

YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

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LEVEL

4



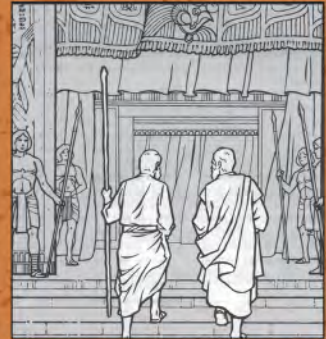
Creation



Abraham



Joseph's Adventures



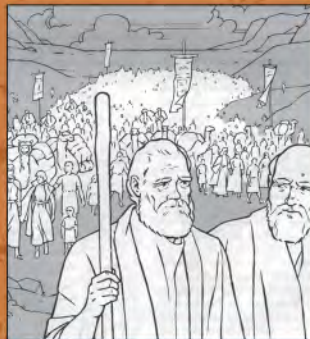
"Let My People Go"



Israel Leaves Egypt



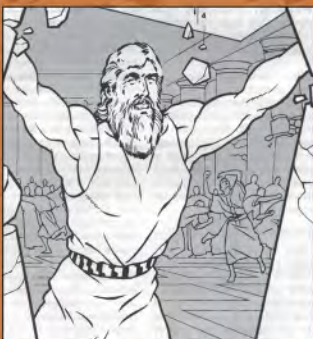
Lessons In Obedience



The Wanderings of Israel



Israel Enters The Land
Of Caanan



Samson - A Judge
of Israel



Ruth - A Virtuous Woman



Samuel The Prophet



The Spring & Fall Feasts

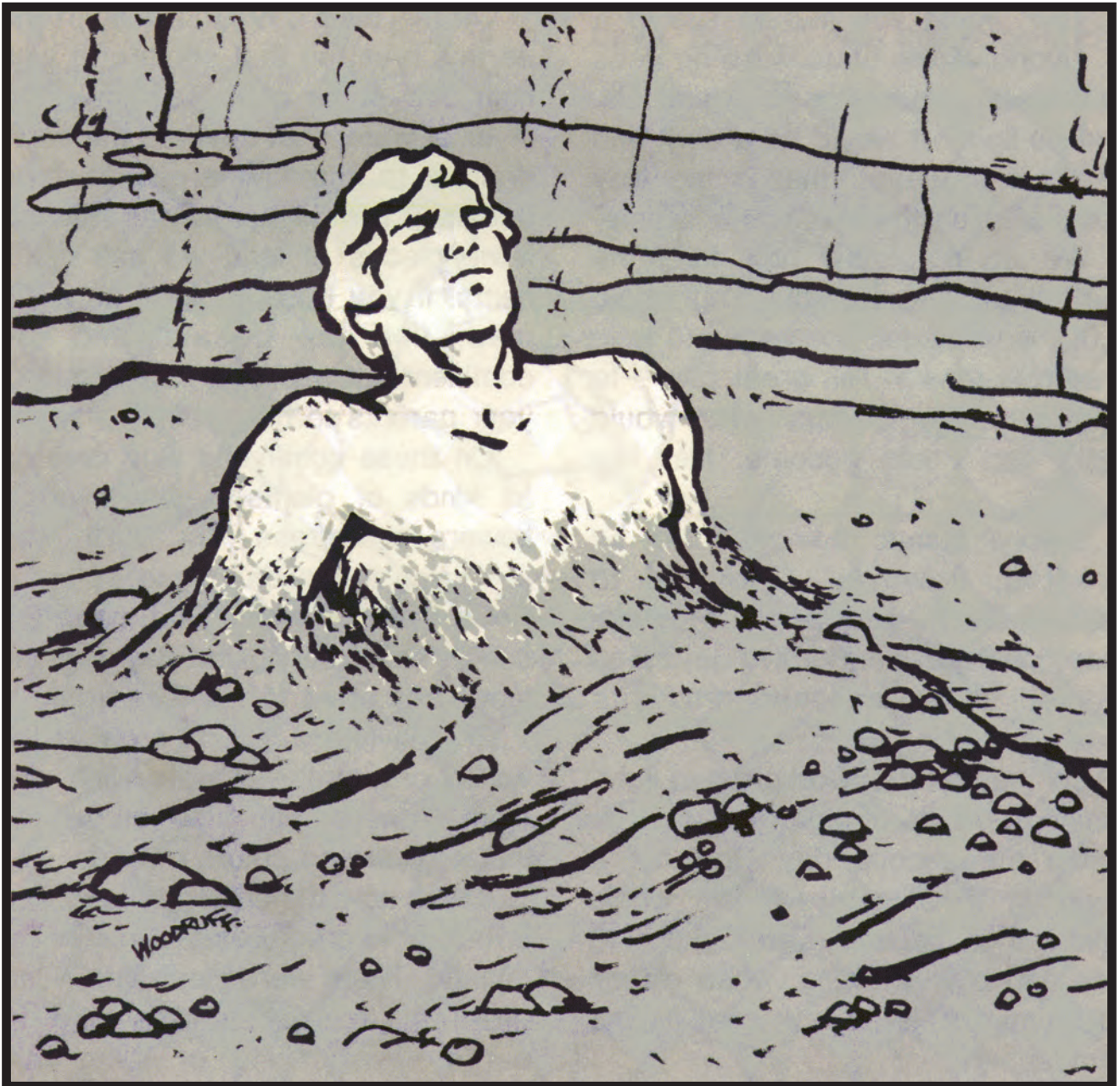
YOUTH

LEVEL 4

BIBLE

LESSONS

LESSON 1



Creation

CREATION

How would you like to live in a world where there were *no* trees or flowers, *no* birds or other animals, and *no* light? It would be a dark and empty world—yet, that is the way our planet earth looked at one time.

We do not know how long the earth was dark and empty, but about 6,000 years ago, God began to take the first steps in His great plan—to create human beings who would look, and could become, just like Him.

Before human beings could be created, however, God had to remake earth into a place where man could survive. For five days God worked at making earth ready for man's home.

On the first day God created light, making periods of night and day.

On the second day God put a layer of fresh air over the whole earth. This caused water vapor to rise and big, billowing, white clouds to appear. This air is known as our atmosphere.

On the third day God molded the earth's crust so that some of it was high and some of it was low. The layer of water that covered the earth drained to the low areas to form oceans. The higher areas formed large pieces of land we call continents. If you have a globe or world map, find the oceans and the continents. If necessary, ask one of your parents to help you.

On these continents God created all kinds of plants, trees, bushes, flowers and grass. The earth was becoming a beautiful place.

On the fourth day God made the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to shine at night.

On the fifth day God created the water creatures—whales, fish and many others. He also made the many kinds and colors of birds.

