

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 July 6, 2008

## Punishment for Sinners

When Moses returned to the children of Israel after talking with God on Mount Sinai, he found them worshipping a statue of a golden calf. Aaron, Moses' brother, had made the calf for the children of Israel to worship out of their jewelry and other bits of gold.

"Why did you do this?" Moses asked Aaron. "Do not be angry," Aaron answered. "You know these people cause trouble. They said to me, 'Make us gods to go before us. We do not know what has become of Moses, who brought us out of Egypt.' And I said, 'Whoever has gold, let them break it off.' So they gave it to me. I cast it into the fire and made this calf."

Moses stood by the gate of the camp and said, "Who is on the Lord's side? Let him come to me." All of the sons of Levi came and stood beside Moses.

"The Lord God of Israel says, 'Put your sword by your side. Go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp and kill every man his brother and his wife and his neighbor.'" That day, the children of Levi killed almost three thousand men who had sinned against the Lord.

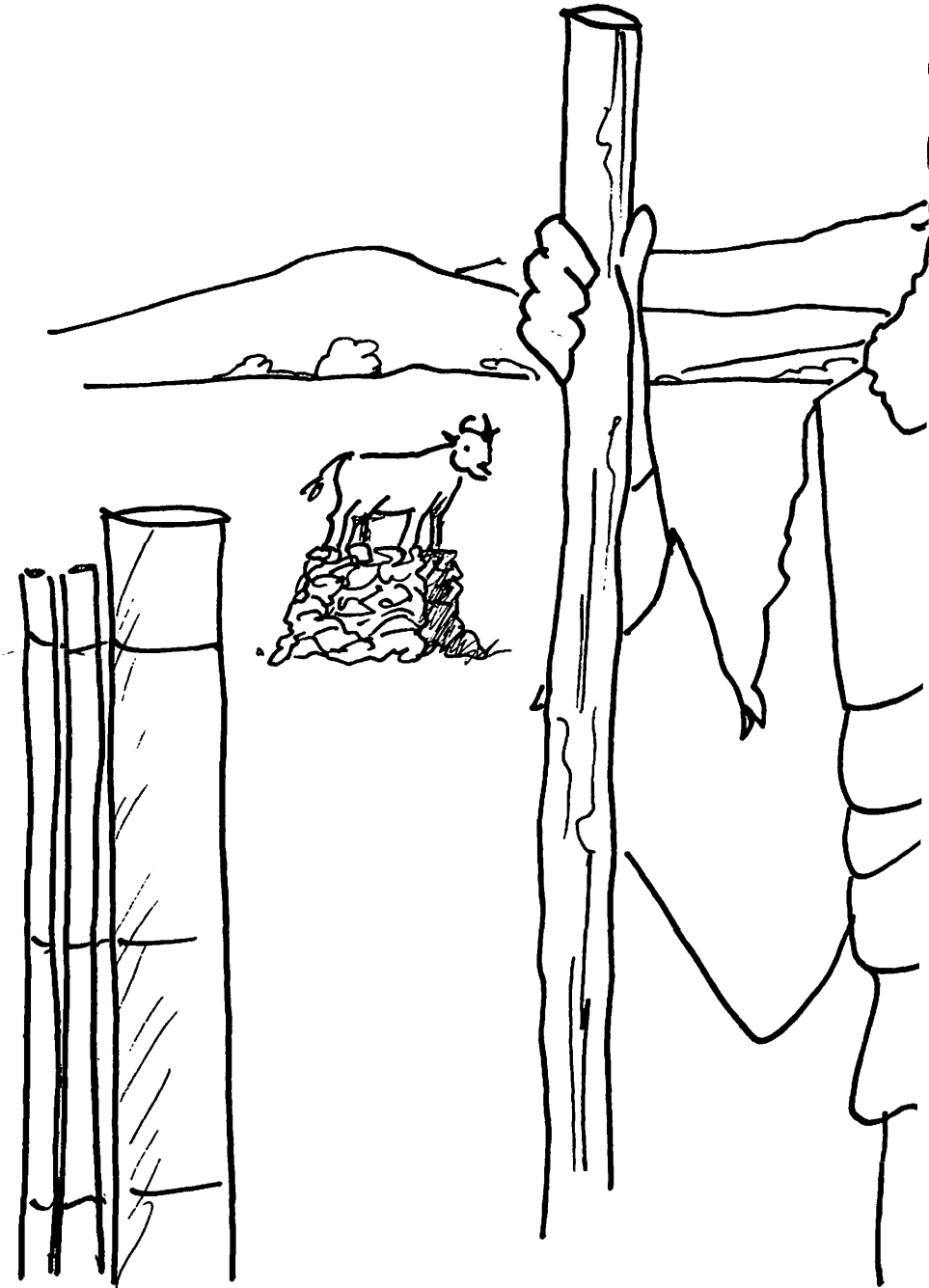
"Consecrate yourselves today to the Lord, so that he will give you a blessing," Moses told the people. "You have sinned. I will speak to the Lord and make an atonement for your sin." Moses pleaded with the Lord to forgive the children of Israel.

"I will blot the names of the people who sinned against me out of my book," the Lord said. "Lead the people to the place that I have told you about." The Lord punished the people for their sins.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said,

‘Who is on the Lord’s side?...’” Ge. 32:26





## Respect Life

Agba, a young Arabian horseboy, gently stroked the soft nose of the trusting mare by his side. She needed him now more than ever before, and Agba was thankful that he was allowed to sleep in the brood-stall with her until her baby colt should be born.

After giving her another drink from her white drinking horn, Agba helped her lie down on the clean bed of sand and straw that he had made. She was a brown and white bay mare with beautiful brown eyes that seemed to understand what Agba was thinking or doing. Now her long eyelashes closed over her eyes. She was too tired to watch Agba sit down in a corner of the stall. She wanted rest and quietness.

Agba sat down crossed-legged where he could see the mare's face. He noticed the light of the full moon as it shone through the little round window on the brick wall. The little spotlight encircled the mare as if to keep her from darkness and fear. Agba smiled. May God bless this mare tonight.

Agba was contented with his place in the Royal Stables of the sultan (king.) He loved to care for the ten horses in his charge. He faithfully fed and watered them. He brushed their coats, manes and tails and if any one happened to get sick or injured, he carefully nursed that horse back to full health.

Agba planned to stay awake all night and watch this special mare. He wanted to help her with her new baby as soon as it should come. Agba leaned into the protective corner of the stall. He listened to the cooing doves as they settled in the stables for the night. The crickets were singing and the twilight toads were booming their bass voices down at the watering

holes. These were the pleasant sounds of evening in the northwestern slice of Africa known as Morocco. Agba tipped his head farther back as he smelled the rich fragrance of ripening pomegranates, the tangy lemon groves, and the blooming almond trees. He felt calm and.....

Suddenly Agba woke up! Sunlight was dancing through the little window, spotlighting the mare and her new baby colt. Agba had not even heard when the baby colt was born! He rubbed his eyes in surprise. The mare was nudging her baby to make it stand. Agba stared in wonder as he saw the skinniest of legs unfold to hold this new little creature. With shining black eyes, the baby colt looked at Agba. Their eyes smiled at each other. They were already friends.

God had sent this new life into the world and Agba wanted to care for it. Only God gives life to any living thing. He is pleased when we respect the lives of people and of the animals we have in our care.

(To be continued next week.)

### Questions:

1. What did the children of Israel worship?
2. Who made the idol for them to worship?
3. What question did Moses ask the people?
4. Who came and stood by Moses?
5. What happened to those who had sinned?
6. What did Moses tell the people to do for a blessing?
7. What did Moses plead for?
8. What did the Lord tell Moses to do?

**Answers:** 1. A golden calf. 2. Aaron. 3. "Who is on the Lord's side?" 4. The children of Levi. 5. They were killed. 6. Consecrate themselves. 7. Atonement for their sins. 8. Lead the people.

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Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 July 13, 2008

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## The Pillar of Cloud

"Take your people and go to the land of Canaan that I promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," the Lord told Moses. "I will send an angel before you. This land is flowing with milk and honey. I will not go with you, because the people are stubborn and have sinned against me."

When the children of Israel heard this, they were very upset. Moses placed a tabernacle far from the camp. He called it the "Tabernacle of the Congregation." Everyone who sought the Lord went to the tabernacle. After Moses heard the Lord's words, he went to this house of worship. Every man stood up at the door of his tent until Moses reached the tabernacle.

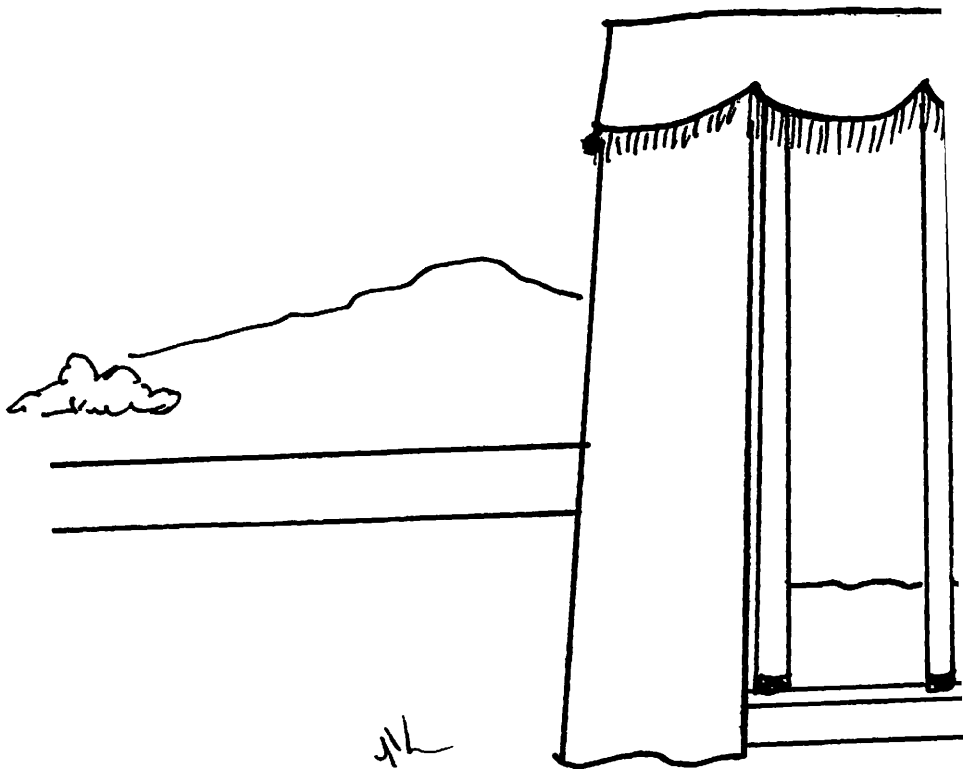
Moses went in to the tabernacle. A cloudy pillar came down from Heaven and stood at the door of the tabernacle. The Lord talked to Moses face to face, like a man talks to his friend.

"Please show me Your way," Moses said to the Lord. "Let me find grace in Your sight. Consider these people to be Your nation. Please show me Your glory."

"My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest," the Lord replied. "You have found grace in my sight and I know you by name. I will make my goodness pass before you. You cannot live and see my face, but if you will stand on this rock, I will pass by it. I will cover you with my hand while I pass by. Then you will see parts of my back."

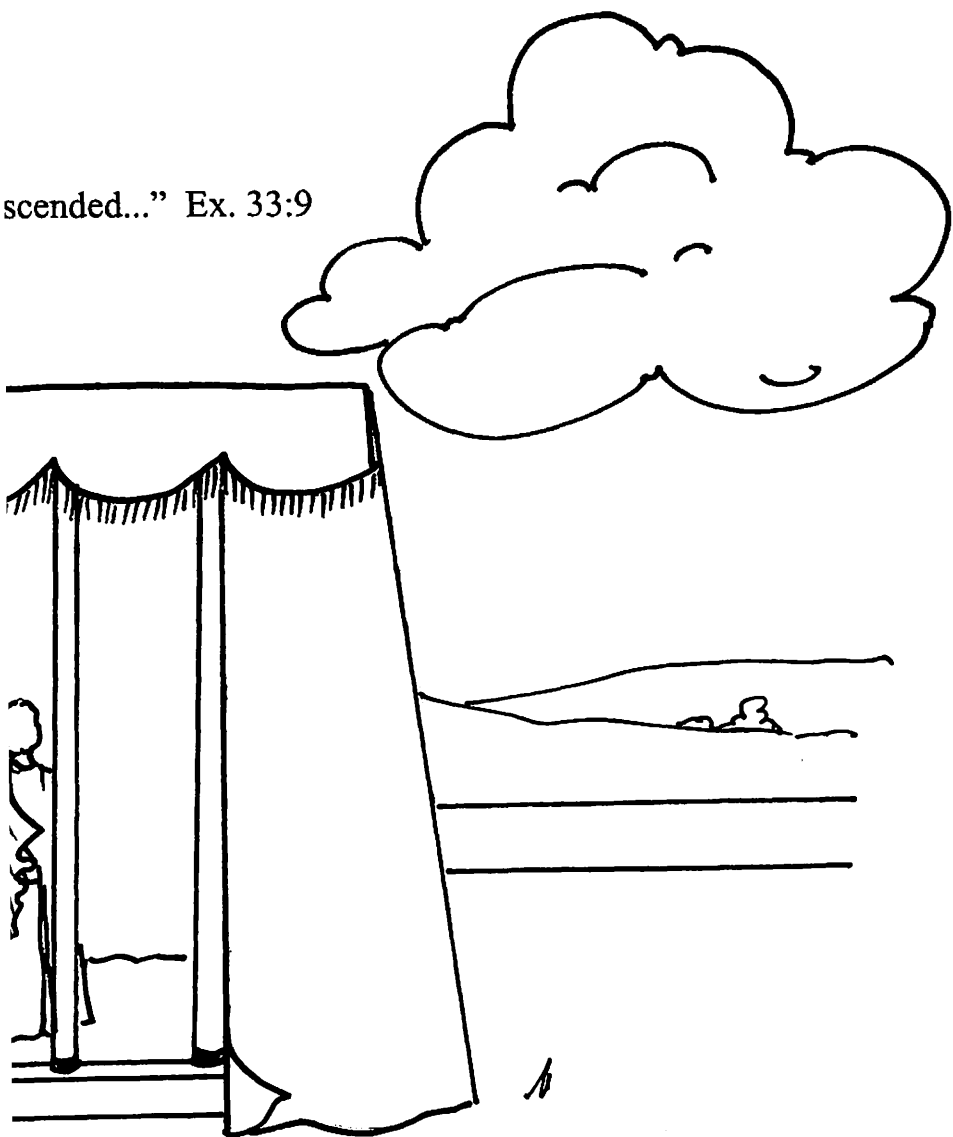
All of the people saw the cloudy pillar standing at the tabernacle door. They rose up and worshiped God. —Sis. Monica Murphey

“...As Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pil



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scended..." Ex. 33:9



## Passing Inspection

(Continued from last week.)

Under the watchful eye of his mother, the newborn colt stretched out his long neck and sniffed at Agba, the stable boy. Slowly, quietly, Agba stroked his wet nose. His hand touched the colt's long fuzzy ears and then curved down his arched neck. Carefully, Agba picked up each tiny leg and inspected each hoof. On one hind heel there was a white spot—a sign of good luck! Otherwise the colt was reddish brown or golden-red in the sunlight. Agba smiled. He knew what to name this skinny little prince. He would call him Sham, which is the Arabic word for sun.

Suddenly, the stable door swung open and a dark shadow fell across the stall. "I told you to call me when the mare needed help," growled Signor Achmet, Chief of the Grooms. He stepped inside the stall. The mare raised her head and bared her teeth in defense of her baby. The chief slapped her on the nose. "Don't get bossy with me," he snapped. "I must inspect this newborn to see if it is fit to live in the Royal Stables of the Great Sultan of Morocco."

The little colt jumped when he felt the chief's bony fingers run over his body. The chief jerked up the colt's head and pryed open his tender mouth to inspect his teeth. Agba laid his cheek upon the mare's cheek to keep her from biting the chief. Right now the life of the colt was in the chief's hand. Agba had seen the Chief of the Grooms kill horses he felt "unworthy of the Royal Stables."

"Ah-hal" squawked the chief, causing both mother and son to jump. "Look here on his chest. See these

cross grains of hair. They are in the shape of a head of ripe wheat. That is a bad sign. This colt will bring bad luck to the Royal Stables. He must not live!" With these words, the chief quickly drew a saber that hung in a sheath from his belt.

Agba smothered a cry. Unmindful of his own safety, he thrust himself between the Chief of the Grooms and the colt. He drew up the colt's hind heel with the white spot and pointed to it. The chief frowned. That was a good sign. This colt would have both good and bad in his life if he lived. Just then the mother nickered to her baby who answered back.

"YOU are responsible for this runt," said the chief to Agba as he put his saber back in its sheath. He turned and stomped out of the stall. Agba put his arms around Sham and led him to his mother for milk. Yes, Agba would care for Sham and some day the Chief of Grooms would be telling others about Sham's beauty, grace and speed.

(To be continued next week.)

### Questions:

1. What did the Lord promise Abraham?
2. Who would not go with Moses?
3. What was the tabernacle used for?
4. What did Moses call the tabernacle?
5. What came down from Heaven?
6. Who talked with Moses?
7. Did the Lord promise to go with him?
8. Did Moses get to see the Lord's face?

**Answers:** 1. The Land of Canaan. 2. The Lord. 3. Worshipping God. 4. The Tabernacle of the Congregation. 5. A cloudy pillar. 6. The Lord. 7. Yes. 8. No.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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## Moses' Shining Face

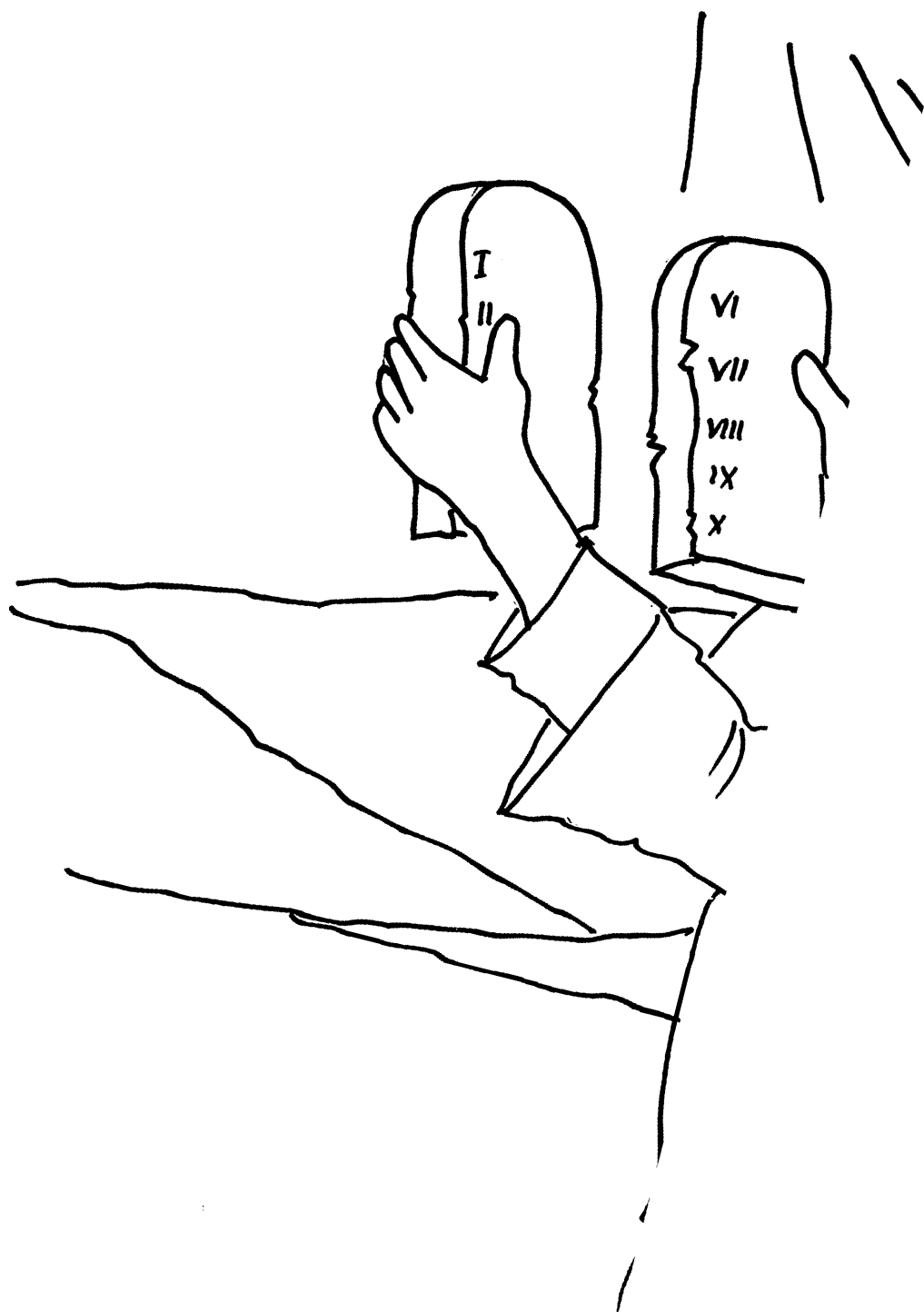
When Moses saw the children of Israel worshipping a golden calf, he became very angry. Moses was coming down Mount Sinai. He had just received ten very important commandments from God. Moses got so upset that he threw down the stones the commandments were written on. The stones broke.

"Get two new stones, like the ones you had before, and come up and speak with Me on Mount Sinai," the Lord commanded Moses. So Moses arose early the next morning. He cut two stone tables and went up the mountain. The Lord came down in a cloud and spoke with Moses on the mountain. The Lord told Moses about His commandments for the second time. He also gave Moses instructions about building a special place for the people to worship Him. This building was called a tabernacle.

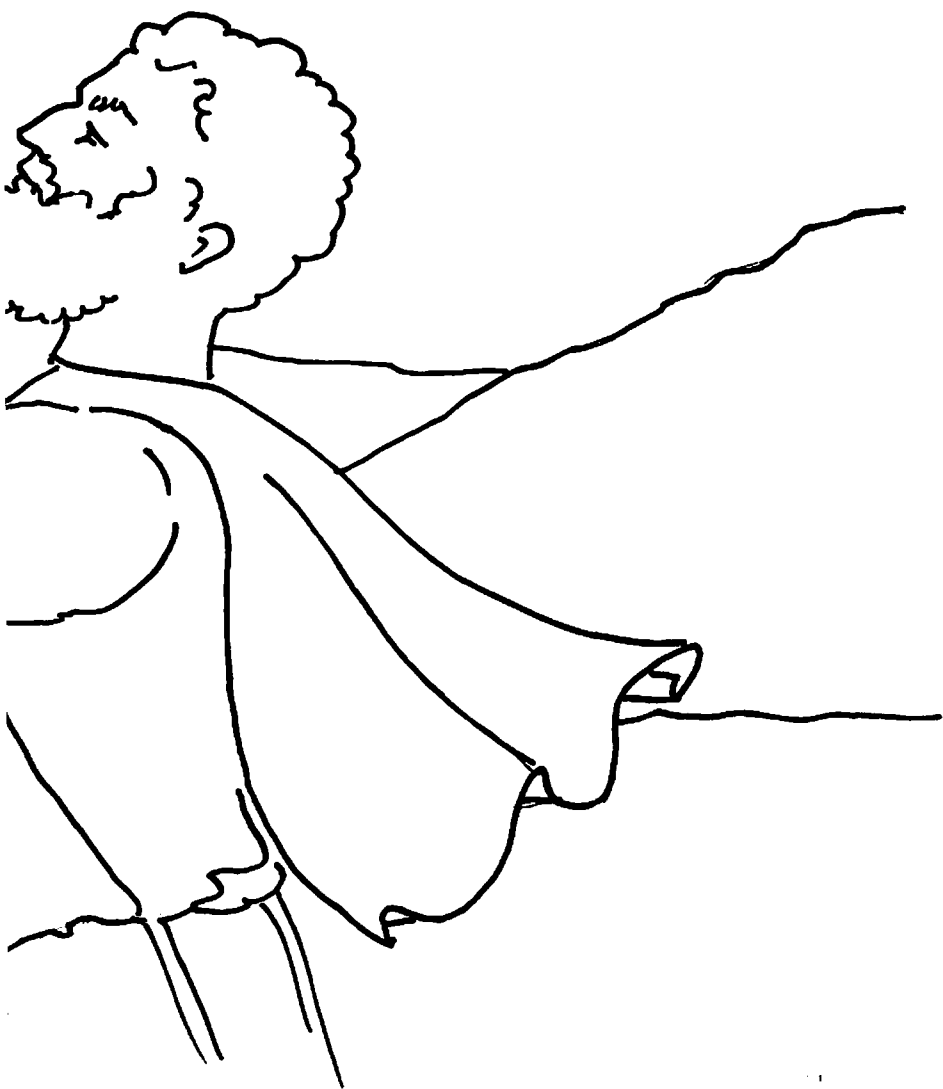
Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights. He did not eat bread or drink water while he was on the mountain. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments, he did not know that his face shone. When Aaron and the children of Israel saw the way Moses' face shone, they were afraid to come near him. Moses told the children of Israel all that the Lord had told him. While he was talking, he covered his face with a veil.

Moses told the people about the things he needed to make the tabernacle. The people willingly came and gave Moses bracelets, earrings, rings, tablets, jewels of gold, fine linen, silver and brass, and animal skins. Many men and women brought gifts for the temple. Others were able to help with building things and making cloth.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“...When Moses came down..with the two tables...  
his face shone....” Ex. 34:30



## Raised by Love

(Continued from last week.)

Faithfully, Agba cared for his favorite mare and her newborn colt. The little one was gaining strength but his mother slowly grew weaker. With a sad heart, Agba watched her turn away from the sweet grain that he held out to her. She only wanted to drink water and not much of that. Agba hung his hammock in a corner of their stall and stayed near them except for the times when he had to water and feed the other nine horses in his charge.

