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When the Gods were ready, they made a plan, or an outline of what the earth would be like when it would be made.

When the plan was done, they agreed that it was just like it should be.

Then, Heavenly Father took a few helpers and went past some of the stars that were already there, until he found a place where He could make the earth. The material He needed for making an earth was everywhere. He just had to put it together, or organize it.

All the material is smart, or intelligent. That means that, even though it had no form, it could realize when Heavenly Father spoke to it, and it would do what He said. It would obey.

He told some of the material to go into a shape like the earth in His plan. It was a big job, because the earth would have to be big enough for all the people that would live on it. Still, the material did as it was told, and it was done all in the first part of one day. Heavenly Father spent the rest of the day making sure that there was some light to shine on the new earth, and that the light made shadows. He called the part of the earth where the light shone on it, Day. The part that was away from the light, He called Night.

The next thing to do was to change the way the water was, which covered all the earth. Heavenly Father told it to divide in two, so that part would be left as a large ocean covering everything, and part would be above the ocean,

like a solid grey cloud covering the sky everywhere. Inbetween, there would be air. All the water obeyed His voice, and the air came inbetween. Heavenly Father called the air, Heaven. That job took one whole day, also.

On the third day, Heavenly Father told the water under the heaven to get together in one place only, so that part of His world could be dry land. He called the dry land, Earth; the water, he called the Sea.

Then He told the earth to have grass & flowers & trees growing on it. The earth did as it was told to do. By the end of the day, all kinds of plants were growing on the earth.

The next day, Heavenly Father had two lights made for the earth. He arranged one, which was the sun, to be the brightest thing in the day. He made it so that when it was night, the other light, the moon, would be the brightest thing shining. He also arranged for all the stars to be in their places, too. That was the fourth days work.

On the fifth day Heavenly Father told the waters to have fish in them and birds to fly over them. The water did this. Then He told the earth to have animals on it, and it was done.

Now, all the plants, fish, birds, and animals lived as spirits before they were here on the earth. The water and the earth had just provided bodies for them, with Heavenly Father's help, when He had told them to. The plants, fish, birds, and animals were glad to have an earth where they could get bodies.

Human beings were also spirits, and wanted bodies. They were special to Heavenly Father, and on the next day, He and Jesus Christ specially made a body for the first one to live on the earth. Since the first spirit looked alot like Jesus, they made a body that looked that way. It was like molding mud or clay, to them. When it was ready, they told the first spirit to be in the body. It obeyed, and the body started to breathe. Its eyes looked around. It smiled. Heavenly Father gave him the name, Adam. He made a garden for Adam, and told him He would like him to not eat of the fruit of one kind of tree. Next, He told every animal that He had made, to come to Adam, to see what he would call them. Whatever Adam called an animal, that was its name.

Then, Heavenly Father made Adam go to sleep, while He took out one of his ribs, and closed the skin back over where it had been. He made a woman from the rib, and brought her to Adam. Adam smiled, and called her, Eve. Then came the end of the sixth day of Heavenly Father's work. The earth was done and it had people on it. Heavenly Father & His helpers left the earth.

Adam and Eve enjoyed their garden. It was warm, and it never rained, so they did not need a house. They didn't need any clothes, either. They were not ashamed to be naked, because they did not know right or wrong. The fruit of the one kind of tree that Heavenly Father did not want them to eat, would let them know right and wrong. Adam told Eve what Heavenly Father had said about this one fruit, and they did not eat any of it. They both loved Heavenly Father, and they were glad to do what He told them.

Satan, who was on the earth as a spirit, only, made the serpent have a voice, so he could talk to Eve about that one kind of fruit. Eve didn't mind talking with the serpent. She told it that Adam had said Heavenly Father had said they would die if they ate any of it.

The voice in the serpent said "No you won't."

"It will make you know what right and wrong are."

"Heavenly Father knows right from wrong."

Eve had always wondered what right and wrong were. She ate some of the fruit. It tasted delicious. She waited a few minutes. She didn't die, so she showed Adam what she had done and he ate some of the fruit, too.

But just then Eve felt ashamed at being naked. She began to realize that being naked was wrong. Adam began to feel that way, too. It was the first time either of them had felt that any thing they did was wrong. They spent the next little while picking leaves from a fig tree and sewing them together to make aprons for themselves to wear. When that was done, they took a walk.

Just then, they heard Heavenly Father calling them. They felt ashamed to have Him see them with only aprons on, so they hid. Heavenly Father then called Adam's name, and he could no longer hide. He came out and said, "I hid because I was ashamed." Heavenly Father said, "Why be ashamed? You never were ashamed when I was here before. Have you eaten any of that kind of fruit I told you not to eat?" Adam said, "Yes; Eve talked me into it."

Heavenly Father called for Eve to stop hiding. She came out, and said, "The serpent fooled me into eating that fruit."
Heavenly Father called, and the serpent came to Him. He told him, "Because you have let Satan use you to talk and fool Eve, your legs will gradually disappear, and you will become a snake."
Heavenly Father told Eve, "Having children would have been enjoyable for you, but now it will hurt. Be sure and obey your husband, Adam, from now on."
Then, He told Adam, "Farming was going to be fun for you, but now weeds will grow and some will be hard to pull up, because they will have stickers. It will be hard work to grow enough food to eat. After a long time, you will die, like I said."

Heavenly Father then made coats from animal skins for Adam and Eve to wear.

Heavenly Father told Jesus Christ, "Look, Adam and Eve now know right from wrong, like We do. There is another tree in this beautiful garden, which makes people live forever when they eat its fruit. If Adam and Eve do that, they won't die like I told them they would. So let's make Adam and Eve leave this garden."
And They made them go out of the garden. They also put an angel near that other tree in the garden to guard it and keep Adam and Eve away.

In the days that followed, Adam made a farm to grow food on, and he worked hard. Eve helped him. As time went by, they had many children, both boys and girls.

From time to time, Adam and Eve would pray to Heavenly Father, and He would talk and answer them from inside the garden.
Adam & Eve couldn't go back into the

garden and see Heavenly Father, because He had said that they couldn't, but they could hear His voice, and get answers to their questions that way. Heavenly Father also told them things that they should do, many times. One was to offer sacrifices. An angel came once from the garden, and told Adam that sacrifices were important because it was like the Savior would be sacrificed when He would come to earth.

Adam and Eve soon understood that their eating of that fruit and being put out of the garden, was part of Heavenly Father's plan for them to learn to obey. They taught their sons and their daughters to be kind and helpful.

Satan went among them, and tried many ways to fool them. He told them, "I am also a son of God, like the Savior, so believe me. Don't pay attention to what your father and mother teach you. It's more fun to be mean."

As Adam and Eve's children grew up and became men and women, some were kind and others were mean.

One day when Eve had another baby, she said, "I hope that this boy will be kind and helpful all his life. She named him, Cain. Of course, she hoped that every one of her children would be kind, so when another baby boy was born, she said the same thing. This baby she named, Abel.

Cain grew to be a farmer. Abel became a shepherd, and had some sheep. One time when there was a sacrifice to be done, Abel sacrificed the first baby lamb he had. Heavenly Father liked Abel for that.

Satan told Cain to take some old vegetables for his sacrifice. Cain had found that it was fun to listen to Satan, and he liked what Satan had said this time, too. Heavenly Father was not pleased with the vegetables, because they were not new and fresh. Cain frowned.

Heavenly Father spoke to Cain, saying, "You know what kind of vegetables to use for a sacrifice. If you keep listening to Satan, he will make you so mean that you'll hate yourself. You will be called 'The Father of Lies'."

This made Cain even more angry, and he acted meaner during the next few days. Abel, his brother tried to convince him to be kind, and Adam and Eve cried, but he did not change. When it was time to get married, he married a girl who liked to hear Satan, too.

One day Satan told Cain that he could make it easy for him to kill Abel, so that Cain could have all of his brother's sheep. He said, "If just you and I know that you killed Abel, and if we keep it a secret, your father and mother will never know that you did it, and you will have Abel's sheep for yourself." Cain liked the idea of keeping it a secret.

The next day, Cain went to Abel while he was tending his sheep in a lonely place. Cain hurt Abel, so that he did. Cain went toward home.

The next thing Cain knew, he heard Heavenly Father's voice: "Where is Abel, your brother?" Cain replied, "I don't know. Am I supposed to?" Heavenly Father said, "You have killed your brother.

Because you killed him, I will make it so any gardens you plant won't grow. You will have to get food by hunting, and people will hunt you, too, to hurt you."

Cain said, "That is too hard for me."
Heavenly Father promised to put a mark of blackness on Cain as a warning to others to not hurt him.

So Cain and his family moved away. He and his family were always mean. One of his grandchildren killed another one, just for telling his secret, nothing else.

Adam and Eve, by and by, got a new baby boy. They were happy to have one to take Abel's place. They named him Seth. He liked to hear Heavenly Father's voice. He liked to do the things his father and mother told him, too. He had a happy life.

After Seth got married, he had a boy who he named Enos. About that time, Adam, and Seth, and Enos got together and made themselves a Book of Remembrance. They also made a school, where all the children could learn to read and write.

In their Book of Remembrance, they wrote their names, and their birthdates, and stories about themselves. They also wrote about the things that Heavenly Father had taught Adam. One story about Adam is the story of how he was baptized:

Heavenly Father told Adam that everyone that grew up should try to do better, and should be baptized in water, and then receive the Spirit of God. If they did not do this, He could not let any body back to live with Him.

Adam prayed about these things, and as he prayed, the Spirit of the Lord caught him away and carried him down under the water, and back out again. Then the Spirit of God came down on him. Then a voice from heaven said to him, "That was the Gift of the Holy Ghost." This was one of the stories they wrote in their Book of Remembrance.

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In the days when Enos became a father, the people were mostly mean. Adam and his family and Seth & his family and Enos & his family and some others were kind. Their neighbors were all so mean, that these families decided to move away. They went to a land of promise. Enos liked the place. He named it Cainan. That was the same name he had chosen for his first boy.

Time went by, and Enos' great grandson, Enoch, was born. Adam loved Enoch, too. Enoch grew up and got married, and had a family, but he never liked to give talks in church, because he was slow of speech, and had trouble saying words.

One day while Enoch was walking from one city to another, the Holy Ghost came down, and Enoch heard Heavenly Father calling him. He said, "Enoch, go and talk to the mean people, and tell them to start being kind and helpful like they should be. If they won't stop being mean, they'll have to go to the spirit prison when they die, and they won't like that."

Enoch was very surprised that Heavenly Father would choose him to talk to mean people. He said, "Everyone at home makes fun of the way I talk. If I talk in front of mean people, they will

not just laugh; they will hurt me. I'm scared."

Heavenly Father told Enoch, "Trust me. You can do it fine; but besides that, I will help you. I give you power, that mountains will move over if you tell them to. You can even tell rivers to stop flowing, and they will."
He also taught Enoch to put clay on his eyes and then wash it off, and Enoch could see visions.

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So Enoch trusted Heavenly Father, and went to talk to the mean people. He gave speeches from on top of hills so more people could hear him. He told them the very things they were doing wrong. It hurt them inside to hear him tell them that, but they were so amazed that he knew, that they always wanted to hear him speak. They would get baby-sitters to stay in their tents while they went to see what he would say next.

Enoch told the people about how Heavenly Father had told him to come to them. He told them that he came from the land where Adam lived. He told them about the Book of Remembrance that Adam was writing. He told them how Adam had been baptized.

The mean people were afraid of Enoch at first, but then they liked him, and decided to be kind and helpful. They let Enoch be their leader. They were happy.

One time, enemies made war upon Enoch & his people. Enoch helped his people win, by telling a mountain to move. It moved, and the enemies were so scared at seeing it move, that they ran away. Another time, Enoch told Heavenly Father he needed a land to come up out of the sea. It did, and

the enemies ran and decided to live on that new land that had come up out of the sea. There were giants who wanted to fight Enoch's people, too, but they were afraid of Enoch's power, and never came to fight.

Enoch's enemies began to fight among themselves. Enoch and his people were safe. Heavenly Father liked them, and gave their city a new name, Zion. Enoch helped his people get to be worthy to live with Heavenly Father. Then, one day, Heavenly Father took Enoch's city and the ground underneath it, and put it in Heaven, near where He lives. The sea waters came in to the place where Enoch's city had been.

And one day when Enoch was talking with Heavenly Father, He showed Enoch all the different worlds and stars and earths that He had made. Then He showed him things that would happen on this earth. Heavenly Father started to cry. Enoch said "You are God; You can change things how you want. Why are you crying, then?" Heavenly Father said, "Look at how mean and wicked the people on earth will soon be. I love them dearly, but they will have to suffer in the spirit prison because of their meanness. That's why I'm crying. I can't change things because I have to let them choose to be kind or be mean. That was part of the plan we all agreed upon before we made this earth. I will have to send a flood of water to drown them, so that the kind people can have a better chance to live, and to stay kind and helpful."

Heavenly Father showed Enoch what Noah and his ark would look like.

Next, Enoch saw how Jesus Christ would be born on earth, and how He would be crucified.

Just then, the earth spoke, saying, "I'm tired. When will I get to rest, and have only kind people on me?" Enoch felt sorry for the earth. Heavenly Father said, "The earth will rest, but only after there are many earthquakes, and after the sun and moon get darkened, and the City of New Jerusalem is built. Then you and your city will go back down to earth near New Jerusalem, and everyone from your city and New Jerusalem will run out and hug and kiss each other. Then the earth will rest for one thousand years." This made Enoch happy. He went and told his people about what he had seen and heard with Heavenly Father.

Now, one of Enoch's boys had to stay behind on the earth with Adam and Seth and those who still lived in the land of promise. That boy was Methuselah. He was proud that he could be Noah's grandfather in a few years. Enoch had told him about it — that it would happen, and that Noah would almost be like a new Adam. Heavenly Father did not like Methuselah being proud, and He made it so that for a while, there was almost no food to eat.

Some time after Methuselah got married, he had a boy he named Lamech. About this time, Adam called a meeting of all the kind people on the earth and he blessed them. Jesus appeared to them all, and Adam prophesied many things. Three years after that great meeting, Adam died.

Lamech had a baby boy that he named Noah. When Noah grew up and had a family, he also had three boys named Japeth, Shem, and Ham, who liked

what their father, Noah, liked, and they were kind, like he was. But still, there were many of Noah's other children that thought it was fun to be mean, and they left their father Noah, and lived with the mean people.

Heavenly Father told Noah, "I will have to destroy those mean people soon, and I can't save your children, because they are mean, too." Noah told this to his children, and their mean friends, but they still wanted to be mean.

Mean giants often tried to chase Noah and grab him, because of the things he said, but Heavenly Father helped Noah, and kept him safe from them by His power. Noah kept on telling the mean people to do better and be baptized. No one did, though. They thought, "We are having fun aren't we? Why change, then?" The people fought and argued alot in their meanness, but they said it was fun.

Then one day, Heavenly Father told Noah, "It is time to stop telling the people what to do. Now you must begin to build a big boat, or an ark. Make it of gopher wood and put tar in all the cracks so it will keep out the water. Make it nearly one block long, and make it two houses wide and two houses high. Put a door in the side of the ark, and put a window up high in the ark. Put three floors inside and make places on each floor that animals can live in, because I want you to take two of every kind of animal on the ark with you and your family. Be sure and put enough food in the ark for all the animals and your family to eat for a year."

It took Noah and his sons a long time to build such a big ark, but they worked hard, and it was good. Finally the ark was finished.

Heavenly Father told Noah to gather all the different kinds of animals by twos into the ark. Most of the animals liked going there. When all this was done, Noah and his wife, & Japeth, Shem, and Ham and their wives went into the ark and shut the big door.

From their window inside, they could see drops of water falling from the sky. This was new and different to them. They could also hear the sound of the drops that fell on the ark.

The mean people were very surprized by the drops of water. At first, they thought it was troublesome, but then, the rivers began to overflow, and city streets were full of water. The drops got larger and came down faster. The water got as high as houses. People who couldn't swim were drowned. The strongest mean people swam to mountain tops to stay, but after a few weeks, the water got as high as the mountains. Even the best swimmers couldn't swim all day and all night, and they drowned, too. There was no one left alive on the whole earth, except for those in the ark. It floated on top of the water, over the mountains. The water drops kept falling for 40 days and nights. Then they began to quit.

A gentle wind came up about the time that the drops weren't seen anymore. It helped the waters on the earth go down, but still, the ark floated around for 150 days. Finally, its bottom brushed against the top of Mount Ararat, and it rested there, and didn't need to float anymore.

Still, they could not see any mountain tops. Another 70 days went by before they could see any. Noah let a raven fly out of the ark about a month later. It couldn't find anyplace to land. He also let a dove go. It came back tired at the end of the day. Noah waited a week before sending the dove out again. That time the dove came back in the evening with an olive leaf in its beak. That way, Noah knew that somewhere, the water was going down enough that a tree could grow. After one more week, he let the dove out again to fly. This time it found enough water had gone down that it could build a nest somewhere. It did not return to Noah. Still, Noah waited another 100 days before opening the big door of the ark, and letting all the animals out. By then about all of the water had dried up. Now one whole year had passed since the drops of water had first fallen.

Heavenly Father talked with Noah and told him that the water drops had been rain, and that it would rain from time to time from now on. He further said, "Don't be scared that the rain will flood the earth like it did, ever again. It won't. I promise. So that there will be something to remind you and Me of my promise, I'll make it so that a rainbow will appear in the rain clouds. That will remind us."

All the animals had not been too scared of people, but now Heavenly Father told Noah, "From now on, people can eat the meat of animals. They can hunt them and kill them for food. The animals

will become very scared of people. Yet, people should not kill more animals than they need to, but just to keep from getting too hungry."

Noah became a farmer, and planted grapes. One time he drank too much of the wrong kind of grape juice and got drunk, so that he didn't know what he was doing. He went to bed with no clothes on, and didn't pull the covers up. His son, Ham, saw him and looked at him, and told his brothers, Japheth and Shem. They were surprised. They took a sheet and each held a corner and backed up to Noah's bed, so they wouldn't see him naked. They backed up until the sheet covered all of their father, Noah. Then they left, and let him keep on sleeping. When he awoke, they all told him what had happened. Noah said, "The Lord will bless Japheth and Shem, but Ham's family will have to be servants to Japheth & Shem's families, because Ham saw me naked, and Japheth & Shem didn't."

As time went on, Noah's sons had children, and then grandchildren, and so on. About the time that they could boast of having 2nd great grand-children, a great earthquake happened. Noah and Shem and everyone felt it. It moved the part of the land away, and the ocean came inbetween. That part of the land that was now separate was put there by Heavenly Father, to be a promised land.

Some of the 2nd and 3rd great grand-children went and lived farther to the east when they grew up. They found a nice place to build a fine new city. They made brick, to build a wall around the city. They also said, "Let's build a high tower, also, so that our grandchildren will remember us, and we

will build it so high, that it will reach heaven."

Heavenly Father looked down on them and said to his helpers, "How silly they are. They want their grandchildren to remember them because of a Tower they want to make. There are other things that will go wrong, too. Let's change their language and make each one talk different. Then, they won't be able to build it, and they will move away from each other, and make cities all over the earth, which is what I want them to do."

So the next day, when a worker asked for a sixty bricks, the brickmaker said, "What? Don't mumble." The worker told the brickmaker, "Your tongue is moving too fast. What did you say?" This happened everywhere to everyone building that city. Even a worker couldn't understand another worker.

Jared was helping build that city. When this happened, he rushed to his brother. Luckily, they could still understand each other. His brother prayed that they and their families could all talk the same. Heavenly Father answered their prayer, and led them to that promised land.

Some time after that, one of Noah's great great grandsons was named Terah. He grew up and married, and had a family. Three brothers in the family were called Abram, Nahor, and Haran. They grew up and tried to have families also. Haran's son was named Lot. Not too long after, Haran died — even before he was old. Nahor married Milcah, a daughter of Haran, and Abram married Sarai, a girl he had liked for some time. She was sweet and kind.

Abraham had tried to be kind ever since he was a baby. As he got bigger, and learned to talk, and then to read, he realized that his father didn't like Heavenly Father.

Abraham's father liked to go to an evil church. There they prayed to only statues, which they said were gods. And they sometimes killed real people, even children, as sacrifices to those statues.

That evil church was on top of a hill. Abraham had told his father, and that church, one time, that killing people was wrong. They didn't care. Instead, they took Abraham and decided to kill him for their next sacrifice.

They liked best to kill people that were kind. They had killed three young girls the last time.

They tied Abraham to the altar. The altar was like a stone bed. One of them held a long knife over Abraham, ready to hurt him.

Abraham prayed to Heavenly Father for help. An angel came and untied Abraham and killed the man with the knife.

Everyone was surprised.

The angel told Abraham that he would have to move to a new strange land in order to stay away from these mean people. He said that the Holy Ghost would help him find the new land. He also told him that, in a little while, food would be hard to get in this land where he was now.

That happened soon, and Abraham's brother, Haran, got so hungry that he died. Their father, Terah, decided to worship Heavenly Father, instead of those statues.

Abraham and his nephew, Lot, took their wives and left their city, and travelled a long ways, walking. They took some food,

and their tents and sleeping bags. Abraham also had the Urim and Thummim and plates with writing on them that told how the earth and stars were formed, and he took those things, also. His father decided to come, too.

They stopped in a lovely place that they named Haran, after the brother who had died. They stayed there awhile. After a few days, Jesus Christ appeared to Abraham and said, "You must leave this place and go to the promised land that I will show you. It will belong to you and to your descendants forever."

Abraham was thankful to have had Jesus Christ come to him. He and Lot and their wives left Haran and walked to the land of Canaan. Abraham's father, Terah, had joined the evil church again in Haran, and he stayed behind. Abraham had baptized several people in Haran. They had decided that the evil church with statues to worship was wrong, when Abraham had told them about Heavenly Father, and that it was wrong to worship statues. Some of those people went with Abraham & Lot to the land of Canaan.
Abraham was 62 years old when this happened.

When Abraham got to the land of Canaan, Jesus Christ appeared to him, and said, "This is yours. This is the promised land."

Food was still very hard to get, even in this beautiful land, so Abraham took all that were with him, and walked further, until he got to Egypt.

Now his wife, Sarai, was the daughter of Abraham's brother, Haran, and she was beautiful.
The Egyptians would kill Abraham in order to marry Sarai themselves.
The Lord told Abraham,
"Tell the Egyptians that Sarai is your sister, because she is Haran's daughter. Then the Egyptians won't hurt you. They'll try to buy her from you, instead."
So they entered Egypt.
The Pharaoh liked Sarai, and took her home with him, and sent Abraham all kinds of presents. But everyone in Pharaoh's house got sick, except for Sarai. Pharaoh wondered why, and in talking with Sarai, found that she was also Abraham's wife. He was surprised. He took Sarai back to Abraham and said, "You tricked me. You can't stay in Egypt anymore."
So Abraham left Egypt and went back to his promised land. There was more food there, now.
Abraham had enjoyed being in Egypt. He had taught the Pharaoh and his wise men all about the ways of the sun, and the moon, and the stars. Abraham had learned about all these things from Jesus Christ.

Abraham and Lot stayed together and made a farm and a place to tend sheep in the promised land. Soon, though, they felt crowded. Abraham's servants would quarrel with Lot's servants every day. Abraham disliked quarrels, so he told Lot one day, "Let's not stay together anymore. You choose a part of this land for yourself, and I'll take what's left."
Lot looked at the desert in the west, and then at the nice land for parks and gardens in the east. He told Abraham, "I'll go live in the east, where there can be parks and gardens.

Abraham didn't mind having to live in a desert.
He said, "That's fine, Lot; we'll both move tomorrow."
The Lord talked to Abraham after he had moved, and said,
"You are very patient; for this, I will make sure
that you and your children will own all the
promised land forever."

Now, after a while, some kings from the north brought
their armies and made war on the cities near
where Lot lived. They took everyone, and Lot and
his family and servants, too, to be their slaves.
One servant escaped and hiked all night to where
Abraham was living.
When Abraham heard about all that had happened,
he got his servants ready, and told them that
they were going to go fight those kings from
the north, and rescue Lot. The people at
ranches nearby to Abraham's ranch also brought
their servants. Together, they hiked off to find
the kings and rescue Lot.
They found them about when the sun went down.
Abraham & his army attacked them at night,
and they were so surprised that they hardly fought back,
but they ran away, instead. All of those
kings were killed before it was over.
Abraham and his army brought Lot, and everyone else
in the cities, safely back to their homes.
The king of Sodom, one of the cities, said,
"I'm so thankful to be back. Take any gold or silver
that you want from my city, Abraham."
Abraham told him, "No. I'm glad we could rescue you.
I don't want any gold or silver. My neighbors
might take a little, though."
The king and the people of Sodom gave Abraham some
presents, though, because he had rescued them.
On the way home from Sodom, Abraham stopped at
Jerusalem to see the high priest of the church,
and to pay his tithing there.

The high priest, Melchizedek, was happy to see Abraham, and that he was paying his tithing. Melchizedek blessed Abraham. He was also proud of him for going after the kings from the north, and rescuing all the people. But Abraham only thought that he was only doing what he should do for his nephew, Lot.

In the many talks that Abraham had with the Lord, one time he asked, "Lord, I like your promise that this land will belong to my children forever, but I am almost 85 years old and I don't have as yet any children at all. How can it belong to my children, then?

The Lord told Abraham, "Don't worry. Trust me. You'll have as many children and grandchildren as there are stars that shine on a clear night."

Abraham said, "OK. I believe you. I trust you."

And the Lord liked that. Another time when they talked, the Lord told Abraham how his great grandchildren, and more, would live in Egypt for 400 years, and then return to the promised land.

Now, Abraham's wife, Sarai had had no children, even after more than 50 years of marriage. So she told Abraham to marry her servant lady. Abraham didn't mind having 2 wives, so he did it. The servant lady, Hagar, soon was getting ready to have a baby. She made fun of Sarai, saying "Look at me! I can have a baby, and you can't!"

Sarai got permission from Abraham to punish Hagar, but Hagar ran away into the desert. After some time, she found a well of water and got a drink. Right then, an angel came to her and said, "Go back; Sarai will treat you better, and you will have a baby boy that will be the father of a nation.

Hagar obeyed the angel. She did have a baby boy. They named him, Ishmael.

Thirteen years later, when Abraham was 99 years old, and he was talking with Jesus Christ, Abraham heard Him say, "I call you Abraham now because it means you are the father of great multitudes. I'll call your wife, Sarah, now, which means Princess. Before a year goes by, she will have a baby boy. He will be famous."

Abraham laughed at this, and said, "Sarah is too old to have babies anymore. She is ninety years old. Maybe you meant that if Ishmael turns out to be kind and helpful, he will be famous."

Jesus Christ said, "No; Sarah will indeed have a baby boy, and you should name him Isaac. Ishmael will get to be famous, but Isaac will be famous and blessed, too."

Jesus also told Abraham to have every man and boy on his ranch get circumcised. That would be a sign of the promise between Abraham and Jesus Christ that this promised land would be theirs forever.

A little later, three men came travelling by Abraham's tent. Abraham recognized them as especially good men. He asked them to stay a while and rest. They said they would, and Abraham had his servants get a nice dinner ready.

One asked, "Where is Sarah, thy wife?"
Abraham said she was inside the tent.
The traveller said, "You're blessed, because Sarah will have a baby boy."
Sarah heard what the man said, and laughed quietly, because she was too old to have babies.
The man said, "Why did Sarah laugh at what I said? Doesn't she know that nothing is too hard for the Lord to do?"
Sarah was embarrassed, then, for having laughed.

When they were finished eating, the three men started walking from Abraham's tent, down the road toward the city of Sodom, where Lot lived. Abraham walked a ways with them, talking. They told him that Jesus Christ was concerned because the people in Sodom were so wicked, and that He had sent them to look around the city, and destroy it.

That worried Abraham because Lot was there, and Lot was not wicked. So he asked them, "But if there are some, maybe 50, kind people in Sodom, will you still destroy the city?" They said, "No, of course not."

But Abraham thought that maybe there weren't 50 kind people there after all. He asked "Will you spare the city if there are just 45 kind people?"

They said, "No."

Abraham knew that if only Lot and his family were the only kind people there, there would be only a few, perhaps only 10 kind people there.

So he asked, "How about 40 kind people?" They said they would not hurt the city, then.

Next he asked "How about 30?" They said they would spare it for 30, also.

Abraham tried 20. No, they would not destroy Sodom if there were 20 kind people there.

Then Abraham tried 10. They said, "If there are but 10 kind people, will will not destroy Sodom."

Abraham was happy. Lot would be safe. He went home, and the three men went on toward Sodom.

Gomorrah was another wicked city near Sodom. One of the three men may have visited that city, and the other two went to Sodom. They got there about sunset.

Lot was near the city gates, and he saw that they were good men, and he invited them to stay at his house that night.

The two men had intended to walk the streets all night but Lot talked them into staying at his house. They had a good dinner. Just as they finished eating, Lot's neighbors, and many more people who lived in Sodom, came and knocked on Lot's door. They said, "We have your house surrounded. We want those 2 men out here, so we can hurt them." Lot went out and talked to them. He tried to talk them out of it, but they would not listen. They come near to breaking the door down. One of the two men opened the door a crack, just wide enough to pull Lot inside. The crowd outside would have come in, too, but the man caused everyone in the crowd to be blind for an hour. Being blind, they bumped into each other, and could not press on the door, so they didn't get in. Then they all wondered why they couldn't see, and they wandered off, holding their hands out in front of themselves, so as to not bump into anything.

The men told Lot, "Get all your family, and come with us out into the night and leave this city, because we will destroy it."

Lot had two married daughters in Sodom. He went to their homes and told them to come and save themselves. But they and their husbands would not believe him. They even made fun of him: "This city can't be destroyed. There is nothing bad about it."

So Lot went back to his house. He hoped that they would change their minds, so he didn't get ready to leave as fast as the two men wanted. They kept saying, "Hurry, please hurry."

Finally, when it began to get light in the east, the two men told Lot and his wife and two of his daughters that weren't married yet, and lived at home,

That they must go, and the two men took them by the hand and took them out of the City of Sodom.

Once outside the city gates, the two men told them to run and hide behind a mountain in the distance. There was a little city called Zoar nearer than the mountain, and Lot asked if they could run and hide in there. The two men said yes. They also told them that they should run without stopping and they should not look back. They promised to not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah until Lot was inside the little city.

Lot got there after the sun was up. The instant he stepped inside, Sodom and Gomorrah caught on fire in a big flash. Lot looked around and saw his two daughters were still with him, but he couldn't find his wife. A little later, he looked outside the city, and he found her a little ways away, but she was a pillar of salt. She had stopped and looked back. Lot was sad. After a few days in Zoar, Lot decided to go live in the mountains.

Whenever Abraham travelled with Sarah, he had her say that she was his sister, and she was, but she was also married to him. One time in the land of Gerar, the king took Sarah away to be his wife. Heavenly Father told him in a dream that Sarah was married already, and he must give her back to Abraham, or his own family couldn't have children. He gave Sarah back, and sent presents and gifts with her to Abraham, so Abraham wouldn't feel angry. After that, Abraham and Sarah enjoyed their stay in the land of Gerar.

Not long after this, Sarah had her promised baby boy. He was named Isaac. Sarah was proud to

have had a baby when she was 90 years old.

On Isaac's second birthday, they had a party. Ishmael, Isaac's half brother, made fun of Isaac and his party.
Sarah saw it, and asked Abraham to send Ishmael and his mother, Hagar, away.
Abraham didn't want to hurt anyone, so he prayed about it.
The Lord told him, "Send them out in the desert alone. It will be all right; I'll care for them."
So Abraham gave Hagar some bread, a bottle of water and told her and Ishmael to go away and not come back.
When the water in the bottle was all gone, Hagar thought they would die, so she had Ishmael stay under a sagebrush plant, and she went behind a hill of sand, because she didn't want to see him die.
Then Hagar cried. After some minutes, an angel called to her, and said, "Why are you crying, Hagar? Don't you see the well of water behind you?"
Hagar hadn't seen one when she had come to cry, but now she did. She filled the bottle with water and took it to Ishmael. After that, they got along well in the desert. Ishmael learned to shoot arrows real well. He grew up and got married.

Now, as Abraham was living in the land of Gerar, he and the king of Gerar, Abimelech, promised each other that they would always tell the truth and be friends.
One day, the king's servants came to a well of water that Abraham and his servants owned, and they drove them away from it, and said it was theirs.
Abraham went to Abimelech, and said, "I thought we were friends. Why did your servants steal my well?"
Abimelech was surprized. He said, "I didn't know they had done that

until right now, when you told me."
Together, they went to the well, and Abimelech made his servants give the well back to Abraham. Then Abraham gave Abimelech some sheep and cows as a present, and they promised all over again to always tell each other the truth and to be friends.

All this time, Isaac, Abraham's son, was growing. When he was about 12 years old, Jesus Christ came and told Abraham to take Isaac to a far away mountain, and offer him there as a sacrifice. Abraham wondered why. He had seen young people offered as sacrifices when he was growing up in Ur. In fact, he had almost been a sacrifice, himself. It scared him. Then, too, he loved his little Isaac, and now he would have to kill him. How would he ever have any grandchildren like Jesus had promised, if Isaac was sacrificed?
Even though Abraham wondered about these things, he always did what the Lord said.
The next morning, he got some wood for the sacrifice fire and put it on a donkey. He also got some food and water to take with them. Then he and Isaac and 2 helpers travelled toward the far off mountain. Isaac always liked to go on trips with his father.
After 3 days of walking, they came within sight of the mountain. Then Abraham told the helpers to camp there with the donkey, and he and Isaac would go to the mountain by themselves, and do the sacrifice.
Isaac carried the wood, and Abraham carried a torch to light it with, and a knife.
Isaac wondered about the sacrifice. Abraham hated to have to do this sacrifice.
Finally, Isaac asked, "Where is the lamb for the sacrifice? Father, we have forgotten to bring a lamb."
All Abraham could say was, "Son, God will provide a lamb when we get there."