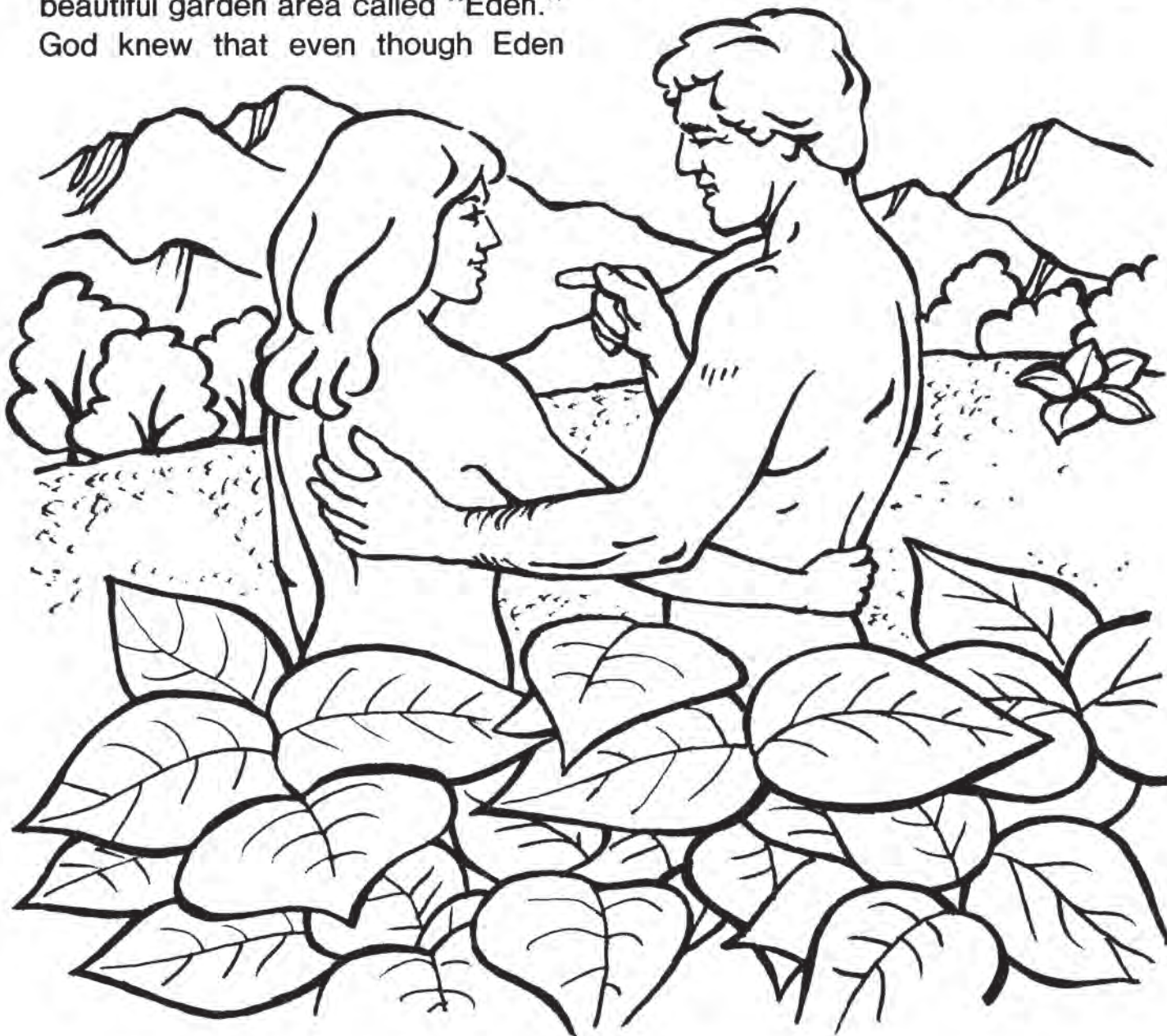
It was now the sixth day, and God created the creatures that would live on land. There were elephants, lions, giraffes, lizards, worms and insects—every kind of thing that

walks or creeps. The surface of the earth was again a beautiful place. It was now ready for God's most important part of creation—a human being. God made the first man from the dust of the ground and formed him, possibly using a method much like an artist would use to mold and shape clay.

The creator God called this man "Adam" and placed him in a beautiful garden area called "Eden." God knew that even though Eden

had all the beauty anyone could ever want, Adam would become lonely if he were the only human being. So, while Adam slept, God took one of Adam's ribs, and, by His great power, formed it into a woman. God gave her to Adam to be a companion, and Adam called her "Eve."

God made all of this in just six days. But God was not through, for



He still had not finished creating.

On the seventh day God created the Sabbath. However, the Sabbath day was created by resting, rather than by working. The Sabbath was created to be a special day. God tells us that we are always to keep the Sabbath day holy by resting and by worshiping Him.

This ended the first week of remaking our planet Earth. Adam and Eve lived in Eden, enjoying all the colorful flowers, the fruit and shade trees, and the streams of clear, blue water. They were happy as they took care of the Garden and the animals that lived in the Garden with them.

Long before man was created, God had created spirit beings, called "angels." Some of them served God at His throne in heaven. One of those was a chief angel, named "Lucifer." After some time, Lucifer began to think he was greater than God and tried to get many of the other angels to join with him to fight God and take over the rule of the whole universe. But God is much more powerful. He has always been the most powerful being in existence. God cast Lucifer and his evil angels, called "demons," out of heaven and took away much of Lucifer's power. God changed Lucifer's name to Satan, which means "enemy."