One evening Agba came into the stall after doing the chores and found that the mare had died. A sharp cry of grief passed through his lips as he fell on her still body. Just then Signor Achmet, the Chief of the Grooms, was passing by. He stopped when he heard Agba's cry. "So she died," he said dryly as he stepped into the stall. He looked at the little colt that was nuzzling Agba. "This colt will die too," he said with a shrug of his bony shoulder. "There is nothing to be done. Go to your quarters, Agba!"

Agba knew better than to disobey the chief, but he did not feel like going to his quarters. With his head lowered in grief, he walked briskly before a long row of stalls to the outside gates. The royal guards at the palace gates knew Agba. They thought he was on another errand for the Chief of Grooms. Immediately, they opened the gates. Like an arrow shot from its bow, Agba raced past the gates. Swiftly, he ran over the foot-worn path toward the market place.

Agba raced through the market place. He did not greet anyone nor did he stop to buy anything. The people thought the Royal Chief of the Grooms had surely sent this errand boy on a very important mission. Finally Agba

came upon the camel drivers. With his searching eyes he found a young camel calf following behind its mother.

Agba approached this camel's owner and soon was given a cruse of warm camel's milk and a bottle of honey. Carrying the precious milk close to his heart, Agba hurried back to the little colt. Sham was quietly waiting for him. With gentle fingers, Agba guided Sham's mouth to the cruse spout. Patiently, he worked with Sham until the colt learned to suck on the cruse by himself.

A few days later the Chief of the Grooms poked his head into Sham's stall. "So, the runt is still living," he remarked. "Perhaps he will grow up." Agba did not reply. He was tightly holding the cruse so that Sham's strong pulls would not tug the cruse from his hands and spill the precious milk. At the right time, Agba gave Sham sweet grain to eat. Sham grew stronger and more graceful under Agba's loving care. The two were very close friends.

(To be continued next week.)

### Questions:

1. What happened to the first set of tables?
2. Why did Moses get angry?
3. Where did the Lord tell Moses to go?
4. How long was Moses on the mountain?
5. Did Moses eat or drink during this time?
6. What were some of the things the Lord told Moses?
7. What was different about Moses after this?
8. What were some of the gifts the people brought?

**Answers:** 1. They were broken. 2. The children of Israel were worshipping an idol. 3. Mount Sinai. 4. 40 days and nights. 5. No. 6. The Ten Commandments. 7. His face shone. 8. Answers will vary.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 July 27, 2008

## A New Place of Worship

The children of Israel worked very hard to complete a special place where they could go to worship the Lord. The Lord had given Moses many instructions about how to build this tabernacle. Finally, after working for two years, the tabernacle was finished.

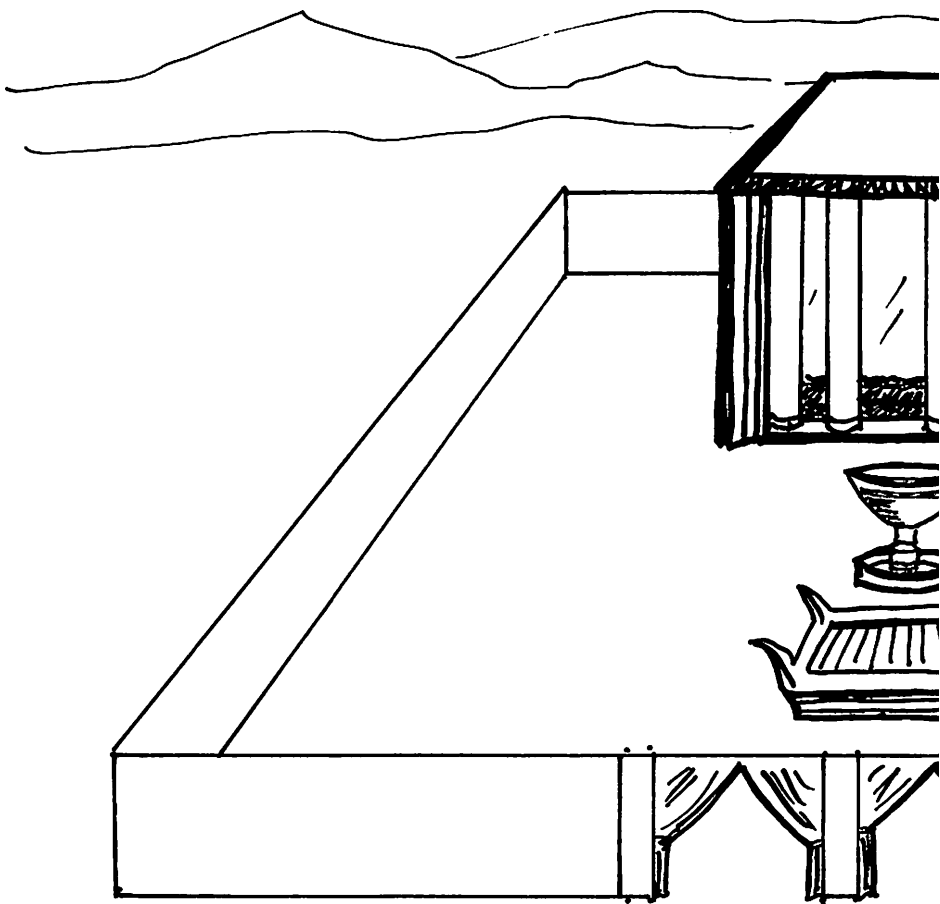
The tabernacle was a large tent. There was an outer court surrounding the tabernacle. Moses set up an altar right inside the door of the court. It was called "The Altar of Burnt Offering."

The tabernacle was divided into two different rooms. One of the rooms was called "The Holy Place," and the other room was called, "The Holy of Holies." A veil, which is a curtain made out of fine material, separated the two rooms. There were only three items in The Holy Place: a table with bread for the priests, a golden candlestick, and the altar of incense. The Holy of Holies was a smaller room than the Holy Place. The high priest was the only person who could enter this room. He only went into the Holy of Holies once a year on the "Day of Atonement," to make atonement for the people. The Ark of the Covenant was in the Holy of Holies. It was very meaningful to the children of Israel. It held items that were symbols of God's presence with the children of Israel. Moses put the mercy seat above the ark and placed two cherubim beside it.

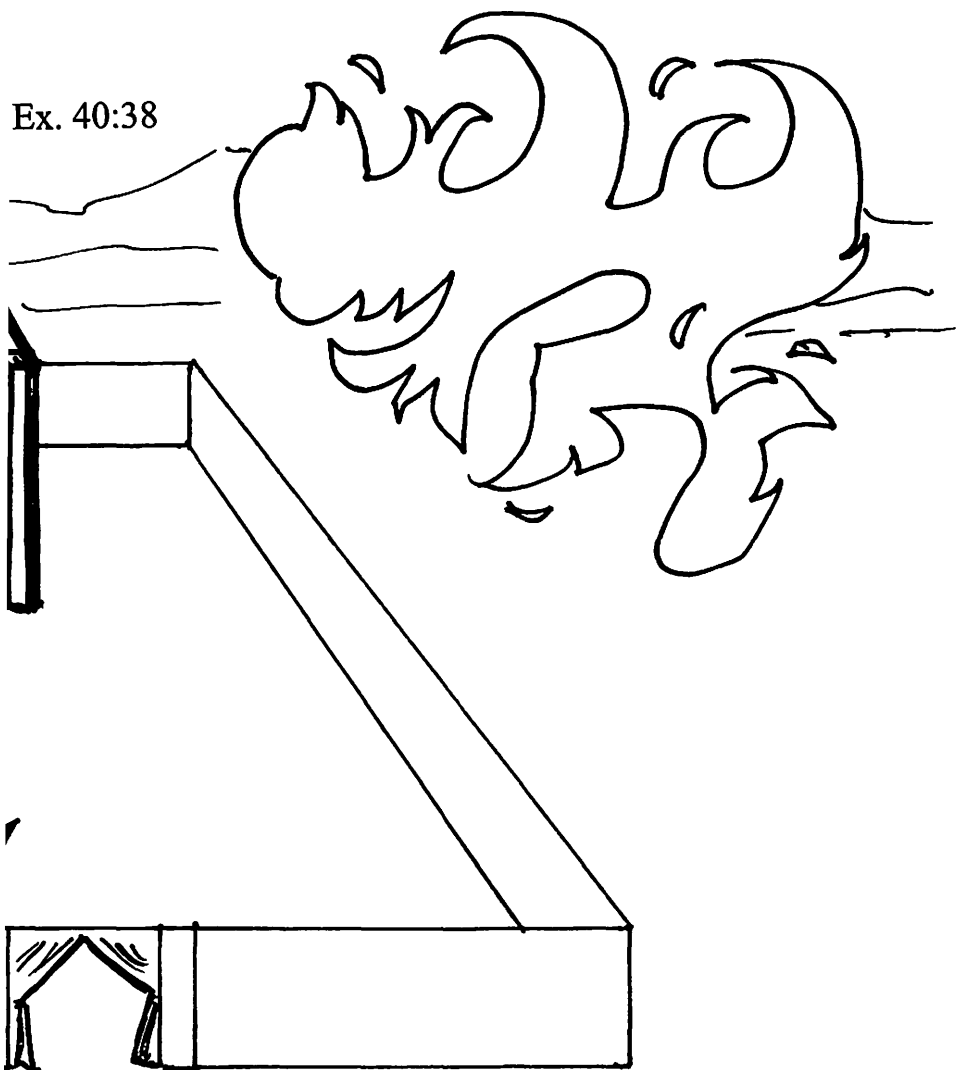
Moses made an offering to the Lord. When Moses finished his work on the tabernacle, a great cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. When the cloud lifted, the children of Israel went on their journey. If the cloud lingered, they did not leave camp until it vanished. The cloud stayed on the tabernacle during the day, and fire was on the tabernacle at night.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...And fire was on it by nig



Ex. 40:38



## The Raising of Sham

(Continued from last week.)

From a tiny colt nursing upon camel's milk, Sham grew to be a beautiful golden-red horse. In the Arabic language, Sham meant sun, and surely Sham did outshine all the other horses in the Royal Stables. Every morning and night, Agba spent an hour brushing Sham's shiny coat. With a soft cloth made of camel's hair, Agba rubbed sweet oils into Sham's coat. Sham liked the way Agba rubbed straight down his back until he came to Sham's hind legs. Then Agba rubbed the cloth in a circular motion, the way the hair grew on Sham's body. Agba knew all the proper ways to care for a horse. His love for Sham caused him to be even more particular.

One year passed and Sham now spent time in the pasture grazing with the other horses. Somehow these horses felt Sham was different. They would turn from him, kick at him, or bite at his tail. They seemed to know that Sham was not raised by a mother horse but by a stable boy. When Sham was afraid, he came running to Agba for protection. When he was cold, he sidled up to Agba for warmth. When he was lonely, he nuzzled Agba and laid his satin nose against the boy's cheek.

Sham was different from the other colts but he did not seem to mind. Instead, he spent time exploring the world around him. He would sniff the delicious smell of clover, the spicy scent of the pine woods, and the fresh breezes blowing over the snow-topped mountains. He watched the geese gliding through the air, the gazelle speeding over the tall grass, and he joined their race, for Sham loved to run.

When the stable boys would ride their horses down to the drinking

pool, Agba and Sham were always first to be there. As soon as Sham was two years old, Agba rode him in the races that the stable boys had. Sham won every race. He even outran the older horses. Agba wasn't surprised. He knew Sham was as fast as the gazelle!

Because Agba loved Sham and cared so tenderly for him, Sham obeyed him. Never did Agba whip Sham, but with a firm pat or a little pressure of the knees, Sham would go or stop as he desired. Agba and Sham understood each other. No one else ever rode him.

Agba did not know about God and His Son, Jesus Christ. He had been left an orphaned toddler near the palace gates. The guards had brought him in and he grew up in the stables helping with what he could. No one really loved Agba. He was just useful, like a tool in the hands of the Chief of the Grooms. However, Agba learned about love through caring for Sham. Never before had Agba loved or felt loved. His love for Sham would one day lead him to the love of God.

(To be continued next week.)

### Questions:

1. What was the place of worship called?
2. How long did it take to build it?
3. What was the larger room called?
4. What was the smaller room called?
5. Who was allowed in the smaller room?
6. What separated the two rooms?
7. What covered the tabernacle by day?
8. What covered the tabernacle by night?

**Answer:** 1. A tabernacle. 2. Two years. 3. The Holy Place. 4. The Holy of Holies. 5. The high priest. 6. A veil. 7. A cloud. 8. Fire.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Aug. 3, 2008

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## Unholy Fire

The Lord gave Moses and the children of Israel many laws about the way He wanted the tabernacle built and about the way the Lord wanted his people to offer animals as a sacrifice for their sins. The Lord also told Moses that He wanted Aaron and his sons to be cleansed and sanctified for priesthood.

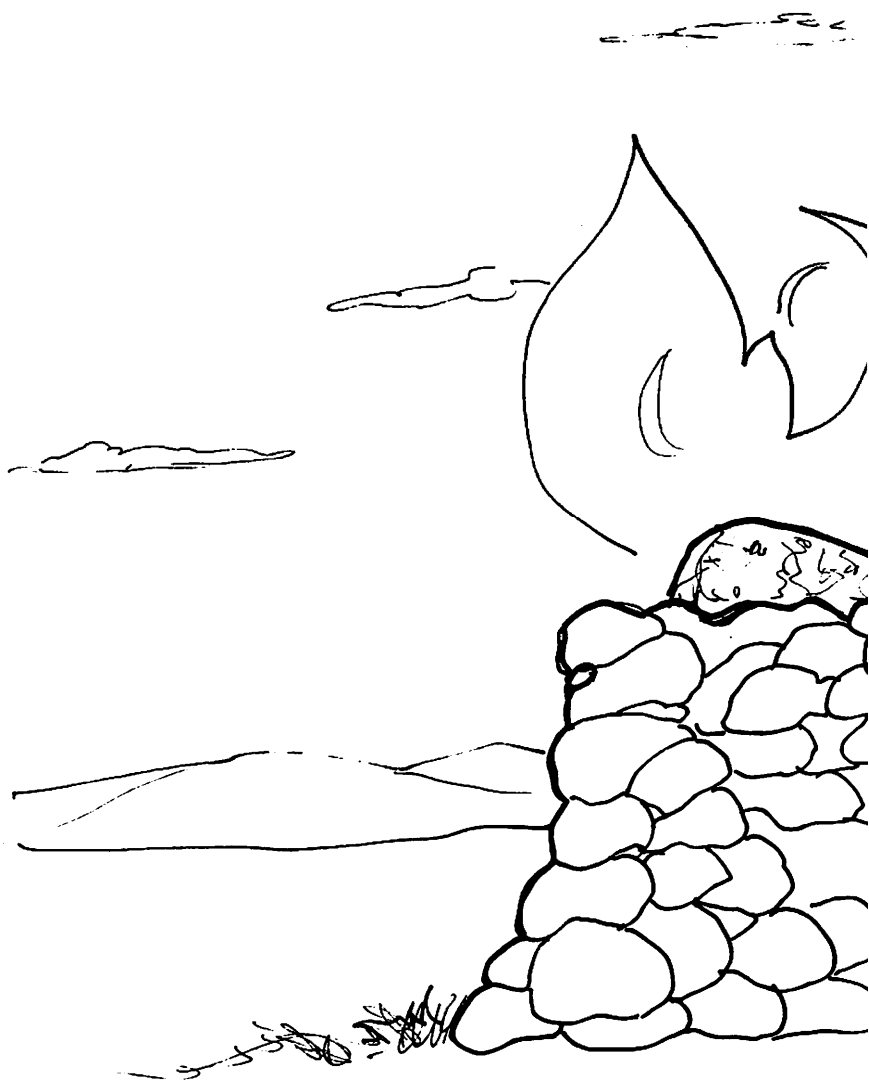
When the people were gathered together in the tabernacle, Moses said, "This is something the Lord told me to do." He took water and washed Aaron and his sons. Then Moses anointed the tabernacle and everything inside it with oil.

Eight days later, Aaron and his sons were instructed to make an offering of some animals as a sacrifice for their sins. Aaron blessed the people, and the glory of the Lord appeared to all of the people. A fire came from Heaven and burned all of the animals that Aaron had placed on the altar. When the people saw the fire, they shouted and fell on their faces to worship the Lord.

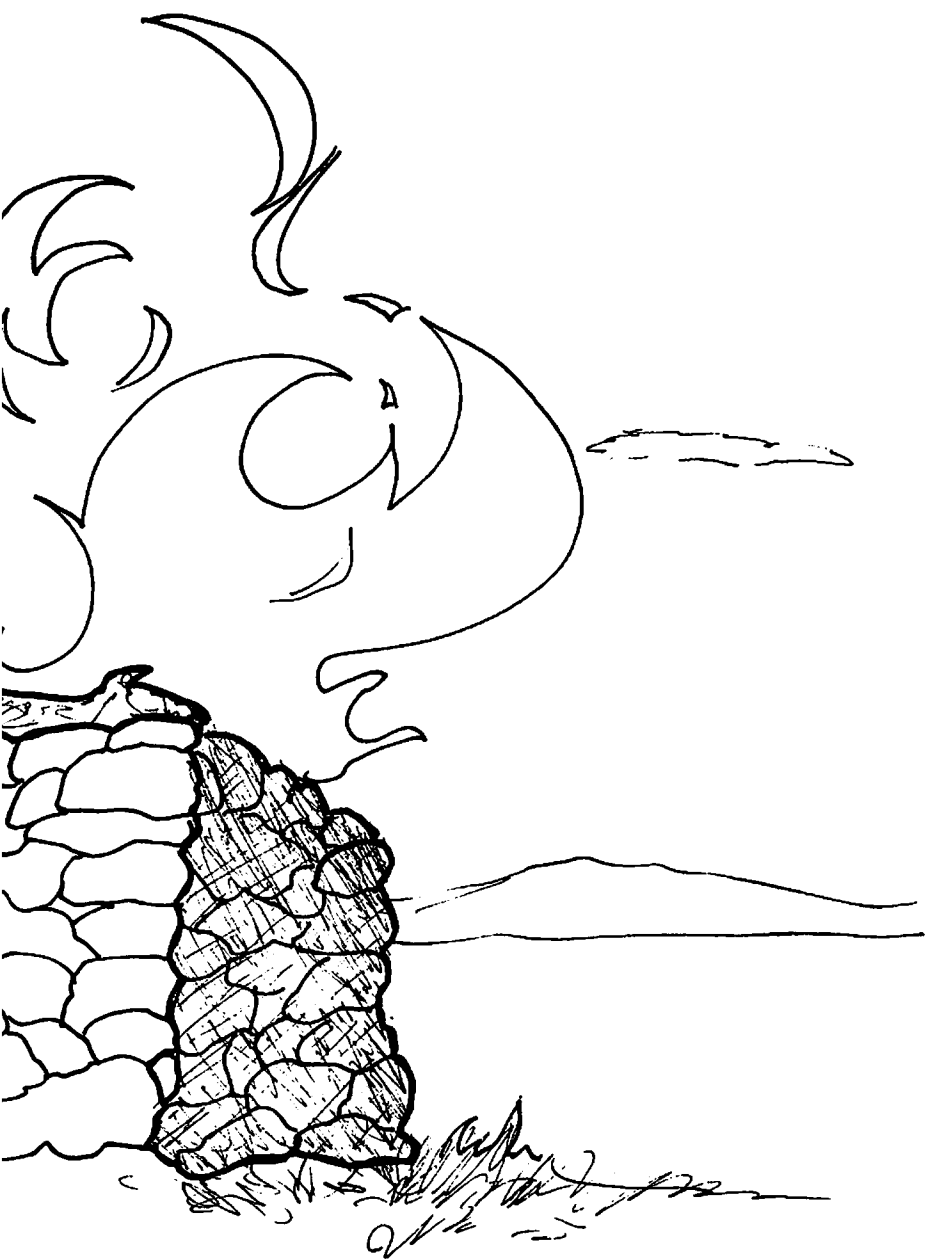
The Lord gave Moses and Aaron strict instructions about what to do inside the temple. One day Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, put a strange fire in their containers and offered them to the Lord. The Lord sent a fire down on them, and Nadab and Abihu were burned. Nadab's and Abihu's uncles carried their bodies out of the camp.

The Lord gave Aaron some specific instructions. "Do not drink strong drink," He commanded. "Learn the difference between what is Holy, and what is not Holy so that you can teach the children of Israel the doctrines of the Lord."

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“...A fire... from ...the Lord...consumed ..the bur



ng....” Lev. 9:24

## Prepared As A Gift

(Continued from last week)

One spring morning, Agba was watering the other nine horses in his charge when the Chief of the Grooms tapped him on the shoulder. "Agba," he said with a worried voice, "the Sultan of Morocco commands me to appear before him this day, at the hour when the sun is in the center of the world. He commands six stable boys to be with me. You will be one of the six. After you have watered the horses, you will have your head shaved. Then take a good bath. Be ready."

Politely, Agba nodded but his heart was thumping wildly. The Sultan was not a kind man. He ruled with fear. Agba searched his mind to think if he had done anything to displease the Sultan. He could not think of one thing. Perhaps the Sultan had heard about Sham's swiftness and grace. Maybe he was angry because Sham won every race.

Agba was waiting when the chief called for the chosen boys to follow him. Quietly walking in single file, the boys' bare feet sounded like small ocean waves lapping on the soft sand. Plop! Plop! Plop! Their feet carried them down the long aisle of the stable, past several guards, along a high outer wall, then up a steep ramp to the entrance of the Sultan's palace. Six Royal Guards opened the heavy gates for the chief and his boys. A little shudder went through Agba as the gates swung shut behind them. Silently, they marched through a gallery of glazed blue tiles. Plop! Plop! Plop! Their feet carried them down long halls, through three more gates, and into an inner court. A guard stopped them at a grandly carved gate. Here they had to lower their heads. When the gate swung open,

they bowed with respect as they came into the presence of the Sultan.

Inside a beautiful garden of flowers and water fountains, sitting cross-legged on an embroidered red carpet, was Sultan Mulai Ismael. The Chief of the Grooms bowed to the ground and the boys bowed also. Satisfied with their bows, the Sultan waved for them to stand. Then he spoke. "I charge you, as head groom in my service, to select six of the most perfect horses in the Royal Stables. The horses and these six boys shall be sent as a gift to His Majesty, Louis XV, the boy King of France. Make ready and in seven days you shall depart." The Sultan clapped for his scribe and had a letter written for the King of France.

Agba's head began to spin with excitement. Surely Sham would be one of the chosen horses! They would travel over land and sea to live, perhaps with honor, in the Royal Stables of France. The Lord was calling Agba out of the wilderness and He would be watching over him through the trials that lay ahead.

(To be continued next week.)

### Questions:

1. Who were to be priests?
2. What did Moses do to Aaron?
3. What was Aaron instructed to do?
4. What came from Heaven?
5. What did Aaron's sons do wrong?
6. What happened to Aaron's sons?
7. What command did the Lord give Aaron?
8. What was Aaron supposed to learn?

**Answers:** 1. Aaron and his sons. 2. Poured water over him & anointed him with oil. 3. Make a sacrifice for his sins. 4. Fire. 5. Brought unholy fire before the Lord. 6. They were burned. 7. To not drink strong drink. 8. The difference between what is holy & what isn't.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Aug. 10, 2008

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## God Provides Quail

After traveling for several days, the children of Israel set up camp and rested in their tents. They became discontented and began to complain. The Lord was very displeased when He heard them. God caused fire to burn parts of the camp. The people cried out to Moses for help. Moses prayed to the Lord, and the Lord caused the fire to stop.

The Lord had been providing manna for the children of Israel to eat. They would make cakes out of it. Now the children of Israel thought of something new to complain about. "When will we get to eat meat again?" they wept. "We remember the fish that we ate in Egypt, and the cucumbers, melons, onions, and garlic. There is nothing for us to eat now except for manna."

Moses heard the people weeping in the door of their tents, and he was very discouraged. The Lord was also angry about the grumbling he heard. "I can't put up with all of this complaining," Moses told the Lord. "Please kill me. Don't make me lead these people alone."

"Bring seventy elders of Israel to the tabernacle," the Lord said. "They will help you lead the people. I will come down and talk with you there. They will bear some of your burdens."

The Lord sent a wind over the camp that brought in quails from the sea. The quails fell in the camp. The people spent all night and all of the next day gathering the quails. They spread them all around the camp. God was still angry with the people and caused them to be sick from eating. Some of the people died. From then on, the name of the place that they camped was called Kibrothhataavah, because they buried people here who had lusted after different things than what they had.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“...A wind...brought quails from the sea....” Num. 11:3



## By Land and By Sea

(Continued from last week.)

Sham was one of the horses chosen to be a gift for King Louis XV, boy king of France. During the next seven days, Agba was busy brushing and grooming Sham to perfection. He exercised him, increasing the running distance each day. Agba took Sham to the farrier's where the big-muscled man took a knife and a hammer and fitted Sham's hooves with horseshoes.

On the last night in the Sultan's stables, Agba hardly slept at all. He kept jumping down from his hammock and feeling inside the two great pockets which fitted over the cantle of his saddle. He wanted to be sure nothing was missing.

The golden tint of sunlight outlined the Atlas Mountains as the Chief of the Grooms and his six chosen stable boys and horses marched single file through the valley toward the palace where the Sultan greeted them. There followed a parade of marching soldiers, playing bands and prancing horses. After the Sultan gave a speech about the wonderful gift he was sending the King of France, he made his way to the six Arabians and tied a silken bag around the neck of each one. "These bags," he said, "contain the pedigree of each stallion. Guard these bags well. Now ride under the sun. Ride through the rain. Ride over the mountains and through the green valleys and to the plains. Cross the rivers and when you reach the Mediterranean Sea, sail the blue waters to France and reach the King in perfect shape." Then clapping his hands, he commanded, "Give your horses the heel!"