So they climbed up to near the top of the mountain
Abraham piled some stones together to make an altar.
He arranged the wood in the usual way.
Then he said, "Isaac, you are to be the sacrifice.
The Lord has told me so."
Isaac was scared; but he knew that the Lord
often talked to his father, Abraham,
so he said, "I guess I had better
climb up on the wood."
So, after Isaac was up on the wood, Abraham said a
prayer, and took hold of the knife, and
held it over Isaac's chest.
Just then, an angel called to Abraham. He said,
"Stop! Don't hurt Isaac. The Lord doesn't
want you to hurt him; He only wanted to see
if you would give up your only son for Him.
Now look behind you, in the bushes.
There is a sheep there. Use it for the sacrifice."
Abraham looked, and saw the sheep. It had curled horns.
Its horns were caught in the bushes.
Abraham took it and put it on the wood in place of Isaac,
and offered it as the sacrifice.
Abraham was very happy to still have Isaac.
They walked back down the mountain very happy.

Sarah lived to see Isaac grow to be a young man.
When she was very old, she died.
Abraham wanted to bury her in a nice place, so he
talked to all the people around where he lived.
He said, "Who will sell me a sepulchre, or a nice cave,
where I can bury Sarah, my wife?"
They answered, "You choose which place of ours you want."
Abraham said, "Well, I really like Ephron's field and cave
the best. May I buy it, Ephron?"
Ephron said, "No. I'll give it to you. After all, we
all love you, and you're like a prince among us."
Abraham still wanted to pay for it, so they decided that

400 pieces of silver money would be right, and
Abraham gave Ephron 400 silver money pieces.
Then Abraham buried Sarah in a cave in that field.

Not long after this, Abraham had one of his best servants
go on a trip to find a wife for Isaac.
He promised to do his best.
Abraham wanted Isaac's wife to be from among
his relatives back in Chaldea,
but he didn't want Isaac to live there.
The servant had ten camels to carry things on.
Besides his things, he took presents to give to
the father of the girl he hoped to find.
All the way back to Chaldea, he worried about
how to find the right girl.
When he got there, he went to the city of Nahor
where Abraham had once lived.
The only way to make the right choice, he thought,
was to pray.
As he prayed, he told his idea to the Lord.
He and his camels were near a well. He knew
that each evening all the girls in the city would
come with their pitchers to get water
for their families.
He knew also, that any girl
would give him a drink, if he asked her.
He prayed, "When I ask for a drink, make it so that
the right girl will say 'Yes, and may I
give your camels a drink, too?'"
Right then, all the girls started coming for water.
The servant saw one especially pretty girl
who had just filled her large jar with water.
He ran up to her and said, "May I have a sip?"
This girl said, "Why yes. And I'll go back
and get another jar full
for your camels."
This made the servant happy.
He could see that his prayer had been answered.

When she came the second time, he took out an earring of gold, and two gold bracelets, and gave them to her for presents.

He asked, "Where do you live, and may I stay tonight with your family?"

She said, "Yes, we have plenty of food for the camels. My father is Bethuel, who is a nephew of Abraham, who moved away a long time ago."

Knowing this made the servant even happier.

He knelt and prayed aloud, "Thank you, Lord, because this girl is just what Abraham wants for Isaac."

This made the girl excited, and she ran away to her house and told her family. Her brother, Laban, got excited, too, when he heard her story. He ran to the well and led the servant home, and took care of his camels for him.

Laban & his father Bethuel invited the servant to have dinner with them, but he said, "Before I eat, I need to tell my story."

Then, he told them of how he had prayed to be able to find the right girl for Isaac to marry, and how then Rebekah (that was her name) had offered to give water to his camels.

Laban and Bethuel agreed that the Lord must have wanted these things to be so, and they said, "Yes, Rebekah may go with you back to where Abraham and Isaac live, and she may be Isaac's wife."

Then the servant reached into the bags he had brought, and gave presents to Rebekah and to Laban, and Bethuel & to their mother, also. Her mother would miss her if she went, and the servant hoped that the presents would make her feel better.

And then they all ate dinner.

The next morning, the servant got his camels ready to go back, and he asked Laban, "Is Rebekah ready to go now?" Laban left for a minute and came back with his mother. Together, they said, "Please let us have Rebekah for a few more days. Don't go yet."

But the servant was afraid that something might happen to stop Rebekah from going with him if he waited, so he said, "Please, can she come now? The Lord wants her to come."

They said they would call Rebekah and ask her. When she came, they asked, "Do you want to go with this man today?"

She said, "Yes."

So her father came out, and blessed her, because he knew of the Lord's promises to Abraham, and how the Lord would keep those promises good to Isaac, too.

And Rebekah went with the servant on one of the camels. They travelled for about a week.

One day, about the time the sun was ready to go down, Rebekah saw in the distance, a man who was walking toward them, very fast.

She couldn't tell who he was, but the servant told her, "That is Isaac. Every day at sunset he goes to the fields to think. He has seen our camels, and is anxious to see who it is that is travelling his way."

Rebekah got down off her camel right away, and ran to meet Isaac.

It was a happy day. The servant told Isaac everything that had happened — just as if the Lord had wanted it that way.

Isaac took Rebekah home, and said that she could stay in his mother's tent.

It wasn't long before Isaac and Rebecca got married.

It was quite some time before they had children,
however, for Rebekah could not have children.
Isaac prayed for her day after day.
The Lord heard his prayers, and after 20 years,
Rebekah was ready to have a baby.
But she felt the baby struggling inside of her.
She prayed about it, to find what was wrong.
The Lord told her that she would have twins,
and that they would always fight with each other,
and that the younger one would win
every time.
When they were born, they were still fighting.
The first one was red and hairy all over.
As he came out, the second one held onto his heel,
and then came out after him.
They named the first twin, Esau, because he was all red.
They named the second twin, Jacob.

Their grandfather, Abraham, was happy, but he was
about 160 years old. In 15 more years, he died.

Esau grew up to be a crafty hunter. He often hunted
and killed deer. His father, Isaac, grew to love
eating deer meat.
Jacob grew up to be a shepherd, and he made a farm, too.
Rebekah liked everything that Jacob did.
One day, Esau came back hungry from hunting.
He saw that Jacob had made a stew of beans and peas.
He asked Jacob if he could have some.
Jacob said "If you let me have all your privileges
of being the oldest in the family, you
may have some."
Esau said, "Of course you can have the privileges.
They never did me any good so far,
and if I don't get something to eat,
I think I'll die, and
I could use them then, either."
Jacob had Esau promise that the privileges would be

Jacob's from now on, and then he not only gave Esau some stew, but some bread, also.
The privileges of being oldest meant that you got the first and best blessing from your father when he got old, and that you got most of your father's belongings when he died, and that you could tell your younger brothers what to do and what not to do, in certain things.

Now Isaac, in the days when food was hard to get, dug wells for water. He was blessed, and had plenty of food and water. The Philistines many times came and took over Isaac's wells, and Isaac just moved away and dug a new one, each time.

Esau married girls that were not baptized. This worried his mother and father.

One day, Isaac told Esau, "Go hunt a deer and cook me some deer meat as I like it. After that, I will give you your birthright blessing."
Isaac knew he was old, and that he might die soon. He was also nearly blind.
Esau went away to hunt a deer.
Rebekah heard what Isaac said, and she knew that Jacob had bought the birthright from Esau. Father Isaac didn't think birthrights could be sold.
Rebekah told Jacob what to do to get the birthright-blessing. Here is what Rebekah and Jacob did.
Jacob got two goats from their flock. He didn't want to at first, because he was afraid that Father Isaac would find out their trick.
They killed the two goats, and skinned them. Then Rebekah cooked some of the meat, and added spices to help it taste like Esau's deer meat tasted.
She tied pieces of the goat fur onto Jacob's arms and neck. She had Jacob put on Esau's clothes.

Then she put a plate of the cooked goat meat into Jacob's hands, and told him to go to father Isaac as if he were Esau.

Father Isaac couldn't see very well, so he asked, "Who are you?" when Jacob went to him.
Jacob said, "I'm Esau. Here's the deer meat you wanted."
Isaac said, "You sure hunted fast this time, son."
Jacob said, "Heavenly Father helped me get it."
Isaac had his son come near, so he could feel him.
Jacob was scared that Isaac might find out their trick.
Isaac felt his arms, and said, "You talk like Jacob, but your arms are Esau's."
"Are you sure you're not Jacob?" Jacob said yes.
So Isaac ate the meat. He liked it.
Then he said, "Come and kiss me now, my son."
Isaac smelled the clothes. They smelled like Esau.
So Father Isaac blessed Jacob with the birthright blessing.
He said, "God will always make your plants grow well.
You'll always have plenty to eat.
All your brothers will have to obey you,
and you will rule over nations."
As soon as that was done, Jacob went out of the room.
And that very minute, Esau came in the room, carrying a plate of his delicious deer meat.
Esau said, "Here's the deer meat you wanted. Then you can bless me."
Father Isaac was surprized, "Who are you?" he called.
"Esau" was the answer.
Isaac felt bad inside. He said, "Someone else has already brought me deer meat, and I have blessed him!
And I can't take back the blessing."
Esau sat down and cried. "I know it was my brother, Jacob, who came and got the blessing.
Can you bless me, too, Father?"
Isaac said he could, but it would be a smaller blessing.

Esau was happy to have any blessing.
Father Isaac blessed Esau that he would always
have plenty to eat, but that he would
have to always obey his brother, Jacob.

After this, Esau said to himself,
"Father Isaac will die pretty soon, & the day after,
I'll kill Jacob."
Rebekah overheard this, and warned Jacob. She
suggested that he go away to the country where
she had grown up, and that he could live
a while with her brother, Laban.
Rebekah told Father Isaac that Jacob could get a
good wife from among the girls in her country.
Isaac liked that, and told Jacob he should marry
one of Laban's daughters. He blessed him
for the journey, & kissed him goodbye.

Jacob walked all day, and when it got dark,
he used a couple of stones for his pillow,
and went to sleep.
That night he dreamed of a ladder going up to heaven
where angels climbed up and down, and
the Lord stood at the top.
The Lord, Jesus Christ, told Jacob that all the
land around him was his, and that He would
keep him safe on his journey.
Jacob woke up and said, "This place where I'm sleeping
must be where God lives."
He named the place "The House of God".
He used the stones that were his pillow, to make
an altar, and he said, "God has promised me
such nice things, that I'll pay my tithing
always, and when I get back, I'll make
a house for God right here on this spot."
Then he travelled on.
After several days of walking, he came to the land
of Chaldea.

He saw a well where the flocks were watered every day. He talked to the shepherds there. They said that Uncle Laban lived in the city nearby. They pointed to a girl shepherd coming to the well with her father's sheep. "That is Rachel, Laban's daughter," they said.

Jacob liked Rachel from that moment on. He helped her get water for her sheep. He kissed her. Rachel was excited, too, and when she knew that he was Abraham's grandson, she ran home to tell her family.

Uncle Laban came to the well to meet Jacob. He said, "You're a cousin. Come and stay at our house." After about a month, Jacob was helping with the work. Uncle Laban said, "What should I pay you for your work?"

Jacob said, "If I work for you for seven years, will you let me marry Rachel?"

Uncle Laban said, "Yes. That's nice."

The seven years went by fast for Jacob, because he loved Rachel so much. When the time was up, Jacob said, "O.K.; I want to marry Rachel now." Uncle Laban made a big party, and Jacob got married. Girls had to wear veils at weddings, and Jacob couldn't tell that he had really married Leah, Rachel's big sister. Leah never took off her veil until they got to Jacob's tent the next day.

Then Jacob was hopping mad. He went right to Uncle Laban and asked, "Why did you trick me?"

Uncle Laban said, "Over here, the oldest girl must get married before any others do." "I'll make another party next week, and you can marry Rachel then. But since you'll have two of my girls, you'll have to work another seven years for me."

Jacob agreed to that. He didn't want to go home any too soon because Esau might still be angry.

Jacob liked Rachel the best. Leah felt left out. It was not fair, so God let Leah have four children, and Rachel had none. Rachel worried about that, and she had Jacob marry her handmaid, Bilhah. Bilhah had two children. Leah and Bilhah had both had all boys. Leah's were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, & Judah. Bilhah's were called Dan and Naphtali. Leah let her handmaid, Zilpah, marry Jacob, also. Zilpah had two sons, named Gad and Asher. Later, Leah had two more sons, named Issachar & Zebulon. She even had a daughter, named Dinah. All the while, Rachel had not been able to have babies. Finally, she had a boy. They called him Joseph. All this had taken about seven years.

Jacob said to Uncle Laban then, I'd better go back home. Uncle Laban said, "Please don't. You have been so much help to me that we're both getting rich. If you leave now, I'll get poorer."

Jacob thought about it for a while. Then he had an idea. He would stay, but he would get richer but at the same time, he would help Laban get poorer. He knew a trick. He said, "O.K. I'll stay if you'll pay me by letting me have any sheep or cow or goat that is speckled or spotted."

Uncle Laban thought this would be fine. So Jacob stayed.

Over the years, Jacob would have some special sticks for the animals to look at when they had babies. Looking at the special sticks made their babies have spots.

Jacob did this trick with all the animals that he wanted to. Pretty soon, he had twice as many sheep, cows, & goats as Uncle Laban. Uncle Laban began to feel angry with Jacob. Uncle Laban had played many tricks on Jacob, but he didn't like to have tricks played on himself. Then, one night, Jesus Christ came to Jacob in a dream and told him to start travelling back home. The next day, he had all four of his wives, and their children, get ready to leave. They left, and didn't tell Uncle Laban they had gone. When Uncle Laban learned three days later that Jacob had left, he went after him, and chased him. After one week, he caught up with Jacob. Just before he did, "The Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said, "Laban, don't hurt Jacob." Uncle Laban tried to make Jacob feel bad about leaving. He also tried to find some idols that had been taken. Rachel had taken them, and hid them under her seat on the camel, & she told him that she was sick and couldn't get up. Laban never found them. Jacob tried to make Uncle Laban feel bad for having chased him all this way. After that Jacob and Uncle Laban made a promise to each other that they would never fight each other. They built a pile of stones to remember their promise. Then Uncle Laban went home.

Jacob travelled on, and sent messengers to Esau, who was still two days' travel away. The messengers returned from Esau, & told Jacob that Esau was coming to meet him with 400 men. Jacob was sad. He had hoped that Esau would have forgiven him, and here he was coming with an army. Jacob divided his families into 2 parts, so that if one part was pecked on, the other could run away.

Jacob prayed that Esau might be kind.
Next, he sent 3 small flocks of goats ahead,
as presents to Esau.

When they came to a river to cross, Jacob helped
everyone across, and he got all his goats,
cows, camels, & sheep across.
Then it was dark, and so Jacob didn't cross,
but he slept that night on the river bank, alone.
He didn't sleep much, though, because an angel came,
and wrestled with him until daylight came.
Jacob was so strong that the angel couldn't get away.
Finally, the angel touched Jacob's hip, and
hurt him.
But still Jacob would not let go. The angel asked,
"What do you want, then?"
Jacob asked for a blessing, and for the angel's name.
The angel would not tell his name, but he
blessed Jacob by giving him a new name.
That name was Israel.
After that, the angel left, and the sun came up.
Jacob crossed the river, but he hobbled
because of his hip, which was now lame.

Pretty soon, Jacob saw Esau coming, with his 400 men.
Jacob was scared, but still, he stepped
ahead of all his families and went
to meet Esau before he got any closer.
Just before they met, Jacob bowed down to Esau.
When he raised up, Esau stepped forward and hugged him.
Then he kissed him.
They both cried; they were so happy.
Esau said "I've missed you, Jacob."
He also asked, "Is all this people your family?
Jacob introduced all his wives and his children.
Then Esau said, "What were all those cows & goats & sheep
I met as I came to you?"
Jacob said, "They are for you, Esau."

Esau said, "Keep them, brother; I have enough myself."
Jacob was so thankful to find Esau liked him,
that he wanted Esau to have them anyway.
Esau said, "O.K., but bring everyone and stay at
my house. Follow me."
Jacob said, "You go ahead. We'll take our time,
because it will hurt my cows to go fast."
So Esau went on home.
Jacob may have stayed a few days at Esau's house.
Later he bought a place nearby where he could
raise his families.

(Story of Dinah left out.)

One day, the Lord had Jacob take his family
on a trip to where he had dreamed of the ladder.
They all enjoyed it, but Rachel had a baby boy
on the way back. He was named Benjamin.
Something went wrong, and when the boy was born,
his mother, Rachel, died.
This happened near Bethlehem, and they buried
Rachel there.
Jacob was sad.
Just when Jacob began to feel better,
his father, Isaac, died.
He had lived to be 180 years old.

(Story of Judah & Tamar left out.)

As Joseph grew up, his father Jacob loved him the best.
Joseph often told Jacob when any of his 10 older brothers
did anything bad.
They all disliked him when he did that.
They were jealous of Joseph also because his father
liked him the best.
Then, Father Jacob had a coat made especially for Joseph,
one that had all the colors of the rainbow in it.
After that, his brothers were more jealous than before

Besides that, Joseph dreamed a dream one night where he & his 11 brothers were sheaves of wheat, and their sheaves all bowed down to his.
Joseph also dreamed another night.
In that dream, the sun & the moon and 11 stars all bowed down to him.
His father, Jacob, made fun of it, because usually fathers & mothers, which were like the sun and moon, don't bow down to children.
But his older brothers hated him now.

One day, while the older brothers were tending the sheep far from home, Father Jacob had Joseph go on a trip to where they were, so he could come back & tell him how they were doing.
Joseph's brothers did not like being checked on.
When they first caught sight of Joseph as he walked toward them, they made an evil plan.
They would catch Joseph & kill him & bury him & only tell Father Jacob that a lion had killed him.
One brother, Reuben, thought that was too evil.
He thought he could hide Joseph away, & after a while, find him again, and everyone could be happy.
So, when Joseph came, they all caught him, & put him in a big, deep pit, where he couldn't climb out without help.

Then, they ate dinner.
While they ate, a caravan came by.
Judah had an idea: they could sell Joseph to someone in the caravan, to be a slave. Then if those people killed him, at least the brothers could say they hadn't done it, or so they thought.
So they sold Joseph for 20 silver money pieces.

Reuben had been away, and when he came back, he

went to get Joseph out of the pit and hide him.
He was surprized that Joseph was gone.
Later, the brothers dipped Joseph's colored coat
in the blood of a goat they had killed.
Then, they took it to Father Jacob, and said some lies:
"We found this coat by the road.
Does it belong to anybody we know?"
Father Jacob was heartbroken. He cried.
He imagined that Joseph had been eaten by a lion.
The brothers were surprized that Father Jacob
would cry so hard for Joseph.

Now, the people in the caravan didn't really need a slave,
so when they got to Egypt, they sold Joseph to a
man, named Potiphar, who was quite important in Egypt.
He was captain of the Pharoah's guard.
After a while, Potiphar saw that anything and everything
he told Joseph to do, turned out right.
This was because Joseph prayed, and
Heavenly Father blessed Joseph.
Potiphar didn't know about Heavenly Father,
but he liked what Joseph did,
and he made Joseph the boss of his whole house.
Heavenly Father blessed Potiphar's whole house and
everyone there, because of Joseph's prayers.
Potiphar liked Joseph more and more.

Potiphar's wife one day asked Joseph to do something evil.
Joseph would not do it, and she grew angry.
When Potiphar came home that night, she told him a lie.
She told him that Joseph did something evil.
Potiphar was sad, but he had to believe his wife,
so he had Joseph put in jail.

Joseph did not like being in jail. No one did.
But Joseph did everything that the jail keeper said to,
that was helpful or kind,
and Joseph prayed every day, too.

Pretty soon, the jail keeper told Joseph,
"You have been so good, that I'll let you watch over the men in this jail, like I do. I'm going away for a day. You can watch over them while I'm gone."

Joseph did just as he was told. He let the men be as happy as you could be in a jail, but he never let any of them out of jail, even when they asked. He never left the jail, either.

When the jail-keeper returned, he was happy with the way Joseph had done things. Pretty soon, he let Joseph help him in his job, even when he didn't go away. They became good friends.

Meanwhile, Pharoah sent his butler and his baker to jail. They hadn't done any big wrong, but each one had made the Pharoah angry.

They didn't like jail, either. Joseph tried to help them like it, though.

After a few months, the butler and the baker both dreamed a dream one night.

Joseph noticed that they looked extra sad the next morning. They told him, "We have each had a dream, and we don't know what they mean. We're scared. Who can tell us?"

Joseph said, "Tell me your dreams, and I'll pray to Heavenly Father, and He'll help me know what they mean."

The butler told his:
There was a grape vine with 3 branches, and I pecked the grapes & squoze out the juice and gave it to Pharoah.

Joseph prayed, & said,
"That means that in 3 days, Pharoah will forgive you, and you'll be back with him.
Now, when you get there, remind him of me, and that I'd like to be out of jail sometime. I haven't done anything to deserve being in jail."

The baker was encouraged by all this, and he told his dream:

I was carrying 3 baskets of bread and cookies on my head, and some birds came and ate them all gone.

Joseph prayed, & said,
"That means that in 3 days, Pharoah will order you to be killed."

The baker was sad.

In three days, it was the Pharoah's birthday, and he wanted to drink, so he had his butler let out of jail, so he could bring him drinks all day. He didn't want cakes, and so when he thought of it, he sent word to have the baker killed.

However, the butler forgot all about Joseph. He didn't tell the Pharoah about him.

Two whole years went by.

One night, Pharoah had a dream where 7 fat cows came up out of a river, and grazed on some grass on the river bank. Next, 7 thin cows came up out of the river. They stood by the 7 fat cows. Pretty soon, the thin cows ate the fat cows.

That surprised Pharoah, and he woke up.

He turned over in bed and went back to sleep.

He dreamt again. This time 7 ears of corn grew on one corn stalk. They were big. Then, 7 more ears grew on it, too. They were small.

Pretty soon, the 7 small ears of corn ate up the 7 big ears of corn.

That surprised Pharoah, and he woke up.

Now it was close to morning, and he didn't get back to sleep.

As soon as the sun came up, he called together all the wise men of his country, Egypt.

He told them of the 2 strange dreams, and asked them what the dreams meant.

Not one of the wise men knew.

But a little later, his butler heard about what was bothering him. Then the butler remembered about Joseph.
He went to the Pharoah and told him how Joseph had been able to tell him and the baker what their strange dreams had meant.
The Pharoah was happy when he heard this.
He sent to have Joseph brought to him.
Joseph was happy to be able to see the Pharoah and talk to him. He shaved & changed his clothes and combed his hair.
When the Pharoah told Joseph how the wise men couldn't tell him what the dreams meant, Joseph told him, "I will pray to Heavenly Father about your dreams. He always helps me. I don't know, either, until after I pray."
So the Pharoah told his strange dreams to Joseph, who prayed, & then told him:
"The two dreams mean the same thing. They are a warning from God, that for 7 years there will be plenty to eat, and that afterward, another 7 years will come where there is little to eat, and everyone will get hungry."
Joseph gave the Pharoah some advice:
"Get someone to be in charge of storing away food for the next 7 years. Then he can sell that food in the 7 years after that. People will be hungry then, and they will need food, and will buy it."
Pharoah was extra happy when he heard that.
He said, "Joseph, I choose you to be the one in charge of storing away food. You can boss everybody in Egypt, except me, alone."
Pharoah held a party to have everyone meet Joseph and see that he was boss. He did this by giving Joseph special clothes and an official seal.

So, the next 7 years were good years, and Joseph stored away plenty of corn and food. There was so much that he stored away, that he didn't bother to count what he stored after the first few years.

Joseph also got married, and pretty soon they had 2 baby boys.

Then the 7 bad years began. It didn't rain for a long time. No food or corn grew. When the people got hungry, they asked Pharoah to help them. Pharoah told them to go to Joseph. Joseph sold them corn & food. People from other countries also came and paid money for food.

Gen 42 In the Holy Land, Jacob heard that Egypt would sell corn. He told his sons about it. He sent 10 of them to Egypt to buy some corn. He kept Benjamin home. He loved Benjamin about as much as he had loved Joseph 20 or 30 years before. He didn't want Benjamin to die, as he thought that Joseph had.

When the 10 brothers got to Egypt, Joseph knew who they were when he saw them. They didn't know who he was, though, and Joseph kept it a secret. He said, "You must be spies." They said they were not spies, but that they had a little brother, Benjamin, at home. Joseph said, "I will believe that you are not spies, only if you bring Benjamin for me to see." Joseph had the guards put the 10 brothers in jail.

When they had been in jail 3 days, Joseph told them "I will be kind; I will let 9 of you buy some

corn to take back. One of you must stay here in jail until the 9 brothers come back with the brother called Benjamin.

This made the 10 brothers worry, & they said, "Why did we ever sell Joseph as a slave? Now, Father Jacob won't let Benjamin come with us, and then one of us who has to stay in jail, can't ever get out." Joseph turned his face away and cried when he heard how sorry they were now for what they had done to him. But he still kept it a secret. He kept Simeon in jail & sent the other 9 brothers off with their corn sacks full. Secretly, he also hid their money in their sacks, too.

He kept it a secret that he understood their talking

On the way back to the Holy Land, one of the 9 found that his money was in a sack. The other brothers thought that he would be in trouble. When they arrived home, and showed the corn to their father, Jacob, all the brothers found their money in their sacks. Now they would all be in trouble.
Father Jacob would not let them take Benjamin to Egypt & get Simeon out of jail, so they just stayed home.

43 When they had eaten all the corn, they again asked to take Benjamin to Egypt. Only when they promised with all their hearts that they would not let him be put in jail, or anything, did father Jacob let them go. He made sure they took the money they had found in their sacks, and some new money, to buy more corn.

When they got to Egypt, they went to see Joseph. Joseph invited them to a dinner, at his house.

The brothers were worried. At the start of the dinner, Simeon was brought out of jail. The brothers gave Joseph some nice gifts. When Joseph saw Benjamin, he went to his bedroom for a few minutes & cried. He wanted so much to hug him, but he could not do it, until he had proved his brothers, and tested their love without them knowing him. Then, he went back to have dinner. Joseph served the food. He gave Benjamin the biggest portions.

44 In the morning, after they had bought corn, the 11 brothers happily started off on the trip home. They hadn't gone far when Joseph & his guards caught up with them and stopped them. They said, "We think one of you has taken Joseph's drinking cup." The brothers said, "No, we didn't, you can look through our sacks." Joseph said, "Fine, but whoever has it will be put in jail & I'll never let him out." The brothers said, "OK, come & look." When they got to Benjamin's pack, there was the cup. Joseph said, "OK. The rest of you can go, but Benjamin can't." Judah said, "No, keep me in jail instead. Benjamin is too precious to us." Now Joseph knew that his brothers were truly sorry for hurting him, &
45 selling him as a slave. He had all the brothers get close around him, & he cried, & he said, "I am Joseph, your brother." They didn't believe him. Then Joseph said, "You see, Heavenly Father didn't let me die as a slave in Egypt, but He raised me up to help save everyone, and you, from going hungry. Now go back home & have father Jacob bring everyone down to Egypt to live near me. That way you will be close to where the corn is. There are still 5 more years

of hunger ahead, so it will be good for him to come & live here." The Pharoah himself came in, and said, "Here are plenty of wagons to bring your families here in. Hurry back."

When the 11 brothers arrived home and told father Jacob that his Joseph was not dead, he didn't believe them. But they showed him all the wagons, & he began to believe.

46 So Jacob & all his family & the 11 brothers & their families travelled to Egypt. Judah went ahead & had Joseph come out on the road & meet them. Joseph hugged & kissed his father for a long time. Then he had them go live in the land of Goshen, near to the capital of Egypt.

47 Joseph brought his father Jacob to visit Pharoah.
Jacob gave Pharoah a blessing.
Everyone was happy.
One day Jacob gave each of his sons a blessing.
He blessed Joseph's 2 boys, Ephraim & Manasseh, too.
A little while after, Jacob died.
He was 147 years old.

50 Joseph & his 11 brothers took his body back to the Holy Land, and buried it there.

After a long time of happiness, Joseph died, too.
He was 110 years old.
All the brothers died, too.
Their children & grandchildren lived on.
They had more children.
They were all called Israelites.

Exodus

1 A new Pharaoh ruled in Egypt, one day. He was afraid of the Israelites, because there were so many of them. He tried many ways to keep their children from living.

2 One father & mother, Amram & Jochebel, had a baby boy. They put him into a small cradle that floated on the river. They had their daughter, Miriam watch it as it floated down the river.

Pharoah's daughter saw the cradle floating, & had one of her maids go get it for her. She looked inside & saw the baby. Miriam said she would help her get a nurse for the baby. She got her mother. Pharoah's daughter named the baby, Moses. Moses grew up thinking that Pharoah's daughter was his mother.

When Moses grew up, he saw an Egyptian hurting an Israelite. He didn't think that was right, & he hurt the Egyptian. The Egyptian died. The next day Moses was telling an Israelite not to hit another Israelite. The Israelite said, "Why tell me? Didn't you hit an Egyptian, and he died?"

When Pharoah heard about Moses' killing an Egyptian, he wanted to kill Moses. But Moses ran away. He went to the land of Midian. When Moses first got to that land, he rested by a well. Jethro's seven daughters brought their sheep there for a drink. Some mean shepherds scared their sheep away. But Moses fought the mean shepherds and made them go away. Then he helped the girls get water for their sheep.

So the girls were able to go back home early. Jethro was surprized to see them back early. When he asked, they told him about the man who had helped them. Jethro said, "Invite him to dinner." Moses liked being there. He stayed and lived there. He married the oldest girl, Zipporah. They soon had a baby. They named him Gershon.

3 One day, as Moses was tending his sheep near a mountain, he saw a bush on fire. No other bushes were on fire, and Moses wondered at it. He went up to see it. The Lord, Jesus Christ, made the bush look like it was on fire. When Moses got close, He said, "Moses, I am God. I am ready to have the Israelites go free from Egypt, and to go back to the Holy Land. I know that it hurts them to be slaves, and I want you to go talk to Pharoah and have him let my people go." He will not want to do that, and so I will worry him by hurting the country of Egypt, and then he will let my people go. Then my people can take the treasures of Egypt and go."

4 Moses said, "What if Pharoah makes fun of me?" The Lord told him to throw his staff on the ground. It turned into a snake. Moses tried to hide from it. The Lord told him to take hold of it by the tail. He did and it became a staff again. The Lord also gave Moses power to turn his skin white & scaly & then to heal it.

Moses said "But I have a hard time pronouncing words right." The Lord answered, "I made you. I can help you when you need it." But Moses doubted. The Lord told him to have his brother,

Aaron, help him, & the Lord would help both of them. He said, "Aaron can talk well. He is on his way here."

Aaron met Moses & his family as they were going to Egypt. Together, they went to Egypt. They showed the Israelites the power that the Lord had given Moses. They all liked Moses.

Moses & Aaron went to see Pharoah. They asked him to let the Israelites go. Pharoah told them, "No." Then Pharoah said, "The Israelites have it too easy. Taskmasters, make them gather their own straw + and don't let them make any fewer bricks because of that." This made the Israelites sad. They had to work harder than ever, now. They wished that Moses & Aaron had not talked to Pharoah.

6 Moses asked the Lord what had gone wrong. The Lord said, "Nothing is wrong. I told you that it wouldn't be easy. Pharoah won't let my people go right away, but he will."

But when Moses told this to the Israelites, they didn't believe him.

7 The next time the Lord told Moses to go see Pharoah again, Moses told Him, "The Israelites don't believe what I said to them. I certainly don't think Pharoah will. He'll make fun of me." The Lord told Moses to convince Pharoah with his staff.

So Moses & Aaron went to see Pharoah. Moses had Aaron throw the staff down, & it became a snake. Pharoah laughed, & called his magicians. They put down staffs & they became snakes, too. But Moses & Aaron's snake ate up their snakes. Then Aaron caught the snake & it became a staff again. But

still Pharoah would not let the Israelites go.

So one morning soon after, the Lord told Moses, "Go see Pharoah right now. He will inspect the river this morning." And He told Moses what to do.
Moses & Aaron were by the river when Pharoah got there. Moses said, "Let the Israelites go, or else the water all around will be turned to blood. When Pharoah said no, Aaron pointed the staff at the river, and the water turned to blood. Pharoah said, "My magicians could have done that, too." He did not realize that the water already in bottles had also turned to blood. It tasted bad, so everyone got thirsty. All the fish died, too, and the smell was awful. The water stayed blood for most of that week. Then it went back to water.

The next week, the Lord told Moses to go and see Pharoah again. He told Moses what to say. So after Moses asked Pharoah again to let the Israelites go, and Pharoah said no, then Moses said, "Frogs will come. They will be all over." Aaron pointed the staff at the river, & frogs started coming. Pharoah had his magicians do the same thing, and frogs came for them, too. Then Moses & Aaron went home.
In a little while, a messenger came from Pharoah asking them to come back. When they got there, Pharoah said, "This is too much. The frogs are even in my bed. I'll let the Israelites go, if you'll just take the frogs away."
So Moses went home & prayed for the frogs to go away. The next morning, all the frogs that were not in the river died. Their dead bodies smelled bad. But Pharoah was happy.

He forgot how bad the frogs had been.
He decided not to let the Israelites go,
after all.
So the Lord told Moses to have Aaron touch
the dirt with the staff, the next time
they talked to Pharoah. When Aaron
did that, lice started jumping on everyone.
Pharoah told his magicians to do that, too,
but they tried, and couldn't make lice come
like Aaron had. They told Pharoah, "The Lord
has sent the lice. You'd better believe Moses & Aaron."
But he wouldn't believe.

