

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Jan. 3, 2010

The Fate of Jeroboam

King Jeroboam's son became very sick. Jeroboam called for his wife. "Please go visit Ahijah, the prophet of God," Jeroboam asked. "Disguise yourself as someone else. Take ten loaves of bread, cakes, and a jar of honey. Ask him what will happen to our child." Jeroboam's wife did as her husband asked.

Ahijah was a very old man. Like many older men, Ahijah's eyes had dimmed with age. Now he could not see anything. But the Lord had warned Ahijah that Jeroboam's wife would visit him. The Lord had told Ahijah just what to say. When Ahijah heard the lady's footsteps, he said, "Come in. Why are you pretending to be someone else? The Lord has told me that you would come. I have some bad news for you. Go back and tell Jeroboam that the Lord says He will destroy Jeroboam's family. Jeroboam has done more evil than anyone else. Go back to your home. When you get there your son will die. All of Israel will be sad."

Jeroboam's wife went back home. When she walked across the threshold, her son died. Everything that the Lord revealed through Ahijah came to pass. All of the people in Israel were very sad because of the death of their young prince.

Jeroboam died after he reigned for twenty two years. Rehoboam and Jeroboam fought with each other their whole reign. Jeroboam's son Nadab became the next king of Israel. The Israelites did evil in the sight of God. They worshipped idols and built temples and altars for their false gods on every high hill and under every green tree. During Rehoboam's fifth year as king, Shishak, a king from Egypt fought against the Israelites. He took away all of the treasures from the Lord's temple. After Rehoboam died, Abijam became king of Judah. He was also very evil. Asa was the next king. Asa was a very good king. He removed the idols from the land.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...disguise thyself...take with thee ten lo



s, and cracknels, and a cruse of honey..."
1 Kings 14:2-3



Praying for Barbara

Working as a chaplain at a women's prison in Goochland, Virginia, Kay had many challenges to pray about. Her biggest challenge was Barbara. Some how Kay felt a heavy burden for this poor woman who had no friends or family. She was badly scarred from knifings and from a bucket of lye that had been thrown on her. Barbara was in prison for stealing and fighting.

Between the required therapy sessions, Kay would try to speak to Barbara while she was doing chores. Never would Barbara respond. Sometimes she would glare in hate at Kay and spit on the ground. After one such time, Kay sighed. Lord, she prayed, I give up. I leave Barbara to You.

One hot day, Kay joined the prisoners out on the lawn during recreation time. Oh, I should have put on some sun screen, thought Kay. She had turned around to enter the building when she noticed Barbara. Her scarred throat had thin skin that looked tender to the sun. How that poor skin must burn when it gets too much sun on it, thought Kay. I will get something for Barbara, too.

Kay hurried inside and looked through her satchel of belongings. She found a soft, pink silk handkerchief—a favorite of hers—that would be the perfect thing to protect Barbara's neck. Praying for courage, Kay ran outside and walked carefully toward Barbara who frowned as Kay approached.

"Barbara," said Kay, "the sun is so hot and your neck looks so sensitive. Would you please let me put this little piece of silk around your neckline to protect you from the sun?"

As Barbara stood still and stared at Kay, she carefully wrapped the

handkerchief around Barbara's neck. Quickly Kay glanced into Barbara's face and saw tears in her dark eyes. When she saw Kay had seen the tears, Barbara stomped her foot and grit her teeth. Kay moved away to give Barbara space, but she knew now that Barbara was hungry for love and kindness.

The next time Barbara was in Kay's office, Kay said, "Barbara, I would like to be your friend. That would please me very much."

"Why?" asked Barbara still holding her head down as she sat forward in the chair in front of Kay's desk. Kay reached across her desk to touch Barbara's arm, "Because I know how it is to have no friends," she replied.

Barbara would not talk any more, but Kay kept praying for her in her heart. She knew the Lord could soften Barbara's heart. She wanted Barbara to know the Lord as her best friend, too. Everyone at the prison thought Barbara was hopeless, but Kay felt differently. She had hope for Barbara to make a good change.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who was sick?
2. Who went to see Ahijah?
3. What was wrong with Ahijah?
4. How did Ahijah know she was coming?
5. What bad news did Ahijah have?
6. What happened to Jeroboam's son?
7. Who was king after Jeroboam?
8. Which king removed idols from Israel?

Answers: 1. Jeroboam's son. 2. Jeroboam's wife. 3. He was blind. 4. The Lord told him. 5. Jeroboam's family would be destroyed. 6. He died. 7. Nadab. 8. Asa.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Jan. 10, 2010

The Widow's Meal

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

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

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

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

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

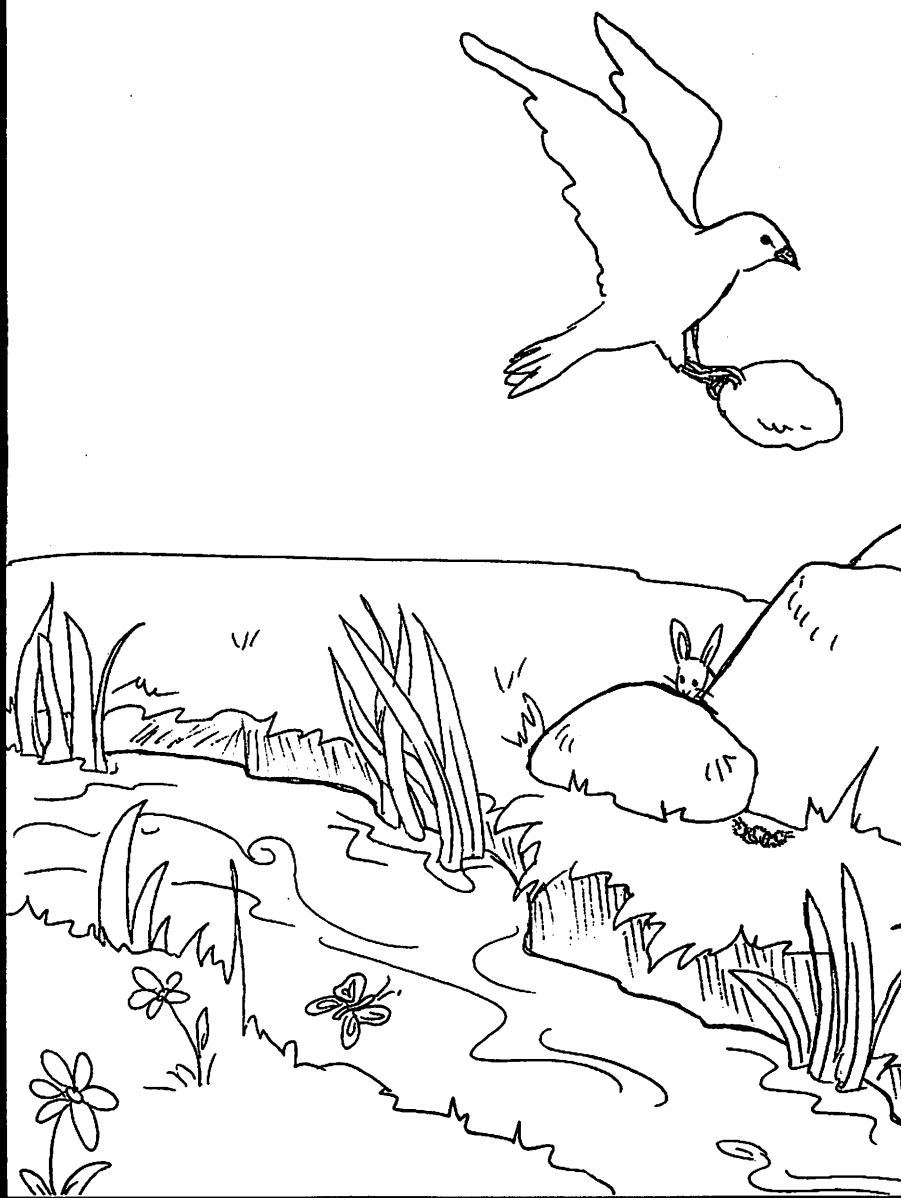
"Do not be afraid. Go and make a cake for you and your son, but first make a cake for me. The Lord has said that neither the meal nor the oil shall ever run out, until there is rain again on the earth," Elijah informed the widow.

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

One day, the widow's son became so sick that he couldn't breathe. "Will my son die?" asked the widow. "Give him to me," Elijah said. Elijah took the boy up to his room and laid him on his bed. "Oh Lord, please heal this child," Elijah prayed. The Lord heard Elijah's prayer. The boy was well again. "Now I know that you are a man of God and everything that you say is true," his mother told Elijah.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

"And the ravens brought him bread and fl
evening; and he drank o



in the morning, and bread and flesh in the
brook.” 1 Kings 17:6



Barbara Sees Her Need

(continued from last week)

Kay continued to pray for Barbara. In little ways, through a smile, a friendly "Hello", or gentle nod of the head, Kay let Barbara know she cared. Sometimes in their visits in Kay's office, Barbara would talk. She revealed how she had been so disappointed with people in her life and told little bits about deep hurts that had happened to her. Kay listened with care and understanding.

One time Kay told Barbara about a sickness that had put her in the bed for eight years. "The doctors tested me for many things and they did everything they knew to do but still they could not make me well," remembered Kay.

"How come you got better?" asked Barbara.

"Jesus healed me," calmly stated Kay. "He did a miracle on my body, just like He did on my heart one time."

Barbara was silent and looked down at the floor. Kay knew Barbara wasn't going to visit any more this time, so she said, "Barbara, I want you to know the Lord loves you just as much as He loves me. What He did for me, He can do for you. I look forward to seeing you next visit time."

Barbara left with the guard without telling Kay goodbye but Kay could tell Barbara was pondering what she had said. A few weeks later, the prison matron handed Kay a note when she entered her office for the day. The torn paper had a penciled message scribbled on it which read: "Chaplain, I ain't slept all night. You better get down here right away. Barbara."

Kay ran to Barbara's cell. She was lying on her cot, staring at the ceiling with eyes red and swollen. When Kay entered the room, Barbara jumped up and hugged her in a tight squeeze. Bursting into tears, Barbara said, "I want Jesus to be my friend, too!"

Crying tears of joy, Kay hugged

Barbara just as tightly and began to pray. As Barbara repented of her sins and asked Jesus to clean her heart, the hate, anger, bitterness and hard will broke loose from Barbara's heart. She began to relax and calm down in a deep peace only Jesus can give.

"Now I feel like I can sleep like a baby!" exclaimed Barbara after she had asked Jesus to come into her heart and make her a new person.

Kay glanced over to Barbara's cot and saw laying beside it the pink silk scarf that she had loaned Barbara a few months ago. It had been a testimony to Barbara of God's love and of Kay's care. From this time on, Barbara was a new person in Christ. Instead of harming others, she started helping them. She learned to smile and say "Thank you" and "Please" and even "sorry."

In a few years, Barbara was released and she began a ministry of her own to help women who have been abused. Barbara knows that the Lord can change any life and make the person a happy worker in His Kingdom.

Questions: —Sis. Connie Sorrell

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

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Jan. 17, 2010

Elijah on Mount Carmel

King Ahab was the ruler in Israel. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel did not serve the one true God. Queen Jezebel served idols. She killed many of the prophets of God. One of King Ahab's servants, Obadiah, hid some of the prophets in a cave.

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

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

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

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

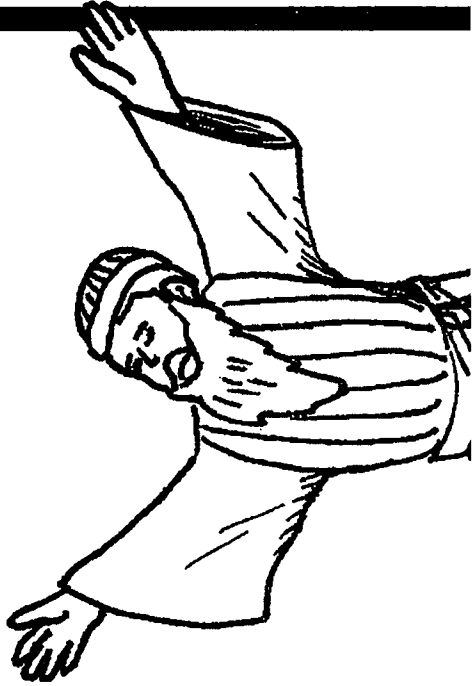
Elijah's altar was made of twelve stones. He dug a ditch around it and had four barrels filled with water and poured onto the burnt sacrifice and wood. This was done three times until the ditch was full of water. When Elijah prayed to God, a great fire came down from heaven. Everything was burned, even the water. After this miracle, everyone believed in God. All of the false prophets were killed. Then, while the people were celebrating the miracle at a feast, the rains came after three long years.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“Then the fire of the LORD fell,
and consumed the burnt sacrifice,
and the wood, and the stones, and
the dust, and licked up the water
that was in the trench.”

I Kings 18:38





Hot Wheel Fun

One Friday evening, Mama was tired and wanted the Miles' children to play quietly while she sewed on a new dress. Her sewing machine was in her bedroom in front of a window, but she could turn around and see down the hall into the living room from her chair.

"Let's make a blanket house," said Connie.

"No, Lonnie and I want to play with our new hot wheels that we got for Christmas," replied Donnie. "Let's set the tracks up right down the hall way and have races!"

That did sound like fun to Connie, so she and Cindy decided to help with the set up. First, they took the red kitchen stool and clipped the track clamp onto the top back of the stool. That made a wonderful "hill" from which to push the hot wheel cars.

Don got out his new hot wheel box and each child began to pick their cars. Right away, Donnie picked up the fast red Mustang.

"Hey," exclaimed Connie. "That was the car I wanted!"

"It IS MY car," said Donnie.

"Okay," said Connie. "Let's take turns with it. I share my bike with you, remember?"

"Oh, alright," agreed Donnie.

Soon the four of them started pushing two cars at a time down the double track to see which one finished first.

"What is hitting the baseboard of my bedroom?" asked Mama as she got up from her sewing stool. "Do not let those cars nick this baseboard along the wall," she said pointing to the bottom trim. "Put a pillow there to cushion the wall."

"Yes, Mama," said Connie as she went to get a little pillow from the doll bed.

"Let's put some loops in the tracks," suggested Donnie. They built matching loops and raced the cars again. They reminded each other whose turn it was to use the red

Mustang because they wanted to be fair. It really did not matter so much whose car won as it was exciting to see how fast the cars could go and what kind of tricks the cars could do. They built jumps for the cars to sail over and they made an extra hill for the cars to pass on.

Toosoon Mama came to her bedroom door to say, "It is so nice to hear you children playing together and laughing. It would be fun if you could play all night but Daddy will be home before long and he will be tired from working overtime. Please put up the track and hot wheels. Clean up for bed and put on your night clothes. I'll get the Bedtime Story Books and read to you."

The four of them started taking apart the track while Mama was talking. They did not want to miss the bedtime story and if Daddy came home before she started reading, Mama would just have them pray and skip the story. Fairly quickly they were sitting around Mama's arm chair while she read a story or two—until Daddy came walking in the door. Poor Daddy was tired, but he had to hear their chatter and laughter until finally they all went to bed. The house went silent as every eye and every mouth closed in sleep, and the Lord sent His angels to watch over them.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

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

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Jan. 24, 2010

A Still, Small Voice

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

This message made Elijah afraid. Elijah fled to find a hiding place from Queen Jezebel. While he was traveling, Elijah became tired and discouraged. He sat underneath a tree and thought that he might as well die. Elijah fell asleep under the tree. He felt someone touch him. He looked up. It was an angel! There was a cake to eat and water to drink. The angel fixed a meal for Elijah two times. After Elijah ate that special meat from God, he didn't have to eat again for forty days and nights. Then Elijah went and hid in a cave.

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

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

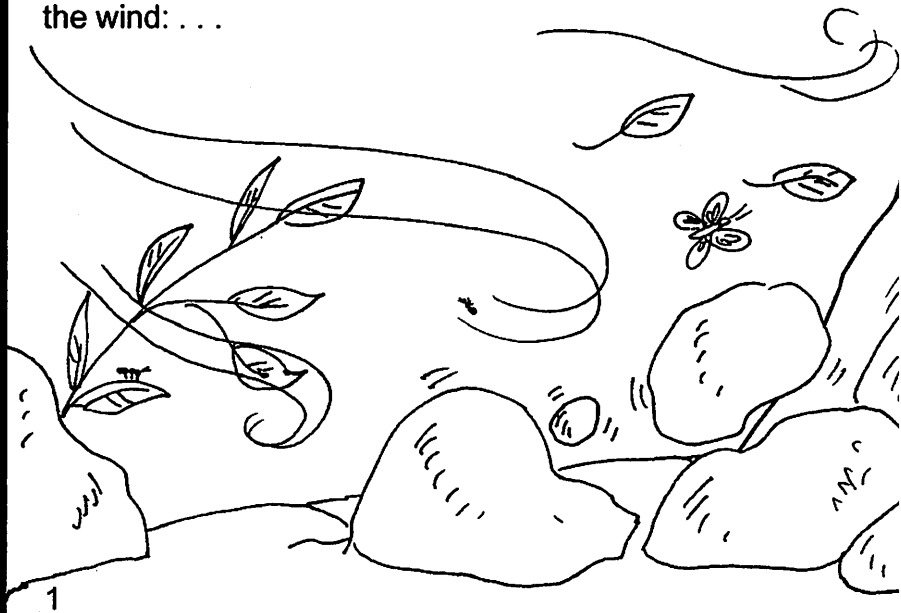
"Stand on the mountain before the Lord," God commanded Elijah.

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

"Why are you here?" the still small voice asked. "Go back. Anoint a new king over Israel. Elisha shall take your place as my prophet when you die. There are seven thousand people in Israel that have not bowed to the idol Baal. They all still worship me."

—Sis. Monica Murphey

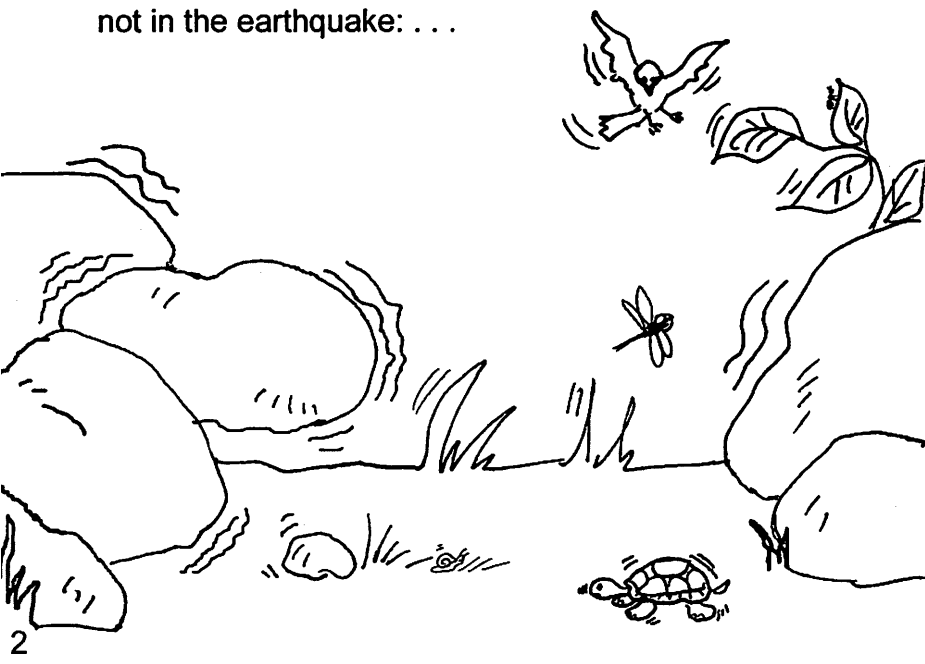
"... a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: ...



... And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: ...

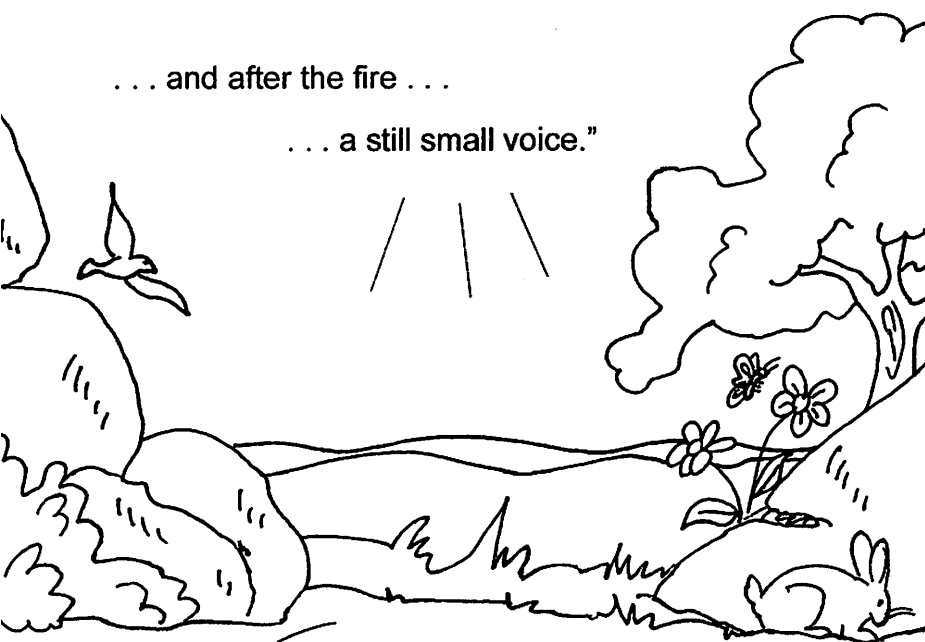


... and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: ...