In a spurt of speed the graceful horses shot off toward the mountains. One horse was a deep-toned chestnut color. One was a yellow dun with a silver mane and tail. One was dark gray and one was pure white from nose to tail. Another was black

like a starless night. Then in the lead was Sham—a golden red in the sun.

Traveling over the land, the horses had plenty of exercise, but they did not like sailing the sea. The waves rocked the ship and made them sick. The captain was dishonest and fed the horses straw instead of the corn and barley for which he was paid. The six boys had to work with the sailors until they became ragged, weak and sickly.

When this tattered assembly finally reached the Royal Stables of France, everyone laughed at them. Young King Louis XV stared at the six skinny boys and thin horses. He listened to the Sultan's letter. Then he followed Bishop Fleury's advice. All of them but one would be sent to the army to pull supply wagons for the soldiers. Sham was ordered to draw a vegetable cart to market for the chief cook.

Though Agba could not understand French words, he felt the shame. His only comfort was that he was still with Sham.

(To be continued next week.)

### Questions:

1. What happened when the people complained?
2. What had the Lord provided for them to eat?
3. What did the people want next?
4. How did Moses feel about the complaints?
5. Who did the Lord say would help Moses?
6. What blew in from the sea?
7. What did God cause to happen to some of the people?
8. Why was the camp called Kibrothhataavah?

**Answers:** 1. God sent fire in the camp. 2. Manna. 3. Meat. 4. He was discouraged. 5. Seventy elders. 6. Quail. 7. They got sick and died. 8. People wanted things they didn't have.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Aug. 17, 2008

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## Miriam's Leprosy

Miriam and Aaron spoke badly about their brother Moses because he married a lady from Ethiopia. They were also jealous that Moses was so popular. "Does the Lord only speak through Moses?" they asked.

The Lord heard their complaints. He knew that Moses was very meek. Suddenly, the Lord spoke to Moses, Miriam, and Aaron. "Come out to the tabernacle," He demanded. The three siblings obeyed God's command.

When they were in the tabernacle, the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and stood in the doorway. "Hear my words," the Lord said. "If there is any prophet among you, I will make myself known to him in a vision, and I will speak to him in a dream. My servant Moses is faithful. I speak to him differently. When we talk, we speak mouth to mouth." And the Lord rebuked Miriam and Aaron for speaking badly against their brother.

When the cloud lifted from the tabernacle, Miriam's skin was as white as snow. She was a leper. Leprosy was a dreaded disease. People who had leprosy had to live far away from other people so they would not catch the disease. People with leprosy usually died.

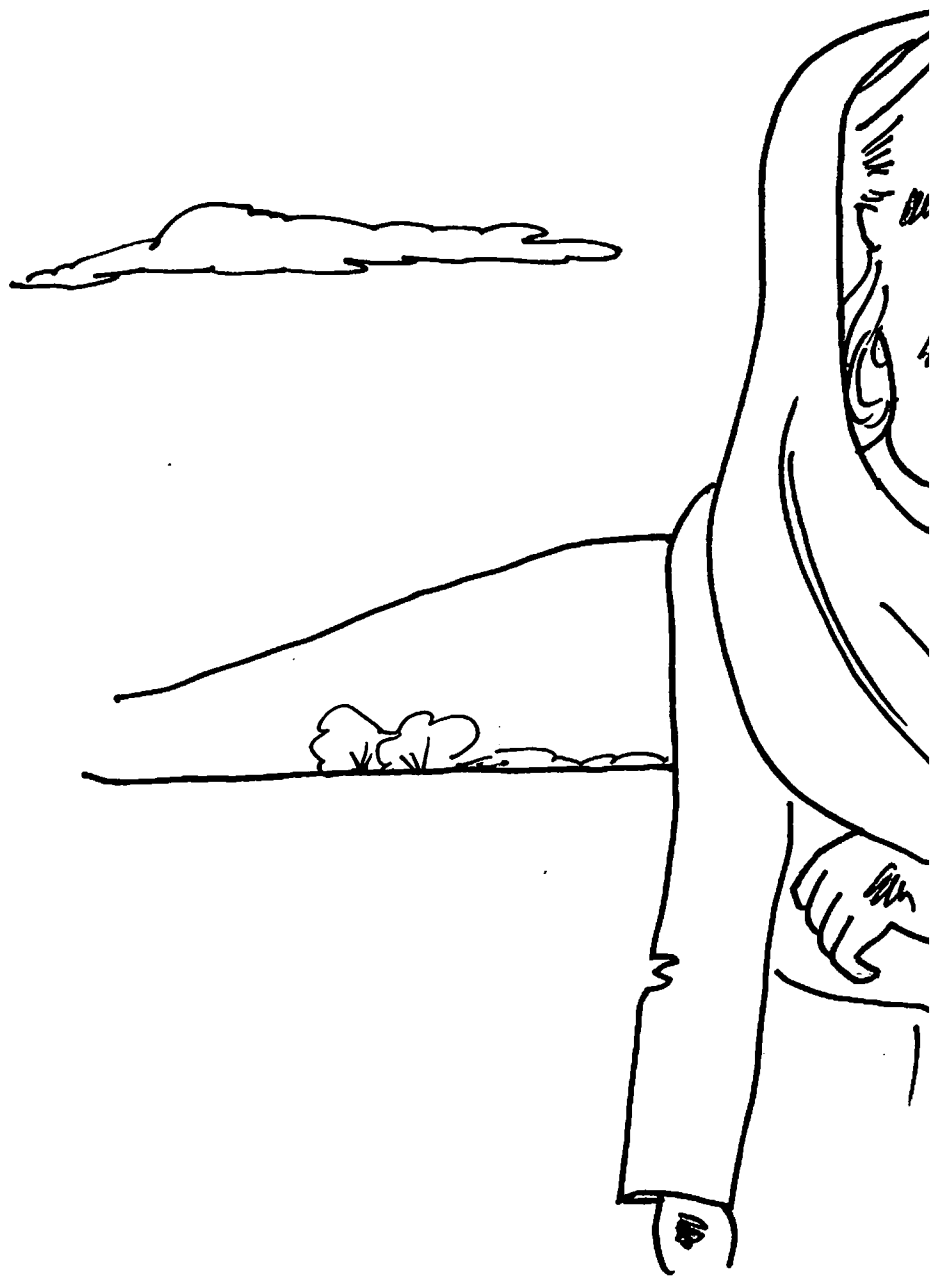
"We have been foolish," Aaron cried. "Please forgive us of our sins."

"Heal her, O God," Moses pleaded.

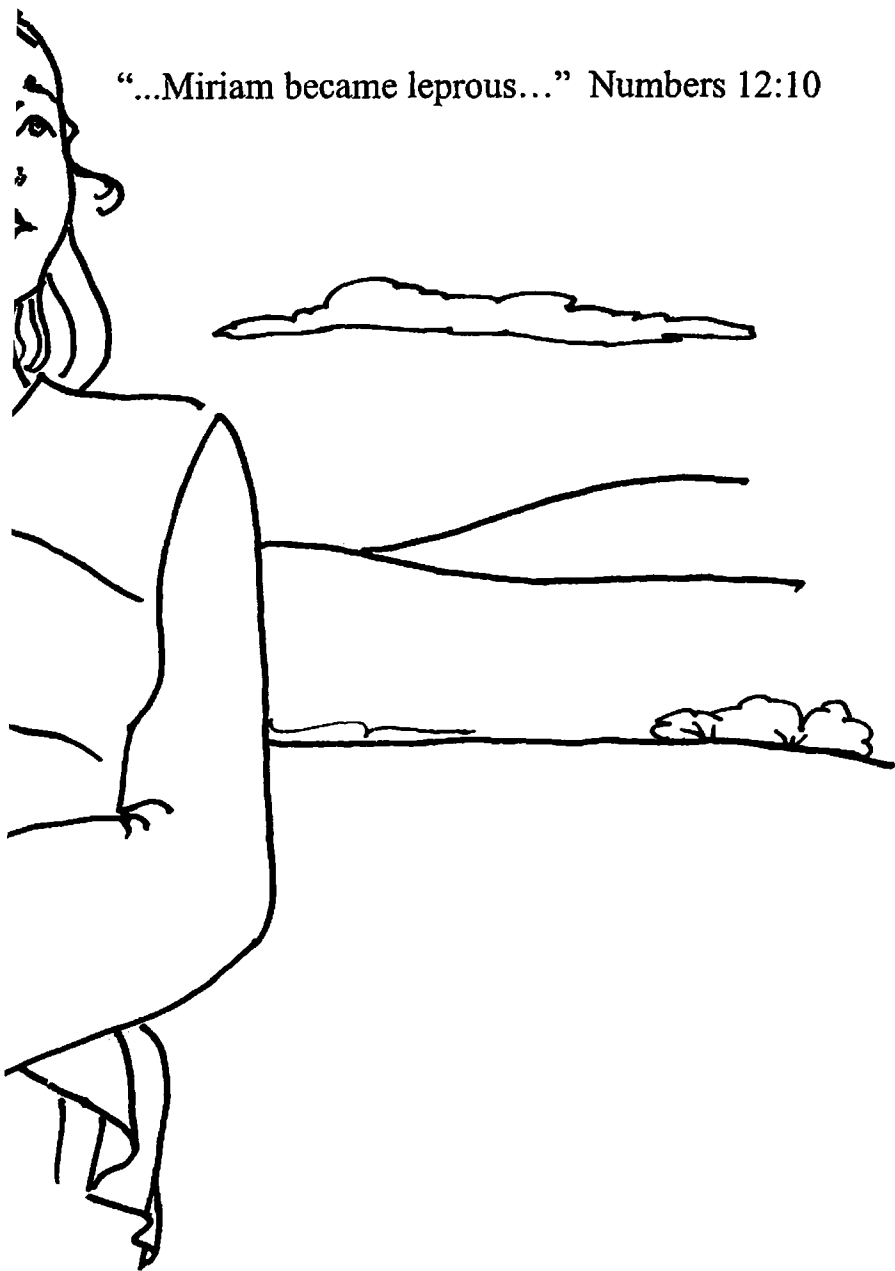
"Let her be shut out of the camp for seven days," the Lord said. "She will pay for her sins. After that, she may come among you again."

So Miriam lived by herself outside of the camp for seven days. The children of Israel did not travel until Miriam was well again.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“...Miriam became leprous...” Numbers 12:10



## Separated

(Continued from last week.)

Once Sham gained back his strength, he pulled the vegetable cart in royal style. When Agba was beside him or driving the cart, Sham pranced into the market place as if he was pulling a golden chariot. Soon a few of the market peddlers would give the pair treats to eat. The plump apple lady would hand them each an apple, and a sweets vendor would give them a frosted pastry. They admired Sham's glossy coat and Agba's quiet way with the horse.

However, if the chief cook or anyone else was driving the cart, Sham was not so good. This made the chief cook very jealous of Agba. Why was it that such a slim boy could control that horse better than a big, lusty fellow such as he?

One day the chief cook insisted upon driving alone to market. He wanted to select a nice suckling pig for the King's birthday dinner and said he needed every inch of space for groceries. Agba was displeased but he had to obey and stay in the kitchen, cleaning pots and pans while the chief cook took Sham to market. Sham pulled the cart to market and waited nicely while the cook loaded the wagon with vegetables, fish, live chickens, eggs and the live pig. When the cook turned Sham toward home, Sham resented the load. Suddenly he began to move like forked lightning! In and out among the market stalls he streaked, spilling out the chickens, eggs, pig and the angry cook!

Children screamed. Everyone moved aside to give way to the runaway horse and the trailing cart. The cook didn't know what to capture first—the squawking chickens, screaming pig, or naughty horse. The apple lady coaxed Sham to her so that

the cook was able to take the reins again. "This is the last time you will run away from me," the angry cook shouted at Sham. The cook led Sham to the big open shed of the horse trader's barn. He was ready to sell Sham to the first buyer who came along and he didn't have long to wait.

A big brute of a man came along swinging a horsewhip. A wood carter, he was looking for another creature to work to death. "Ha! Ha! Ha!" he laughed when he saw the cook. "I saw the whole show! That beast made a fool of you. He freed your pig and scrambled your eggs! HO! HO!"

"Name me a price and the horse is yours," replied the red-faced cook. With much jesting the carter handed the cook a little money then led Sham away, cracking the whip upon him. Poor Sham! If only he had been obedient for the cook he would not have been in such bad hands now!

Sometimes we think it is hard to obey our parents, our teachers, our pastors, but if we don't learn to obey them, we will end up in the devil's hands. The devil is a cruel taskmaster. He has no mercy.

(To be continued next week.)

### Questions:

1. Who spoke badly of Moses?
2. Why did they speak badly of Moses?
3. Where did the Lord tell them to go?
4. What punishment did Miriam receive?
5. How did the Lord talk to Moses?
6. What did the Lord know about Moses' character?
7. Did the Lord heal Miriam right away?
8. How many days was Miriam sick?

**Answers:** 1. Aaron & Miriam. 2. They were jealous. 3. The tabernacle. 4. She had leprosy. 5. Mouth to mouth. 6. He was meek and faithful. 7. No. 8. Seven.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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**Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Aug. 24, 2008**

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## **Spies in Canaan**

After months of hard travel, the children of Israel were finally nearing the land that God had promised them. "Send men in to search the land of Canaan," the Lord told Moses. Moses sent twelve men ahead to bring back a report about Canaan.

"See what the land is like," Moses requested. "Notice what the people are like, if they are strong, weak, or if there are a lot of them. Tell me whether the cities have strong defenses. Bring back some of the fruit of the land."

The spies came to a brook, where they found plenty of grapes, pomegranates, and figs. They broke off some of the fruit to take back to Moses. After forty days of searching the land of Canaan, they returned to Moses with a report. They showed Moses the fruit from the land.

"This land does flow with milk and honey," the spies informed Moses. "But the people are strong. The men that live here are all extremely tall. Some of them seem like giants to us. The cities are surrounded by walls. They have very good defenses. Many mighty tribes of people live in the cities in Canaan."

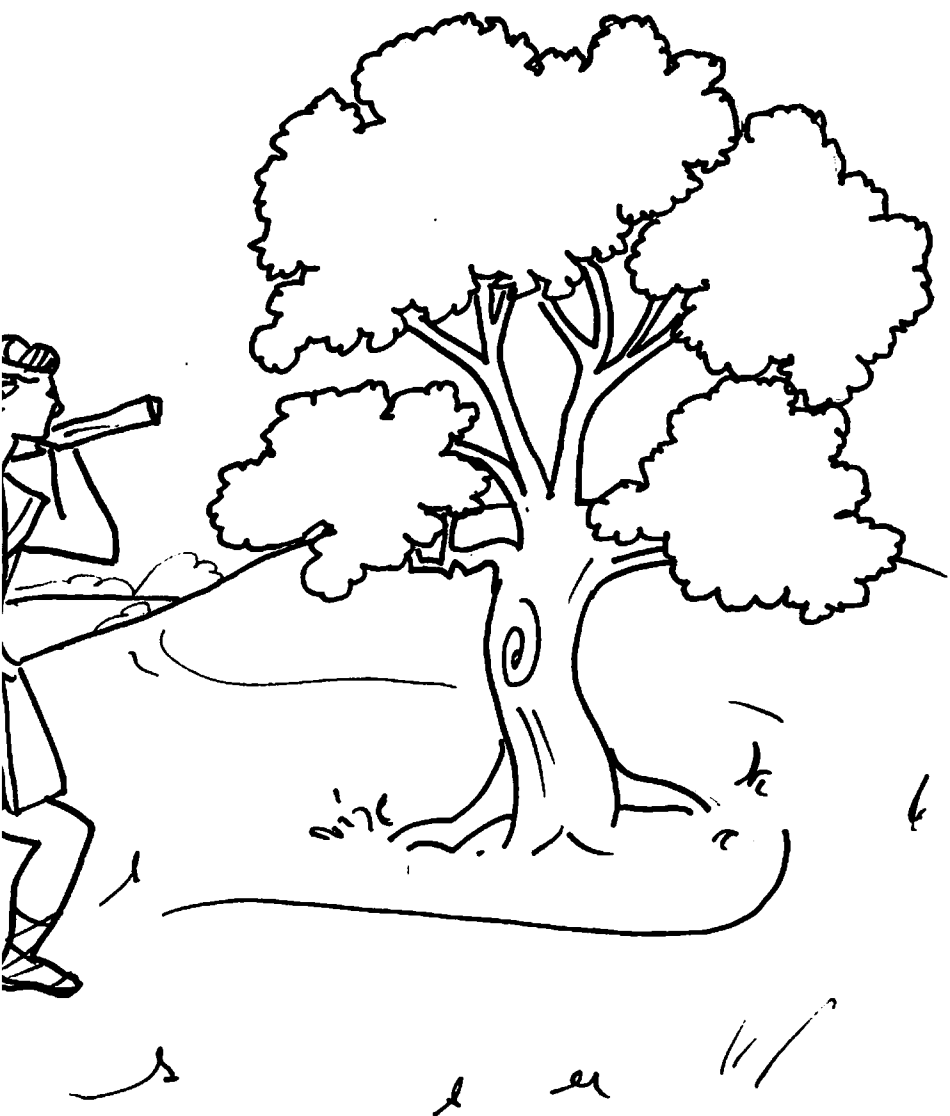
One of the spies was named Caleb. Caleb quieted the people. "Let us go up at once and claim it," he said. "We are able to overcome these people."

"We will not beat them in battle," the other spies protested. "They are stronger than we are." All of the spies except for Caleb and Joshua brought Moses a bad report about the land of Canaan.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“And



showed them the fruit of the land. Numbers 13:26



## Searching For Sham

(Continued from last week.)

Agba was very upset when the cook came back without Sham. He dodged the cook's angry kicks and bad frowns. The next day, Agba ran away to the French market. He just had to find Sham! He went to the apple lady and motioned for her to tell him where Sham went. She did not know but gave him an apple to munch. For several days Agba walked the streets of Paris, looking at each horse to see if it was Sham.

One summer evening Agba was sitting quietly by a tinkling water fountain. His mind remembered the visit to the Sultan's inner court a few short months ago. The Sultan had sent his six best horses to France, but the gift had not been graciously received. Agba and the other stable boys had been ordered to stay with their horse until he died. Not only did Agba want to obey the Sultan's orders but he loved Sham and could not bear to live without him.

Agba heard horse hooves approaching and quickly turned to see if it was Sham. A dusty horse harnessed to an empty cart was coming toward him. The horse turned to the water fountain as if to drink, but the driver jerked him away. Agba jumped up and followed the cart down several streets until the horse turned into a very narrow alley and stopped before a rickety shed.

Hiding behind a barrel, Agba watched as the wood carter hitched the horse to a ring in the shed and tossed him some hay. Then the carter

walked away. Agba quietly crept into the shed and stood by the horse's head. The horse turned and saw Agba. A glad knicker escaped his tired lips. He put his head on Agba's cheek. Sham and Agba were together again.

The carter did not mind Agba staying in the shed with Sham as long as he helped load the wood on the wagon every day. It was ideal for the wood carter because he had a slave and did not have to buy him food or clothing. However, both friends suffered under the hands of the cruel wood carter. Every evening Sham came wearily into the shed. While Sham ate his little pile of hay, Agba rubbed salve on Sham's sores.

Distance may separate friends for a season, but love will bring them together again. There is nothing more warming to the heart than to have a faithful friend who will stay true to you through good and bad times. Two friends can handle trials and troubles better together than alone. Even Jesus chose friends to be with. We want to be a friend to others like Jesus was.

(To be continued next week.)

### Questions:

1. What land was promised?
2. What did God advise Moses?
3. How many spies went to Canaan?
4. How long were the spies there?
5. Did they all bring back a good report?
6. Who brought back a good report?
7. What were the spies afraid of?
8. What did Caleb advise Moses?

**Answers:** 1. Canaan. 2. To send spies ahead. 3. Twelve. 4. 40 days. 5. No. 6. Caleb. 7. Being beaten in battle. 8. To claim the land.



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Aug. 31, 2008

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## Wandering in the Wilderness

When ten out of twelve of the spies that went into Canaan came back with a report of how strong the Canaanites were, the children of Israel lifted up their voices and wept. They began to murmur and complain against Moses.

"I wish we would have died in Egypt," they grumbled. "The Lord has brought us out of Egypt so that we can be killed. Let's find a captain and go back to Egypt."

Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb pleaded with the people to change their minds. "The land is good," they said. "If the Lord is pleased with us, then he will give us this land that flows with milk and honey. Do not rebel against the Lord."

This speech did not make the children of Israel any happier. "Let's stone them," they cried. Suddenly the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle.

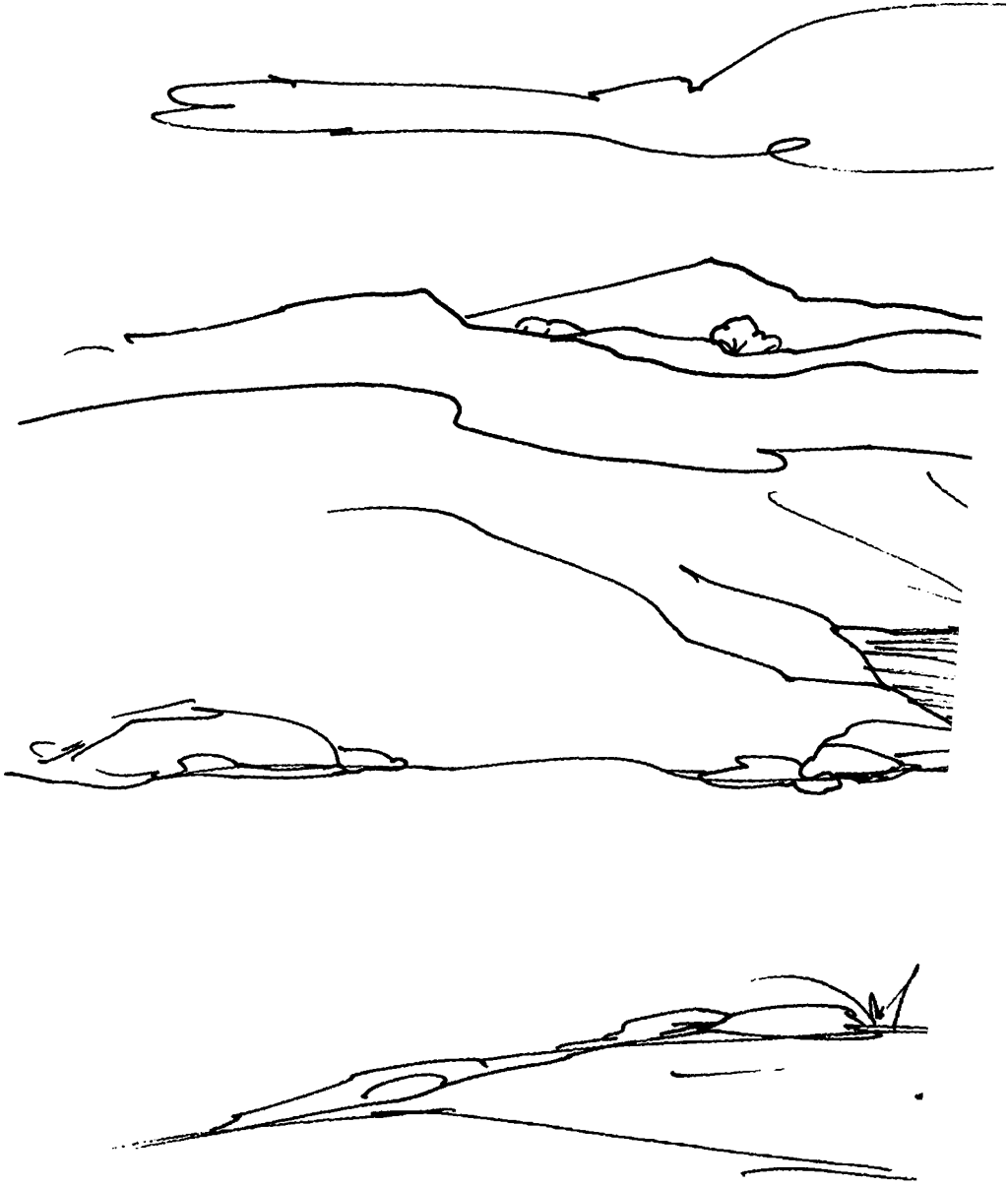
"How often will these people make me angry?" God said. "How long will it be before they believe that I will do as I promised? Will they not believe all of the signs that I have shown to them? Because they have done this, they will have trouble. They are no longer my people. I will make a nation more mighty than they are."

Moses asked the Lord to pardon the children of Israel for their sins, but the Lord still decided to punish them. God caused the children of Israel to wander in the wilderness for forty years. Of the people then grown, no one except for Caleb and Joshua would be allowed to live in the land of Canaan.