Satan wanted to find a way to turn

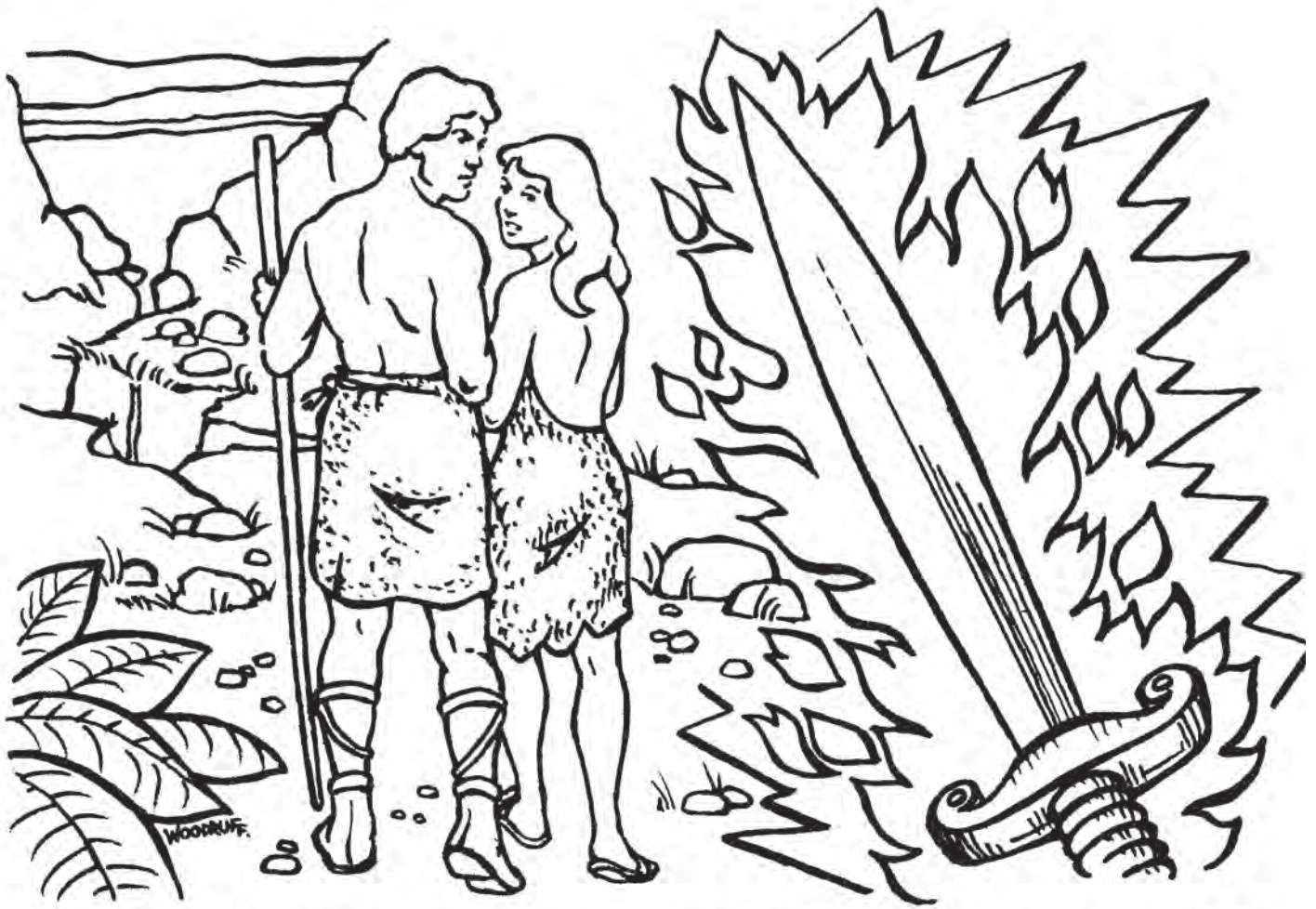
Adam and Eve against God.

God gave Adam and Eve some rules to obey. As long as they obeyed the rules they would live close to God and would be happy and healthy. God put two special trees in the garden. He told Adam and Eve that they could eat the fruit of the Tree of Life but not the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If they ate of the Tree of Life they could live forever. But if they disobeyed and ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil they would die.

One day as Eve took a walk in the Garden, she saw a serpent. Serpents were friendly at this time, but this one was different. This one talked and spoke to Eve. She didn't know it, but it was Satan speaking to her through the serpent. The serpent told Eve it was not true that she would die if she ate the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He lied to Eve, telling her how wise she and Adam would be if they ate the fruit.

Eve listened, took the fruit and bit into it. It tasted so good that she took it to Adam, and he ate some, too.

Then they felt guilty. They knew they had disobeyed God. They were ashamed of their sin and tried to hide. But God knew where to find them. When God asked them if they



had eaten of the tree, Adam tried to put the blame on his wife by saying, "*Eve gave it to me.*"

God was unhappy that they didn't obey Him. But God let them choose the way they would live their lives. It is the same with us. We can either choose God's way of love and happiness or Satan's way of hate and false pride—which leads to sorrow and unhappiness.

If Adam and Eve had not disobeyed God, they could have lived forever in happiness. But now they knew that they would someday die. Because they had sinned, God sent Adam and Eve out of the

beautiful Garden of Eden. God punished them, just as a parent must punish a disobedient child.

After some time, a son was born to Adam and Eve. They called him "*Cain.*" They later had another son, who was named "*Abel.*"

God told Adam and Eve that they should, at certain times, kill a lamb and burn it on an altar as a sacrifice. They were to teach their sons to make sacrifices, too, as a reminder of their sins and to ask God's forgiveness.

Cain and Abel worked very hard as they grew up. Cain became a farmer and grew fruits and vegeta-



bles, while Abel became a shepherd of sheep. One day they brought their sacrifices to an altar. Abel brought his best lamb. Cain had a few animals, too, but didn't want to give

God any, so he brought some of his fruit and vegetables instead. Cain did not want to obey God. He thought God should think his sacrifice was just as good as Abel's. But God's

way is always right, whether or not it looks right to man.

God could not accept Cain's sacrifice, so Cain became angry that God accepted his brother's sacrifice. He became so envious and angry that he killed Abel. Cain knew he had sinned and tried to hide, but God's voice came to him, asking him where his brother was. Cain lied, saying he didn't know where Abel was. But God knew what happened.

God punished Cain by sending him away from his family and by no longer blessing the crops he planted.

By the time Adam died, the earth had become filled with people. The world was filled, also, with hate, greed and unhappiness because the people were not living by God's laws. Because God loved the people so much, it made Him sad to see them miserable and unhappy.

So, God decided to stop their unhappiness by ending their lives in a flood that would cover the whole world!

Noah was the only man on earth who was living by God's laws (other than maybe his sons). One day God spoke to him, telling Noah of His plan to take away the other people's lives because they were so unhappy. He told Noah that He would bring them back to life years later when Jesus

Christ would be ruling the earth. Then they would obey their Creator and would be very happy.

God said He would save Noah and his family from the Flood because Noah obeyed God's laws. But Noah was puzzled. How could his family be saved if a flood was to cover the whole earth? God told Noah to build a large ship and gave him exact instructions about how to build it, step by step.

Noah obeyed God and he and his three sons began to build. Of course, other people began to notice what Noah and his family were doing. "They must be crazy," they said to each other. They had never seen a boat that big-especially on dry land!

Noah and his sons kept working very hard on the boat. While they built the ship, called an ark, Noah kept telling people that if they would start obeying God, that He would save them, also, from the Flood. But no one outside Noah's family believed him.

Even after the ark was finished, there was much work to do. They had to gather tons of food for the many animals God told Noah to take on board.

One day those who had laughed at Noah suddenly stared at what they saw. All kinds of animals and

birds were coming to the ark!

Of all the animals that are clean to eat, seven pairs entered the ark. Of the unclean animals, one pair entered—one male and one female. It must have looked like a huge zoo gathered there. All the animals were soon in cages or stables. With Noah and his family safely inside the boat, God closed the door, shutting inside the eight people who would survive the flood.

A week went by with no sign of rain. The people outside the ark were laughing at Noah.

But, then, the sky grew dark. Small drops of rain began to fall, and

then the light rain became heavy. Soon the people were no longer laughing; they were filled with fear. Before long, water was everywhere and everything was swept into it. Soon the water covered even the highest mountains, and every person was drowned except the eight inside the ark.

