting their money on liquor began to go home more often without drinking so much. Mothers saw the needs of their children and began to care for them better. General Booth especially pled for the children that they not go to the bars and drink beer.

By the grace of God, General Booth and his wife, Clara, rescued many souls from the destructive ways of sin. They began to print a newspaper called "The War Cry" which proclaimed salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. Today the Salvation Army feeds the poor and sends out a war cry on poverty.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who noticed that Nehemiah was sad?
2. Why was he sad?
3. What did Nehemiah ask for?
4. What did the king ask Nehemiah?
5. What did the king agree to do?
6. Why did Nehemiah want the king to write letters to the governors?
7. What did Nehemiah want the keeper of the forest to give him?
8. Whose hand was upon Nehemiah?
9. Who did not dare stop Nehemiah's work?

LESSON TEXT: Nehemiah 2:2-10.

(Answers: 1. The king, 2. Jerusalem was in ruins and its gates were burned. 3. To be sent to Jerusalem to rebuild the city. 4. "When will you be back?" 5. He agreed to send Nehemiah to Jerusalem. 6. So they would help him on his journey. 7. Wood. 8. God's. 9. His enemies.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 16 Oct. 20, 1996

THE WORK BEGINS!

Nehemiah and his men finally reached Jerusalem. They were so tired from the long trip they rested for three days. Nehemiah did not tell the people right away that he intended to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. First he wanted to look over the old wall and see how it was.

So one night Nehemiah took a few soldiers and quietly rode all around the city, inspecting it. He found that heaps of stones and ashes lay where the strong walls had once stood. In some places his horse could not even find a path through the rubbish.

The next morning Nehemiah called for the rulers and the priests. He was ready to tell them why he had come. "You see the trouble we are in," Nehemiah told them. "Jerusalem is in ruins and the gates are burned down. Come, let us build up the wall of Jerusalem!"

Then Nehemiah told them how God had answered prayer in letting him come to Jerusalem. He told them how the king wrote letters to the governors so they would help him on his trip to Jerusalem and how he wrote a letter to the keeper of his forest commanding him to supply wood for the rebuilding. As a further kindness he even sent his own soldiers with Nehemiah for his protection.

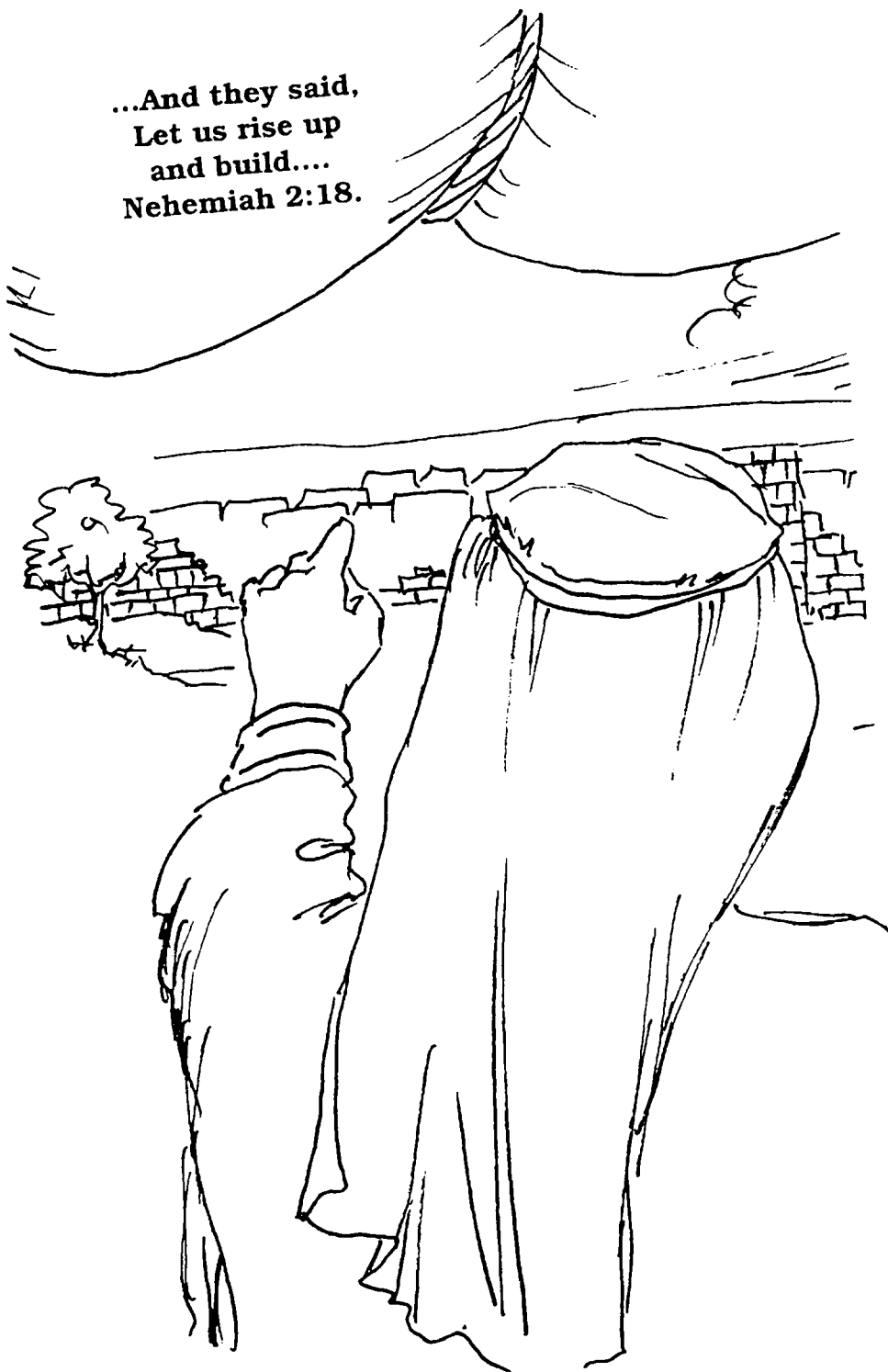
When the rulers heard Nehemiah's words they were greatly encouraged. "Let us rise up and build!" they shouted. They were sure God would bless their work. They were eager to begin!

Soon everyone in Jerusalem knew Nehemiah had come to rebuild the wall. They were thankful God had made the king willing to send him.

The people first cleared out the rubbish and gathered huge stones. Then the work began. Almost everyone found a way to help. Some worked on long stretches of the wall while others repaired the wall that was in front of their homes. As the people worked, Nehemiah rode around the wall on his horse and directed the building.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...And they said,
Let us rise up
and build....
Nehemiah 2:18.**





Abounding Grace

(Continued from last week.)

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

A young boy knocked on the outside door of a big gray stone building on 101 Victoria Street in London, England. It was very late at night but his knocking was so desperate that General William Booth of the Salvation Army came to the door himself.

"Please, sir, you must help my sister!" pleaded a young boy as General Booth cracked open the heavy oak door.

"Who are you and why should I help your sister?" asked the gray bearded general.

"My sister, she never did come home from the factory so Mama sent me out to search for her and ain't nobody seen her since she left the factory at six o'clock, and Mama, she thinks the slavers took my sister and will sell her and we won't..." The young boy choked with sobs as the general reached out and kindly drew him into the shelter behind the heavy door. He put a hand upon the boy's shoulder. "Let's go to the kitchen and have something warm to drink," he said. "Then tell me all about your missing sister."

In his candle-lit kitchen of the 1870's, General Booth heard hundreds of stories such as this young boy told. London in those days was not a safe place for young, poor girls. Rough sailors or other nabbers would openly grab a teenage girl and stuff her into a big grain sack. Then they would carry her away and sell her to an European master. In England, in those days, there were not any laws to protect young girls or to stop this awful wickedness.

By the grace of God, General Booth and his wife, Clara, had started the Salvation Army to declare war on this terrible crime. It is quoted that in the early 1880's, 80,000 young girls were

in bondage as white slaves to evil masters in the city of London.

With Godly courage, General Booth and the men in the Salvation Army rescued many girls from these houses of sin. This young boy had come to the right place for help. They rescued his sister just before she was sold.

General Booth began to talk to the leaders of England and he had citizens sign a petition against white girl slavery. For 17 days the Salvation Army soldiers marched to Parliament and demanded that the government pass and enforce new laws. This the government did on August 14, 1856.