So the Lord told Moses to go meet Pharoah the
next morning while he was at the river. This
time, when Pharoah said no, the Lord caused
that great swarms of flies should come into
everywhere — even in the houses. But in the
land of Goshen, where the Israelites lived, there
were no flies at all.
In a short time, Pharoah was tired of the
flies, & called Moses back & said, "Make
the flies go, & you can go." Moses later
prayed for the flies to go away. The next day
there were no flies, but Pharoah changed
his mind & said no, you can't go.

So the Lord told Moses to go see Pharoah again
the next day, & tell him all of Egypts cattle
would get sick & die, while no Israelite cow
would get sick at all. Moses told that to
Pharoah. The day after, Egyptian cows started
dying. In a few days, all their cows were dead.
Pharoah was amazed that no Israelite cow died,
but he still would not let the Israelites go.

The next time the Lord sent Moses to see Pharoah, Moses put some ashes into the air. Soon everyone that was not an Israelite had sore boils on their skin. They hurt. But still, Pharoah said no.

The time after that, Moses said a hail storm would come the next day. Wherever the hail landed, it made fire. It killed or burned camels, horses, or people that were outside. But it did not hail on the Israelites. Pharoah was scared & said that the Israelites could go. Moses stopped the storm. Then Pharoah changed his mind, & said no again.

10 The next time, Moses warned Pharoah that an east wind would bring locusts. The wind blew hard for a day, & then the locusts came. There were so many you couldn't see the ground when they landed. They ate all the food in Egypt. Pharoah called for Moses & said, "The Israelites can go. Just take away these locusts." When Moses prayed, the Lord made a strong west wind that blew the locusts away. Pharoah was happy, so he changed his mind, & said no again.

After that the Lord told Moses to call for darkness. The Egyptians couldn't get any fires started at all, but the Israelites could. Pharoah called for Moses & said "The Israelites can go; only please leave your cattle, because ours are all dead." Moses said no. So Pharoah said no. Then Pharoah said, "Don't come to me any more. If you do I'll have you killed."

Exodus

11 The next day the Lord told Moses to have all the Israelites gather any gold or jewels that the Egyptians would let them have. They were able to get plenty, because most of the Egyptians liked Moses & wanted the Israelites to be able to go free. Only Pharoah hated Moses.
Then Moses went & told Pharoah, "At midnight, any one that is first born in a family will die. Then you will let us go!" Moses almost shouted that at the Pharoah. Then he left.

12 The Lord told Moses how to protect the first born in Israelite families. Each family killed a young lamb, & painted their doorway with some of its blood. The Lord knew that Pharoah would now let the Israelites go. The next day, so He told Moses to have them roast their lambs & eat them, and to eat some bread that was flat because it was made in a hurry. They were to eat it standing up, too, as if they were ready to go out the door.

So at midnight, death came to every Egyptian that was oldest in his family. It passed by the Israelites, who had blood on their doorways. Pharoah couldn't stand seeing so many Egyptians die. While it was still dark, he told Moses to go away & take all the Israelites with him. The Egyptians gave the Israelites presents of gold & jewels as they left.
The Israelites travelled until they got to the shore of a sea. The Lord told Moses to have them camp there, because He had one more thing he wanted to happen to Pharoah. Pharoah had decided to chase the Israelites & get them back. He got there in the evening when they were camping.

The Israelites saw the Egyptians coming, & were afraid, & complained to Moses, "The Egyptians are here to kill us!"

The Lord took the pillar of fire that He lit their camp with, & put it between them & the Egyptians. It still lit their camp, but He made the side where the Egyptians were, to be dark. But it was hot & smoky, so the Egyptians never got to the Israelites.

Moses stretched out his hand Toward the sea, & the Lord made a strong east wind. It blew for a long time. After a while, it divided the sea, so that there was a dry path across it. The Israelites crossed the sea later that night by walking on that dry path. Towards morning, the Lord let the Egyptians get by, & chase the Israelites again. He made Trouble for them. Some of their chariot wheels came off. Some got stuck in the sand between the walls of water. Then He had Moses stretch out his hand again to the sea. The walls of water went down, & drowned all the Egyptians in the sea. Not one was left.
Moses & all the Israelites held a party. They were happy.
The next day, after the party, they Travelled on. After seeing alot of desert, they came to a spring. The water tasted bitter. They complained to Moses. The Lord told Moses to throw a stick into the spring. He did. Then the water tasted like it should. The people were happy.
The next place they stopped at that had water had 12 wells of water and 70 palm trees.

16 From there, they had to travel in the desert for two whole weeks without being able to get extra food or water. After one week, they ran out of food, and they got hungry.
Again, they complained to Moses.

"You brought us here to starve us to death!" they said. Moses prayed. The Lord told Moses what He was going to do for them. Moses and Aaron told the people. Then, near sunset, quail flew down & walked or hopped along the ground. The people caught them with their hands, and cooked them for dinner. Then, in the morning, as the dew disappeared from the ground, it left things like white cookies on the ground. Everyone tried eating it. It tasted alot like cookies. Moses told them to gather enough to eat for a day. In a little while, any of it that was left, disappeared. Someone tried gathering enough for a week. It spoiled & didn't taste good. Moses told him, "The Lord wants you to take only as much as you need each day, because He will make more appear tomorrow morning, & every morning. But on Friday, gather enough for 2 days, because He wants Saturday, the Sabbath, to be a day of rest. He won't send any on Saturdays." Everyone was happy. They called the white cookie-like things, "Manna."

17 In another few days, they also ran out of water. The people went & told Moses, "We need water; Tell the Lord to send us some." Moses said "You're supposed to ask the Lord, not tell Him." They got angry with Moses & wanted to throw rocks at him. Moses prayed. The Lord told Moses to go hit a certain rock with his stick, & water would come out of the rock. Moses did this, & everyone got water.

About this time, the people of Amalek came as an army to fight the Israelites. Moses told Joshua, "Choose some men to make us an army, & go fight the Amalekite army. I'll watch,

from on top of a hill." Moses went up the hill, & Joshua took some men out to fight. Moses held his hands high for a while, as if to encourage Joshua & his men. They fought well. When his hands got tired, he let them down & rested them. But then, the Amalekites began to win. So Aaron, & another man named Hur, propped Moses' hands up high. Then Joshua & his men started to win. Moses let his hands be propped up all day. Joshua & his men fought well all day. They chased the Amalekites away.

18 After the Israelites got to Mount Sinai, Jethro, Moses' father in law came over to see him. He was happy when Moses told him how the Lord had brought the people out of Egypt. The next day, Jethro watched Moses judge, or settle arguments, among the people. Hundreds of people came to him wanting him to help settle their arguments. Jethro told Moses, "Why don't you start having neighborhood judges. They each can help settle arguments near where they live. That way, only the big arguments will be brought to you. Then you'll have time left to be with your family." Moses liked what Jethro said & he chose some men to help him, by being neighborhood judges. It worked well. Then Jethro went home.

19 Soon, one day, the Lord told Moses that He liked the people, & that He wanted to come down to them and let them hear His voice. He said "I'll come down in a dark cloud, so they won't see Me. But they will hear Me.

Make sure that nobody — not even the cows — touch the mountain. If they do, you must hurt them, until they die. Be sure that everyone washes his clothes tomorrow, and I'll come down in a dark cloud the day after tomorrow."

So everyone washed their clothes, and on that certain morning, a thick cloud came & covered the top of the mountain. There was lightning & thunder & earthquakes. Moses went up & talked to the Lord. He told Moses to make real sure that no one was going to touch the mountain, & then to bring Aaron up with him to talk. When Moses got back down, the people were standing further than usual from the mountain. They said, "We heard the Lord speaking, and we got scared. From now on, please have the Lord talk to you, & not to us. We'll believe what you tell us from the Lord, and that will be good enough."

The Lord had told them the 10 Commandments:

1. Don't have any other gods to worship.
2. Don't make any statues to worship.
3. Don't swear.
4. Don't work on the Sabbath day.
5. Honor your father & your mother, because then you'll live a long time.
6. Don't kill.
7. Don't love any husband or wife except your own.
8. Don't steal.
9. Don't lie.
10. Don't want what belongs to someone else.

Soon after, the Lord gave more things for the people to do, but He told them only to Moses, because the people were afraid. Moses told the people what the Lord had said.

Soon, the Lord Told Moses to bring Aaron, Nadab & Abihu, & 70 elders up the mountain to see Him. When they got there, they saw the Lord. He was standing on a pedastal made of a jewel, sapphire.

On another day, the Lord had Moses bring Joshua up with him. The Lord had alot to say, and Moses was up there 40 days. He also gave Moses 2 slabs of stone with the 10 Commandments written on them. They had writing on both sides.

But the people, back at the camp, wondered why Moses stayed so long. They had said, "For all we know, Moses is dead. We need something to do for religion, since Moses is dead." They talked Aaron into making them a statue to worship. He made it out of gold, & it looked like a calf.

At that same moment, the Lord Told Moses, "The people have worshipped a statue. You'd better go down & remind them that just a few weeks ago they promised not to. In fact, why shouldn't I just kill them all with one stroke of lightning, and just save you & your small family to be the nation of Israel."
Moses said, "No, if the people back in Egypt hear of it, they'll say — 'That people never amounted to much after all.' —. So please don't hurt them. I'll try to see that they obey Thee better from now on."
So Moses took the 2 slabs of stone & went down the mountain. Joshua was waiting half-way down. He could hear that there was noise in the camp, but he didn't know what it meant. Moses did, though. He went to where the people could see him, & he called to them.

Exodus 32

As they looked, Moses threw the 2 stone slabs down & broke them. Then he took the statue & burned it & ground what was left into a powder form. Then he mixed the powder in some water & made everyone in camp drink some of it.

But yet, Moses could tell that some of them still might like to worship statues. So he had the Tribe of Levi get their swords and kill everyone that said they still liked to worship statues.

In the months that followed, Moses would have a special tent put up where he could pray & talk to the Lord without going up on a mountain. The cloud that the Lord was in would go over to that special tent, & there Moses could talk to him face to face. Moses sometimes took Joshua with him to the tent, but he did not yet let Joshua in, to talk to the Lord. In fact anyone who did not hold the Melchizedek Priesthood, or anyone the Lord was angry with, could not be allowed to see the Lord. For a few days He wouldn't let even Moses see Him, after the people had worshipped the statue. Meanwhile:

34

The Lord had Moses make 2 stone slabs like the ones that were broken. He had Moses take them up to the top of Mount Sinai. When he got there, the Lord talked to him. He had Moses chisel the words of the 10 Commandments into the stone. It took 40 days. All that time the Lord talked with Moses, & all that time Moses didn't eat or drink. Then, when it was done, he carried the 2 stone slabs down the mountain. The people, when they saw Moses, said,

"Your face is extra white, it shines." Moses said, "That's because I was near the Lord all the time." The people had Moses wear a veil over his face for a while, because they couldn't stand the brightness of Moses' face.

After this, Moses chose workmen to build a very special tent where the Lord could come & talk to Moses, & Moses would not always have to go up on a mountain. It had gold parts, & wood parts, & yet looked like a tent. Moses also had women sew curtains to go in it, for some parts more special than others, had to be closed off with curtains. After it was all done, the cloud where the Lord was came over that very special tent.
On days when they were to travel, the cloud would leave the tent & go before them. When they were to stay camped, the cloud would stay over the tent.

Leviticus

1 Then, Moses anointed Aaron & his sons & made them priests, and taught them how to offer the sacrifices that the Lord commanded. The next day, Moses had Aaron do the sacrifices himself. He did well. But, after it was all done, 2 of Aaron's sons made a small sacrifice, just to see what it was like. The fire jumped at them & killed them both. When Moses realized what had happened, he told their father, Aaron, "They were killed because the Lord had not told them to do that sacrifice. They were priests, & they should have known."

Now, Aaron had just 2 sons left. Moses told Aaron & his 2 sons to do a special sacrifice. Moses had heard the Lord say he wanted it, after the first 2 sons had died. They did the sacrifice, but not just as Moses had asked. Moses was angry with Aaron's 2 remaining sons. Aaron told Moses, "Let it be my fault, instead, as their father, because I've done certain things which make it so." and Moses felt better.

Numbers

Before they had been in the desert long, the Lord told Moses to count how many men there were that could be in an army. It was a big job. A man from each of the 12 tribes was to see that the men from his tribe were counted right. They counted 47,000 of the Tribe of Reuben,
and 59,000 Simeon,
" 46,000 Gad,
" 74,000 Judah,
" 54,000 Issachar,
" 57,000 Zebulon,
" 41,000 Ephraim,
" 32,000 Manasseh,
" 35,000 Benjamin
" 63,000 Dan,
" 42,000 Asher,
" 53,000 Naphtali,
In all, there were 603,000 men to make an army. They did not count the men in the Tribe of Levi, for they were supposed to be priests. They were not supposed to fight. Later, they found that there were really 22,000 of them.

The Lord reminded them that year to have their Passover dinners like he had told them they would, when they left Egypt.

A little while after this, the cloud left the special tent, and went off in the distance. Then the Levites took down the special tent and started hiking toward the cloud. All the people took down their tents & followed the Levites.
And wherever they camped or rested for the night, the Lord put manna on the ground for them in the morning.
But one day, the people all decided that they didn't want manna, even though it was tasty. They complained to Moses, "We want some meat, like we had in Egypt." Moses felt sad. He prayed, and the Lord talked to him. Moses said, "These people worry me to death. It is too much for me." The Lord told Moses, "Meet me tomorrow in the special tent, & bring 70 good men with you. I will set those men apart by My Spirit, as helpers to you."
The Lord already knew that the people had complained about not having any meat. He said, "I will give them meat until they get sick of it." Moses said, "That will take too much meat; we won't have any cows or sheep left."
The Lord said, "I have all power on earth. I will not need any cows or sheep to provide meat for everyone for 30 days. You just watch tomorrow."

The next morning, Moses told 70 good men to come with him to the special tent, as the Lord had told him. Two couldn't come until later, so Moses & 68 men went. The Lord talked to Moses, and the Holy Ghost helped the 68 men there to tell things that were to soon happen. They all liked it. But the Holy Ghost

knew about the other two back in camp, & He helped those 2 also. At the special tent, Joshua was surprized when someone came running to tell about the 2 men. However, Moses was not surprized. He knew what the Holy Ghost could do. Then they all went back to camp.

As soon as they were at their tents with their families, a strong wind started to blow. Birds called quail were in the wind, & they seemed to die & fall to the ground. So, after a while, the ground for miles around was covered with quail, as high as your waist. And the people ate them — as much as they wanted, and some got really sick & died. Then the people travelled on, following the cloud.

12

One day, Aaron & Miriam, Moses' brother & sister, said, "Our brother Moses can't be prophet anymore because he married an Ethiopian woman! We will help out & we will be prophets to the people now."
Moses said, "Why, yes, I did marry that woman long ago — but does that matter?"
Aaron & Miriam said that it did, & they wanted to be the prophets now.
Suddenly the Lord told Moses & Aaron & Miriam to go near the special tent. There, the Lord told Aaron & Miriam to step closer. He told them, "I chose Moses to be my prophet. I still want him to be my prophet. You were wrong in talking against Moses."
Miriam looked at her skin. It had become white & flaky — she was leprous.
Moses called to the Lord, & said, "That's too much punishment." The Lord told him, "Keep her out of the camp for a week. Then I will make her better."

~~Hint~~ Numbers 13

Next, the Lord told Moses to have a leader from each tribe go together and spy out the Promised Land. They were gone 40 days. They brought back the largest bunch of grapes you ever saw. They had to carry it on a pole between 2 men. One leader, Caleb, said, "Let's go fight and get this land for ourselves," but the others said, "We like the Promised Land, but the people and their cities are strong, and some of the people are giants. We would be like grasshoppers to them. Let's go away."

All the people in camp cried & said, "Let's go back to Egypt — now." This made Moses & Aaron very sad. But Joshua & Caleb said, "The people in the land may be strong, but they are wicked. We are righteous. Therefore, the Lord will make them so they won't be able to fight well, & He'll help us to fight all the better, & we'll win."

But all the people in camp said, "You're crazy. Stand still; we want to hurt you with stones & make you die." Joshua & Caleb got away from them, though.

The Lord came to the special tent, & He talked to Moses. "This people has no faith at all — and after all the miracles I did for them! I'll make them all sick & let them die," the Lord said. Moses reminded the Lord how the Egyptians would laugh at him then. The Lord said, "Well enough. I will let the children of these people go into the promised land, but not one mother or father will, except for Caleb & Joshua. Moses, lead them for 40 years in the desert. All the mothers & fathers, except for Caleb & Joshua, will die by then, & after that the children may go & fight & get the promised land."

In a few days, a sickness came upon the 10 leaders that had spied for 40 days & were scared of the giants & those 10 leaders died. Joshua & Caleb didn't even get sick.

When the people in camp knew that, they said, "We will do better — let's go fight for the land now." Moses said "No; the Lord has already made his decision to have your children have the land. Don't go fight." But they did anyway, & the wicked people in the promised land fought back, & hurt them, & chased them back to camp.

15 So Moses led the Israelites back into the desert, like the Lord wanted. They always tried to not work on the Sabbath day. One time a man gathered some sticks for a fire on a Sabbath day. The leaders brought him to Moses. Moses wondered what his punishment should be, because he had only been gathering sticks on the Sabbath. Moses prayed, & the Lord told him, "In the 10 Commandments I gave you, it said the punishment should be to hurt him with stones until he dies. Do what it says, even though he was only gathering sticks."

16 A while after that, 3 priests, Korah, Dathan & Abiram, got 250 leaders of tribes & came to Moses & said, "You aren't so special, Moses; any one of us could be the prophet if we wanted to. Now it's our turn to be prophets."
Moses almost cried. He was sad that they had forgotten that the Lord had called him to be the one prophet for Israel at that time. He told them, "Come to me near the special tent tomorrow with your candles lit."

The next day, Moses & Aaron were in front of the special tent with their candles lit. Korah & the 250 leaders lined up in front of Moses, facing him. Then the Lord whispered to Moses to have everyone that liked him, or didn't like Korah & his followers, to get away from Korah & his followers.
After everyone had decided, & gone to either Moses or to Korah, Moses said, "As prophet, I prophesy that the earth will open up & swallow Korah & those people by him." Suddenly, there came a crack in the earth near Korah. It got bigger fast, & the earth opened up & swallowed them alive, while Moses & his people watched. Then the earth closed up. There was fire, too, & it burned the 250 leaders.
The people with Moses were very much scared by all this, & they ran back always. But then, they came close to Moses & said, "You killed some nice people by letting the earth swallow them up." The Lord heard this, & he was discouraged with the people, & he started a sickness in them so that they might die right then. But Moses had Aaron run & stand between those that had died & those that were still alive. In that way, they got the sickness stopped. Even so, alot of people had died in the sickness.

17 The Lord then told Moses, "I'll prove to the people that you & Aaron are the only true leaders of all this people. Tell all the leaders of the different tribes to each bring a rod to the special tent today. Have each one write his name on his rod. Then, tomorrow, the true leader's rod will get flowers growing out of it." So they all brought Moses their rods. In the morning, the

only rod that had flowers growing out of it was Aaron's. Moses showed this to everyone, so that they would know that Aaron was their boss, after him. Then he saved Aaron's rod in the ark of the covenant, so that they would not forget what they had seen. And all the people of Israel agreed that Moses & Aaron were the true leaders of the people.

In time, Moses' sister, Miriam, died.

20 Again, after some time, when they camped in a part of the desert where there was no water, the people complained to Moses, "What kind of prophet are you, anyway? You were supposed to help us get into the promised land. Now you've taken us away to a very dry place & we're all thirsty enough to die. We should have stayed in Egypt."

Moses & Aaron were sad. They went to the special tent & prayed. The Lord told them to take the rod of Aaron's with the flowers on it & call all the people together by a big rock, & then to talk about the rock & hit the rock with the rod, & the Lord would make water gush out of the rock.

So Moses & Aaron did just that, except that Moses talked as if <u>he</u> would bring the water, not the Lord. Water gushed out of the rock, but later the Lord told Moses that he should have told the people that the Lord made it happen.

The next week, Moses was ready to have the people travel on. They wanted to go through a country called Edom. They sent a letter to the king of Edom, saying, "If we're good, & don't touch anything, may we come through your country on the highway?" The king of Edom

said, "No." The people thought, "We'll be good — let's pass through anyway, & we'll be so good that he'll never know we came through. But as soon as they came to the borders of Edom, the king & his army came & chased them away. So they had to go around Edom.

After that, the Lord told Moses & Aaron, "Aaron is supposed to die now." So they went up on a mountain with Aaron's son, Eleazar, & up there, they ordained Eleazar & gave him Aaron's authority as a priest, & all his priest's robes, too. Then Aaron died up there, & Moses & Eleazar came down.

21 Next, an army from the land of Canaan, fought with a few of the Israelites, & took some off to jail. That night the people held a council & decided to fight & get their friends back. Moses asked the Lord about it, & He said, "Yes, you may — if you kill every last Canaanite & don't leave one alive." The people agreed to do that, & the next day, they went to battle. The Lord helped them, & they got their friends back. They also killed all the Canaanites, as they were supposed to.

In their travels, the people complained about having only manna to eat again, & that water was hard to find. Because of this, the Lord sent fiery snakes into the camp. It hurt alot when they bit. People would die from the bites in ten minutes. They knew then that they should not have complained. They asked Moses, "Tell the Lord that we're sorry, & ask him to take away the fiery snakes." Moses did. The Lord told Moses,

"Make a small statue that looks like one of the snakes, & put it on a pole, high up, where it will be easy to see. Anyone who has been bitten by a fiery snake can look at it for 5 seconds, & he will not die from the bite & it will stop hurting."
So Moses did that, & the people were happy. Some of them, though, didn't think that just looking at something could save their life, & so they didn't look — and those people died.

When the Israelites had to cross rivers, the Lord was kind to them, & stopped the rivers, so they could walk across & not get wet.

Another country, like Edom had done, told the Israelites to not travel through, even though they promised to be good. This time, the Lord had them fight, & the Israelites won, & took over the land of the Amorites.

Another country, Bashan, would not let them pass, either, & the Lord told them to fight, & they took over the land, Bashan, too.

22 They came next to the country of Moab. The king of Moab was scared when he saw how many Israelites there were, so he sent for a man whom he knew could bless & curse. He also knew how to pray to God for answers, because he prayed about whether to go to the King of Moab & curse Israel for him, like he wanted him to. The Lord told him, "No! don't go & don't curse Israel." So the messengers went back the next day to the king of Moab, telling him that he couldn't come. The king was still afraid of Israel, so he sent many

times more money to this man, called Balaam, to get him to come. Again, Balaam prayed. This time the Lord said, "You can go to the king, but you can't curse Israel." So Balaam got his donkey ready the next morning, & he went with the messengers.

Still, the Lord needed to teach Balaam a lesson. He sent an angel with a sword to stand in the road & stop Balaam. Balaam's donkey saw the angel, but Balaam didn't. The donkey turned to the right & went off the road into a field. Balaam hit his donkey on the right side of the neck to guide him back onto the road. After a little ways, the road had tall walls on each side. Again, the angel with the sword appeared, & again, the donkey saw it, but Balaam didn't. This time when the donkey tried to turn to the side, Balaam's foot got crushed between the donkey & the wall. Balaam hit the donkey. The angel went away to a place further on where the walls were very close. Now the donkey could do nothing but stop, even though Balaam kept urging her on. Balaam still did not see the angel, & he hit the poor donkey with a stick. The poor donkey was hurting badly, so the Lord let her talk. She said, "What are you hitting me for? I've done nothing wrong." Balaam answered, "Because you don't obey me." The donkey said, "Have I ever disobeyed you before now?" Balaam said no. The donkey then said, "Well, I disobeyed you now because something has happened that never happened before." At that moment, the Lord helped Balaam see the angel, too. Balaam was very surprised. The angel said, "I was sent to stop you, & the donkey stopped, & you didn't want to stop like you should have. I'll let you keep on travelling, but

you must listen for my voice telling you what you can do & what you can't do."
So Balaam went to see Balak, the king of Moab. Balak was anxious to have Balaam curse the Israelites.

23 The next day, Balaam had Balak offer seven sacrifices, & then Balak said, "Now, Balaam, go up the mountain where you can see the Israelites coming, & curse them." Balaam said, "I'll see what the Lord will let me do.", & he went up the mountain. Up there, the Lord told him a poem to tell Balak. The poem said, "Long live the Israelites." Balak was disappointed. He took Balaam to a different mountain, to try again. Again Balak offered sacrifices & again Balaam went up the mountain. When he came down, he said, "God knows what He wants. He wants the Israelites blessed." Balak was disappointed.

24 A third time, Balak made sacrifices, & a third time, Balaam blessed Israel, & disappointed Balak. Balak was mad enough to fight. He told Balaam to go home fast. Balaam said, "Goodbye, but you'd better watch out for the Israelites. They will hurt you."

25 Now, the Israelites had only camped near the country of Moab, where Balak was king, & they had not decided to fight. Instead, they had parties with the people from Moab, & some of them went to churches in Moab. The Lord did not like this, & He told Moses what to do. Moses had each person who went to a church in Moab be killed. Phinehas, one of Aaron's sons, did a good job in this.

26 So they wandered for forty years, & at the end of that time, the Lord told Moses to count the number of men that could fight in armies for the people. This is what Moses counted:

Reuben	43730
Simeon	22200
Gad	40500
Judah	76500
Issachar	64300
Zebulon	60500
Manasseh	52700
Ephraim	32500
Benjamin	45600
Asher	53400
Naphtali	45400
Total	601730
Levi	23000
Grand Total	624730

31 Also, about this time, the Lord had them make up a small army & fight the people in the land of Midian, & to kill everyone. Some of the warriors didn't kill everyone they met, & Moses made them go back & kill them, because that people was so wicked. Balaam, the soothsayer, also got killed.

32 The people in the Tribes of Reuben & of Gad had cattle to keep. The land before they came to the Jordan River was good for raising cattle, so they asked Moses if they could have that part of the land to live in. Moses said yes, as long as the men still come across the Jordan River with us to help the others fight & get their lands, too. They all said this would be fine.

Deuteronomy is a review.

Joshua

After Moses was translated the Lord told Joshua to lead the army of the Israelites across the Jordan River & into the promised-land, & to fight, and take over all the land. They got food ready to take with them so they would not have to stop & cook while they were in battle. With all the other things they had to get ready, it took them 3 days.

At the same time, Joshua had 2 spies go to the first big city, Jericho. While they were there, they found a lady named Rahab, who led them to her house & gave them supper. However, the king of Jericho found out that 2 Israelite spies had gone to Rahab's house. The king's guard got to Rahab's house after supper. She had the 2 spies hide on the roof. Then, she let the guard in & told him, "Yes, 2 men did have supper here, but that's all. They've probably gone out the city gates now that it's getting dark. If you hurry, you might catch up with them." and the king's guard hurried off.

Then, in the night, Rahab let the 2 spies get out of the city without being seen. She let them go out her window & down the city wall, hanging on by a rope. As she said goodbye, she said, "I know that it is right that you Israelites have to take over this city & kill everyone here, because we are so wicked. But, could you please not hurt me & my family, because I have helped you?" the 2 spies said, "No, we won't hurt you. and we'll tell all the army to not hurt you too. Just hang a red ribbon in your window here, so they'll know it's your house." Then the 2 spies went away into the mountains, where they knew the king's guard would not look for them. Then, after a

few days, they returned to the Israelite camp. From what they had learned in Jericho, they told Joshua, "Jericho's army is very much afraid of our army. They'll run away." They also told Joshua about Rahab.

3 So the next morning, the priests carried the ark of the covenant, & the people followed behind. And when they came to the Jordan River, the water stopped for them, and they all walked across on dry ground. After everyone had walked across, Joshua had twelve men, one from each tribe, each go back & get a big rock from the river bed. Then he had them put their 12 rocks in a pile near where they made camp that night. That way, they could better remember how the Lord had helped them cross the Jordan river. Joshua even had other men pile up stones on the river bed so they would stick up out of the water when the water started again. Then the water began to flow again. All the people said, "Wow! Joshua knows the Lord just as well as Moses did."

5 They stayed camped there for a few weeks & had special meetings & the passover feast, and some of it seemed to them like a special party.

6 The city gates of Jericho were kept shut all the time now, because those people were so afraid of the Israelites. The Lord came to Joshua and told him how to win Jericho. This is how it happened:

Seven priests with trumpets took the ark of the covenant over near the city. Then they walked around the city once. Most of the army did, too. Then they blew their trumpets, and went back to camp

with the ark of the covenant. The next day they marched around the city again, blew their trumpets, & went back to camp. They did the same things for six days. The seventh day they marched around the city 7 times. Then, instead of going back to camp, they all shouted when the trumpets were blown. Right then, the city walls fell over & laid flat on the ground. The army ran into the city & killed everything that moved, even animals. But they saved Rahab & her family alive and they treated them all good, because she had helped Israel's spies. Then they burned the city with fire.
Joshua then prophesied that the city, Jericho, would not be built again, but only at great loss.

7 The next city to take over was called Ai.
The leaders of the army told Joshua, "Ai is a smaller city, so don't send our whole army — just send a small part. So a part of the army went to fight Ai's army, which was small. But very soon, Israel's army came back, running to get away from Ai's army.
Joshua couldn't imagine what had gone wrong. He prayed about it. The Lord told him, "I still love you, Joshua. What is wrong is that someone in the army saved for himself some nice silver he saw in Jericho. It should have been burned. He should not have it. Have the people come to a meeting Tomorrow, & I'll help you know who it is."
So in the morning in the meeting, Joshua felt it must be in the tribe of Judah. Then he felt it must be in the family of Carmi. Then he felt that it must be Achan, a young man in that family, that had taken the silver.
Joshua asked him, and Achan said "Yes, I'm sorry I did it. It's hidden under my tent." So Joshua

had someone go to Achan's tent & find the silver. Then they took it, along with Achan, away from camp, & hurt Achan with stones until he died. Then they burned Achan's body, & the silver, too.

8 Now it was alright to go fight the city, Ai, because they would win, the Lord said. So Joshua made a plan. He took a small part of his army to go fight Ai's army. Ai's army came out of the city & started to chase the small part of the army away. But Joshua had hidden the larger part of his army behind the city, and when Ai's army had all left, they came and walked in the city without a fight. Then they set the city on fire. Ai's army soon noticed that their city was burning down, & they lost their courage. Joshua's small army was able to fight them more easily after this. A little later, the larger part of the army came & helped fight Ai's army. By night, not one person from Ai was alive. They hung Ai's king & piled a heap of stones over his body.

9 After this, the countries & cities all around were afraid of Joshua & the Israelites. They all got together to fight off the Israelites. But before any fighting, someone suggested, "Let's send some men in disguise to trick the Israelites into agreeing not to fight us."

So they sent some men with old clothes & old food, so that it would look like they had come from far away. Joshua asked them, "Don't you live close by?" and they lied, & said, "No." They even showed Joshua their old food.

So Joshua agreed not to fight their people. However, 3 days later, he saw some of them again. They no longer had the old clothes. They were

not from a far away country. They were his neighbors. Joshua said, "We cannot kill you because we promised not to. Instead, we will make you our servants." Those people said that would be all right.

10 Next, 5 kings of 5 cities got together & took their 5 armies to fight one of the cities where the new slaves were. The slaves said, "Joshua, come & help us — it is part of the promise." So Joshua & the Israelite army went & fought the 5 armies, & the Lord helped them win. Near the last of the battle, when the 5 armies began running away, the Lord sent a great hailstorm on them, & killed them with giant hailstones. Also, some of the 5 armies ran another way, & the Israelites went after them, but it was going to be night. So, in order that the Israelites could catch them & kill them, Joshua said, "Sun, you stand still, and you too, moon." And the sun didn't go down. The Israelites chased those armies for as far as you could go in a day. Then they caught them & killed them. Then the sun went down & night came. On the way, the 5 kings hid in a cave. The Israelites put stones at the entrance to keep them in. On the way back, they opened the cave & took the 5 kings to Joshua, who killed them.
Next, Joshua went to the 5 cities of those 5 kings, & he & the Israelite army killed everyone in each city.

11 Soon after that, the kings in more cities were very much afraid of having to fight Israel alone. So they got all their armies together. There were so many soldiers that you couldn't count them, it seemed. Israel didn't have even a third that many. But the Lord

told Joshua, "Don't be afraid to fight them all. I'll make them die for you as Israel fights." So Joshua hurried & brought Israel's army to the battle-ground. Then the fighting started. The Lord helped Israel, and after the battle, none of that great big army was left. So the Israelites took over all their cities.

So Israel was able to take over all of the promised land. The men from the tribes of Reuben & Gad went back to their families on the other side of the Jordan River.

However, very soon, the Israelites on the west of the river noticed that their friends across the river had built an altar near the river. They took the priests over & told their friends, "Please don't make any altars to worship statues." The friends answered, "Oh no; this is not for that. It is just to remind us of the real altar in the special tent that you have. There is only one special tent, & we needed something to remind us of it." That was fine with everyone, & they all went home.

Joshua lived a long time after the Israelites settled in the promised land, even though he was about 100 years old then. Joshua was 110 years old when he made his last speech to the Israelites. Then he died.

Judges

2 Very soon after Joshua died the Israelites forgot how the Lord had helped them. They went and joined the churches of the people around them. Those churches did not pray to Heavenly Father and they did not teach about the Lord, Jesus Christ. So Heavenly Father grew angry with the Israelites, and He let the people around them make them slaves. This happened many times. Each time, the Lord would make a prophet, or a judge, to help Israel.