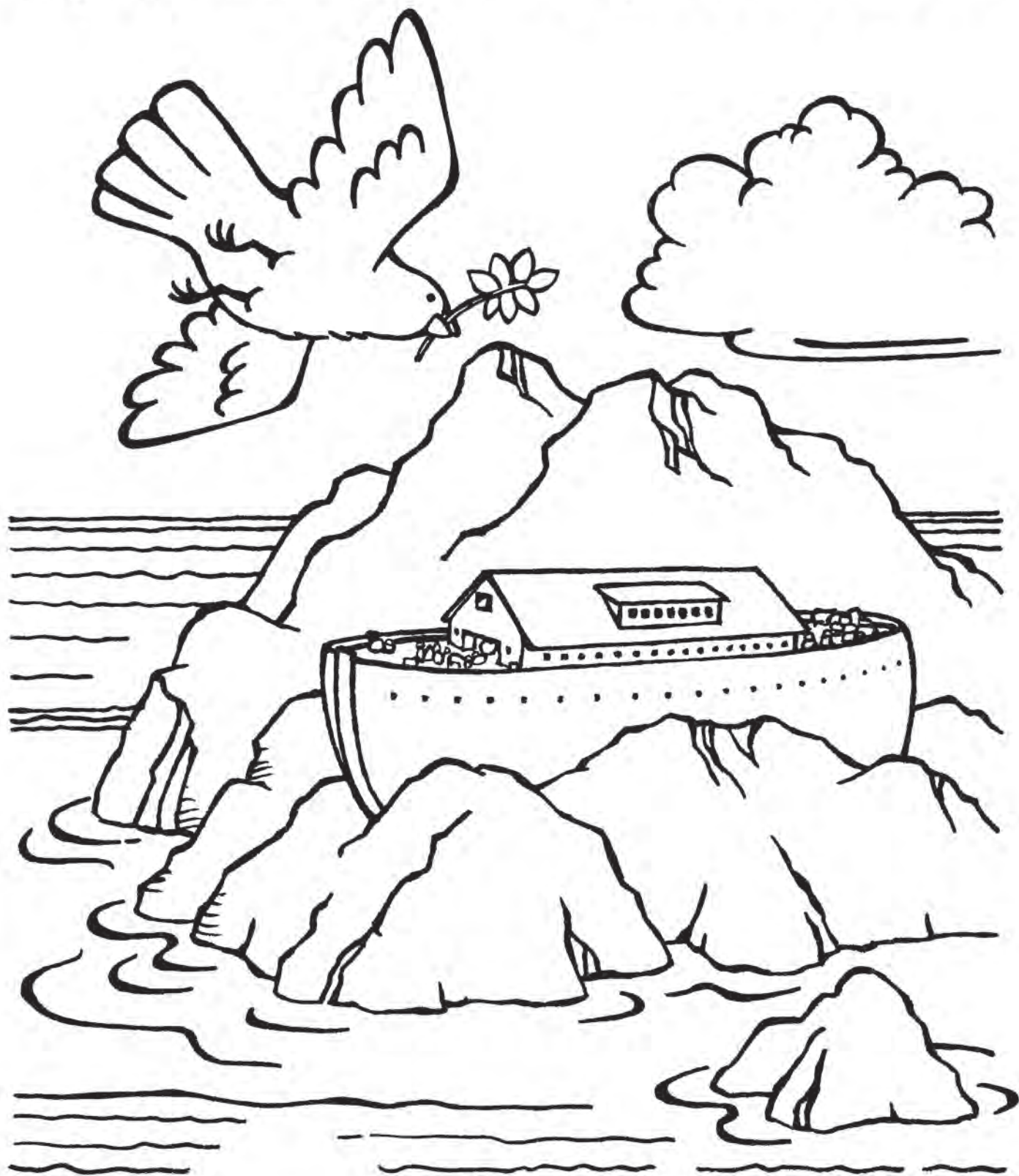
During the many weeks inside the ark, Noah and his family were kept busy taking care of all the animals.

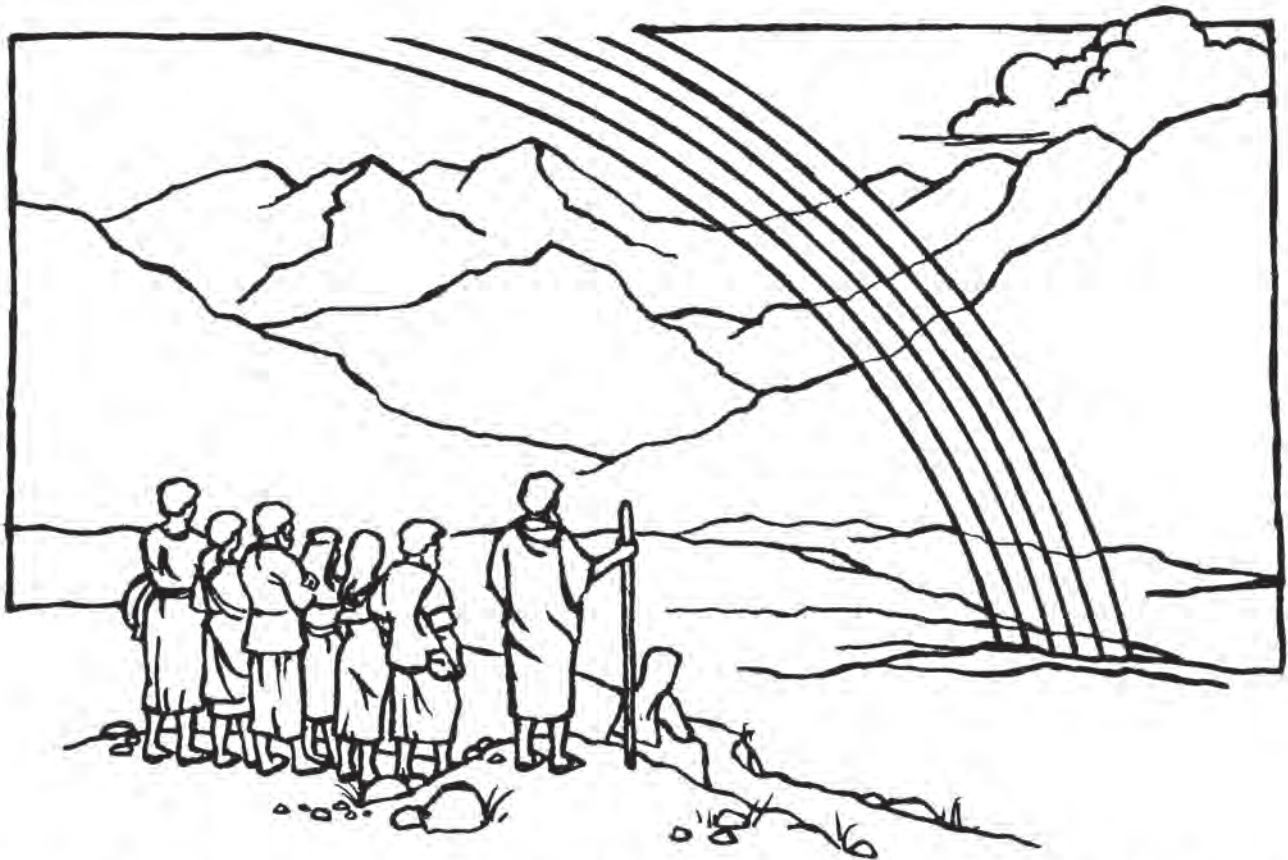
Finally, the waters began to go down, and the ark drifted against a mountain (Mt. Ararat). They waited several more months for the level of water to drop. Noah sent birds out to



see if there was any dry land yet. Finally, when one bird, a dove, brought back an olive leaf, Noah

knew it would soon be time to leave the ark, for the leaf proved there was again dry land on which his





family and the animals could live. Noah waited until God told him it was time to leave the ark, then all the animals were led out and sent on their way to scatter over the earth.