... and after the fire ...

... a still small voice."



1 Kings 19:11-12

Winter Evening

For the Miles family, Mama had fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans and corn. Connie set the table for six because Daddy was working the day shift again and would be home for supper.

"Donnie, go pull the garage door open for Daddy," called Mama. "I hear his car in the driveway. All of you, wash your hands and come to the table."

Connie felt the cold air rush into the dining room when Donnie opened the door to help Daddy. She shivered and thanked the Lord for a warm house to be in that cold, winter night.

Lonnie and Cindy came to greet Daddy when he came through the door and laid his lunch pail on the kitchen bar. He picked up Cindy and swung her in the air, then grabbed Lonnie and tossed him high. They were all laughing, happy to be together for a quiet evening of fun.

Soon they were seated around the table. Sometimes Mama prayed, and sometimes Daddy, but they always said a prayer before eating. Daddy liked the drum sticks of the chicken or the thighs, and Connie and Donnie both wanted the wish bone piece.

"Who had it last time we ate chicken?" asked Daddy.

"He did," said Connie.

"She did," said Donnie. "Maybe that chicken had two wishbones?"

"I don't think so," said Mama, smiling. "but I do believe Donnie did have the wish bone piece last time."

"Then I get this one!" exclaimed Connie, spearing it from the platter with the meat fork.

"Be polite, Connie," said Mama. "You should not act so hasty. Use your napkin, wipe your fingers, and pause a while before you eat it. Do not act like a gobbler!"

Connie did as she was told, but the white, tender meat of the wish bone tasted so good that she soon

had it swallowed.

"Now, Donnie," she said, "Let's break it together! Make your wish!"

Connie held out the V-shaped wish bone and Donnie took the side opposite of Connie. When the bone was broken, the one holding the biggest piece should have his wish come true, as the old saying goes. Donnie won this time.

"Now put your hands together, children," said Mama. "Do not touch the walls of the hall as you go to the bathroom. Connie, you go first and use your elbow to turn on the light switch so you will not get the light switch greasy. We do not want dirty marks on the walls. Don't leave the bathroom until your hands are free of grease."

The children obeyed because they wanted to keep the house clean. While they were washing up, Daddy went to the hearth to start a fire in the fireplace.

"Oh, will you get your guitar and sing us some songs?" asked Connie. All the others pleaded also, and Donnie went to get Daddy's guitar behind the bedroom door. With the fire crackling and the hearth warm, they all gathered around and sang fun songs and songs about Jesus. What a cozy winter evening!
—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

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

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Jan. 31, 2010

Battle with Benhadad

Benhadad, the king of Syria gathered all of his armies together. Accompanied by thirty two other kings, Benhadad prepared to fight against Samaria. He sent messengers to King Ahab. "Your silver, your gold, and your family will be mine," the message said.

"All that I have shall be yours," Ahab responded. Soon, Benhadad sent Ahab another message. "I shall come and take everything that you value," he said. Ahab called the elders of Israel together. "This man is trying to cause trouble," Ahab said. "I tried to be agreeable to his first message." "Do not listen to him or agree to his demands," counseled the elders. So Ahab sent a message back to Benhadad, "I will not do what you have asked."

"May the gods deal with me severely if I do not destroy your country," Benhadad replied. "Tell him, one who puts on his armor should not boast like one who takes it off," Ahab told the messenger. Benhadad and his men were drinking in a tent when he heard Ahab's message. He ordered his armies to prepare for battle.

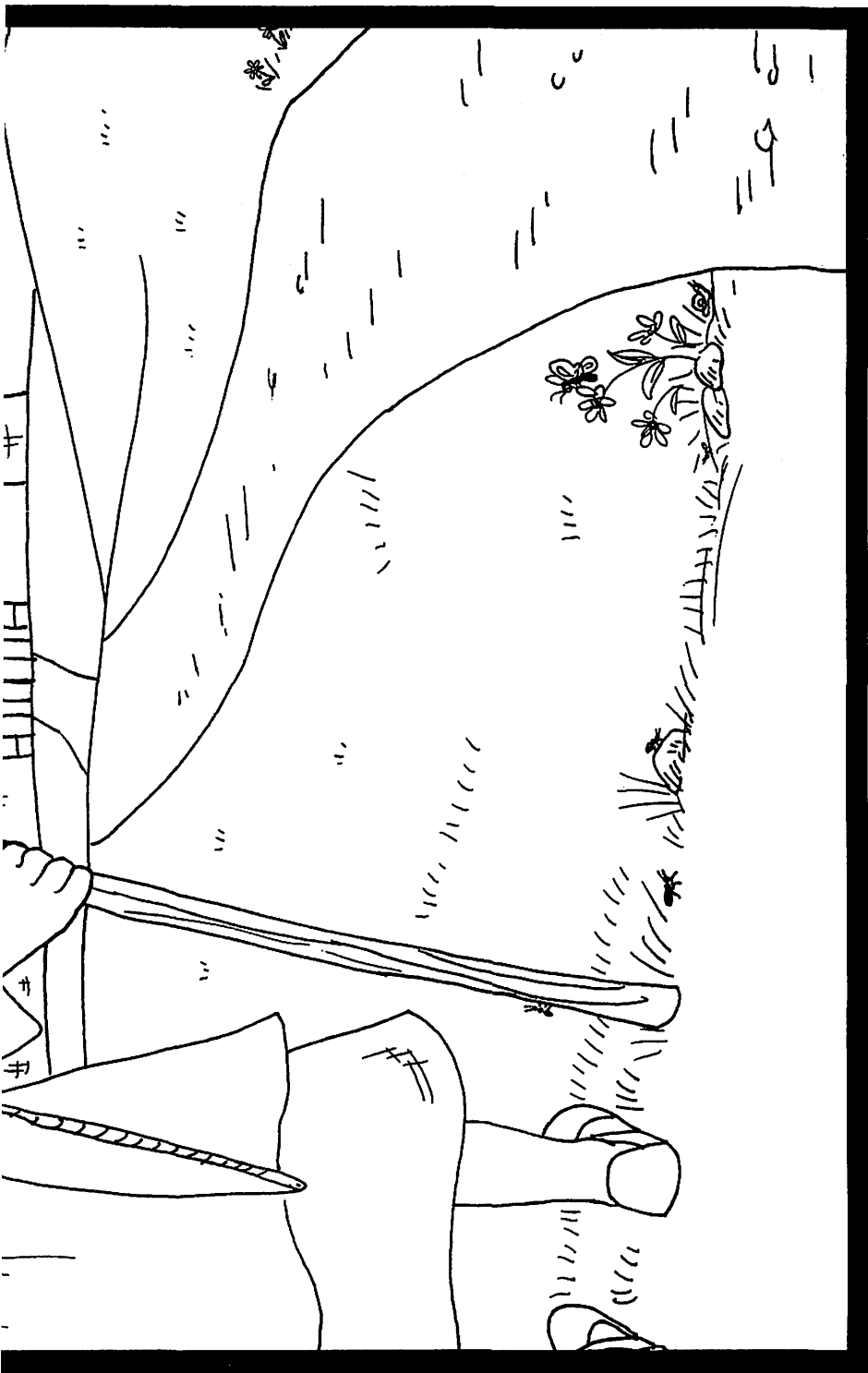
A prophet came to visit King Ahab. "The Lord says, have you seen this great army? I will deliver it into your hand today. Then you will know I am the Lord," the prophet informed Ahab. "Who will do this?" Ahab asked. "The young men and princes of your country," the prophet said. "Who will be in charge of the battle?" Ahab asked. "You," said the prophet. So Ahab counted all of the young men and princes. There were two hundred and thirty two. There were seven thousand other Israelites. The armies left at noon.

Benhadad and the thirty two kings were still drinking and partying in the pavilions when the message came, "The Israelite armies are coming." The Israelites killed many Syrian soldiers. The others fled the battle. The Israelites ran after them. Benhadad escaped on a horse with the horsemen.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...And they set themselves in array against
the city.” I Kings 20:12





Friends at School

Connie knew that playing with friends at school was not so easy as playing with her brothers and sister at home. This year there was Eddie who did not like to play by the rules and made up his own rules when he wanted to. Most of the girls thought he was cute about it, but Connie thought he was rude and dishonest.

One cool but pleasant afternoon Connie and her friends were on the playground after lunch having a game of freeze tag. When the "It" person tagged someone, that someone had to stand frozen in place until everyone was tagged and frozen. Then the first one who was tagged became "It" and everyone started running again.

Connie liked being "It" because she could run fast and tag everyone quickly—all but Eddie. He dodged and jumped back just before her swinging hand could slap him on the arm or back. Because she had to chase Eddie the longest on one game, Connie said, "The next time I am 'It', Eddie, I'm going to tag you first!"

"Oh, you are, Miss 'O-la-la!'" mocked Eddie. "I say you never catch me!"

Everyone laughed and so the challenge was made. Eddie started calling Connie all sorts of names to make her angry. "Hey, chicken-legs, I'm over here!" he would call to her when she wasn't even "It."

"Why don't we just have Eddie get out of the game?" said Connie to the other girls and boys. "He's just a big pest!"

"YOU made him that way," retorted Cara. "He was cute until you challenged him!"

"He never was cute," replied Connie. "He has always been a brat!"

"Then tag the brat and freeze him!" suggested Linda as she tagged Connie.

"Okay, I will!" said Connie. She spun around and dashed at Eddie who was taken off guard by her quick reflex. Connie not only tagged him, but she pushed him.

Eddie's face grew red because everyone started laughing. "No girl is going to push me around!" he hollered and came at Connie with tight fists.

Oh, Lord, help me hit him hard first, thought Connie as she tightened her muscles. Then she realized Jesus never hit anyone and He wouldn't help her do it either—she was on her own! She jumped to the side of Eddie, kicked his legs and took off running as fast as she could go! The bell rang and Connie was the first to run to the door. She knew Eddie was going to find her and she was on her own because the Lord would not help her fight Eddie. At least he was not in her class so she would only have to worry about him at recess time and after school.

Oh, what a mess Connie had got herself into! —Sis. Connie Sorrell
(To be continued)

Questions:

1. What country did Benhadad rule?
2. How many kings fought with Benhadad?
3. What did Benhadad threaten to do?
4. Who came to visit Ahab?
5. What did the Lord tell Ahab?
6. Who was to be in charge of the army?
7. Did the Israelites win the battle?
8. Who escaped from the battle?

Answers: 1. Syria. 2. 32. 3. Take everything Ahab valued. 4. A prophet. 5. They would win the battle. 6. Ahab. 7. Yes. 8. Benhadad.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Feb. 7, 2010

A Second Battle

Benhadad, the king of Syria, had suffered great losses during a battle against King Ahab and the Israelites. Many of his soldiers, horses, and chariots were destroyed in the battle. Benhadad was barely able to escape with his own life.

After the battle, the prophet of the Lord came and spoke once again to King Ahab. "Prepare your armies for another battle," the prophet warned. "The king of Syria will try to fight you again next year."

Benhadad received advice from his counselors, as well. "Their gods are the gods of the hills," they said. "That is why they were too strong for us to beat. Let your army grow stronger; then we will fight the Israelites again. If we fight them on the plains, surely we will conquer them." Benhadad did what his counselors advised. Then the Syrians went to fight the Israelites.

Compared to the Syrian army, the Israelite army was very small. The prophet had another word from the Lord for Ahab. "Since the Syrians believe I am only the god of the hills, I will show them that I am the God of the valleys as well. I will deliver all of these soldiers into your hands. Then you will know I am the Lord."

Seven days later, the Israelites and the Syrians fought in a hard battle. The Israelites killed many Syrians. The other Syrian soldiers fled to Aphek. A large wall that surrounded the city fell on the twenty seven thousand men that were left. All of them died. Benhadad had fled to that same city and was hiding. His servants said, "We have heard that the people of Israel are merciful. Let us go ask them to save our lives."

Benhadad's servants put on sackcloth and tied ropes around their heads and went to Ahab. They begged Ahab to spare Benhadad's life. Ahab made a peace treaty with Benhadad and let him go. The prophet told King Ahab, "You have set a man free that should have been killed for his evil deeds. Because you have done this, your life will be taken for his life, and your people will be taken for his people." After this, King Ahab angrily returned to his palace in Samaria.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men
that were left...” | Kings 20:30





Dealing with Eddie

(Continued)

Walking home from school, Connie regretted kicking Eddie on the playground. She knew that Eddie was going to get her back, and she really didn't like the idea of fighting—she could get hurt doing that. She thought, "Maybe Eddie will get sick with the flu tonight and while he is recouping, he will forget about the fuss. Lord, please let Eddie get sick! Please!" For some reason, she did not believe God would answer that bad-wishing prayer.

"Are you going to tell your mother about Eddie and you fighting?" asked Cara as she walked beside Connie.

"What? You got into a fight?" asked Donnie on the other side of Connie.

"For the hundredth time—NO—we just fussed! That's all!" exclaimed Connie.

"Well, it's going to be a fight," said Cara. "Eddie won't let you get by pushing and kicking him."

"Oh, he's just a big baby," retorted Connie. "There's no need to fuss with him any more."

"I don't think you have a choice," continued Cara. "Eddie is going to fuss with you, and you won't let him push you around, will you?"

"No, my sister knows how to fight pretty good," agreed Donnie.

"Will you two stop it!" grumbled Connie. "Don't talk about it any more, ya hear? Donnie, don't you say anything to Mother and Daddy, ya hear?"

"I won't," replied Donnie. "Unless they ask me."

"Now why would they ask you?" questioned Connie.

Donnie shrugged. "Maybe a nosy little birdie already told them. Mama hears things pretty fast, you know."

"Yeah, a lot of times you tell the little birdie," said Connie. "Don't tell Lonnie and Cindy neither, ya hear? Nobody. This is dangerous information that could get me into trouble at school and at home. Don't make it worse!"

As Connie and Donnie were going toward their patio, Cara waved good-

bye to walk on up the hill to her house. "Remember to say your prayers tonight, Connie," she teased. "Maybe Eddie will get sick with the flu tonight!"

Connie laughed. "I already prayed that prayer but I don't think God heard it."

She pulled open the patio doors and saw Mama standing in the living room right when Donnie laughed and said, "Yeah, if Eddie got sick, you wouldn't have to fight him tomorrow. Oops! Hi, Mama!"

"Who's fighting who?" asked Mama.

"I'm sorry, Connie! I didn't mean to tell about your fight," laughed Donnie.

"For the hundred and oneth time—it was a fuss, not a fight," replied Connie. "And you are the biggest mouth brother any sister could have!"

"Well, maybe Mama can tell you how to get rid of Eddie," said Donnie. "Someone needs to help you because he might be stronger than you."

Secretly, Connie was relieved to tell Mama about her trouble. It lightened the load just to share it with a caring adult.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who fought against king Ahab?
2. What did the prophet advise Ahab?
3. What did Benhadad's advisors tell him?
4. What happened to the Syrians that fled the battle?
5. What did Benhadad's servants decide to do?
6. What did Ahab do with Benhadad?
7. Why was the Lord angry with Ahab?
8. What did the Lord predict would happen to Ahab?

Answers: 1. King Benhadad of Syria. 2. To make his army strong again. 3. To fight the Israelites in the plains. 4. A wall fell on them & killed them. 5. Plead for mercy from Ahab. 6. Made a peace treaty with him & let him go. 7. He had not killed Benhadad. 8. He & his people would be destroyed.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Feb. 14, 2010

Naboth's Vineyard

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

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

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

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

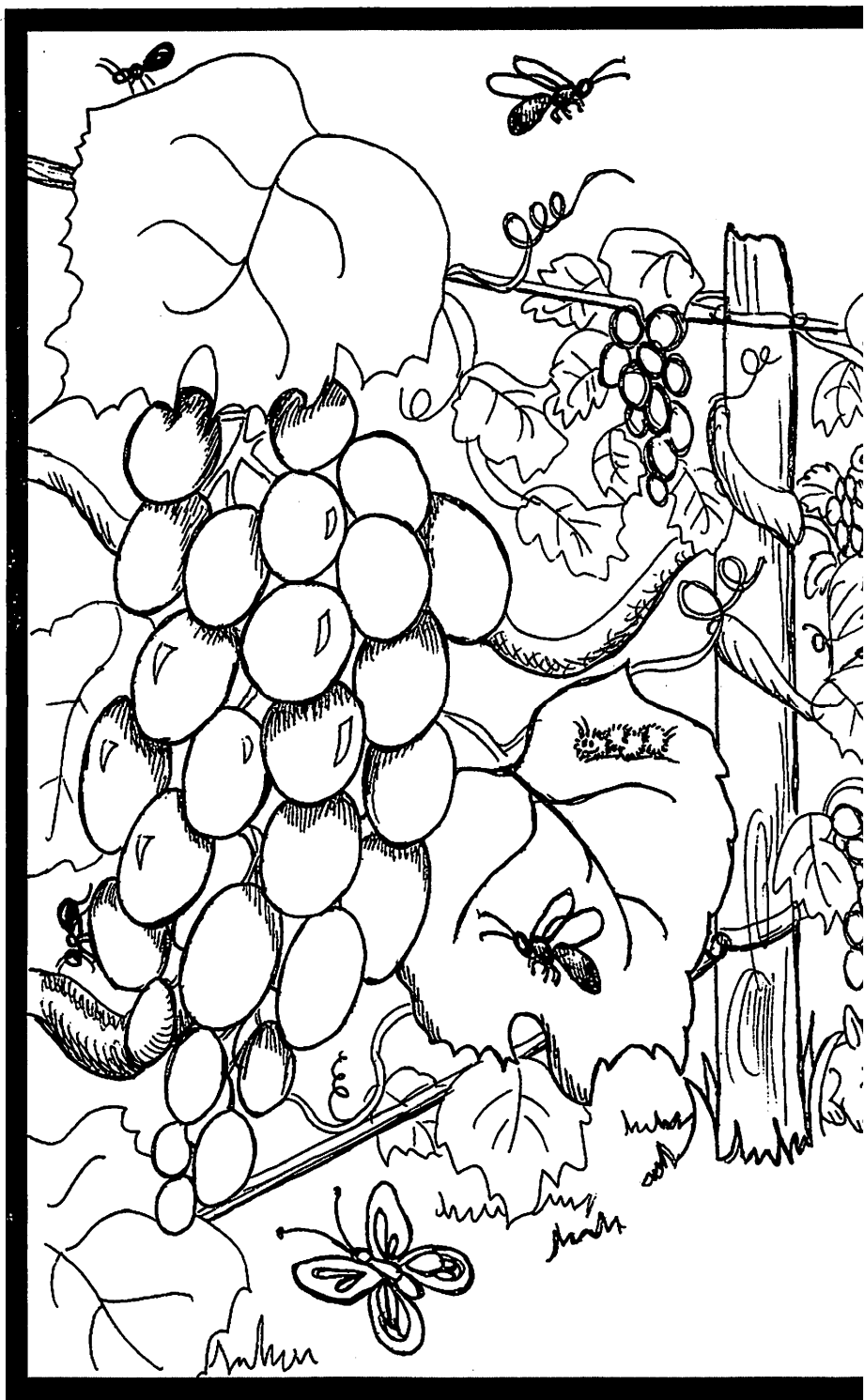
Queen Jezebel told the elders of the city exactly what to do. Queen Jezebel told the elders that King Ahab wanted them to carry out her plan. The elders had many people meet together. They accused Naboth of taking God's name in vain and speaking badly about the king. Of course, this was not true. They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

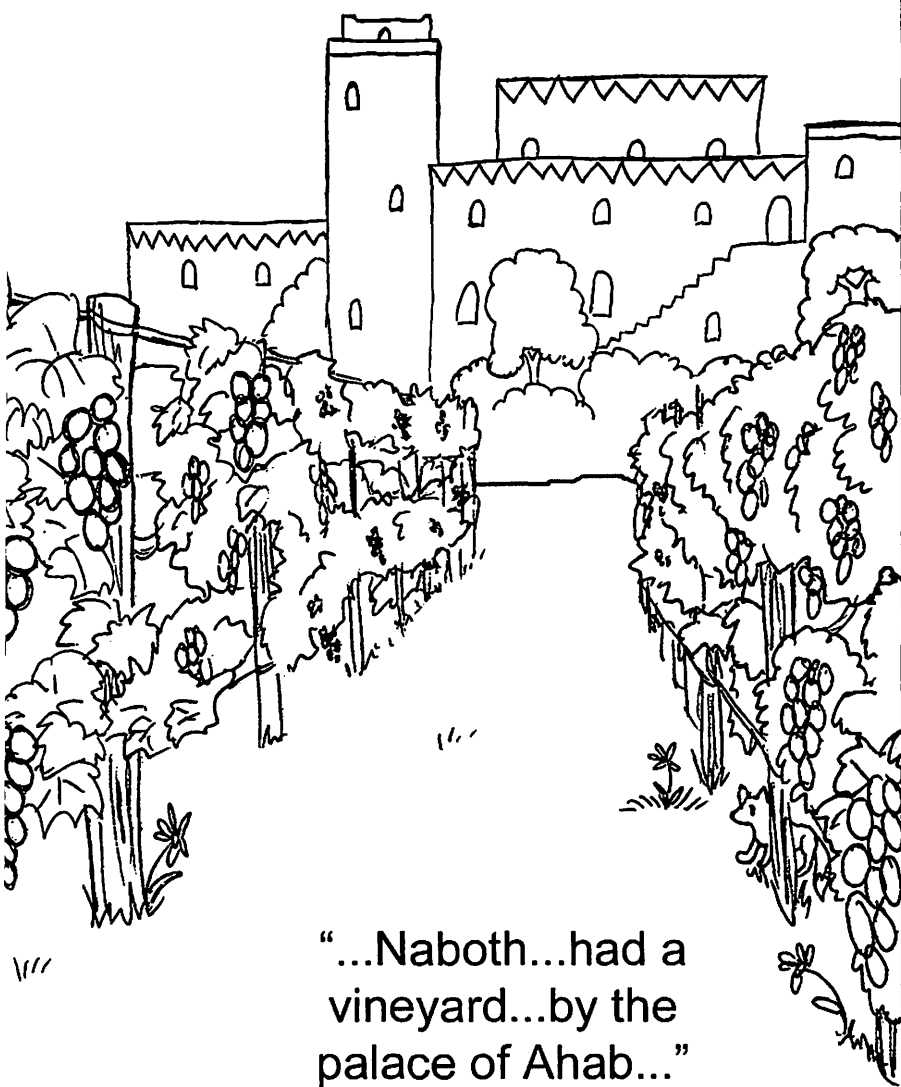
Elijah came to visit King Ahab and Queen Jezebel with words brought to him from the Lord. "Because of their evil deeds, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel will die," Elijah warned.