3 The first one was Othniel. He gathered the Israelite army & was able to free the Israelites with the Lord's help.

After a while, the people went to the wrong churches again, & a very fat man made them his slaves. Ehud, the next prophet, was able to kill the fat man with a long knife when he was about to tell him a secret. The man was so fat that the whole knife went in — even the handle. Then Ehud went away & locked the doors behind him. The fat man's friends didn't miss him until suppertime. Then they went in & found him dead. Then Ehud led Israel's army against the fat man's army at a narrow place, & Israel won. The Israelites were free again.

4 But after Ehud died, they forgot about all this, and went to the wrong churches again. Sisera, who had 900 armored chariots, took over Israel. The Israelites were sad. Finally they began to remember which church was right, & they prayed to Heavenly Father for help.

The Lord called Deborah to be a lady prophet. She told Israel's captain, Barak, what the Lord wanted the army to do. The Lord had said, "Take 10,000 men up by Mount Tabor, and fight Sisera's army there." Sisera heard that they were going there, & he wanted to fight, so he had his army hurry there, too. So there was a great battle. The Lord helped Israel, & they killed everyone in Sisera's army. Everyone except Sisera. He got down from his chariot & ran away because he was so scared. He passed by a tent & a woman named Jael said he could hide there. She gave him some milk & let him lie down. He was tired. He was soon asleep. Then, quietly, Jael went in to him & killed him. When Captain Barak came by later trying to find Sisera, Jael said, "Here he is — dead." And Israel was free again.

6 After Deborah died, the Israelites forgot that the Lord had been nice to them, and they went to the wrong church again. So the Lord let the Midianites bother them. The Midianites stole whatever they wanted, & no one seemed to be able to stop them. There were just too many. They also destroyed Israel's food. The Israelites prayed for help, but the Lord didn't send help right away because He saw they would not remember His help very well if He helped too soon. After 7 years, He sent an angel to Gideon. Gideon wanted to be sure it was an angel, so he had the angel wait while he got a sacrifice ready. Then, the angel pointed at the sacrifice, and suddenly fire came, & it was burning. So Gideon knew that the angel was from the Lord.

That same night, the Lord told Gideon to tear down an altar belonging to the wrong church that was in his father's yard. So Gideon took 10 friends & a bull, & they pulled down the altar while it was still dark.

In the morning, the Israelites near there found the altar torn down. When they asked around, one of Gideon's friends said, "Gideon did it." The people went to Gideon's father, saying, "Get Gideon for us. He must be punished." His father told them, instead, "If the god of your wrong church is alive, he will punish Gideon. You people should go home." So Gideon was always happy, because the god of the wrong church never was alive.

As prophet, Gideon led Israel's army against the Midianites. Just before the main battle, Gideon said, "Lord, you've said that you will help us win. I believe you. But just to be sure, I set a pile of wool on the ground tonight, and I want you to let the dew be on the wool in the morning and no dew on the ground, where it usually is." The next morning, it was so. Gideon could squeeze a whole bowl full of water from the wool. Then Gideon said, "Lord, just to be double-sure, tomorrow morning, make the dew on the ground as usual, but keep the wool dry. And, the next morning, it was just as Gideon had asked.

7 So they got ready to do battle. But the Lord told Gideon, "You've got too many men in your army. When they win, they'll think that they won by themselves." So Gideon told everyone who didn't feel like fighting to go back. Half of the army went back to camp. Then the Lord said, "That's still not good enough. Let them get a drink from the stream of water over

there, and I'll show you who else to send back."
So, some of the men laid down & knelt down
to drink. These were all sent back. The
ones that scooped water up in their hands & drank
from their hands, the Lord said could stay.
But there were only 300 left in Gideon's army,
then. The Lord thought that was fine.
They didn't get the battle started then because
night came.
Just after dark, the Lord told Gideon to take a friend
& sneak into the Midianite camp. As they hid
in the bushes near one of the Midianite tents, they
heard one soldier talking to another.
"I had a dream the night before last. A little loaf
of bread rolled down a mountain & came into our camp.
Then it bumped into a tent, and the tent fell down."
The other soldier said, "That must mean that Gideon
will beat us in battle."
When Gideon heard this, he was happy. He & his
friend went back to their army of only 300 men,
& said, "Don't go to bed. Follow me." He gave
each man a trumpet & a lamp & a pitcher. He
told them to keep their lamps lit, but to cover
them with the pitchers so they couldn't be seen.
Then he had them make a great big circle around
the Midianite camp. It was about midnight.
Then Gideon broke the pitcher covering his lamp,
so that it could shine, & he blew his trumpet
loudly. All 300 men all around the Midianites
let their lamps shine, & blew their trumpets.
The Midianite soldiers all woke up and heard the noise
& saw the lights, all around. They all thought,
"We're surrounded! I bet the Israelites have
got into our camp. I'll fight!" But it was
night, so when they fought, they couldn't tell
that they were fighting their friends. Many got
killed. The rest ran away in the night to escape.

Then, about daybreak, Gideon called the parts of his army that had gone home, to come & help chase the Midianites. They chased them for days, and killed many more Midianites. Some of the Israelites who had been told to go home were unhappy that they had not been able to help the 300 men scare off the Midianites. But Gideon made them feel better in knowing that they were chasing the Midianites well.

Everyone in Israel liked Gideon. They wanted him to be king, but he told them that prophets were all they needed. Gideon was happy, & he lived a long time, & had a big family. He died when he was about 100 years old. But as soon as Gideon was dead, the Israelites again forgot, & started going to the wrong church.

9 (Abimelech left out - complicated & not too edifying)

10 Another time when the people of Israel went to the wrong church, and when other people came and were mean to them, they prayed that the Lord might help them. But this time, the Lord said, "I've helped you out 7 times, and all 7 times you've gone back to the wrong church. Why should I help you now?" So the people prayed that the Lord could hurt them himself after this, if He would just help them out now. They all started going to the right church also. Then they got ready to fight the people that were mean to them. They hoped that the Lord would help them.

They asked their strongest man to be their general. He said, "No, because you made fun of me 2 years ago." They said, "How about if we make you king,

after the war is over?" He said, "That's fine. I will lead the army for you." His name was Jephthah.

First, he wrote letters to the leader of the mean people. They wanted some land & cities given back that Moses had helped the Israelites take away. Jephthah said, "No; the Lord wanted it that way."

So the next day, Jephthah promised the Lord that he would dedicate to the Lord whatever he looked at first when he got home after the battle. He would do this if the Lord would help the Israelites win the battle. Then Jephthah led the army into battle. Israel won the battle, & got 20 more cities.

Then, Jephthah went home. The first thing he saw was his daughter, his only child, coming toward him, dancing. (She had heard that the battle had been won, & she was happy for her father.) Jephthah cried, & told her about his promise to the Lord. She said, "That's OK, Father. I would love to work in the Temple the rest of my life." So she did. She left her friends & stayed at the Temple.

Not long after, some people from the tribe of Ephraim came to Jephthah. They said, "We are very angry because you didn't let us help in the battle." Jephthah said, "But when I asked you to come, you said you weren't ready." Jephthah's men & the men of Ephraim fought about it. Finally, Jephthah's men stood in a gate-like place, & would not let anyone go through unless they could say "Shibboleth." The men of Ephraim always said "Sibboleth" instead, & Jephthah's men killed all the men of Ephraim & won the fight.

Samson

Judges 13

13 Manoah wanted to be a father real bad,
but he & his wife never had any children.

But one day, an angel came to Manoah's wife,
and said to her:
"You're going to have a baby boy."

He told her to not drink wine, and not eat pork,
and to never give her baby a haircut,
not even when he would be grown up.
If she did all this, her baby would grow strong,
and would fight the enemies of their country
by himself, and win.

(Their country was Israel; the Philistines were their enemies.)

After the angel had gone away, she went & told
her husband Manoa
She told him the angel's face was very white & bright,
but she did not know his name.
She told him that she would have to not drink
any wine, nor eat any pork,
& that after their baby boy was born,
they should never cut his hair.

Manoah liked this, but he wanted to see the angel, too,
so he & his wife prayed to Heavenly Father
to send the angel back once more.

The next day, while Manoah's wife sat in a field,
the angel came to see her again.

As soon as she saw him, she got up & went to
their house,
and got Manoah to come to the field
with her.

Judges 13 (continued)

When they got back to the field,
the angel was still there, waiting.

Manoah asked him if he was the same angel that
had come before.
He said that he was.
When Manoah asked him, he told Manoah all
that he had told Manoah's wife before.

Manoah wondered if he might be a man, if not an angel,
so he offered him some bread to eat.
The angel said he wouldn't eat anything.

Manoah offered to sacrifice a baby goat for him, then,
and the angel told him to sacrifice it
to the Lord, not to him.

Manoah asked the angel what his name was.
The angel said that his name was a secret.

Then Manoah offered the sacrifice, and burned it.
While Manoah and his wife looked,
the angel rose up to where the flames were,
and went up to heaven in the flames of the fire.

Now Manoah was sure that it was an angel they had seen.
He was afraid that he had not respected
the angel enough.

But his wife told him that it was all right,
because the angel had liked the way
they had offered the sacrifice to the Lord.

After many months, she had a baby boy.
They named him Samson.

Judges 14

When Samson was grown, and ready to be married,
he picked out a girl friend
from among his enemies, the Philistines.

He wanted to marry her.
He talked his father and mother into going over
to the Philistine city, Timnath, where she lived.
There, Samson's father could arrange their marriage.

But his father & mother didn't want Samson to marry her,
because she was friends with their enemies,
and might help them & hurt Sampson.

But Heavenly Father was guiding Samson all the time,
by giving him feelings inside of himself.
Wanting this girl-friend was a feeling like that.

So they went to Timnath.

Just outside of the city Timnath, Samson was walking
a ways behind his parents, & they couldn't see him.

Right then, a lion jumped out of the bushes,
ready to bite him.
Samson met the lion, and pulled it almost in two.
That made it die.

When they reached the city, they planned Samson's marriage.
Then they went home.

Samson came back to see his girl friend many times
before the wedding.

One time, a few months later, as he was going home,
he went to see the place where he had
killed the lion.

Judges 14 (continued)

He found that some bees had made their home
in the lion's dead body.
He found that they had made plenty of honey.
He took some out, & ate some,
& took some to his father & mother, too.

One day before the wedding, Samson made a party.
He had 30 young Philistine men come to it.
It lasted 7 days.
They ate alot.
They told jokes, and laughed.

Samson made up a riddle for the 30 young men to guess.
It was about the lion he had killed, & got the honey from.
Only Samson knew the answer; no one else did.
He told the 30 young men:
"If you can guess the answer in 7 days,
I'll give each of you a sheet & a shirt.
If you don't guess right,
each of you must give me a sheet & a shirt."

All 30 thought they would like to try to guess.

Samson said:
"What is it that eats, yet I got meat from it,
what is very strong, yet I got sweetness from it?"

Each of the 30 tried to guess what it was,
but they were all wrong.

After 6 days of the 7 had passed, they were worried
that they would never guess it.
Then they each would have to give Samson
a sheet, & a shirt.

So they decided to not play fair.

Judges 14 (continued)

They asked Samson's girl-friend to find out the answer from Samson,
as if it were only she who wanted to know it.
Later, though, She would tell the 30 young men.

So Samson's girl friend asked him the answer.
Samson said,
"Why should I tell you?
I haven't even told my mother & father about it."
But she kept on asking.
She bothered Samson alot about it,
so much, that he finally told her.
Samson & his girl-friend were married, also.
It wasn't long before she secretly told the 30 young men.

Just before the party ended, the 30 young men came
to guess the riddle for the
last time.
They guessed a few times, &
then they said the right answer,
about the lion, & the honey.

Samson was first surprized, & then angry.
He said, "I can tell that you got the answer
from my wife.
You didn't play fair!"

But Samson still had to pay them 30 sheets & 30 shirts.
So he went to where another group of Israel's
enemies were camped, &
he hurt 30 of them, just about all at once,
and took their sheets & shirts
and gave them to the 30 young men
who had been at his party.

And Samson was still angry, & he went home,
and left his wife at her father's house.

Judges 14 (continued)

The wife's father figured that Samson was angry at her, & that he would never come back, so he let her marry another boy-friend.

Judges 15

But Samson did come back when the leaves turned red. He brought a present for his wife.

But her father said,
"I thought you were angry, & I let her marry another boy-friend."
"Why don't you marry her sister? She is pretty, too."

Samson got angry again. He didn't want the sister. He decided to make trouble for the Philistines, & his wife & her father.

All alone, Samson caught 300 foxes in the forest.

He made 150 strings that would burn & not break. He tied one fox's tail to each end of each string, so that the foxes were held in pairs by the string on their tails. The strings were probably as long as a room.

Then he lit fire to the strings, & let the foxes go. The 150 pairs of foxes ran 150 different ways. Whatever was between each pair of foxes got caught on fire when the flaming string passed by it.

Many foxes went into the corn fields of the Philistines. All the corn burned up.

When the Philistines found out who had done it, they hurt Samson's girl friend & her father. because they had made Samson angry

Judges 15 (continued)

When Samson heard of his wife's death & her father's death,
he was angry & went & hurt many Philistines
all by himself.

The Philistines were angry because of that,
and they sent a great many men in an army
to hurt Samson back.
They knew that Samson had friends in Israel,
and so they threatened to hurt them,
unless they would give Samson to them
so they could hurt him.
Those Israelites were afraid,
and ran to the top of a rocky mountain
where Samson was hiding.
They pleaded with Samson to do something to help them.

They asked Samson if they could tie him up
so he couldn't move,
and then give him to the Philistines,
who would try to hurt him.
At first, Samson didn't want to do this.
But after he had them promise that no one would
hurt him before they gave him to the Philistines,
then he said, yes.

So they tied up his arms with one rope,
and his hands with another.
Then they took him down the mountain,
& over to the Philistine army.

When they saw him being brought to them all tied up,
the Philistines jeered & shouted at him.
His Israelite friends left, and the Philistines
began to hurt Samson.

Judges 15 (continued)

Just at that time, the Spirit of the Lord helped him be strong

Samson pulled his hands apart
as easily as if the rope wasn't there.
He broke that rope in pieces.
He moved his arms, and that rope broke in pieces,
too.

Samson began to fight the Philistines, all alone.
He saw a long bone on the ground.
He picked it up, & used it to hit
all the Philistines he could.
Samson was so strong, that just one hit
would hurt a Philistine & he would die.
And he fought so fiercely, that they were all afraid
to get close enough to hurt him.
So Samson didn't get hurt himself,
but he hurt more than 1000 Philistine men
right there.
Even though they had swords & shields,
& helmets, & spears, & arrows,
he hurt that many, & didn't get hurt himself.

After it was all over, Samson dropped the bone
on the ground.

After such a fight, Samson was thirsty,
and there was no water
for miles around.

Samson prayed to Heavenly Father to make some
water for him.

Heavenly Father made a hole appear in the side
of the bone Samson had used,
and He made water flow from there
out of the bone.
So Samson got a drink, & thanked Heavenly Father.

Judges 16

One day long after that, Samson had another girl-friend.
He went to the city where she lived,
to visit her.
The men in that city were enemies to Samson.
They locked the gates to the city at sundown,
while Samson was still there.
They wanted to keep him there, & not let him out.
Then, in the morning, they could hurt him.

In the middle of the night, Samson decided to go home.
He went to the city gates, & found them locked.
He saw the men there, sleeping,
but he knew they meant to hurt him
when they woke up.

So Samson took hold of the city gates & lifted & pulled.
He was so strong, that he lifted the gates
up off the ground,
and he put the gates to the city on his back.

Then Samson walked out of the city through the
place where the gates had been.
He carried the gates of that city up a hill.
He left them on top of the hill.
They were still locked.

The men of the city were very surprised when they
woke up that morning and found that there
was a hole in the city wall
where the gates had been.
They couldn't find Samson anywhere.
They couldn't find the city gates.
But then they looked up on the hill
& saw the gates up there.
But they never caught Samson.

Judges 16 (continued)

After a while, Samson got a new girl-friend.
Her name was Delilah.

The Philistines were still enemies to Samson's people,
the Israelites.
The captains in the Philistine army told Delilah
they would pay her a million dollars
if she would find out from Samson
the secret of his strength.

So Delilah asked Samson to please tell her how he could
become weak.
Samson did not want to lose his strength,
so he told her wrong:
"If you tie my hands with 7 ropes made
from green grass, I will be weak."

Delilah believed Samson, & later she told it to those captains.
Some of them brought her some rope made from
green grass the next day.
They hid in Delilah's house.

Later that day, Samson came to Delilah's house to visit.
She said she wanted to try the 7 ropes.
Samson let her tie him up, using
7 ropes made from green grass.

Then she said to Samson,
"I think I hear some Philistines coming!"

When Samson heard that, he broke the 7 green ropes
by moving his arms.
Samson was so strong, that they broke into
a 1000 pieces.

So Delilah knew that Samson had only been pretending
when he said the 7 green ropes could hold him.

Judges 16 (continued)

The Philistines hiding in her house also saw how Samson had pretended, & then broken the 7 green ropes.

So Delilah said, "You don't like me — you told me a lie. Tell me the truth, now."

And Samson said, "If you tie me up with ropes that have never been used before, I won't be able to break them."

So Delilah got some strong new ropes & tied Samson up.
After she waited a minute, she yelled, "Samson, I think I hear some Philistines coming!"

And Samson got excited, & broke those new ropes like they were only thread.

All the while, those Philistines were hiding in Delilah's room, & watching all this happen.

Delilah was sad because Samson kept pretending with her. She asked, "don't there any way you can be tied up, Samson?"

Samson told her to try making 7 braids out of his long hair, & tying those braids to a board in the floor.

Delilah liked that.
Samson laid down on the floor while he let Delilah braid his long hair.
It took a long time, & Samson fell asleep.

Delilah finished, & fastened his braids to a board in the floor.

Judges 16, (continued)

Then she got up, stepped back, & yelled,
"The Philistines are coming, Samson!"

When Samson heard this, he woke up, & stood up straight.
The board from the floor was dangling in the air.
It had not stopped Samson from being strong. not at all.

Delilah was sadder than ever before.
In the next few days, she asked Samson again & again, what would make him weak
Samson didn't talk much.
But Delilah never stopped asking him his secret.
That was all she ever talked about with him.

Samson wanted Delilah to stop asking his secret.
So one day he told her the secret of his strength.
That was wrong.
He told her that if his long hair were ever cut off, he would be no stronger than anyone else.

The next day, Delilah told the Philistine army captains to bring her alot of money,
because she knew Samson's secret,
and wanted to be paid, if she told them what it was.
Then she told them, & they paid her.
That was wrong to tell Samson's secret for money.
Samson would not have wanted her to tell it to anyone.

After a while, the Philistine captains hid in her house,
& Samson came to visit her, by & by.

Judges 16 (continued)

When it got dark, Delilah invited Samson
to sleep on her lap.
After Samson was asleep,
Delilah waved to a Philistine barber
who the captains had invited to hide
in Delilah's house.

She had the barber cut off all of Samson's long hair.
He was careful not to wake up Samson.
When he finished, he went back to hide.

Delilah pinched Samson, and woke him up.
As Samson was waking up, she yelled,
"The Philistines are here, Samson!"
Then the Philistine captains came out of their hiding place.

Samson got up, and began fighting them.
But when he hit them, they didn't fall down.
When he tried to hold on to them, they got away.

When they held him, he couldn't throw them off
like he used to.
Pretty soon they had him tied up with ropes.
He couldn't break the ropes like he used to.

Samson moved his head to feel his long hair move
on his shoulders.
He couldn't feel it now! It was gone.
Now he knew that they had cut off his long hair.
Now he knew he was no longer strong.

The Philistines made his eyes so they would never again see.
Then, they took him to a jail in a big city.
There, they made him push a big, heavy stone wheel
around & around, to grind corn.

Samson had to push it all day, every day.

Judges 16 (continued)

After many days, Samson was very tired
from pushing that stone wheel around.
But his hair began to grow long again.

One day, the Philistines held a big party
in a big building like a movie theater.
They wanted to have fun, and
to celebrate because Samson was in jail.
Now he couldn't hurt them anymore.

In the middle of the party, the Philistines had Samson
brought from the jail to them,
so they could laugh at him.

Samson's eyes couldn't see, so a young boy
had to lead him by a rope,
wherever he was supposed to go.

The Philistines laughed whenever Samson tripped over things.
They teased him, too, and hurt him, also.

Once, when they stopped,
Samson asked the young boy to lead him
to the middle of the theater,
where there were pillars that held up
the balcony & the roof.
Samson told him he wanted to lean against
the pillars, and rest,
but he really wanted to do something else.

He thought about how his eyes couldn't see anymore
because of what the Philistines had done.
He knew a way to hurt the Philistines,
but he needed Heavenly Father's help.

Judges 16 (continued)

Heavenly Father could give him his strength back,
just once.

So Samson got between the two main pillars
that held the roof of the balcony up.
Then he prayed to have his strength back.

When he felt that his prayer would be answered
as he asked,
he put one hand on one pillar, &
his other hand on the other,
and pushed them apart as hard as he could.
And those pillars were as thick as a large tree trunk.

Heavenly Father let Samson have his strength back,
and Samson broke those 2 pillars by his pushing.

Then the roof fell down.
The balcony, with all the Philistines in it, came down,
Almost everyone at the party was crushed.
They died.
Samson was crushed too, and he died.

When his father & brothers heard about it,
they came down to that city and
took Samson's body to their cemetery,
and buried him.
They were sad.

But they were happy, too, because
so many Philistines had died with Samson,
that they no longer had an army strong enough
to make the Israelites
do what the Philistines wanted.

The Israelites were free again.

There was once a priest who had a wife. They were travelling, and stayed one night in the city, Gibeah. Gibeah was where the people of the tribe of Benjamin lived. At this time they acted very mean. They hurt the priest's wife until she died. The priest told all the other tribes & people how mean the people in Gibeah had been. They sent an army to fight the people in the city, Gibeah. The first day, Gibeah beat Israel. The second day, they beat Israel again. The army of Israel was all sad. But Phinear, the high priest said, "Yet tomorrow is when the Lord has told me we will win."

When Israel's army went to battle the third day, they left some soldiers hiding near Gibeah. The rest of them went to fight. The army that was in Gibeah came out to beat the Israelites again, like they had done for 2 days already. But, as soon as they left, the soldiers who had hid went into Gibeah and set the city on fire. When the people in Gibeah's army saw the smoke, they were sad & afraid, & Israel's army beat them good.

Ruth.

Elimelech & Naomi & their 2 sons Mahlon & Chilion moved to Moab because food was hard to get in Bethlehem, where they lived. Not long after they got settled in Moab, Elimelech died. So pretty soon after that, Mahlon & Chilion got married to Orpah & Ruth, 2 girls that lived near them, in Moab. They lived happily for about 10 years. No children came to them. Then Mahlon & Chilion both died.

Naomi decided to go back to Bethlehem, where she wouldn't be so lonely. She told Orpah & Ruth that they should go back to their mothers. Orpah did. Ruth said, "I don't want to go back to my family. I've found that your church is the right church, & I will follow you to Bethlehem." So they went together back to Bethlehem.

Everyone in Bethlehem felt sorry for Naomi. Ruth didn't know anyone, but everybody was friendly. Naomi had a nephew named Boaz, who was rich. Ruth followed the reapers in Boaz's barley field and gleaned what barley was left each day. Boaz noticed Ruth. He told the reapers to always leave plenty of barley for Ruth to find. Boaz liked Ruth.

When Ruth told Naomi that Boaz had been so kind to her, she said, "Did you know that you & he can get married? Our law here says that if a husband dies, like yours did, a brother, cousin, or nephew must marry the wife, so there can be children. Now, we have a custom, that if you can hold his feet while he sleeps, you can get him to marry you. Tonight he will be threshing wheat, & he will sleep on the threshingfloor. Go over there & do what I told you."

So Ruth did just that. Boaz slept well until midnight, & then, as he turned over, he felt Ruth at his feet. They couldn't see each other in the dark, so Boaz asked, "Who are you?" She said, "Ruth, and I'm here because of the rules we have, so that you can marry me." Boaz said, "That's good, but you have one cousin more closely related to you than me. I'll talk to him in the morning and see if he wants to marry you, or if he doesn't. If he doesn't, then we can get married." "That would be good," thought Ruth. They slept on & off until it was about to get light outside. Then Ruth got up to go, so no one would know she had been there. Boaz told her to wait, & he gave her six measures of barley in her veil to take home.

That morning, Boaz went & sat by the city gate, so he could see the cousin when he went by. He asked the cousin to stop & talk. He also had some men gather around, as witnesses. When he asked the cousin if he wanted to marry Ruth, the cousin said, "No, I really can't. I already have a big enough family." Then, as the Law said he should, he took off his shoe & gave it to Boaz for a minute, to show everyone that Boaz had his permission to marry Ruth.

So they were married. Soon they had a baby boy they named Obed. Naomi liked her grandson, Obed. Boaz & Ruth were happy. Obed was David's grandfather.

I Samuel

Elkanah had 2 wives; one called Peninah had children. Hannah did not. She was unhappy because of this. Elkanah tried to comfort her, but yet she worried more & more about it. Peninah even made fun of her.

One time when they all went to the temple, Hannah went off in a corner by herself & prayed. She told Heavenly Father, "If You give me a son, I'll give him to the Lord all his life." Her lips moved, but she didn't say the words out loud. The prophet Eli saw it, & thought she was drunk. He told her to not be drunk. She said, "I'm not drunk, just unhappy." Eli said, "I see. I hope the Lord answers your prayer." So Hannah went away happier.

That same year, Hannah had a baby boy. She called him Samuel. She was very happy. She loved helping him learn to walk & to talk. When Samuel was old enough to eat real food, & didn't need his mother's milk any more, she took him to the Temple. There, after she did some sacrifices, she presented Samuel to the prophet Eli, saying, "Here is the boy I prayed to have. I promised him to the Lord's service, so he will stay at the temple with you from now on." Eli was happy at this. He was old, & his 2 boys were not learning very well how to be prophets. Hannah & Elkanah came to see Samuel once each year, & brought him presents, like coats & cakes. The Lord blessed Hannah & she had 3 boys and 2 girls after Samuel.

And Samuel learned the temple duties well.

All the people liked him; the Lord did, too. A visiting prophet came & predicted to Eli that he & his 2 sons would all die in 1 day, because they were wicked, & Eli had not stopped it. Samuel listened, too.

Then one night when everyone was asleep, Samuel heard a voice calling him. He thought it must be Eli, so he got up & went to Eli's bed, & said, "I'm here; what do you want?" Eli said, "I did not call you; go back to bed." So Samuel went back to bed. It wasn't long before he heard the voice calling him again. So he got up & went to Eli again. But Eli told him, like before, to go back to bed. So he did. But when the voice called a third time & Samuel went to Eli a third time, Eli said, "Probably the Lord is calling you. Go back to bed, & if the voice calls again, just stay there, & say, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth." So Samuel went back to bed; & sure enough, the voice called again: "Samuel, Samuel."

Samuel said, "Speak, for thy servant heareth," & the Lord came & talked with him, & told him all about how Eli & his 2 sons would soon die because they were wicked.

In the morning, Eli was anxious to have Samuel tell him the Lord's message. Samuel was afraid to tell Eli, because it was a sad message for Eli. But Samuel told it all to him, & Eli said, "It must be true. I will die soon, & my 2 sons, too."

4 In the next battle where the Philistines came against Israel, they beat Israel's army real bad. So the captains of Israel said, "We need more power. Let's get the ark of the covenant from the temple & bring it near where we fight." So Eli's 2 sons, Hophni & Phineas, brought the ark out to where the army was. Everyone cheered. Their cheers scared the Philistines, so in the next battle, the Philistines fought more desparately. And they won. The Israelite army had to run away. They left the ark behind. Hophni & Phineas were killed, & the Philistines took the ark with them. They felt proud.

One Israelite soldier ran to the city where Eli & the temple were. When he told Eli about his 2 sons, Eli was sad. When he told Eli about the ark being taken, Eli fell backward off his seat & broke his neck & died. He was 98 years old.
Phineas' wife was about to have a baby boy when she heard the news that Phineas, her husband, was dead. When she knew what had happened, she died. The baby lived, though, & they named him Ichabod.

5 The Philistines put the ark in their false church next to a statue of their false god, Dagon. It stayed there for a while. The first morning after the ark arrived, the statue of Dagon had fallen over. They set it up again. The second morning, the statue was on the floor, all broken. The next day, every man in the city got small

boils on his skin, & they hurt. They guessed that all this trouble must be caused by their having the Israelites' ark of the covenant. So they carried it to another city. But the men in that city all got boils, too. So the men there took it to another city, called Ekron. But the people of Ekron would not let them in with the ark, because they had heard about all the misery it had brought to the other cities it had stayed in.

6 So the Lords of the Philistines held a meeting. They decided that the ark would have to be sent back to Israel. They asked their magicians how to do it. They said, "Put presents on it & have special cows & a special cart to take it so the God of Israel will be pleased & take away the boils we have."

They did all this, & they let the cows take the cart by themselves, with no driver. And when the cows came to a place in the road where one way led to Israel, & the other to a Philistine town, the cows, by themselves, took the road to Israel. Then, the Philistines knew that it was the God of Israel that had made their painful boils, & that now they would start to get better. They watched it also, as the cows went into an Israelite field, where some Israelites were harvesting wheat. They saw how happy the Israelites were to have the ark back. The Israelites used the cart & the cows to do a sacrifice. They also peeked inside of the ark, which only priests are supposed to do.

For this, the Lord made those Israelites sick. They soon sent a message to the temple & asked that the ark be taken there. The priests came, & took the ark, but were only able to take it as far as Abinadab's house, on a hill. They helped Abinadab's son, Eleazar, to get ready to be the keeper of the ark there. It stayed in Abinadab's house 20 years.

7 But still the Philistines won all the battles, & the Israelites had to do what they said. Pretty soon, they got tired of that. Samuel, the prophet, told them, "If you will just stop going to the Philistine churches & start going to the right church, the Lord will help you, & you'll start to win battles again." So they all went to the right churches.

Then, Samuel told the army to gather together for a battle. The Philistine army noticed them, & came to fight. There were many more Philistines than there were Israelites. The Israelites were afraid. Samuel told them the Lord would help. When the battle started, the Lord made loud thunder at the Philistines. It scared them, & they ran back. The Israelites chased them, & won the battle. So Israel was no longer bothered by the Philistines.

8 Samuel got older. He wanted his sons to be the prophets next. But they only wanted to play, and they instead learned to love money & be proud. The people disliked them. Some leaders of the people came to Samuel & said, "Since your sons can't be prophets when you're gone, choose somebody to be a king over us, instead."

Now, the Lord had said it was bad to have a king, so Samuel prayed about it. The Lord said, "Give them a king, so they can see how bad it is."

9 About this time, a father named, Kish, lost some donkeys. He sent one of his sons, named Saul, with a servant to find them. They travelled throughout the country for 3 days, & couldn't find them. Saul was ready to go back home. The servant said, "We're close to Ramah, where the prophet Samuel lives. Let's go ask him ~~where~~ where the donkeys are. I even have a quarter I can give him for a present." Saul agreed to go.

When they got there, everyone there was going to a big dinner made by Samuel. Now, the Lord had told Samuel, the day before, that Saul was coming. The Lord told Samuel which one Saul was in the crowd. Besides that, Saul was 7 feet tall. Saul went to Samuel to ask about the donkeys, but Samuel said, "Sit here in the most important seat for dinner, & don't worry about the donkeys, because they have been found. This will be an important day for you."

Saul said, "Who, me?" Samuel said, "Yes, and, here, you can have the biggest piece of meat."
They stayed with Samuel that night. The next morning, Saul & his servant started for home. Samuel walked with them to the city gates. While the servant went on ahead, Samuel took some oil & anointed Saul, & said,
10 "You are now the king of all Israel."
Saul wondered at this. Samuel said, "So you will know that this is true, you will meet people that will tell you your donkeys have been found, & some others will give you 2 loaves of bread, & later you will meet some young men prophesying, & you will prophesy with them."

And all this happened on their way home, just like Samuel said.
V17 Later on, at a grand festival where everyone came, Samuel the prophet proclaimed to them all that Saul was king.

11 The Ammonites sent an army to conquer Israel. They sent a message to the first city to give up, & they wouldn't have to fight. The people in that city sent a message back saying, "Give us a week, & then we'll give up." But they also sent a message to Saul, for help. The messengers found him tending sheep. When he understood the message, he sent more messengers to all parts of the land, saying, "Let's hurry & make an army, & help them!" So Saul gathered an army & went to that city. They surprised the Ammonite army, & soon their battle in only half a day. All the Israelites were

happy with Saul. Yet, Samuel told the people again that the Lord had told them before that it is better to have a prophet, rather than a king. He showed them that the Lord agreed on that by praying for rain & thunder. In 5 minutes rain began to fall, & the thunder impressed everybody. And it was in September, when no rain storms usually came to Israel.

13 When Saul had been king 2 years he kept only 3000 men in his army. The rest, he sent home. One day his son Jonathan took some of the army & fought a small battle with the Philistines, & won. So the Philistines brought their big army to fight another battle. So Saul's army was scared. Samuel, the prophet, said he would meet King Saul in Gilgal, near where the Philistines were, & that he would do a sacrifice so that Saul & his army would have the Lord's favor, & win. But Samuel took days in coming, & every day, men from Saul's army would get scared, & some more would leave for home each day.
So after 7 days of waiting, King Saul did the sacrifice himself, so they could start the battle. Just as he finished, he saw Samuel the prophet coming down the road. King Saul went & shook his hand. Samuel said, "What have you done here?" King Saul told how the men were leaving the army each day, & how he had done the sacrifice on his own. Samuel said, "Sacrifices are made to please the Lord. You disobeyed, & the Lord is not pleased. He won't help you win now, for that, & He won't let you be king much longer."