"...But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Romans 5:20.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. Who finally reached Jerusalem?
2. How long did they rest?
3. What did Nehemiah want to do first?
4. What lay where the strong walls had once stood?
5. Who did Nehemiah call for the next morning?
6. Who wrote letters to the governors?
7. Who did he send with Nehemiah for his protection?
8. What did the people do first in rebuilding the wall?
9. What did Nehemiah do while the people worked?

LESSON TEXT: Nehemiah 2:11-18.

(Answers: 1. Nehemiah and his men. 2. Three days. 3. Look over the old wall and see how it was. 4. Heaps of stones and ashes. 5. The rulers and priests. 6. The king. 7. His own soldiers. 8. Cleared out the rubbish and gathered stones. 9. He rode around the wall on his horse and directed the work.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 17 Oct. 27, 1996

ENEMIES

Soon the Samaritans, who lived near Jerusalem, heard that the Jews were rebuilding the wall around their city. These unfriendly neighbors had written letters to King Ahasuerus years before. Because of their false report, the king ordered the Jews to stop their work of rebuilding the temple.

Two of their leaders, Sanballat and Tobiah, became very angry. They did not want Jerusalem to become a strong city again. If the city was strengthened, they would not be able to get in and oppress the people. Together the two planned every way they could to hinder the workers and stop the work.

At first Sanballat and Tobiah made fun of the Jews. "Your wall is so weak that it would fall down if even a fox tried to walk on it," they mocked.

Nehemiah did not let the mocking Samaritans stop the work. He prayed that God would judge their enemies and encouraged the people to keep up their good work. Soon half the wall was joined together because the people had a mind to work.

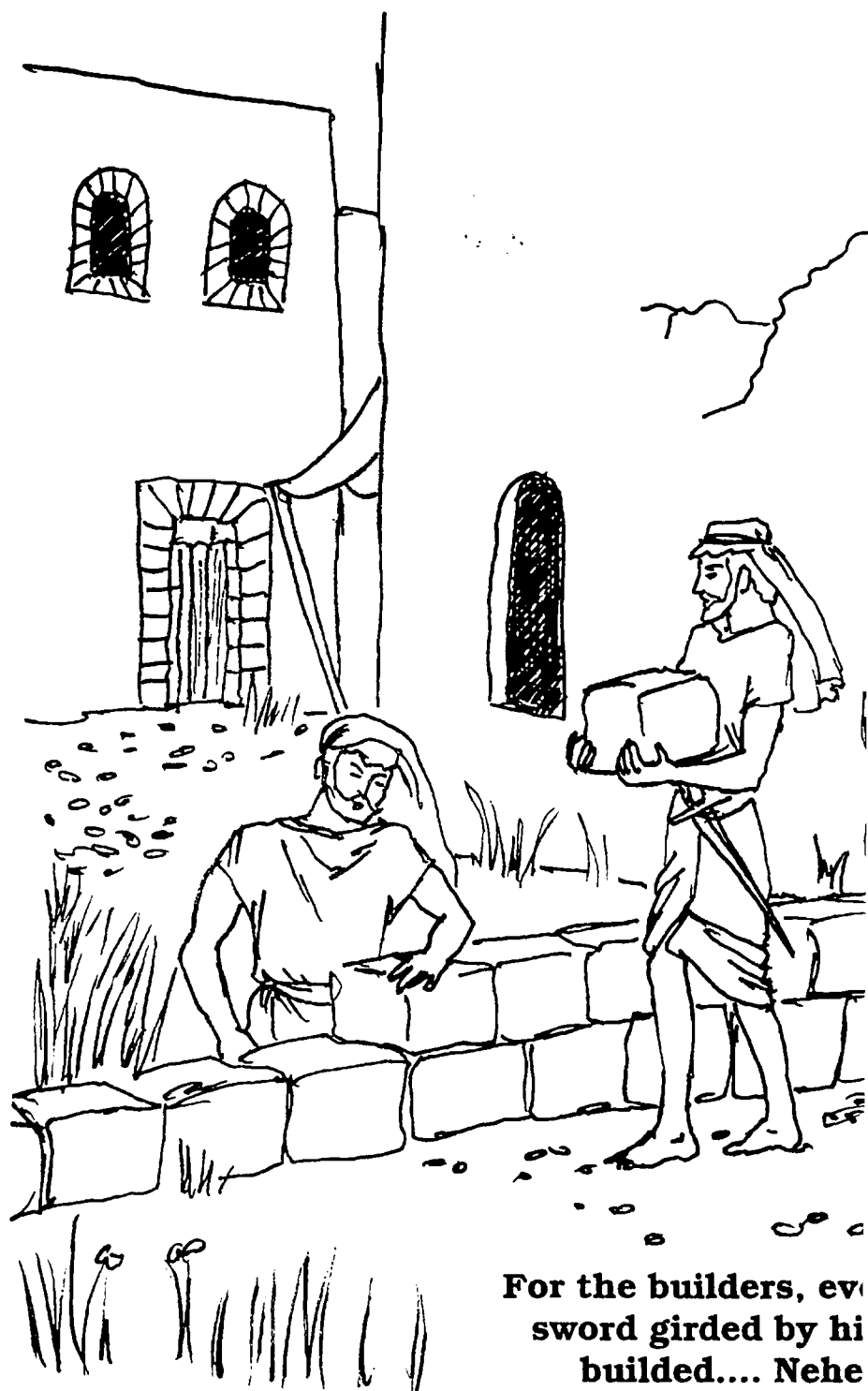
Sanballat and Tobiah saw that the work was going on in spite of them. They must do something or the wall would be completed and they would not be able to get into the city!

So Sanballat and Tobiah decided to join with three other countries who were enemies of the Jews. They would gather their armies and fight against Jerusalem and stop the work by force.

Word soon came to Nehemiah that his enemies were ready to attack. Still Nehemiah did not order the work to stop. Instead he prayed for God's protection. Then he appointed men to watch for the enemy day and night. He armed his men with swords and spears. Even the workers held a spear in one hand as they worked.

Sanballat and Tobiah changed their plan when they found out the Jews knew their plan and were armed. They did not attack the workers.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**For the builders, even
sword girded by his
buildings.... Nehemiah**



had his
and so
18.

Good Soldiers

(Continued from last week.)

It was a courageous Salvation Army Band that marched down the streets of London in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Often they marched to the open sea docks where big ships anchored to unload and load cargo. This marching band carried a flag stating "Blood and Fire". That stood for the blood of Jesus and the fire of His Holy Spirit.

As the band climbed the dock and faced the crowd that had gathered, bartenders across the street went to the front doors of their pubs. They did not like the Salvation Army because the preachers told the people not to drink liquor but to turn to Jesus for help. Many people had stopped coming to the pubs to buy liquor or beer and to gamble away their money. Now the bartenders were not making as much money and this made them angry.

One sly bartender called aside a young boy in ragged clothes who looked very hungry. "Hey, boy, wanna earn some money?" he asked and the boy nodded his head. "Are ya a pretty good thrower?" Again the boy nodded. "Well, all ya gotta do is throw some stones at that preacher man over there. Every time ya hit 'im, there'll be a half penny waitin' for ya tonight in my pub. Got it?" Again the boy nodded. "Okay, get goin'."

Quietly, the boy went out to the cobblestone street where there were many loose stones. He gathered three or four, took careful aim, and threw a stone at General Booth who was preaching a gospel message. The stone hit the general on his top hat and bounced to the ground. Whack! Another stone hit the general, then stones began to hit the band until finally a bobbie or policeman chased the boy away. That night he went to the pub and collected his money.

Soon other boys were paid to throw stones, mud, rotten food, dead animals—anything they could throw far

enough to hit its mark. It was shameful business and the police tried to stop it because they liked the good work the Salvation Army was doing.

In time, rough sailors joined in throwing things at the brave gospel workers. The torment was so bad that through the years some soldiers of the Salvation Army died from their injuries. However, the stone and mud throwing never did stop the gospel from going forth. "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (II Timothy 2:3.)

(The end.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who were unfriendly neighbors to the Jews?
2. What two leaders did not want Jerusalem to become a strong city?
3. What did they do first to hinder the work?
4. What did they say would happen if a fox walked on the wall?
5. Who encouraged the people to keep up the good work?
6. Who had a mind to work?
7. How did Sanballat and Tobiah plan to stop the work by force?
8. What did Nehemiah do when he heard his enemies were ready to attack?
9. Why did Sanballat and Tobiah change their plan?

LESSON TEXT: Nehemiah 4:1-18.