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

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

—Sis. Monica Murphey





“...Naboth...had a
vineyard...by the
palace of Ahab...”

I Kings 21:1

Adult Help

(Continued from last week)

Connie never was an early riser in the morning and it seemed some mornings came really fast. This morning Connie slowly put on her shoes as she watched Mama make her breakfast plate of a poached egg, bacon and toast.

"You talk to Mrs. Chappell about your problems with Eddie," said Mama. "It would be better for her to keep you in from the play ground for a few days than for you to get into a disgraceful fuss with Eddie."

"I don't know why I should be the one kept off the play ground when he is the trouble maker," complained Connie. "He ought to be outlawed from school!"

"Connie," said Mama firmly. "You must learn that you can not make other people do right, but you CAN control your own actions and words. You know what your daddy said, If you get into trouble at school, you are in trouble at home. It would be better for you to talk to Mrs. Chappell before there is any more trouble with Eddie."

Connie did not say anything, but her mind began to plan what to say. "Mrs. Chappell," she would say sweetly. "There's a mean boy at this school who is picking on one of your favorite students. He calls her names, doesn't play fair in games, and he even hit her yesterday! Don't you think he should be kicked out of school forever?"

Just before Connie and Donnie went out the door, Mama hugged them goodbye. "Now, Connie," she said. "I'm not telling you to tattle on Eddie and tell some stretchy story to get him punished. You admit your part also. It will be better for both of you."

"Alright, Mama," agreed Connie. "I always tell the truth."

Donnie laughed. "Maybe I ought to warn Eddie that you are going to tattle on him so he can get a good story made up, too."

"Why, Donnie Miles! If you take up for Eddie, then I will never take up for you again! You had better stick with me and be safe."

"Okay! Okay!" chuckled Donnie. "I hope you get Eddie good and don't get caught."

Connie sighed. What had got her into this mess anyway? Her temper. Maybe she should have ignored Eddie longer, but she hadn't. Now she had to face the consequences of her actions.

Connie did not see Eddie until lunch time when he had two other boys with him. He called her dumb names and asked her when she wanted to fight. Connie turned away from him without saying a word and Eddie just hooted the more.

"I guess Mama was right," thought Connie. "I had better talk to Mrs. Chappell."

To Connie's surprise, Mrs. Chappell already knew about her trouble. "I have talked to Eddie's homeroom teacher," she said. "We want you and Eddie to shake hands and agree to leave each other alone. NO MORE FUSSING!"

That is what they did, and in time they forgot the whole trouble.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

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

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Feb. 21, 2010

The Fiery Chariot

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

Now Elijah and Elisha were across the river. "What would you like for me to do for you, before I am taken away?" Elijah asked Elisha. "I would like a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...as they.



ed...there appeared a chariot of fire..."

II Kings 2:11



John's Little Sister

One evening after school, Mama asked Connie, "Do you know a boy by the name of John Crapetree?"

"Yes, he is in my class," answered Connie.

"He wasn't at school today, was he?"

"No, why?" asked Connie.

"Oh, I read in the newspaper about the terrible accident that happened to his sister," said Mama sadly. "She was playing with a bouncy ball in her front yard when the ball got away from her. She took off running after it and ran right out into the street in front of a car. Oh, my heart just grieves for her mother!"

"How sad!" cried Connie. "John talked a lot about his baby sister. She isn't that old."

"No, she was just four years old. Her mother saw it all happen and she could not stop her. The way the paper read, it sounds like Christy ran into the car as she chased the ball. Oh, my heart is just so sad for them!" cried Mama. Connie cried, too, when she thought how she would miss her little sister, if she had died.

"John has one big brother, I think," said Connie.

"Yes, just the three children, and now they don't have their little girl," cried Mama. During family prayers, they prayed for John's family.

The next day at school, Mrs. Chappell told the class about the accident. Everyone was very quiet, and some of the students cried. "If any of you want to attend the funeral," said Mrs. Chappell, "you may go with me if you have a written note of permission from your parents."

That evening, Connie asked Mama to write her a permission note. Then she went to her closet and picked out

a nice black dress to wear the next day. In the morning, Mama combed Connie's hair in a special style, and then she gave her a pair of white gloves to wear with her dark dress. "Wear the gloves when you shake hands," said Mama. "Everyone will be crying and blowing their noses and it will be better for you to wear gloves."

"Thank you, Mama," replied Connie and she hurried off to school with Donnie. Mrs. Chappell was glad to know that Connie was going with her. "My, you look nice," she said. "I suppose your mama made your dress. Oh, and I really like your gloves!" When Mrs. Chappell said something about Connie's clothes, it made her think of Grandma Miles who also noticed what she would wear.

Only Connie and two other girls went with Mrs. Chappell to the little girl's sad, sad funeral. They told John they were sorry and would be praying for him. John always remembered Connie attended his little sister's funeral, and it made them closer friends.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

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

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Feb. 28, 2010

Elisha's Special Room

One of the other prophet's wives came to Elisha with a problem. "My husband is dead," the woman explained. "You know that he feared the Lord. We owed a man some money. Now he is coming to collect it. We cannot pay the man, so he is going to take my two sons to be his slaves."

"What do you have in your house?" Elisha asked. "Nothing except for a pot of oil," the woman replied. "Go and borrow more pots from your neighbors," Elisha told her. "When you have many pots, fill them with oil. When they are full, set them aside."

The woman did as Elisha commanded. She filled many pots with oil. Finally, there were no more pots. "Go sell the oil to pay for your debts," Elisha suggested. "You and your sons can live on what is left."

One day, a man and woman who lived in Shunem asked Elisha to stop and eat. When Elisha went through Shunem after this, he stopped at the home of this man and woman. The woman went to her husband one day and asked, "Let's build a little room for him. Whenever Elisha comes to Shunem, he can stay here." Elisha was grateful for the thoughtfulness of his host and hostess. Elisha asked his hostess, "You have been so good to care for me, is there anything I can do for you?"

The woman would not tell him a way he could return her favors. Elisha asked a servant, "What can I do for her?" "She has no child, and her husband is old," the servant said.

"You will have a son about this time next year," Elisha told the woman. And the next year, Elisha's prophecy came to pass.

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

"Carry him to his mother," the boy's father said to a servant. The boy's sickness was so very bad that he died. His mother was sad. But she had an idea. "Send me a donkey, so that I can go get the man of God," she said. Elisha followed the woman to where the boy lay. He went in and prayed hard for the boy. The child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. There was much rejoicing in the household for this great miracle.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...the child sneezed seven times
and the child opened his eyes.”

II Kings 4:35





Work Day at the Print Shop

It was mail day at the Faith Publishing House and Connie loved all the excitement of that day. Grandpa and Grandma Eck came in from Covington, Oklahoma, to make a big dinner for the workers. Mama made big, soft hot rolls and a fluffy angel food cake for Grandma Miles' birthday.

Connie and the other children ran across the side walk from the big house to the print shop, checking to make sure everything was getting done. Connie pushed open the side door to the print shop and smelled the fresh ink on the printing presses. Sis. Geneva Ray sat on a tall stool feeding papers into the big folder sitting by the door.

Connie loved to watch all the machines at work. In those days it took a lot of time and several steps to get the Faith and Victory ready to mail. First of all, pigs of metal were melted down into strips of metal called slugs. These slugs slipped into place on the Linotype machine which had a keyboard that the typist used to burn letters onto the slug. When Uncle Lawrence or Sis. Geneva used the Linotype, Connie had to stay away from it because of the hot fire used to melt and burn the slugs.

Each slug was a line for a page, and these slugs were put in order into a wooden box called a chase. The chase was tightened with screws and held all the slugs in place but the letters were all written backwards. The chase was put into a proofing press and a proof of paper was made. A camera took a picture of this proof of paper and the film from the camera was developed in the dark room. The film was laid out on a light table and the mistakes showed up to be corrected. Next the corrected film was burned onto a metal sheet called a plate. This plate had a complete page on it. This thin sheet of metal was wrapped around a big cylinder on the printing press. The printed metal rolled letters onto a top rubber cylinder which then put the letters on the paper. Each page was printed this way, then compiled

together by the folder which also folded and cut the paper.

While all this printing was done in the print shop, labeled canvas mail bags were set up on stands in the office, ready to receive the folded Faith and Victory papers. Connie and her brothers and sister played hide and seek among the mail bags until Uncle Lawrence stopped them.

"I think it is time you children run along to the house next door," he said.

"Yes, Uncle Lawrence," they agreed meekly. They flipped through the brown swinging doors, ran past the attic stairway and the folder and slammed the side door shut behind them. Maybe dinner would be about ready and they could beg some meat and a hot roll from Grandma Eck. Grandma loved to cook and see people eating, which made her so nice to be around at meal time. Maybe the children would be more needed in the kitchen than at the print shop.

The warmth of the kitchen was like a pleasant hug and the blend of cooking foods smelled sweet. Connie washed her hands and put water in the glasses. It did feel good to help and not just play all the time. Her heart was happy. She loved being a part of the Print Shop family.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued)

Questions:

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

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Mar. 7, 2010

Naaman the Leper

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

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

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

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

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

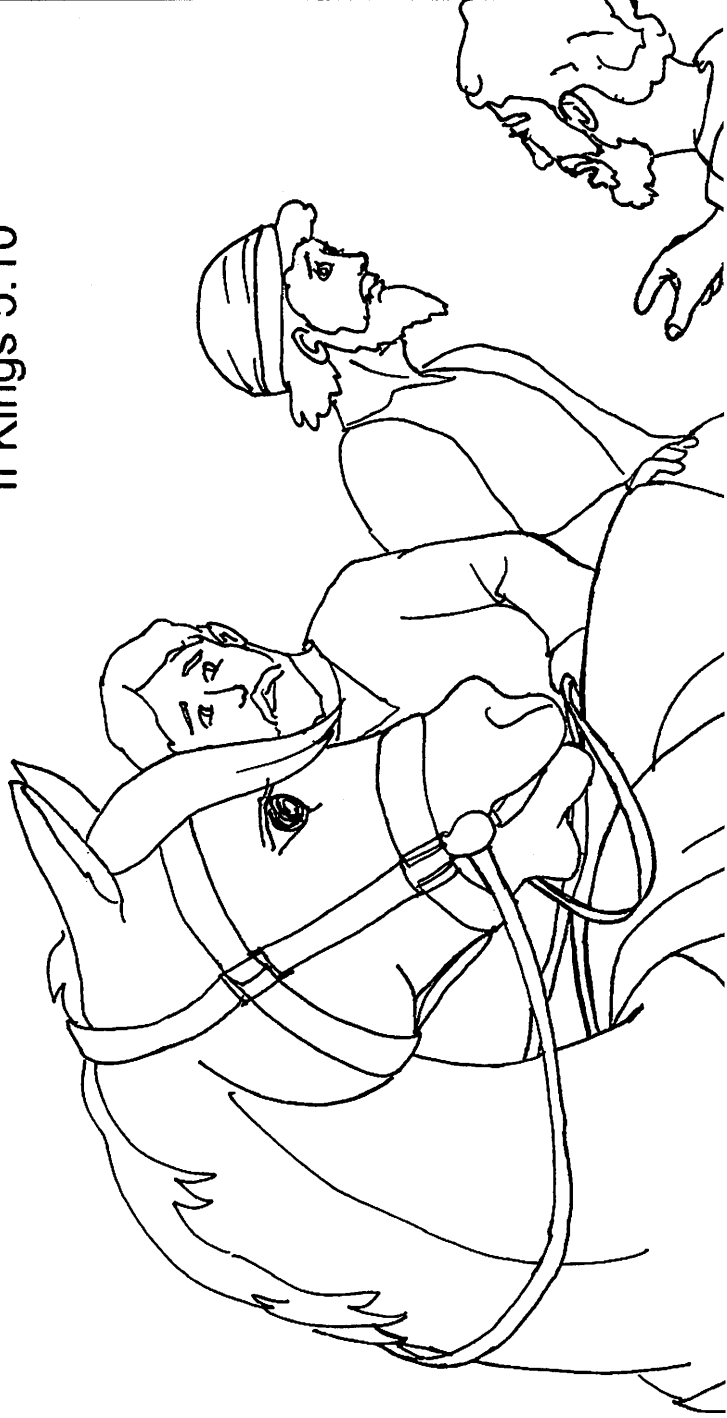
So Naaman went to the river Jordan and dipped himself seven times in the waters. Naaman was healed! He went back to Elisha. "Now I know the God of Israel is the true God. Please take these gifts as a thank you from your servant," Naaman pleaded.

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

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash
in Jordan seven times...and thou shalt be clean.”

II Kings 5:10





Grandma's Birthday Dinner

(Continued from last week)

It was dinner time at the Faith Publishing House. Connie put water in the glasses, and Donnie rang the dinner bell through out the print shop. Soon all the workers were filing into the house. There was laughter and friendly talk as turns were taken at the bathroom sink to wash hands. Then Aunt Maybelle clapped her hands, and the crowd got quiet. Uncle Lawrence cleared his throat.

"We want to thank everyone for their faithful work today," he said. "I think we have gotten a lot of work done this morning and that is good. We appreciate Sis. Beatrice coming in to prepare the noon day meal for us. If I remember right, Sis. Bertha made a special cake for someone's birthday. Does that cake have a name on it?"

"Well, I did not decorate this angel food cake because the birthday lady did not want so much icing," replied Mama.

"Just read the banner on the wall," replied Connie. "It says, Happy Birthday, Sis. Marie."

"Indeed, there is a banner," replied Uncle Lawrence. "And it looks like several people have signed it. Let us offer thanks to the Lord, and then we will sing Happy Birthday."

Then everyone bowed their heads and Uncle Lawrence prayed for the Lord to bless the printed Word that it would sow seeds for Him. He asked the Lord to bless Anna Marie with a good new year, and to bless the food. Amen!

Connie was ready for the song and for the food! "Happy birthday to you..." Grandma smiled sweetly. "Thank you! Thank you!" she said when they were done. "I appreciate and love all of you so much! Thank you for the lovely banner. I will enjoy reading it! The dinner and the cake—all of it is so lovely."

"Did you notice that Mama wrote the letters in green?" asked Donnie.

"What a deal—so they are in

green!" exclaimed Grandma. "Did you tell her that was my favorite color?"

Everyone laughed because they all knew Grandma Miles liked green.

"When is it time to eat?" asked Lonnie

"I have your plates ready for you," replied Mama. "You children sit down at this little table by the adults' table."

After they were all seated, the steaming bowls of food were passed around with many pleasant comments. Eating kept the children quiet, but they listened to the adults talk about families and news.

After the meal and cake and ice cream, the dishes were washed by hand and Connie dried them with a clean tea towel. Grandma Eck packed up her things to go back home to the farm in Covington. Connie sighed. It was so sad to say goodbye to family members after having so much fun with them. She wished this day could have gone on forever and ever, but the hands of the clock ticked away this day like all others.

In eternity, time will not end pleasant fellowship with family, and who knows—maybe there will be wonderful food to eat! It will certainly be the greatest celebration ever and forever! —Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

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

Answers: 1. Naaman. 2. Leprosy.

3. His servant girl. 4. Go to Israel; He sent gifts along. 5. Jordan. 6. Seven. 7. No. 8. He got leprosy.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Mar. 14, 2010

Poisonous Stew and a Floating Ax

On one of Elisha's journeys, he came to a home in Gilgal where sons of the prophets had gathered to learn Elisha's teachings. "Make some stew in the big pot for these men," Elisha told his servant. The servant went out into the field to gather vegetables for the stew. He found a wild vine with gourds growing on it. Not knowing they were poison, he picked some of the gourds and cut them into pieces for the stew.

The servant dished out the food for the men, and they began to eat. "Oh, man of God, the plants in this stew are poisonous," one of the other prophets cried. "Bring some meal," Elisha ordered. Elisha threw the meal into the pot. Then he told his servant, "Serve the stew to the people. Now they can eat." Everyone ate the stew and no one became sick.

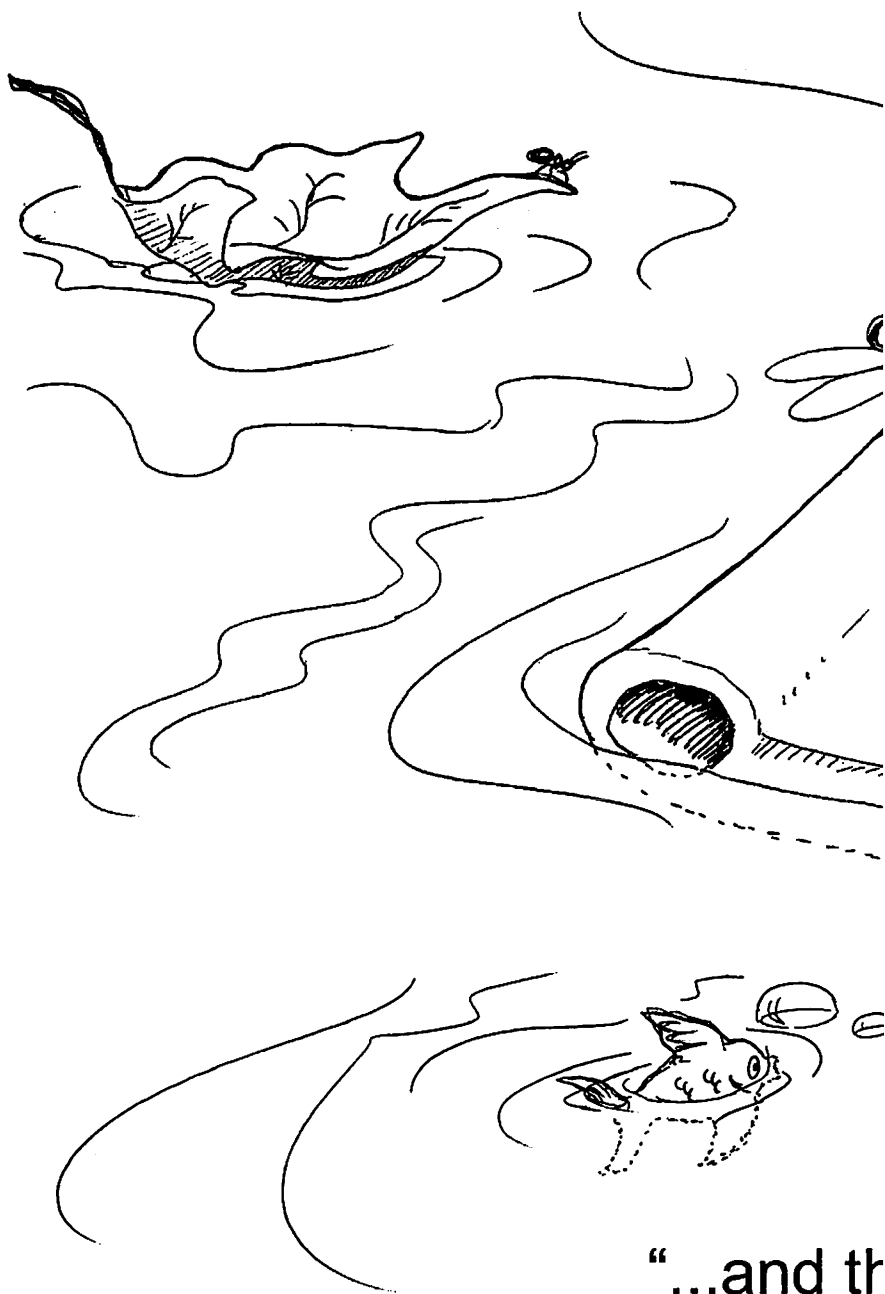
A man from Baalshalisha brought Elisha twenty loaves of bread and some ears of corn. "Give these to the people and let them eat," Elisha said. "But how will this small amount of food feed one hundred men?" Elisha's servant asked. "The Lord has said that they shall have plenty," Elisha said. So the men ate as much food as they wanted and even had some left over.

Later, the prophets came to Elisha with an idea. "There is not enough room for all of us in the place we are staying at now," the prophets reasoned. "Let us go and build a bigger place beside the Jordan River." Elisha agreed that it was a good idea. The prophets went to the Jordan and began to cut down wood.

As one of the prophets was cutting a beam, the head of his axe fell into the water. "Oh, no!" the man cried. "That was a borrowed axe." "Where did it fall?" Elisha asked. The distraught man showed him the place. Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water, and the iron head of the axe floated to the top of the water.

"Pick up the axe," Elisha told the man. The man did what Elisha asked. How glad he must have been to have the whole axe together again!