14 Now, there began to be small battles every day, and neither side won anything. One time, though, Jonathan, Saul's son, and his servant were close to a Philistine camp. Jonathan had an idea. "Maybe the Lord will help us. Let's climb these big rocks & surprise the Philistines. If they say for us to stop & not come, we'll go back. If they tell us to come closer & fight, we'll know that the Lord will help us."

So the 2 of them climbed up & the Philistines saw them, & said, "Come & fight us!" So Jonathan & his servant began fighting. The 2 of them killed about 20 Philistines. But the rest of the Philistine army heard the noise, & the soldiers got scared & fought among themselves. Then the Lord made an earthquake happen, & the whole Philistine army ran away, fighting each other as they ran.

Saul's guards noticed the Philistines leaving. They told Saul. They all watched & wondered.

King Saul had ordered that day to be a fast day. When Jonathan returned with his servant, Jonathan had not heard of the fast day, & he had eaten some honey. This made King Saul angry, but Jonathan, & some other soldiers convinced King Saul that it was the wrong time for a fast day, because they needed to chase the Philistines. And so they did.

15 Another time, Samuel told King Saul, "The Lord wants to pay back the Amalekites for giving the Israelites trouble when Moses led them by the Amalekite land. Go and kill all the Amalekites, even the children. Kill all their animals, too."

So King Saul gathered a large army to go with him. When they got to the Amalekite land, they politely waited for all those who were not Amalekites to leave. Then they did the work of death. Except they saved the king alive, & the best-looking sheep, & cattle, too.

Back at Samuel's house, the Lord came & told him, "You should see how poorly Saul obeys. I'm sorry I ever let him be king."

When King Saul returned from the battle, Samuel went to meet him. Saul said, "Well, we did it; we took care of the Amalekites like the Lord said to do!" But Samuel said, "Why do I hear baa-baa's & moo-moo's, then?"

King Saul said, "Oh. I thought we could use them for sacrifices. The Lord likes sacrifices."

Samuel told King Saul, "The Lord likes to be obeyed. By next week, there will be a new king for Israel." Samuel turned & started to walk away, but King Saul felt sad, & he caught the end of Samuel's robe, & it tore. Samuel heard it, & turned around & said, "Just as you have torn my robe, so the Lord will tear the kingdom from you, & give it to your neighbor."

Saul cried, & Samuel stayed awhile, so it wouldn't embarrass him in front of his army. But after that, Samuel never came to see King Saul again.

16 After a few months the Lord came & told the prophet Samuel to go anoint the next king. He would be from Jesse's family, in Bethlehem. The Lord said He would tell him the right one when he saw him. Samuel took his horn full of oil & was ready to go, but he asked, "But Saul will be angry if he knows that I am going to anoint a new king." The Lord told Samuel to make the anointing part of a big dinner, like he had done when he had anointed Saul king.

So the prophet Samuel went to Bethlehem and made a dinner ready, & especially invited Jesse & his family. As they came in, Samuel asked the Lord which one was to be king. Jesse had 7 sons come to the dinner. As each son came by, the Lord said to Samuel, "No; not this one." Even though some were tall & strong, still the Lord said, "No."

Finally, Samuel asked Jesse, "Are all your children here?" Jesse said, "No. The youngest is tending my sheep." Samuel had Jesse go & get him. When they came back, Samuel heard the Lord say, "This is the one." So Samuel anointed this one, David, to be the next king, while his father & brothers watched. Then they had the dinner, & Samuel went back home.

David did not try to be king right then. Only his family knew he was to be king. David was still a little young to be a king. He knew how to play the harp very well, and some friends of King Saul got David a job playing harp for King Saul. The king was often angry and nervous, and harp music helped him relax & lose his desire to be angry. King Saul liked David's playing so much that he let David be his special friend & servant. King Saul wrote

a letter to David's parents, asking that they let David stay in the palace with him. But David still had to tend the sheep at home, too.

One time, when David's 3 oldest brothers were in King Saul's army trying to fight the Philistines, his father, Jesse, asked him to take some bread & corn to his brothers, & some cheese to their captain. So the next morning before sunup, David left the sheep with a friend & travelled to where the army was. He got there just after breakfast-time & the 2 armies were getting ready for a battle. David ran among the army & soon found his 3 brothers.

As they talked, a roaring voice came from where the Philistine army was. It was their giant, Goliath, who was about 10 feet tall. He wore armor all over, & he had a big sword & a big spear. All the Israelite soldiers at the front of the army ran back. Goliath roared, "Why have many soldiers die in this battle? Send out just one soldier to fight me, & the battle will be done. If he wins, we'll all be your slaves. If I win, you'll all be our slaves." Then he laughed, because he knew he would win, because he was so big.

David asked what a soldier had to do to get to be the one to fight Goliath, and why no one had gone to fight him right now. Eliab, David's oldest brother, said, "Hey, you just came to see the fighting, didn't you? You didn't come to talk to us at all." But David told those around him, "No, I'll fight that Goliath if no one else will."

When King Saul heard about this, he had David come & see him. He told David, "You shouldn't try to fight Goliath. You're too young." But

David said, "Don't you know? The Lord will help me. He helped me when tending my sheep. When a lion came & stole a sheep, I went after him & made him let it go. Then the lion tried to kill me, but I held him by the chin & hurt him, that he died. The same thing happened with a bear. The Lord will help me the same way with this giant. The Lord doesn't want him to make fun of Israel's army like he does."

So King Saul gave David some armor to wear. David tried it on, but since he was not used to it, he took it back off, & only took his shepherd's staff & a sling with him. He also found 5 smooth stones in the nearby brook, & he put them in his small sack. Then he started walking toward Goliath.

When Goliath saw David coming, he laughed at him. He also said, "Come to me, & I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, & to the beasts of the field."

But David said, "You come with a sword, a spear, & a shield, but I come in the name of the Lord. This day will He deliver you into my hand, & I will hurt you, & take your head off from you."

Goliath started walking toward David. David began to run toward him. He next took out one of the smooth stones & put it in his sling. Then he slang it, & it hit Goliath between his eyes, where there was no armor. Goliath fell down, face down. David ran up to him, & pulled Goliath's sword out of its sheath, & cut off Goliath's head.

Then, the Philistines were all scared, and the Israelite soldiers saw that they were scared, & they chased them, & hurt many of them.

King Saul was amazed at what David had done. He even thought that this boy might be some

strong man, dressed up to look like David. But, no, it was David. The Lord had helped him like he said he would.

18 From that time on, King Saul made David stay with him, & he would not let him go home. One of King Saul's sons, Jonathan, became David's very best friend.

But when the army came back to a big city in Israel, they had a parade, and the women sang a song with these words: "Saul may have killed a thousand Philistines, but David can kill ten thousand." This displeased King Saul. He thought, "all David did was kill one + a giant. I'm king & they should not say David is greater than I am. I had better make it so David can't be greater than I am."

The next day, while David was playing his harp for him, King Saul threw a spear at David. He missed. Later that day, King Saul tried throwing a spear at David again, & he missed again. So King Saul decided to put David in the army, so maybe he would get killed in a battle. Then, he found that David liked his daughter, Michal. He told David, "I won't charge you any money to marry Michal; just kill a hundred Philistines by next week." He hoped that David would get killed doing it. David only thought that killing a hundred Philistines was part of his job in the army, so he fought some battles & killed 200 that week. King Saul was amazed. He began to be afraid of David. But he let David marry his daughter, Michal, as he had promised.

19 But now King Saul tried to pay his servants to kill David, but Jonathan, Saul's son, talked him out of it. King Saul even let David come & play the harp for him, again. But again, King Saul threw a spear at David, & missed. David slipped away into the night.

After that, King Saul had David's rooms guarded, so he couldn't get away, while he planned how to kill him. But David's wife, Michal, helped him escape through a window by hanging on to a rope, at night. Then, she put old clothes in David's bed. The next morning, the guards went to take David to jail, Michal said, "He can't go; he's sick in bed." The guards said, "Then we'll put his bed in jail, too." They were very surprised when they found that it was not David in the bed.

David went to the city where Samuel, the prophet, lived. Together they stayed at a prophet's school not far away. King Saul learned later where David was, & he sent guards to bring David to jail. When the guards came to the school, they liked it, & began to act like prophets. When King Saul realized that they weren't going to bring David back, he sent other guards. They too, acted like prophets. And it happened a third time, too. Finally King Saul went himself. But he, too, acted like a prophet when he got there. Then David went & hid in a different city.

20 After a while when everything was as it had been, David went & visited with Jonathan, in a field. He said, "Find out for me how your father, King Saul, feels about me". Jonathan said,

"I'll ask him at the next big dinner we have. He'll miss you & ask about you, & I'll find out how he feels about you." He also warned David, "If the guards see you, they'll put you in jail, so don't come to my house for an answer. Just wait in the woods. When the dinner is over, I'll come to a field near the woods and shoot some arrows. My boy servant will then go & get them. If you hear me yell to the boy, "The arrows are beyond you", then that will mean that my father still doesn't like you, & you should go back to your hiding city. If I yell to the boy that the arrows are nearer than he thinks, then that will mean my father has forgiven you, and you can come back & live in the palace."

So, at the dinner, King Saul wondered where David was, but he didn't say anything about it until the very best. Jonathan told him that David was at a party at his father & mother's, & could not come. King Saul was angry, & said, "You really know where he is, but you won't tell me, because he's your best friend; isn't that right?" Jonathan said, "But what has he done wrong?" King Saul said nothing, but he threw a spear at his son, Jonathan. He missed, & Jonathan left the dinner. He cried all night about David. Then, the next morning, he took his boy-servant, & some arrows, out to the field near the woods. He shot them, & then when the boy went to get them, he called out, "The arrows are beyond you. Hurry!" The boy didn't pay any attention, but went & got all the arrows. Then Jonathan sent the boy back to the city. Then David came out of the woods & hugged & kissed Jonathan and they both cried. Then Jonathan went back to the city, & David went away to his hiding city.

21 Soon David had a small army. He kept travelling, leading his small army, so King Saul would have a harder time finding him. One time David came to a city called Nob where there was a place to worship. David & his army were hungry, so he asked the priest there for some bread. The only bread there was holy bread, but the priest, Abimelech, said they could take it all, if they had all been good the last 2 days. "Yes, they had," said David. He also asked if the priest had any sword he could take. "Yes", Abimelech said, "Here is Goliath's sword. Goliath was that giant you killed." David was grown up now, so that sword wasn't really too big for him. They took the sword & the holy bread & left.

David & his army tried hiding in a Philistine city, next, but the Philistines talked as if they wanted to lay in wait & hurt him. So David began to act crazy. When he acted crazy, the Philistines took David out of the city & locked the gates. So they didn't hurt him.

22 And David found a large cave to live in with his army. More people came to join his army. Soon he had 400 soldiers. They were mostly poor people who King Saul had not been fair with.
After a while, God, who was prophet now, came & told David that it was time to hide somewhere else, because King Saul would soon come looking for him. So David & his army went & lived in a forest.

23 One day messengers arrived & said, "The Philistines are hurting the people of the city Keilah, & they're stealing their wheat." So David prayed. He knew King Saul was looking for him & would not help the people of Keilah. The Lord told David, "Go and help them. I'll help you win." A second time, He said, "Even though your soldiers are afraid, I'll still help you win."
So David led his army against the Philistines at Keilah, and won the battle. Then they stayed in the city, Keilah.
In a few days, King Saul learned that David was there, and David found out that King Saul was coming. He prayed to know what to do. The Lord told him "Even though the people of Keilah like you for helping them, they will try to let King Saul capture you, so go away from here."

So David took his army & went to a new forest to live & hide. By now, he had 600 men in his army. But the people near that forest told King Saul that David was there. As David & his army were going away on a side of a mountain, King Saul & his army went by to search on the other side of the mountain.
King Saul almost found David, but not quite, because just then a messenger came to him, saying, "The Philistines have come into the land & are fighting one of our cities!" King Saul & his army stopped searching, & went to fight the Philistines.

Then David & his army went to a place of big rocks & caves to live & to hide.

24 Not long after, someone told King Saul where David was. The battle with the Philistines was done, so King Saul took 3000 soldiers & went after David.

When they got there, King Saul was tired, & he went into one of the caves to take a nap. He was soon asleep. He didn't know that he had chosen the very cave where David & his soldiers were staying. David crept through the cave to where King Saul was. Then he took his knife and cut 2 feet of material off of the bottom of King Saul's robe. Then he went back to where his soldiers were. They asked, "Why didn't you kill him? He hates you, and he wants to kill you." David said, "The Lord chose him to be king before he did me. So he is king, and no one should ever want to hurt their king." Then King Saul woke up & travelled across a valley with his army.

David went to a hilltop and called to King Saul. King Saul was surprised. David told him, "Whoever told you that I wanted to hurt you was wrong. See this piece of robe in my hand? It is from your robe. I cut it off today while you took a nap. Now, I could have killed you, but I didn't. Doesn't that show that I do not want to hurt you? Do you forgive me?"

King Saul cried when he realized how good David had been to him. He said, "You're so good, David, that I'll let you be the next king. Yes, I forgive you." David liked that, but still he stayed in the mountains, because he remembered how often King Saul changed his mind.

And about this time, the prophet Samuel died.

25 One time, David sent messengers to a man named Nabal. They asked very politely for some food. Nabal was stingy, and said, "No. Never, for David." And he chased them away.
David decided to go hurt Nabal for this. He took 400 soldiers with him, & left 200 to guard their things.

Abigail, Nabal's wife, heard about this, and hurried and put great heaps of food on donkeys, & went, leading them, to meet David before he got to Nabal. She told David about Nabal's being stingy to everyone, & gave him all the food, for his army. David was happy. He went back to camp. Abigail went back home.
It was the next morning before she had a chance to tell Nabal what she had done. When Nabal heard that she had given David all that food, his heart hurt him. For ten days he stayed in bed. Then he died.

After that, when David heard about it, he sent messengers to Abigail, asking her to marry him. She was very polite to his messengers, and she hurried and went to David's camp, & married him.

26 Not long after, when David was hiding in another forest, at Ziph, someone told King Saul to look for him there. And he came with 3000 soldiers to find David. At night they camped. While they were sleeping, David & a friend, Abishai, snuck into King Saul's camp quietly. They even went into King Saul's tent. Abner, his bodyguard was asleep, too. Abishai said, "David, kill Saul now — with one blow — & we'll get away."
David told him, "Never. He is my king, and you don't hurt your king. He may be bad, but

the Lord should decide when he will die, not me. after all, the Lord chose him to be the king."
So David & Abishai took King Saul's spear, & the pitcher of water he kept by him, and they went away.

The next morning, David yelled to King Saul, & to Abner, his bodyguard, from a hilltop. He asked, "Abner, they say you are the best soldier in the army, & yet last night you didn't protect your king. Look here and see. I have King Saul's spear, & his pitcher of water."
King Saul called back & said, "David, you'll be blessed for not killing me." He sent a soldier to David to get back his spear & pitcher. Then King Saul & his army went back home, and David looked for a new place to hide.

27 David went and lived with the Philistines. Even his wives & his 600 soldiers & their families went. The Philistines gave them a part of their land. King Saul did not dare to come after David in the Philistine land. They stayed there for one year & four months. At that time the Philistines went to battle Israel. David went with them, because his landlord liked him & thought he would be a help. But the other lords of the Philistines didn't want David helping, because he was from Israel. So David & his army went back to their families.

But the Amalekites had come and burned their homes, & had kidnapped their families. all 600 soldiers said, "Why did you ever make us go try & help the Philistines? Now look what happened while we were gone." They all cried, even David, but David did not complain like they did; he

prayed to find out what to do. The Lord told him to hurry & find the Amalekites & get back everyone. The Lord would help him. David told this to his soldiers & then he took his 600 soldiers to chase the Amalekites. When they came to a small river, 200 soldiers were too weak to cross, & they stayed behind.

Soon David's army found an Amalekite slave. He was sick & had been left to die. David fed him & helped him start feeling better. Then this slave was able to guide David & his army to where the Amalekites were. They were having a grand party because they were happy with all the riches & slaves they had gotten that week. So they were very surprized when David's army began fighting them. They were not prepared to fight, and all were killed except for 400 who got away on camels.

So David got back all the families of the soldiers, & his own 2 families, also. Now, the 400 soldiers who had fought the Amalekites didn't want to divide the Amalekite riches they had taken, with the 200 that had stayed behind. But David said, "It doesn't matter that they could not help fight. We are all in the same army, so we will all divide the riches, the same amount to every soldier. And that became a rule."

Now, after David had left the Philistine army to fight the Amalekites, the Philistine army went to battle King Saul & Israel's army. King Saul wanted to know how best to fight them, but the prophet Samuel had died, and there was no other prophet around just then to ask

And King Saul tried praying himself, like David did. But the Lord would not answer him. So King Saul searched until he found a witch. King Saul hated witches, and he had had most all of them killed, like the Lord wanted done. But now, King Saul went to a witch for help. He disguised himself so she wouldn't know he was King, & be afraid of him. King Saul wanted her to get Samual's spirit for him to talk to. When the witch first contacted the evil spirits, she screamed & was afraid, because they told her that it was really King Saul in that disguise. But King Saul said he wouldn't hurt her. Then she saw an evil spirit that came to look like Samuel, the prophet. Saul spoke & asked his question: "How shall I fight the Philistines?" The evil spirits told him, "Because you did not obey the Lord, you will be killed in the battle, along with your sons, and the Philistines will win. Later, David will be king."

King Saul was very much afraid, & fainted. He had not eaten all day. The witch woke him up & fed him. He didn't feel like eating, knowing that he would soon die, but finally, he did eat. Then he went back to his army.

The next day, the battle began, & Israel's army did not fight well. Finally, the Philistines killed Saul's 3 sons. Then King Saul got hit by an arrow. It didn't kill him right away, but he didn't want to have it said that a Philistine killed him, so he asked his armor bearer to kill him with a sword. He wouldn't. So King Saul killed himself with his own sword.

The next morning the Philistines found King Saul's body. They cut off his head, and took his head & body to their city to make fun of them.

When the Israelites heard this, some of the braver ones snuck into the city at night, and took back his body & head, & buried them.

Second Samuel

28 Aug 81

1 When David heard that King Saul was dead, along with 3 of his sons, he & his soldiers cried. David wrote a poem about it.

2 Then David knew that it was time for him to be king. He prayed to know which Israelite city would like him best. The Lord told him, "Go to Hebron." David did, & there the people made him king over the Tribe of Judah. But as yet, the other Tribes didn't want him to be king. Abner, Saul's bodyguard, made Saul's last (4th) son, Ishbosheth, king over the other Tribes. One day Abner's army came to fight David's army. They began by having only 12 from each side fight. But it didn't help decide the battle, because both sets of 12 soldiers were killed. Then the whole armies fought, and David's side won.

One of David's friends, Asahel, who could run real fast, ran after Abner. Abner was just barely able to keep ahead of Asahel. He realized that it was Asahel, & he knew that Asahel would catch him soon. So he said, "Asahel, you'll need a better sword to fight me with, so stop & take one from a dead soldier." He said this so he would be able to get further ahead. But Asahel only kept running. Then Abner said, "You know how well I fight, so don't catch me if you don't want to get killed. But Asahel kept running.

When Asahel was just about close enough to touch Abner, Abner pushed his spear backwards. It caught Asahel under the ribs and went through him. And Asahel died right there.

Next Asahel's two brothers, Joab & Abishai, followed Abner. But Abner was able to get some men to help him fight. He also called to Joab, "Aren't we all Israelites? Why try to kill any more than have been killed then?" And Joab stopped his men & they went back to camp. Abner went home with his men, but 360 of his soldiers had been killed. Only 20 of David's soldiers had been killed.
And that's the way that the rest of the battles between Saul's army & David's army went. David's side always won.

3 Besides this, Abner had a disagreement with Ishbosheth, the one who was to be king for him. So Abner decided to stop helping his army, & to start helping David's army. Abner went and talked with David, and David liked Abner. He sent Abner to travel through all the land and help all the people who liked him, to like David, too.

The next day Joab, whose brother Asahel Abner had killed, returned from a trip. When David told him how nice Abner had been, Joab only said, "He's probably a spy." Then Joab sent a message to have Abner come back, without David knowing it. Then Joab took Abner to an alley and stabbed him with a knife, & Abner died.

When David heard of it, he said, "That was wrong to do."

"God will punish Joab for doing that."
From that time on, David did not like Joab as much as before.

4 When the people back in Israel heard about Abner's death, Ishbosheth became afraid. And the next day, just like he feared, his two top generals in his army came to his house & killed him, as he laid in bed. Then, they cut off Ishbosheth's head. They took it with them and travelled down to Hebron, where David stayed. They told David, "See, we have done you a favor by killing Saul's son, who might have become king, instead of you." David did not like that. He told them, "I cried when I heard that King Saul had died. Now do you think you can make me happy by killing his son? No." And David had those two generals killed because they killed Ishbosheth.

5 So in the next week, all the cities throughout the land of Israel sent men to David, saying, "We have no other king. You can be our king, just like Samuel, the prophet, said." So David was made King over Israel. He was 30 years old. King David sent his army to take the city Jerusalem from the Jebusites, and then David lived there
King Hiram of Tyre sent King David some presents, as a new king. He sent him enough wood & men to build himself a new, large house

The Philistines also heard that David was now the king, & they brought their armies up for a fight. King David prayed, asking if he should go and meet them and fight. The Lord said, "Yes."
So King David & his army fought the Philistines

and the Philistines lost, and ran away so fast that they left all their idols of false gods behind. King David had them burned.
But the Philistines came back after a month, to fight again. The Lord told King David to not meet them, but to go around behind them, and that when there came a wind in the mulberry trees, then they should go & fight. King David & his army did just that, & waited near the mulberry trees. The wind came, & they fought & won again.

6 About this time, King David went with most of his army, and with some priests, to Aminadab's house in Gibeah, where King Saul had left the ark of the covenant. There, the priests built a cart and put the ark of the covenant on it. Eleazar, one of Aminadab's sons helped. He had been made a priest when the ark was first left there. Ahio & Uzzah, Aminadab's other 2 sons, drove the cart, which was pulled by oxen. All went well until Nachon's threshing floor, where the oxen tripped. Uzzah reached back and held onto the ark to steady it. But he wasn't a priest, and suddenly he died, because the Lord wanted only priests to touch the ark, because it was so special.
This discouraged King David, and he had them park the ark at Obededom's house. Obededom was a priest. It stayed there 3 months, & the Lord blessed Obededom. Then King David took courage, & came, as before, to take the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem.
As they entered Jerusalem, it was like a parade. There was music, & King David danced a lively dance. Then he offered sacrifices, & to end it all, he gave everyone there a loaf of bread, a pound of meat, & a quart of grape juice. Everybody was happy.

But Michal, King David's wife, had seen him dancing, & when King David got home, Michal scolded him. "A king looks silly dancing," she said. King David told her that he had felt like dancing, and that he had done it for the Lord. But from that time on, King David didn't love Michal so much.

7 At this time, the prophet for Israel was Nathan. He came to King David with a message from the Lord. He said, "King David, you have a fine house to live in, but the Lord, and the ark of the covenant, have only a tent. So prepare the materials, so that one of your sons, the next king, can build the Lord a house. You could, except you have been in too many battles."
King David thought that this was very nice. He prayed & thanked God for using him.

8 King David, with his army, was able to win much more land for Israel than they ever before had. David became a grand king over many countries.

9 Also, King David had Jonathan's son, Mephiboshath, come & be a part of his family.

10 When the old king of nearby Ammon died, & his son, Haman, became the king of that land, King David sent messengers to him with presents. King Haman was ready to thank them, when his friends suggested to him that King David's messengers were really just spies. So King Haman believed his friends, & cut half of the messengers hair off and cut their clothes in half, & sent them away. King David heard of it, & sent them a message to take a vacation until they could get new clothes & until their hair grew back. They were very

embarrassed to have no hair on half of their head.

But King Haman heard that King David was now angry with him. He sent messengers to Syria, saying, "Help, I'm in trouble with Israel." Syria sent 20,000 soldiers, & other countries sent another 12000. King David sent his army, with Joab & Abishai, the generals. The Syrian soldiers lined up in a different place from the army of Haman. This made it so Israel had to fight in 2 places at once. So Joab decided to fight the Syrians, & he told Abishai to take his half of the army and fight the army of Haman. He said, "If you need help, I'll stop and bring my men to help you. You do the same for me." And the battle started. The Syrians started losing, & they began to run away. When Haman's army saw this, they backed away, too, and Israel's army won the battle easily. That meant that King David now owned King Haman's land, too, now. A little later, Syria got more men for its army and made ready to fight. When King David heard of it, he got his whole army and went and fought them. Half the Syrian soldiers died. Syria lost the battle, and King David became king over Syria & all the lands around it, too.

11 The next summer, David was walking on the roof of his house at sunset when he saw a neighbor lady through a window. She had just finished her bath. He liked her. He sent messengers to her house and invited her over. She came & stayed that night with him. Her husband was Uriah, one of the most valiant soldiers in the army. He was away, fighting in a battle. Later, the lady sent a message to King David, saying, "I think I'm

pregnant." King David had her husband sent home so he could be with her. But he never went home to her; he slept on King David's porch. He said, "Why should I be in a warm bed with my wife, when my faithful soldier friends only have sleeping bags on the battle field?" He stayed at King David's palace two days. Then King David sent him back to the battle field, and had him take a letter with him for the general, Joab. The letter told Joab to tell Uriah to fight where it was most dangerous, so that Uriah might get killed. It was bad for King David to want Uriah to die.

Joab arranged for a small battle to be fought against a city in the land of Ammon. He sent just certain soldiers to try to climb the city wall. The people in the city shot arrows down at those soldiers. Some were killed. The rest went back to Joab.

Joab sent a message to King David about the small battle. King David told the messenger, "I'm angry with Joab. That battle was too dangerous. What does Joab think he's doing?" Then the messenger said, "But Uriah was one that got killed." Then King David said, "Well, that's O.K. Then."

A little after that, King David had Uriah's widow come & live in the palace with all his other wives.

That same week, the prophet Nathan came to the palace & he told King David a story:
"There were two men. One was rich & had many sheep. The other was poor & had but one sheep, which he let live in his house, because he loved it so much. In time, the rich man had a friend visit him, and the rich man wanted to serve him a sheep dinner. But, instead of

getting one of his many sheep to kill, he went & took away the poor man's only sheep, and killed it for dinner."
King David stopped the prophet Nathan, & said, "That rich man is mean. I'm king. You tell me his name, & I'll make him pay the poor man four sheep & then he should be killed. Bring him in!"

12 But the prophet Nathan only said to King David, "Thou art the man." "The Lord has given you everything a king should have, and yet you killed Uriah & took his wife for your own. From now on your children will fight each other, and you'll never have peace. You thought no one would care about what you did, but the Lord does. Uriah's wife will soon have a baby because of you, but the Lord will cause the baby to die soon after it is born."
Then the prophet Nathan left. King David cried. He knew that he had done wrong. He was sorry, but nothing could make things the way they had been.

Bye & bye, the baby was born. It soon got sick. King David fasted & prayed. After a week, the baby died. The palace servants were sure that King David would feel worse if he knew that the baby had died. But King David overheard their whispering and got up & washed & asked for dinner. "What is done, is done," he said.

Meanwhile, general Joab had kept the army around Rabbah, the main Ammonite city. He had led them in battles against the little cities around it, and had won them. Now, he sent a message to King David, & said,

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"Come with more soldiers and help me take over the main city, Rabbah, now. I think you should be helping me more than you have."

So King David got more soldiers and went to help fight. Very soon, they had taken the city of Rabbah. They made the people there be servants of the Israelites.

13 One of King David's sons, named Ammon, wanted to meet one of his half sisters. His cousin one day suggested that he could do something to get her near him. And he did it: He made believe he was sick. When his father, King David asked how he could help, Ammon said, "I think it would help if my half-sister, Tamar, could come & bake me 2 little cakes & feed them to me." So King David had Tamar go do that for Ammon. She was happy to help. She made 2 little cakes & baked them & started to feed them to him, when suddenly he wasn't sick anymore. He had fooled her. He hurt her and she went away crying.

Her brother, Absalom, saw her crying, & asked why, & she told him. Their father, King David, was angry when he learned about it all. Absalom did nothing about it for two years. Then, when there was a chance to go in the country to shear sheep, Absalom asked his father to let Ammon go along & help. King David let him take the rest of his sons, but he didn't, at first, want Ammon to go. But finally he said yes. Once they were out in the country, Absalom had his servants kill Ammon when he was done drinking alot of wine. Everyone was surprized. Absalom got on his mule & rode away to find a city to hide in.

The rest of the sons of King David got on their mules & rode back toward the palace to tell their father.
A message reached King David before them, that all his sons had been killed by Absalom. That made him almost faint. But Ammon's cousin told him, "No, only Ammon is dead."

Absalom was scared, & he hid in the city of Geshur, to not be found by his father. But his father prayed for him every day, & cried after his prayer, each time.

14 After three years, general Joab thought that something ought to be done to get Absalom back home. So he had a woman go see King David and make believe to him that she had had two sons & that one had killed the other. She asked that King David forgive the son, because if he was killed for killing his brother, she would have no sons at all. King David said yes, and then the woman said, "Shouldn't you set an example, and have your son, Absalom come home?" Then King David realized that Joab had told her to say all this. But he said, "Joab is right. Absalom should be invited to come home." So Joab went to Geshur & got Absalom & brought him home. However, King David made a rule that Absalom could not come & see him.

After two years of not seeing his father, even though he was at home, Absalom called for Joab to arrange for him to see his father. But Joab wouldn't pay any attention. Finally Absalom had to have his servants set Joab's barley field on fire. Then Joab came,

wanting to know why. Absalom explained that he had to get his attention, & that he wanted to get to see his father. Joab went to King David, and, of course, King David said yes. Then Absalom went to see King David, his father, and he bowed low before him. King David told him to get up & come to him. Then he kissed Absalom. King David loved his son, Absalom.

15 Now, Absalom was very handsome. And he decided to spend his days at the city gate, and to get the people to like him better than they liked his father, King David. He told them, "If I were king, I would do many wonderful things."

After doing this a few years, he asked his father to let him go to the city of Hebron. King David loved Absalom, and he said yes. Once he got there, though, Absalom made himself king, and got the people to make an army for him.

When King David heard of this, he told everyone in the palace to come with him and hide from Absalom in the desert. All his friends went, too. The priests were about to bring the ark of the covenant and come, but King David told them to stay behind. He arranged for them & their sons to spy for him when Absalom would take over the palace.

16 Mephibosheth, Saul's grandson, stayed behind, thinking that he could get Absalom to let him be king. His servant came away, though, and brought food & horses to King David.

16 One of Saul's nephews saw King David sadly marching away, & cursed at him & threw rocks at him. So general Abishai asked "Let me go take his head off!" But King David said, "No. Having stones thrown at me is nothing compared to having my own son, Absalom, rebel against me."

But King David also heard that one of his best wise men had gone to help Absalom. So King David told one of his other wise men, called Hushai, to go join Absalom and pretend to help him also. But really, it was Hushai's job to make Absalom & the first wise man make mistakes. So Hushai went and joined Absalom.

17 And Absalom trusted Hushai as well as the first wise man. And the first wise man told Absalom to rush out with an army & scare King David & his army while they were still tired from running away. Then Absalom asked Hushai his ideas. Hushai said that that plan would not work; that King David never got that tired. They would need a great big army to get King David. And Absalom liked Hushai's idea better.
Then Hushai told the priests about it all, & they had their sons be messengers to David secretly. But Absalom's guards spied them on the way out of Jerusalem. So they went to a lady's house, & she hid them in her well, & put a blanket over the top. Then, when the guards left off looking, she helped the priest's 2 sons out of the well, and they went & told King David about

Absalom's plans. But when the first wise man found that Absalom didn't like his idea, he went home & killed himself.
But King David now hurried across the Jordan River and settled down & camped there, near a city.

18

King David had 3 generals now: Joab, Abishai, & Ittai. When he said, "I will fight with you," the soldiers said, "No; if many of us get killed, you can still be king; if you get killed, though, there will be no king." So King David watched the fighting from in front of the city. And Absalom came after David the next day. The battle took place in the woods. There were many accidents in the woods that day. More soldiers died in accidents than were killed with swords.
Also, Absalom rode a mule in the battle. Some of King David's men chased him. As he went under a tree, he forgot to duck, & his long hair caught in the branches, & stopped him. His mule kept going, so Absalom was left hanging from the branches. One of King David's soldiers went & told general Joab about it. General Joab said, "I would have given you $10 if you had killed him." The soldier said, "No, sir. King David told us to save Absalom alive, and you heard him tell everyone, yourself." But Joab only said, "Oh be quiet." Then Joab took 3 darts & went to Absalom & put them through Absalom's heart. Then they took Absalom's body down, & piled stones on top of it to bury it.

Then Joab blew the trumpets & called the army back & stopped the battle, because Absalom

was dead, & there was no more reason to fight.

Then Joab sent a messenger running to King David with the news. But one of the priests' sons, who had helped spy for King David asked Joab if he couldn't have been the messenger. Joab said, "Well, if you want to run, run." He was a fast runner, & he got to King David about a minute before Joab's messenger. King David was at the city gate, but before he could hear what the priest's son had to say, Joab's messenger arrived, & said, "Absalom is dead."
King David walked slowly up to a room where he could be alone & cry. As he went, he said, "Oh my son Absalom! How I wish I could have died, instead of him!"

19 When all the people saw that King David cried for Absalom, they decided not to have any party because the battle was won. They all tried to look sad for King David.