(Answers: 1. The Samaritans. 2. Sanballat and Tobiah. 3. They made fun of the Jews. 4. It would fall down. 5. Nehemiah. 6. The people. 7. By gathering an army and fighting against Jerusalem. 8. He prayed for God's protection, appointed men to watch for the enemy and armed the workers with swords and spears. 9. They learned the Jews knew their plan and were armed.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 18 Nov. 3, 1996

THE WALL IS FINISHED

Nehemiah was determined to finish the work God had given him. After learning that the enemy planned to attack, he made sure there was no place left unguarded. Each worker had his weapon. Guards watched for the enemy day and night. And Nehemiah rode on his horse from one place to another, making sure all was well.

A man with a trumpet stayed close to Nehemiah at all times. He would sound the alarm if Nehemiah saw any trouble. The workers were separated far from each other. Nehemiah told the people if they heard the sound of the trumpet they must drop their work at once and come fight the enemy. "Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, come there to help us," Nehemiah told them. "Our God shall fight for us."

The people worked and held their weapons each day from the time the sun rose to the time that the stars came out. Everyone, even those who lived outside Jerusalem, spent each night in the city. They were constantly on guard against the enemy.

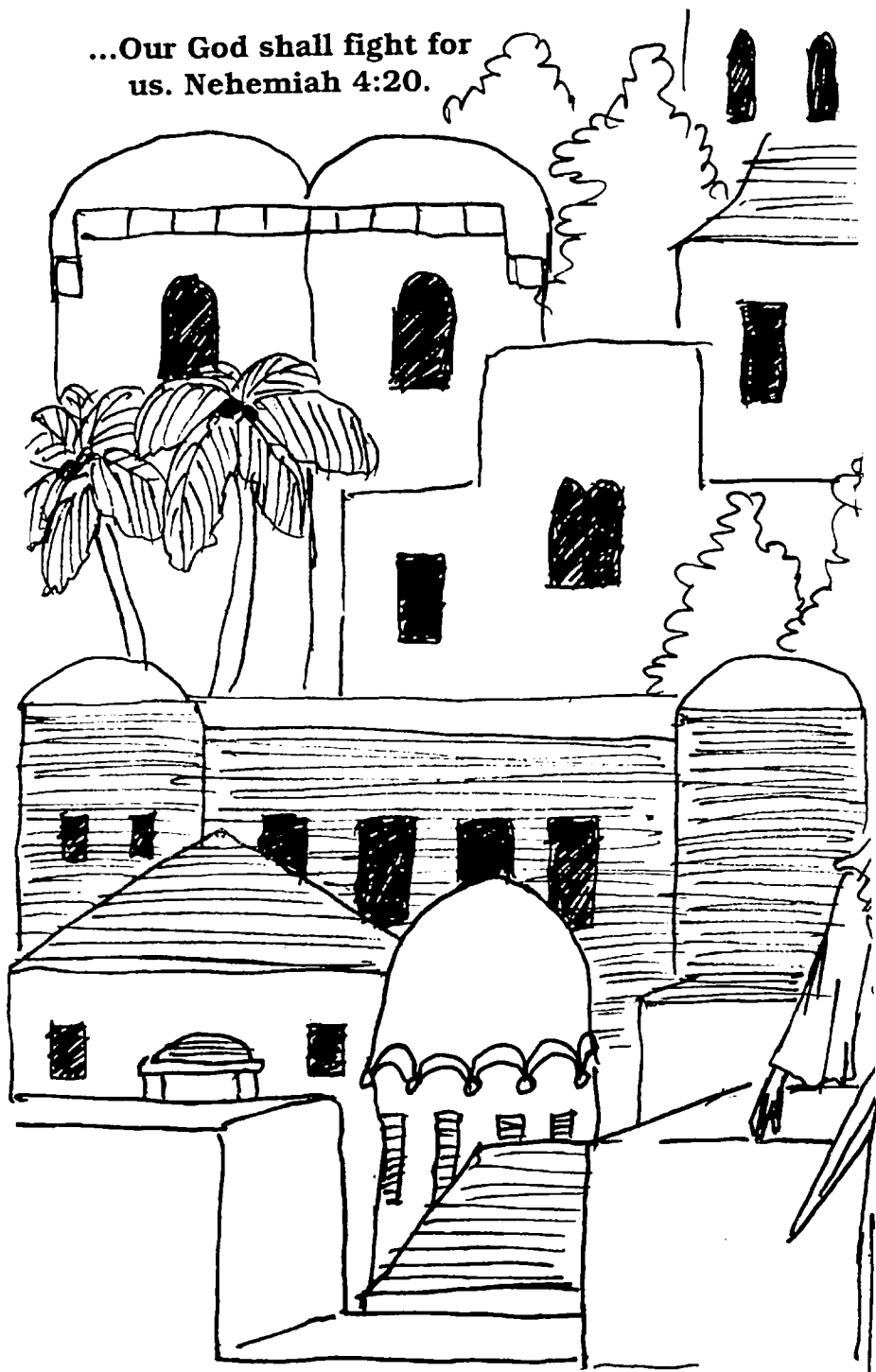
After fifty-two days of hard work, Jerusalem was surrounded by a strong new wall. The people were thankful God sent Nehemiah to help them. He had kept them encouraged until the work was finished.

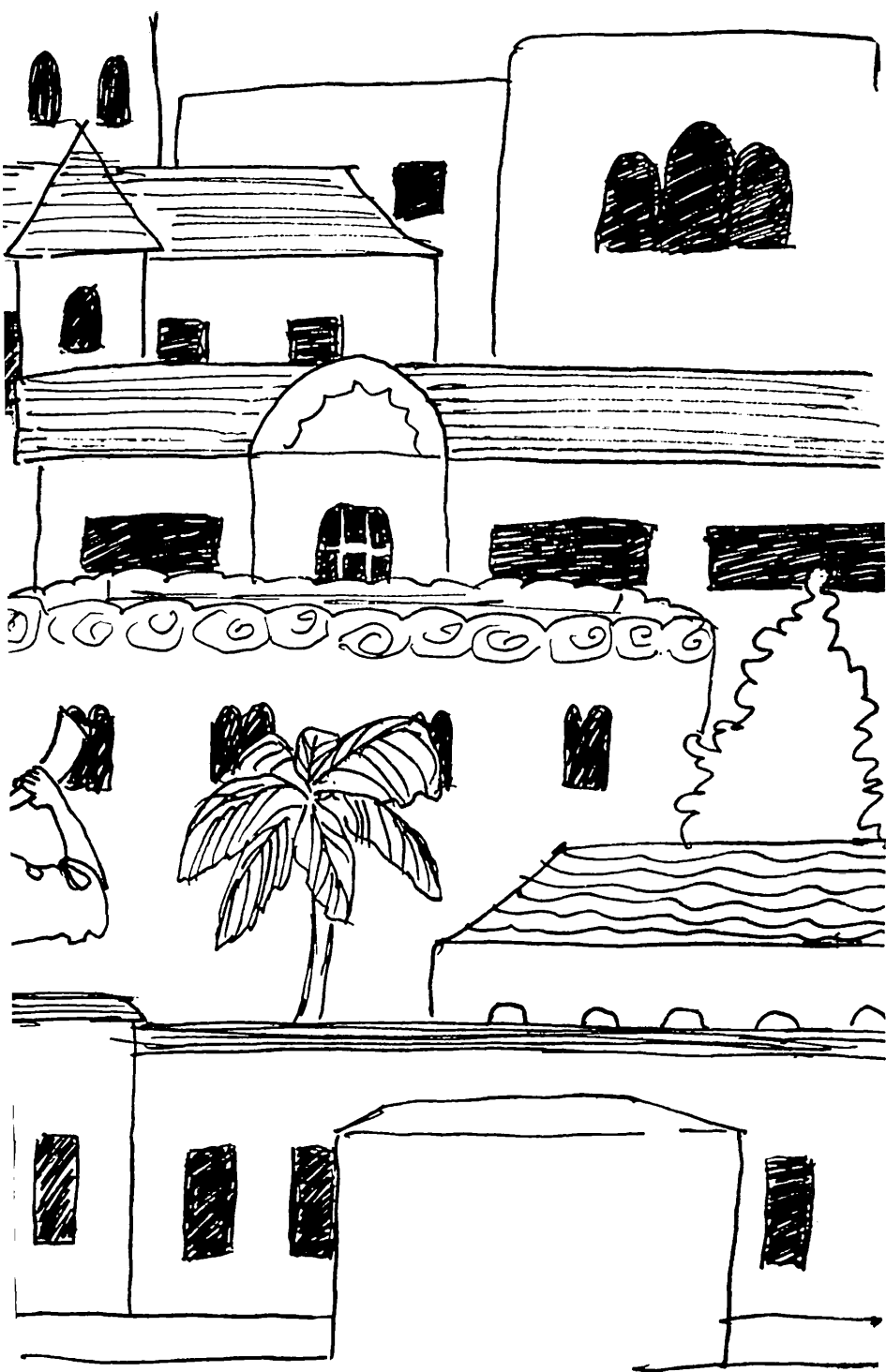
Nehemiah did not leave Jerusalem when the wall was rebuilt. The people appointed him to be their governor. For twelve years Nehemiah stayed in Jerusalem and governed the city.