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“...and th



ron did swim." II Kings 6:6

Black Diamond

The little black filly looked so thin and frail among the herd of bigger horses. Her way of survival was to keep a distance from the others and take what remained of the feed. However, this little beauty did not let her size discourage her for she held her head high. On her forehead was a diamond blaze of white to match her four short white socks. Long eye lashes draped her large, expressive eyes above her teacup-sized muzzle. Her delicate ears turned quickly to sounds and though she was underfed, she was very alert to her surroundings.

Travis and Kim had come to look over the herd and buy a few horses. Most buyers would want the strongest and biggest, but not Kim. She noticed the poorly fed filly right away. She's a pretty little diamond, thought Kim. A diamond in the rough.

Pulling Travis aside, Kim whispered to him that she wanted that littlest filly. During the conversation with Black Diamond's owners, Travis asked, "How much do you want for that smallest black filly?"

"Oh, that horse is really valuable," said one owner, quoting a very high price for her. Kim's heart sank. They did not have that kind of money. She wanted to buy this horse and give it some good feed, tender love and care. Oh, Lord, help us to get the money to buy her, prayed Kim. However, through the summer the owners would not come down on the price and Travis and Kim did not have the money to buy her.

As autumn came and then winter snow, Kim felt uneasy about the poor horses, especially Black Diamond, and she drove her truck several miles to the pasture where they were kept. To her dismay, she realized that the owners had not brought any hay to the starving horses. Throwing out bales of hay from her pickup, Kim watched the horses eagerly gather around to eat. Then she saw Black Diamond—still holding her head up, still keeping her distance but much frailer. Her legs were weak and she

was walking with her pasterns nearly touching the ground.

Oh, Lord, Black Diamond needs to be sheltered in our barn, prayed Kim. "Please keep her safe and help us to rescue her from this field."

When Kim drove back to her ranch, she parked her truck and went into her house to call the owners about buying Black Diamond. Once again, they told her a high price that Kim could not pay. She cried knowing that this delicate filly would spend the cold, harsh winter in a snow covered pasture without any hay or feed.

Three more times through the winter Kim took hay to the starving horses and she always checked for Black Diamond. More frail and unsteady, Black Diamond had trouble walking in the snow. Sometimes she would stagger as she came toward Kim who gave her a special block of hay.

"Black Diamond, I still have hope of saving you," said Kim as she rubbed the small nose. "You keep your head held high and your ears alert. Some day I will come to take you home with me, Lord willing."

Black Diamond's ears turned toward Kim and her eyes shone with hope. She wasn't going to give up, not when she had a friend who encouraged her and most of all, who prayed for her.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did Elisha's servant make?
2. What was accidentally put in the pot?
3. What did Elisha throw in the pot?
4. Were the twenty loaves of bread and corn enough?
5. What did the prophets want to do?
6. What happened to the man's ax?
7. What did Elisha throw into the water?
8. What did the axe head do?

Answers: 1. Stew. 2. Some poisonous gourds. 3. Meal. 4. Yes, the Lord multiplied it. 5. Build a bigger place to stay. 6. It fell in the water. 7. A stick. 8. Floated to the top.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Mar. 21, 2010

Blinded Soldiers

The king of Syria was at war with Israel. He found a spot to set up camp. Elisha sent a message to the king of Israel, warning him where the Syrian camp was located. The king sent a servant to confirm Elisha's message and found out Elisha had been right. Many Israelite's lives were saved. This happened several more times.

The king of Syria wondered why they weren't surprising the Israelites with the locations of their camps. Finally, the king of Syria called a meeting with his officers. "One of you is a spy," he accused. "None of us are spies, O King," the officers protested. "Elisha, the prophet of God, lives in Israel. He can tell the king of Israel every word that you speak, even if it is in your bedroom."

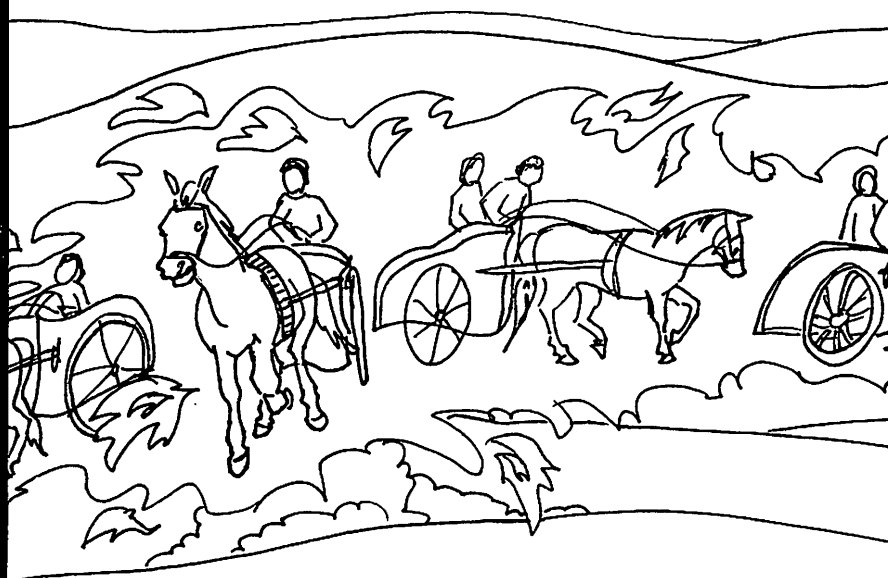
"Go and find out where Elisha is so that we can take him as a prisoner," the king commanded. When the king found out Elisha was staying in Dothan, one night he sent many soldiers and chariots to surround the city.

Elisha's servant woke up the next morning and saw all of the soldiers, horses, and chariots surrounding the city. "Master, what should we do?" the servant cried. "Don't be afraid," Elisha replied. "Those who are with us are stronger than those who are with them." "Lord, open his eyes, so that he may see," Elisha prayed. The Lord opened the eyes of Elisha's servant. The young man saw a mountain full of horses and chariots of fire around Elisha.

"Make the eyes of the enemy blind," Elisha prayed again. The Syrians stumbled about. They could not see which way to go. "That is not the way you want to go," Elisha told them. "Follow me. I will take you to the man you are looking for." Elisha led the whole Syrian army to the king of Israel.

Elisha prayed for the men, and the Lord opened their eyes. The Syrian soldiers were dismayed to find they had been led into the Israelite cities. "What should I do with them?" the king asked Elisha. "Should I kill them?" "No," Elisha replied. "Feed them and then set them free." After this, the Syrians did not bother the Israelites any more. —Sis. Monica Murphey

“...he saw...the mountain was full of ho
II Ki



and chariots of fire round about Elisha."

2:17



Black Diamond's Price

(Continued from last week)

For several months Travis and Kim had tried to buy the pretty little filly Kim called Black Diamond, but the owners wanted such a big price that they could not buy her. Through the winter Kim had taken hay to Black Diamond and the herd of horses she was with because the owners did not feed them. They were all thin, but Black Diamond seemed the frailest and weakest of them all.

As warmer winds began to melt the snow, Travis and Kim were kept busy on their ranch. They had answered God's call for them to bring together hurting people and abused horses. Many times the right horse and the right person found each other, forming a bond of love and trust. Broken hearts were healed. Hope renewed. Trust restored. Of course, Kim knew the Lord had His hand in all of this and she was thrilled to have a part in making the connections.

Often young people from a church would volunteer to come and stay on the ranch and care for the horses for a week or two. One group was scheduled with Kim to come in mid-April, during Spring break.

One afternoon, Travis and Kim were driving home in their truck when her cell phone rang. It was the owners of Black Diamond. Kim's eyes lit up with excitement but she kept her voice calm as she said, "Yes, we want her but give us a little time to get the money. Yes, thank you! Goodbye!"

"Black Diamond is for sale at a better price we may be able to afford!" exclaimed Kim to Travis. "Let's pray right now that the Lord will supply this need."

A quick prayer was said, and then Travis pulled up to the mail box for Kim to check the mail. Among all the bills and advertisements, Kim picked out a letter from the church group coming in April. She thought they might have some questions about the visit, but instead she found a check made out for just the right amount of money to buy Black Diamond. Her eyes filled with tears as she showed the check to Travis.

"There's our answer to prayer, Honey," he said. "Call them back and we will go get Black Diamond in the morning."

Kim had made friends with Black Diamond, but it took some time to load her into the trailer because she was so weak. Finally, they brought her to their ranch. Black Diamond began to eat good grain and healthy hay. She gained weight, and her hair shone when they brushed her. Her legs grew stronger so that she walked properly again. She enjoyed being petted and returned affection to the children.

When the church group of young people arrived in April, Kim sat them in a circle on the ground and told them the story of Black Diamond—how she was starving for feed and love but her price was so high they could not buy her; how she prayed for Black Diamond and desired to help her; then finally the owners came down on the price; and the young peoples' check was just the right amount to pay for her. As she talked Travis quietly brought Black Diamond for them to meet. Amid cheers of happiness, the young people crowded around Black Diamond. She kept her head held high, and her eyes not only glowed with hope, but with joy at being redeemed by love.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who was at war with Israel?
2. What did Elisha tell the Israelite king?
3. What did the king of Syria think about his officers?
4. Why did the Syrians want to find Elisha?
5. Why was Elisha's servant afraid?
6. What did the young man see around Elisha?
7. Why did the Syrians not know where to go?
8. Where did Elisha lead the Syrians?

Answers: 1. The king of Syria. 2. Where the Syrian camps were located. 3. That one of them was a spy. 4. To take him captive. 5. He saw the Syrian horses & chariots. 6. Horses and chariots of fire. 7. The Lord made them blind. 8. To the king of Israel in Samaria.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Mar. 28, 2010

Terrible Famine

The king of Syria surrounded the Israelite's city of Samaria. The Israelites had no way of leaving or getting food. Because of this, there was a terrible famine in Samaria. Food was very scarce. People could buy a donkey's head in the streets for eighty pieces of silver. Hunger was driving the Israelites to eat things like this that they normally wouldn't consider eating.

One day, Elisha prophesied, "Listen to the Lord's words. Tomorrow at this time, twenty four cups of flour will be sold for an ounce of silver, and forty eight cups of barley will be sold for half of an ounce in the gate of Samaria."

The Lord caused the Syrians to hear a noise of a host of mighty chariots and horses. "The king of Israel has hired the king of the Hittites and the king of the Egyptians to fight with us," the Syrians said. The soldiers rose and fled in the dusk, leaving their tents, horses, and donkeys.

That evening, four lepers were sitting at the city gate. "Why do we sit here to die?" they asked one another. "If we go into the city, we will die there. Let's go to the Syrians instead. If they kill us, we will die, but we have a small chance that they will spare our lives." So the four lepers went to the camp of the Syrians. When they got there, they found a deserted camp. No one was there. The lepers went into a tent and found food. They ate and drank until they were full. Then, they carried away silver, gold, and clothing and hid it.

Later, the lepers decided, "We are not doing the right thing. Why are we keeping such good news to ourselves? Let's go tell the king." They went to the gatekeepers of the city and told him the good news. Soon the king heard about it also. "The Syrians know that we are hungry," the king reasoned. "They left the camp to hide until we come down to get food. Then they will attack." The king only sent a few spies to see if what the lepers had said was true. The spies went to the Syrian camp. On the way, they found clothing and other items the Syrians had dropped on their way out of camp. When they came back with a good report, the people went to the Syrian camp and brought back food and many other things. Elisha's prophecy came true.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...when they were
...there was
II Kin



me to the...camp
man there."

:5



Jamie and Lightfoot

Kim and two of her staff members watched the expected van wind its way up the long drive to Crystal Peaks Ranch. They were anxious to meet the special passenger named Jamie that this van was bringing. In a telephone conversation, Jamie's mother had told Kim about Jamie surviving 18 surgeries. At eleven years old, Jamie couldn't speak clearly, nor could she walk without assistance. The hope was that Jamie would gain better control of her body by riding and guiding a horse.

When the van stopped, Kim greeted Jamie's mother. Together they walked around the van and opened the door to help Jamie out. She smiled at them as they unstrapped her from the van and brought her down the ramp in her wheel chair. She had never seen a live horse up close so Kim let her see and adjust to the horses afar off before bringing out Lightfoot, the senior gelding that was chosen for Jamie to ride.

Lightfoot was big but he was gentle. He had survived starvation and improper feed that nearly killed him before Kim and Travis had rescued him. Now Lightfoot was healthy, but the bad experience had taught him patience for his life time.

Ami, a staff member, held Jamie's hand and helped her brush Lightfoot's neck and mane. Jamie smiled and her eyes sparkled. Kim showed her how to kiss Lightfoot's muzzle or nose. Jamie pulled up in her chair and Lightfoot bent his head down, but instead of kissing Lightfoot, Jamie licked him with the tip of her tongue. Lightfoot's brown eyes glowed over Jamie.

Then came the time to put on her helmet, and lift Jamie into the saddle on Lightfoot's back. With help on each side of the horse, Jamie balanced herself while Ami led Lightfoot around

the arena. Carefully, they took Jamie quietly around the arena.

Snow began to fall on them as they completed the first round and began the second. Suddenly, Kim heard Jamie's voice for the first time. She glanced up to see if Jamie was alright. Her little face glowed as she kept tight hold on Lightfoot's mane.

As Ami led them around the arena, Kim again heard Jamie's voice. She looked up to see Jamie's mouth opened in a wide grin and her eyes shining with happiness.

"Do you like this?" Kim asked Jamie who did not respond with words until they were completing the second round. Then Jamie began to shout, "Guh, guh, guh!"

"What is she saying," Kim asked her mother.

Jamie's mother wiped the tears from her eyes before replying. "She is saying, 'Good! Good! Good!'"

Though the weather was cold and frosty, God melted their hearts together in that arena because His Love is kind and merciful.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Why couldn't the Israelites get food?
2. What would be sold for an ounce of silver?
3. What did the Lord cause the Syrians to hear?
4. What did the Syrians do?
5. What did the four lepers find?
6. What did the lepers decide to do?
7. Who did the king send to see about the camp?
8. Did Elisha's prophecy come true?

Answers: 1. The Syrians had them surrounded. 2. 24 cups of flour. 3. Noise of horses and chariots. 4. Fled the camp. 5. An empty camp. 6. Tell the king. 7. Spies. 8. Yes.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 April 4, 2010

King Jehu

King Ahab had seventy sons. Two of them were kings in Israel. Some of the others also had positions of leadership in Samaria. They all were very evil and followed in the ways of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. They worshipped idols instead of God.

One day, Elisha called one of his prophets and gave him some instructions. The prophet took a box of oil and went to the city where Jehu lived. Several captains of the army were sitting in a group. "I have a message for you, Captain," the prophet said. "To whom are you speaking?" Jehu asked. "To you, O Captain," the prophet said. The prophet remembered what Elisha had told him to do. He took Jehu into the house and poured oil on his head. "The Lord God of Israel has said that you are to be the king over the people of Israel," the prophet said. "You shall destroy the descendants of Ahab." And very quickly, the prophet left.

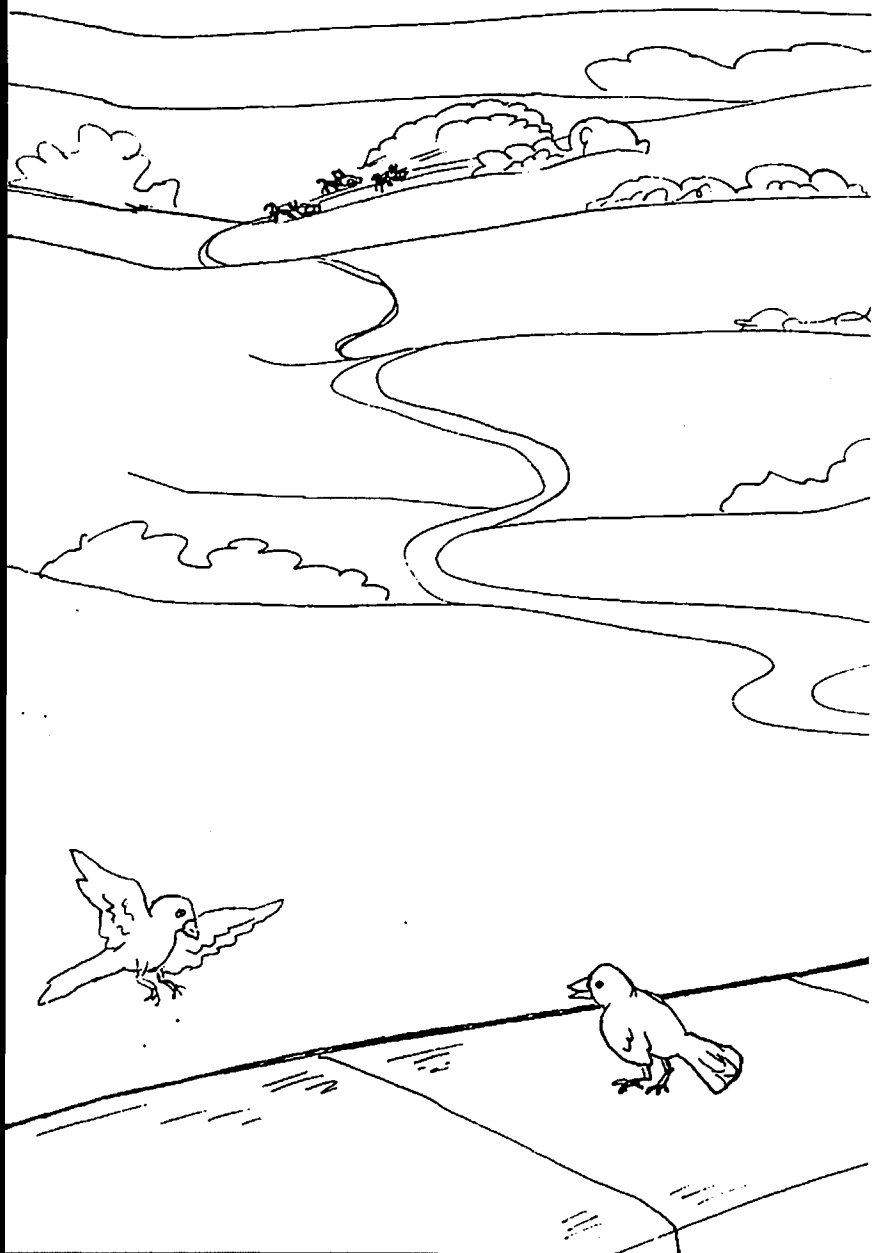
Ahab's son, King Joram was in Jezreel suffering from some wounds he had received in battle. Jehu took a chariot and rode there as fast as he could. A watchman on the tower spotted Jehu. "I see some soldiers coming," he warned Joram. Joram sent two messengers to Jehu to ask if he came in peace. "There will be no peace as long as your mother, Queen Jezebel, works her witchcraft and does so much evil," Jehu replied. "He has betrayed us," Joram said. Jehu drew a bow with all of his might and killed Joram.

Jehu also killed all of Ahab's family, as well as all of the prophets of the false gods that King Ahab and Queen Jezebel had worshipped. Jehu and his men burned the sacred stone from the temple of Baal and tore the temple to the ground.

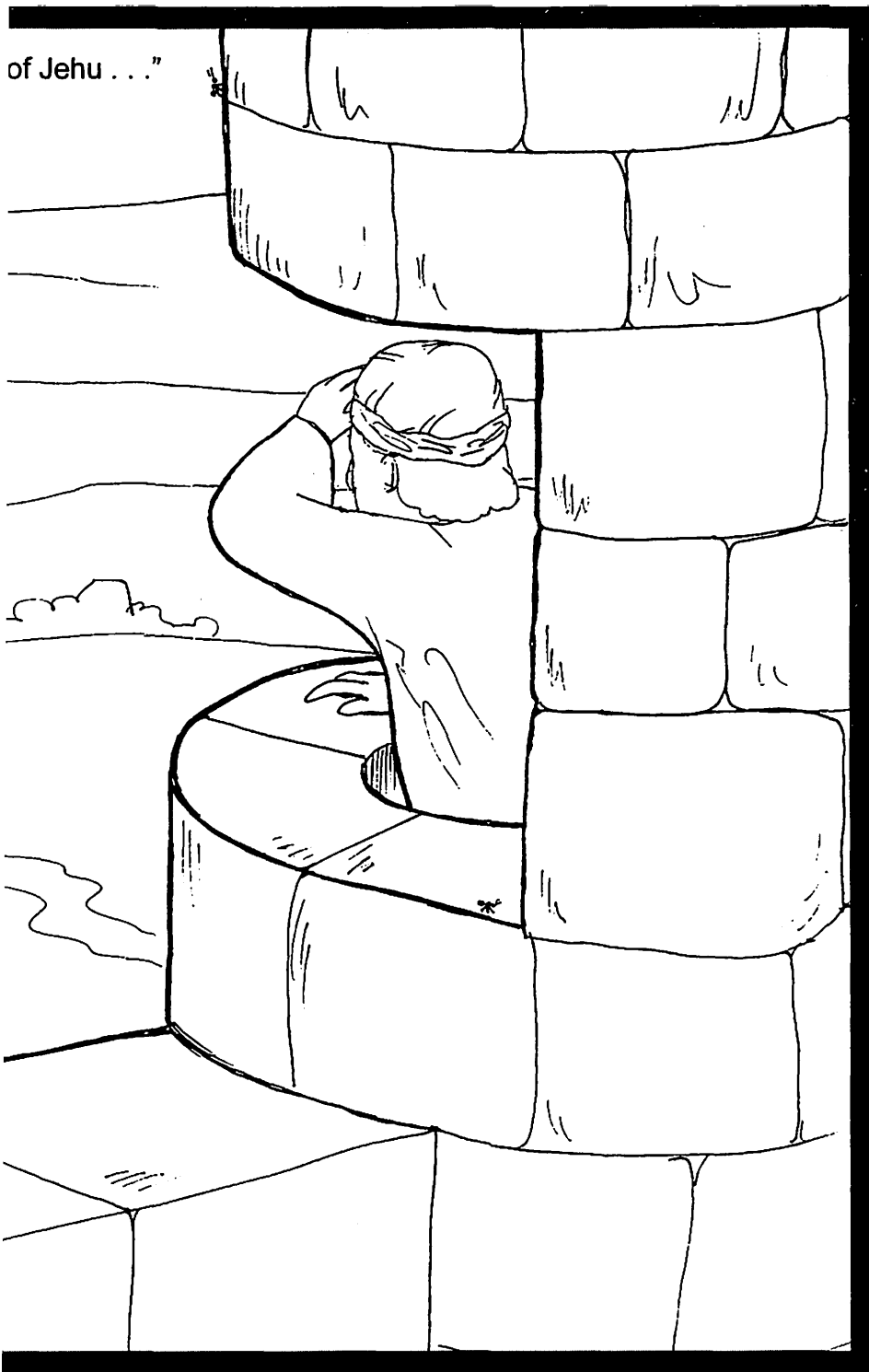
"Because you have done well in my sight, four generations of your family will reign over Israel," the Lord told Jehu. But Jehu did not follow the Lord with all of his heart. God caused trouble to come upon the Israelites.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

"... there stood a watchman on the tower ... he spied the co
II Kings 9:17



of Jehu . . .”