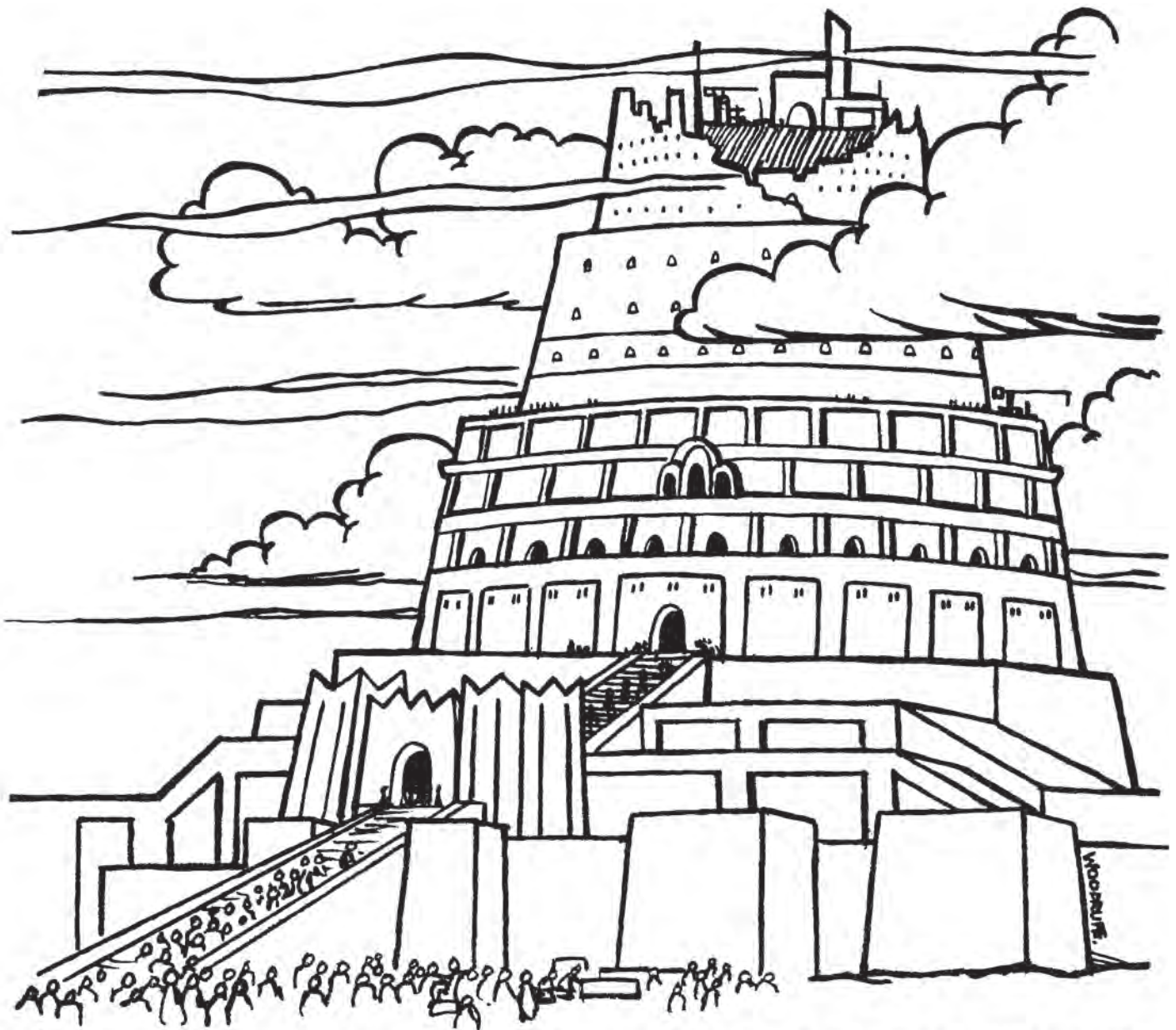
Noah and his family were so thankful to God for taking care of them that Noah sacrificed some of the clean animals as an offering. God promised Noah that He would never again bring a flood over all the earth. From then on, when a rainbow appeared in the sky, it was to remind men of this promise from God.

From then until now, all the people on the earth have descended from Noah's three sons and their wives.

As the years passed, there were again many people. They started living close together again, which God knew would not be best for them. Sure enough, soon they forgot God's laws, and Satan gave them ideas that led to their worshipping false gods, called idols.

A man named Nimrod became the strong leader of one of the cities, even making the laws. And people decided to obey Nimrod, rather than God!

Nimrod decided to build a tower—the greatest tower ever—so that people would feel awe and wonder and he could hold the people under



his rule. Men worked hard on this tower month after month, building it higher and higher. They wanted to build it so high that it would reach heaven.

God saw what they were trying to do, and He knew He had to stop it. So, He stepped in. Up to now the people all spoke the same language. But God confused their language and suddenly they couldn't understand each other. These misunderstand-

ings made them angry. Arguments turned into fights. Because of the confusion in speaking, the tower was called "Babel," meaning "confusion." After they stopped working, the tower and city were never finished. And, since they could no longer understand each other, God scattered the people into faraway lands. Nimrod's plan to control a whole city and its religious beliefs was temporarily stopped by God.

YOUTH

LEVEL 4

BIBLE

LESSONS

LESSON 2



Abraham

ABRAHAM

Several generations passed after the Flood until a man by the name of Abram was born. Abram grew up in a city called Ur. Ur was near the place where the ark had landed after the Flood. Abram learned to obey God's laws, but most people were worshipping idols and breaking the laws of their Creator.

One day God spoke to Abram and told him to move his family to another country. God promised Abram some very special blessings if he would obey. God did not explain just where Abram was to go or why. And Abram did not ask *where* or *why*. He just did what God told him to do. When your parents ask you to do something, do you obey right away? Or do you waste time asking, "Why?" Your parents love you and want what's best for you. God knew what was best for Abram. It pleased God to see Abram obey right away without a lot of questions. Abram believed that God would take care of him.