While he was governor, Nehemiah did all he could to teach the people how to live according to God's commandments. He heard that some wealthy Jews were oppressing those who were poor. He showed the people how they were doing wrong and encouraged them to help one another instead.

Nehemiah set a good example for the people. While he was governor he did not ask the people for support. Instead he hired workers at his own expense and paid for his own necessities. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**...Our God shall fight for
us. Nehemiah 4:20.**





Charlie And Toto

(A True Story)

By nature, Charlie was a peace-maker among his clan of friends. With his long, powerful arms, Charlie would swing across his zoo exhibit to stop any fuss among the other seven chimpanzees. Charlie was a lovable chimp in the Los Angeles Zoo. He was the boss of the chimps and he took his job seriously. Charlie didn't like any monkey business. If Jeanie, a thirty-year-old mother, slapped the affectionate Judy, Charlie would slap Jeanie back. After all, she should have known better at her age!

However, chimps never really learn to act grown-up so poor Charlie spent all his waking hours correcting his naughty, big babies.

Toto was the worst. In his younger years Toto had worked in a circus. He had learned several tricks and he loved to show off. Toto would stand up on his hind feet, holler at the other chimps, and then charge at them like he was going to eat them alive. Jeanie would stand up and holler back, but beautiful Bonnie and sweet Judy would hunch into a ball and cover their eyes with their hands. Charlie would swing into action. He would charge back at Toto, grab Toto's arms, and hold Toto to the floor. Charlie would holler right into Toto's face and scold him for scaring the other chimps.

Toto would take his punishment and walk away quietly. Then, when Charlie wasn't looking, he would slap one of the other grown chimps or chase a baby one. Toto was fifty years old but it was clear that he had never learned any manners.

In time, the officers at the zoo decided to remodel the chimpanzees' living quarters. That meant that the chimps had to move to the health center until the remodeling would be done. So the chimps were divided into two groups, four in each group. The cages were side by side.

Charlie was in one cage. Toto and Jeanie were in another. Toto quickly

discovered that he could charge and scream at the other chimps and Charlie could not stop him. This grieved Charlie and he spent most of his time running back and forth along the dividing wall, scolding Toto who was more naughty than ever.

Months passed and Charlie began to lose weight. He looked sad. Then one morning a zoo keeper found Charlie leaning against the dividing wall. He had worried himself to death. Everyone at the zoo was saddened by Charlie's death. Even Toto seemed to know that his mischief had hurt Charlie.

Charlie was a chimp, so he could not pray and let the Lord fight the battle for him. As children of God, we can let the Lord fight our battles for us.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What was Nehemiah determined to do?
2. Why did the workers carry weapons?
3. Who rode from place to place on horseback?
4. Why did a man with a trumpet stay close to Nehemiah at all times?
5. What must the workers do if they heard the trumpet?
6. Where did the people spend the night?
7. How long did it take them to finish the wall?
8. Who did the people appoint to be their governor?
9. What did he teach the people?

LESSON TEXT: Nehemiah 4:19-5:19.

(Answers: 1. Finish the work God had given him. 2. They heard the enemy planned to attack. 3. Nehemiah. 4. He would sound an alarm if Nehemiah saw trouble. 5. Drop their work and come fight the enemy. 6. Inside Jerusalem. 7. Fifty-two days. 8. Nehemiah. 9. God's commandments.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 19 Nov. 10, 1996

SANBALLAT AND TOBIAH

Sanballat, Tobiah and the rest of the enemies heard that the wall of Jerusalem was rebuilt. This troubled them greatly. There were no more broken-down places where they could get into the city. The doors were not set up at the gates but each gate was guarded night and day.

But these enemies were still determined to overthrow Jerusalem. This time Sanballat and Geshem, an Arabian, sent a message to Nehemiah. "Come, let us meet together in a city in the plain of Ono," they invited him. They pretended that it would be a friendly meeting.

But Nehemiah knew these men were still his enemies. They only wanted to trick him into leaving Jerusalem so they could harm him. "I am doing a great work, so I cannot come down," he answered them. "Why should the work stop while I leave it and come to you?"

These enemies did not give up easily. They sent four such messages asking Nehemiah to leave Jerusalem and come meet with them. Each time Nehemiah refused to do as they asked.

Next Sanballat sent his servant to Nehemiah with an open letter in his hand. In this letter Sanballat accused Nehemiah of planning to rebel against the king so he could be king himself.

He closed the letter by saying, "Come now and let us counsel together."

Nehemiah was not guilty of these false charges and he boldly told Sanballat so.

Sanballat and Tobiah even hired a prophet to give Nehemiah bad advice. Many Jews in Jerusalem were friendly toward the enemies. They reported everything Nehemiah said or did.

Nehemiah could not be frightened by the enemy and all their threats. He knew God sent him to do this great work.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



me, let us meet together...
Nehemiah 6:2.



Balls Of Trouble

(A True Story)

One day a little, old lady went to visit the zoo with other senior citizens. She had been to the zoo several times before, and she had come to feel sorry for the poor animals locked in the exhibits. The animals looked so bored.

For instance, what did the poor bear have to do? He just paced back and forth, back and forth wearing out his feet on the concrete slab. The lion did the same. Even the monkeys didn't have anything to play with.

So this dear, elderly lady took it upon herself to bring something for the animals to play with in the zoo. She brought them some balls: orange balls, green balls, blue balls, rubber and plastic balls—two grocery sacks full.

This elder lady really had fun throwing balls into the different animal exhibits or cages. She threw a big blue one to the seal who played with it in the water. The monkeys were given a couple of balls which they tossed at each other. The elephant threw her ball aside because it didn't taste good.

After she had given away all of the balls, the little, old lady left the zoo feeling very pleased with herself. She could just imagine what fun all these different animals would have playing with these balls. She did not stay to see what the animals actually did.

Most of the animals ate their balls. It made a terrible mess for the zoo keepers to clean up. One of the big lions bit down on her rubber ball and her big teeth became stuck in the ball. She could not get the ball out of her mouth and she could not eat it. This made the lion angry. She roared, pawed at her face, then tried to scrape the ball off by wiping her nose along

her concrete floor.

By the time the zoo keepers realized what had happened, she had her nose bloody from scraping it along the concrete. She could not get that ball out of her mouth.

So the veterinarian took a tranquilizer gun and put her to sleep with a dart. Quickly the zoo keepers cut the rubber ball off of her teeth. When she woke up, she could open and shut her mouth again.

Sin can often look like those balls—simple fun. The devil throws "balls of sin" at us hoping that we will bite down and not be able to let go. Don't play with the devil's balls of lying, cheating, cursing, looking at dirty pictures and other sins. Don't play around with sin. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Sanballat and Tobiah hear?
2. Why did this trouble them?
3. What were these enemies determined to do?
4. What did Sanballat and Geshem want Nehemiah to do?
5. How many messages did the enemies send?
6. Who did Sanballat send with an open letter?
7. Was Nehemiah trying to make himself king?
8. Why did Sanballat and Tobiah hire a prophet?
9. Who sent Nehemiah to do this great work?

LESSON TEXT: Nehemiah 6.

(Answers: 1. That the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt. 2. Now they could not get into the city. 3. Overthrow Jerusalem. 4. Leave Jerusalem and meet with them. 5. Four. 6. His servant. 7. No. 8. To give Nehemiah bad advice. 9. God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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THE PEOPLE WORSHIP GOD

The enemies of Jerusalem could not stop Nehemiah's work. The new wall now protected the city on every side. Next the workers made strong doors and set them up at each gate of Jerusalem. Now the city was secure.

The time had come that Nehemiah agreed to return to Shushan. He must now leave Jerusalem and go back to King Artaxerxes.

Nehemiah made sure the work of the Lord would be done while he was gone. He appointed porters, singers and Levites to minister in the temple.