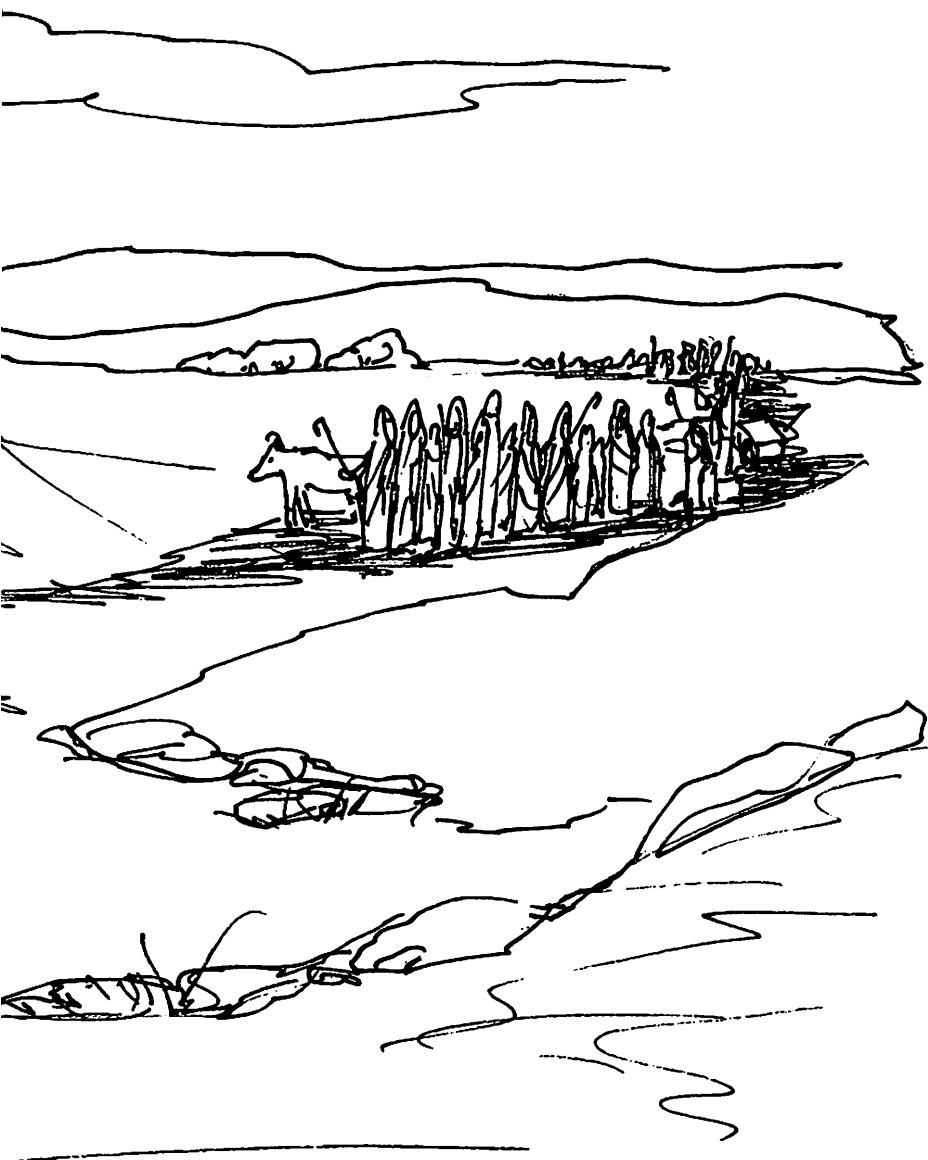
Every man that brought an evil report against the land of Canaan died of sicknesses.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“But all the congregation bade stone them



ones....” Num. 14: 10



## Mercy Answered the Cruelty

(Continued from last week.)

One cold winter morning, the wood carter demanded that more wood be added to the cart. "On mornings like this, I can sell more wood. These icy days are good for my business. Yes, stack that wood up as high as you can."

Agba gave the wood carter a sour look and received a punch for his trouble. Sham was already so weak—and then to make his load extra heavy was very grievous to Agba. Slowly he put the last logs upon the huge pile.

"That will do!" exclaimed the wood carter as he climbed on top of the wood. He picked up the reins and slapped them on Sham's back. The load was so heavy, and Sham was not accustomed to walking on ice. As soon as he stepped out onto the street, his feet went out from under him and he fell to his knees.

"Get up, you old nag!" hollered the wood carter. Yanking at the reins, he pulled Sham up by the bit in his mouth. Sham struggled to his feet, and more by sheer determination than by physical strength, Sham took the heavy load into the streets. The paving was glazed with ice and the shoes on Sham's feet had long since broken off. His hooves were cut and bleeding, as well as his mouth, from the cruel yanking of the wood carter. There were cut and torn places on his hide from the lashes of the whip. He looked very sad and forlorn.

The wood carter turned Sham into a steep uphill street covered with ice. Slowly, carefully, Sham pulled the heavy cart up the hill. Just when he reached the top, his feet began to slip. Plop! Down he went on his front knees. The wood carter cursed and lashed out with his whip. A group of people

had gathered to watch the heavy laden horse climb the hill. Now a cry of protest went up from several as they saw the wood carter use the whip. "So you won't get up, eh?" he growled at Sham. "I'll light a fire under your tail and teach you to stand." As he grabbed a couple of logs from his pile, a tall man stepped up beside him.

"My friend, may I buy your quiet old horse?" The man speaking wore the collarless black coat and the broad-brimmed black hat of a Quaker. "I have fifteen gold pieces to offer for the creature."

Just then a slim boy knelt at the side of the struggling horse. Agba wanted this man to know he went with the horse. Lovingly he unfastened the horse from the cruel harness of the wood carter. In a matter of minutes Sham was bought by Jethro Coke, the Quaker. Now the two friends were on their way to London, England.

Though Agba did not know the Lord, God was watching over him. Through this Quaker, God taught Agba about His mercy and His love.

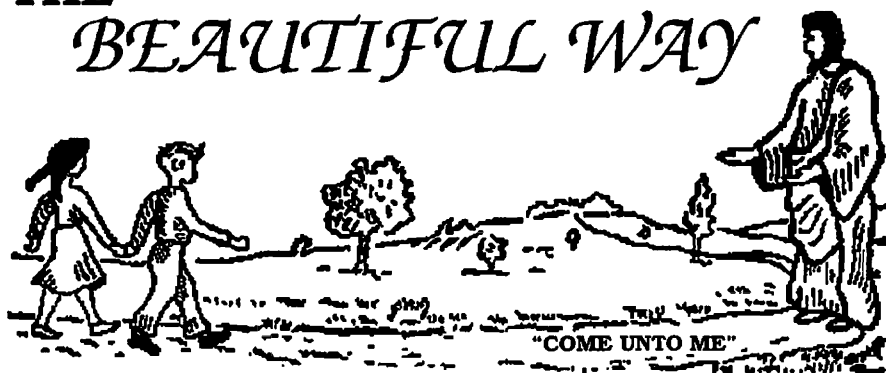
(To be continued next week.)

### Questions:

1. Why were the Israelites upset?
2. What did the Israelites want to do?
3. Who asked them to change their minds?
4. What did they try to do in the tabernacle?
5. What did the Lord want to do to them?
6. Who asked the Lord to forgive them?
7. Did the Lord forgive the Israelites?
8. What punishment did God give the Israelites?

**Answers:** 1. The spies brought back a bad report. 2. Go back to Egypt. 3. Moses, Aaron, Caleb, and Joshua. 4. Stone them. 5. Disinherit them. 6. Moses. 7. No. 8. They wandered in the wilderness.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Sep. 7, 2008

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## **Korah and His Followers**

Korah began to gather together a group of men who did not like Moses. Two hundred and fifty princes of the children of Israel went with Korah to confront Moses and Aaron. "You do too much," they said to Moses and Aaron. "Every member of the congregation is holy. The Lord is with them all. Why do you think you are so much better than everyone else?"

Moses fell on his face. He spoke to Korah and his followers. "Tomorrow the Lord will show who are His and who is Holy. Take your censers and burn fire and incense in them."

Korah's followers returned to the tabernacle the next day with their censers filled with fire and incense. They stood with Moses and Aaron in the doorway of the tabernacle of the congregation.

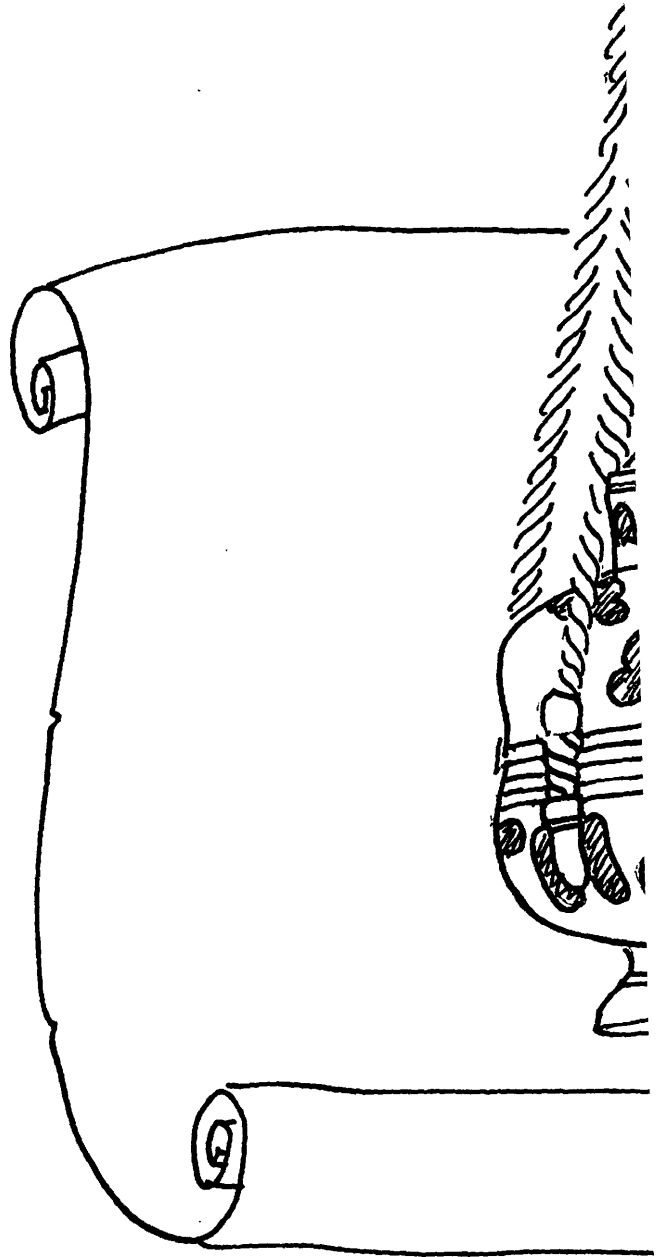
The glory of the Lord appeared to the congregation. "Leave these people so that I may kill them," the Lord told Moses and Aaron.

"Please do not kill all of them," Moses and Aaron begged.

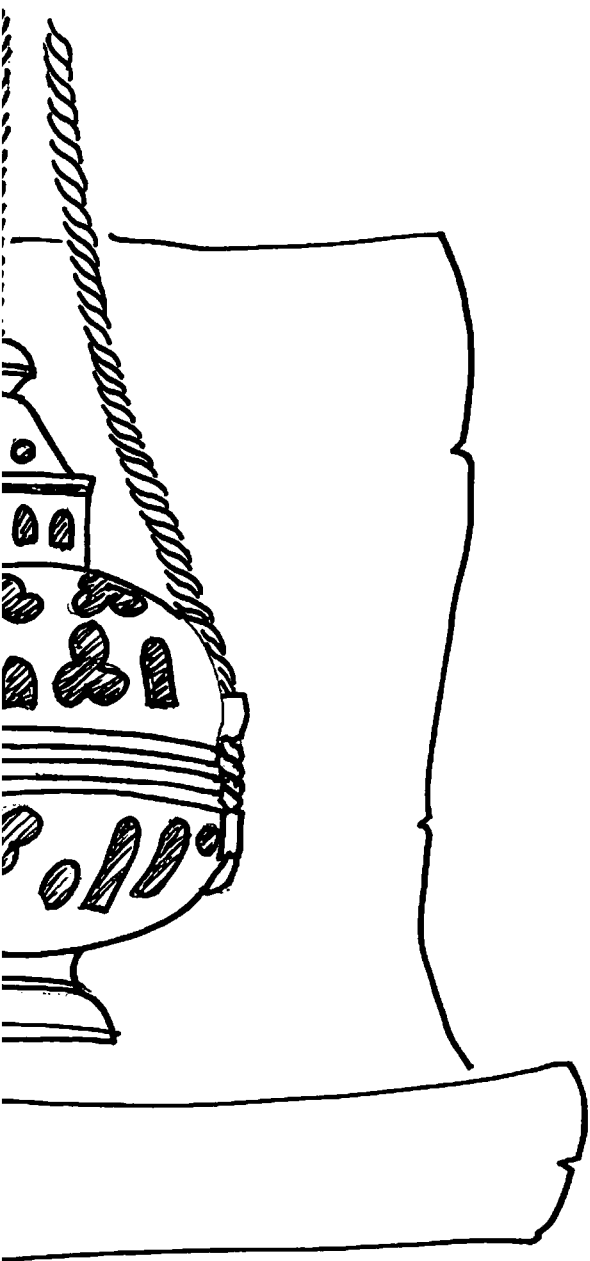
"Speak to the congregation and tell them to leave the tabernacle," the Lord said.

Moses told the congregation, "Leave this wicked group of men so that you will not be punished." The elders of Israel left the tabernacle with Moses. The others went to their tents. Moses spoke to the ones who had remained faithful. When he finished speaking, the ground began to shake. The earth opened up and swallowed everything that the two hundred and fifty men owned. All of the men who followed Korah were killed.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“And they took every ma



censer....” Num. 16: 18

## Obedient to One Master

(Continued from last week.)

"I have an olden barn at the foot of yonder hill," said Jethro Coke, the Quaker, to Agba, the Arabian boy. "The barn will be a comfortable place for thee and the horse. Come and let us settle thee in before the night falleth."

Agba loved the quaint English that Mr. Coke spoke. He liked the tidy farm and the warm, dry barn. Yes, Sham had a good master this time.

After Mr. Coke fed Sham and helped make their beds, he went to his house, which he shared with his son-in-law, Benjamin Biggle, and his daughter. Mrs. Cockburn, a plump, motherly woman, did the cooking.

She met Mr. Coke at the back door. "I saw the poor horse and ragged boy who were with thee. Should I take some warm soup to the boy?"

"That would be most welcome," agreed Mr. Coke with a tired smile. "Under thy careful nursing, the boy and horse will soon be in much better health. When the horse is better, he should be excellent for Benjamin to ride."

Mrs. Cockburn frowned. "I pity the horse that has to carry that lump of lard," she said to her pot of soup. Benjamin Biggle was fat, lazy and grouchy. He did not like the idea of riding Sham. "I would rather ride in a carriage," he said to Mr. Coke. "I do not trust a nervous horse under me."

"Nonsense!" said Mr. Coke. "This horse is tired and worn with use. He will be a gentle mount for thee to ride. This young boy is giving our horse such good care that his scars are mending quickly. Benjamin, thou shouldst be pleased to own such a horse!"

The big day finally came when Benjamin was to ride Sham. No longer was Sham a dusty, skinny, scarred nag, but he was alert and eager to go.

Agba had already put the saddle and bridle on Sham's glossy golden-red back. Sham raised his head and pricked his ears forward as he let Agba lead him to the big house.

Benjamin took one look at the strong four-year-old stallion walking behind Agba, then he said, "I-I really don't feel like riding today."

"Come, Benjamin," reasoned Mr. Coke. "Let not the horse sense thy fear. Here, take the reins thyself. Put thy left foot in this stirrup, and swing aboard!"

As Benjamin grabbed hold of the saddle horn, his big knee jabbed into Sham's side. Suddenly, Sham turned around, knocked Benjamin's hat off, and sank his teeth into the man's black wig.

"I'll teach this horse to mind his manners," Benjamin roared as he plopped into the saddle. No sooner was he seated than Sham took off in a graceful gallop. Sham ran straight for the open barn door. Sham went through the door, but poor Benjamin did not!

"I will never again ride that devil!" Benjamin declared. Actually, Sham didn't want to give Benjamin a ride. Agba was his rider and master.

(To be continued next week.)

### Questions:

1. Who rebelled against Moses?
2. How many followed him?
3. What did they accuse Moses of?
4. Who would choose who is holy?
5. What did God tell Moses and Aaron to do?
6. What did God plan to do?
7. What destroyed their belongings?
8. What happened to the unfaithful men?

**Answers:** 1. Korah. 2. 250 men. 3. Lifting himself up. 4. God. 5. Leave the tabernacle. 6. Kill the unfaithful. 7. An earthquake. 8. They were killed.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Sep. 14, 2008

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## Water from a Rock

Because of their murmurings, God caused the children of Israel to wander in the wilderness for forty years. In their first month of travels, they came to Kadesh. Moses' sister Miriam died and was buried here.

The Israelites had no water to drink. A group of people gathered together and began grumbling about Moses and Aaron's leadership. "I wish that we could die," they complained to Moses. "Why have you brought us to this wilderness to die? There is no fruit or water to drink."

Moses and Aaron left the people and went to the tabernacle. They fell on their faces before God. God appeared to them and gave Moses some instructions. "Take this rod and speak to the rock before the people," God said. "It will bring enough water for everyone."

Moses and Aaron brought all of the people together in front of a rock. Moses was holding a rod. He rebuked the people for grumbling. Then Moses hit the rock twice with his rod. Water came pouring out of the rock. There was plenty for the people and their animals to drink.

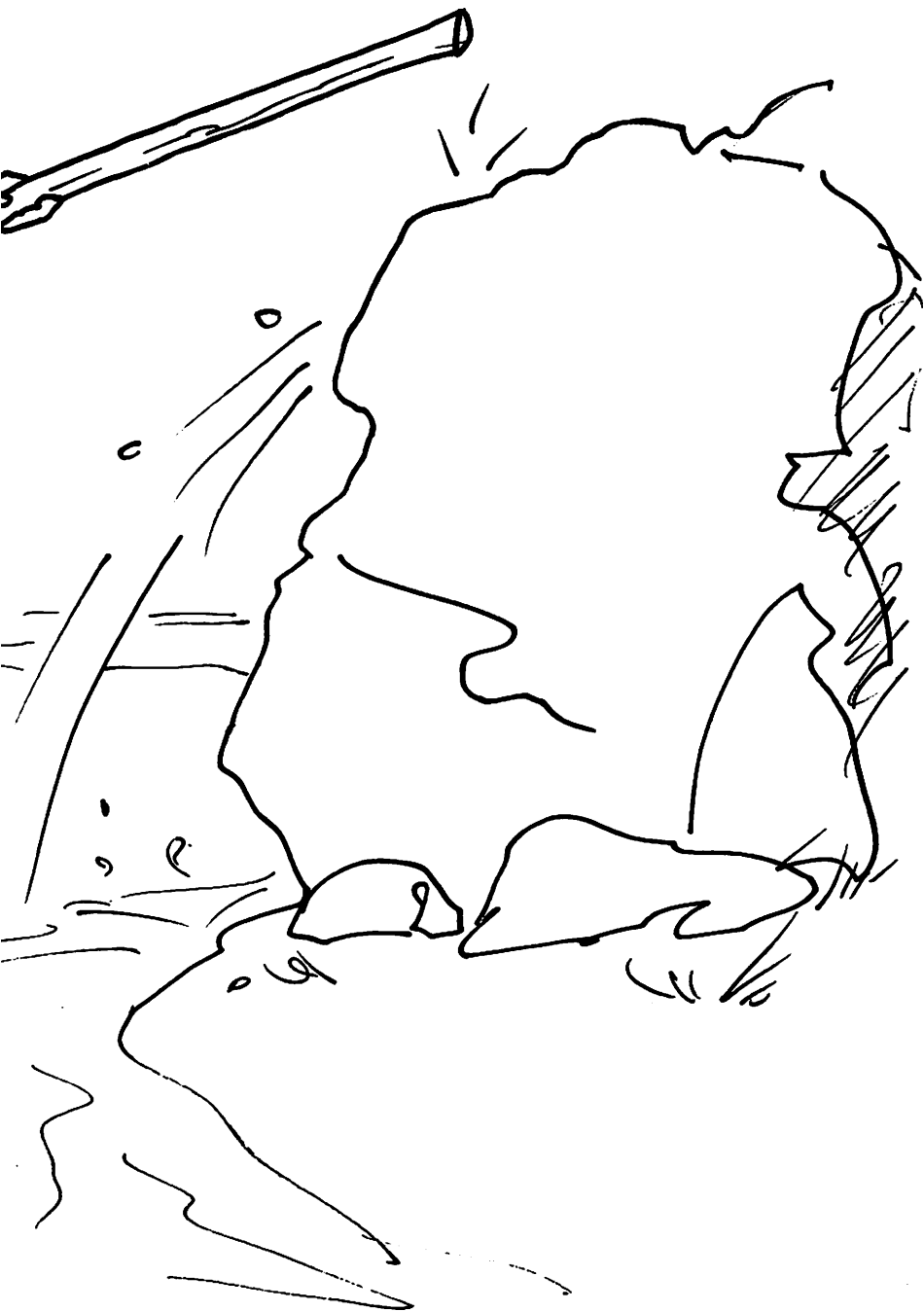
The Lord was angry with Moses and Aaron for not speaking to the rock like He had commanded. "The people thought you caused the water to come out of the rock instead of Me," God said. "Because of this, neither of you will be able to lead the children of Israel into Canaan."

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...Wi



rod he smote the rock twice....” Num. 20:11



## Blessed with a Promise

(Continued from last week.)

Agba was busy brushing Sham's coat when a shadow crossed over the barn door. Agba looked up to see Mr. Coke watching Sham. Mr. Coke had his Bible in his hand and on his face was a kind, loving look. Agba had learned to love this man who patiently taught him a better way of life. Never before had Agba felt a person's love until he met Mr. Coke. He knew Sham was devoted to him, but Mr. Coke had shown him what merciful love was all about. Mr. Coke had read to Agba about Jesus Christ, God's Son, who healed the sick and broken-hearted ones. Through Mr. Coke's words and actions, Agba had come to know the love of God.

How Agba wanted to tell Mr. Coke that he loved him! Agba also wanted to apologize for Sham's naughtiness to Benjamin Biggle, and he wanted to explain that Sham really didn't like for anyone to ride him but himself. However, Agba couldn't say all this because he was a mute. He had never been able to talk with words, but he spoke with facial expressions and with hand motions.

Now Agba turned and bowed low to the ground before Mr. Coke. "Come, my boy," said Mr. Coke as he seated himself on a bale of hay. "Thou and thy horse shall ever be dear to me, but thou knowst what happened today with my son-in-law. He is in bed from the bruises of the fall. It is his wish that the horse be sent away at once."

As Mr. Coke talked, tears blurred Agba's eyes. Just when life was so good, evil had struck again. Even though Mr. Coke was a good friend of Mr. Williams, who was Sham's new owner, Agba did not know Mr. Williams. "He is a good Christian man,"

said Mr. Coke kindly. "I would not sell thy horse to anyone but a good man. Come, lad, listen to the Word of God and let it comfort our hearts, for it grieves me also to send thee away."

Then Jethro Coke read from Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint." Mr. Coke put his hand on Agba's head. "I appreciate thy patience with the horse and thy carefulness in nursing him. Be that patient with the Lord and He will bless thee. Be that careful in serving Him and He will keep thee and thy horse strong and healthy. For the Lord's sake, please serve Mr. Williams as well as thou hast served me. Let us pray."

Obediently, Agba bowed his head. He was in need of God's grace and blessings in the days and years ahead. Agba could not speak his prayer, but the Lord heard the prayer of his heart. Agba would miss Mr. Coke, but now he would have the Lord with him.

(To be continued next week.)

### Questions:

1. Why were the people in the wilderness?
2. What were the people complaining about?
3. Where did Moses and Aaron go?
4. What did God give Moses?
5. Where did Moses stand?
6. What did Moses rebuke the people for?
7. What came out of the rock?
8. Who were not allowed to enter Canaan?

**Answers:** 1. Because of their sins. 2. Not having fruit or water. 3. To the tabernacle. 4. A rod. 5. In front of a rock. 6. Grumbling. 7. Water. 8. Moses & Aaron.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Sep. 21, 2008

## A Fiery Serpent

Many troubles came to the children of Israel during their travels in the wilderness. Moses sent word to a king and asked if the children of Israel could pass through his kingdom and drink his water. The king was afraid of so many people coming through his kingdom at once. He refused Moses' request. So the children of Israel had to take a longer route toward Canaan.

Aaron had become very old. One day, God told Aaron to bring his son Eleazar to Mount Hor. Aaron gave his clothing to his son and then he died there on the mountain. When Eleazar came down the mountain, the people saw that Aaron was dead. They mourned for Aaron for thirty days. Eleazar took his father's place as high priest.

The children of Israel had traveled many days in the wilderness. They were getting very tired and discouraged. "We are tired of this manna," they said. "We wish we had bread and water."

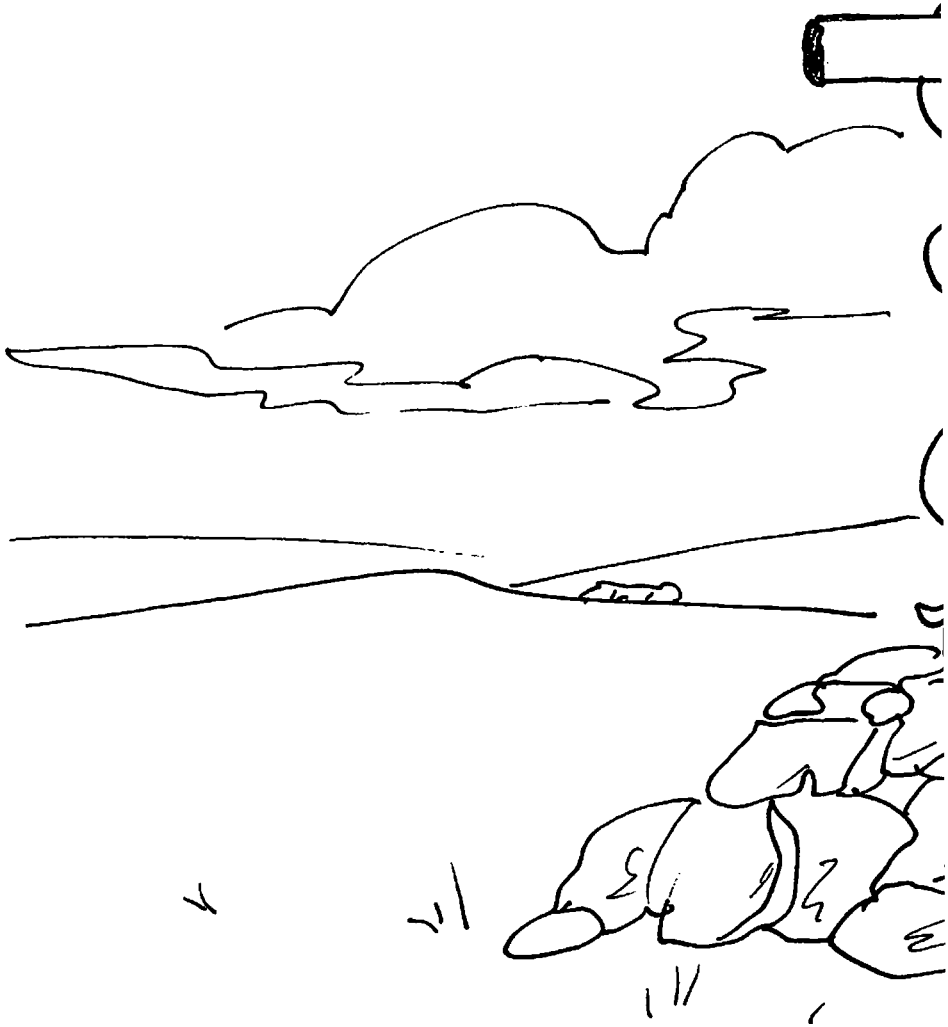
The Lord sent serpents among them to punish them for their complaints. The snakes bit the people. Many people died.