Joab thought that this was silly. He reminded King David that by killing Absalom, he had made it so that no one more needed to die in battle. And he talked King David into showing the people that he had stopped being sad. And King David got over his sadness.

But the people back in Jerusalem were wondering what would happen to them. They had helped Absalom. Would King David be angry with them? Then came a message from King David. He wanted to come back to Jerusalem & have a

party in the palace with them. He even wanted Amasa, the general of Absalom's army, to be the general of his army now.

So King David went back to Jerusalem. Shimei, the man who had thrown stones at him, met him and asked to be forgiven. King David forgave him.
Saul's grandson, whose servant had said that he had stayed behind to become king, came & met King David. He explained that his servant had left him & made up the story about his wanting to be king. King David forgave both him & his servant.

King David also invited Barzillai, an old but rich man, who had helped him with food before the recent battle, to come & live with him. But Barzillai said, "I'd better stay close to my home, since I am close to dying. Have my servant go live with you." and he did.

20 But even so, one man, named Sheba, called for the people from the north (of Israel) to have him be king, not David. And many liked him. He got an army & marched north to be king there. King David sent Amasa, his new general, to make his army ready to chase Sheba's army & fight. But Amasa took almost a week to do it. So King David told Abishai & Joab to take over & get an army & chase Sheba's army. They did. But when they got halfway there, Amasa came with more soldiers. Joab went as if to kiss Amasa, & greet him. He hugged him with his right hand, but he stabbed him with a knife that he held in his left hand. Amasa fell dead.

Then Joab & Abishai had the soldiers begin marching again to chase Sheba. But each soldier stopped as he passed Amasa's body. So Joab took the body over to a field. Then they all marched on.

They soon found that Sheba & his army were inside the city of Abel. Joab had his soldiers prepare to fight the city. But a wise old lady put her head out a window in the city wall & asked to talk to Joab. She asked him, "Why hurt us? This city & its people have done nothing wrong." Joab told her, "Sheba has rebelled against King David, and he is in there." The lady then said, "Oh. Wait out there. By tonight I'll toss Sheba's head out to you." Joab & the army waited. Just before the sun went down, a head came sailing over the wall. It was Sheba's head. He was dead. Joab blew a trumpet and had the army go back to Jerusalem.

21 But the Lord next made it so no food grew in Israel. King David prayed about it, to find out why. The Lord told him, "It is because King Saul hurt some families that he wasn't supposed to." So King David made it up to them. They had to have 7 of Saul's grandsons hanged. King David made the 7 go, & those families put them to death. Then food grew again in Israel.

Once again, the Philistines came to fight Israel. They had more giants with them, like Goliath. King David fought well with his army, but he was older now, & got tired easily. Once when

he was resting, one of the giants snuck up to kill him. But Abishai rushed up & stopped the giant (Ishbibenob) and fought him, & killed him. From then on, they made a rule that King David should not fight in battles anymore, because he got tired easily, because he was old.

Some of the soldiers in King David's army got good at fighting giants. One giant had 12 fingers & 12 toes.

23 One time, when David was first king, he was hiding in a cave with his army because the Philistines had taken over Bethlehem, his home town. David was homesick, and said that he longed for a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem. Three of David's best soldiers heard it, and decided to get him that drink, even though the Philistines might kill them. So they took their swords, and a pitcher, and snuck in and got some water from that well. When they showed David, he said, "You have made a great sacrifice to get me this water, so I should make a sacrifice myself, and not drink it, even though I want to." And he poured it all out on the ground, slowly. Everyone thought that was good.

24 After there had been peace for some time, the Lord inspired King David to have the people counted. The Lord wanted this, even though he had told them not to, in times before. Then He could send a punishment.

King David told Joab to count the people; mainly the ones that could fight, if needed. Joab travelled over all of Israel. It took

him & his helpers almost a year to count them all. He then told King David that there were 500,000 fighters in the tribe of Judah, and 800,000 fighters in the other tribes.

The prophet, God, came to King David in the morning, and told him he could choose 3 punishments: seven years of no food, or 3 months of losing battles, or 3 days of sickness for everyone. King David chose the 3 days of sickness.

So everyone got sick. Many got very sick, and died. The destroying angel from the Lord began to feel sorry for them, & he stopped at Araunah's threshingfloor. King David saw him there, and prayed that the sickness could not hurt everyone anymore, but only King David's family.

The prophet, God, came & told David to make an altar on that threshingfloor. So King David offered to buy it from Araunah. But he said "No, I will give it to you." But King David still paid him 50 dollars. Once the altar was built, the sickness went away from the people.

I KINGS

1 King David got old. He had to be in bed alot. He had to have a nurse help him.

One of Absalom's younger brothers decided it was time for a new king, and he would be the king. Lots of people liked him, but others did not. Nathan the prophet did not think he should

be king, either. So he and Bathsheba, one of David's wives, went to remind King David that it was not right for Adonijah to be king, because the Lord had chosen Bathsheba's son, Solomon, to be king.

King David realized how serious it was that Adonijah was trying to be king. He called for the priests to come, & for many other people that did not like Adonijah. He told them what to do:
They had Solomon ride King David's mule through the city. Then Nathan the prophet anointed Solomon with holy oil. Then everyone nearby shouted "Long live King Solomon."
In another part of the city, Adonijah & his followers heard that, but could not tell what was said.

But soon one of the priests' sons, the good runner, came & told them, "Solomon is now king!"
When his followers heard that, they were afraid King Solomon would hurt them or put them in jail for liking Adonijah as king, so they all quietly went home, and left Adonijah alone.
Adonijah was afraid, too, and he went to the altar of sacrifice, where he could be safe. That was a rule they had in Israel.
King Solomon found out where he was, and had him brought to him. They talked for a minute, and then King Solomon told him, "You can go home. I'm not angry with you. But don't try to be king anymore."

2 King David soon died. After that Adonijah had King Solomon's mother, Bathsheba, ask a favor for him, because he knew that King Solomon would never say "no" to her.

He had her ask if Adonijah could marry the girl that was David's nurse. But King Solomon saw that Adonijah would only keep on wanting favors, so he said "NO". In fact, he had his general Benaiah go and kill Adonijah, so he would not try to be king.

King Solomon also had general Benaiah go and kill Joab, because David had said so before he died. Joab tried to use the altar for safety, but King Solomon said to kill him there anyway.

David had also wanted Shimei killed after he died. King Solomon told Shimei that he could live in Jerusalem in peace, but if he ever went out of the city, he would have him killed. Shimei said that would be alright. He lived in Jerusalem for 3 years. But one day, two of his servants ran away. Someone told Shimei they were in the city of Gath. Shimei travelled to Gath, & got them, & brought them back. Then King Solomon heard of it, and called Shimei to him, & asked, "Didn't you agree to stay in Jerusalem?" Shimei knew King Solomon was right. Later that day King Solomon had him killed.

3 King Solomon made Pharoah, king of Egypt, like him by marrying Pharoah's daughter.

One time Solomon made a thousand sacrifices in one day at a special altar. That night, in a dream, the Lord came to him, & asked, "What gift should I give you for your life?" King Solomon said, "I am too young to know what I need to know

to be king, so bless me that I can know it right now. Give me wisdom."
The Lord said, "Yes. I'll give you more wisdom than anyone has ever had. I like your choice of gifts. And I'll add the gifts of long life and riches, because you knew that wisdom & knowledge were more important. Other people that aren't so smart ask for life & riches first."

When King Solomon got back home two women came to him with a problem. No one else in the city could solve it right. One woman said, "The two of us have the same bedroom. I had a baby. Three days later the other woman had a baby, too. Now, last night, she accidentally laid on her baby while sleeping, and the baby couldn't breathe, & died. She awoke while it was still dark, and found her baby was dead. She didn't scream, or light a lamp. She just changed babies with me, so when I awoke in the morning, the baby I had with me was dead. But after I looked close and thought for a while, I discovered that the dead baby was not mine, but hers." The other woman said, "No. I did no such thing. The baby that is still alive belongs to me." They argued in front of King Solomon. They almost had a fight.

King Solomon said, "Let's stop the confusion. The answer is easy." He told one of the guards to take out his sword and cut the baby neatly in two, so each woman would have an equal part. Then one of the women said, "No! Don't do that! Give the baby to the other woman, instead of killing it!" The other woman didn't care. Then King Solomon said, "Give the baby to the woman that said, 'Don't kill it, because

I know that the baby is hers, and the other woman has lied." Everyone marvelled at how wise or how smart King Solomon was.

4 King Solomon had his army large enough that many of the soldiers could have half the time at home. He studied hard, & knew much about trees, animals, fish. He knew good laws & rules to have. Everyone was happy.

5 Hiram, the king of Tyre, had liked King David, & when King Solomon asked him to send him trees for lumber to build the temple, he was glad. He sent all the trees King Solomon wanted. King Solomon paid him for them by sending him wheat.

Then King Solomon ordered each man in Israel to take his turn of one month at helping to build the temple. Some he sent to Tyre to help cut trees. Some he sent to quarries where they cut out large pieces of rock & cut them square, to be used for the foundation of the Temple. Some he told to work on the temple itself. He had 30,000 men working every day.

The temple was as wide as a large house, and twice as long and twice as tall. It had large doors & winding stairs inside. The Holy of Holies, in the middle of the Temple, where the ark of the covenant would be kept, was as large as two bedrooms, and all the walls & ceiling were covered with foil of pure gold. The floor was even covered with gold. The door posts had palm trees & flowers carved in them.

Also, there was a round baptismal font built on statues of twelve oxen. There were also pans & bowls of bright brass which were made by pouring hot molten brass into holes in the ground which were of clay & had the right shape. It took 7½ years to build the Temple.
Then they went & got the ark of the covenant & put it into the Temple, in the Holy of Holies. The Lord came with a bright cloud, and all the space inside the temple was cloudy & bright.

Then King Solomon offered the dedicatory prayer. And they made thousands of sacrifices, and had a feast which lasted 2 weeks. Then everyone went home happy.

9 After all that, the Lord visited King Solomon again in a dream, & told him that He was happy with the people of Israel. But He reminded King Solomon, that if they forgot to be righteous, the Temple would then get ruined, & everyone that passed by would say "Why such a grand building? Why should it be in ruins?" And everyone will know: "Because the people that owned it forgot to be righteous."

King Solomon also built himself a grand house to live in — a palace. King Hiram let King Solomon have all the cedar trees & fir trees & gold that he wanted. King Solomon paid him by giving him 20 cities. But he was disappointed with the cities.

Also, Pharoah, king of Egypt, took his army and fought a city named Gezer, and took it. Then he gave it to his daughter, who was one of King

Solomon's wives.
King Solomon made the people give him a part of what they had, every year. He used what they gave him to build houses & cities & ships.

10 The queen of Sheba travelled to Israel to see King Solomon, & see if he really was as smart as she had heard people say. She asked him many hard questions, and she was surprised when he knew all the answers. Then he showed her all his grand buildings & all the food that was in his kitchen, & the temple. She almost fainted. She said, "all that I have heard is true, and wonderful." She gave King Solomon a big pile of gifts, and plenty of spices, which her country had. Then he gave her some presents, and she travelled back to her country.

11 But King Solomon married more wives as time went on. They were women from many other countries. They were used to their kinds of churches, and they wanted to have their own, different, chapels built near the palace. They worshipped idols and statues, instead of Heavenly Father. King Solomon didn't mind that. But after a while some of the Israelites started going to these strange, different chapels, & they forgot about Heavenly Father. Even King Solomon, as he got old, started to go to his wives's chapels instead of to the chapels of the true church.

That displeased the Lord, and He wondered

why King Solomon would forget about Him & Heavenly Father, when He had appeared to King Solomon two times.

So the Lord put thoughts in the minds of Israel's old enemy kings. They had forgotten about fighting Israel, but the Lord made them think of it, & start fighting again.
So King Solomon had trouble, and was kept busy fighting with his army.

Besides that, the Lord sent the prophet, Ahijah, to Jereboam, one of King Solomon's best servants. The prophet Ahijah caught hold of Jereboam's new shirt, and stood there & tore it into twelve pieces. Then he had Jeraboam hold ten of the pieces while he said, "The Lord will make you king over ten of the Tribes of Israel, and Solomon's son will be king over only one tribe, because Solomon has done wrong in forgetting Heavenly Father."

When King Solomon heard of this, he tried to have Jereboam killed, but Jereboam ran away and stayed in Egypt for a while.

In a few years, King Solomon died, and his son Rehoboam was made king.

12 Then Jereboam came back from Egypt. He asked King Rehoboam if he would not make the people give so very much of what they had. King Solomon had used much of what the people had to build buildings that he liked.
King Rehoboam said, "Give me 3 days to decide if I will, or not." During that time, he

asked his father's wise men about it. They said, "Jereboam is right. Make it easy for the people, and don't take so much of what they have." But he also asked his young friends, who he liked. They said he should make it hard for the people, so they would know who was boss.

So at the end of three days, Rehoboam told the people, and Jereboam, too, that he wanted more of what they had. No one liked that.
After a week or so, King Rehoboam sent a man around to bring back more of what the people had. Everyone of the tribe of Judah said, "Oh, OK. Go ahead." But when he went to the people of the other tribes, they threw stones at him, and killed him.
King Rehoboam got an army ready to go fight the people of the other tribes, but the prophet Shemaiah came to King Rehoboam and told him to not fight them, because the Lord wanted only one tribe to be under King Rehoboam.
The king believed the prophet, & did not lead his army out to fight.

And Jereboam became king of Israel. Rehoboam was called the king of Judah, and he lived in Jerusalem. King Jereboam was afraid that if his people travelled to Jerusalem to visit the temple, that they would begin to want to belong to the kingdom there, instead of his. So he made statues of calves, and made them like gold. Then he told his people of Israel, that they would not have to travel to Jerusalem anymore; they could worship the statues, instead.
But this greatly displeased the Lord.

13 The Lord sent a prophet from Jerusalem to King Jereboam, as he was about to do a sacrifice on an altar to one of the statues. That prophet said, "Because you made statues to worship, a king after Rehoboam will take over your kingdom. To prove this is true, your altar will crack & split in two." King Jereboam called for the guards to come & take the prophet to jail, & he pointed at the prophet. Just then, the altar cracked & split in two, and King Jereboam's hand he pointed with became all stiff & dry & brown.

This amazed King Jereboam, & he stopped the guards, & asked the prophet to pray, so that his hand could get better. He prayed, & soon the king's hand was better. Then the king invited the prophet to come home with him & have lunch. But the prophet said, "No, thank you. The Lord told me to come here by one road & to go back to Jerusalem by another road, & to eat or drink nothing at all until I got back to Jerusalem." So King Jereboam let him start travelling back to Jerusalem.

V 11 Now, there was an old man that tried to be a friend to prophets living near there. When his sons came & told him what had happened, he got on his donkey and went after the prophet from Jerusalem. He caught up with him, since he was not far off, and he talked him into coming to his house for dinner, in spite of what the Lord had told him to do. So the prophet from Jerusalem went to that man's house & had supper. While they were eating, the man felt inspired & said, "I feel that you will be killed for disobeying the Lord before you get home." So when they

were through eating, the man gave the prophet his donkey, so he could ride & get home faster, & maybe not be killed.

But a few miles down the road, a lion jumped out of the bushes. It killed the prophet, & then stood nearby. It didn't hurt the donkey at all, & the donkey stood nearby also. Someone saw what had happened, and it was told to the old man. The old man went and got the prophet's body & took it & the donkey home. He buried the prophet in the grave he had made for himself.

14 Soon after this, King Jeroboam's baby boy got very sick. He wanted a blessing for his boy from the prophet Ahijah, but he knew that Ahijah didn't like him for forgetting Heavenly Father. So he sent his wife, and she went disguised, so that the prophet would not know it was her. Now, the prophet Ahijah was old, & could not see. But the Lord told him that Jeroboam's wife was about to come & visit him, and that she was in disguise.

So, when he heard her footsteps near his house he said, "Come in, you wife of Jeroboam. Why pretend to fool me? The blessing I have from the Lord is not good. Go tell King Jeroboam that the Lord is displeased with him for worshipping statues. Tell him that the Lord will soon destroy his kingdom. And your baby boy? He will die at the moment you get back to your city."

And Jeroboam's wife went back. Her baby died when she got there, & they buried him.

After more years went by, King Jeroboam died, too. Another son, Nadab, was made king then.

But in a year or two, a man named Baasha killed King Nadab, & got to be king himself.

16 But King Baasha worshipped statues, too. The prophet Jehu came and told him that the Lord would destroy his kingdom, if he didn't change and remember Heavenly Father. After so many years, King Baasha died & his son, Elah, was made king of Israel.

But in a couple of years one of the captains in his army got him drunk, & killed him. His name was Zimri, and he got to be king next. But when the army heard of this, they made their chief captain, Omri, be their king. Then they went to the city where Zimri was, & fought their way in, which took a few days. Zimri, when he heard them coming in, burned up his house, & died in the fire.

Then Omri was king of Israel, but he still worshipped statues. When he died some years later, Ahab, his son, became king.
17 King Ahab liked statues more than any king before him. He had a wife that liked statues.

So the Lord sent the prophet Elijah to him, saying, "It won't rain anymore until the Lord says so, & he won't change his mind unless you stop worshipping statues." But King Ahab liked his statues more than the Lord, so the Lord told the prophet Elijah to go away from the cities & live in a cave by a brook. The Lord inspired the ravens that lived near there to bring him food in their beak every day. But after a while, the brook dried up, & Elijah could not drink there anymore. And never did it rain.

So Elijah was thirsty, and he asked the Lord what to do. The Lord told him to go to the city Zarephath and live with a widow and her son. He showed her to Elijah in a vision.

When Elijah got to Zarephath, he spotted her as she was gathering sticks. He called to her and asked her to get him a drink. As she was bringing it, he said, "Bring me a piece of bread, too." The widow said, "I can't; all I have left is a handful of flour in my barrel, and a little oil in a cruse. I was just out here getting 2 sticks so I could use that last flour & oil & bake some bread that I & my boy could eat. Then we would starve tomorrow, for that would be the last."
The prophet Elijah said, "Then go & bake bread, but bring me the bread to eat first. Then make some for yourself & your son. The Lord God says that if you do just that, that there will always be a handful of flour in your barrel, & a little oil in your cruse, until it rains again & there is food to eat."

So the widow made bread for the prophet Elijah first. When she went back to make bread for herself & her boy, there was not any less flour than before. The prophet Elijah stayed at her house a long time, and every day there was just enough flour & oil for them all to eat.

One day the widow's son got sick. Soon he died. The widow asked the prophet Elijah to help her. He carried the son upstairs to his bed. Then he prayed to Heavenly Father about the son's dying. Next, he laid on top of the boy, & got up. He did this 2 more times. Then he said, "God, let this child's soul come to him again." After that, the

boy came back to life. Then Elijah helped him downstairs and showed the widow. She said, "Thank you. You are sure a good prophet."

18 Long after this, the Lord told the prophet Elijah to go see King Ahab & tell him that it would begin to rain again.
At the same time King Ahab, who was wicked, & a helper, Obadiah, who was good, travelled in separate parts of the land looking for grass for their horses to eat.
The prophet Elijah met Obadiah. He said "Go & tell King Ahab to come here, for I want to talk to him." But Obadiah said, "I'm afraid that you'll be gone when he gets here, because the Spirit of the Lord can take you anyplace." "King Ahab will be angry if he can't find you where I tell him, & he'll kill me." So Elijah promised Obadiah that he would stay on that spot all day. Obadiah went & told King Ahab, & he found Elijah where he said he would be.

King Ahab spoke angrily to the prophet Elijah; but Elijah just said, "I'm going to prove that your statues have no power. Tell all the people to gather to Mount Carmel tomorrow. You bring all the priests of your false church, and come."

The next day everyone came to Mount Carmel. The prophet Elijah had the 450 priests of Baal (their statue's name) prepare a bull for sacrifice on an altar there. The only rule was, that they could not touch fire to it to burn it. That would have to be done by Baal.

So the 450 priests got it ready. Then they all prayed for fire to come down from the air. But no fire came, even though 450 priests were

all praying at once. Then they tried jumping up & down, & yelling. About noon, the prophet Elijah made fun of them, saying, "Is your god ~~also~~ asleep? Yell louder. Maybe he is away on a trip." They jumped & yelled until nearly sunset, & still no fire came.

Then the prophet Elijah had the people come near him. He built a small altar from 12 stones, & got his sacrifice ready. He also dug a trench around the altar. Then he had them pour 4 barrels of water on the sacrifice, & then do it twice again, so that the trench got full of water, too.

Then the prophet Elijah prayed a simple prayer for half a minute. After that, fire came from heaven to the altar. The sacrifice got burned up and the water in the trench boiled away in an instant. All the people said, "Wow. Heavenly Father has showed us his power." And at Elijah's direction, they killed all 450 of the priests of Baal.

Then the people went home. King Ahab went to supper. The prophet Elijah stayed on Mount Carmel with a helper, a young man. Elijah put his head on his knees, sitting down. He had his helper look toward the sea, for clouds. There were none. Six more times he had him look. Finally on the seventh, the helper saw a small cloud. Elijah had his helper tell King Ahab to hurry into the city before the rain would come. In an hour, the cloud covered the sky, & it rained hard. With the help of the Holy Ghost, Elijah got to the city about when King Ahab did.

19 When King Ahab told the wicked Queen Jegebel about the contest, & how all 450 priests of her church were dead, she sent a message to the prophet Elijah, saying, "I'm going to get you for that."

So the next day, Elijah went away to a forest. When he slept, an angel came & gave him food & water. He did it twice, until Elijah was very full. Then he told him to travel one month to Mount Horeb. Elijah didn't get hungry, even though it took a month.

He lived in a cave when he got there. Then the Lord told him to go up on the mountain. The Lord talked to him there in a still, small voice. He told him that he should go and set apart the next prophet, who would be Elisha.

Elisha was on a farm, helping with the plowing. The prophet Elijah went over to him and told him that the Lord had chosen him to be the next prophet. Elisha asked Elijah to wait while he said good-bye to his family. After that, Elisha followed Elijah everywhere.

20 One day, the Syrian king sent a message to King Ahab, saying, "I'll come to your city & take whatever I want to." King Ahab sent back, saying, "I don't think I'll let you do that!" Pretty soon, the two armies were set to do battle. At that time, a prophet came & told King Ahab that he & his army would win, just by having 200 princes of Israel fight first. The Syrian army was not sure if they meant to fight, so the princes surprised them, & they ran away. All the army of Israel chased them, then.

Then the prophet came again to King Ahab & told him to have his army ready to fight the next year, too, because the Syrian army would be back then, to fight again. The Syrians thought that Israel won because Heavenly Father helped them in the hilly battleground.

So when the Syrian army came back the next year, they set up the battleground in a flat plain, thinking that Heavenly Father could help Israel only in the hills. So the Syrians planned to win. But because of what they thought about Heavenly Father, He helped Israel's army win again.

The Syrian king came to King Ahab & made nice promises of good things to him, after this, and King Ahab said, "That's fine. You can go home." And yet, the Lord had wanted King Ahab to kill the Syrian king, so He sent one of the prophets to King Ahab in this way:

The prophet asked his neighbor to hit him. He wouldn't, so the prophet told him a lion would find him later that day & eat him. It did. Then the prophet got another man to hit him. He gave him a black eye. Then the prophet met King Ahab & told him a story, not letting King Ahab see who he was. He pretended that he was in the army, & that he had promised to watch an enemy prisoner. He said the enemy prisoner had given him a black eye, & run away. King Ahab said, "Well then, you should be killed for letting the enemy prisoner get away." Then the prophet showed King Ahab he was really one of the prophets that he knew. And he said,

"I have been pretending. But the Lord will treat you like the soldier in the story, because you let the Syrian king get away. 'For this, the Lord will take your life soon."
King Ahab became sad and nervous, & went home.

21 There was a man named Naboth who had a nice vineyard next door to King Ahab's palace. One day King Ahab told Naboth, "I would like to buy your vineyard, & use it for a vegetable garden." But Naboth explained, "I can't let you buy it, because it is supposed to belong to the family of my fathers forever." King Ahab was disappointed, & went to his room & cried, & didn't go to supper.
His wife, Jezebel, went up and asked him what was wrong. When she heard all about it, she told him, "Aren't you king? Can't you have anything you want? Don't worry. I'll fix it so you can have the vineyard."
Jezebel wrote letters to some rich people in the city, telling them to have a party & invite Naboth, but to pay two men to accuse Naboth of pretending to be king the month before. The rich men made the party. Naboth was accused of doing wrong. The people at the party, & some from the city, too, threw stones at Naboth until he died.
Then Jezebel told King Ahab that Naboth was dead, and he could have the vineyard.

King Ahab was a little surprized, but he went to the vineyard right away. There, the prophet Elijah was waiting. He gave King Ahab a message from the Lord: "So, you have killed to get what you wanted? The dogs licked up Naboth's blood. They will soon lick up yours. And they will have Jezebel for dinner." 4
Now King Ahab was sorry. The Lord liked him to feel sorry for doing wrong, so He put off those

punishments for a while.

22 Meanwhile, King Ahab Talked King Jehoshaphat of Judah to help him fight against the Syrians for a city. King Jehoshaphat wanted to make sure it was what the Lord wanted, so he asked King Ahab to ask a prophet. King Ahab got his prophets-of-statues to come, & they all said, "It is good." But King Jehoshaphat wanted a real prophet. King Ahab said, there is Micaiah, but he never says anything good to me. Anyway, they had Micaiah come, & he said, "It is good." King Ahab said, "You never said anything good before; why do you say good things about me now?" And Micaiah said, "The Lord wants you to get hurt. So he wants you to try to fight for that city." One of the other prophets hit Michaiah. King Ahab had Micaiah put in jail.

Then King Ahab & King Jehoshaphat went to fight the Syrians. King Ahab disguised himself, so the Syrians would not recognize him. The Syrians especially wanted to kill King Ahab. They even chased King Jehoshaphat for a while, thinking he was King Ahab. But one of the Syrians shot an arrow at a soldier he saw. He didn't know it was King Ahab. King Ahab was hurt badly. He was able to watch the battle until sunset. Then, he died. He had bled alot in his chariot, so his helpers washed it out with some water. Some dogs licked up that water, at the same time licking up King Ahab's blood, just as the prophet Elijah had said.

Then Ahab's son Ahaziah became king of Israel.

1 Oct 81

2 Kings

1. King Ahaziah fell through a weak place in his second floor in his house & hurt himself, & was sick. He sent some men to ask a statue if he would get better. The prophet Elijah met them and said, "Go tell the king, you will not get better. That is from the Lord. Doesn't the king know that statues don't know anything?"
The men went back. King Ahaziah was surprized they had come back so soon. He was also surprized at their message. He said, "Who was it that met you? Was he all hairy? Did he have rough clothes on?" They said yes. He said, "I know. It was the prophet Elijah." He wanted Elijah to come & see him. So he sent a captain & 50 men to get him. Elijah was on a hill. The captain saw Elijah & called to him, "Come down." Elijah said, "Let there be fire from heaven to burn up you & your men." And fire came, and burned them up.
When King Ahaziah heard of this, he sent another captain & fifty men. The same thing happened all over again. They were burned up. Then King Ahaziah sent another captain & fifty men. This captain knelt down to Elijah, and said, "Please don't burn us up." Then the Lord told Elijah, "These men won't hurt you. Go with them."

Elijah went with them to the king. Elijah told him again that he should not have tried to ask a statue if he would get better from his sickness. For doing that, the Lord would let him die. And he died. He didn't get better.

2. Soon the Lord told Elijah that it was about time for him to be translated. Elijah at first didn't want Elisha to see him translated. So as they travelled to where it would be done, Elijah

asked Elisha several times if he wanted to stay behind. Each time Elisha said no. At the city of Bethel, the young men in the school of prophets joined them. They also knew that Elijah was soon to be translated. They also passed the city of Jericho. When they got to the Jordan River, the 50 young prophets stayed back to watch, but Elisha said he would still stay with Elijah.

Elijah took his cape and hit the water of the river with it. The water stopped flowing, and Elijah & Elisha walked across the river bed without getting their feet wet. Then Elijah asked Elisha what he wanted as a gift. Elisha said, "I just want to be as good or better than you are as a prophet." Elijah said, "Well, maybe. If you see me when I go, you'll get your wish." They kept on walking & talking. Then there came a chariot of fire, with horses of fire, & it came so fast & so close that Elisha stumbled in backing up, & fell down. But he watched Elijah get in, & the chariot went away quickly.

In a few minutes, the prophet Elisha got up. He found Elijah's cape still there on the ground. He walked back to the Jordan River. The water was flowing again. The prophet Elisha took the cape & hit the water with it. The water stopped flowing again, & the prophet Elisha walked across with dry feet. When the 50 young prophets came to meet him, they noticed he looked more white, or glowing. Next, they volunteered to go see if Elijah could be found anywhere across the river. The prophet Elisha told them they should not go, because there was no trace of Elijah at all. But they kept asking, & he finally let them go look. They spent 3 days looking, & found nothing of Elijah. The prophet Elisha said, "Didn't I tell you so?"

3 Oct-81

When Elisha passed through a city, the people there told him, "This is one of the best places to live, except that the water tastes bad." Elisha told them to bring him a bottle with some salt in it. When they gave it to him, he poured the salt into the spring of bitter water, and said that the Lord would heal the water. From that time on, the water tasted fine.

When Elisha was near to his home town, some 42 children came out to make fun of him because he was bald. They all said, "Keep going, baldy," and other such things. He felt hurt, and turned back & looked at them & cursed them. Very soon two bears came there & found the children, and bit them & clawed them & went away. Some of the children died.

3 Pretty soon the Moabites decided they did not want to be servants to the Israelites any more, since King Ahab had died, & his 2nd son, Jehoram, seemed like he wouldn't fight them too hard. But King Jehoram got 2 other kings to bring their armies & help him. But in going to battle, they found themselves in the middle of a large desert, & they ran out of water. It looked like they would all die. But one of the kings, from Judah, asked if there was a prophet who could help. King Jehoram took him to the prophet Elisha. Elisha was surprized that King Jehoram would come to him, because the king liked statues so much. But still, the Lord had a plan, & the prophet Elisha told King Jehoram what to do. They dug ditches all around where they were. The next morning, no rain came, & no wind, but water came & filled all the ditches. Everyone could drink all they wanted. They were happy.

The Moabites saw this from far away. To them,

the water looked like blood, & they supposed that someone else had attacked Israel's armies & was winning. So they rushed to fight. The Israelites were waiting for them, & they fought back hard. Israel's armies won.

4 One time one of the young men in the school of the prophets died. He had a wife and 2 sons, and he owed some money before he died. The man who had lent the money now said that the 2 sons should be his slaves unless the money was paid to him. The wife came to Elisha for help. He asked her if she had anything at all that was worth any money. She said she had a pot of oil. Then Elisha told her, "Go and borrow, from anyone you can, all the vases, bottles, & pots you can. Then, when you are all alone, pour the oil from your pot into the things you have borrowed." So she did that. Her 2 sons helped her. And she did pour oil into all the pots, bottles, & vases, and the oil kept coming from her one pot. When they finished, she told Elisha how her one pot had filled so many others. Elisha told her that she could now sell the oil, & pay the man with that money. Then she could return the things she had borrowed. And so it happened. The oil brought enough money that she could have money for years after, besides paying the man.

Elisha once knew a great lady & her husband. They were old. They often let Elisha have part of their home to sleep in. Elisha thought she ought to be rewarded for being so kind, but she had everything already, it seemed. But Elisha's helper, Gehazi, pointed out that the couple never had had any children. So Elisha blessed her to have a baby boy. She didn't think that could be,

since she was so old. But in about a year, she had a baby boy.

When her boy was about 15 years old, one day he got a great headache. He laid in his mother's arms until noon, & then he died. The mother got on a donkey & went to find Elisha, who was in another city. When he understood that her son had died, he couldn't come right then, so he sent his helper, Gehazi, with his staff to touch the boy with. He was not to wave the staff at anybody, even for friends, until it first touched the boy. He ran off to the woman's home, & touched the staff to the boy. It seemed to help, but he still looked dead. When Elisha got there, he shut the door to the room, & lay upon the boy. That seemed to warm the boy's skin. After a short rest, he did it again. Then the boy sneezed 7 times, & opened his eyes, & was alive. Then Elisha showed Gehazi, & then the mother. Everyone was happy.

One time at the school of the prophets the cook made some soup with wild gourds that he didn't know were poison. The first ones to taste it got sick, so no one else tasted it. They asked the prophet Elisha to help. Elisha asked for a handful of corn meal. He threw the corn meal into the soup, and it was made not poison by the Lord. Then they all had the soup for supper.

5 Now, the captain of Syria's army was a good, strong man, & he had everything he wanted, being rich. But he was a leper. Now, one of their servants was an Israelite girl they had taken from her home. One day she felt sorry for the captain, Naaman, because it hurt him to have leprosy in his skin. She said, "I wish you could visit

the prophet we have in Israel, because he could cure you of your leprosy." That sounded good to Naaman, & he asked the king (of Syria) for permission to take a trip to see the prophet. The king said yes, & that he would even write the king of Israel a letter telling him to help Naaman. Naaman took along alot of money to give to the prophet when he healed him.

Naaman went first to see the king of Israel. He read the letter, but he thought that the king of Syria wanted him to heal Naaman, because Israel's kings usually forgot about the Lord's prophets. He got angry, & said he couldn't help Naaman. He thought the king of Syria was trying to trick him.

But the prophet Elisha knew, with the help of the Holy Ghost, that this was happening, and just at that time he sent a message to the palace, saying, "Send Naaman to me, the prophet Elisha." The king of Israel didn't say much, but Naaman was wise, & followed the messenger back to Elisha's house.