Hello, Rex!

Cathy held her newborn son in her arms. She and her husband admired his sweet face with its pudgy nose. The first time parents counted his ten toes and they marveled at his long, graceful fingers. Cathy hugged this child of her dreams close to her breast. She had wanted to be a mother for so long! Even when the doctor gave her the frightening news that her baby had a cyst in his brain, Cathy and William agreed their son was going to live. They named their son, Rex, which means King.

At ten pounds and eight weeks of age, the doctors thought Rex was big enough to have surgery to drain the balloon cyst that was crowding his brain. Rex's little body was laid on the white sheet and the nurses whisked the bed down the hall to the surgery room. Watching their son leave, Cathy and William clung to each other for comfort. They did not know the Lord to pray to Him. No family came. No one was called to pray. They felt alone during this long wait, but God was watching.

Suddenly, the surgery room doors burst open. Several important doctors and nurses hovered over the moving bed as a tiny form lay so still on the white sheets.

"It's Rex!" Cathy cried. She struggled to get close to her baby. She could not reach him, but she saw his face. His eyes were open! But his sad, pleading look hurt her heart very deeply.

William's arms held Cathy close. She wept. Her son was in pain and she could not help him. At that moment she promised herself that she would do everything she could to protect Rex from pain. Rex had suffered enough already!

At home again, Rex's head began to heal. The incision looked big, but then Rex's head was small. Rex wiggled in his mother's arms, and he cried when he was wet. In many ways Rex acted healthy. It was his eyes that worried Cathy. His blue eyes did not seem to see her. Rex did not blink when his father moved his hand before his eyes.

"You need to take him to an ophthalmologist," said Rex's father to

Cathy. (That is a long word for an eye doctor / surgeon.)

So on a bright sunny day, Cathy packed Rex into his car seat and they went to see the eye specialist. The doctor examined Rex's eyes. He shone a light into them and peered through a ophthalmoscope to see into the back of Rex's eyes.

Cathy watched quietly. Finally, she asked, "So Doctor, what can we do to help Rex focus his eyes?"

"Sit down," said the doctor nodding toward a chair. He handed Cathy a box of tissues. "There is nothing to be done. Your son is blind."

Cathy felt dizzy. The sun went behind the clouds. This was not fair to Rex! Why was her baby blind? What had caused his blindness? Surely this great surgeon could do something!

"I am sorry," said the doctor kindly. "The optic nerve connecting your son's eye to his brain is not developed. There is no medical way to mend this problem."

Tears began to flow from Cathy's eyes, but her son would never see her cry, nor would he ever see her smile. If there was a God, why had He let Rex be blind?

Little did she know that her blind son would help her find God.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Whose sons were reigning in Israel?
2. Who did the prophet anoint king?
3. What was Jehu supposed to destroy?
4. Who spotted Jehu coming?
5. Who did Jehu kill with a bow?
6. What did Jehu burn?
7. What was torn to the ground?
8. Why did trouble come to the Israelites?

Answers: 1. King Ahab's. 2. Jehu. 3. King Ahab's family. 4. A watchman. 5. King Joram. 6. Baal's sacred stone. 7. The temple of Baal. 8. Jehu did not follow God wholeheartedly.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 April 11, 2010

A Very Young King

When Athaliah realized that her son, King Ahaziah was dead, she decided to kill anyone else in the family who would try to be king. Ahaziah had a young son named Joash. Joash's aunt, Jehosheba, hid him and his nurse in a temple while his wicked grandmother ruled over Israel for six years. Jehosheba's husband, Jehoiada, was a priest at the temple. Jehoiada and his wife kept a very close watch over Joash while he was in hiding. He could not run and play outside in case his grandmother discovered that he was still alive. After Joash had been hidden for seven years, Jehoiada sent for the commanding Israelite officers and showed them that the young heir to the throne had been spared.

Athaliah was a wicked queen. She ordered beautiful things to be torn out of the Lord's temple and placed in her heathen temples. A lot of Israelites were very unhappy with the way she ruled the country. Many officers and Israelites came to a ceremony to watch Joash become king. The officers stood guard around Joash as they placed a crown on his head. Joash was anointed by a priest. The people who were watching made a great noise as they clapped and shouted, "God save the king!" Trumpets blew and people cheered.

Queen Athaliah heard the commotion and came to the temple to see what all of the excitement was about. As she looked, she saw King Joash standing by a pillar. She saw the trumpeters and the people of the land rejoicing. Athaliah tore her clothes in a rage. "Treason, treason," she cried. No one listened to her. "Take her out of the temple and kill her," Jehoiada commanded.

The people tore down the temple of Baal and smashed the idols and altars inside. They paraded their new king through the streets. All of the people rejoiced greatly. Joash was only seven years old when he became king, but he followed the Lord all of his life. Jehoiada the priest helped him. Joash was king over Israel for forty years.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“ . . . he was with her hid in the house
of the Lord . . . ” II Kings 11:3





Sharing an Ocean View

(Continued from last week)

Back home in their condominium by the Pacific Ocean, Cathy bundled Rex into his pouch she carried over her shoulders. She grabbed her favorite beach blanket and they slipped outside into the salty air. Cathy breathed deeply and walked quickly. She wanted to clear her mind of the words the eye specialist had said: "Your son is blind." These dark words had turned lights off in her mind.

Her feet followed a path she had made to her favorite cleft in the rocks. There she was hidden by big round boulders that seemed to cradle her. She saw the tide was ebbing out toward the west where the sun was slowly coming to meet with the ocean's edge. The view usually made Cathy pause in awe, but this time tears blurred her vision.

Rex would never see the sunset. He would not see the foaming waves crash against the rocks. The beauty of earth all about her—her son would never tell her about its colors, shapes, and images. All his eyes would ever see was ugly black darkness.

Reaching her favorite spot, Cathy spread out her blanket, laid Rex beside her, and then she watched the sunset.

Cathy was full of questions. If there is a God, why is He being mean to Rex? "If God could create so much beauty on this earth, why couldn't He have created healthy optic nerves in my son's eyes?" Cathy was hurt, angry, sad and ready to defend her son from any more harm. Her helpless baby had not done anything wrong to have all these problems. It was not fair!

A noisy seagull flew overhead. He plunged into an incoming wave, then rose into the sky with a fish in his beak. The sea gull screamed his victory as

he flew overhead again. Then Cathy heard a mocking scream of victory coming from beside her. It was Rex! He was imitating that noisy sea gull! His lips were smiling and his hands waving as if to congratulate that noisy sea gull.

Suddenly, Cathy laughed. Rex was happy to hear and feel. If she could help him hear and feel life to it fullest, then that would be what she would do. She forgot about all her questions for the moment. Picking up Rex, she placed his little hand on the side of the warm, hard boulder.

"Rex, this is a rock," she told him in a pleasant voice. She let him feel the tiny gritty grains of sand run through his fingers. "This is sand," she explained.

Then with words Cathy painted the sunset for Rex's ears to see it. She realized he did not know what red, orange, yellow, or blue looked like but just telling him about the beauty of nature calmed her nerves. Rex was quiet, listening to her voice rise and fall with each expression. So began a close bond between a loving mother and a blind son.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Why did Athaliah want Ahaziah's family killed?
2. Who escaped from Athaliah?
3. Where did the young prince hide?
4. Who watched over Joash?
5. How long did Joash hide?
6. What did Athaliah hear?
7. What happened to Athaliah?
8. How old was Joash?

Answers: 1. So she could be queen. 2. Joash. 3. The temple. 4. His nurse, aunt & uncle. 5. 7 years. 6. People cheering, trumpets. 7. She was killed. 8. 7 years old.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 April 18, 2010

Fleeing from God

Jonah was a prophet of God. "Get up and go to Nineveh. Warn them to stop their evil ways," the Lord told Jonah.

Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria. The Israelites were afraid of the people of Assyria. They had mighty armies and had fought many of the nations around Israel. So instead, Jonah went in the opposite direction. Jonah found a ship going to Tarshish.

The Lord caused a great wind to go upon the sea. The waves rose up high and tossed the ship to and fro. A great storm had blown upon the ship. The people were afraid. "Toss some of the crates overboard to lighten the ship," they cried. Every man came to help.

The shipmaster found Jonah sound asleep in the side of the boat. "How can you sleep? Wake up, and pray to your God that we will not all be killed in the storm," he told Jonah.

"We think that someone on this ship has caused one of the gods to be angry. Let us cast lots, so that we will know who has caused this storm to come upon us," the sailors decided. The lot fell to Jonah.

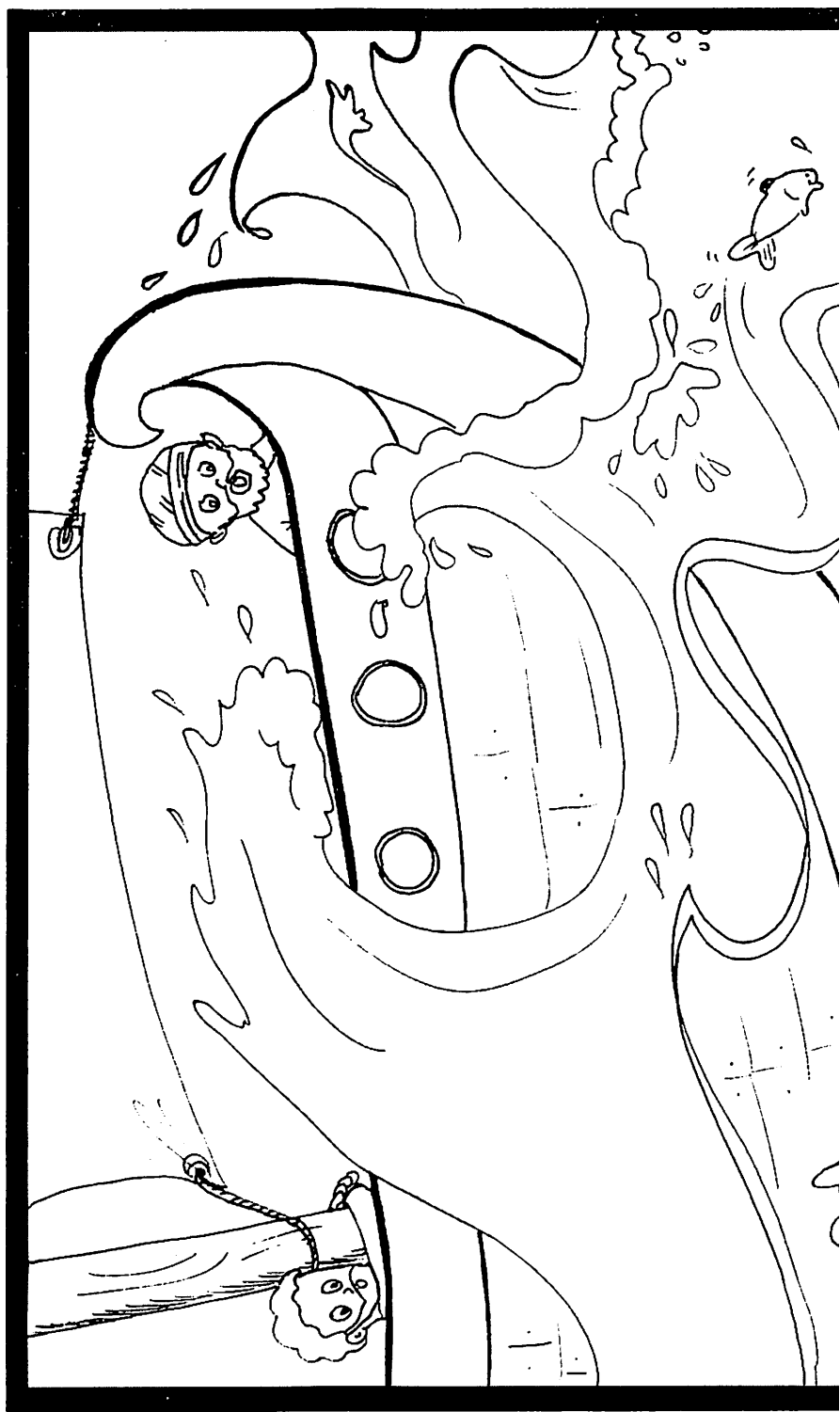
"What have you done to cause this storm? What do you do? Where are you from?" they asked Jonah. "I am a Hebrew. I fear the Lord God of Heaven, who has made the sea and the land," Jonah answered.

When the men heard that Jonah had fled from the Lord, they were very afraid. "What shall we do to you? How can we get the storm to stop?" they wondered.

"Throw me into the sea. Then it will be calm. It is my fault this storm is going on," Jonah told them. They did not like the idea. They tried to go on and bring the ship to land, but they could not. The storm became worse.

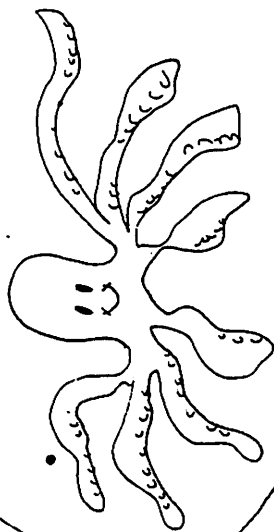
"Do not lay this man's blood on us, O Lord," they prayed. They took Jonah and cast him into the sea. As he sank into the water, the Lord sent a big fish to swallow him.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



"But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken."

Jonah 1:4



Goals for Rex

(Continued from last week)

Rex's father was stunned when Cathy told him their son was blind. "There has to be something a good surgeon can do to mend or replace the undeveloped optic nerve," he said. "Let's get another opinion from a better ophthalmologist."

This time both parents took Rex to the doctor's office. After a thorough exam, the second doctor said the same thing the first one said.

"Will his optic eye nerve never heal?" asked Cathy.

"In time he may be able to see large shapes," replied the doctor, "but he would not be able to tell you from a horse."

That was not funny to Rex's father. How was he to teach a blind son to play baseball? Rex would never drive a car, and how would he be able to earn a living as a man? All these questions made William angry at God for being so unfair to Rex. No, William had not prayed for Rex at all. He also had doubts about God, but then who else was there to blame? William did what millions of people do when hurt and confused—he blamed the great Creator who he also doubted existed!

Cathy decided to take the first doctor's advice and contacted the Blind Children's Center. The receptionist was very kind. "We would love to meet you, your husband and Rex," she said. "We will be expecting you on Tuesday at 2:00."

Arriving at the Center, William fastened the safety locks on the stroller while Cathy took Rex out of his car seat. At six months old, Rex looked so cute in his ribbed green pullover and rolled-up corduroy pants. The staff at the Center gathered around

him, admiring his charming looks, laughing at the way he kicked off his soft shoes.

The school psychologist welcomed them to the center and showed them around. Cathy was pleased to see all the color in the decorations in the rooms even though the students did not see it. There was a happy, organized feeling about the classrooms and this pleased Rex's parents.

Among all the questions Miranda asked, one was, "What are the future goals for your son?"

William spoke, "We love sports. We want him to be active, to be good at sports."

Cathy felt the knot tighten in her stomach. "William, I don't think that will be possible now," she said.

"Yes, Rex can be active in certain sports," said Miranda. "We want Rex to live the most active life possible. That will be our goal."

That was the parents' goal for Rex, but God had other goals for Rex that were yet to be seen.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Where did God tell Jonah to go?
2. Did Jonah obey God?
3. What happened when the ship got out to sea?
4. Where did the shipmaster find Jonah?
5. How did the men find out that the storm was Jonah's fault?
6. What did Jonah tell them to do?
7. Did they want to do it?
8. Why did they eventually throw Jonah overboard?

Answers: 1. Nineveh. 2. No. 3. A storm came up. 4. Asleep. 5. They cast lots. 6. Throw him overboard. 7. No. 8. They tried to go on, but the storm got worse.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 April 25, 2010

Out of the Fish's Mouth

God had told Jonah to go to Ninevah. Instead, Jonah took a boat to a city far from Ninevah. When a big storm threatened to destroy the boat Jonah travelled on, Jonah told the other sailors that they must throw him overboard to make the storm stop. After Jonah was thrown out of the boat, a big fish swallowed Jonah. Jonah was very sorry for not obeying God. For three days and three nights, Jonah stayed in that fish's belly. He spent his time praying to God. Jonah cried out to God and praised God for his wondrous works.

After the third day, the fish spit Jonah upon dry land. "Go to Nineveh and preach to the people there," the Lord once again commanded Jonah. This time, Jonah obeyed. He had learned his lesson.

Jonah traveled for three days and finally reached the city of Nineveh. When he arrived, Jonah began to preach to the people.

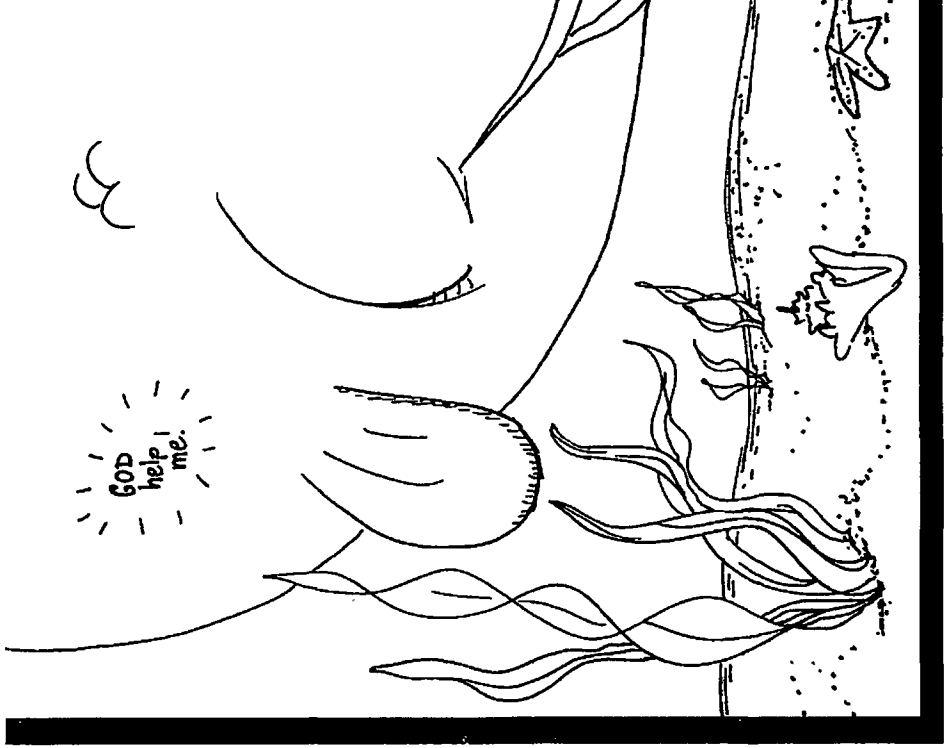
"In forty days, Nineveh will be destroyed," Jonah cried. Jonah begged them to repent of their sins. The people of Nineveh believed in God. Every person, from the biggest to the smallest, put on sackcloth and fasted and prayed to God to deliver their city. Even the king of Nineveh rose from his throne and put on sackcloth. He sat in ashes. "Let no man or animal eat or drink at all. Instead, let every man cry out to God. Turn from your evil ways, so we will not perish," the king pleaded.

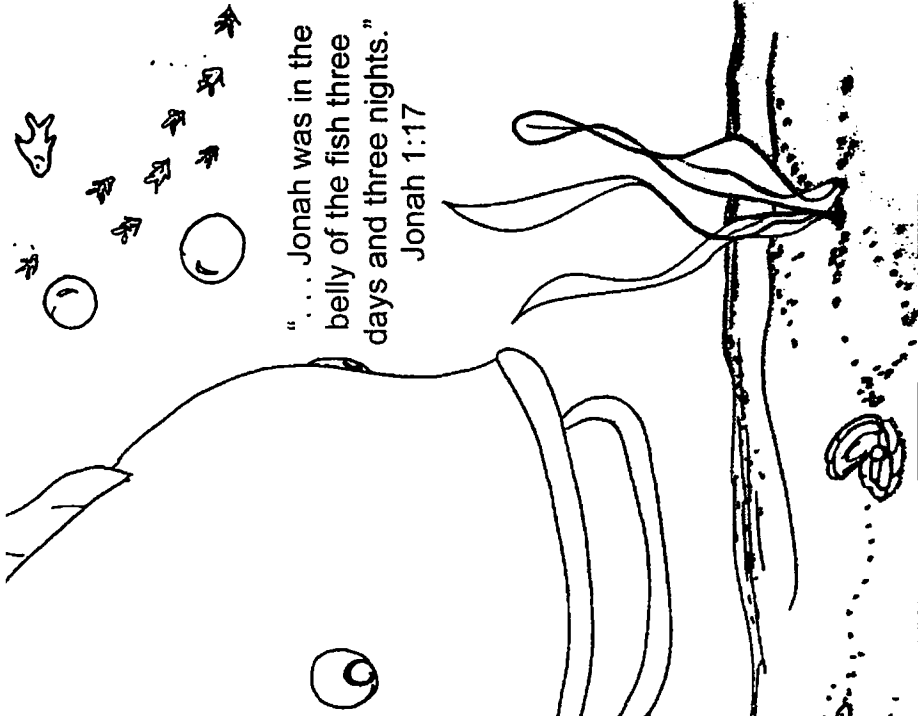
After Jonah preached to the people of the city, he went to the east side of the city. Jonah sat, waiting for the Lord to destroy the city. Jonah wanted Nineveh to be destroyed.