"We have sinned," the people cried. "We have spoken against the Lord and against Moses. Pray that the Lord will take the serpents away from us." So Moses prayed for his people. The Lord told Moses what to do.

Moses made a serpent of brass and put it high up on a pole. If anyone was bitten, they could look up at the brass serpent and be healed.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“Moses made a serpent of bras



put it on a pole....” Num. 21:9



## Not Forgotten

(Continued from last week)

At the Red Lion Inn, Mr. Williams was nice to Sham and Agba, but he had a wife who did not like Agba. She didn't like the white hooded mantle that he wore nor his soft pattering sandals. Within two weeks, Mrs. Williams told her husband that either she or Agba had to leave. So it was that Mr. Williams turned Agba out on the road. But he kept Sham.

Now Mr. Williams was pleased with the beauty of Sham, but he did not know how to handle him. Any time Mr. Williams went into Sham's stall, he took a pitchfork, hoe, or some other tool for protection. Of course Sham felt Mr. William's fear. He would snort and rear, pawing the air with his front hooves. Neither did Sham let other men ride him. He would turn and twist, kick and rear until no one wanted to ride him. One day a horse trainer told Mr. Williams to put Sham into a little stall and feed him only one cup of oats and a little water everyday. "That ought to take the meanness out of 'im!" he declared.

One moonlit night Agba decided to visit Sham. He did not know that Sham was imprisoned in this little stall. Agba was in the big barn quietly looking for Sham when Mrs. Williams came into the barn for a bag of salt. "Ah ha!" she screamed when she found Agba. Guests at the inn came running to the barn, where Mrs. Williams was accusing Agba of being a "horse thief." One guest was a policeman who promptly arrested Agba and led him away to prison.

There in the farthest corner of the dungeon, Agba prayed. He remembered the promise Mr. Coke had read from the Bible. He wanted to be patient, though sometimes it was hard.

Time passed and Mrs. Cockburn

thought about Agba and Sham. She remembered the way Agba liked her cooking and how Sham liked carrots.

So Mrs. Cockburn packed some goodies in a basket, and walked all the way to the Red Lion Inn to visit them. She was shocked when Mrs. Williams rudely told her that Agba was sent to prison for horse thieving and Sham was kept securely in a small stall. Mrs. Cockburn left the Red Lion Inn so troubled that she was nearly run over by a fine team of horses and an elegant carriage.

"Why are you so sad?" asked the well-dressed man in the carriage. Mrs. Cockburn told him about Agba and Sham and how she was concerned for them. "Come with us," said the gentleman. "We are the Earl and Duchess of Godolphin. Today we are going to visit the prison and review each prisoners' case. We will see what we can do for your two friends.

So it was that Mrs. Cockburn and her basket of goodies arrived at the prison. Agba thought he was dreaming when his cell door opened and she was standing there. He was weak, dirty and chained, as soon as he was released, but he bowed before her. Once again the Lord rescued Agba and Sham.

(To be continued next week.)

### Questions:

1. What did Moses ask the king?
2. Did the king say yes to Moses?
3. Who died on Mount Hor?
4. Who was the next high priest?
5. What did the Israelites complain about?
6. What did the Lord send to punish them?
7. What did Moses set up?
8. What happened when they looked at it?

**Answers:** 1. To pass through his land. 2. No. 3. Aaron. 4. Eleazar. 5. The manna. 6. Serpents. 7. A brass serpent on a pole. 8. The bitten people were healed.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Oct. 5, 2008

## Rebuked by a Donkey

King Balak listened carefully to the story of the battle between the Israelites and the Amorites. The Israelites had conquered the Amorites in battle. "The Israelites will surely take everything that is ours," King Balak said. He sent messengers to Balaam, a man of God who lived in their country. "Please come and curse these people for me," King Balak pleaded. "They are too mighty for our armies to defeat."

When the messengers arrived, Balaam invited them to spend the night. "Who are these men staying with you?" the Lord asked Balaam. "King Balak sent them here," Balaam replied. "He says there is a group of people from Egypt who are coming toward Moab. He wants me to curse them so that they will be driven out." "You will not go with the messengers," God instructed. "You will not curse the people because they are blessed." So Balaam got up the next day and told the men that he would not go to see the king.

King Balak sent even more princes to Balaam. "Please do not let anything stop you from seeing the king," they cried. "The king will give you a position of honor in the kingdom. He will do whatever you ask if you will only curse these people." "I would not come if Balak offered me a house full of gold," Balaam replied. That night God spoke to Balaam again. He told Balaam to wait to go to the king.

The next morning, Balaam saddled his donkey and started on his journey. It made God very angry that Balaam did not follow His instructions. God sent an angel to block Balaam's path. When the donkey saw the angel standing with his fiery sword in his hand, the donkey turned from the path and went into a field. Balaam struck the donkey. "Go the right way," Balaam said angrily. The angel caused the donkey to speak. "What have I done to deserve such treatment?" the donkey asked. "You would not obey me," Balaam replied. Then Balaam's eyes were opened, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in front of them. He fell down in worship. "I have sinned," Balaam repented. "I will turn back." The angel said, "Go with the men." So Balaam continued on his journey.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...He saw the angel of the LOR  
standing in his way....

Numbers 22: 31





## Beginning Third Grade

In third grade, Connie had an elderly teacher named Mrs. Logsdon. She was nice, but she believed in students obeying the rules. Connie never wanted to hear Mrs. Logsdon say, "Connie, you will have to stay in during break time because you were talking in class."

In the afternoon, right after lunch, Mrs. Logsdon instructed all her third-graders to lay their heads on their desks as she read a story to them. This was a pleasant time. She would sit on a high stool so that she could see all the students in one glance. If anyone raised their head, she would stop reading, say the child's name and tell them to put their head back down.

Some students fell asleep, but Connie never did. She sat where she could see Mrs. Logsdon. Her voice went high and low and changed with the voice of characters. This put a desire in Connie to read well and make stories interesting to hear, like Mrs. Logsdon did.

On Friday mornings, Mrs. Logsdon always gave time for Show and Tell. Connie liked this time because she liked to talk. Sometimes she forgot to bring something to show, but she always had something to tell.

One Friday morning, before she was ready, Connie was called upon to come to the front and talk. She didn't have anything planned to say, she just wanted to talk. So she made up what to say, which was silly, and she started giggling. She was telling an interesting story about her Daddy and Mother, changing her voice like Mrs. Logsdon did in her story reading. The class thought it was funny, but Mrs. Logsdon frowned and said, "Connie, that is enough for now. I want you to stay in during break so we can have

a visit. You may go to your seat."

Connie wondered what the visit would be about. Did Mrs. Logsdon think she was making fun of her or did she think she wasn't truthful?

Break time came and Connie stayed in her seat while all the other students went out. "Connie, you may come to my desk," said Mrs. Logsdon. With her head down, Connie slowly walked to the desk.

Mrs. Logsdon spoke kindly, but she let Connie know she did not want her to make up stories about her family which were not true. She told her that was how gossip and rumors could start, so it was best to not say anything if she did not have facts right. She told Connie she was a good story teller, but it was more important to keep the stories truthful. After a warm hug, she said, "Now you go on out for your break, but don't forget what we talked about."

"I won't!" promised Connie. She rushed out the door to cool her warm cheeks. Mrs. Logsdon had realized she was making up the story, but she had forgiven her. Connie remembered Mrs. Logsdon had said she was a good story teller! That encouraged her, but in the back of her mind she remembered that the story needed to be truthful or she would be embarrassed.

(To be continued.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Who was the king of Moab?
2. What was the king afraid of?
3. What did the king want Balaam to do?
4. What did God tell Balaam to do?
5. What did the king offer Balaam?
6. What made God angry?
7. What stood in Balaam's path?
8. What animal spoke to Balaam?

**Answers:** 1. Balak. 2. The Israelites. 3. Curse the Israelites. 4. Not go with the men. 5. A position of honor. 6. Balaam did not obey him. 7. An angel. 8. A donkey.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 58, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Oct. 12, 2008

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## A Dooming Prophecy

The children of Israel had set up camp in the plains of Moab. They had just defeated the Amorites in battle and conquered Amorite lands. Balak was the king of Moab. When King Balak heard that the Israelites were coming toward his kingdom, he was afraid. King Balak sent for Balaam. Balaam was a man of God who lived in Moab. King Balak wanted Balaam to curse the Israelites so that the Moabites would defeat them in battle.

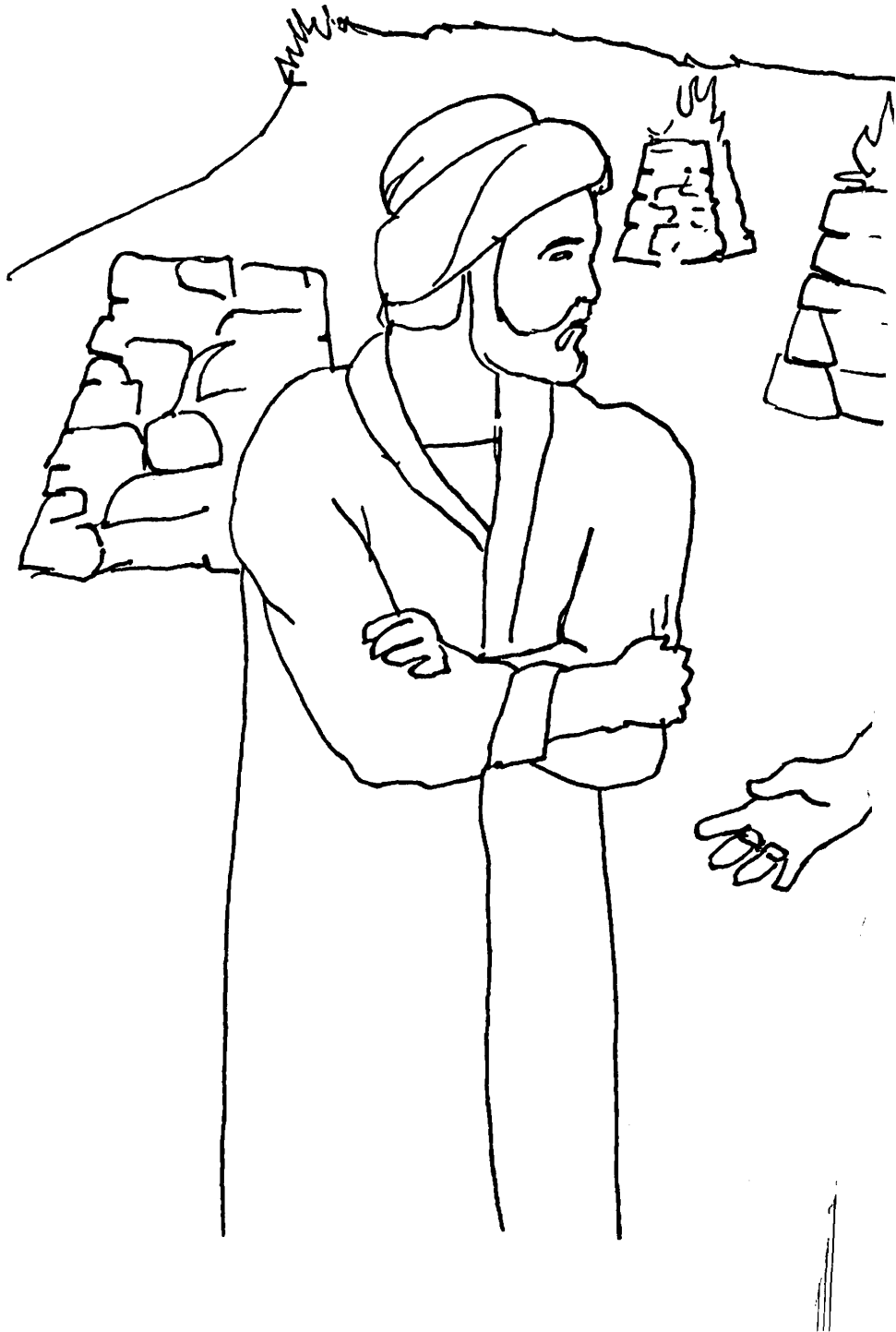
When King Balak heard that Balaam had reached the city, he rushed out to meet him. King Balak took Balaam up to the place where Baal was worshipped. There Balaam could look out and see many of the Moabites. "Build seven altars here," Balaam instructed King Balak. "Bring seven oxen and seven rams to sacrifice on the altars. I will go and speak to the Lord. Then I will tell you what He has commanded." When King Balak had finished building the altars, Balaam told the Lord, "I have prepared seven altars and offered a ram and oxen on each altar." The Lord told Balaam what to tell King Balak.

Balaam returned to King Balak. "How can I curse what God has blessed?" Balaam said. "What have you done to me?" the king accused. "I brought you here to curse our enemies. Instead you have blessed them." King Balak wanted Balaam to speak to the Lord again. Maybe this time the Lord would answer differently. So two more times Balaam set up seven altars on the mountains and spoke with the Lord just as he had before. Both times the Lord told Balaam to bless the Israelites. King Balak grew very angry at Balaam. King Balak hit his hands together.

"Now you have blessed these people three times when I asked you to curse them," King Balak complained. "Run from this place. I had planned to honor you by offering you a noble position in my kingdom, but the Lord has kept you from this honor." Balaam began to prophesy. "The Israelites will triumph in battle," Balaam predicted.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...I have prepared seven al



ars....” Numbers 23:4



## A Stupid Pinching Contest

(Continued from last week.)

Joyce and Connie were in the same classroom in third grade. Joyce had long, thick black hair and cute brown freckles all over her face. She also had long finger nails and was very proud of them.

When the weather turned chilly, Connie and Joyce discovered they wore matching coats to school. They giggled about it when they put their coats on hooks in the long closet at the end of the classroom.

During recess the girls went to the gym to do flips on the bar. Connie and Joyce wore their matching coats and did flips together. They would put both hands on the metal bar, bend one leg over the bar, cross their legs, swing over and up again. Often four or five of them would do several flips at a time and see who could get done the quickest. Connie was fast at flipping and often she would win.

"I know why you're faster at flipping than I am," said Joyce one day while they were at the bar. "I have longer finger nails and they dig into my hands when I grip the bar so tightly. That slows me down."

"That doesn't matter," said Connie. "I have long fingernails too, and they don't slow me down."

"Let me see your fingernails," said Joyce.

The girls held their hands together and compared nails. "Look," said Joyce, "Mine are a little bit longer than yours."

"Maybe so," admitted Connie. "But mine are stronger than yours."

"I don't think so," said Joyce. "My brother said my nails can pinch very hard."

"Pooh," said Connie. "Your nails would break if you pinched very hard. Your nails are really too long to pinch with."

Joyce's cheeks went pink underneath her freckles and her blue eyes clashed

with Connie's dark brown eyes.

"Let's just pinch each other's arms and see who can pinch the hardest," challenged Joyce.

"Okay," replied Connie. "Which arm do you want me to pinch?"

"Right here," said Joyce as she pulled back a coat sleeve and pointed to the top of her arm. "I will pinch the top of your arm right there. Ready, set, go!"

Connie grabbed Joyce's arm and dug in and she felt Joyce's nails dig into her arm. After a short moment, Connie realized she had agreed to do something very stupid. She thought Joyce was going to pinch off a piece of her arm!

"Stop!" said Connie. "Let's do some more flips!"

"Do you give?" asked Joyce.

"I give," said Connie. "It doesn't matter who has the longer fingernails!"

"Yes, it does," replied Joyce. "I have the longest fingernails and you can do the fastest flips."

"Okay," said Connie. "Now we are even. We can still be friends."

Instead of competing, friends should compliment each other.

(To be continued.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Who was King Balak afraid of?
2. Who did the king send for?
3. Where did King Balak take Balaam?
4. How many altars did Balaam build?
5. What did he sacrifice on the altars?
6. What did the Lord tell Balaam to say?
7. How did Balak feel about Balaam?
8. What did Balaam predict?

**Answers:** 1. The Israelite army. 2. Balaam. 3. High places of Baal. 4. Seven. 5. Oxen and rams. 6. The Israelites are blessed. 7. Angry. 8. The Israelites would win the battle.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Oct. 19, 2008

## Matters of False Gods and Inheritance

The children of Israel were camping in the plains of Moab. Some of the Israelites began to fellowship with the Moabites. "Come and join the celebration we are having for one of our gods," the Moabites invited. Many of the Israelites went with the Moabites. After the Moabites and the children of Israel ate together, the Israelites joined the Moabites in the worship of their false gods. God saw the evil things His people were participating in and became very angry at the Israelites.

"All of the people that worshipped with the Moabites must die for their sins," God told Moses. Twenty-four thousand people died because they had turned away from the true God.

God asked Moses to number all of the children of Israel. The Israelites were still wandering around in the wilderness because of their disobedience. Those who were over a certain age would die before they reached the land of Israel. Caleb and Joshua were the only Israelites left from that age group who were allowed to enter the land of Canaan.

After Moses had numbered the children of Israel, five women came to Moses with a request. Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah were the daughters of Zelophehad. "Our father died in the wilderness," the women informed Moses before the congregation of the children of Israel. "He was not among the men who went against the Lord. He had no sons. Why should our family not receive an inheritance?"

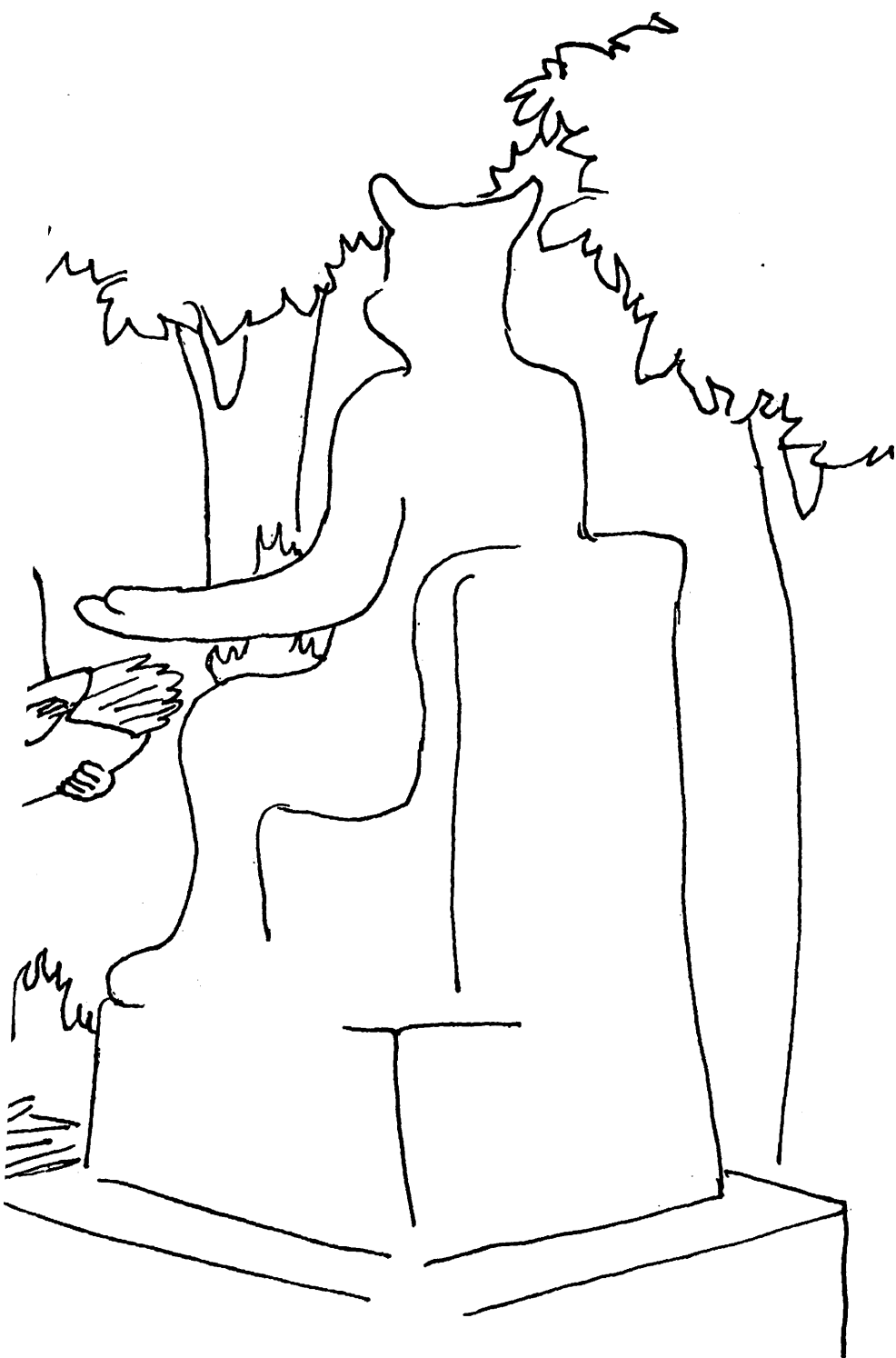
Moses told the Lord about their question. "The daughters of Zelophehad speak correctly," the Lord approved. "You will give them inheritance. You will tell the children of Israel, 'If a man dies and has no sons, you will pass his inheritance on to his daughters. If he has no daughters, then his inheritance will be given to his brothers. If he has no brothers, give his inheritance to his next of kin.'"

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...And the people did eat  
and bowed down to their gods.”

Numbers 25:2





## Coat Exchange

(Continued from last week.)

With the colder weather everyone wore coats or jackets to school. Connie and Joyce would hang their matching coats side by side on hooks in the coat closet in the third grade classroom.

"Your coat is newer than mine," said Joyce. "Did you buy yours on purpose to match mine?"

Connie shook her head. "No, did you buy yours at TG&Y?"

"Probably," replied Joyce. "That's where Mama buys most of our stuff."

"Girls," called Mrs. Logsdon, "get out of the coat closet so the boys can hang up their coats before class starts. We want to say the Pledge of Allegiance and our prayer right after the bell rings."

The girls hurried out of the closet because they certainly did not want to be in there when the noisy boys came tramping in! Connie really liked the way Mrs. Logsdon kept order in her classroom. She watched how Mrs. Logsdon wrote her letters on the blackboard, and she tried to write neat like her teacher.

One Friday Connie was slow in leaving school. She and her friend, Cara, wanted to walk home together. When she went to the coat closet she discovered that Joyce had taken her coat. There was no other coat in the closet, so Connie put on Joyce's coat.

"My, you really got your coat dirty," said Cara when she saw Connie in the school hall way.

"No, Joyce accidentally wore my coat home," replied Connie. "We can change back on Monday."

"I say she did it on purpose," said Cara. "Your coat is so much newer."

"No, it is dark in the closet and she probably couldn't tell which was which," said Connie.

Connie wasn't bothered by wearing

Joyce's older coat, but Mother was not pleased about it at all. "What is Joyce's last name?" she asked reaching for the telephone directory. "I will call her mother and get these coats exchanged."

Joyce's mother had not noticed the mistake. The two mothers agreed that the girls should walk and meet on a street half way between their houses.

The girls were glad to see each other. "I can't stay and play," said Joyce as she slipped off Connie's coat. "We have a big dinner to attend tonight. It is so boring with all grown-ups there! I'm sorry I did not ask to borrow your coat."

"That's okay," replied Connie as she handed Joyce's old coat to her. "I knew you would bring back my coat on Monday. My mama just doesn't know what good friends we are."

Connie was tempted to let Joyce borrow her black and white houndstooth coat with a soft fake fur collar, but she knew Mama was expecting her to come home with her own coat.

"Have a good time at the dinner," Connie said to Joyce.

"I'll try," replied Joyce. "Thanks for being a friend."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Where were the Children of Israel?
2. What were they invited to do?
3. Why was God angry?
4. What did God tell Moses to do?
5. Why were they in the wilderness?
6. What did the five women want?
7. Did the Lord grant their request?
8. Had their father turned against God?