For twelve years Nehemiah had been governor over Jerusalem. Now he appointed Hanani, his brother, and Hananiah, the ruler of the palace to govern in his place. These men were faithful workers who feared God. Nehemiah knew they would be good governors.

Nehemiah was in Shushan only long enough to get the king's permission to go back to Jerusalem and stay there. When he returned he helped the people understand and obey the commands God had given Moses. He wanted the people to worship God with all their hearts. So, at a set time, he asked Ezra, the scribe, to bring the book of the law of Moses and read it to the people.

The people were eager to hear Ezra read God's law to them. As he opened the book, all the people stood up to listen. First Ezra gave praise to God and all the people answered, "Amen, amen."

Then, standing on a wooden pulpit so all the people could see him, Ezra read to the people from morning until noon. All that time the people listened carefully as the law was read and explained to them. They were so moved by the words of the Law that they wept.

When Ezra finished, the leaders told the people, "This day is holy unto the Lord your God. Do not mourn nor weep. Go, eat, and rejoice; for the joy of the Lord is your strength." —Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...And they
bowed their
heads, and
worshipped
the Lord with
their faces to
the ground.
Nehemiah 8:6.



Prepared For Church

Mother stood at the front door and called to Jerry and Linda. "Come home, children, it is supper time. We need to get ready for bed early because this is Saturday night."

Jerry and his sister ran across their front yard to their mother who opened the front door for them. Soon all the family had tidied their hair, washed their hands and faces and were sitting around the table.

"Let us pray," said Daddy. Everyone bowed their heads and Daddy thanked the Lord for the food.

After prayer, little Randy asked, "Is tomorrow Sunday school?" When Mother nodded he continued, "Do I get to wear my suit? Will we eat at Grandma's house after church? Can I play with my cousins at Grandma's?"

Mother chuckled. "You ask too many questions, Randy," she teased. "Yes, you will wear your suit to church. We always want to look nice and respect the Lord's day with our very best clothes. I don't know yet if we will go to Grandma's house for lunch—we will have to see about that. Grandma may be too tired to have our family of five at her house tomorrow."

When each one had finished eating, they took their plate and flatware over to the sink and Linda helped Mother wash the dishes while the boys took a bath. Saturday night everyone in the family always takes a bath whether they need it or not. Mother wanted everyone clean for Sunday. As a custom, she had all the bed sheets changed and washed by Saturday night. Also, Saturday, Mother had the children help her clean house so that by Saturday night, everyone felt clean and ready for church on Sunday morning.

After the children were all bathed and in their night clothes, Daddy

called them to him. "Now what is your memory verse for Sunday school?" he asked and each one recited their verse. Then Daddy read a Bible story and they had prayer before Mother tucked them into bed.

The next morning everyone was busy brushing their teeth and dressing. Mother had their clothes ironed and ready to wear. It was a happy family that went that Sunday morning to worship God. They were clean and prepared to hear the Word of God. Then after church, Grandma invited them over for lunch.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who could not stop Nehemiah's work?
2. Why must Nehemiah leave Jerusalem?
3. How long had Nehemiah governed Jerusalem?
4. Who did he appoint to govern in his place?
5. How long was he in Shushan?
6. What did Nehemiah help the people understand and obey?
7. Who read the book of the law of Moses to the people?
8. How long did Ezra read?
9. What did the people do when they heard the words of the Law?

LESSON TEXT: Nehemiah 7:1-4; 8:1-11.

(Answers: 1. The enemies of Jerusalem. 2. He told the king he would come back. 3. Twelve years. 4. Hanani, his brother, and Hananiah. 5. Only long enough to get permission to go back to Jerusalem. 6. The commands God had given Moses. 7. Ezra. 8. From morning until noon. 9. They wept.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 21 Nov. 24, 1996

A TIME OF THANKSGIVING

On the second day the chief men of the city, the priests, and the Levites met with Ezra to again hear the Law read. That day he read where the Lord commanded Moses that the children of Israel should build booths and live in them as they celebrated the Feast of the Booths.

The leaders wanted to obey all the Law. They wanted to teach the people to obey also. So they sent a message throughout the land of Judah, saying, "Go to the mountain. Gather branches from the olive trees, the pine trees, the myrtle trees, the palm trees and any other thick branches you can find to make booths as the Law commands."

The people went to the mountains and gathered the branches. Then they brought them back and built booths for themselves and their families.

All over Jerusalem one could see booths covered with fresh green branches. On the roofs of the houses, in the courtyards, in the courts of the house of God, and even in the streets, people built booths. With great gladness they celebrated the Feast of the Booths.

Each day of the feast the people listened while Ezra read to them from the book of the law of God. The feast lasted for seven days. On the eighth day there was a solemn assembly.

It had been many years since the people had kept the Feast of the Booths. There was much gladness and thanksgiving among the people, knowing they were obeying God. They were glad to know His commandments.

Before Nehemiah died, Malachi, the last of the prophets, came to speak God's word to the people. He told the Jews about the coming of the Savior. Later he wrote these words in a book. The Jews kept the book of Malachi with the books Ezra had written. Malachi's writings are the last words of the Old Testament. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And all the congrega
were come again out of
booths, and sat und
Nehemiah**



them that
otivity made
ooths:...



Statues Of Self

(A True Story)

John Davis was a rich man. He and his wife worked together in farming their land and managing their money. They did not have any children nor many relatives. John was not a friendly neighbor so he and his wife lived mostly to themselves. They did not pray to the Lord for help but depended upon each other.

Busy years passed by until one day, John's wife died. He was very sad and missed her so much that he decided to do something in her memory. He hired a sculptor to design a statue that looked just like his wife.

John was very pleased with the finished statue. It looked so much like his wife! He set it on her grave so that everyone would remember his wife. Then John decided one statue wasn't enough. So he hired the sculptor again. This time he had a statue made of both him and his wife on a love seat. John thought it was lovely so he had the sculptor make a statue of him kneeling at his wife's grave with a wreath in his hand.

Now when John went to town to buy groceries, a few town people told him how nice the statues were but said he should put the money into a community project that would be useful for the town. They suggested that he could put some new playground swings and slides in the park or he could help the public library update their equipment. They had other good ideas but John did not want to listen. He was very angry. No one had helped him and his wife make their millions and he wasn't about to spend his money on other people!

On the way home, John stopped by to see the sculptor and he ordered another statue. This one was of his wife with angel wings on her back. Now John did not believe in God but he believed his wife was in heaven.

Anyway, John Davis spent 25 million dollars in statues of his wife. Then at the age of 92, he died. Of course he did not take the statues with him. Today all those expensive statues are slowly sinking into the soft Kansas soil. No one cares about them so they are becoming chipped and ugly. In a few short years no one will be able to tell who they were.

John lived a selfish life. He didn't help anyone and no one felt any love for him. Only one person was saddened by John's death. That was the sculptor who had made all those statues and earned all that money.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What feast did Ezra read about the second day?
2. Who wanted to obey all the law?
3. Where did they tell the people to go?
4. What were they to gather?
5. What did they build?
6. Where did they build them?
7. What did Ezra do each day?
8. How long did the feast last?
9. Who wrote the last words of the Old Testament?

LESSON TEXT: Nehemiah 8:11-18.

(Answers: 1. The Feast of Booths. 2. The leaders. 3. To the mountains. 4. Branches. 5. Booths. 6. All over Jerusalem. 7. He read to them. 8. Seven days. 9. Malachi.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 23 Dec. 8, 1996

THE ANGEL VISITS MARY

Mary was a pure and lovely girl who lived in a city of Galilee named Nazareth. She was engaged to be married to a carpenter named Joseph. Both Joseph and Mary were descendants of David.

One day when Mary was all alone, the angel, Gabriel, was sent from God to speak to her. Mary was troubled when she saw the angel. Gabriel told her, "Fear not, Mary. You have found favor with God. You will have a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He shall be great. He will be a king who will rule forever!"

Mary was surprised by the angel's words. She wondered what the angel meant. "How can this be?" she asked.

"The child who will be born to you will be the Son of God," Gabriel explained. "Elisabeth, too, will have a son though she is old. Nothing is too hard for the Lord."

Mary believed the words of the angel. "Let it be as you have said," she answered simply.

Mary knew her cousin Elisabeth had wanted a child for many years. She knew she must be very happy. Mary decided to go visit Elisabeth though it was a long way to her house. She wanted someone to share her own good news with!