But the prophet Elisha didn't come out to greet him. He only sent his helper, Gehazi, out. Gehazi said, "The prophet says to dip yourself seven times in the Jordan River, & you'll be healed." But this only made Naaman angry. He thought, "That prophet is rude, not coming out to greet me. Doesn't he know I am an important man? And why go into the muddy old Jordan River, when our rivers in Syria are so pretty & clear?" And he got ready to go home. But one of his servants told him, "If he had told you to fight a battle & win, you would have done it. And dipping yourself

in this river nearby is certainly not as hard."
So Naaman said, "OK, then." And he went &
dipped himself 7 times in the Jordan River.
When he got out, his skin was healed; it was
as soft as a baby's skin.

Naaman was very happy. He went back
to Elisha's house. Elisha came out & talked
with him. Naaman showed Elisha the gifts
that he had brought for him. Elisha said,
"No, I don't want any gift or any pay for
helping heal you, because the Lord did it,
not me." So Naaman kept the gifts.
He then said, "Can I take a few bags of dirt with
me, so I can remember Israel, the place where
I was healed? And although I now know that
the statues we have for gods back home are
worthless, & that only Jesus Christ is God,
the people back home won't understand if
I don't go to the statue's churches, so
I will go. But I will remember the Lord.
Is that OK?" Elisha said yes, & went indoors.

Now when Naaman had gone about a mile,
Gehazi, Elisha's helper, decided that since
the gifts had not been used, that he would
go & ask Naaman for a few of them. He
ran after him. When he caught up, he
said, "Elisha sent me for a few gifts after all.
Two men from the school of the prophets have
come to visit, & we could use $50 in silver
and some clothes for each of them." Naaman
said, "Of course you can have that — take
$100 for each of them, even." So Gehazi took
those things back & hid them where he slept.
Then he went to see if Elisha had any
errands for him to do.

Elisha asked Gehazi, "Where did you go?"
Gehazi said, "I didn't go any place."
Elisha said, "I went with you in spirit,
and I saw what you asked Naaman, & how
he gave you more than you first asked.
Because you wanted gifts more than to
obey my example, the leprous skin that
Naaman had will now be on you."
and Gehazi's skin turned white & flaky right then.
Now he could no longer stay with Elisha, or
stay in any city. Now he had the gifts,
but could not use them.

6 One time the men of the school of the prophets
were building a new schoolhouse for themselves.
They first cut down trees near the Jordan River
for wood. One time the ax head came off
& landed in the middle of the river, & sank.
The man said, "What will we do? The ax
was borrowed?" Elisha took a stick of wood
& threw it in near where the ax head had sunk.
Soon, the ax head came floating up, & it
drifted near the shore. The man reached out
& got it. Now they could finish the schoolhouse
& return the ax.

When Syria came to fight Israel, Elisha was
told by the Holy Ghost that they were coming, &
he told Israel's king, & Israel won. another
time, the Syrians planned to trap the Israelites
in a certain place, but Elisha warned them, &
the Israelites did not go to that place. Over &
over it happened this way. Finally the Syrian
king asked his men, "Who do you suppose it is
among us, that is telling our battle secrets to
the Israelites?" Someone spoke up, saying,
"No one here is doing it; what happens is that
the Israelites have a prophet, Elisha, and he

knows everything, even what you say to yourself in bed as you fall asleep."
So the Syrian king had spies go & find which city Elisha lived in. Then he sent a large army to fight that city & capture Elisha.

Now Elisha & his helper went out for a morning walk. Once they were outside the city, his helper saw the large army all around, & said, "Oh, no. We're goners! They have us."
But Elisha said, "Be calm. We have many thousands more with us than they have."
And he prayed that his helper's eyes could see like his could. Then his helper saw the mountains covered with angels, ready to help.
In a minute, they came to Elisha, and he told them, "Make these Syrian soldiers all be blind."

Being blind the Syrian soldiers couldn't see where the city was anymore, nor which way led back to Syria. The first person they found to help, was Elisha. He led them to the Israelite city where the king lived, with all the army.
Elisha then had the angels give the Syrians back their sight. When they saw where they were, they were scared. But Elisha told the king & the army not to hurt them, but to feed them, because they were all hungry by then. So they fed the Syrians dinner, & soon after, all the Syrians went back to Syria.

Another time, the Syrian army surrounded an Israelite city where both the king, and the prophet, Elisha, were. They watched carefully, and did not allow any food to go into that city.
Pretty soon, the people had eaten all the food there was. They had to kill their donkeys & eat them, even the heads.

Finally, one woman even cooked her boy & ate him. When the king heard of this, he blamed it all on Elisha for prophesying that it would happen. He sent the police to get Elisha & put him in jail.

7 But Elisha knew it already. When the police came to the door, he kept it locked, but called this message to them: "The Lord says that tomorrow there will be so much flour in this city that people will forget that they were ever hungry today." One of important men called back, "That cannot happen even if it came down from heaven!" Elisha called to him, "Oh yes it will. You'll see it, but you won't get to eat any."

That evening four leprous men were talking outside the city. They reasoned, "If we try to go in the city it won't help our hunger, because there is no food left. If we stay outside, we won't find any food either. All we can do is go to the Syrian army. If they kill us, it will be no worse than starving. If they don't, we will find some food there." So they went to the Syrian camp. But there was no one there. Not one soldier. You see, the Lord had made the Syrians think they heard a loud noise of a battle, and they thought the Israelites from the city had brought friends & were killing Syrian soldiers. So they ran away quickly, and left everything behind, even their horses.

The lepers happily went & ate their fill of food, & found money, & hid it away for themselves. Then they said, "I guess we ought to tell the people in the city that there is food here, & that there are no Syrians here." So they

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knocked on the city gate about midnight, & told the keeper what they had found. When he awoke the king, he was worried that the Syrians might have gone away as a trick. So he sent only two men to see. They found no Syrians anywhere, & about sunrise, the king let the people go to the Syrian camp & get whatever they wanted. And so that next day, there was so much flour, & so much food, just like the Lord had said through Elisha. But the important man that had doubted had to count the sacks of food the people brought back to the city. They went by in such a rush, that they knocked him down, & trampled him to death. So he saw the food, but never ate any.

8 Elisha also prophesied who should be the king of Syria, one time.

9 One day Elisha called one of the men in the school of the prophets & told him to take a box of oil & anoint Jehu to be king of Israel, & then run away. And he did it. Now Jehu was a captain in the army & Joram was king. So the first thing Jehu did after this was to go and kill king Joram. It would be easy because the king had been wounded in battle, & was in bed trying to get better. But this day he was with the watchman on the tower. They saw Jehu coming, & sent messengers to him 3 times to see what he wanted. But Jehu never sent an answer. The king went down & met Jehu, but when he saw that Jehu would kill him, he ran away. Jehu shot an arrow, & it went through his back & into his heart. Then Jehu & a helper threw his body into the vineyard that the king's father, Ahab, had taken unjustly from Naboth.

Then Jehu went to Jezreel where Jezebel still lived. Jezebel was putting on make-up and arranging her hair. She looked out of her castle window and saw Jehu coming. She seemed to know that he had come to kill her, since the Lord had foretold how she would die. So she called to Jehu, "It's bad luck to kill old queens like me. Go away."
But Jehu called up, "Who in there is on my side?" Two or three men said, "We are." So Jehu called, "Throw her down." The men threw Jezebel out the window, & she was killed by the fall. Then Jehu trampled on her, & went to have dinner. After dinner, he sent some helpers to bury Jezebel's body. They came right back in, & said, "all that is left of her is her head & hands & feet. The dogs have eaten the rest." Jehu said, "Now I remember the prophet Elijah saying that dogs would eat her up."

10 Then Jehu spent the next month killing all of King Ahab's children, like the prophet Elijah said would happen.
Then, as a trick, he called all the priests of Baal (their statue) and, all the Israelites who liked statues, to a big party. It was to make sacrifices to the statue, he said. Really, though, after they were all in one place — in the statue's temple, — that he appointed 80 strong soldiers to stand by the doors. Right when the sacrifices were over, he had those soldiers kill everyone in the statue's temple. Then they destroyed the statue, too.

Because he did this, & got rid of the statue & the Israelites who liked it, the Lord said he would bless Jehu & let his sons be king after him.

13 And Jehu's son Jehoahaz and then his grandson Jehoash were kings in their turns.

About this time, the prophet Elisha got sick. He was about to die, for he was old now. King Jehoash came to visit him once. Syria had won many battles & had many Israelites as slaves. Elisha had the king shoot an arrow out of the window of his house, and he said, "The Lord says, that is a sign that pretty soon He will help you fight off the Syrians." Then Elisha told the king to take some arrows & hit the ground with them. King Jehoash hit the ground 3 times. Elisha got angry, saying, "Why didn't you do it 6 or 7 times? Then you would have ruined Syria. As it is, you will only win 3 battles."

In a few days, the prophet Elisha died. The people had a funeral for him & put him in a grave, but didn't have time to put the dirt back in. Then, the next day, others were carrying a dead man to a grave nearby when some robbers scared them. They let the dead man fall into the grave where Elisha was. At the moment that his body touched Elisha's body, the dead man came back to life. He stood up & called for help. Then the men that had been carrying him came back & helped him out of the grave.

17 Many more kings came and went. They all liked to worship statues more than Heavenly Father. When a man named Hoshea became king, Assyria fought his armies & Assyria won. So the Israelites had to send a good part of their money & their food to Assyria. They didn't want to, but the Assyrian soldiers

made sure that they did.

One time king Hoshea sent some money & food to Egypt, without sending the same amount to Assyria. Shalamanesar, the Assyrian king, did not like that. He thought king Hoshea was going to ask Egypt to fight Assyria. So King Shalamaneser put King Hoshea in jail, & after a while, he took all the Israelites captive, & marched them away from Israel up into Assyria. He never let any of them go back to Israel. Instead, he had people from Babylon come & live in the empty Israelite cities. This was because the Israelites had worshipped statues for so long.

The people from Babylonia made statues that they liked. The Lord told them it was wrong, by sending lions in from the hills to attack them. So they asked Shalamaneser to let just one Israelite priest come back & show them how to worship Heavenly Father. He did. The lions stopped coming. Still, they soon forgot about what the priest had shown them. The altars & statues the Israelites had left were very convenient, they said.

2 Chron. 14

Now in the meantime, in the kingdom of Judah, to the south, there had also been good & bad kings.

One good king was Asa. He had peace for many years. Still though, like Nephi would, he still built strong walls around his cities & kept a large army. When he did go to battle, he prayed for help from the Lord, & won. He liked the prophet Oded, & his son, the prophet Azariah. He was such a good king that many Israelites left their homes to the north & moved south & lived in Asa's kingdom. Asa & his people worshipped the Lord, like people should. Asa even took away his mother's statue that she worshipped. But then Asa did a little bit wrong:

One time, when Israel's king, Baasha, tried to bother Asa's people by building a city close by, Asa had the Syrian army fight the Israelites. While they were busy fighting, Asa's people carried away all the stones & all the wood for Baasha's new city. They used them to build 2 cities of their own.

After this, the prophet Hanani came & told Asa that he would no longer have so much peace, because he had asked Syria to help him against Baasha, instead of asking the Lord to help, like he had done before.

This put King Asa in a bad mood. He put the prophet Hanani in jail, & he was harsh with other people from then on, too.

At the last of his life, King Asa got something wrong with his feet, & he died from that disease. The Lord could have helped him, but he always went to see doctors, instead.

18

Asa's son, Jehoshaphat, was a good king. He was able to make peace with all the countries around his kingdom of Judah.

He even went one time & helped Israel's king Ahab
fight Syria. The prophet Jehu told him that
19 the Lord hadn't liked that, because king Ahab
was wicked, & you should not help wicked people.

King Jehoshaphat also appointed good, kind judges
in all the cities of the kingdom of Judah.

20 After this, two countries, Moab, & Ammon, got
another country to join them & fight Israel.
When King Jehoshaphat heard they were coming,
& how large an army they had, he was afraid,
& called the people together to pray. He told
Heavenly Father that they had to count on Him, because
the other army was so large. The answer came
when the Holy Ghost made Jahaziel talk. He said
to go meet the other army on a flat place,
& the Lord would fight for them. They could just watch

So the next day Judah's army went to meet the
other army. They had certain ones sing as they went.
When they got near the other army, they found
them fighting amongst themselves. They killed
each other for small things. After a while, those
that were left, ran away. Judah's army
then went & took all the gold & jewelry from
the dead bodies. It took 4 days to gather it all,
because so many enemy soldiers had died.
Everyone in Judah thanked the Lord for his help.

After this, King Jehoshaphat decided to help Israel's
wicked king, Ahaziah, build boats to go to Tarshish.
The Lord didn't like to have him have wicked friends,
so he had a prophet named Eliezer tell him so, saying,
"The ships will break, & will never get to Tarshish."
And they did break, & they never got to Tarshish.

21 When King Jehoshaphat was 60 years old, he died.

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His son Jehoram became king. He was wicked. He killed his brothers, so they wouldn't get to be king. He sacrificed to statues, & had all the people do it, too.

The prophet Elijah sent him a letter, telling him that he & his people were wicked, & that the Lord would send a sickness among all the people, & after that, the Lord would make Jehoram sick in his stomach, so bad, that after a while, his insides would come out.

Inbetween times, the Philistines made war on the kingdom of Judah, & robbed everybody.

Then, king Jehoram got sick in his stomach. He was sick for 2 years. Finally it got so bad that his insides came out, & he died. The people didn't give him a very big funeral, at all.

22 One of his sons, Ahaziah got to be king next. His mother, Athalia, told him the things he should do, even though he was 42 years old. She mainly told him to worship statues. after a year, he went to visit the king of Israel, who was sick, & Jehu killed him while on that trip.

Ahaziah's mother became queen, then — a wicked queen, who killed all his brothers, except for one small boy; who a sister took to the temple to hide him.

After about 5 years, the priests in the temple had a party & made the boy king. His name was Joash, & he was then 7 years old. When the wicked queen Athalia heard of it, she called out, "You can't do that." But the priests took her outside & killed her. Then everyone went to the places that had statues

to worship, & took down the statues, & killed the priests of those statues.

24 Not long after, King Joash decided that the Temple needed fixing up. Queen Athalia had marred parts of the temple, & taken some things from it. So he told the priests to collect money so the temple could be fixed up. When they didn't do it very fast, he had them put a collection box by the temple door. The people liked this better than being asked for money. They liked to drop coins into it. The priests would empty it each night to use the money to fix up the temple. Each night there was a lot of money in it. Soon all the work was done. Then they put the box away.

Jehoiada, the main priest, had helped King Joash all along. When he got to be 130 years old, he died. After that, King Joash listened to what other people wanted, & he let people worship statues again. A son of Jehoiada, Zechariah, became a prophet, & told King Joash that he was doing wrong. King Joash had Zechariah killed with stones. (Not the author of Zechariah)

After a while, Syria conquered Jerusalem because the Lord wanted to punish the people of Jerusalem. One day, when King Joash was sick in bed, his servants came in quietly, & killed him.

25 So his son Amaziah, got to be king. One time he got a big army together. But he wanted more besides, so he paid Israel's king $100 to send him some of the Israelite army. Just as they were ready to go to battle together, a prophet came to him

and said, "The Israelites are wicked in the sight of the Lord. If they are in the battle with you, you'll lose." So King Amaziah said, "OK, I'll send them home, but I can't get my $100 back." The prophet said, "Don't worry about money. The Lord can make many $100's." So he sent the Israelite army back. They were angry at not getting to fight, & they destroyed some cities of King Amaziah's on the way back home.

But King Amaziah took his own army to battle. They won nicely.
However, he began to worship the enemy's statues that he brought back with him, & this was bad. So the Lord sent the prophet Zechariah to him, who told him that his country, Judah would be hurt because of it.

A little later King Amaziah challenged the king of Israel to a battle of their armies. When the two armies fought, Israel won, & they broke down part of the city wall of Jerusalem, where Amaziah lived, just for fun. This was what the prophet had meant in his prophecy.

26 At last, King Amaziah was killed by some of his friends, & his son Uzziah became king. He was a good king, and the Lord helped him win many battles. He had the best things for his soldiers to fight with, and he had people invent machines to fight with.

But one time, he decided to go in the Temple and offer a sacrifice on his own. He did not have the authority from the Lord to do this. Only the priests did. The priests all followed him in, and told him not to do it. He said, "I will if I want." At that same moment, the skin on his face went

white & flaky. He had leprosy. The priests helped him out of the temple, but he did not go to the palace. As a leper, he had to live away from everyone else, in a separate city. His son Jotham had to act as king. Isaiah became prophet about this time.

27 Jotham was a good king.

28 After that, his son Ahaz was king. He was bad. To punish him & his people, the Lord let other countries fight them & win. One time, the Israelites even took most of them as slaves. However, the Israelite prophet, Oded, said, "The Lord let you win the battle because the Jews were wicked. But you are almost as wicked as they are, so he doesn't want you to have them as slaves." And the Israelites, even the whole army, knew he was right. So they fed their captive Jews dinner, & gave some of them new clothes, & took them back to their land.

Later in life, King Ahaz worshipped statues. He even stole gold out of the temple to give to the statues.

29 Next, Hezekiah got to be king. He was a good king. He had the priests fix up the temple again. When it was done, they held a big dinner for everyone in the land.

After a while, though, Sennacherib, King of Assyria sent a letter, saying he would soon come with a large army to fight Jerusalem. He sent messengers to Jerusalem & had men that knew the Hebrew language give speeches from near the city wall, & even sometimes from on top of it. They said things to discourage the Jews: "Our great army has conquered ten other lands, and their gods never helped them. How can your one God help you, then?

You had all better just give up now, instead of waiting & getting hungry when your food runs out."

This scared everyone, but King Hezekiah told them to just act as if they had not heard it. King Hezekiah went to the temple & prayed for help. The Lord answered through the prophet, Isaiah. Isaiah sent a message to King Hezekiah telling him that the Lord would send the Assyrian army home before they got to Jerusalem. And so it happened. And when Sennacherib got back to Assyria to see about the cause of the trouble that had made him come home, two of his sons snuck up on him & killed him.

But soon after this, King Hezekiah got a boil on his skin, & it got big & sore, & made him very sick. And the prophet Isaiah came to see him, & said, "The Lord says that you will soon die." Then he left. King Hezekiah was heart broken. He cried. He prayed to get better; he told Heavenly Father that he thought he deserved it.

Then the Lord spoke to Isaiah, giving him a message for the king. Isaiah went right then & told the king the message: "The Lord says He has heard your prayers, and He will let you live 15 more years". "And so you'll know that He means it, He will make the sun back up 40 minutes this afternoon." Isaiah told the king to take a lump of figs and lay it for a plaster on the boil, to help it get better. And so it happened: the sun went backward, and King Hezekiah got better.

After that, Merodachbaladon, king of Babylon, sent messengers to visit King Hezekiah as a new friend. King Hezekiah liked them, & showed them all the nice things he had.
Then the prophet Isaiah came in afterward & told the king: "You should not show new friends every nice thing you have. Do you know that one day, an army from Babylon will come here to take away all the nice things." King Hezekiah became sad, but he knew that the prophet, Isaiah was right.

33 In fifteen years, King Hezekiah died, & his son Manasseh became king. He was a bad king. He made all sorts of statues to worship, & even put some of them in the temple. The Lord sent prophets telling him how wrong it was, but he (nor the people) would not listen. Then the Lord let the army of Babylon come & take over the city, & take whatever they wanted, even from the temple, just like the prophet Isaiah had said. They took King Manasseh, as a slave, back to Babylon. There, when he was miserable, he realized that the prophets had been right. He humbled himself & he prayed alot to Heavenly Father. After a while, the Lord made things happen so that King Manasseh was set free & sent back home to Jerusalem, because he now loved the Lord. There, he lived a good life, & helped the people worship the Lord, instead of statues.

34 After one more king, Josiah got to be king. After a while King Josiah wanted the temple fixed up, because he was a good king. He had the priests put the money-box by the temple door again, and again, the priests used the money people dropped in, to fix up the temple.

But in fixing it up, one of the priests found an old book. He gave the book to a scribe, & the scribe read it to King Josiah. It told how angry the Lord was with people that worship statues, & what terrible destruction He would send on them. It was scary. King Josiah sent messengers to the prophetess, Huldah, to see if all this was still true. She sent back, saying, "Yes, it will all have to happen because of the wickedness of the Jews before this. But since you are so nice, the Lord will not destroy things until after you die." That made King Josiah happy. But he wanted to help the people do better, so he personally knocked over all the statues that people worshipped. Then he
35 held the grandest & greatest passover feast that there ever was.

After some years, King Josiah tried to stop the Pharoah from coming by Jerusalem to fight Babylon. During the battle, he got hit by an arrow. His servants carried him back to Jerusalem, where he died.

36 Pharoah came soon & took the next king off to Egypt as a slave, and let someone he liked be king instead. But, soon enough, the army from Babylon beat Pharoah's army, & the Babylonian king carried off that king as a slave, this time, to Babylon. They made his brother, Zedekiah king for Jerusalem. He was not a good king, either. He didn't like it when the prophet Jeremiah told him to be kind, & to not worship statues. He put Jeremiah in jail. All the people were wicked, too.

About this time, the Lord told Father Lehi to leave Jerusalem with his family.

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One day King Zedekiah decided to not send the daily money to Babylon, as the Babylonian king had told him to do. Soon after that the Babylonian army came and invaded Jerusalem, & killed many people, & took the precious things out of the temple. They also burned the temple & the king's palace, & broke down the city walls. Then they took everyone that was left alive & made them walk back to Babylon as slaves. There, they were slaves until they died.

DANIEL

Their children grew up in Babylon. Certain young Jews were chosen to study at the king's college, in the Palace at Babylon. Four of them were friends: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah. They had to live at the palace. They were supposed to eat the food at the palace, but Daniel saw that it was much too rich, and he asked for simpler food like mush & milk & fruit & vegetables. But the man in charge of their studying said, "I can't give you that. The king, Nebuchadnezzar, wants you to have only the best. That is, you will eat pies & cakes & wine & meat. If you don't get the best food, you might not look good, & you might not learn well. Then the king would chop my head off."

Daniel thought for a minute. He knew that really, mush & milk & fruits & vegetables were the best foods. He then asked the man, "How about if you let me & my 3 friends have mush, & the rest in the college have pies, for only 10 days, & see if you don't agree with me?" The man said "OK. For 10 days; & then I'll give everyone a test."

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So they tried it. At the end of 10 days, the man tested them all, and found that Daniel & his 3 friends were better looking & smarter than the other students. So he decided to not have any more pies and such things, & he fed everyone of them on mush & things.

After 3 years of college, King Nebuchadnezzar himself tested them all. He was thrilled with all of them, but he especially liked Daniel & his 3 friends. The king found them 10 times smarter than even his best magicians.

2 After a while, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. It was so real that it woke him up, but he forgot the dream when he sat up. He was anxious to know what it meant, so he called for all the wise men in the kingdom to tell him. They said, "Tell us the dream, king." He said, "I forgot it. You're supposed to be wise enough to know what I forget. Get busy, or I'll chop your heads off." They would not try because they had no idea what the dream was. So the king sounded the alarm to get the army, who could cut their heads off. Daniel heard the noise & came to see what was wrong. When he knew it, he went to the king and said, "I can find it out, so don't kill anyone yet." Then he went back & had his 3 friends pray with him about the dream. That night Heavenly Father blessed Daniel & showed him the dream.

So the next morning, Daniel went to king Nebuchadnezzar and told him all about it. He had dreamt of a large, tall statue with a head of gold, a chest of silver, & stomach of brass, & legs of iron, & feet of iron & clay.

Then a stone like a pea came from a mountain & hit the statue on its feet, & the whole statue fell down & broke in little pieces. That stone bounced away & rolled along, getting bigger, like a snow ball, until it filled the whole earth.

Then Daniel told what it meant: the parts of the statue were kingdoms, and Nebuchadnezzar's was the golden head. The others would come after his. And in the last days, all kingdoms would be stopped, & the gospel would fill the whole earth.

At this, King Nebuchadnezzar bowed down in respect for Daniel. He said, "Your God is indeed God, & He knows everything." He made Daniel king over Babylon, next to him. Daniel had his 3 friends who helped him pray be governors over Babylon, while he acted as a grand judge.

3 But Nebuchadnezzar liked statues. He had a gold statue made. It was 90 feet high. When it was done, he held a party to show it off. At the party, he had a herald give a cry:
"When the trumpets play, everyone should bow down & worship the gold statue. Anyone who doesn't will be put into a hot, fiery furnace & be burned up."
Daniel wasn't there, but his 3 friends, Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego were. They knew it was wrong to worship statues, so they didn't bow down. People noticed, & told the king. He was angry. He had them come to him. Then he gave them one last chance to bow down. They told him:
"We aren't sure if we want to die now, but we are sure that it is not right to worship statues." Nebuchadnezzar said, "Until now, I thought you were my friends." Then he had

the guards make the furnace extra hot. Then they tied up Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego and threw them into the open door of the furnace. The guards got burned so bad doing that, that they died.

Nebuchadnezzar stood back away watching through the open door, smiling. But then he became angry again. He said, "Didn't we have 3 men burned in the furnace?" "But I see 4 men in there. They are not tied up. Their clothes do not burn. The fourth man has on white clothes. He must be the Son of God."

So he stepped nearer, & called to them to come out. Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego did. All the people gathered around. These 3 men who had been in the furnace didn't even smell burnt. King Nebuchadnezzar made a rule that no one should ever say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego, & he was friendly to them again.

4 After this, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed a dream. He called all the wise men to interpret it for him, but none could, so he called on Daniel. He told Daniel, "I saw a great tree. It gave shade over most of the earth, & everyone ate its fruit & it had beautiful leaves, too. Then a man came from heaven & said, "Cut this tree down, & scatter its fruit. Only let the stump stay. Let it be wet with the morning dew. Change it to be with the animals for 7 years." What does it all mean, Daniel?" Daniel went & prayed.

Daniel took an hour to think after praying, because the answer was bad for the king. But the king said, "Go ahead & tell me, anyway."

Daniel said, "You are that tree. Everyone likes you. But not long from now they will drive you out of the city, & you will have to stay with the animals for 7 years, until you know that God rules & gives kingdoms to whom He likes. After that, you will get to be king again. But please try to be more kind & helpful, & maybe the Lord won't keep you away so long."

Well, after a year, one night King Nebuchadnezzar said in his pride, "Who is there so mighty & nice as I am?" "I am the greatest."
Right then he heard a voice, which said, "Tonight you will be put out of the city." King Nebuchadnezzar went crazy. His helpers couldn't control him, or talk to him. So they drove him out of the city & made his son be king. Nebuchadnezzar stayed away for 7 years. Then gradually, he was not crazy anymore. He realized that the Lord is King. He went back, & the people let him in & he helped his son be king. After a while he died.

5 But his son was too proud, like he was. He let the people use the golden cups from the Temple at Jerusalem to drink out of, at one of his big parties. Suddenly the fingers of a hand appeared & wrote on a wall these words: Mene, Mene, Tekel Upharsin. The king called in all the wise men, but they could not tell what it meant. The king was afraid it was something bad, & he was worried. The queen happened to be there right then, & she reminded him of Daniel. So they had Daniel come & see it. The king promised him all sorts of riches if he would tell him the meaning. Daniel said, "I'll tell you anyway. You can keep your riches." He said, "God has sent you that message on the wall because you used special temple cups for

ordinary drinking. It says, "God is about to end your kingdom. He has judged you, & you lack alot. The Persians will have your kingdom now." And that very night, the Persians invaded Babylon, & made the kingdom theirs, & killed the king.

6 The new king was called Darius. He liked Daniel right off. He made him second in command. The princes were jealous of Daniel when this happened. They wanted to destroy Daniel, but there was no way. Then they had an idea.

The king liked Daniel because he had a good spirit, & he always did what he was told to do, right away. So the princes went to King Darius & said, "Let's make a rule that, for one month, if anybody asks God for anything, or any man for anything, except you, he'll be thrown that same day into the den of lions." They didn't tell the king, but Daniel always asked things from Heavenly Father when he prayed. They next made sure that the king would not change the rule, no matter what happened. King Darius had the rule written down, & he signed it.

The next day, those princes watched Daniel through a window in his house as he prayed, just to be sure that he still prayed. Now, Daniel knew about the new rule, but he prayed anyway. He usually prayed 3 times a day, and he prayed 3 times this day, too. Those princes ran & told King Darius about it. Now King Darius was angry with himself, for having been tricked into making a rule that would hurt his friend, Daniel. He tried & tried to think of a way to get out of it. But it all had to be done the same day, so when the sun

went down, he called for Daniel, & explained that he couldn't think of a way to save him. Then he put him in the lions' den, saying, "I only hope your God, who you pray to, can help you." Then they locked the door by putting a large boulder in front of it, so Daniel couldn't get out.

Back at his palace, King Darius refused to eat supper, because he worried about Daniel. He went to bed, but he couldn't sleep at all. Sometimes he walked around in his bedroom, worrying.

As soon as it began to be light, King Darius went to the lion's den. He began to cry & sob. He called, "Daniel, was your God able to help you?" He heard Daniel call back, "Yes, He sent an angel, who has kept the lions quiet all night." Then they unlocked the door, & got Daniel out. Next they had the police bring those princes who had accused Daniel, and their families, too. They put all those princes & their families into the lions' den, and they were soon all eaten up.

9 Also, about this time, Daniel began praying that his people might be allowed to go back & live in Jerusalem. The people that had been taken off to Babylon had just about all died, because now 60 or 70 years had gone by. Daniel knew from reading Jeremiah's prophecies that after 70 years, the Lord would make it so they could go back.

Daniel was also a prophet, & he had many visions, and the Lord loved him greatly.

EZRA 16 Nov 81

After Darius, Cyrus was king of Persia next. According to Daniel's prayers & Jeremiah's prophecies, the Lord put thoughts into King Cyrus' mind about letting the Jews go back to Jerusalem. King Cyrus sent a proclamation through all his kingdom, saying, "Every Jew that wants to, may go back to Jerusalem & live there, & build up the temple again. Anyone that wants, can give them gold & silver & food as they leave."
King Cyrus gave the Jews back the special cups & things that the Babylonians before him had taken from the Temple.

About 42,000 Jews went back to Jerusalem, that summer. The city was nearly empty. They lived in the empty houses. They made some sacrifices in the place where the temple had been. They even had a party. Next, they began to build up the temple again. King Cyrus sent them more money to buy wood from Lebanon. It took about a year for all this to happen. As the temple was worked on, some shouted for joy. Other, older men cried because it brought back memories.

4 When the people near Jerusalem heard that the temple was being re-built, they wanted to come & help, too. So they asked the chief Jew, Zerubbabel, if they could. He knew that these people worshipped statues, and that they would want to use the temple for statue worship if they helped build it, so he told them, "No." They felt hurt by this. Later, & throughout the months & years to come, they tried to tease those who worked on the Temple, & they sometimes came at night & tore down what had been built the day before.

For this reason, the Jews had some of the workers be soldiers, & stand guard to drive off the people that would tease or tear down.

After a time, those people even wrote to the Persian king, who was, by then, Ahasuerus. He didn't pay attention. When there was a new king, Artaxerxes, they wrote another letter, saying that Jerusalem had before been a city that gave kings trouble, & it should not be rebuilt. King Artaxerxes looked in the history books, and found that the Jews truly had been troublesome to kings in the past. So he sent a letter back to those people near Jerusalem, saying that he gave his permission to have them stop the work the Jews were doing. And when the Jews saw the letter, & that it was real, they had to stop.

5 But the prophets Haggai & Zechariah, & Zerubbabel & Jeshua, the chief workers, went back to work. When those people told them to stop, they explained that the letter they had was wrong, and they wrote their own letter to the king, telling him to look in another history book & see the proclamation of King Cyrus, where he had said that the Jews could build their things up again.

6 The king found it, & wrote a letter back that, yes, the Jews could do as they wanted. The letter also told the people near Jerusalem to help the Jews by giving them food & clothes & animals for sacrifice. He also wanted the Jews to pray for him & his sons when the temple was finished.

So the temple was built with no trouble. It was soon finished. The Jews held a large party when it was dedicated.

7 After these things, a priest called Ezra, who knew how to read & write, got permission from King Artaxerxes to take more people & more money to Jerusalem. Ezra camped by a river near Babylon & waited for all
8 those who wanted to come. Soon everyone was ready. The Lord protected them from robbers along the way. They had to walk for 4 months to get to Jerusalem. After they got there, they offered sacrifices.

9 Ezra got to be a chief judge. Soon important people came & told him, "The Jews here are marrying people who aren't members of their church." Ezra was astonished, because the Jews had been taught to always marry members of the church. If they didn't, the non-members tended to make the family worship statues. The Jews had been slaves in Babylon for 70 years until now because they had worshipped statues. So Ezra prayed to the Lord.

10 People noticed Ezra praying, and soon a crowd of Jews gathered. When Ezra stood up, they said, "You are right. We will put away our non-member wives, and marry new ones who are church members, or Jews, like we are."
Ezra was happy.
But because all the Jews needed to do this, he sent a message to every city in the land of Judah, saying, "All who are Jews must come to a meeting in 3 days." They all came, & they promised to put away their non-member wives. However, it was the rainy season, & they had to wait for better weather to send their wives home. But they did it. In 3 months all the non-member wives were out of the land of Judah.

Nehemiah 19 Nov 81

1 Nehemiah was a servant in the palace of the king of Persia, Artaxerxes. It was his job to fill & bring the king's cup to him when he wanted a drink. It was a good job, & he had had that job a long time. He had always been happy.

One day he heard that the Jews who had gone back to Jerusalem were having a hard time, and that the people near Jerusalem were trying to stop them in their building. He became very sad. He also prayed for them.