God caused a gourd to grow over Jonah. It gave Jonah shade. Jonah was very glad to have the gourd. The next morning, God sent a worm. It caused the gourd to wither up. A great heat and fierce wind came upon the land. The sun was so hot, it caused Jonah to faint. "It would be better for me to die than to live," Jonah pouted. "Why are you angry about the gourd? You are sorry that the gourd died, but you did not cause it to grow. Should I not have pity on Nineveh, where more than 120,000 people live?" God asked Jonah. God spared the wicked city of Nineveh, because He saw the people were truly sorry for their deeds.

—Sis. Monica Murphey







"...Jonah was in the
belly of the fish three
days and three nights."

Jonah 1:17

Rex at One Year Old

(Continued from last week)

Rex started school at six months old! A blind baby needed to be in the Mommy and Me class so that both could learn how he should feed himself, walk alone, and do so many other things that should come naturally but do not for a blind child.

In the next few months Rex learned how to use his fingers to find things. Sitting in a high chair, he learned to find the plate by feeling its edges; a spoon by its shape; and the food by slapping the spoon into it.

For his first birthday, Cathy ordered a huge cake with a candle shaped like 1 so Rex could feel it. When the candle was turned, it played the Happy Birthday tune. Rex giggled as he held the candle. He laughed and babbled each time it played for him. Cathy could hardly wait for her son's babbling to be talk that she could understand!

They shared the cake with their friends at the Blind Children's Center, but at home, William, Cathy and Rex celebrated quietly and happily together. Yes, they were going to make life happy and hope for an active future for Rex.

Three days later, Cathy took Rex for a check up with the neurosurgeon who had operated on Rex's brain. After the x-rays were taken, Cathy held Rex, humming the birthday tune to him. Then the surgeon came back into the room with a sad look on his face. Cathy stopped humming.

The surgeon cleared his throat. "It looks like the cyst in Rex's brain is filling with fluid again," he said. "We must operate again and put a shunt inside to keep the fluid from growing. I am sorry, but if we don't do this soon, he will have damage to his brain."

Cathy's mind began to scream, NO!

Not surgery again! Rex has suffered enough!

She did not think to pray and ask God to help. All her life she had depended on her own strength and knowledge, but that was failing her now. Her arms nearly dropped Rex and her legs shook. She felt sick, small and so hopeless.

"We need to schedule the surgery this week," continued the surgeon. "Any delay may cause more trouble for Rex."

"Yes, as soon as possible," agreed Cathy weakly. When she finally arrived at their condominium and told Rex's father, he was upset about the surgery also. He did not think about praying, but he sure felt God was not being fair to Rex.

The shunt was put into Rex's head, and he began to gain strength again, but his attitude changed. He did not want to eat nor touch things with his hands, and he did not laugh very much. This worried his parents, but they still did not pray for Rex.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What happened after Jonah was thrown into the sea?
2. How many days was Jonah in the fish's belly?
3. How did Jonah spend his time there?
4. What did the Lord command Jonah to do?
5. Did the people turn from their wicked ways?
6. What gave Jonah shade?
7. What happened to the gourd?
8. Why did God spare Nineveh?

Answers: 1. A fish swallowed him. 2. Three. 3. Praying. 4. Go to Nineveh. 5. Yes. 6. A gourd. 7. A worm caused it to wither and die. 8. He saw they were truly sorry.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 May 2, 2010

Israelites Taken Captive

After Jonah prophesied God's word to the people in Assyria, they listened and obeyed God. The children of Israel chose not to worship God. Instead, they set up groves and idols in worship to false gods in every city. They burned incense as the heathens did.

The Lord had made a covenant with the Israelites many years ago. "You shall not fear other gods or bow before them, or sacrifice to them. You shall worship me and obey my statutes and laws. As long as you fear me, I will deliver you out of the hands of your enemies."

The Lord sent prophets to warn them of the consequences of their evil ways. "Turn away from these idols," the prophets said. "Keep the Lord's commandments and statutes."

The Israelites did not listen. They rejected the Lord's laws. The Lord was very angry with the path that the Israelites chose to follow.

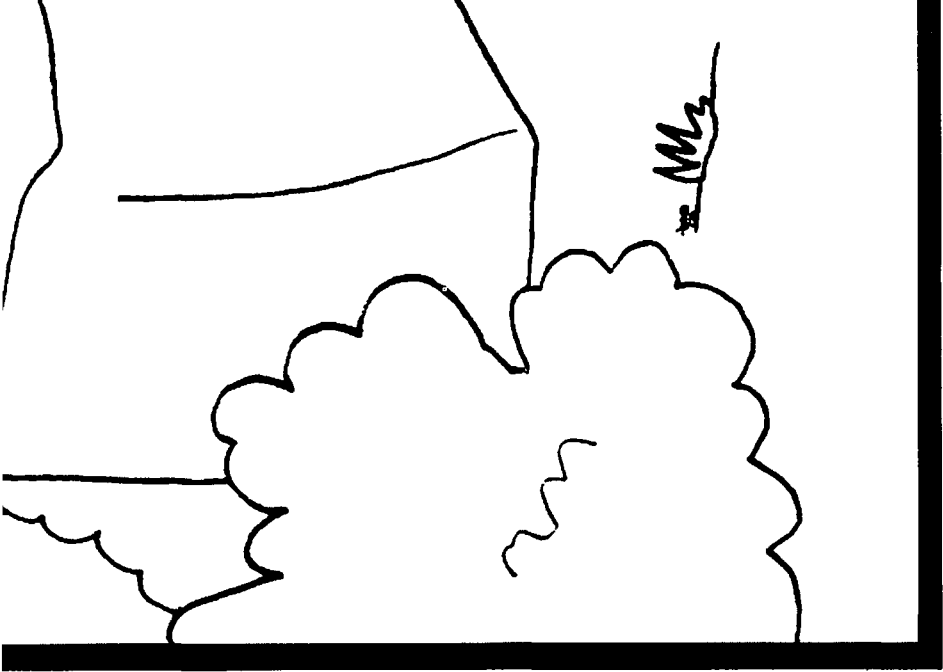
The Israelite's King Hoshea paid taxes to the king of Assyria every year. One year, Hoshea stopped paying the tax. The king of Assyria took Hoshea and the Israelite people as slaves to Assyria. He sent some of his own people to live in Samaria. These people did not fear the Lord.

The Lord caused lions to kill some of the people living in Samaria. The people were afraid. They sent a message to their king. "We do not know the God of the land," the people said. "He has sent lions to kill some of us and we are afraid."

So the king of Assyria sent Israelite priests to teach the Assyrians the ways of the Lord. When the people heard of the Lord and His commandments, they feared Him, but they continued to serve their false idols and graven images. The tribe of Judah was the only tribe of Israelites who had not been captured.

—Sis. Monica Murphey







Min

“And they set them up images and
groves . . .” II Kings 17:10

The Bondage of Rex

(Continued from last week)

As Rex grew older, his body did not grow bigger. Rex stopped feeding himself, and his mother or the trainer at the Blind Children's Center had to stop his head from turning away while they placed a spoonful of food into his mouth. Then Rex would spit out most of it before swallowing.

Rex kept his long fingers curled into a fist and he cried in pain if someone gently opened his hand to make him touch something. This was very bad since Rex's hands were to be his sight in place of his blind eyes. He would kick his feet when his mother put on his socks and shoes, and he did not want to stand. If he was put into a standing position, his legs would fold up and he would sit down, screaming at the top of his lungs.

Rex did not like noises. He would jump and cry when a door opened or shut, water ran from a faucet or someone walked noisily on a tile floor.

"He just has bad nerves like I do," Cathy said to William about their son. "Any more, I am feeling very shaky myself."

"Give him time," said William. "He will have his old character back soon."

Their hope for Rex to improve dimmed with each passing day as Rex screamed louder and more often.

"I sometimes feel like a hostage to my son in my own home," said William. "I can't think clearly at home and now it is hard to concentrate at work."

"I am sorry," said Cathy. "I know what you mean, but at least you can go to work and be away from it for awhile. I am with him and have to work with him all day long."

They knew Rex was really a captive himself. He did not have control over how his body felt and what his body was doing because there were nerves not acting right inside his brain.

After one morning of struggling

to feed Rex Cheerios and milk, Cathy was carrying Rex to put him in his car seat, when rain began to pour down. Rex went stiff and screamed like he had been shot by the thunder!

"Rex, honey, it is just the rain," said Cathy with a shaky voice. Finally behind the steering wheel, she turned on the radio to find soft music to sooth her nerves. One station was playing classical Mozart. When Rex heard this music, his screaming stopped. His body relaxed. His hands began to tap in rhythm to the music.

"Thank you, Mozart," said Cathy softly. While the music played, she drove to the Center where she took Rex to a babysitter. Today she went to a conference with all the specialists who were helping Rex. They were going to discuss how Rex was progressing and about his future. It seemed everything was going wrong for Rex and his future looked very dark. No one considered God in Rex's life, but God knew about this helpless eighteen month old baby boy.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who did the Israelites worship?
2. What would happen if the Israelites worshipped God?
3. Who did the Lord send to warn the Israelites?
4. Who did King Hoshea pay taxes to?
5. Why did the king of Assyria take the Israelites captive?
6. Who did he send to live in Samaria?
7. What did the Lord send to kill some Assyrians?
8. Which Israelite tribe was not captured?

Answers: 1. False gods. 2. He would deliver them from enemies. 3. Prophets. 4. The King of Assyria. 5. Hoshea stopped paying taxes. 6. Assyrians. 7. Lions. 8. Judah.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 May 9, 2010

A Good King for Judah

King Hezekiah began reigning over Judah when he was twenty five years old. The nearby country called Assyria began taxing King Hoshea, who was king over some of the other Israelite tribes. Eventually the king of Assyria took all of the tribes of Israel captive except for the tribe of Judah. God allowed this to happen to them because they did not fear Him anymore. Instead, they had turned to false gods and worshipped idols. But Hezekiah was a good king. He destroyed places where his people were worshipping false gods. He smashed their idols. The Lord was with Hezekiah. The Israelites had been worshipping a golden snake that Moses had made. Hezekiah smashed it into pieces. He encouraged the Israelites to worship the one true God.

For many years, Hezekiah refused to pay taxes to Assyria. The Assyrian army surrounded the cities of Judah and captured them. The king of Assyria wanted Hezekiah to pay them a lot of money. Hezekiah was forced to give in to their demands. "I will pay whatever you ask," Hezekiah reluctantly conceded. Hezekiah took all of the gold he had in the palace, but it was not enough. Hezekiah had to take gold and silver from the Lord's temple to pay their debt to Assyria. Still Hezekiah would not serve the king of Assyria.

The king of Assyria sent King Hezekiah a message. Eliakim, the son of the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and Joah the recorder went out to meet the messenger. "Do not allow Hezekiah to fool you," the messenger cried. "He says the Lord will save you. Do not listen to Hezekiah. If you will make peace with the king of Assyria, you will be able to own property in a great land filled with fruit and honey. Choose to live instead of dying! How can the Lord deliver you out of our hand?"

Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah did as King Hezekiah had instructed them and did not answer the messenger. They told King Hezekiah what he said. They were all very sad. They tore their clothes and wore sackcloth to show how sorry they were that all of these terrible things were happening. Hezekiah sent a message to a prophet of God named Isaiah. "Please pray for the small group of people that still want to serve God," Hezekiah requested. "We are in trouble."

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“He . . . brake in pieces the
 . . . serpent that Moses
 had made . . .”

II Kings 18:4





Hope on the Horizon

(Continued from last week)

Cathy sat down and looked around the circle of specialists who were helping Rex at the Blind Children's Center. Everyone looked kindly at her, but she knew right away that they had bad news to share about Rex. One by one the reports came in: Rex was not walking; not talking; not eating; not responding properly to touch, and being blind he needed to touch in order to learn about his world.

"I am afraid Rex is autistic," said his teacher quietly.

"No," denied Cathy. "Rex likes for me to hug him closely. I know he can love and he feels love. He is just not able to express it all properly."

"That is a degree of autism," replied his teacher. "We are sorry, Cathy. We will try to help you with Rex but we don't see any progress now and don't hope for much in the future."

Cathy stood up to leave. "Well, I see progress for my son," she declared. "Thank you all for your help. Rex and I will not give up—you'll see!"

Cathy took her baby to their condo where she put him to bed. Then she went into her bedroom and cried. Why was God letting all this happen to her son? She felt angry at God, but she did not think about praying to Him for help.

Rex's father was quiet when Cathy related all the bad news of the reports about his son. William was sad and angry, too. How could he live forever with a son that would never talk or walk, but screamed all the time? He did not think to pray to God for his hurting son. Instead, that week William went to an attorney and filed a divorce. If Cathy wanted to stay with Rex, she could but he was not going to live with him any more.

Feeling alone in the battle, Cathy tried to be strong for Rex. She was a stock broker so she was able to pay the bills on their condo near the Pacific Ocean which was a comfort to her broken nerves. Day in and day out, she

felt her strength and courage ebbing away like the tide of the ocean.

One day her brother came to visit her. During a private walk on the beach, Cathy poured out all her grief and worries to her big brother. Alan listened, then he said, "Cathy, I have been wanting to share something with you. In our childhood we were taught to be independent and make it by our own strength. Well, I thought I had done well with a good job, wonderful wife and two precious children, but I was a mess inside. I was full of pride, and sometimes life did not make sense. I was full of hot air, but empty. Let me tell you how I found Someone bigger than myself—Someone who gave me a purpose in life and reason to go on living."

Cathy was ready to meet this Someone because she was tired of carrying the load of life alone. She listened as Alan told her what he was learning about Jesus Christ. Would Jesus be able to do more for her Rex than what all the specialists were doing?

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who was king over Judah?
2. What country took the other Israelites captive?
3. What did Hezekiah destroy?
4. What did Hezekiah refuse to do?
5. Why was Hezekiah forced to pay Assyria?
6. Who sent Hezekiah a message?
7. What did Hezekiah do to show he was sad?
8. What message did Hezekiah send to Isalah?

Answers: 1. Hezekiah. 2. Assyria. 3. False gods and their temples, etc. 4. Pay taxes or serve Assyria. 5. Assyria captured the cities of Judah. 6. The king of Assyria. 7. Tore his clothes and wore sackcloth. 8. "Pray for the people of God."

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 May 16, 2010

The Fall of the King of Assyria

King Hezekiah and the Israelites who lived in Judah were sad and afraid. The king of Assyria had already captured the other tribes of Israelites. Now he forced King Hezekiah to pay taxes and had surrounded the cities in Judah. King Hezekiah sent a message to the prophet Isaiah. "Please pray for the people of God who still live in Judah," Hezekiah requested. "Please pray that we will survive this trouble." Isaiah sent a reply to King Hezekiah, "Do not be afraid. The king of Assyria has insulted God. He will return to his own country and die there."

The king of Assyria sent Hezekiah a letter. "Do not let your God fool you when He says that your cities will not be captured. Surely you have heard of the mighty armies of Assyria. We have destroyed many countries. How can you believe that your God will deliver you out of our hand?"

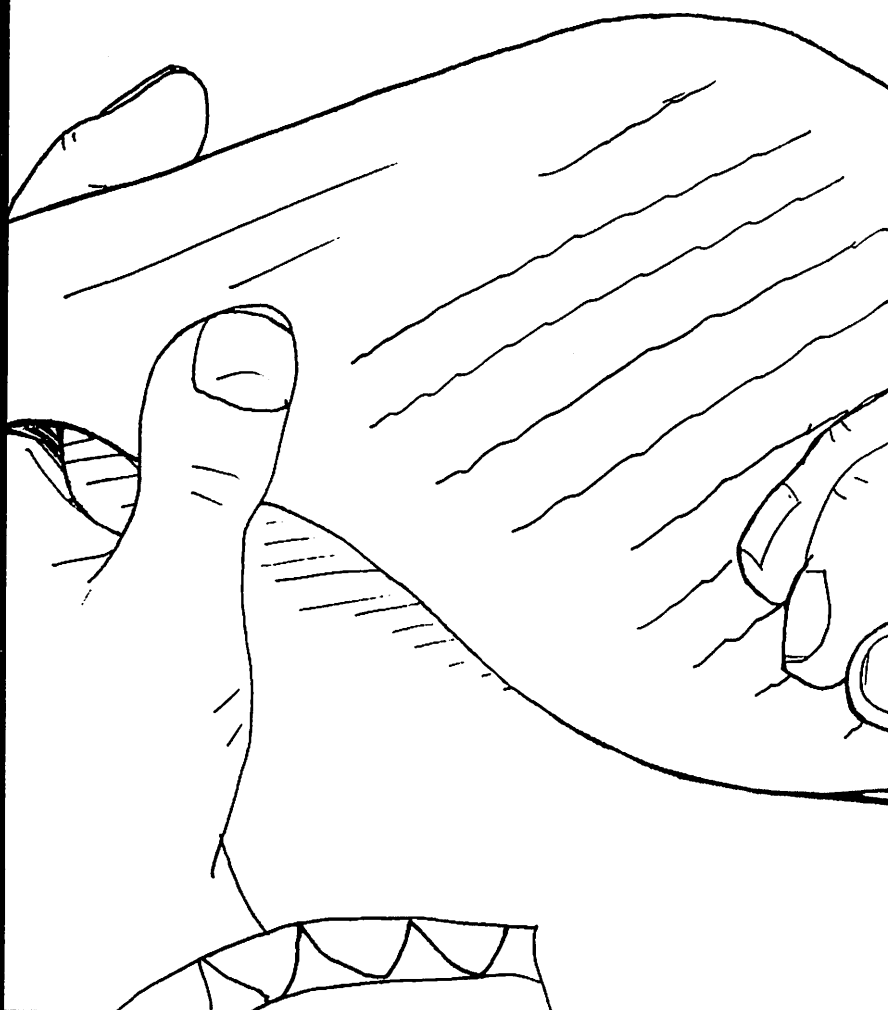
After Hezekiah read the letter, he took it to the Lord's temple and spread it out before the Lord. "Oh, Lord, You have made the heavens and the earth," Hezekiah prayed. "You see how the Assyrian king has insulted You. It is true that the Assyrians have destroyed many countries. Lord, save us from their armies so that all of the nations will know that you are the one true God."

The Lord sent Hezekiah a message through the prophet Isaiah. "I have heard your prayer," was the Lord's response. "The king of Assyria has insulted My name. The group of people left in Judah that believe in My name will take root and bear fruit. The king of Assyria will not come in to Jerusalem. He will not shoot an arrow there or take a stand against it. I will defend this city and save it for My sake and for the sake of My servant, David."

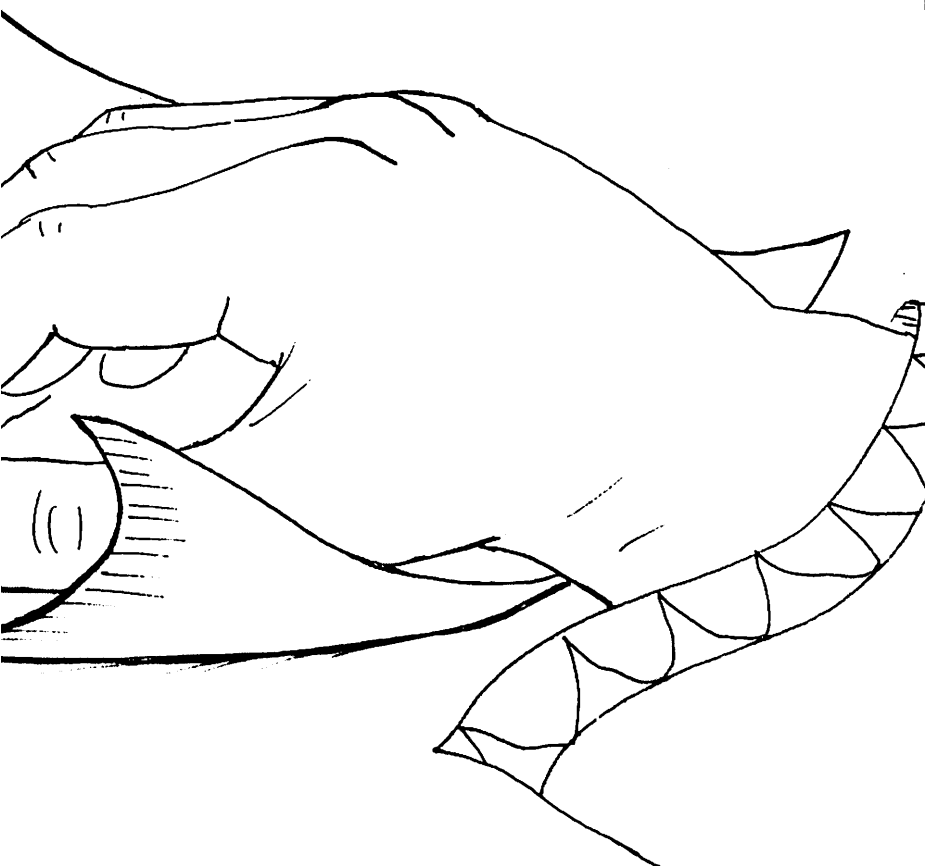
That night, the Lord sent an angel into the Assyrian camp. The angel caused one hundred and eighty-five thousand men to die. When the Assyrians woke up the next morning and saw all of the dead bodies, they were afraid! The king of Assyria took his armies back to Nineveh. One day, while the Assyrian king was worshipping in his temple, two of his sons killed him.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“ . . . Hezek
and spread it *[the letter]* b



went up . . .
re the LORD.” II Kings 19:14



The Gift of Hope

(Continued from last week)

After her brother shared his testimony about Jesus, Cathy realized how tired she felt carrying the burden of Rex every hour of every day. When she thought about her anger toward God, she did not feel worthy of His help or love, but she really did need His help—her own strength was gone.