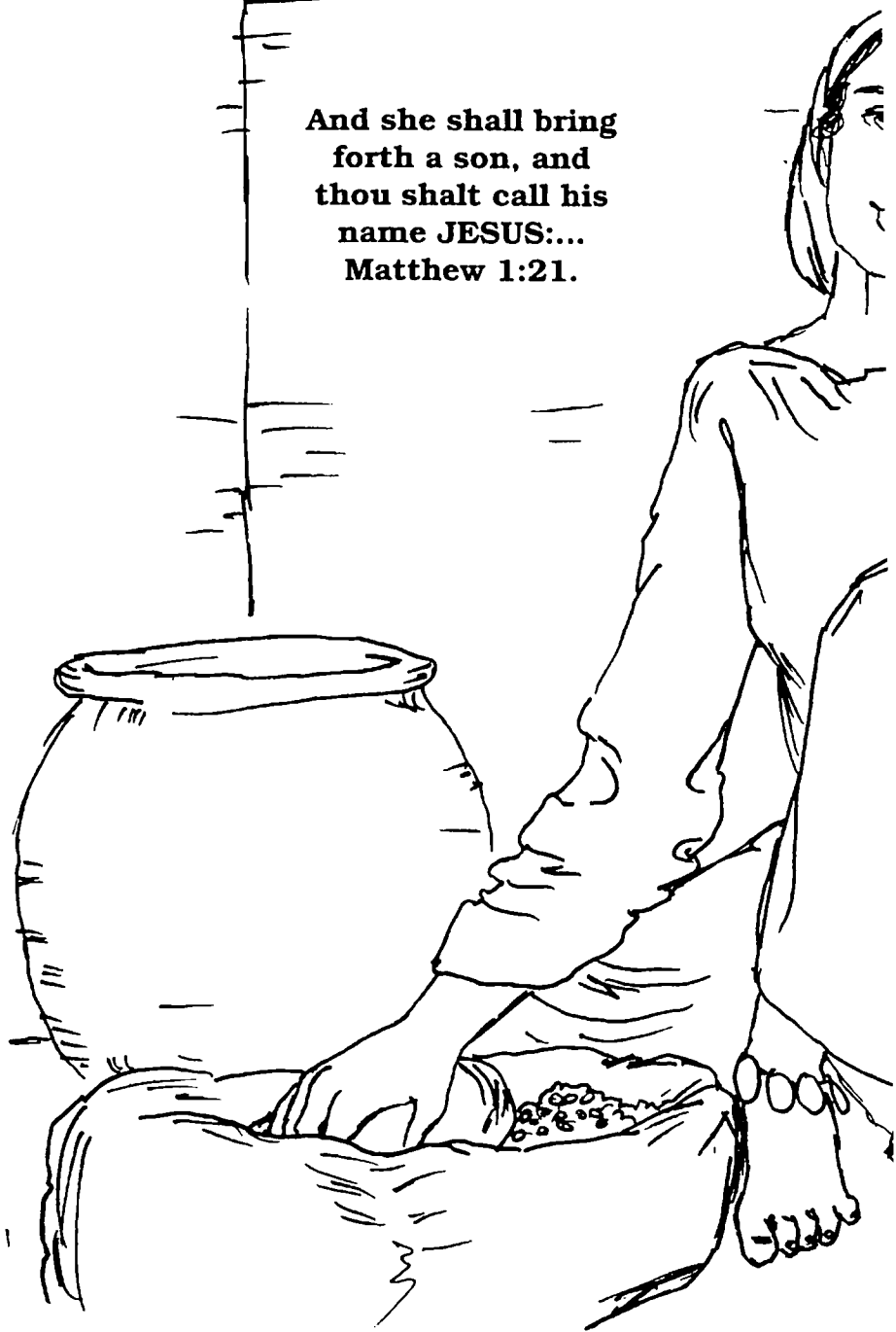
When Mary entered her cousin's house God caused Elisabeth to know that Mary would be the mother of the Savior. Mary stayed with Elisabeth about three months. She spent many happy hours with Elisabeth.

An angel of the Lord also appeared to Joseph in a dream. He told him of the coming of Jesus. "Mary will have a son, and you shall call His name Jesus," the angel told him. "He shall save the people from their sins."

Joseph and Mary were glad to know the Savior was to be born. They happily awaited the coming of the baby Jesus.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**And she shall bring
forth a son, and
thou shalt call his
name JESUS:....
Matthew 1:21.**





Happiness Is In The Giving

(Based on a True Story)

Jerry and Linda were busy wrapping special packages for special little people. Mother was helping.

"Do you think I should put a pink bow on this package because it is to a girl?" Linda asked.

"No, of course not," answered Jerry. "These are Christmas gifts! We put Christmas bows on Christmas gifts. Here let me help you, Linda. Let's make it look nice with some ribbon."

Soon Jerry and Linda had all twelve gifts wrapped and ready to go. "Tomorrow evening we will deliver these gifts to the different children," said Mother, as she checked over her list of names. The children were anxious to take these gifts to other children who had a father or mother in prison.

The next evening, Jerry and Linda bundled up in their warm coats and helped Mother load the gifts into their van. Daddy stayed home to watch Randy while the rest of the family went to visit three homes.

The first family lived in town. Mother pulled up into the driveway. She had already told the mother, Mrs. Stone, that they would come that night. As Jerry and Linda took out the right gifts, Mother went to the door. Mrs. Stone greeted Mother while her two children jumped up and down with excitement.

After Jerry and Linda had brought the gifts inside, Mother asked that everyone sit down while she told a story. Mrs. Stone turned off the TV and the little living room became quiet. Then Mother told the

beautiful story about baby Jesus and how he was born in the town of Bethlehem. She told about the shepherds' visit and then about the wise men who came to worship him. She explained how Jesus was born to save men from their sins and she explained what sin is. Mother finished by saying that every person needs to let Jesus have room in their hearts.

Everyone in the room listened quietly. They had prayer. Then Jerry and Linda handed two gifts to the boy and two gifts to the girl. Mother gave Mrs. Stone a basket of fruit, cookies, and cheese. Mrs. Stone hugged Mother. The little boy shouted, "Right on!" when he saw his new Tonka tractor. With shining eyes, the little girl hugged her new doll. But the happiest ones there were Jerry, Linda and Mother.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was a pure and lovely girl?
2. Who was she engaged to marry?
3. Who was sent from God to speak to her?
4. What did he tell Mary?
5. Who told Mary, Elisabeth would have a child?
6. Did Mary believe the angel's words?
7. Who did Mary visit?
8. How long did she stay?
9. Who told Joseph that Mary would have a son?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 1:18-25;
Luke 1:26-56.

(Answers: 1. Mary. 2. Joseph. 3. Gabriel. 4. That she would have a son. 5. Gabriel. 6. Yes. 7. Elisabeth. 8. Three months. 9. An angel.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 24 Dec. 15, 1996

"HIS NAME IS JOHN"

There was great happiness in Zacharias' and Elisabeth's home. God had given them a baby boy just as Gabriel told them. Neighbors and relatives crowded in to see the baby and rejoice with Zacharias and Elisabeth.

It was a custom among the Jews to name their babies when they were eight days old. So, on the eighth day neighbors and relatives came. They were sure Elisabeth would name the baby Zacharias after his father. How surprised they were when Elisabeth told them, "He will be called John."

"None of your family is called John," the people protested. Surely Zacharias wanted the baby to have his name. In sign language they asked him what he wanted to name the baby.

Zacharias motioned for them to bring him a writing tablet. Then he wrote, "His name is John!" Now the people were even more surprised.

When Zacharias named the baby his mouth was opened and he could speak again. He praised God for giving them this wonderful baby boy.

Not long after John was born the Roman emperor commanded everyone to return to the town or city from which his family had come to be taxed. No one dared disobey his command.

This meant Joseph and Mary must go to Bethlehem because they were both of the family of David. Soon the roads were crowded with people going in every direction. When Joseph and Mary reached Bethlehem, the little town was already overcrowded. There was no more space for new arrivals.

After the long hard trip Mary badly needed a place to rest. Joseph tried to find a good place for her. All he could find was a stable where the animals were kept.

Mary knew her baby would soon be born. Even the stable looked good to her. She was glad to just have a place to lie down.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John.... Luke 1:63.



Sharing The Christmas Story

(Based on a True Story)

Jerry, Linda, and Mother are going to visit some grandparents who have three grandchildren living with them. Their son/father is in prison and could not buy gifts for his family but he wanted his children to have something for Christmas.

Mother drove the van down the dark, winding driveway and stopped in front of a big two-story farm house. Two dogs came toward the van, barking a warning.