**Answers:** 1. The plains of Moab. 2. Worship false gods. 3. They had turned to other gods. 4. Kill the unfaithful. 5. Because of their disobedience. 6. Their inheritance. 7. Yes. 8. No.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 58, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Oct. 26, 2008

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## Revenge Against the Midianites

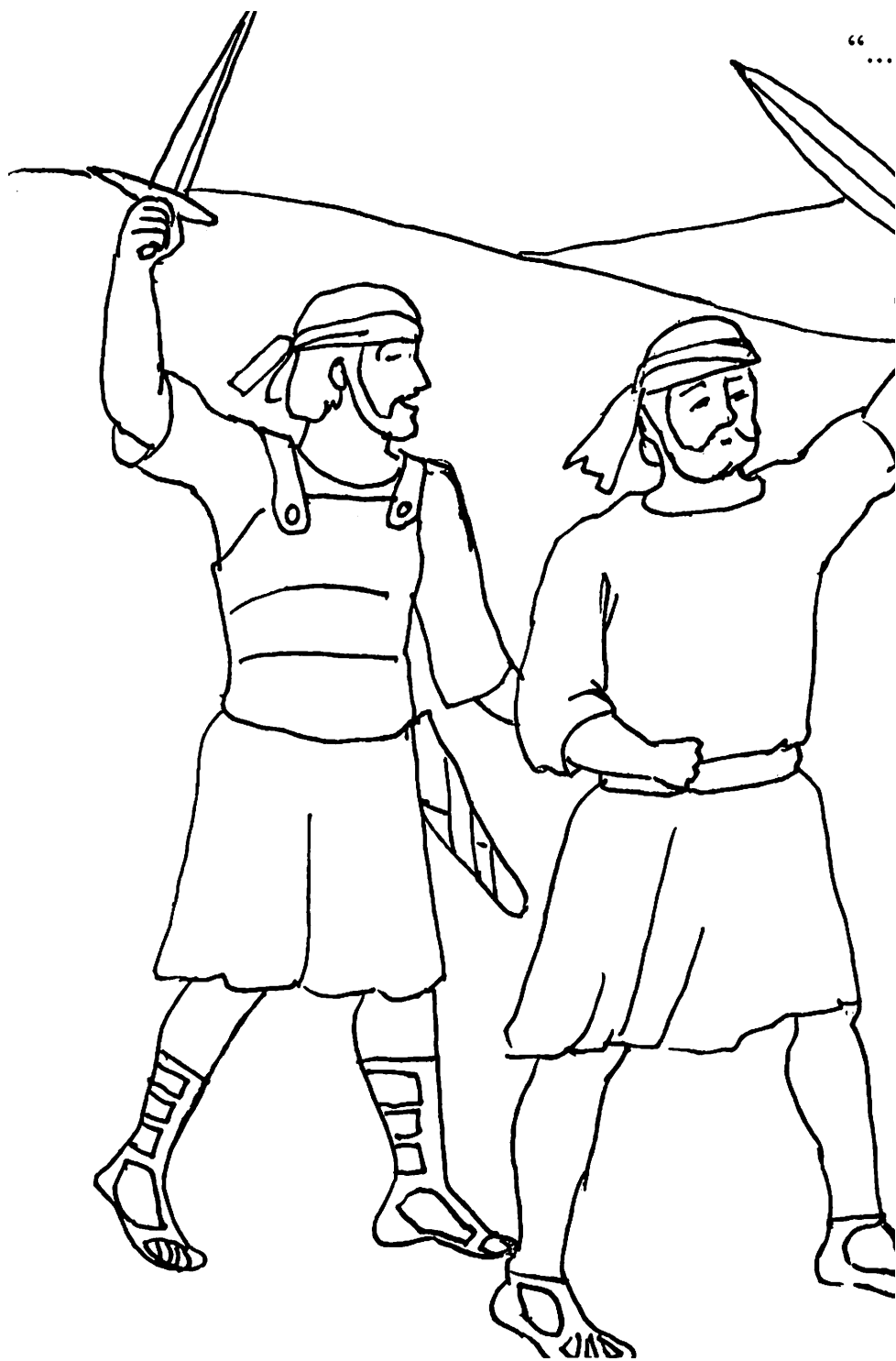
The children of Israel sinned by worshipping the false gods of the Midianite people who lived in Moab. The Lord became very angry with them. He caused a plague to come among the Israelites. Many Israelites died because of their sin. Now the Lord told Moses to face the Midianites in battle. The Midianite people would be punished for their part in making the Israelites turn from God.

Moses called the people to war. One thousand men from all of the twelve tribes of Israel came prepared for battle. Twelve thousand men of Israel would join in the fight against the Midianites. Phinehas, the son of the high priest, Eleazar, went to war with the men. Phinehas brought holy instruments, such as trumpets, with him. All of the Midianite men and kings were killed during the battle. The Israelite soldiers took the women and children for slaves. They took the Midianite cattle, flocks, and goods. The Midianite cities and beautiful castles were burned. The soldiers returned from battle bringing all of the goods they had pilfered back to their camp.

Moses, Eleazar the priest, and all of the princes of the congregation went to meet the parade of soldiers returning to battle. "Why did you not follow my instructions?" Moses angrily asked. "You were to kill every Midianite who caused the Israelites to sin." Half of the animals that had been captured were given to the soldiers who fought in battle; the other half of the animals were given to the priests to use for sacrificial offerings to the Lord.

Each soldier had taken goods for himself during battle. One of the soldiers came to Moses and offered his jewels to the Lord. When Moses heard that all of the soldiers had taken jewels for themselves, he and Eleazar took the gold and jewels from every soldier and offered them to the Lord. They were placed in the tabernacle so that the Israelites could always remember what happened to those who had turned away from God.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



Moses,...and all of the princes...went forth to meet them  
without the camp.” Numbers 31:13



## Mrs. Nelson's Invitation

Mrs. Nelson was sitting on her front porch when Connie and Kim rode their bikes into her driveway.

"Mrs. Nelson looks lonesome," said Kim to Connie. "Let's visit with her." So the girls jumped off their bikes and climbed the steps to Mrs. Nelson's porch.

"Hello, girls," greeted Mrs. Nelson. "It is so nice of you to stop by and visit. All my messy boys are gone for the weekend which is wonderful in one way but lonesome in another way."

"I think it is wonderful to have Damon gone," teased Connie.

Mrs. Nelson laughed. "You and my Damon agree to fuss, I think! Well, Donnie misses playing with my Troy."

They watched Donnie ride his bike around "The Egg" on the street in front of their houses. Connie called to her brother. "Hey, Donnie! Come to Mrs. Nelson's porch!"

"I really miss my Troy when I see you, Donnie!" said Mrs. Nelson. "Why don't you all come inside and let me pop some popcorn and we can watch a movie?"

"That would be fun!" exclaimed Kim.

"I don't think Mama and Daddy will let us stay," said Connie.

"Please see if you both can stay," begged Kim. "It would be more fun for all three of us and Mrs. Nelson needs us. Can't you see she has been crying?"

"Well, if Mrs. Nelson called and asked Mama, she might say yes," suggested Connie.

Mrs. Nelson stepped inside her house to call. Soon she came out to tell them all to come on in. Connie had never been inside her next door neighbor's house before. Mrs. Nelson directed them to the back den where a big TV sat by the back patio door.

"Since it is close to Halloween time, I thought we would watch a funny, scary show," said Mrs. Nelson. Kim chatted and giggled with Mrs. Nelson as they checked out the different shows. Connie and Donnie were quietly looking around.

"I wonder what Mrs. Nelson told Mama?" whispered Donnie.

"I don't know," Connie whispered back. "But we didn't lie to get in here."

Soon the TV was telling a story about a young woman who was mummified in a glass coffin. Some how her coffin broke, warm blood dripped on her and she came to life as a bad witch. No one could stop or destroy this mean witch!

Connie and Donnie sat close together, so scared they couldn't finish their popcorn. They did not notice that it was dark outside. Suddenly, the telephone rang and they all jumped. Mrs. Nelson answered.

"Okay, I will send them right home!" she said. "Connie and Donnie, your mother wants you to come right home. This movie is almost over anyway."

Kim wanted to leave, too. Quietly, they thanked Mrs. Nelson. Then, holding hands, they dashed out her back door and ran to their back door, then Kim ran one house up to her back door. For a long time Connie had trouble sleeping because she kept seeing that witch in her sleep. Mama said she did not know Mrs. Nelson planned to show them a scary movie. She had not agreed for them to see a movie, and never again gave permission for them to visit inside the Nelson's house.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Why was God angry with the Israelites?
2. Why was God angry with the Midianites?
3. What did God tell Moses to do?
4. How many men went out to battle?
5. What did Phineas carry into battle?
6. What did the Israelites bring back to camp?
7. Why was Moses angry?
8. What did Moses take from the soldiers?

**Answers:** 1. They worshipped other gods. 2. They tempted the Israelites to sin. 3. Fight the Midianites. 4. 12,000. 5. Holy instruments. 6. Women, children, animals, and goods. 7. The soldiers did not obey him. 8. The jewelry they got in battle.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 58, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Nov. 2, 2008

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## Mourning a Great Leader

"Go up Mount Abarim," the Lord commanded Moses. "Once you have seen the Promised Land from there, you will die, just as your brother Aaron died in the wilderness. Because you rebelled against me and did not obey my commands, you will not live to enter the Promised Land."

"Please, Lord," Moses pleaded. "Give these people a good leader, so the congregation will not be like sheep without a shepherd."

"Joshua, the son of Nun, will be the next leader of the Israelites," the Lord told Moses. "Lay your hands on him. He is full of my spirit. Set him before Eleazar the priest and all of the congregation and tell them that Joshua has been placed in charge of the children of Israel." Moses did all that the Lord commanded him to do.

When he reached the top of the mountain, Moses could see Canaan, the land that God had promised the children of Israel, spread out before him. He saw the beautiful plains stretching out to the sea. Then Moses turned to the south and saw the valley of Jericho. Majestic palm trees dotted the city. "This is the land that I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give this to your descendants,'" the Lord informed Moses. "I have allowed you to see it, but you will not get to enter into it."

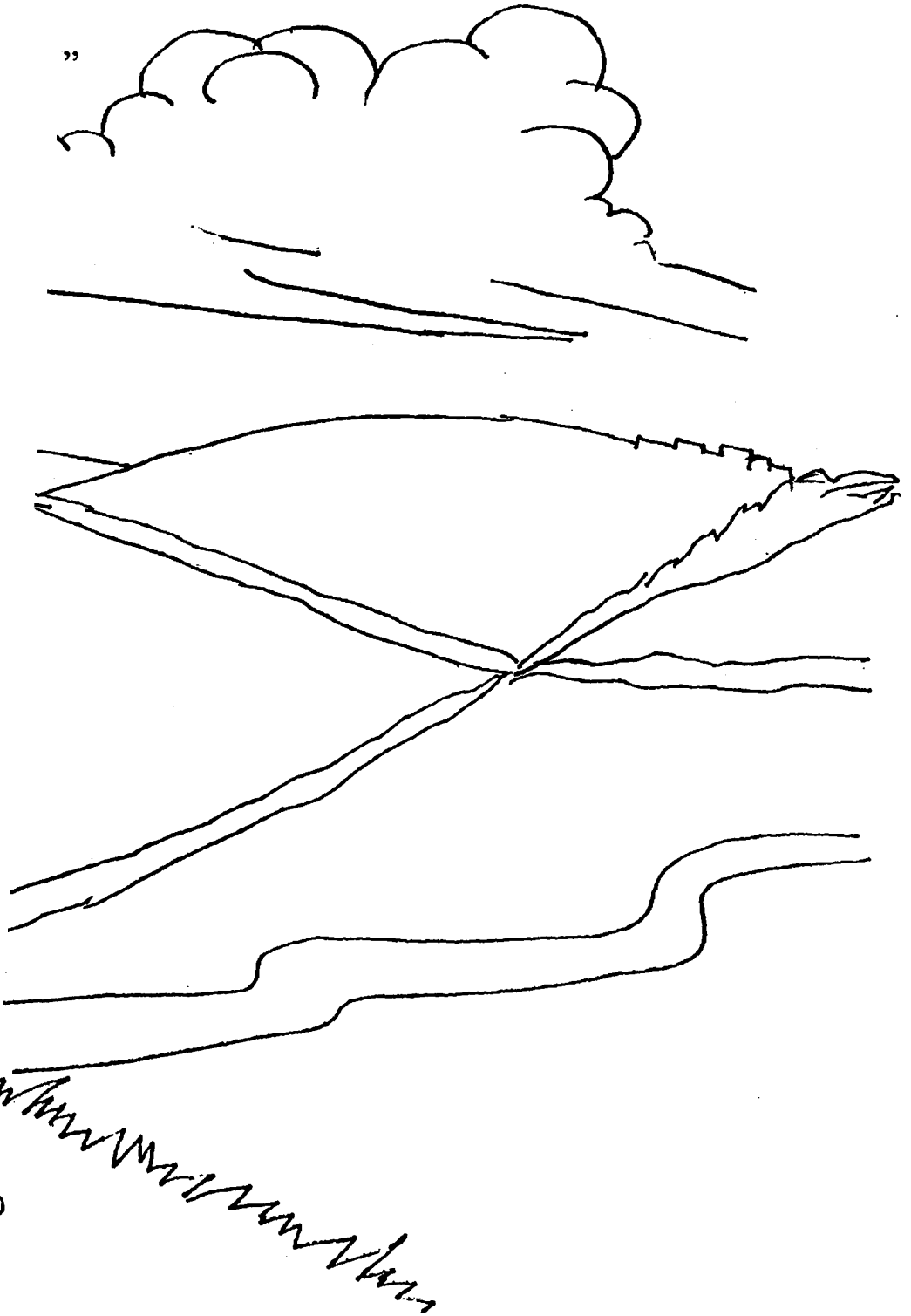
The children of Israel were still camped in the plains of Moab when Moses died. Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. The children of Israel were very sad to lose such a great leader. They stayed in the plains of Moab and mourned thirty days for Moses. God buried Moses in the wilderness. No one has ever been able to find his grave. There has not been another prophet in Israel that the Lord has spoken to face to face. Moses was willing to let the Lord use him for the difficult task of leading His chosen people out of Egypt.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...And the Lord shewed him all of the land of Gil

Deuteronomy 34:1





## Daddy's Birthday

(Continued)

Connie and Donnie were at the Faith Publishing House helping their Grandma Miles wrap tracts to store in the attic. Wrapping the tracts in paper kept them from turning yellow and dusty in the storage bins. After six packages were wrapped, Connie and Donnie carried them up the wide, wooden stairs to the A-shaped attic where there were rows of bins. They knew just where to put these tracts because they were labeled Section C, Bin 1. It was like placing pieces in a puzzle.

Grandma liked to sing while she worked and her clear alto voice was pleasant to sing along with. They were on the last packages, when Grandma said, "Your daddy's birthday is coming up soon, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November. We need to go shopping and get him a little gift."

"Oh, it is so hard to buy for Daddy," said Connie. "He has so much more money than we do and he has everything he needs."

"Yeh," said Donnie, "He only wants expensive toys like a new motorcycle."

"Do not say yeh to me, young man," mildly scolded Grandma. "It is yes, ma'am; please, sir. We can make your daddy a card. That is something he can't buy at the store. Maybe we could make him something."

"I don't think so," replied Connie. "He has expensive taste."

"You two could bake him some chocolate chip cookies! Now I know your daddy likes those!" exclaimed Grandma.

"Yes, ma'am!" said Donnie. "We can make half for him and eat the rest! That sounds good to me!"

"You won't need that many, I hope," replied Grandma. "We can work on the card while we bake the cookies. That is called killing two birds with one stone."

"Is that like killing time?" asked Donnie.

"No," answered Connie. "that means wasting time, and Grandma is talking about using time two ways."

"Oh, your smarts just kill me," retorted Donnie to his sister.

"Okay, children, let's clean up here and go to my house to bake the cookies," said Grandma. Soon they were in her green Rambler going down College Street, over the railroad tracks to Walnut Street where Grandma lived.

Grandma called and told Mama about their plans. Mama, Lonnie and Cindy walked up Magnolia Court and one block over to Grandma's house. Connie put the ingredients in the bowl and Donnie ran the mixer because he thought he should. Lonnie and Cindy helped spoon the cookies on the cookie sheet. So they all helped make the cookies. Mama had already made him a stacked birthday cake.

Then each child made a special card for Daddy. Grandma and Mama prepared a fun birthday dinner, and all were so excited when Daddy arrived home from work. Daddy was happy with everything they gave him and he let each of them have a cookie before he put them away.

That night, in her bedtime prayer, Connie thanked the Lord that her daddy had another birthday. Working together with her loved ones made her feel warm and tingly. Surely it was something to celebrate.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Where did God tell Moses to go?
2. What did Moses ask God for?
3. Who would be the new leader?
4. What did God show Moses?
5. Where did Moses die?
6. How old was Moses?
7. How many days did they mourn?
8. How was Moses different from other prophets?

**Answers:** 1. Up a mountain. 2. A leader for the people. 3. Joshua. 4. The land of Canaan. 5. The plains of Moab. 6. 120 years. 7. 30 days. 8. God knew him face to face.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 58, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Nov. 9, 2008

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## A New Leader

Joshua, the son of Nun, began leading the children of Israel after Moses died in the plains of Moab. Joshua was full of wisdom even at the beginning of taking on his new role as the leader of the Israelites. The Israelites listened very attentively to all of Joshua's words. One day, the Lord had some instructions for Joshua. "Take these people and go over the river, Jordan," the Lord told Joshua. "Go to the land of Canaan that I promised to the people of Israel.

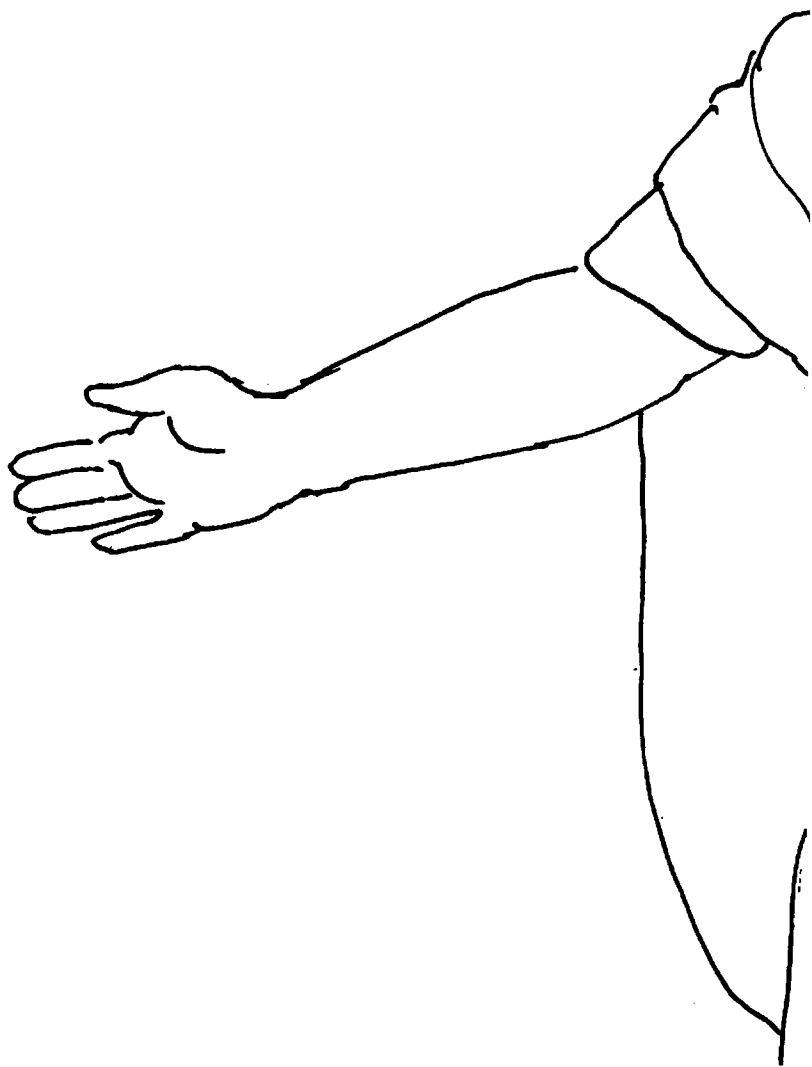
"My people shall own land from the wilderness to Lebanon, to the great river Euphrates, all of the land of the Hitites to the great sea. I will be with you even as I was with Moses. No man will ever be able to defeat you. Do not be afraid, because I will not ever fail you. Be strong and take courage. Divide the land among the children of Israel for their inheritance. Meditate on my book of laws both day and night. Obey all of the laws that are written in them. If you do this, your life will be prosperous and you will be successful. Do not be dismayed, for I am with you wherever you go."

Three different times during this speech the Lord encouraged Joshua to be strong and courageous. When the Lord had finished giving Joshua instructions, Joshua gathered his officers together for a meeting. "Go among the people and command them to prepare food," Joshua instructed. "In three days we will pass over the river Jordan. Then we will go in to the land of Canaan and claim it as our own. The Lord has given us this land to possess."

"We will do anything that you command us to," Joshua's officers complied. "We will go wherever you send us. We will obey you in all things, just as we did Moses, as long as the Lord is with you. The person that rebels against you and doesn't do what you command him to will be put to death. Be strong and brave."

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...They answered Joshua saying,  
“All that thou commandest us we will do....” Joshua



1:16



## Saturday Chores

It was Saturday morning at the Miles house and the weekend duties had already started. Mama had the dirty sheets stripped off her bed and in the washer. Connie took the sheets from the bed she shared with Cindy, and she was putting clean ones on it. She helped change the sheets on the boys' beds, too.

Then Mama wanted Daddy to take her to town to shop. Mama gave all of them chores to do while she would be gone. Connie was to dust and put things in order. Donnie was to vacuum. Lonnie and Cindy were to play in the front room only.

"We will be gone a short time," said Mama. "Don't get into things in the kitchen. I have some apples sliced and some carrot sticks in water on the counter that you can snack on. We expect you all to be good!"

Then Daddy gave a promise. "If you all will get the house cleaned up, we will go to a singing tonight. I think the Blackwood Brothers will be at the Civic Center."

"Yay! Yay!" shouted the children! They loved to go out on Saturday night to Oklahoma City.

After their parents left, the thought of the fun evening inspired the children to clean. Connie was dusting the shelves by the fireplace where Lonnie and Cindy had set up house. For one wall they had lined up chairs, a doll bed, and table and chairs around the hearth. Donnie decided they needed to move their house wall so he could vacuum there. Of course the little ones did not want to move so a fuss broke out.

"Leave them alone, Donnie," said Connie. "We can clean this little place later."

"No, I want to get it all done now," replied Donnie. "You heard what Daddy said about being done when he gets home."

"Well, this little place won't matter," said Connie, but Donnie was already picking things up to clean, and Lonnie and Cindy started crying.

"Stop it, Donnie!" said Connie as she went for the fly swatter on top of

the refrigerator. "If you don't stop it, I'm going to swat you good!"

"Oh, now that will really hurt!" mocked Donnie as he dodged her swinging fly swatter. She chased Donnie around and around swinging and missing him. By this time they all were laughing at the game. Then Donnie ran into the bathroom and locked the door. "Good!" said Connie. "Just stay in there until Daddy comes home!"

"I will," said Donnie, "and you can finish the vacuuming!"

"What if we need to go to the bathroom?" asked Lonnie.

"Use Mama and Daddy's" replied Connie. "If he comes out before they get home, I'm going to swat him good!"

"Well, you haven't so far!" teased Cindy. "I hope he comes out again—that was funny!"

Soon they heard the garage door going up. "Mama and Daddy are home!" said Lonnie. "You can let Donnie out of the bathroom now."

By the time Daddy and Mama walked in the kitchen, all the children were eager to help carry in the groceries. "The disagreement was forgotten. Connie never did not swat Donnie, and she had finished vacuuming for him. They were at peace again.

"The house looks clean, Daddy," said Mama. "I think we can go. Thank you, children, for your help!"

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Who was Israel's new leader?
2. Why did the people listen to Joshua?
3. Where did the Lord tell Joshua to go?
4. What did God tell Joshua to meditate on?
5. What would make Joshua successful?
6. What did the Lord encourage Joshua to do?
7. What did Joshua tell his officers?
8. What did the officers tell Joshua?

**Answers:** 1. Joshua. 2. He was very wise. 3. Over Jordan to Canaan. 4. God's book of Laws. 5. Obeying God's book of laws. 6. Be strong and courageous. 7. What God had instructed. 8. They would do whatever he said.



**THE**

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 58, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Nov. 16, 2008

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## Spies in Jericho

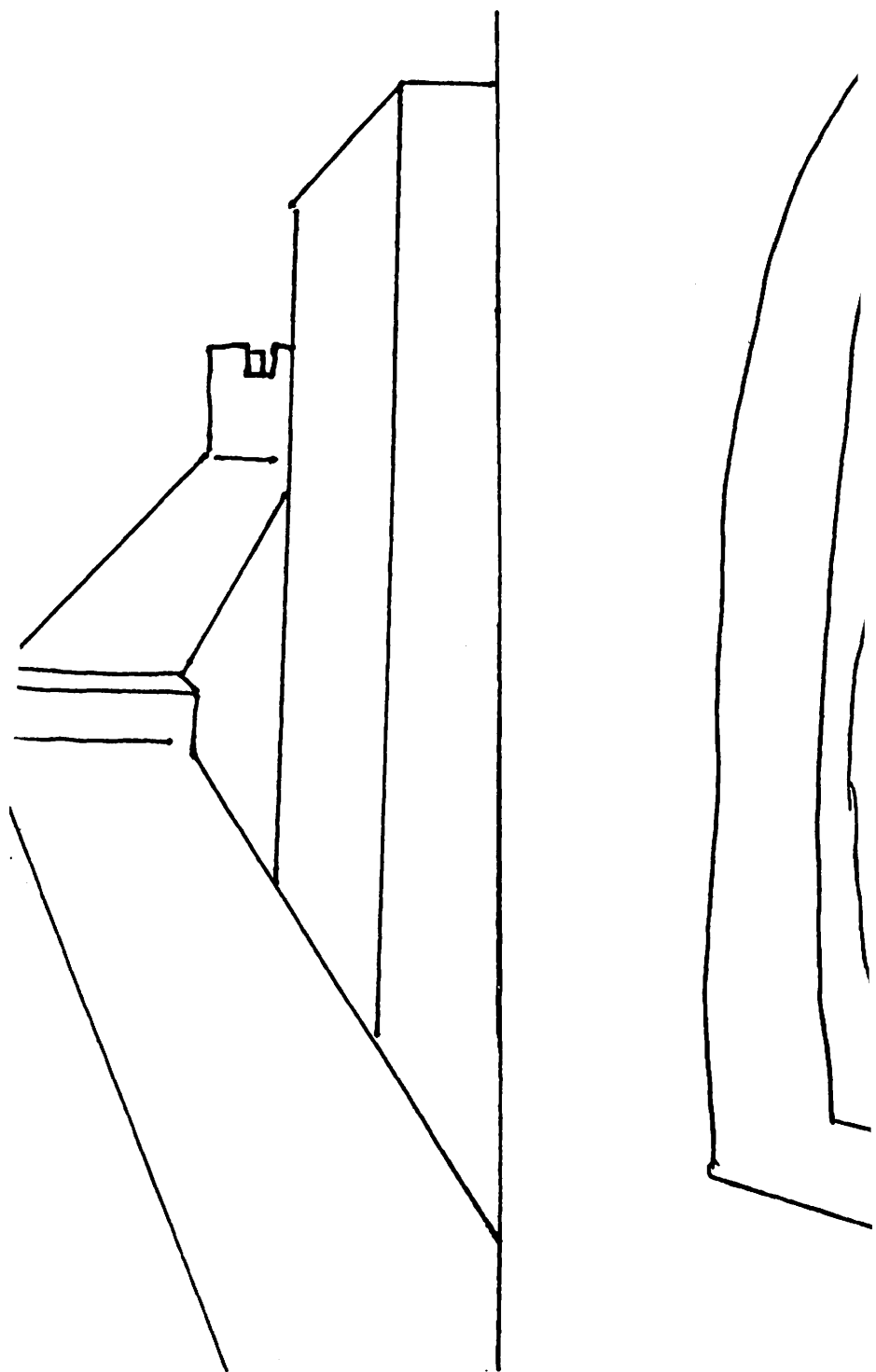
Joshua sent two spies into Jericho. Unfortunately, the spies were spotted sneaking into the city of Jericho at night. They came to the home of a woman named Rahab. Rahab took the men and hid them on the roof of her house. The king sent messengers to Rahab. "Bring me the men that are in your house," the king commanded. "They are here to spy on our country." "I saw the men leave the city about the time the gates were closed last night," Rahab fibbed. "I do not know which way they went. If you hurry maybe you can catch up with them." The king's men ran in pursuit of the men. The gates were closed behind them.