2 King Artaxerxes noticed how Nehemiah was sad, & he asked what was wrong. Nehemiah told him. The king said, "What do you want me to do?" Nehemiah said, "Let me go to Jerusalem & help them." So King Artaxerxes gave him letters of authority, & some army captains & some soldiers to help him.

When he got to Jerusalem, he went & looked over the city in the moonlight, & saw how much the walls were broken down. The next day he met with the leaders & told them he was there to see that the city wall got built up & made strong again. He organized the Jews & got the work going. The people near Jerusalem didn't like to see the wall rebuilt, & they teased the workers. Finally they decided they should fight the Jews soon, before the wall was finished. But Nehemiah had half the workers be guards, so those people could not get in where the wall had not yet been repaired. If the people came at one part of the wall, Nehemiah had a helper blow a trumpet, calling those on guard,

from around at other places on the wall, to the trouble spot. Besides this, Nehemiah had half of the Jews guard during the day, & half during the night. No one ever took off his clothes to go to bed. They did change clothes once in a while so the clothes could be washed, though.

5 Also, many of the people had borrowed money from the rulers to pay their debts to the king, & they had to pay back money all their lives because the rulers charged them interest. Nehemiah called a meeting of the rulers & told them how paying money all their life kept the people poor. He asked them to not charge interest, because everyone needed to help everyone else, right now. The rulers did just as Nehemiah asked, & everyone was happy.
In fact, Nehemiah worked as governor for 12 years without pay, because everyone needed to help everyone else. He also fed the workmen lunch at his house each day.

6 Now the Jews' enemies that lived near Jerusalem, sent a message to Nehemiah, asking him to come to a certain city to talk. Nehemiah figured they wanted to trick him, so he said, "No, thank you; I have much work to do." But they asked again & again. They even tried to get him to say something bad about King Artaxerxes in Persia, so he would have to stop the work on the city walls, but Nehemiah knew their hearts & would not do it. They tried to threaten Nehemiah in their letters, but Nehemiah would not be scared.
Pretty soon, in a couple of months, the wall was finished. It was strong & tall, & there was no place to get through, except at the gates.

12 So they had a great party, and they prayed, & dedicated the wall of Jerusalem to the Lord.

13 Nehemiah told the Jews that from then on, they should pay their tithing always. He also told them to never work on the Sabbath, because he had seen some of them making grape juice, working in the fields, & selling food on the Sabbath. He ordered the city gates to be closed & locked on the Sabbath. This made it so the people could not bring in things to sell on the Sabbath.

He also found that still some Jews had married people not of their land. Their children began to grow up speaking the language of their mother, who was not a Jew. Those children had not even learned the Jew's language. Nehemiah talked hard with some of those Jews, & even hit some of them. He wanted no one else to marry people not of their land.

Esther 24 Nov 87

When Ahasuerus was king of Persia, he once held a great party, where he showed all the great things he had done, to the important men. Queen Vashti also held a party for the women. When it was almost time to stop, & King Ahasuerus was drunk, he sent 7 servants to get Queen Vashti to come into his party, so the men could see what a beautiful queen she was.

Queen Vashti did not want her husband to show her off like that, & she did not go. This made King Ahasuerus angry, & he & the wise men of the kingdom decided to get another queen, & not have Vashti be queen anymore. They didn't want the women of the kingdom to think that the queen could disobey her husband & not be punished, or they would try it, too.
And so it was done.

2 So the king made a decree that all the girls who wanted to be queen should come to the palace, &, after a while, the king would choose the new queen from among them.

Now there was a Jewish girl named Hadassah, who was called Esther in the Persian language. Both her mother & her father had died when she was young. Her uncle Mordecai had made her part of his family. He was one of the first to hear the king's decree, & he told Esther to go try & be the next queen, even though she was Jewish, not Persian.

So she did. The man in charge of the girls coming to the palace right away liked her, & tried to help her more than the others. But she never told anyone she was a Jewess. After a few months, the king let each girl come to him, one at a time, about one every day. After some time, Esther's turn came.

After that, there were no more turns, because King Ahasuerus liked Esther, & proclaimed a party, & made Esther queen.

About a month later, as Mordecai was walking near the palace, he heard 2 of the king's servants talking. They were planning to kill the king because he had treated them poorly.
Mordecai went to the palace door & asked to see Esther, the queen. Esther came out to see her uncle, & he told her about those 2 servants. Then Esther told King Ahasuerus that Mordecai had heard that the 2 servants wanted him killed. King Ahasuerus had others make sure of it, & then he had those 2 servants hung. He had it written in the history book, too, & they wrote Mordecai's name there as a friend of the king.

3 Some time later, the king promoted Haman to be chief prince. Usually everyone didn't have to bow when the chief prince came by. But Haman felt important, & wanted everyone to bow to him. and the king agreed, & said that everyone should. But Mordecai would not bow, because he wanted to worship Heavenly Father, not Haman. Now, Haman didn't notice. Others did, & they tried to talk Mordecai into bowing. But Mordecai told them he was a Jew, & wanted to worship only Heavenly Father. So after a while, they told Haman about Mordecai, & that he was a Jew. Haman then thought that all the Jews ought to be killed, because he was so angry.

So the next time Haman talked to King Ahasuerus, he told him about the Jews, & that they all ought to be killed because they probably weren't obeying the king's law about bowing down to Haman.

King Ahasuerus said that was fine. They had a decree written, & sealed with the royal seal, that all Jews everywhere were to be killed on the 13th of February. Anyone killing a Jewish family could keep what they had for himself.

4 When Mordecai & all the Jews heard of it, they cried.

Mordecai cried near the palace. Esther saw it, & sent a messenger out to ask why he was crying. Mordecai told him, & he told Esther, also asking her to ask the king to call it off, as Mordecai wanted. Esther sent back this message: "There is a rule that if anyone goes in to the king without being asked, that person will be killed. Only if he stretches out his hand to the person will the person not be killed. So really, I can't help by going to the king."

Mordecai sent a message back: "Remember, Esther, that you are a Jewess, & the king's decree will get you killed. So what difference is there if you get killed trying to save the Jews, or if you get killed without trying?" "Maybe this is why Heavenly Father has let you be queen."

Then Esther sent back this message: "Go & have all the Jews in the city fast for 3 days. I & my friends in the palace will fast, also. Then after that, I will try going in to the king, & if I die, I die."

5 So they neither ate nor drank for 3 days. Then Esther put on her finest royal robes, & stepped just inside the large room where King Ahasuerus was, on his throne. After about 5 minutes, he saw her there, & he held out his hand to her, so she would not

have to be killed. So Esther went & touched his hand, & he asked her what she wanted. Esther invited him & Haman to a big dinner that afternoon. So the king sent for Haman, & they went to Esther's dinner. At the dinner, Esther said to Haman & the king, "You two must come alone to another fine dinner here tomorrow — I like only you two that much."

So Haman was proud & happy as he went home. On the way, he saw Mordecai, who didn't bow this time, either, & he wished he could kill Mordecai right then, but he decided to be patient & wait a few more days until the 13th of February. He told all this to his wife & friends. They all said, "Make a very high hanging place, & ask King Ahasuerus tomorrow, to hang Mordecai on it, so he'll be dead." And Haman had the hanging place made the next morning.

6 On that same night, however, King Ahasuerus had trouble getting to sleep. So he called a scribe & had him read to him from the history book of the kingdom. He read him many stories. One was the one about how Mordecai had helped save the king's life once by warning him that two servants planned to kill him. King Ahasuerus told the scribe to find out what had been done to reward Mordecai for saving his life. The answer was — nothing.

This bothered King Ahasuerus, & when Haman came early that morning to see him, he asked Haman, "If I want to honor someone, how should I do it?" Haman thought of what he would like best. He thought the king was thinking of him. He said "Let him wear your royal robe while he rides on your very own horse in a parade that goes all around the city."

The king liked that. He gave Haman his royal robe & got him his horse, but Haman was very surprized when the king said, "OK. Now go & lead a parade & have Mordecai, the Jew, wear the robe & ride the horse." And Haman had to walk along & tell everyone, "This is Mordecai, who the King honors!"

Mordecai enjoyed the parade. Haman went home & cried. But soon he had to go to the dinner that Queen Esther had invited just him & the king to.

7 As they ate, King Ahasuerus asked Queen Esther what favor he could do for her. Esther said, "Let me not be killed, nor my people either." King Ahasuerus said, "Why, who would want to do such a terrible thing?" Queen Esther answered, "Haman." King Ahasuerus was surprized, but angry. He now remembered that decree that he had let Haman make. He gave Haman a mean look & then went out of the room for a second to think. Haman was scared, & went to whisper to Queen Esther, to convince her to not have him killed. But when the king looked back in, he thought he saw Haman kissing Queen Esther, without asking him. So his anger doubled. He said, "What can I do to Haman?" One of the servants knew about the hanging place that Haman had had made that morning, & he told the king. The king said, "Hang Haman on it." So Haman was hanged on the very thing he had made to hang Mordecai on.

8 The king gave Queen Esther Haman's house & his servants. The king gave Mordecai his ring to make decrees official. Queen Esther made Mordecai boss over Haman's old house.
After a while, Queen Esther went in to the king, & he

stretched out his hand, as before. She asked that Haman's decree about killing all the Jews be erased. The king said, "I would like to cross it all out, but the rules won't let me. Instead, have Mordecai make another decree, & seal it with that ring, saying that the Jews can fight back on that certain day." And so the decree was written, & it was published in all places in the Persian kingdom.

9 When that day, the 13th of February, arrived, the Jews were good fighters. Beside that, the police had decided to help the Jews, instead of hurt them. So most of the Persians that still wanted to kill Jews on that day got killed in the fighting. At Queen Esther's request, the king let the Jews fight the next day, too, and all the enemies of the Jews in Persia were killed.

10 Mordecai made a new decree for all the Jews: "The 14th & 15th days of February will be special days to the Jews. Every year there should be a celebration, with dinners & gladness & giving of gifts." This is called the feast of Purim.

10 King Ahasuerus liked Mordecai alot. Moldecai became an important man in Persia, and did many good things.

Jonah

1 The Lord spoke to the prophet, Jonah, & told him to go preach in the wicked city of Nineveh. But Jonah was afraid of those people, & he travelled the other direction, & got on a ship going further away.

But the Lord sent a storm, & it seemed as though the waves would sink the ship. All the sailors on the ship were scared. Jonah wasn't; he went to sleep. The captain woke him up & asked him to pray.

The sailors tried to guess why the storm was so bad. They didn't know much about Jonah. After this, they asked Jonah if he had done anything wrong. He said, "Yes, I am running away from the Lord." He next said, "The storm will stop if you throw me out of the ship."

They said they couldn't do that, & they tried rowing to where land might be. But the waves were too strong, & their rowing didn't help. So Jonah told them again to throw him out of the ship, & they did it.

The waves washed Jonah out of sight. As soon as he was gone from their sight, the storm stopped. So the sailors were amazed.
But a great fish swallowed Jonah whole.

2 Jonah was thankful to be in the fish's stomach instead of in the water, & he prayed from in there. Three days later, the great fish came near a beach & threw up Jonah.

3 Then the Lord told Jonah again to go to Nineveh. Jonah did as he was told.

Nineveh was a very big city. It would take 3 days just to walk from one side of it to the other. Jonah only went a little ways into the city, & gave a speech. He told the people the Lord knew they were wicked, & in a month & ten days, the Lord would overthrow their city.

In spite of their wickedness, the people that heard him thought that Jonah's message was important. They went & told the king. The king said, "You know, he's right!" And he declared a day of fasting & repentance for the whole city.

So the people of Nineveh stopped being wicked. The Lord saw this, & did not destroy them.

4 But Jonah had sat down in the shade of a vine on a hillside near Nineveh to watch it be destroyed. When it wasn't destroyed, Jonah complained to the Lord. The Lord answered by letting the shady vine dry up & die. Then Jonah had no shade. He told the Lord he had liked that vine. The Lord told Jonah that just as Jonah didn't want the vine to die, the Lord didn't want the people in Nineveh to die. He loved them much more even than Jonah said he had liked the vine. He loved them because they were his brothers & sisters, & they were being more kind & more helpful.

This is a Summary only. The stories were all written out in 1981.

Prophecy to Solomon of his servant getting the kingdom.
Ahijah & Jereboam; Jereboam hides in Egypt
Solomon dies.
Rehoboam challenged to decide to lighten taxes.
Israel splits; tax collector stoned
Rehoboam ready to war; Shemaiah warns him not to.
Jereboam makes calves.
Man of God; withered hand, Man of God tricked
Ahijah prophecies Abijah's death
(Queen disguised, boy dies)
Jereboam & Abijah (Judah King) battle, Jereboam tries pincer,
Abijah & men call on God & scatter Israel.
Nadab king; assassinated, by Baasha
Baasha king; Baasha builds Ramah as a blockade.
Asa gets Syria to fight Baasha. Asa dismantles Ramah.
Hanani prophecies woes for Asa 'cuz he relied on Syria, not Lord.
Asa put Hanani in jail. Baasha dies
Jehu, Hanani's son, prophecies against Elah, Baasha's son.
Elah assassinated by Zimri, his captain
Zimri king, kills rest of Baasha's family. 1K 17, 2Ch 16
Omri King —
Ahab built a temple for Baal in Samaria (Israel)
Elijah predicts drought to Ahab,
goes to cave by a brook, fed by ravens
brook dries up, Elijah goes to Zarephath
Widow helps feed Elijah (test of faith)
Widow's son brought back from death by Elijah.
Ahab & Obadiah search for grass for animals.
Obadiah meets Elijah, who wants to see Ahab.
They find Ahab. Elijah challenges Baal's priests to a duel.
The duel with 450 priests
450 priests slain by Elijah.
Ahab sent to dinner by Elijah.
Elijah looks for rain (little cloud)
Jezebel threatens Elijah. Elijah leaves for Horeb (eat under tree)
Elijah & the still small voice.
Elijah told to anoint Hazael king of Syria, Jehu, king of Israel,
& Elisha the next prophet.
Benhadad king of Syria defeated by 232 of Ahab's princes.

Benhadad returns defeated by Israel again.
Benhadad asks a treaty with Ahab gets it.
A prophet tells Ahab he should have killed Benhadad.
Naboth's vineyard
Elijah prophecies Ahab's death.
Jehosaphat & Ahab go against Syria; Micaiah foretells defeat.
(Zedekiah (a helper) to lose life also)
Ahab killed accidentally in battle.
Ahaziah reigns.
Falls through a lattice - Sends to Baal to know if recover.
Elijah meets messengers foretells Ahaziah's death
2 50's taken by fire.
He dies
Jehoram reigns.

Elisha gets to see Elijah go.
Elisha heals the waters at Jericho

Moab rebells
Water provided in the dug ditches in desert (Elisha)
Moab defeated.

23 July 90

Jeremiah

1 In the years when Josiah was king in Jerusalem, a young priest in a city nearby received a vision. His name was Jeremiah. In the vision, Jeremiah heard the Lord say, "You are to be a prophet, not just a priest, and you will give my word not only to the Jews, but to other nations, also. That is your mission in life. Before you came to be born here, you promised Me you would."

But these thoughts scared Jeremiah, & he said, "Hold on! I can't do that; I'm not old enough yet to be an authority!"

But the Lord said, "Jeremiah, you promised, and, besides, I will always help you know what to do & to say when you go to the kings. And I will always be watching, & when they threaten you, or hurt you, I'll help you get away."
Then the Lord touched Jeremiah's mouth, & added, "There, now. Now you can tell kings & tell people where & how they need to do better, and you can even scare kings with your words."

Within a week or two, Jeremiah had another vision — one which told the main idea that the Lord had in mind for Jerusalem & the nearby cities. The Lord had seen Jerusalem's kings & priests being unfair and selfish for a long time. They had even killed people secretly. So the Lord's message for Jeremiah to tell the king & the people was:

> "A mean army shall come from the north and take over all that you have. You won't be able to stop them; they'll kill who they have to, & take the rest of you home as slaves."

Jeremiah knew that the king wouldn't like to hear this. The king would probably put him in jail. The Lord knew his thoughts and his fears, and told Jeremiah,

"Don't be afraid to speak out, or else I'll not watch over you like I said. Really, I know you can tell anyone you have to, how bad they are, and with My help also, you'll be entirely safe."

2 The Lord spoke to Jeremiah several times that year. One more thing the Jews had done wrong was to go to the churches of their neighbors and not go to the Lord's church. The Jews had found that it was easier to get along with their neighbors, & have them as friends, if they went to the neighbor's churches. But Heavenly Father wants His people to help others be better & go to the right church. If His people let others lead them away to other churches, they're not worth anything as His people. How will the neighbors ever find the right church, then?

3 The Lord also told Jeremiah that he could tell the Jews that they had now done enough wrong to be like the Israelites, the Lord's people in the next kingdom, who had been taken away as slaves just a few years ago, because of being unfair, & not going to the right church.

4 The Lord said, "Tell the people that the armies that will take you away are already starting to come."

5 & 6 Another way to say the message is this: "You Jews served strange gods in your land; now you shall serve strangers in a strange land. You don't even know their language."

7 The Lord gave a list of things the Jews could do to repent.

24 July 90

1. Judge cases righteously — don't favor a man because he's your friend, or is a leader in the city, or if he pays you money for a favor.

2. Make sure you take good care of orphans & widows, & newcomers.

3. Don't kill people secretly.

4. Go to the right church, always.

If they did better in these ways, the Lord said that He would stop the armies that were coming.

But, He said, I've watched as you have done bad things in the temple, even.
And you know, don't you, Jeremiah, that the Jews — the people — will not obey what you tell them. They are too hard-hearted.

8 He said, "I thought you would at last realize what you've done wrong, but you haven't."

9 "Your people still love to tell lies, too."
"And I'll have you taken away, and dragons will live in your empty houses."

11 Jeremiah told the people & the rulers these revelations over and over. After a year or so, they secretly made a plan to kill Jeremiah. The Lord knew of it, because He listens to everyone's thoughts. He told Jeremiah to tell them that he knew about it, and that the Lord would punish them if they did it.
They didn't.

12 Jeremiah sometimes wondered why the Lord let wicked people

stay around. But the Lord said, "Yes, they do bother; but just wait a while."

13 After this, the Lord had Jeremiah do a demonstration. He had Jeremiah buy a fine cloth sash to tie around his waist like a belt. Then he had Jeremiah go to a river bank a long ways off and bury it. After many days, the Lord had Jeremiah go back & dig up the sash, and Jeremiah found it was not only dirty, but it had holes in it where the beetles & ants had tasted it.

The Lord then told Jeremiah, "Show the sash to the people, & tell them that they will feel as dirty and weak as the sash, when I finish sending the army from the north on them."

"Besides, Jeremiah, you can show them some bottles, all full. They will say, Yes, bottles are meant to be filled. Then you will say, Bottles can be broken easily — like you will be destroyed when you're not watching.

14 "That's why it doesn't rain these days: I have stopped the rain from coming, because the people here are not kind and helpful."

15 Jeremiah felt very much picked on, when just about everyone in the country hated him for telling the things the Lord had said. But the Lord told him, "Never mind, Jeremiah; when the armies come, they will be kind to you." Still, Jeremiah felt lonely.

17 The Lord told Jeremiah next to go to the city gates on the Sabbath day, & when the king & princes come through with things to buy & sell, he should tell them, "This is another reason why the Lord will send the armies upon you: you don't rest & go to church on the Sabbath day." But they made fun of Jeremiah.

26 July 90

18 The Lord had Jeremiah visit a potter's shop. When one pot had something wrong with it as it was being made, the potter threw it away, & started making another pot, like he usually did when something went wrong. The Lord told Jeremiah, "I can do the same thing with my people, if they don't obey me." "Go, tell that to the people."

Jeremiah did, & the people said, "We like what we're doing. We won't change."

So the Lord told Jeremiah, "Then I will scatter them as dust when you shake your clothing."

But the people thought it was only Jeremiah saying his own ideas, & they said to themselves, "Let's make fun of Jeremiah, & hurt him, too. We're smarter than he is."

19 Next the Lord had Jeremiah go buy a pretty bottle made from something like glass. And He told Jeremiah to show it to all that he passed by as he went to the city gate with it. He did so, and a lot of people followed him. Then he stopped by the gate, & said, "No one believed me when I said that this city's walls will be broken (& this people, too), since you are so mean. Well, this is what will happen to your walls (& to you, too)!" And Jeremiah threw his bottle against the wall, & the bottle broke into alot of little pieces. And he walked away, saying, "and it can't be put back together, again."

20 When the chief priest heard of this, he was mean to Jeremiah for all of one night. After it was over, Jeremiah told him, "Because of this, the Lord will make it so that all your friends hate you."

Jeremiah went home, & was sad. He said to himself, "No one listens to me! It's no fun being a prophet!"

21 Then one day Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, came to make war on Jerusalem. (This was after Lehi and his family had gone away.) When the city leaders saw the armies coming, they sent messengers to Jeremiah at his house, asking, "Can you get the Lord to scare these armies away, like He used to?"

Jeremiah answered, "No. In fact, the Lord will make it so you and your own army stab themselves with their own spears when they try to fight."

After the messengers left, Jeremiah went out and told the people standing around, "Babylonia's armies are coming to our city. If you fight them or run away, you'll be killed. If you go to them & surrender, you'll be treated more or less OK, as prisoners.

22 The Lord next told Jeremiah to go to the king, himself, & tell him, "If you only will do these things:

1. Help those that are picked on.
2. Don't be mean to new people, or orphans, or widows
3. Don't kill people secretly, or don't kill anyone except those who have murdered.

Then you may keep on being king, & one of your sons can be king after you.

But, if not, then
I will destroy everything here,
& you won't have any sons left,
& you'll be taken away as a slave.

Jeremiah 31 July 90

23 After this, Jeremiah thought some about how Jerusalem would be re-built hundreds of years later, & Jesus Christ would do miracles there. Then, also, Jesus Christ would come there at the last days.

At that time in Jerusalem, there were many men who thought they were prophets. But Heavenly Father had not told them to be prophets, so they weren't, even though they tried. So they never said what was right. The Lord told Jeremiah to tell all those men that they were not prophets, & to stop trying. If they didn't stop, the Lord would punish them.

24 About the time that the first of the Jews — namely, the king & his family — were taken captive to Babylon, the Lord showed Jeremiah a vision, & he saw some good figs & some rotten figs. The Lord said, "The people that will allow the Babylonians to take them as slaves, will be slaves, but they will learn to be kind & helpful, & their families will come back to Jerusalem after a long while. These are like the good figs. The people that will try to hide, or to fight, or run away, are like the rotten figs. I won't take care of them." 608 BC

25 Jeremiah told the people, "I have prophesied to you for 10 years now, and you have not changed your ways and started coming to the Lord's church as you should. Therefore, the Lord says you will be made slaves by the new king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, & you'll be in Babylon 70 years, until I punish Nebuchadnezzar & his people for their meanness, in their turn." 627 BC or 615 BC

Next, the Lord told Jeremiah to name the

nations that the Lord would punish, in order. They were
1. the Jews
2. Egypt
3. all the countries near Jerusalem, even Arabia.

26 Then the Lord told Jeremiah to go and tell all 608BC
the Lord had said, & to do it in the Temple.
(The Lord wanted to give the people one more chance
to do better.)
But the priests in the Temple said, "No one can
destroy our Temple! You ought to be shot!"
They took him to court.
Jeremiah told the court, "The Lord is giving
you another chance. If you kill me, it won't
change anything I've said, but the Lord will
punish you harder."
The court listened to stories about prophets
in the past. One, Micah, had told King Hezekiah
things like this, & Hezekiah obeyed the Lord, & all was well.
Another, Urijah, had told like things to king Jehoiakim,
& the king had him captured from hiding, & killed him.

But Jeremiah had enough friends who spoke for him,
that the court let him go free.

27 Jeremiah sent messages to other countries, 619BC
saying that Babylon was going to conquer them, also,
& they should not fight or run, or hide.

28 A false prophet called Hananiah said,
"Babylonia will not be able to fight soon, and
in two years all that they have taken so far
will be brought back."
Jeremiah prayed about this, and went & told
Hananiah in front of all the people,
"Because you taught wrong things and said
that the Lord said them, you will die
this year." Three months later, Hananiah
got sick & died.

2 Aug 90

29 Jeremiah heard that there were false prophets among the slaves who were Jews in Babylonia. He sent a letter to the Jews there, telling them, "Your captivity there will last 70 years, not 2 years as the false prophets say. And the Lord says that the king of Babylon will kill 2 of your false prophets by fire, soon."

Another false prophet wrote a letter back making fun of Jeremiah. Jeremiah sent a letter back saying that false prophet would not live to have children.

30,31 Jeremiah also knew how both the Jews & all the other Tribes in Israel, would come back to the Promised Land in the last days.

32 The Lord told Jeremiah one day, when the Babylonian army was about ready to destroy the city, to buy a field for a garden. Jeremiah did it, telling the people that watched, "I'm buying this field because then my relatives can have a garden here after being slaves in Babylon, for they shall come back and live here.

33 And the Word also told Jeremiah that Jesus Christ would finally come & be king in Jerusalem in the last days. He said "Even though the people in Israel have been taken away, & even though these people here will soon be taken away, Jesus Christ will finally be king here.

34 Through Jeremiah, the Lord told King Zedekiah that when the Babylonians would take over, king Zedekiah would see king Nebuchadnezzar face to face, & then be carried off as a slave.

Also the Jews were supposed to set their servants free. They did, but in a few hours, made them servants again. For this, the Lord said, "I'll make sure that your Jews die, for that."

35 There was a group of people that moved into Jerusalem before the Babylonians came. They had promised their fathers that they would never drink wine. Jeremiah had his friends test them. (Jeremiah couldn't do it; he was in prison.) They took that people to the temple & put wine before them & asked them to drink. They said, "No, we never have drunk wine since we promised our fathers that we wouldn't." Then they were allowed to go home. Jeremiah sent a letter to them, saying, "Because you keep your promises to your fathers, you'll always have grandchildren, or great grandchildren, & they will be righteous."

36 The Lord next thought that the Jews might change & do better if they heard all the penalties at once, so he had Jeremiah get a scribe and write out all the revelations Jeremiah had received. Jeremiah had been a prophet for over 20 years, so there was alot to write. (615 BC)

Then he had the scribe (Baruch) take that book of revelations and read it to the Jews in the temple on their fast day. (Jeremiah couldn't go there, because he was in prison.)

When the people there heard it, they told their leaders. The leaders had Baruch come & read it to them. They were scared, & told Baruch to leave the book & go hide in prison with Jeremiah.

36

Then they went & showed the book of revelations to king Jehoiakem. The king read a few pages and then began tossing the pages of the book, one by one, into the fire in the fireplace. The leaders saw this, & wanted to stop the king from doing this,

but you can't stop kings — they'll put you in jail. So the king burned the whole book. He didn't like what it said against him. Then he told the leaders, "Tell Jeremiah & his scribe that I'm mad at them."

Jeremiah had Baruch, his scribe write the book over.

37 At another time, when Jeremiah was not in prison, the Egyptian army came up near Jerusalem & scared away the Babylonian army. King Zedekiah asked Jeremiah if now Egypt had saved Jerusalem from Babylonia.

Jeremiah said, "No. Egypt will soon take its army back, and the Babylonian army will then come and destroy Jerusalem."

The next day, Jeremiah wanted to go live in a smaller town, next to Jerusalem. The gatekeeper at Jerusalem saw him, & said, "I don't believe you only want to move. I think you're going to join the Babylonian army. For that, you will go to jail."

Jeremiah had been in jail a month or more before king Zedekiah called him out for a question. Jeremiah answered the question, & then added, "Please, king, don't send me back to my jail room. Let me have room to move around & walk." So the king arranged for Jeremiah to be in a different place in the jail.

38 Later, when the Babylonian army was about ready to attack, Jeremiah told people again, "If you fight this army, you'll be killed. If you surrender to them, you'll be saved alive."

No one liked that, & the leaders put Jeremiah in jail, saying, "Please don't discourage our soldiers."

They put Jeremiah into a mud pit. One man in the city felt sorry for Jeremiah, and he went to king Zedekiah and got permission to have Jeremiah stay in the part of the jail where he could move around.

Then king Zedekiah had Jeremiah brought to him for a question = "What should I do?"
Jeremiah repeated over again that whoever would surrender to the Babylonians would be saved alive.
King Zedekiah said, "But then the Babylonians will let those who surrendered last month make fun of me."
Jeremiah said, "That won't happen." The king had Jeremiah promise that he would not tell anyone that he had answered questions for the king.

39 A few days later, Babylonian army surrounded Jerusalem so that no one could bring food in to the people. The people used what food they had. After a year and a half the people were weak from not eating very much food.
The Babylonians came into the city. The people, & the king, too, were scared. They all tried to run away.
The Babylonians, when they had caught king Zedekiah, killed all his family, except for Mulek, while he watched. Then they made Zedekiah blind, & took him away as a slave.
They left nobody in Jerusalem except for a few poor people, after they had burned the city.
The Babylonians let Jeremiah live with the poor people. They also let Jeremiah's friend, who had got the king to let Jeremiah out of the mud-pit, live there also, because he had helped Jeremiah.

Jeremiah

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40 The Babylonians left Gedaliah, a poor Jew, in charge of the poor people in Jerusalem's ruins. The Jews that had hidden in nearby cities came back to live near Jerusalem.

41 A very wicked man, Ishmael, planned to kill Gedaliah. A friend warned Gedaliah, but Gedaliah didn't believe him. One day soon, Gedaliah had a big dinner & Ishmael came. Ishmael & a few friends had dinner, & then killed Gedaliah. Ishmael thought he had the right to lead, because he was a Jewish prince. He killed more people that he thought might tell on him, too. Then he made all the poor people, that he could, travel to the country of Ammon to live.

One of the leaders under Gedaliah, the friend that had warned him, took a small army after Ishmael, as soon as he learned of Ishmael & the dinner & the killing. They caught up with Ishmael & the poor people. The poor people ran away from Ishmael & joined the small army. Ishmael ran away, and forgot about being a king.

The poor people & the small army went back near Jerusalem, but they decided to live about 10 miles away, because they were afraid that the Babylonians would find that the man they had made king (Gedaliah) wasn't king anymore, & would punish them for not keeping the same king.

42 The name of the friend of Gedaliah was Johanan. He was the leader now.

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And pretty soon, all the important people among the poor Jews living with Johanan near Jerusalem got together and went to Jeremiah and asked Jeremiah to pray and get for them a revelation telling the poor Jews what the Lord would have them do. This made Jeremiah happy, & he said he would pray for a revelation. The people were happy, also, to find that Jeremiah still liked them. They said, "No matter whether we like to do what the Lord tells us to do, we'll do it. You just watch."

Jeremiah prayed, but the Lord didn't answer right away. Jeremiah prayed every day for an answer. Finally, after 10 days, the Lord told Jeremiah, "The poor Jews should live near Jerusalem, like they do now. Even though the Babylonian soldiers there may tease them, it won't be too bad. They may cut them with their swords, but I, the Lord, will not let them kill the poor Jews. They may steal some of their food, but I, the Lord, will help the poor Jews grow extra food.

The Lord knew that secretly the poor Jews wanted to get away from the Babylonian soldiers by going to Egypt to live, and He told the poor Jews, in the revelation, "Don't go to Egypt to get away. If you do, you'll die by the sword there, and your crops won't grow, and you'll die from being hungry, too. But I know you want to go to Egypt, and you probably will. But just remember that I told you not to, and I told you you'd be sorry."

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43 When Jeremiah told the poor Jews this revelation, the important people said to Jeremiah, "That can't be right! That's not from the Lord. One of your friends told you to tell us not to go to Egypt so that he can tell the Babylonians that he helped us decide to stay & live near them so they could tease us."

And the very next day, all the poor Jews started off to go live in Egypt. Jeremiah was sad, but he went, too.

After they all got to Egypt, the Lord talked to Jeremiah again, & said: "Tell those poor Jews that they think they've escaped the Babylonians, but they have not. I will help Babylonia take over all of Egypt — all of it — and all of the poor Jews will die."

44 The Lord even told them that a second time. But the people told Jeremiah, "There in our old homes, before the Babylonians came, we went to the churches of Egypt, & we were happy. Since the time the Babylonians came, we've had nothing but bad luck. So you can talk to the Lord if you want, but we'll go to the Egyptian churches & try to be happy again."

Then Jeremiah told them, "The Lord didn't like you going to the Egyptian churches, & so He let the Babylonians come upon you, & He made bad luck for you. During all your lives, you haven't gone to the Lord's church even one Sunday. How can you expect the Lord to turn your luck to good if you haven't done like He wants — not even for a little while?"

45 (More re-iteration of a 615 BC message.)

46 (Similar to Chapter 45.) Jeremiah began prophecying to the ~~Egyptians~~, about Egypt. He said, "Remember how you sent your army month years ago to fight Babylon, & you lost? Well, get ready to lose again. And this time, the Babylonians will come into Egypt to fight you. They will destroy all your cities."

The Lord put a little in about the Jews. Although they were like "bad children" & needed punishment, still they were his favorites, & He would bless them later.

47 Jeremiah also received a revelation telling that Babylonia would destroy all the Philistine cities. No one had thought Babylon would do that. At this time the Philistines were scared of the Egyptians.

48 #51 Jeremiah received revelations for all the countries near Jerusalem. Some would be taken over by Babylonia. Then Babylonia would be taken over and completely destroyed by Persia. The city of Babylon would never be re-built.

52 After Zedekiah had been king 9 years, he stopped doing some of the things Babylonia wanted him to do. So Babylonia sent an army & surrounded Jerusalem. The people inside began to starve, & after a year & a half, the king & the army & the people all tried to run away. But the Babylonians caught them. They killed Zedekiah's family, & put out his eyes & took him prisoner to Babylonia. Later, they burned the temple & the palace & all the houses.