Suddenly the back porch light switched on and a man called the dogs to him. Then Mother got out of the van and told him that she had come to bring the gifts.

"Come right on in!" he replied. Quickly Jerry and Linda found the right gifts and carried them into the warm house. Two big boys and one little girl gathered around as Mother, Jerry, and Linda set things on the kitchen table. After each person had been introduced, Mother asked, "Could we have a short Christmas story before we give out the gifts?"

"Sure, sure," replied the grandpa as he went to turn off the TV. "Let's go into the den," invited the grandma as she followed her husband.

When everyone was seated and quiet, Mother told the story about the first Christmas. It was the same story she had told at the Stone's house but it was new to these people. The older two boys didn't look at Mother when she was talking but they listened and they bowed their heads for the prayer.

"You may open your gifts now if you would like," said Mother. The grandpa went to help Jerry and Linda bring the gifts into the den. The children were pleased. The ten and eleven

year old boys pulled on their new sweat shirts right away. The little girl tried on her new high-top leather shoes and she hugged her new teddy bear.

"Here is something for your Christmas dinner," Mother said as she gave the grandma a basket with a turkey, canned vegetables, and canned pumpkin.

"Thank you for everything," said the grandparents and the children, too.

Before they left, Mother, Jerry, and Linda shook hands with everyone. When they were in the van, Jerry said, "I hope they will read the tracts in the food basket. Wouldn't it be nice if they would accept our invitation and come to church?" When we give a little, we never know how much more the Lord will increase it.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was there great happiness in Zacharias and Elisabeth's home?
2. How old were Jewish babies when they were named?
3. What did the neighbors want to name the baby?
4. What did Zacharias and Elisabeth name him?
5. What happened when Zacharias named the baby?
6. Who commanded that everyone should be taxed?
7. Where did Joseph and Mary have to go?
8. Why didn't Joseph and Mary stay in the inn?
9. Where did they find a place to rest?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 1:57-80.

(Answers: 1. God had given them a baby boy. 2. Eight days old. 3. Zacharias. 4. John. 5. He could speak again. 6. The Roman emperor. 7. To Bethlehem. 8. There was no room. 9. In a stable.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 25 Dec. 22, 1996

A KING IS BORN!

Joseph and Mary finally reached the little town of Bethlehem. It had been a long trip for Mary and she was very tired. But many other travelers had already reached the town. All the available rooms were filled. Joseph could not find a room for Mary. Finally they stopped at the only place they could find; a stable where animals were kept.

Mary was glad for a place to rest. That night Baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped the baby carefully in soft cloths called swaddling clothes. She made Him a little bed in a manger, which held straw for the animals to eat.

In the fields near Bethlehem were shepherds who were watching over their flock that night. Suddenly the angel of the Lord came upon them. The glory of the Lord shone like a great light all around them, lighting up the night. The shepherds were afraid; what could this mean?

The angel saw how frightened they were. "Fear not," he comforted them. "For I bring you good news of great joy, which shall be to all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord. You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Suddenly the sky was filled with a multitude of angels all praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men!" Then the angels returned to heaven.

"Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing which the Lord has made known to us!" the shepherds said to each other.

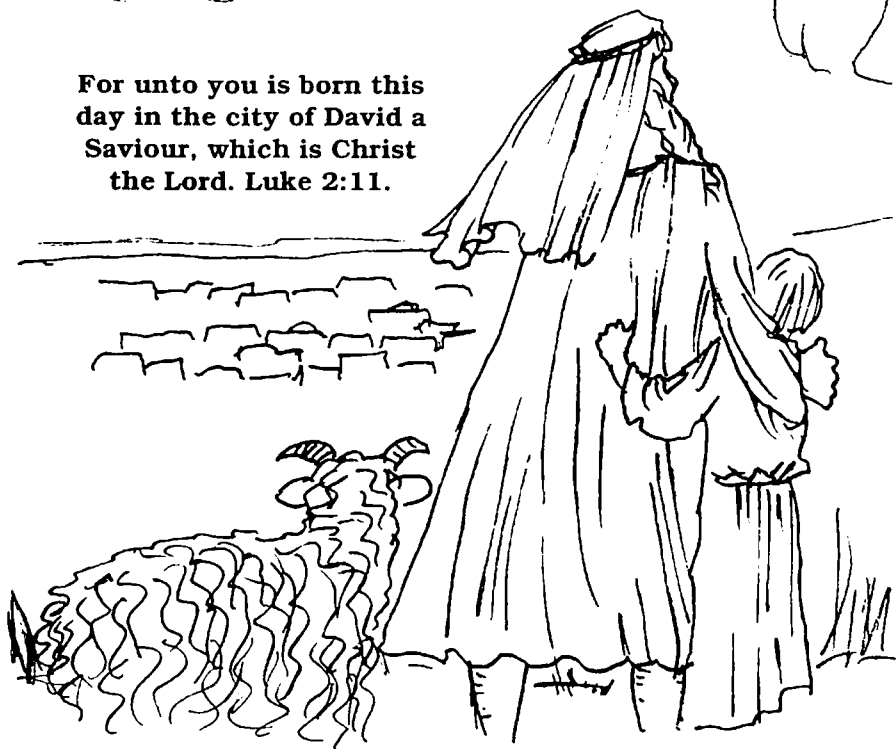
Leaving their flocks, they hurried to Bethlehem. There in a stable they found Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus. They knew this was the promised Son of God. Bowing before the manger, they worshiped the little baby who lay quietly sleeping.

Then the shepherds returned to their flock, glorifying and praising God and telling everyone they met about the things they had seen and heard.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**For unto you is born this
day in the city of David a
Saviour, which is Christ
the Lord. Luke 2:11.**





Giving A Prayer

It was 8:30 by the time Mother, Jerry, and Linda drove up to the last house they planned to visit. Mother had told the young mother they would be late in bringing her son a gift. As Mother knocked on the door, she heard little feet running to let her in.

The door swung open and a five-year-old boy asked, "Are you the nice lady bringing me some gifts that my daddy wants me to have? Mama says to come on in. She isn't feeling very well so she went to bed, but I'm still up."

"So you are!" chuckled Mother as she opened the door wider for Jerry and Linda to bring in two gifts and a basket of goodies.

"Ben, I am sorry your mother isn't well," said Mother. "We will pray for her in a little while. First let's sit down and talk about the Christmas story. Do you know why we have Christmas?"

"So we can give each other gifts," replied Ben. Jerry and Linda smiled politely as Mother and the children sat down on a bumpy couch. Then Mother explained to Ben how God's Son was born on this day. She told him how the shepherds visited and how the wise men brought gifts.

"Our custom to give gifts at Christmas," said Mother, "is because Jesus wants us to show our love to one another. Jesus wants us to love Him because He gave us a way to find peace with God. Then Jesus wants us to love other people as we love our own self. You like to receive nice gifts so it is good to give nice gifts to others. Because we care about you, your mother, and

daddy we want to give some nice gifts to you."

Ben had listened very carefully to Mother. Obediently, he bowed his head as Mother asked the Lord to bless him, help his daddy, and heal his mother. A quiet person stood in the hallway listening to the Christmas story and prayer. It was Ben's mother. She had dreaded Christmas this year and she had some very bad thoughts like: "Why live anymore? Ben would be better off without me. I need out of these problems!"

Now Ben's mother was crying as she came into the front room. "No one ever prayed for me before," she cried. "I really need God to help me. Please pray some more for me."

Mother prayed again to the King of Kings. Only He could help Ben's mother. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why couldn't Joseph find a room for Mary?
2. Where did they finally find room?
3. What did he long to teach other Jews?
4. Who asked Ezra to return to Jerusalem?
5. Where did the travelers meet?
6. What did they do before they started?
7. How long did they travel?
8. Who had become discouraged?
9. What did Ezra read to the people?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 2:1-17.

(Answers: 1. In Babylon. 2. God's law. 3. The laws God had given Moses. 4. The king. 5. By the riverside. 6. Fasted and prayed. 7. Four months. 8. The Jews. 9. The law.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 47, No. 3 Primaries (USPS540-000) Part 26 Dec. 29, 1996

HIS NAME WAS CALLED JESUS

Baby Jesus was eight days old. According to Jewish custom, this was the day He would be given a name. Joseph and Mary did not have to think up a name. They named Him Jesus. This was the name given Him by the angel even before He was born. The name Jesus means "Savior."

The Jewish law commanded that each family had to make an offering to the Lord for their first baby boy. Rich people offered a lamb as their sacrifice but poor people were only required to give two young pigeons. Jesus was forty days old when Joseph and Mary took Him to the temple to make their offering. There they offered two young pigeons to the Lord, for they were poor.