Abram left with his wife, Sarai, his nephew named Lot and Lot's wife. With them were the herdsmen for their many flocks of sheep and herds of cattle.

After a long journey, they arrived in the land of Canaan. It was a good

land and grew many fine crops. But the people here, too, were very wicked and God caused a famine to come to them.

Without rain, fruit and vegetables could not grow, so there was little food for the animals. Without cattle or sheep, there wasn't enough food for Abram and his family or his workers. So Abram decided to move his family to Egypt, where there was no famine.

Egypt was a large nation ruled by a pharaoh (pronounced like fair-o). Although they did not obey God's laws, pharaohs were very powerful and rich. A pharaoh could take anything he wanted as his own.

As Abram's family drew near to Egypt, Abram began to worry about the Pharaoh's power. He began to wonder if Pharaoh would take Sarai, since she was a very beautiful woman.

If Pharaoh knew Sarai was Abram's wife, he might kill Abram so that Sarai would be free to marry him. Even though Abram was very close to God, he let this scare him. He didn't let God take care of this problem. Instead, Abram lied and said Sarai was his sister. That way, if Pharaoh took Sarai he would not

kill Abram.

It was not God's wish, however, to see Sarai become Pharaoh's wife. So God caused some very unpleasant things to happen to Pharaoh and his family after he took Sarai to the palace. Pharaoh soon found that these bad things were happening because of Abram and Sarai. So Pharaoh angrily sent them out of Egypt.

Back to the land of Canaan went Abram and his family. Abram knew he was wrong to lie about Sarai and was sorry he had sinned. He built an altar and asked God to forgive him. Abram also prayed that God would make his faith stronger.

God spoke to Abram and told him that all the land he could see in all directions was to be for him and his family who would live after him. But Abram had no children when God made this promise, and he was already 80 years old!

Many more years went by. God reminded Abram that he would have much land to give to his children and grandchildren. Abram wondered just what the promises meant, because he still did not have any children. God told Abram that his name was to be changed to Abraham, which means "father of many people." Sarai's name was to be changed to Sarah, meaning "princess." Then



God told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a son whose name was to be Isaac.

Later, three men came to Abraham's tent. Abraham did not know it at the time, but two of the men were angels. The other was the God who later became Jesus Christ.

Abraham invited them in to eat and rest. They told Abraham about the son he would have and about God's plan to destroy the city of Sodom. Sodom was to be destroyed because it was filled with so much wickedness.

The two angels went on to Sodom, where they met Lot. Lot invited them into his home. There, the angels warned him to take his family out of Sodom. The angels said to Lot, "Don't stop, and don't look behind you!"

As Lot and his family were fleeing the city, they could feel the heat from the flames of the burning city behind them. Lot's wife became so curious to see what was happening that she turned and looked. Lot and his two daughters ran on and escaped safely to the next city. But Lot's wife was not with them. When she disobeyed God's warning not to look back, she turned into a pillar of salt. We need to learn that when God gives us a warning He expects us to obey. Those who don't obey sometimes have to learn that lesson

the hard way.

ISAAC

Soon after these events, Abraham moved southward. As God had promised, a son was born to Abraham and Sarah. Isaac soon grew into a fine young man. Abraham continued to obey God, and he taught Isaac all about God's laws. But God planned to put Abraham through one more test — the hardest of all.

One day God spoke to Abraham. He told Abraham, "Take your son, Isaac, to the land of Moriah, and offer him there for a burnt offering!" Of course, Abraham was shocked by what God was telling him! He had waited so long for this special son. Why would God want to take him away? But Abraham knew God must have a reason for giving these instructions, so he obediently followed God's instructions.

Early the next morning, Abraham and his servants prepared for the journey. Soon everything was ready. Abraham told Isaac and his servants that he was going to make a sacrifice to God. But he did not tell them what the sacrifice would be. During the entire two days' journey, Abraham still had many questions to think about. After all, God had promised many nations of people



through Isaac. But Abraham did not argue with God. He just obeyed.

As they approached the mountain, Abraham told his servants to stay behind. He and Isaac continued on with the supplies in their arms.

Isaac asked his father where the lamb was for the burnt offering. Abraham replied, "God will provide the lamb, son." At the last moment, Abraham told Isaac that he was to be the sacrifice. With his son bound upon the wood of the altar, Abraham picked up the sharp knife and brought it above Isaac's head.

But before he could plunge the knife into his son, a loud voice stopped Abraham. "Do not harm

Isaac," said the voice. "Because you have been willing to give up your son, I know that you fear me."

Abraham fell to his knees with tears of joy. He thanked God for sparing the son he loved so much. As Abraham looked up, he saw a ram caught in the bushes. He knew God provided the ram in place of Isaac.

As Isaac grew older, Abraham began to think more and more about finding a wife for Isaac.

Isaac was about 40 years old when Abraham sent his most trusted servant to find a wife for Isaac. The servant was sent to the land of Abraham's relatives. Abraham



wanted to be sure Isaac did not marry any of the idol-worshipping women around them.

Just outside the city of Nahor, Abraham's servant stopped his caravan near a well. He prayed that one of the women coming to the well would be the right one for Isaac. But how could he be sure which one she would be? He also asked God to show him the right woman by causing her to draw water for him and his caravan. But what woman would be willing to draw water for 10 thirsty camels?

Very soon after, the servant's prayer was answered. A beautiful young woman arrived at the well. Abraham's servant watched for a little while before he came to her and asked for a drink. She immediately held out her water jar for him. Then she said: "Your camels must be very thirsty. I will draw up water for them, too." The servant knew that God was answering his prayer. This woman was to be Isaac's wife! He gave her a gift of some gold bracelets and rings. She told him her name was Rebekah and told him about her family. This woman was a second cousin to Isaac! The servant knew that Abraham would be pleased that she was one of his people, and thanked God for helping him find her.

When Rebekah told her father what had happened, he came to the

well to invite the servant to his home. When Abraham's servant explained about his prayer, Rebekah's father agreed that it was, indeed, God's will that she marry Isaac.

The servant returned to Abraham with Rebekah. Isaac and Rebekah were married shortly after that and were very happy.

ESAU AND JACOB

Many years passed by and still Isaac and Rebekah had no children. They asked God to give them a child, and He answered that prayer. Isaac and Rebekah soon learned that they would become parents. God told Rebekah in a dream that she would give birth to two sons who would become two nations. One would be stronger than the other, and the firstborn would serve the other one.

She soon had twin boys. The firstborn was called Esau. The second was named Jacob. Rebekah could see, as the boys grew, that they were different from one another in many ways.

Esau became a hunter, while Jacob was happiest raising flocks and crops. Since Isaac loved the delicious meat that Esau prepared, Esau soon became his favorite son. But Rebekah favored Jacob.

One day Esau came in from a long, tiring hunting trip to find Jacob

tending a large pot of soup. It smelled so delicious and Esau felt so weak that he begged Jacob for some.