Rahab went back up to the roof where the two Israelite spies were hidden. "I know that the Lord has given you this land," she acknowledged. "I also know that we will be defeated in battle. We have heard of the many miraculous things that the Lord has done for your people. All of the men of our city were afraid when they heard these things. I know that the Lord your God is the God of Heaven and of the earth. Promise me that you will show kindness to me, just as I have shown kindness to you. Promise me that you will save the lives of my family from death."

"We will save your lives in exchange for you saving ours," the Israelite men replied. "When the Lord has given us this land, we will be kind to you." "Go quickly to the mountain," Rahab suggested. "Then the pursuers will not find you. Stay there three days and then journey on your way." Rahab's house was against the town wall. Rahab hung a scarlet cord out of her window for the men to escape on. "We will remember our oath," the men promised. "You will leave this cord in your window. Whoever is in your house with you will be saved." The men went to the mountains as Rahab suggested. Their pursuers from Jericho searched in vain for the two spies and returned disappointed.

"Surely the Lord has given us this land," the spies reported to Joshua. "The people of Jericho are afraid of us."

—Sis. Monica Murphey





She bound the scarlet line in the window." Joshua 2:21

## Going to a Gospel Singing

(Continued)

Everyone in the Miles family took a bath or shower early Saturday evening and they dressed up in Sunday clothes. They were going to the big Civic Center to hear a Gospel Singing. Excitement was in the air, as they hurried to find matching shoes and finish combing hair.

Finally, all the family was in Daddy's clean car riding toward Oklahoma City. In the back seat, Connie sat by the window behind Mama, with Cindy beside her, then Lonnie next to Donnie by the other window behind Daddy. It was such a pleasant, warm feeling to know all the family was together.

Connie could hear the hum of the tires as they rolled down Interstate 35. Daddy had easy listening orchestra music playing on the radio and it wasn't long before it lulled Connie to sleep.

"Children, wake up!" called Mama as Daddy parked the car beside a street curb at the Civic Center. A lot of stretching and eye rubbing happened before the car doors flew open and the children hopped out. All around them were tall buildings, streets, and sidewalks. Connie could feel the cold hardness of the City. Her feet followed Daddy's up the many steps to the row of glass doors that opened to the huge entrance of the Civic Center.

Daddy had to buy tickets, so Mama kept them to the side until he came back. "I got pretty good seats this time," said Daddy as he showed them to an usher.

"Go through these doors, sir," directed the usher. "Center aisle, Three fourths back."

All six of them found their numbered seats and settled down before the stage curtains opened. They waved to the Benson family who were seated a few rows behind them. Then the top lights turned off, a spotlight flashed on stage and an announcer appeared before the curtains. The program had begun.

Connie always liked to hear the Blackwood Brothers sing. They had

a piano player who wore red socks under his black dress pants. Connie and Donnie kept laughing at his pranks. Daddy liked the deep bass singer, JD Sumner, who competed with the piano player to the lowest note on the scale.

The Lewis Family and other groups sang also. During intermission, Daddy went to the tables and bought records to play on the record player at home, and eight-track tapes to play in the car.

After the singing, Bro. Robert Benson asked Daddy, "Want to go for some ice cream?"

"Oh, I guess we could," said Daddy as he looked at the smiling faces of his family. "Meet you at the Diary Queen!"

As soon as they were in the car, Daddy opened up one of the eight tracks and put it in the player. Now they could listen to the Blackwood Brothers as they rode through the lighted streets of the City. Neon lights flashed over bars and night clubs, the movie theater, restaurants and other businesses, but they seemed cheap to Connie. Going to worldly places would never bring the quiet satisfaction and peace that Connie felt when with the loving family God had given her.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Who did Joshua send to Jericho?
2. Whose home did the spies come to?
3. Where did the spies hide?
4. What did the king ask Rahab?
5. What did the men promise Rahab?
6. What did Rahab advise the spies?
7. What did Rahab hang out of her window?
8. Did the spies have a good or bad report?

**Answers:** 1. Two spies. 2. Rahab's. 3. On Rahab's roof. 4. To send the spies to him. 5. She and her family would be saved. 6. To go hide in the mountains. 7. A scarlet cord. 8. A good report.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 58, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Nov. 23, 2008

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## Crossing over Jordan

One morning, Joshua woke up very early. Joshua and the whole Israelite camp traveled to the banks of the river Jordan. The Israelites stayed there for three days. The officers of Israel walked among the people giving them instructions. "Let the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant cross the Jordan first. After they are across, then you may follow." The priests took the Ark of the Covenant and stood at the front of the crowd.

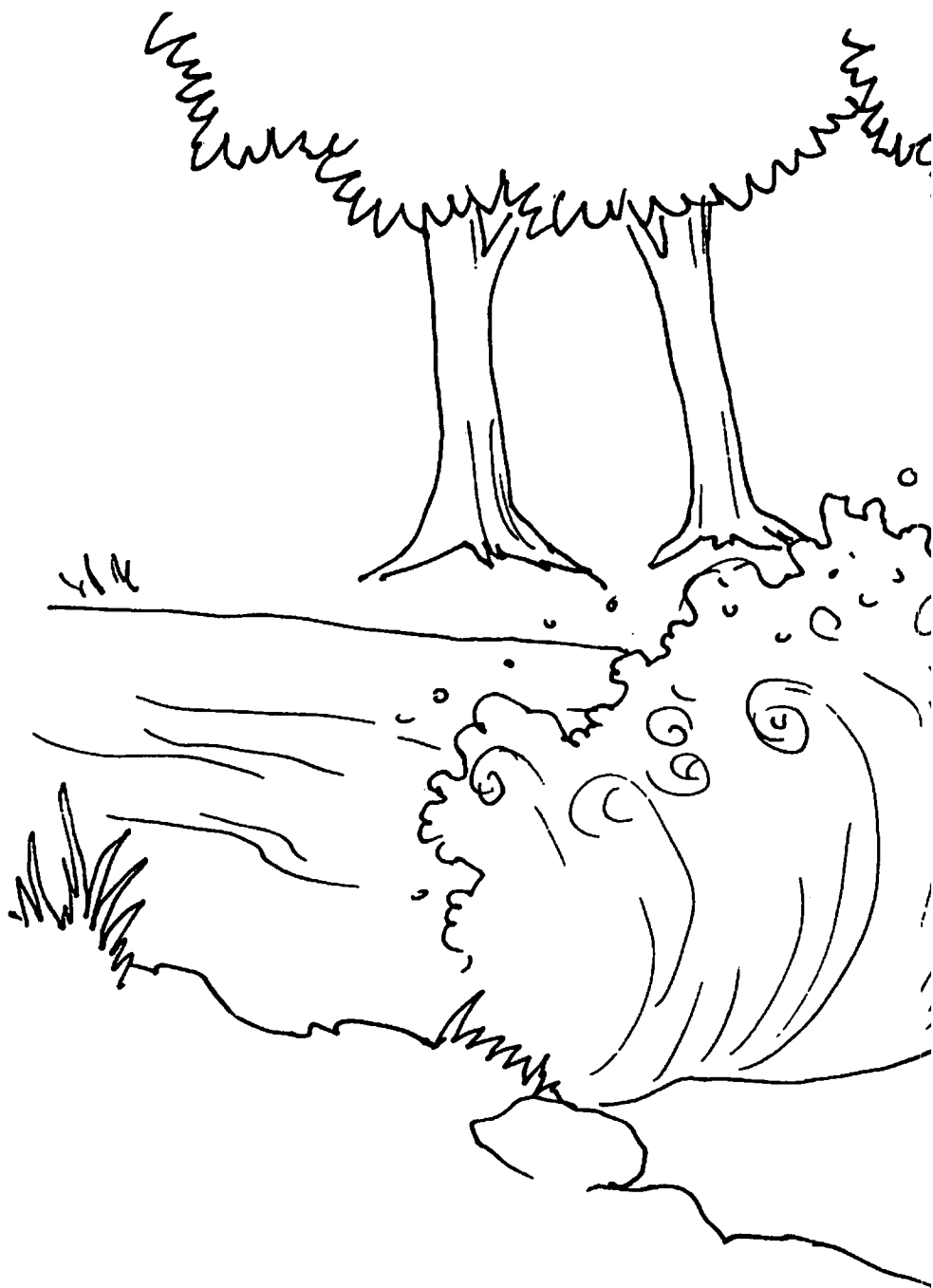
The Lord told Joshua what to do. Joshua was careful to obey the Lord's commands. "Come and hear the Lord's words," Joshua told the people. "Now you will know that the Lord is among you and that He will drive out the entire population of people still living in the land He has promised us."

Receiving their cue from Joshua, the priests began crossing the river. As soon as they dipped their feet into the water, the waters parted. There was a dry path for the Israelites to walk on. The waters stood still in a heap while the Israelites crossed over. The Jordan River had been overflowing its banks. The waters that flowed down from the sea came to the heap and could not cross over it. All of the Israelites crossed the Jordan on dry land.

"Take twelve stones from the Jordan river where the priests' feet crossed on dry land," the Lord told Joshua. Joshua did as the Lord commanded. The Israelites carried the twelve stones with them so they would always remember what the Lord had done for them at the river Jordan. More than forty thousand Israelites crossed over the Jordan that day. As soon as everyone had crossed, the waters of the river fell back into place. When the kings of Canaan heard about what happened at the Jordan River, they were very afraid.

The Israelites set up camp in Gilgal. They stayed there for several weeks and celebrated the Passover. Manna quit falling from heaven the day after the Passover. The children of Israel never saw manna again. Now they had the luscious fruits that the land of Canaan had to offer.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“...The Israelites passed over on dry ground....” J



## Pictures of Thanksgiving

"Will Grandpa be with us for Thanksgiving?" Cindy asked Grandma while they were at her house cracking pecans they had gathered from the many pecan trees by the Faith Publishing House.

"Yes, Grandpa said he would be home with us," replied Grandma cheerfully.

"Yay!" cheered Connie. "Maybe he will tell us some stories!"

Laughing and talking on Thanksgiving Day, the family gathered around the table to eat at Grandma and Grandpa's house. Daddy had carved the turkey and lined the slices neatly on Grandma's special platter. It all looked and smelled so yummy Connie was eager to find her seat and get started.

Daddy said the prayer. He thanked the Lord for giving them all good health and plenty of food to eat through the past year. The Lord had helped them all in work, school and in traveling on the roads. Most of all, He had blessed them with a loving family to enjoy time together.

After the pecan and pumpkin pies were served, the dishes placed in the dishwasher and everyone was in the living room, Grandma said, "I want to take some pictures of everyone."

"I think it is time for us to go home," said Donnie as he stood up and stretched.

"Not so fast," replied Grandma. She snapped her flash cube on her camera.

"Why are you using such a flimsy camera to take family pictures?" asked Grandpa. "I think I have my good camera in the car. I'll go look and see."

"Oh, thank you, dear," said Grandma. "You take such lovely pictures."

"I guess he should take good pictures after all those years as a photographer in WWII," said Daddy. "I would like to see some of those pictures again."

"Where are they?" asked Connie. "I would like to see them."

When Grandpa came back in, they

asked him about his pictures. "Oh, I still have some of them," replied Grandpa. "Denny the dinosaur is guarding them under my bed."

"Grandpa, you don't have any dinosaur in your bedroom," said Lonnie. "He hasn't come out to go to the bathroom since we've been here."

Everyone laughed and Grandma said, "Now this is a good time to take pictures while everyone is laughing."

"It's a good thing Grandpa is taking the pictures and not Grandma," teased Donnie. "Grandma takes pictures of the feet instead of the heads!"

Connie was fascinated by Grandpa's big bulb camera. She watched how he licked the bulb before putting it into the big metal globe above his black camera that had many dials around the lenses.

Later, Grandpa showed Connie different things about his camera and he let her take a couple of pictures. "I will let you see them when the film is developed," he told her. Connie smiled. "I want to be a good photographer like you, Grandpa."

Since then, Connie always liked to take pictures, but she never was as good at it as Grandpa was.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Where did the Israelites stay for 3 days?
2. Who were to cross the Jordan first?
3. What did the priests carry?
4. What happened to the waters?
5. What did the Lord tell Joshua to get?
6. How did this make the kings of Canaan feel?
7. What holiday did the Israelites celebrate?
8. What did the Lord stop sending to them?

**Answers:** 1. On the banks of the Jordan River. 2. The priests. 3. The Ark of the Covenant. 4. They parted. 5. Twelve stones. 6. Afraid. 7. The Passover. 8. Manna.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 58, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Nov. 30, 2008

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## The Long March

The gates of Jericho were closed. No one left or entered the city. All of Jericho's citizens had heard of the many triumphs of the Israelites. They knew about the Israelite's victory over the Amorites. They saw the miracle that happened when the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry land. Now the Israelites were headed toward Jericho. Everyone in the city was very afraid.

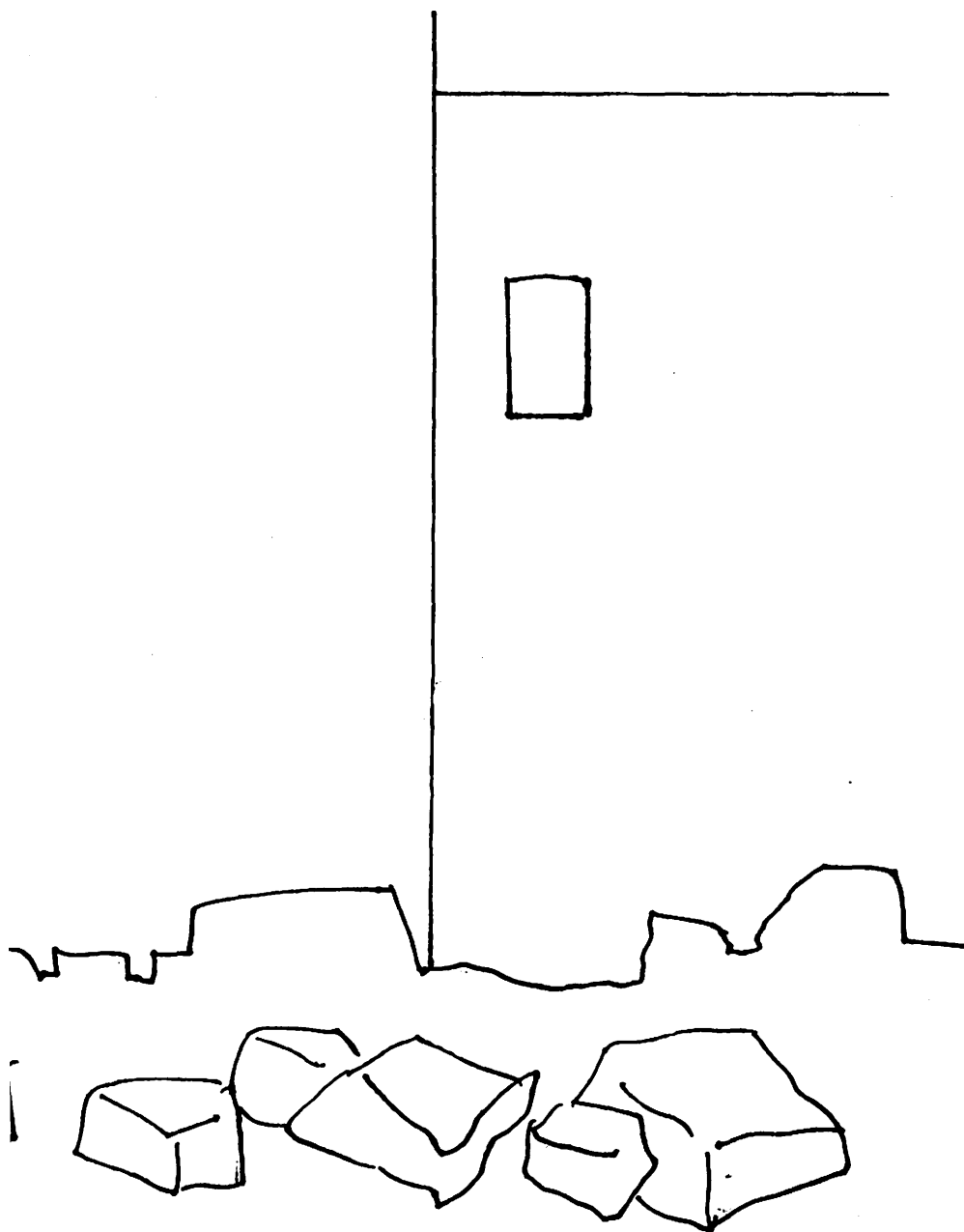
The Lord gave Joshua some instructions. Joshua knew exactly what he needed to do. Joshua and the Israelites got up early the next morning. The large band of Israelites began marching around the walls of Jericho. First came the armed men. Seven priests blowing trumpets followed them. All of the other Israelites were at the end of the crowd. No one spoke a word. The only thing that anyone could hear was the sound of the trumpets and marching feet. They marched around Jericho one time on the first morning. For six days, the Israelites marched around the city of Jericho one time without saying a word.

The Israelites awoke early again on the seventh day and prepared to march around Jericho. Instead of only marching around the city one time, the Israelites marched around it seven times. On the seventh turn, the priests blew the trumpets. "Shout, because the Lord has given us this city," Joshua told the people. So the Israelites shouted with all of their might.

The great wall that surrounded the city of Jericho crashed to the ground. The Israelite men rushed into the city. Everything in the city was burned. There was only one house left standing in the whole city of Jericho. The two spies had remembered Rahab, the woman who had saved them in Jericho. "Bring out the woman who saved you," Joshua told the spies. "Bring out all that she has so that she will be spared just as you promised." The two young men brought Rahab and her family to safety in the camp of the Israelites.

—Sis. Monica Murphey





all fell down flat..." Joshua 6:20

## Obeying Daddy

"Connie and Donnie, get your coats on and let's go clean the chapel," said Daddy on a Saturday afternoon. The Miles family had to clean the chapel all the month of December.

"I hope someone turned the heater on at the chapel," said Donnie. "My fingers don't work very good when they are frozen."

"Open up the garage door," said Daddy, "then get in the car. Don't go out in the snow and get wet. I don't want snow tracked into my clean car."

The children opened the garage door and admired the pretty snow.

"Oh, look," said Connie. "Lonnie left his little red wagon out under the tree. It's getting all wet!"

"A little snow won't hurt it," said Donnie.

"It will make the wagon rusty," replied Connie. "I had better get it and bring it into the garage."

"Now how will you do that and not get wet?" asked Donnie.

"I know—I can ride my bike out there and pull it in. That way I won't get my feet wet!"

"Now I would like to see you do that!" said Donnie. That was all the challenge Connie needed. She marched over to her bike, kicked up the kickstand and headed out into the snow. She had to put her feet down in the snow when she reached for the handle of the wagon and then that silly little wagon did not want to move. She tugged and pulled until finally it flew out of the snow spraying her with wet snow.

Donnie was standing at the garage door laughing when a wet Connie pulled a snowy wagon to the garage.

"So did you enjoy the show?" teased Connie.

"Yeah, I did," Donnie teased back, "And I'm going to like it even more when Daddy sees how wet you are!"

Connie didn't answer. She parked

her drippy bike, dumped the snow out of the wagon and parked it, then went to change her shoes when Daddy came into the garage. He glanced at Connie and asked, "How come you are all wet? Didn't I tell you to stay out of the snow?"

"I know," replied Connie, "but I had to rescue Lonnie's wagon that was getting all rusty. I can change my shoes really quick!"

"You had better hurry," said Daddy. "The next time I tell you to stay out of the snow, you mind me, you hear?"

"Yes, Daddy," replied Connie looking down.

"You look at me and answer," said Daddy.

Connie did not want to look into Daddy's angry eyes, but she had to because he said so. Her dark brown eyes looked into his dark brown eyes. "Yes, Daddy," she repeated.

"Now hurry up and change," said Daddy. "We need to get to the chapel and start cleaning!"

Donnie had taken the front seat by Daddy when Connie climbed into the car. "Are your feet dry?" he asked Connie. Connie sighed. By disobeying Daddy, she had given Donnie a reason to tease her. It was going to be a long afternoon!

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What were the people afraid of?
2. What did the seven priests carry?
3. Did anyone say anything?
4. How many days did they march once?
5. How many times did they march on the seventh day?
6. What did the people do the seventh time?
7. What happened to the walls of Jericho?
8. Was anyone spared?

**Answers:** 1. The Israelites. 2. Trumpets. 3. No. 4. Six. 5. Seven. 6. They shouted. 7. They fell. 8. Rahab's family.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 58, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Dec. 7, 2008

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## Achan's Sin Is Revealed

After the walls of Jericho fell, Joshua and his men burned the city. They took the silver, gold, brass, and iron that they found and saved it for the tabernacle of the Lord. Achan, however, found some of these things that he wanted to keep. He took them and hid them in his tent.

Joshua sent about three thousand men to the next city that they wanted to conquer, called Ai. When the Israelites came to Ai, the men of Ai chased them off. About thirty six Israelites were killed. The hearts of the Israelites became afraid and discouraged. Joshua tore his clothes and fell on his face before the Ark of the Lord. He stayed there until the sun started to go down in the evening. The elders of Israel mourned by putting dust on their heads.

"Why did You bring us here to destroy us, Oh, Lord?" Joshua groaned. "All of the other Canaanite cities will hear about this and kill us all." "Get up," the Lord answered. "Why are you on your face? Someone in Israel has sinned. They have stolen some items and put them in their tent. I will not be with you unless you get rid of this sinful person."

Joshua brought all of the tribes of Israel together. The Lord chose the tribe of Judah. Out of the tribe of Judah, the Lord chose the Zarhite family. Then the Lord pointed Achan out. "My son, tell me what you have done," Joshua entreated.

"I have sinned," Achan confessed. "When I saw a nice Babylonian garment and some money among the spoils, I coveted them. I took them and buried them in my tent."

Joshua sent messengers to Achan's tent. They found the stolen articles just as Achan had said. They took them to Joshua and laid out the things Achan had stolen. Achan died that day as punishment for his sins. All of his possessions were burned. Afterwards, the place where Achan died was always called the Valley of Achor. Once again the Lord was with His people.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...Behold, t  
and th



They are hid in...my tent,  
the silver under it."

Joshua 7:21



## Grandpa and Joyce

"I understand that you and Joyce are friends," said Grandpa Miles to Connie while she was visiting with him after school.

"Yes, we are," replied Connie. "Where do you see Joyce?"

"At the VFW," replied Grandpa. "She gets awful lonesome. I think she would like to have a playmate sometime. Would you like to go with me and play with Joyce?"

"I don't know," Connie answered slowly. "I would have to ask my parents."

"Sure," said Grandpa. "We will ask them. I just wanted to know if you would like to go if it is okay with them?"

"Oh, I'd be glad to!" exclaimed Connie. She had never gone anywhere with Grandpa Miles before, and it made her feel important that he had asked. She already knew what Mama and Grandma would say, so she said, "Grandpa, you had better ask Daddy if I can go. We need to ask him first."

The right opportunity came when Daddy dropped by to visit after work. Grandpa said to Daddy, "There's going to be a children's Christmas party at the VFW this next week. Connie knows a little girl that comes. I thought maybe Connie could come with me that evening."

"Well, I don't know," said Daddy.

"Oh, ple-e-ase!" pleaded Connie. "I promise to be good!"

"How long will it last and what will they do?" asked Daddy.

"Not very long—just a couple of hours. I'm supposed to show this film about a chimpanzee that acts like a boy. It's really funny. Then the ladies have some goodies and punch to serve. If we have time, we have a couple of games planned, if there is time. That's all."

"Sounds fun to me!" said Connie.

"I don't mind if Mama says it is okay," said Daddy.

Persuading Mama to agree was very hard to do. She had to check with Grandpa and know all the details about everything. Why is Mama so snoopy? Wondered Connie. I'll be with Grandpa! Grandma was even worse about it than Mama.

"Why can't I go with Grandpa just one time!" demanded Connie. "I know Joyce and she is neat. I can't understand why you are so fussy! Good grief!"

Finally, they agreed she could go with Grandpa for just two hours Thursday night. Connie dressed up and while Mama combed her hair, she gave her advice about manners. Then together they prayed.