Arising early on Sunday morning, Cathy and Rex drove to a big chapel on a hill near their condo. They slipped inside and sat on the back bench for two reasons: in case Rex cut loose hollering and she did not feel worthy to go closer to the front. As the service started, peacefulness settled over this tired mother and her blind son. Rex grew quiet and listened to the singing and sounds which normally bothered him. Cathy felt her nerves relax.

Cathy said her first prayer silently: "Oh, Lord, if you do care, please give me Your strength to carry this load. Please do some miracles for Rex. I know I am not worthy of Your help, but I will thank You for it. Amen."

Our Father of mercy and love heard this mother's humble cry. Right away He sent a fresh flow of hope through Cathy's mind, giving her a lift in her spirit. Cathy continued to come back to this chapel to talk with God, asking the congregation to pray for Rex because she did not feel worthy for Him to answer her.

"Pray for Rex," Cathy asked. "I will praise God if He will help Rex. All the doctors and specialists say that Rex will never talk or walk because he is missing membranes in his brain that can not be replaced by surgery. Only God can mend my precious son."

It would soon be Rex's second birthday. He had not gained much weight his second year because he did not eat well. For quietness, Cathy played a lot of classical music CD's. Rex would sit in his chair and tap his fingers in rhythm to the music of Mozart, Beethoven, Bach and other composers.

Excited about more quiet evenings, Cathy called William to tell him things were better. He was glad to hear the good news, but he did not

come for Rex's second birthday party. Later, William came to the condo with a special gift for Rex—a forty-eight-key Casio piano keyboard and stand.

Rex's parents sat him in front of the keyboard. Cathy took his fingers and pushed down on some keys. "It is a piano, Rex," she explained. "Let Rex's fingers play over these smooth keys."

Rex's long fingers touched one key after another. His face shone with excitement as he walked his fingers to each end of the piano keyboard. Then little Rex picked out a tune on the keyboard. Cathy caught her breath—he was trying to play the tune to one of Mozart's songs!

"Isn't this amazing!" exclaimed William. For a while they were a happy, complete family. Then Rex grew tired and his body began to jerk. William took his son and hugged him. "See you later, clever guy, you!" he said. "Good-bye, Cathy!"

The door closed loudly behind William, making Cathy sad, but somewhere inside she felt this well of peace and hope. The Lord Jesus Christ was going to help them. She had no one else to trust. Some how she felt Jesus would not leave her alone.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Why was King Hezekiah afraid?
2. Who did Hezekiah ask to pray?
3. What did Isaiah predict would happen?
4. Where did Hezekiah take the letter?
5. What did the Lord say He had heard?
6. What did the Lord send to the Assyrian camp?
7. How many Assyrian men died?
8. What happened to the king of Assyria?

Answers: 1. That Assyria would capture Judah. 2. Isaiah. 3. The Assyrian king would die. 4. To the temple. 5. Hezekiah's prayer. 6. An angel. 7. 185,000. 8. He was killed.
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THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol.60, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 May 23, 2010

Hezekiah Is Healed

Hezekiah, the king of Judah, was very sick. Physicians tried to help the king, but still Hezekiah lay sick in bed. The prophet Isaiah came to King Hezekiah with a message from the Lord. "You had better be prepared, because the Lord says that you are going to die," Isaiah warned. King Hezekiah felt sad. He turned his face to the wall and prayed, "Lord, I have always followed your steps. I have done what is good in your eyes." The king wept bitterly.

God listened to Hezekiah's prayer. The prophet Isaiah had not even left the palace when the Lord stopped him with another message. "Go and tell Hezekiah that I will heal him," the Lord told Isaiah. "I will add fifteen years to his life. I will deliver Judah from the hands of Assyria."

Isaiah went back to King Hezekiah's sick room. "Make a poultice of figs," Isaiah told King Hezekiah's servants. They laid the mixture on King Hezekiah's boil. Hezekiah felt better.

"How will I know for sure that I am healed?" Hezekiah asked Isaiah. "The Lord will cause the shadow on the sundial to go forwards ten degrees or backward ten degrees," Isaiah answered. "Then you will know that you are well."

"The shadow on the sundial usually goes forward," said King Hezekiah. "Let it go backward ten degrees instead." Isaiah prayed earnestly, and the Lord answered Hezekiah's request.

Hezekiah was a good king. He became very rich. Some visitors from Babylon came, and Hezekiah proudly showed off his storehouses of treasures. They saw his silver, gold, spices, ointment, and armor. Later, Isaiah asked Hezekiah, "What did the men from Babylon see?" "They saw all of my treasures," Hezekiah answered. "In the days to come, your treasures will be carried into Babylon," Isaiah told Hezekiah. "There will be nothing left. Your sons will serve the king of Babylon." "It is good that the Lord reminded me to be humble," Hezekiah said. "I am thankful that there will be peace while I am alive." Everything the Lord promised came to pass. Hezekiah lived for fifteen more years.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“ . . . he turned his face
to the wall, and prayed . . . ”

II Kings 20:2



Waiting and Praying for Rex

(Continued from last week)

It was the middle of the week, between services, but Cathy carried three-year-old Rex into the chapel and sat down in their usual place on the back bench. She wanted a quiet place to sit and think and feel God's presence if possible. Rex was tired and willing to sleep after all the hard work he had been through trying to walk at a neurosurgeon's office. Cathy rubbed her forehead, wanting to erase all the things that had been said about Rex in the last week.

All of the specialists said that Rex would not mature much more in social skills. He needed a wheel chair and a speaking board to say what he wanted. Cathy's heart and mind hurt for Rex. He would never know the joy of running on the playground with friends. He would never visit with another boy normally. "Oh, Lord," prayed Cathy, "please heal my son and let him do normal things like other boys his age. No one else can help him but You. Please do help him!"

Later, in the park while swinging Rex in a child's seat, Cathy heard the Lord tell her to walk by faith, not by sight. She knew that was God's answer to her prayers, but as weeks and months passed, Rex made little change. Cathy was feeding Rex one Saturday, and as she was getting another spoonful, Rex opened his mouth and said, "C-c-c-u---"

Cathy dropped the spoon in the mashed potatoes. "Cup? Rex, did you say, cup?" she asked.

"C-c-c-u-u-p!" repeated Rex's voice.

Excited, Cathy handed him his special cup with milk in it. "Rex, sweetie, you said cup!" she felt like dancing for joy! At three years old, this was Rex's first spoken word!

Rex learned that "cup" gave him his favorite drink, milk, and "up" gave him a lift from the floor. Cathy was happy to tell those praying for Rex that he was saying two words now, but she felt he could talk more.

A few weeks later, Cathy gathered up Rex and a blanket to lay on the

beach by their condo. With her arms full she stepped onto the top of the sloping driveway leading to the ocean. In her mind she heard a voice say, "Walk by faith, not by sight." Then she felt this gentle nudge to let Rex stand at the top of the drive. She put her son down, went in front of him, and said, "Go, Rex, go! Come to Mama! You can do it!" Without thinking, Rex's legs began to move forward, forced by the slope to keep going. His body swayed back and forth with each step. He gained speed and at the bottom of the drive, Rex's body began to move faster as he started running! His face shone with joy!

"You're running, Rex!" shouted Cathy, laughing with happiness. Soon tired from all the work, Rex fell into his mother's waiting arms to rest. Now that he knew how to walk and run, Rex wanted to feel that freedom as much as possible and Cathy was more than ready to let him have it.

That week Rex picked out *Ode to Joy* by Beethoven on his little piano. He hummed with his playing, but did not speak any words.

"Thank you, Lord, for the miracle of walking!" Prayed Cathy. "Please let Rex learn to speak. Please!"

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What was wrong with Hezekiah?
2. What did Isaiah warn Hezekiah about?
3. What did Hezekiah do when he heard the news?
4. What did the servants put on Hezekiah's boil?
5. How would Hezekiah know that he was healed?
6. What did Hezekiah show the Babylonians?
7. Who reminded Hezekiah to be humble?
8. How many more years did Hezekiah live?

Answers: 1. He was sick. 2. He would die. 3. He prayed. 4. A fig poultice. 5. The shadow would move backwards. 6. His treasures. 7. The Lord, through Isaiah. 8. Fifteen.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 May 30, 2010

The Forgotten Book of Law

Josiah was a very young king. He was only eight years old when he began to reign in Judah. Josiah was a good king. He followed in the steps of his ancestor, King David, and did what was right in the eyes of God.

Josiah noticed that the temple of the Lord was in bad shape. He decided it was time to repair it. "Hire carpenters and masons to fix the temple," Josiah ordered. Hilkiah, the high priest, helped clean the temple. Hilkiah was excited to find the Book of the Law. The Book of the Law were words that the Lord had given Moses to write down.

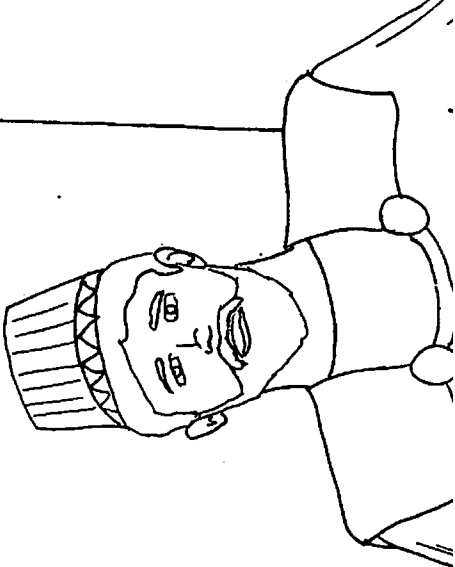
Josiah's secretary told the king about finding the book. The king listened intently as his secretary read the sacred words. But the words made him very sad. Now he knew that his people had done many things that would make the Lord unhappy. Josiah tore his clothes to show how sorry he was.

"Go and ask the Lord about these words," Josiah told his secretary. "Our people have sinned. Surely we will be punished."

Hilkiah the high priest, the king's secretary, and several other men found a woman who was a prophet of God. Her name was Huldah. She lived in Jerusalem with her husband. Huldah told the men the words of the Lord, "Because the Israelites turned away from Me to serve false gods, I am going to bring disaster to Judah, just as the words from this book predict. Since you humbled yourself before the Lord and repented of the sins of your people, you will not live to see the terrible things that will happen to your people."

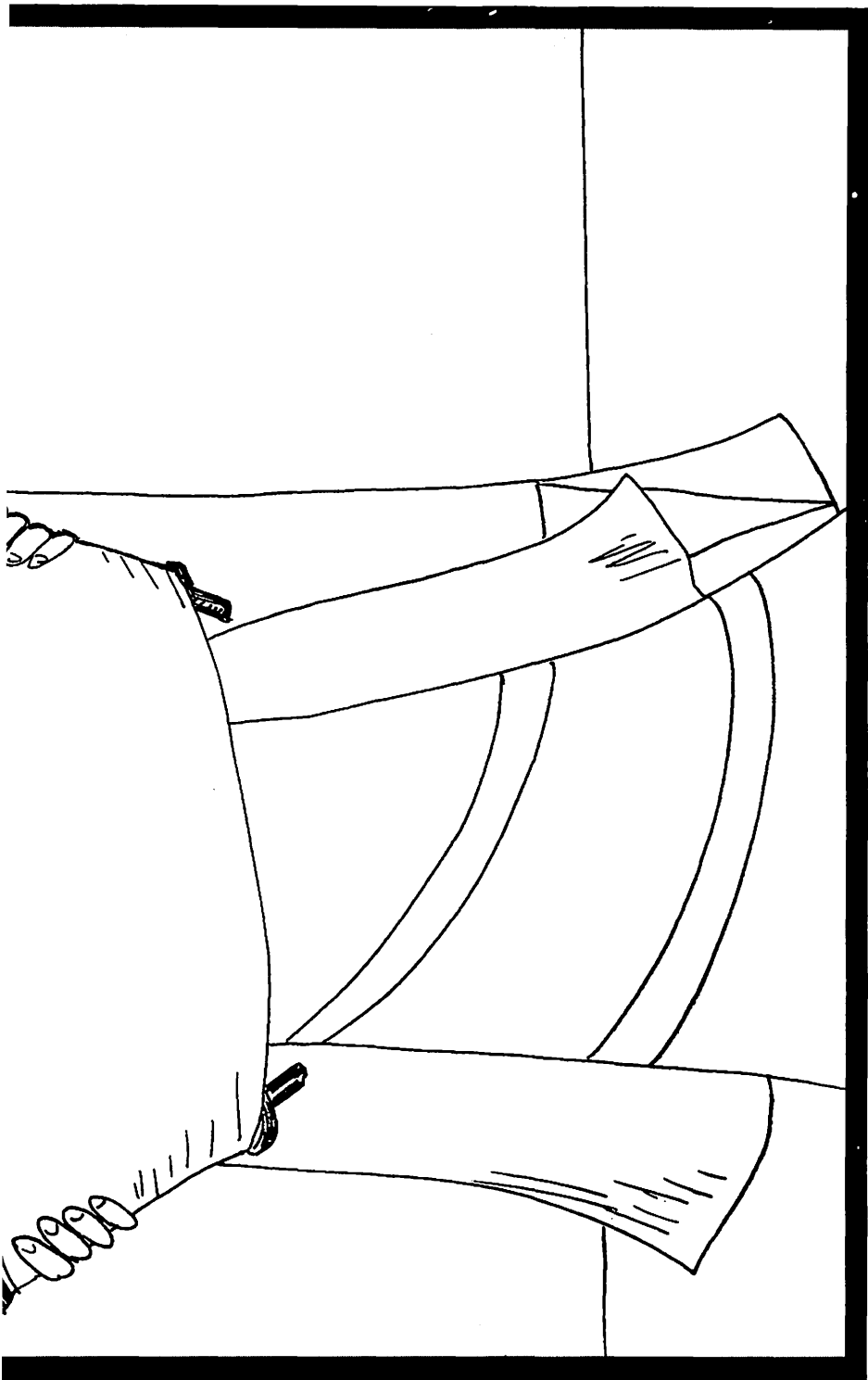
Josiah called meetings at the temple. People came and heard the words from the Book of the Law. Josiah destroyed places that were built to worship false gods and encouraged the Israelites to turn back to the Lord.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“ ... he read ...
the words of the
book ... ”

11 Kings 23:2



Light Shining In Rex

(Continued from last week)

Rex was walking with a swinging gait by Christmas time, which amazed all the doctors and specialists who had decided he would never walk. Now Cathy was praying that her blind son would respond to questions and talk. She asked for that gift at Christmas, but it did not come. Winter passed and Spring came.

On the Saturday before Easter Sunday, Cathy went into Rex's bedroom to help him get ready for the day. "Rex, sweetie, what would you like to do this morning?" she asked her son. As she lifted him out of bed, his lips began to move, trying to form a sound. "Yes, sweetie, what is it?" encouraged Cathy.

"Pp-p-aaa-n-o!" stuttered Rex.

"You want to play on your piano?" repeated Cathy, excited that he had answered her usual morning question.

"Pano!" said Rex more clearly.

Dancing with happiness all the way to Rex's piano, Cathy's hopes were high for her son to say more words. Had not the Lord helped Rex's legs to gain strength to walk? Could not the Lord heal his brain so that he could speak? "Walk by faith, not by sight." Cathy remembered the Lord's promise to her.

Rex's teacher at the Blind Children's Center loved music and she taught skills by music beats. Rex painted by rat-tat-tat on the paper, and he exercised by music patterns.

Encouraged by Rex saying "pano," she worked with his mouth to say more words. Slowly, Rex's brain learned the way to pronounce a letter, then a word.

In time, if his mother or teacher would sing in rhythm, "Rex, how are you today?" he would reply, "Rex is fine today," with the rhythm of the

question. His humming began to form words and he started singing Sunday School songs. It was as if his heart was full of joy to the Lord for letting him speak and sing. Cathy knew it was a miracle from God because she had been told Rex did not have the brain ability to ever talk!

Taking five-year old Rex to visit a doctor one day, Cathy signed the register, then found a chair for both her and Rex in the waiting room where several parents and sick children were seated. Rex sat down for a moment, then he stood up. Cathy was about to sit him down again when Rex began to sing, "God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He's so good to me! God answers prayer...."

Cathy glanced around the full waiting room. Children had stopped playing to look at Rex. Parents who had been frowning were now smiling. When Rex finished his song, everyone clapped! Rex smiled and clapped too. Then he sang: "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine....."

As happiness echoed in her heart, Cathy thought, "My son certainly is a shining light from God! Through him I have seen the love of God."

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. How old was Josiah?
2. What needed repairing?
3. Who was the high priest?
4. What did the high priest find?
5. What made Josiah sad?
6. What prophetess lived in Jerusalem?
7. What did God say would happen?
8. What did Josiah destroy?

Answers: 1. Eight. 2. The temple. 3. Hilkiah. 4. The Book of the Law. 5. His people had sinned. 6. Huldah. 7. Disaster to Israelites. 8. False gods & their temples.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 June 6, 2010

Judah in Captivity

For many years, all of the tribes except for the tribe of Judah lived in captivity. The Israelites were servants and slaves and lived in strange lands. Eventually the people in the tribe of Judah also turned away from God and began serving false gods. God was very angry at them for not obeying His laws. He had sent prophets to warn the Israelites to turn back to God, but they would not listen. The Israelites were determined to follow their own way instead of following God.

Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar brought his armies and surrounded Jerusalem and the other cities of Judah. For many months, the Israelites were trapped in their cities. They could not leave to grow food or buy food from other cities. There was a terrible famine in the city. The people were very hungry.

Some of the soldiers were attempting to escape. Finally one night, part of the wall around the city fell. The men in the Israelite army tried to escape with King Zedekiah. King Nebuchadnezzar followed close behind them and finally caught up with King Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho. King Zedekiah's soldiers had scattered, so it was easy for the Babylonians to capture the Israelite king. They put King Zedekiah in chains and led him back to Babylon.

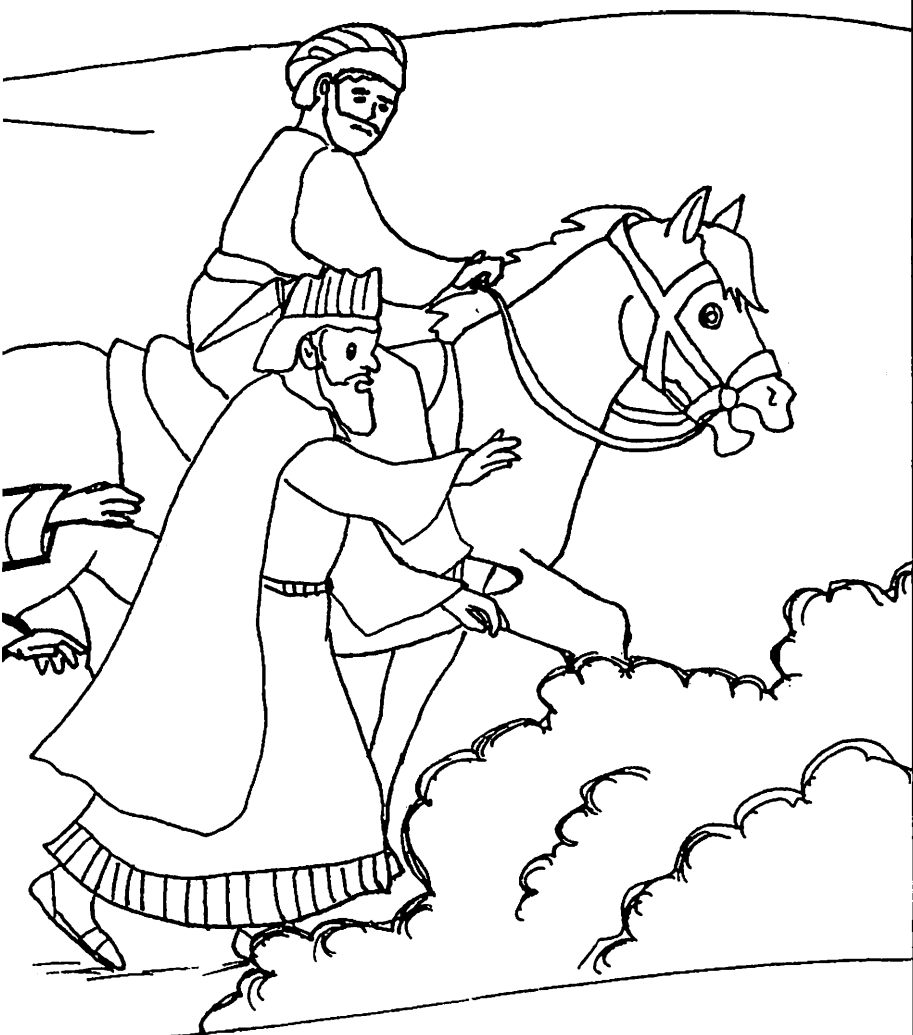
King Nebuchadnezzar came back to Judah and caused a lot of damage to the land. The Babylonian army tore down the walls around Jerusalem and came into the city. They burned many important buildings. Nebuchadnezzar ordered the Lord's temple to be burned. His soldiers broke the brass pillars from the temple into pieces. They took all of the treasures away that they could find. The Babylonians burned farms and took most of the Israelites back to Babylon as slaves. Nebuchadnezzar left a few of the poorest people in Judah.