It was the custom at this time for the firstborn to inherit the birthright. This meant he would receive the larger amount of land, cattle and other things that the family owned. The oldest child would also get a larger share of the blessings God gave to Abraham.

Jacob saw this as a chance to take the birthright from his brother. He made a deal with Esau. "Give me your birthright, and I will give you all the soup you want." Esau was so tired and weak that he forgot how important the birthright was. So he agreed.

Sometime later, when Isaac was getting quite old and blind, he told Esau, "It is time to ask God for His blessing on you, my firstborn son." Esau should have been honest and told Isaac that the birthright now belonged to Jacob, but he kept quiet. Rebekah overheard all of this and wanted Jacob to have the blessing confirming the birthright. She quickly thought of a way she might be able to make that happen.

Esau went hunting for a deer to prepare for his father. So Rebekah said to Jacob: "Go out and get two goats from your flock. When I cook them, you serve the meat to your father. He will think you are Esau. He will bless you before Esau has a chance to return."





Jacob knew that his father was too blind to see that he wasn't Esau. Yet they were different. Esau was a hairy man, while Jacob's skin was smooth. But Rebekah had a tricky plan. Over Jacob's hands, arms and neck she put goat skins. Now Jacob's skin felt more like his brother's.

The plan worked and Jacob received the special blessing — the one that belonged to Esau.

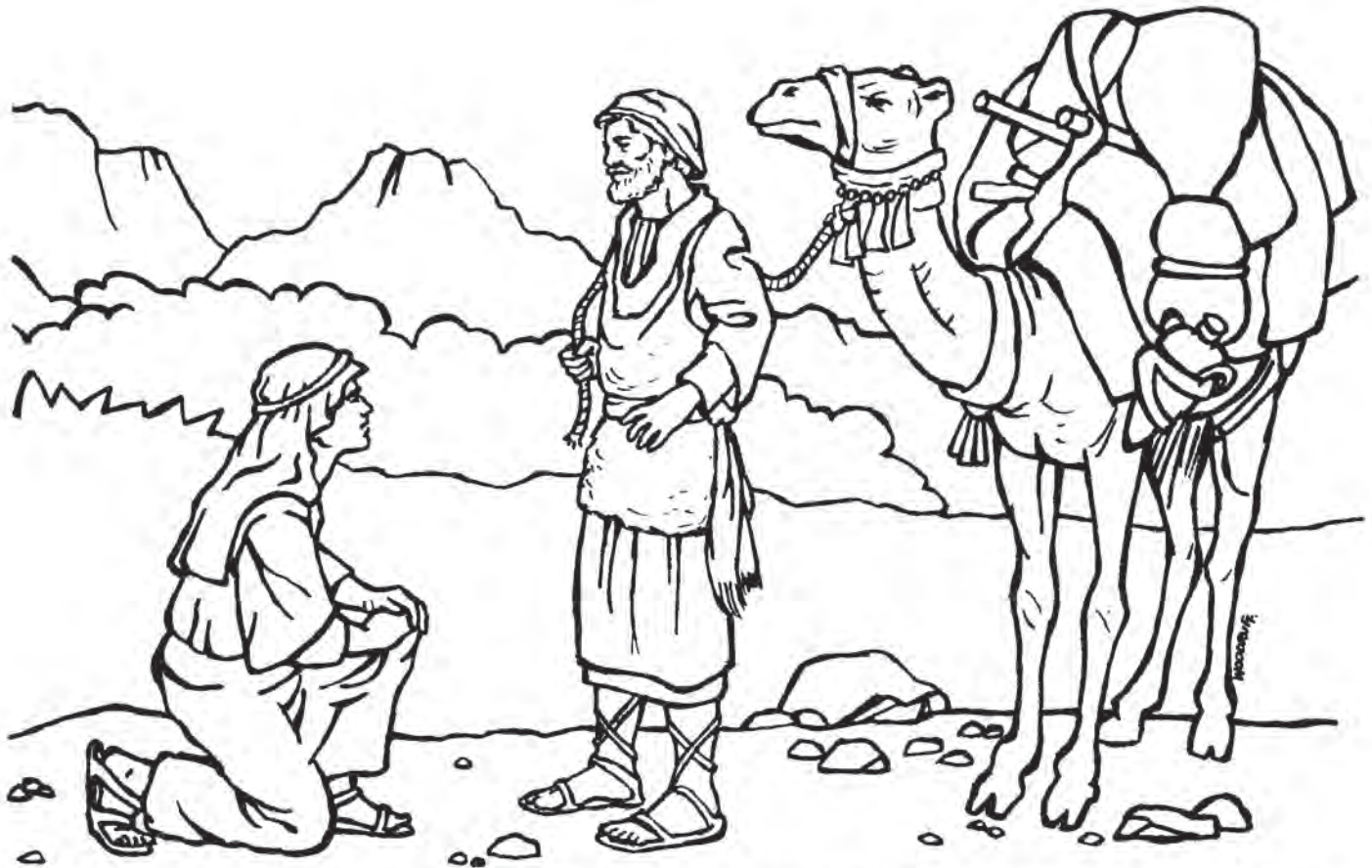
Rebekah knew that Jacob should receive the birthright. God had told her that before Jacob's birth. But Jacob and Rebekah should have waited—trusting God. He would have found a better way to give the birthright and blessing to Jacob.

When Esau returned to find what

Jacob had done, he became very angry. Rebekah knew that Esau wanted to kill his brother Jacob, so she sent her favorite son away to stay with relatives.

As nighttime came, Jacob was well into the mountains. He stopped for the night, sleeping on the ground with a stone as his pillow. As he slept, he dreamed that he saw a long stairway reaching from the earth to the sky. Angels moved up and down the ladder.

"I am the God of Abraham and of Isaac," said a voice from the top of the stairway. "The land where you are sleeping will be yours and your children's. Many people will come from them. I will be with you as you travel, and I will protect you."



When Jacob awoke, he realized how important that dream had been. He made a special pillar from the stone where he had rested his head.

Jacob finally reached the land of Haran, where his mother's family lived. He found some people who knew his uncle Laban. They pointed to a young girl herding one of the flocks. "The girl you see," they said to Jacob, "is Rachel, Laban's daughter." Jacob told her they were cousins, and Rachel brought Jacob home to meet her father. Jacob visited with Laban's family for a while, long enough to know that he was in love with Rachel. Jacob started working for Laban and made

a deal with him. "I will work for you for seven years if you will then give me Rachel for my wife," said Jacob. This pleased Laban, so he agreed.

Seven years is quite a long time. But it went by quickly for Jacob because he was able to see Rachel every day. When the seven years had passed, there was a great marriage feast. The bride wore a long veil that covered her face. Later, Jacob lifted his bride's veil to find he had married Leah, Rachel's older sister! Jacob had been tricked. How angry he became! Now Jacob knew what it was like to be tricked himself! Laban explained to an unhappy Jacob that it was a custom that the older daughter marry first.