It was exciting to be with Grandpa, and Joyce was glad to see her. The monkey film was very funny. The ladies were nice and the food tasted good.

However, Connie could see why Grandma and Mama did not want her there. The rooms hung heavy with cigarette smoke, and in another room men and women were laughing loudly. Connie did not feel peaceful and cheerful here like she had felt with her parents at the Gospel singing. She felt sorry for Joyce who had to come with her parents to the VFW often.

When Grandpa took her home two hours later, he asked, "Did you enjoy yourself?"

"Yes, thank you," said Connie. "But, Grandpa, you need to go with us to a Gospel singing sometime. That's really great!" She never went with Grandpa again, and he never went to a Gospel singing, though she prayed that he would.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What sin did Achan commit?
2. What happened to the Israelites at Ai?
3. What did God tell Joshua?
4. How did Joshua know Achan committed the sin?
5. Did Achan confess?
6. What happened to Achan?
7. What happened to Achan's things?
8. What was the valley called?

**Answers:** 1. He took some things that belonged to the Lord. 2. The Israelites were defeated. 3. That someone had sinned. 4. God showed him. 5. Yes. 6. He died. 7. They were burned. 8. The Valley of Achor.



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 58, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Dec. 14, 2008

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## Ai is Conquered

"Do not be afraid," the Lord told Joshua. "Take all of the people in your army to Ai. I will give you the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land. Only take the cattle and spoil from the city for yourselves."

Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty and honorable men to fight in the battle against Ai. Joshua and his troops moved their camp to the north side of Ai. A valley separated the city from the army of Israelites.

Joshua chose five thousand men. "Wait on the north side of the city," Joshua instructed. The next morning, the king of Ai woke up early. He saw the thousands of Israelites preparing for battle. The king took his own army and met the Israelites that were in the camp. A fierce battle raged.

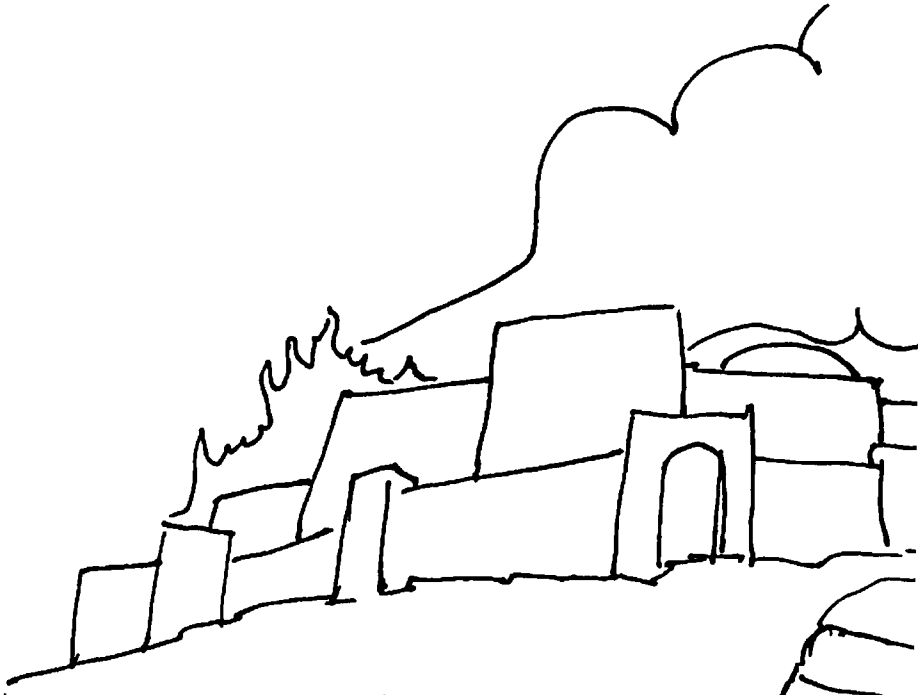
"Retreat, retreat," the Israelites called as they fled into the wilderness. All of the men of Ai had been called into battle. Now the men of Ai ran after the fleeing Israelites. They did not suspect that this was a trick.

The five thousand men were waiting on the north side of the city for Joshua's signal. While all of the men of Ai were pursuing the Israelites, they sneaked into town and set it on fire. The men of Ai turned around and saw billows of smoke ascending to heaven. They were trapped with the burning city on one side and the band of Israelites on the other. None of the men escaped.

The victorious warriors returned to Joshua with the king of Ai. They killed him and took the cattle and spoil from the city just as the Lord had commanded.

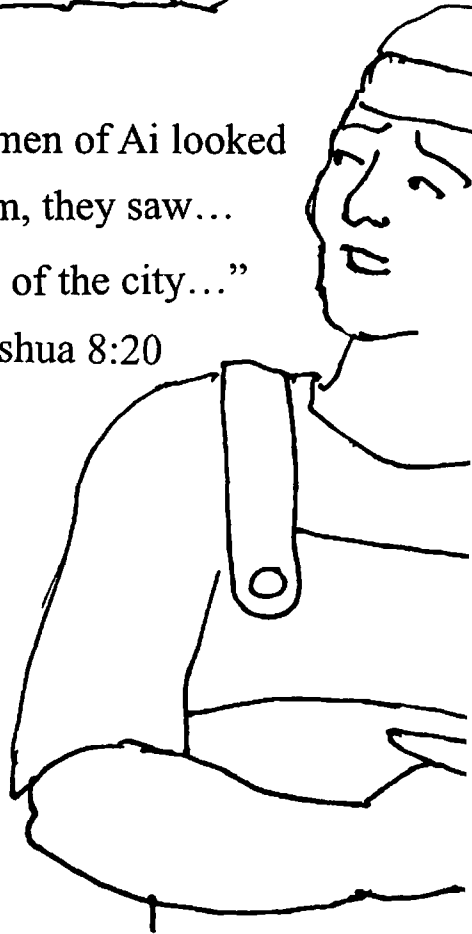
Joshua built a stone altar and worshipped the Lord. He wrote a copy of the Ten Commandments on the stones in the presence of all of the Israelites. The judges, elders, officers, priests, and all of the people of Israel stood and listened while Joshua read them aloud.

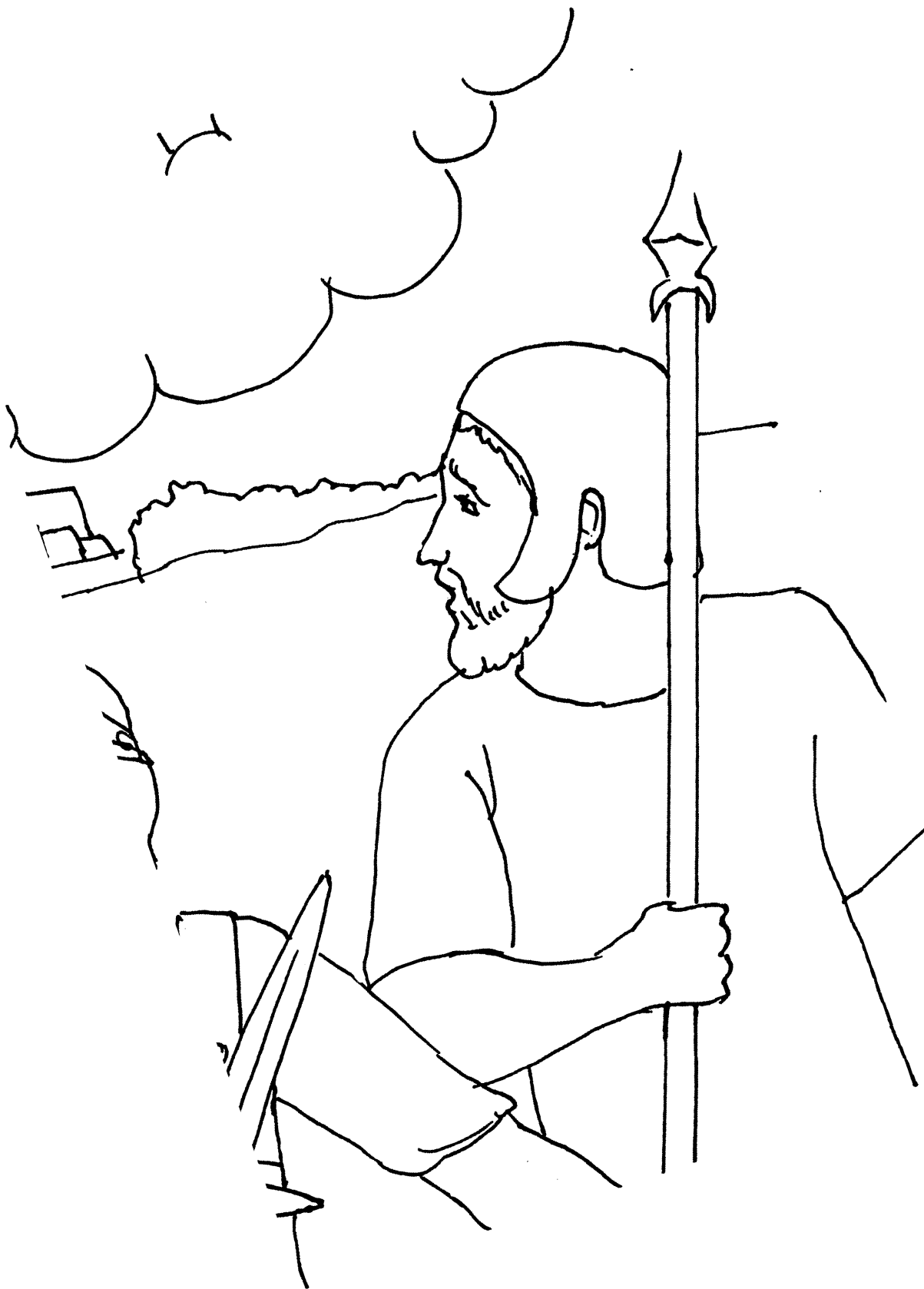
—Sis. Monica Murphey



“And when the men of Ai looked  
behind them, they saw...  
the smoke of the city...”

Joshua 8:20





## Too Much Talk

Mama called Grandma Miles on the phone. "Tonight is Donnie's Christmas program. Would you like to go with us?"

Connie knew Grandma would go—she loved attending any of their school programs. That evening the Miles family dressed in their Sunday best. Daddy drove to Grandma's house. Connie scooted over on the car seat so Grandma could sit by her.

"Grandma, the program will be in the big auditorium," said Connie. "I know just where to sit so we can see the best. If you can climb the stairs, we can sit in the balcony and watch the spotlight man."

"Okay," replied Daddy. "We will see."

When they arrived, the auditorium was almost full of families so they did climb the stairs. As they started down the aisle to the front of the balcony, the lights dimmed as the program started.

"Sit right here," said Daddy, pointing to a row of empty chairs half way down the aisle. A few people were in front of them, but they did have a good view of the stage where the children were talking and singing.

Connie knew several of the students in Donnie's grade and she was eager to tell Grandma about them.

"See that girl with the neck brace?" whispered Connie. "Her name is Mary. She was in a car accident and now she has to wear that brace. The children all make fun of her, but I don't."

"That's good you don't," Grandma whispered back. "Let's be quiet now."

Soon Connie had something else to say. "I know why they had Mark say so much," she whispered to Grandma. "He has a big mouth. He lives up by us and he is so mean. I feel sorry for his little sister and two little brothers."

"Sh-sh," warned Grandma.

"Okay, Grandma," agreed Connie. "I'll tell you later about how he tried to get his white German Shepherd dog

to bite me. I told his babysitter about it but Mark doesn't listen to her. His dad is a doctor and I don't think he is home very much..."

"Connie, be quiet!" whispered Grandma. "It isn't polite to whisper and talk about others like this."

Connie got quiet and did not talk any more during the program. At the end of the program everyone stood up, clapping their hands, and the lights flipped on. Connie stretched and blinked her eyes in the sudden light. Suddenly, she realized that the two adults sitting right in front of her chair were staring at her. Where had she seen them before?

Then BB, Mark's little sister, said, "Hi, Connie! This is my mom and dad!" And she pointed to the couple staring at Connie.

It felt like a rope was tying a knot in Connie's stomach—she was so embarrassed! Mark's parents had heard all the bad things she had said about their family! She wanted to leave as fast as she could and not come back.

Oh, how she wished she had been quiet when Grandma told her to be! Connie never forgot how awful it was to be discovered talking badly about others in a crowd, and she tried to never do that again!

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What did the Lord give to Joshua?
2. What separated the Israelites from Ai?
3. What did the Israelites pretend to do?
4. Were any men left in the city?
5. What did the five thousand men do?
6. Did any of the people of Ai escape?
7. What did they do with the king?
8. What did Joshua build?

**Answers:** 1. The city and people of Ai. 2. A valley. 3. Retreat. 4. No. 5. Set fire to the city. 6. No. 7. Killed him. 8. An altar of stones.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 58, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Dec. 21, 2008

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## Joshua is Tricked

All of the kings, on the same side of the Jordan as the Israelites, were hearing stories about the battle of Jericho and how, after the Israelites marched around the city, the walls fell and Jericho was conquered. They listened closely to the story of how Ai was burned and all of the people in both cities were killed except for Rahab's family in Jericho. The kings were afraid.

The people of Gibeon came up with a plan to trick Joshua. They put old sacks on their donkeys and carried dirty bottles of refreshments with them. They wore torn shoes and ragged clothes. Their bread and meat were dry and molded.

The Gibeonites met with Joshua at the Israelite camp in Gilgal. "We come from a far country and would like to make a peace treaty with you," the Gibeonites told Joshua. "Who are you, and where are you from?" the Israelites asked.

"We have journeyed a long way because of your Lord," the Gibeonites lied. "We have heard of Him and all that He did in Egypt, to the Amorites, and all of the others. The elders in our country told us to take food and meet you and ask you to make a treaty with us. Our garments and shoes have become old during our long journey."

The men of Israel took their food but did not ask the Lord for advice. Joshua made peace with them. The princes of Israel swore to let their people live. The Gibeonites left the Israelite camp with their mission accomplished.

Three days later, the Israelite men were dismayed to learn that the Gibeonites were their close neighbors. After a short trip, the Israelites reached the five cities that belonged to these people. They could not conquer the cities, because they had sworn protection to the men.

The people of Israel were unhappy with their princes. "We have to let them live," the princes decided. "But they will have to work as slaves for the Israelite people."

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...They...took old shoes...”



nd old garments...and went to Joshua..."Joshua 9:4-6



## Fun with Babies on Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, Connie helped Mother pack gifts and food into the car parked in the garage. She was glad they did not have to go out in the snow to load the car. Just hearing the cold wind howl made her shiver. Then Connie remembered Grandma and Grandma Eck's house would be cozy and full of laughter. That thought made Connie feel warm inside.

In two hours, they would be there with the uncles, aunts and cousins. Connie was the oldest of all the cousins and she knew that meant she would be a babysitter! Into the car, she packed her baby doll, Mary, three Hot Wheels cars and a big ball for play time.

"Let's go," said Daddy as he stood by the inside garage door. Soon all four children were in their self-assigned seats in the car, ready to go. They slept on the way, but they quickly woke up when the car stopped in front of the Waldo Eck house. They rushed inside to greet everyone! Uncle Bennie, Aunt Berniece, and their three children; Uncle Hurley, Aunt Linda, and their two sons had come in cars from Colorado to Covington, Oklahoma. Connie was very excited to see her family, and she tolerated all the hugging and kissing from the grown-ups.

It was the babies that Connie wanted to hug and kiss. They called Beverly Jan, "Jannie." Hurley DeWayne and Jannie were close in age and walked, but little Jerry liked to be held like a baby. While the Mamas worked in Grandma's kitchen, the daddy's visited in the dining room and the children played in the front room.

Connie smiled at Jannie. "Would you like to hold my baby doll?" she asked her. She sat Jannie down on a chair and carefully laid Mary in her arms. Jannie smiled and loved the dolly, but she unwrapped the doll's blanket. Then she tried to take Mary's clothes off, which Connie did not want done.

"I had better take Mary back," said Connie quietly. She reached for her doll, but Jannie clutched the doll tighter. "No!" said Jannie. "Mine!"

Connie remembered the trading game that Mama had taught her. She looked around and saw that Jannie's doll was by her mother's purse. She picked it up. "Here, Jannie, let's trade!" Connie said to her baby cousin. Jannie was willing, and Connie sighed with relief when Mary was back in her arms. She wrapped Mary in her blanket and laid her by Grandma's doll that was always on her bed. Mary could rest while Connie held Jerry.

"I can carry babies," Connie assured Aunt Linda. "I hold babies at church all the time."

Jerry smiled at Connie for a while, then he started fussing.

"He doesn't want you any more," Donnie said to her.

"Maybe he is hungry," said Connie. "I'll take him to his mother. Are you playing with Hurley Dewayne?"

"Well, he's playing with my cars that you brought," replied Donnie. "I think he wants to eat the wheels."

"Oh, Donnie!" exclaimed Connie. "Play with him! Babies are just so much fun to watch!"

Donnie shrugged as he lined up a row of Hot Wheels by the organ. So Connie played with the little ones until it was dinner time. Babies are such special little people to love.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. Why were the kings afraid?
2. What did the Gibeonites plan?
3. What did they take on their trip?
4. What did they request of Joshua?
5. Did the Israelites ask the Lord for advice?
6. What did the Israelite princes promise?
7. How did the other Israelites feel?
8. What happened to the Gibeonites?

**Answers:** 1. They heard stories about Israel. 2. To trick Joshua. 3. Old clothing and food. 4. To have peace with their people. 5. No. 6. To let their people live. 7. Unhappy. 8. They became slaves.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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## Loss of a Great Leader

The children of Israel were now living in the land of Canaan, which God had promised them as an inheritance. Joshua had grown very old. The Lord spoke to Joshua and told him to divide up their Promised Land into lots for an inheritance for the people. For a long time, the children of Israel rested here after the many battles they had fought to conquer this land.

One day, Joshua called for all of the Israelites. "I have divided these lands into lots for your tribes for an inheritance," Joshua explained. "The Lord will drive the remaining enemies out of this land, and you will possess their land, just as the Lord promised. Be diligent in keeping all of the laws that Moses copied. Draw near to the Lord. He has driven out many strong nations before us. God has listened to our cries during the darkness of our slavery in Egypt and has brought us to this land. Fear the Lord. Serve Him in truth. Put away false gods and serve the Lord. Choose today whom you will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

"God forbid that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods," the people protested. "It was the Lord our God who delivered us from slavery in Egypt."

"If you forsake the Lord and serve strange gods, then He will punish you for your sins," Joshua warned.

"We will serve the Lord," the people answered. "We'll obey His voice."

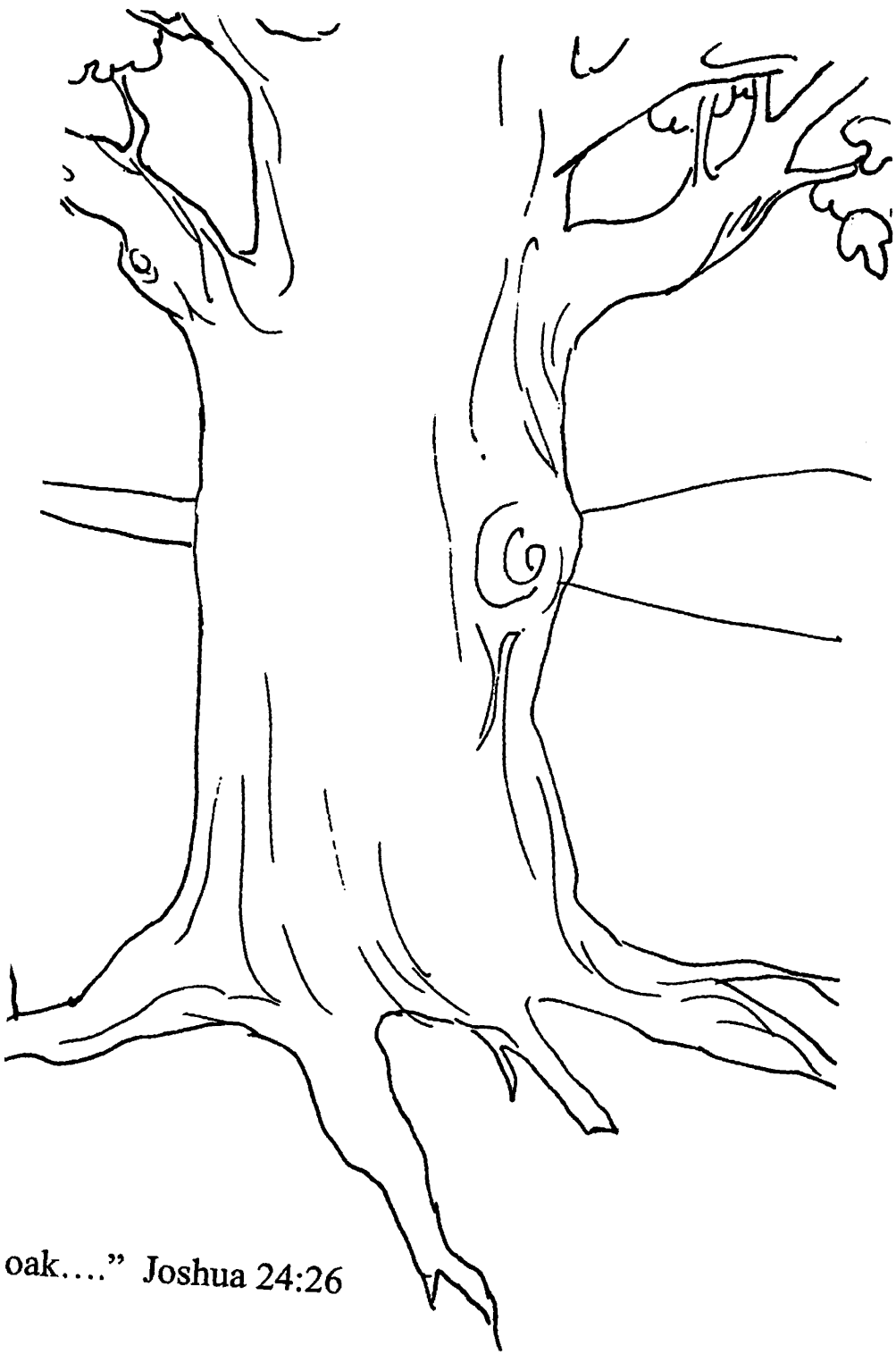
The people made a covenant with Joshua that day. Joshua wrote down these words in the book of God's law. He took a great stone and set it up under an oak tree that was beside the tabernacle.

"This stone will be a reminder to us," Joshua declared. "It has heard all of the words that the Lord has told us. It will remind you not to deny the Lord your God." Joshua dismissed the crowd after this, and everyone returned to their inheritance.

Not many days later, Joshua died. He was one hundred and ten years old. The children of Israel buried this great leader on the north side of the hill of Gaash. The children of Israel had been faithful to the Lord during the leadership of Joshua. —Sis. Monica Murphey



“...Joshua...took a great stone, and set it up...u



oak....” Joshua 24:26

## Look Up

The Assembly Meeting was always scheduled during the Christmas Break, and Connie enjoyed playing with her friends. They would run around the big old trees, playing chase or hide-n-seek. The boys climbed the trees, which Connie enjoyed, so she said to her cousin, Debbie, "Why don't we climb a tree and play house?"

"Are you kidding?" replied Debbie. "That tree bark would scrape our legs like something terrible!"

"Oh, I don't think so," replied Connie. "I am a good climber and know how to hold on."

"You could tear your dress or coat and scratch your dress shoes," said Debbie. "Then your mother would not be happy with you."

Connie thought about this for a moment. "I guess you're right," she agreed. "I wish I didn't have on dress clothes, but the wind is cold and it probably is colder up in the trees."

Then her eyes lit up with an idea. "Hey, let's go up in the dorm and see who is sitting by the stove. We could listen to the old ladies talk."

The girls climbed the stairs that took them to the women's dorm located above the dining hall and kitchen.

Sis. Lizzie Jordon was rocking in a creaking rocker on the round braided rug by the stove. She seemed to be asleep, but when the girls sat down in chairs she said, "How are ya doin', girls?"

"Just fine," they chorused.

"Has Jesus been good t'ya?"

"Yes!" they responded.

Sis. Lizzie leaned forward in her rocker, and said, "Tell me what Jesus has done fer ya."

Connie cleared her throat. "Well, the Lord helped me find my Daddy's lost keys," she said.

"Good! Have ya asked Jesus to wash 'way yor sins and save yor soul?"

"Yes," replied Debbie. "I have."

"Good!" replied Sis. Lizzie. "Now ya girls don't be 'shamed t' tell others 'bout Jesus. He's done so much fer ya."

"Okay," they answered together.

"If it weren't fer de Lord, don't know what I'd do," continued Sis. Lizzie. "E'er since I was knee high to a grasshopper de Lord He's been watchin' o'er me."

"That's been a long time, too," said Connie. "How old are you?"

"Well nigh seventy-five some years," replied Sis. Lizzie. "Ya girls stay faithful 't de Lord because we don't know when Jesus gonna come back for us. Some day He's gonna come a-bustin' through the clouds and take His chillens home 't be with Him in Glory. It'll be in a-blinkin' of the eye when no man knows, so we need 't be prayed up and a-watchin'."

After visiting a little more, Connie and Debbie said good-bye to Sis. Lizzie.

When they went outside, Connie glanced up into the clouds. The way Sis. Lizzie talked about the Lord Jesus coming back again made her want to be ready to meet Him in the clouds now. He will come again soon.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What did Joshua divide?
2. What were the people to be diligent in?
3. What were some of the miracles the Lord had performed?
4. "Serve Him in \_\_\_\_\_."
5. "As for me and my house, \_\_\_\_\_."
6. What did the people promise?
7. What did Joshua set up as a reminder?
8. How old was Joshua when he died?

**Answers:** 1. The land of Canaan. 2. Following the Lord's laws. 3. Answers may vary. 4. Truth. 5. We will serve the Lord. 6. To serve the Lord. 7. A great stone. 8. 110 years.