A few Israelites of noble blood were able to escape to Egypt while their relatives were taken away from their native land.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“ . . . the Chaldees pursued after the



and overtook him . . .” II Kings 25:5

Rex's Graduation

(From the Blind Children's Center)
(Continued from last week)

In May of his fifth year, Rex was ready to graduate from the Blind Children's Center. He had learned many life skills to prepare him for the next step into the big world. Rex knew how to find his food on his plate and he could put the food into his mouth without losing it from his spoon. That was a long stretch from the days when his head moved back and forth dodging the spoon of food his mother tried to dive into his closed mouth.

Though he was slim, Rex had grown tall. His blonde hair framed his pale face with his delicate mouth, pudgy nose, and sightless blue eyes. He was excited because his mother was excited and because he was going to sing a song.

Alan, Cathy's older brother who had told her about Jesus, came to Rex's graduation with his camcorder. First came the parade of babies with their teachers and mothers; next came the Mommy and Me class; then the three year-olds using white canes to guide their walk; and last came the graduates complete in caps and gowns of royal blue. Rex's class came last, and he brought up the end walking with his back and forth rhythm. The students found a place to sit on the wooden blocks in front of the rows of seated parents.

After the Staff introductions, Cathy cleared her throat. She had been asked to speak and encourage all the other parents who faced dark days of discouragement because of a blind child. As Cathy stood before her friends, she thanked them for all their help and support. She tried to explain the struggles she and Rex had faced and how God had given them the victory and courage to conquer.

Cathy was speaking clearly and touching the hearts of those listening. Then her eyes saw Rex. He was sitting with his classmates, a look of joy on his face as his hand swatted his swinging cap tassel back and forth. Cathy's eyes blurred with tears because she remembered seeing those little hands right after Rex was born. He was such a perfect looking baby! She was so grateful that she and William had wanted this baby and now she knew God had made him very, very special.

Ending her speech in tears, Cathy said, "And thank you to my own little sweetheart, Rex, my hero. I want everyone here to know what I tell you every day; I am so proud of you!"

The crowd clapped loudly as Cathy took her seat. Soon it was Rex's turn to come on stage for his song with his classmates. The boy who doctors and specialists had said would never walk or talk, climbed the steps and walked to the center of the stage. His soft, melodic voice sang clearly, "If I was the king of the world....."

Yes, the mighty King of Kings had helped this young blind boy to rise above conditions that he had no control over. God had a wonderful plan for Rex's life.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Why was God angry?
2. Who was king of Babylon?
3. Why was there a famine?
4. What happened to King Zedekiah?
5. What happened to the temple?
6. What did they carry away?
7. Who was left in Judah?
8. Was anyone able to escape?

Answers: 1. They worshipped false gods. 2. Nebuchadnezzar. 3. The cities were surrounded. 4. He was taken prisoner. 5. It was burned. 6. Treasures, things of value. 7. Only the poorest people. 8. A few people were.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No.2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 June 13, 2010

Queen Esther

King Ahasuerus was a very rich and prosperous king. He reigned over one hundred and twenty seven provinces. King Ahasuerus was searching for a new queen. The most beautiful girls in his kingdom were brought to the palace. Esther was one of the beautiful young girls that came to the king's palace. The girls were given servants to look after them. They were given many things to help them to look even more beautiful for the king.

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

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

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

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

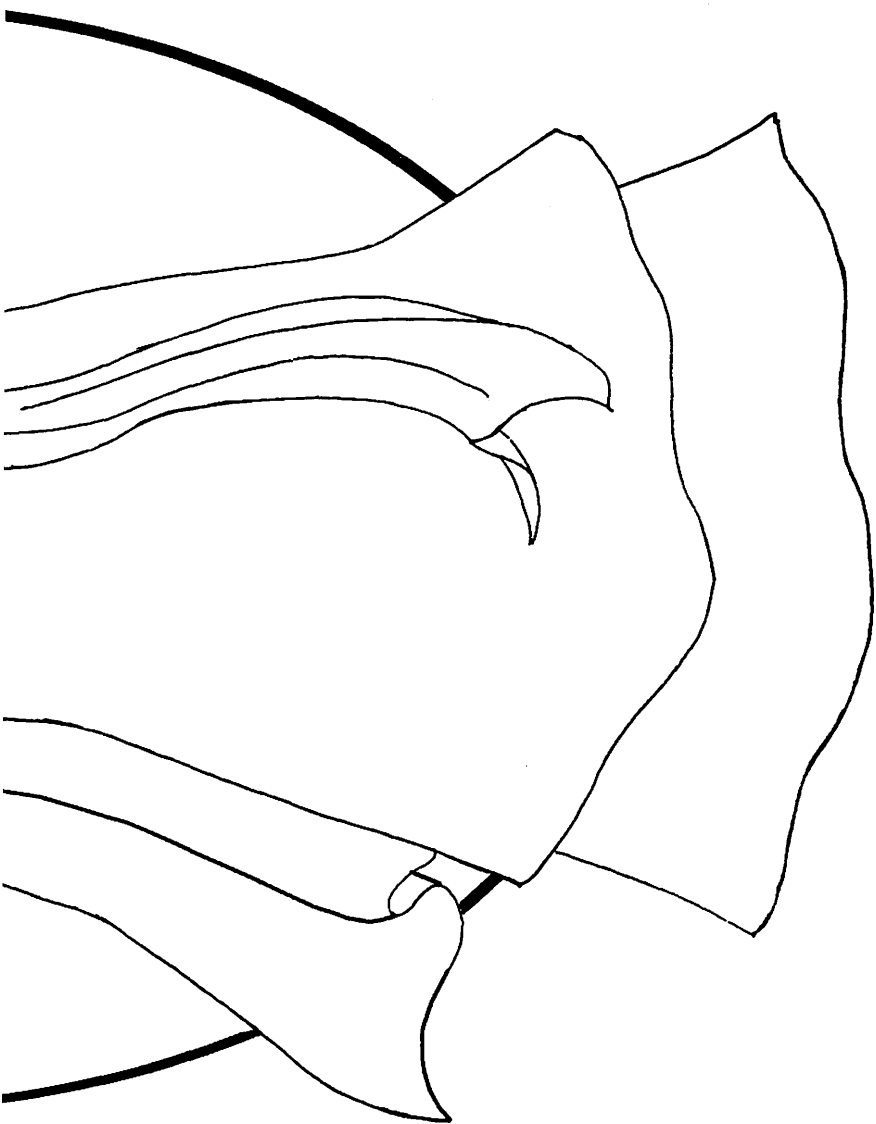
"Your servant Mordecai told me of the plot to kill you," Queen Esther told King Ahasuerus.

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

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“And the king
loved Esther
above all the
women . . .
he set the
royal crown
upon her
head, and
made her
queen . . .”
Esther 2:17





Bullies Out There

(Continued from last week)

Life in the big world had begun for Rex. Cathy enrolled him in a nice elementary school near their condo by the Pacific Ocean. Before school started, Cathy and Rex met the principal, his teacher, and had hired a nice young man as Rex's personal assistant.

On the first day of school, Cathy and Rex arrived early. They were sitting by his classroom door waiting to go inside when a little girl came near them.

"Hello," said Cathy to her. "What is your name?"

"Cindy," replied the little girl. "Is that your little boy?"

"Yes," said Cathy. "His name is Rex."

Cindy looked closely into Rex's face. "What is wrong with his eyes?" she asked.

"Well, Cindy, Rex is blind, which means he uses his hands and ears to be his eyes."

"Oh," said Cindy thoughtfully. "I didn't know a kid could be blind. Sorry!"

And before Cathy could say more to her, Cindy had hurried away to join other children who were in the hall.

Cathy continued to pray, "Lord, please let Rex be accepted and adjust to his new school and class mates. Please help the other children to be kind. Help Rex to learn and be kind, also."

No one at this school knew how hard it had been for Rex to walk and talk, let alone learn numbers and letters! Rex was sensitive to sounds and voice tones. Would the students be too loud? Would they holler at him? Cathy had to let go of all her fears for Rex when KD, his assistant, arrived to be with Rex in class. KD was cheerful and encouraged Rex through the musical patterns he loved. KD was an angel sent from God, Cathy thought.

After a few weeks of school, Cathy asked Rex, "What are the names of

Rex's school friends?" Rex could not give her any names, so Cathy was glad when he brought home an invitation to a birthday party. Together she and Rex bought the perfect gift for a five year old boy.

Cathy stayed with Rex at the party because KD had to go home. She watched as a girl and then a boy asked Rex how he was. His reply was always, "Rex is fine. How are you?" Two other boys were listening and watching Rex. The next time another boy spoke to Rex, the two watching boys mimicked Rex with, "Rex is fine. How are you?" They laughed loudly. One of the boys stood in front of Rex and waved his hand in Rex's face. Then he hooted, "This kid can't see!"

That was enough for Cathy. She grabbed the laughing boy's arm. "Shame on you, sissy bully!" she said. "How dare you act so mean!"

"Oh, sorry," murmured the two boys as they backed away. Cathy picked up Rex and left. "Oh, Lord, please protect my son from evil!" she prayed.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

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

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 June 20, 2010

Haman's Plot

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

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

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

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

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

Haman left the banquet feeling glad. When he came to the gate, and saw that Mordecai did not bow to him, he again became very angry.

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

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

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“And all the king’s servants, that were in the king’s g



ved . . . But Mordecai bowed not . . ." Esther 3:2

Rex's Musical Talent

(Continued from last week)

The only place that Rex felt safe was seated at his keyboard or a piano. He spent endless evening hours playing classical songs, gospel hymns, radio songs, whatever he heard he wanted to play.

Cathy would watch her son get lost in their dining room or kitchen, but once he entered the living room, he went straight to his keyboard. It was a mystery how he struggled to do everyday things for himself, but he could play the piano without seeming to think.

One Friday evening Cathy and Rex attended a friendly meeting at a neighbor's house. As they entered, someone was playing the piano, and Rex was drawn in that direction. Soon he was seated at the piano and his hands ran up and down the keyboard. A smile lit up his face. He liked the bigness and great sound of this grand piano. Neighbors watched as this little six-year-old blind boy started playing classical music on the piano.

"Amazing!" said one tall gentleman. "Who taught your son to play?"

"He has learned by himself," said Cathy. "He listens to music and then plays what he has heard."

Cathy learned that this gentleman, named Richard, composed music. He wanted Rex to come and play his piano every day. Richard would play a beautiful song for Rex, and then Rex would sit down and play it back to Richard.

"Rex has a lovely gift of music," said Richard to Cathy. "He needs some assistance with fingering so that he can use all his fingers more freely. Let's find a teacher who can help him with that."

In time a piano instructor at church agreed to help Rex with fingering. Between these two men, Rex's musical talent grew quickly. He could play very difficult pieces of music after Richard played it for him, and

Rex remembered the music later as well. Anything Richard played, soft or loud, Rex could imitate back on the piano. It was like a game of chase, and sometimes Rex would mischievously take the lead from Richard.

"I tell you," said Richard after one of their fun romps at the piano, "I have played the piano most of my fifty years of life, and Rex at six years old can play the piano better than I can. He has wowed me again!"

"It is so wonderful to see you two at the piano," said Cathy. "This is his comfort zone. We are still working on other areas but God has given Rex this talent to show me His love for us."

"Well, Rex is a blessing to me," said Richard. "He challenges me and I enjoy his company."

All the days and long nights of worry and praying seemed to disappear with compliments like this. At night, looking at Rex's soft sleeping face, Cathy believed God had a special line directly connected to her son. Only God could create such a unique, complicated person like Rex.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

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

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 60, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 June 27, 2010

A Happy Ending for Esther

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

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

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

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

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

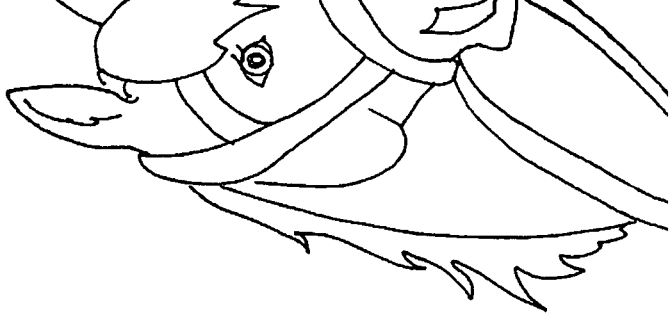
When Haman went home, he told his wife and friends of the humiliating thing he had to do. As he was telling his tale, a servant came to remind him of the banquet Queen Esther had prepared for him.

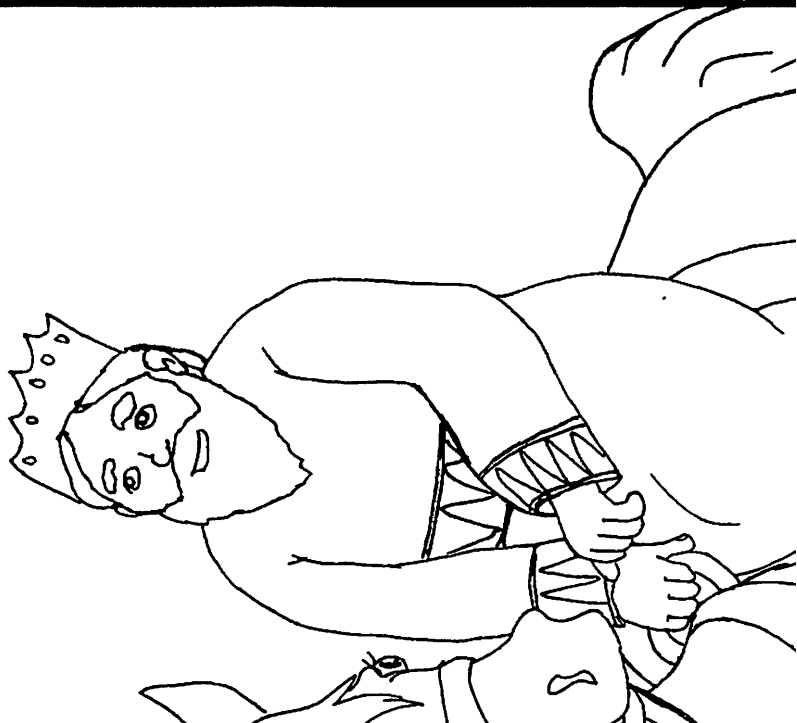
"What can I do for you, Esther? Anything that you request shall be yours," King Ahasuerus asked after the feast was over. "Please save my people. They are all going to be killed," pleaded Esther. "Who dares to hurt the queen's people?" questioned King Ahasuerus. "It is this wicked Haman," said Queen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

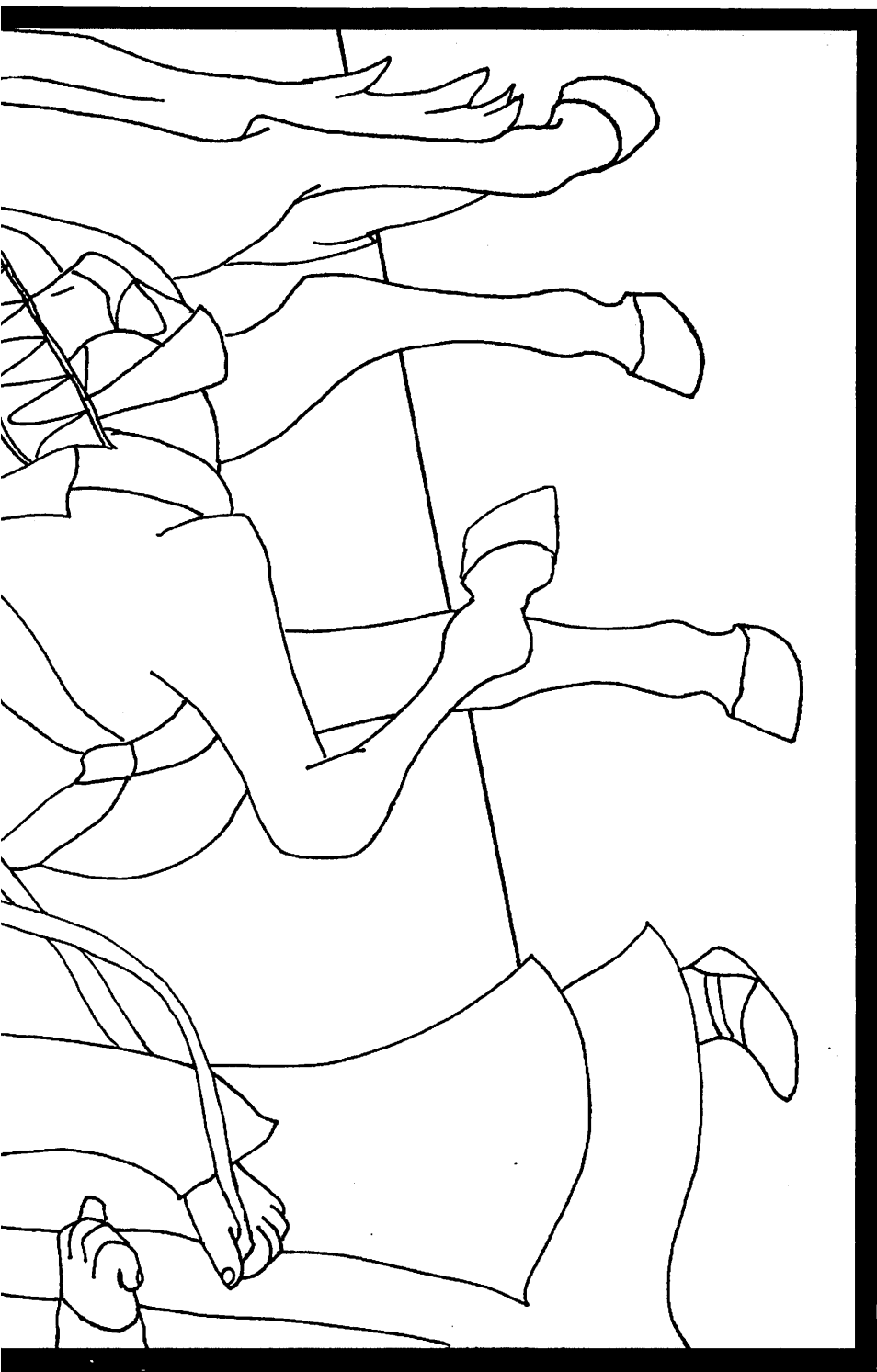
A servant came to the king. "The gallows that Haman is working on for Mordecai's hanging is complete," he said. The king was very upset. "Hang Haman on it," the king commanded. The queen's people were saved and the wicked Haman was destroyed.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

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







Music—the Mending Bridge

(Continued from last week)

At school, Rex struggled. His adult aide and white cane helped him go from one point to another, but the students were not careful. Sometimes a boy or girl would rush in front of Rex, knocking his cane aside.

"Excuse me," the child would say and then run on. Sometimes the same child would bump him two times in a row. To them, Rex was just a slow, blind boy and they were not interested in making friends with him.

It troubled Cathy that her son did not have friendships with those his age. He was learning to spell and read aloud, and he knew how to ride a bike and skate. All of these activities were done with adults, but Rex needed friends his age.

Cathy talked to his teachers and school principal about the matter. One evening the principal called Cathy on the phone. "I thought of a wonderful way for Rex to connect with his classmates," she said. "We are planning a student talent show for parents and all students to attend. We would like for Rex to play the piano for us."

"Oh, that would be nice," agreed Cathy. "He would love to do that!"

No one at this school knew how well Rex could play the piano but they were soon to find out. Near the end of the show, Cathy helped Rex on stage and to the piano. He sat down and reached for the keys. Cathy positioned the microphone for him and then moved aside.

Rex played and sang a song that he and Richard had composed about a blackbird who wanted to fly but couldn't because he was trapped. It was a fast song with a pretty tune. The auditorium was silent for a moment after Rex's hands finally finished on the piano. Suddenly there was a loud burst of clapping as the parents and students stood to honor their fellow student. Rex was happy and his mother was pleased.

A few days later, Rex was invited to go to an amusement park with Jesse and her brother, Brian. Cathy and Rex prepared early for the fun

Saturday. The big Suburban arrived at their condo. When Cathy opened the door to help Rex in, she saw that there were two boys in the back seat. Brian had brought a friend and Cathy remembered where she had seen this boy before. He was the one who made fun of Rex at the birthday party!

Cathy was ready to cancel their part of the trip, when the boy reached out a hand. "Here, let me help you, Rex," he said kindly. "You are a cool piano player, Rex! I wish I could play like you do!"

Rex responded warmly to the boy's comments. Cathy sighed. Her son's blindness sometimes allowed him to miss seeing the bad in others. That day the two boys treated Rex kindly and included him in their play. Cathy forgave them of their past rudeness.

In time, Rex's musical talents became known all across the United States and in Europe. His father comes sometimes to hear his performances. It pleases him that Rex is earning money doing what he likes best. Cathy's love for her son led her to discover a wonderful truth—that she needed the Lord's mercy and grace. Every day she praises God for giving her Rex who has brought her so much enjoyment in life.

The End

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

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

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