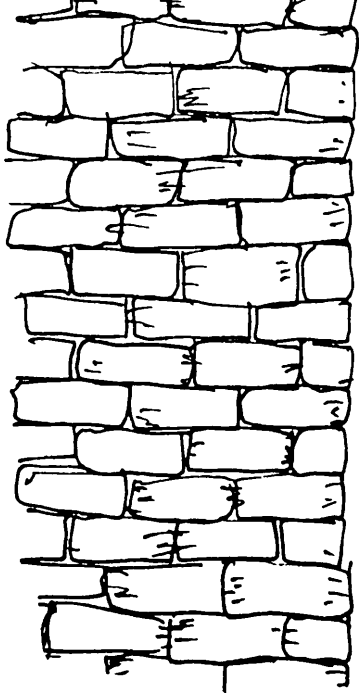
There was an old man named Simeon living in Jerusalem then who worshiped God faithfully. Simeon waited anxiously for the coming of the promised Savior. The Spirit of God was upon Simeon. It was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen Jesus.

On the day that Mary and Joseph came to the temple to make their sacrifice, the Spirit of God led Simeon there, also. When he saw the baby, he knew that this was the One he had been waiting for. He took Jesus up in his arms and thanked God.

"Now, Lord, let Your servant depart in peace, for I have seen with my own eyes the salvation which You have sent," Simeon prayed. Joseph and Mary wondered greatly at the words Simeon spoke.

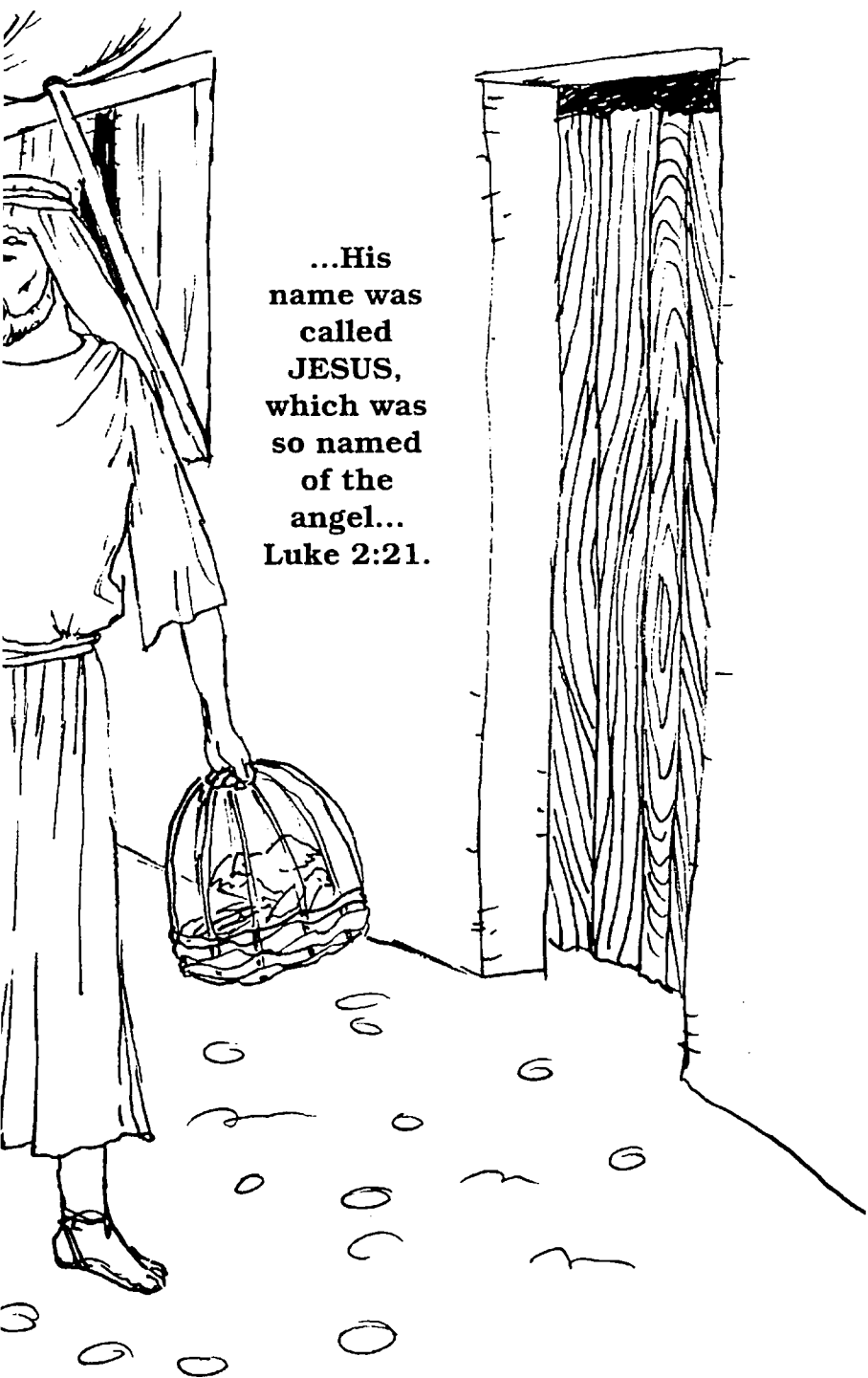
Anna was a very old prophetess. She served God continually, fasting and praying in the temple night and day. Just as Simeon was praising God, Anna came in. God revealed to her, too, that Baby Jesus was the promised Savior. She thanked and praised God and told those who waited for the Savior that He had come.

When Joseph and Mary had done all that the law required, they returned to Galilee, to their own home in Nazareth. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell





...His
name was
called
JESUS,
which was
so named
of the
angel...
Luke 2:21.



Friends In Need

Mother, Jerry, and Linda had brought Christmas gifts to Ben, a little boy whose father was in prison. After prayer, Ben's mother, Cathy, told Mother how depressed she was in life. "I am working two jobs and still not making enough money to survive," Cathy said in tears. "I am away from Ben so much that I feel guilty. Now with Doug in prison—this has been the worst year of my life!"

Mother put her arm around Cathy. "Jesus said, 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' Jesus can help you, Cathy. Now tell me, what can we do to help you? I would like to be your friend."

"Thank you," said Cathy as she blew her nose into a Kleenex. "I don't want to be any trouble to anyone, but..."

"A friend isn't any trouble," said Mother gently. In time Cathy told mother what she really wanted. "We haven't seen Doug now for six months," she said. "I wish someone could take us to see him."

"We will see what we can do," said Mother with a smile. "Let me talk to my husband and then check back with you."

Mother was true to her word. The next morning she told her husband about Doug and Cathy. Then she asked if they could take Cathy and Ben to visit Doug. Daddy said yes! Then Mother made arrangements with Cathy, the prison where Doug was, and she asked others to pray for them. Ben was so excited. "I'm going to see my dad," he told Jerry. "He can't come to see me right now, but I will go to see him—my mama said so."

"That is very nice," said Jerry kindly. "My dad and mom are taking you and your mother to see your dad. Maybe I can go with you."

Jerry's dad said that he could go for Ben's sake but Linda and Randy went to visit Grandma and Grandpa that Saturday. During the four hours on the road traveling, Jerry and Ben played games. Finally, they arrived at the prison, passed through security, and Ben saw his dad again. He was so happy! Jerry and his parents let Ben and his parents visit a long time. Doug thanked Jerry's father for bringing his family to see him. "We were glad to do it," said Jerry's dad. "I think my wife and your wife have become friends. We will probably see each other again. Here is a gospel tract you can read and we will be praying for you."

On the way home, Jerry taught Ben the song, "Jesus Loves Me."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What happened when a baby was eight days old, according to Jewish custom?
2. Who named Mary's Baby?
3. What did His name mean?
4. How old was Jesus when they took Him to the temple?
5. Why did they offer two pigeons instead of a lamb?
6. Who was told they would not die until they saw Jesus?
7. What did he do when he saw Jesus?
8. What did God reveal to Anna?
9. Where did Joseph and Mary go after they left the temple?

LESSON TEXT: Luke 2:21-39.

(Answers: 1. They were given a name. 2. The angel. 3. Savior. 4. Forty days old. 5. Because they were poor. 6. Simeon. 7. He took Jesus up in his arms and thanked God. 8. That Jesus was the promised Savior. 9. To their home in Nazareth.)