So Jacob agreed to be a good husband to Leah for the rest of the marriage feast. Then, after that week, he could marry Rachel as well. But that was not all he must do. He had to agree to work for Laban for another seven years! It was a common thing for men to have two wives in those times, but Jacob loved Rachel most.

At the end of the long 14 years of work, Jacob continued working for Laban. Finally, he decided it was time to leave Laban. Jacob had worked hard for Laban and took along with him many cattle and flocks of sheep. Jacob and his family traveled back toward Canaan where Jacob was once again to see Esau. He was very worried that Esau was still angry with him for stealing his birthright. Jacob did the best thing he could have done — he prayed and asked God to spare him and his family from the anger of his brother.

He sent men ahead with gifts for Esau.

That night as they waited, Jacob had an unusual experience. A stranger grabbed him and started to wrestle with him. They wrestled all night. While they were wrestling, Jacob realized this was not an ordinary man, but the God who later became Jesus Christ! Jacob would not let Him go until he was blessed. He kept trying until he succeeded. Jacob was blessed for not being a quitter.

God was pleased with Jacob's refusal to give up and changed his name to Israel, meaning "overcomer."

The next morning, Jacob came face to face with his brother. He bowed, and suddenly Esau rushed to Jacob and hugged him. They were so happy to see each other again after so many years!

YOUTH

LEVEL 4

BIBLE

LESSONS

LESSON 3



JOSEPH'S ADVENTURES

Our last lesson left Jacob moving back to Canaan. He knew he would once again see his brother, Esau. And he wondered if Esau would still be angry with him.

But Jacob knew the best thing to do was to ask God to help him handle the problem. God answered Jacob's prayer. And the two brothers had a very happy, warm meeting.

By the time Jacob and Esau were reunited, each had his own large family. Jacob already had eleven sons and a daughter named Dinah. He settled his family in Canaan where his twelfth son, Benjamin, was born.

SOLD INTO SLAVERY

Jacob's sons worked at tending sheep and other livestock. Though Joseph was only 17, he worked hard to help his older brothers.

But Joseph's older brothers disliked him. You see, he was Jacob's favorite. It made his brothers angry

to see Jacob do special favors for him. And the two dreams Joseph had did not help. In both he dreamed that he would someday rule over his brothers. From then on they disliked him even more.

One day, Jacob sent Joseph to check up on his brothers who were tending the flocks away from



Illustrations by Ken Tunell

home. After a few days on foot he found his brothers. But when they saw Joseph coming, they began to talk about how they hated him. They wanted to kill their brother Joseph.

Then Reuben, the oldest brother, spoke up. "Let's not kill him," he said. "Let's just put him in a pit to starve." He secretly planned to rescue Joseph later, then send him home.

By this time Joseph had found his brothers and happily greeted them. But suddenly, they grabbed him and held him tightly. Joseph was wearing a beautiful, many-

colored coat which was a special gift from his father. They ripped off the coat, picked up Joseph and dropped him into a deep, dark pit.

Joseph tried to climb out, but the sides of the pit would not allow him to. The loose soil just crumbled each time he tried to escape.

Reuben went to watch the flocks while the others ate a meal. He planned to return later to rescue Joseph. However, he did not see the caravan of traders in the distance. But the other brothers did see it.

"We could get a good price if we sold Joseph as a slave," Judah suggested.



When Reuben returned to the pit to rescue Joseph, his brothers had already sold him. He was saddened when he heard what they had done. What would he tell his father?

They took Joseph's coat and dipped it into some goat's blood. When they returned home a few days later, they lied to Jacob about Joseph.

"We found Joseph's coat," they said. "He must have been killed by some wild animal."

What a terrible way to treat their father!

JOSEPH BECOMES A RULER IN EGYPT

Meanwhile, Joseph was taken to Egypt where a man named Potiphar bought him as a slave. Potiphar was a captain in the service of the king, or pharaoh, of Egypt.

Joseph was a good, hard worker. Potiphar noticed how much he could be trusted. Soon, Joseph was put in charge over the other servants in Potiphar's house.

For a while things went well for Joseph. But then Potiphar's wife began to like Joseph as much as her own husband. When Joseph told her how wrong that was, she became angry. She grabbed

Joseph's coat as he ran away.

When Potiphar came home, his wife lied to him. "Your Hebrew servant was cruel to me," she said. "When I screamed, he dropped his jacket and ran!"

Potiphar believed her story. He became so angry that he ordered soldiers to throw Joseph in prison. But because he was so obedient, Joseph became very well-liked by the jail-keeper. Although he still had to live in the prison, he was soon put in charge of other prisoners.

Part of Joseph's job was to look after two special prisoners — the pharaoh's chief butler and the chief baker. One day, Joseph noticed that they both looked worried. He asked them why.

"We have each dreamed a disturbing dream," they replied. "And there is no one to tell us the meaning."

"Tell me your dreams," Joseph said. "God will give me the wisdom to know their meaning."

The butler's dream meant that in three days he would get his job back. But the baker's dream meant that he would die.

In three days the butler was pardoned, while the baker was hanged — just like Joseph had said.

"Don't forget to bring my case before Pharaoh," Joseph reminded the butler. "I'm innocent!" But the butler forgot all about Joseph.

Two years passed and one night Pharaoh had two dreams that confused and worried him. He told his dreams to his wise men. These men were supposed to have magic powers. But none could tell him the meaning.

Suddenly, after two years, the chief butler remembered Joseph. He suggested that Pharaoh send for him.

Joseph was brought before Pharaoh. "Only God has the power to interpret dreams," Joseph said. "Tell me your dreams and He will show me the answer."

"I dreamed that as I stood by the Nile River, seven fat cows came up out of the water," Pharaoh began. "As they ate the grass at the edge of the water, seven thin cows came up out of the water. The thin cows ate up the fat cows. Yet, the thin cows were just as thin as before they ate."

Then Pharaoh told Joseph of his second dream. This time seven plump heads of grain grew out of one stalk. Seven thin heads of grain also came out of the same stalk and ate up the plump heads of grain!

"What do these dreams mean?"

asked Pharaoh. "None of my wise men can tell me their meaning. Can you?"

"Both dreams mean the same thing," Joseph answered. "God sent two dreams because he wants



to be sure you obey His warning. The seven fat cows and seven plump ears of grain mean that the next seven years will bring good crops,” Joseph continued. “There will be much more food than anyone could ever eat!

“The thin cows and the thin heads of grain mean that there will be seven years of severe famine following the good years. There will be very little food for either people or animals.”

The Pharaoh was shocked! He asked Joseph how best to prepare for the next 14 years.

Joseph quickly explained his plan to Pharaoh. During the next seven years all the extra crops must be stored. Then there will be enough food to last through the

years of famine. Pharaoh liked Joseph’s idea. Not only was Joseph put in charge of this storage project — he was made ruler over all Egypt, second only to Pharaoh!

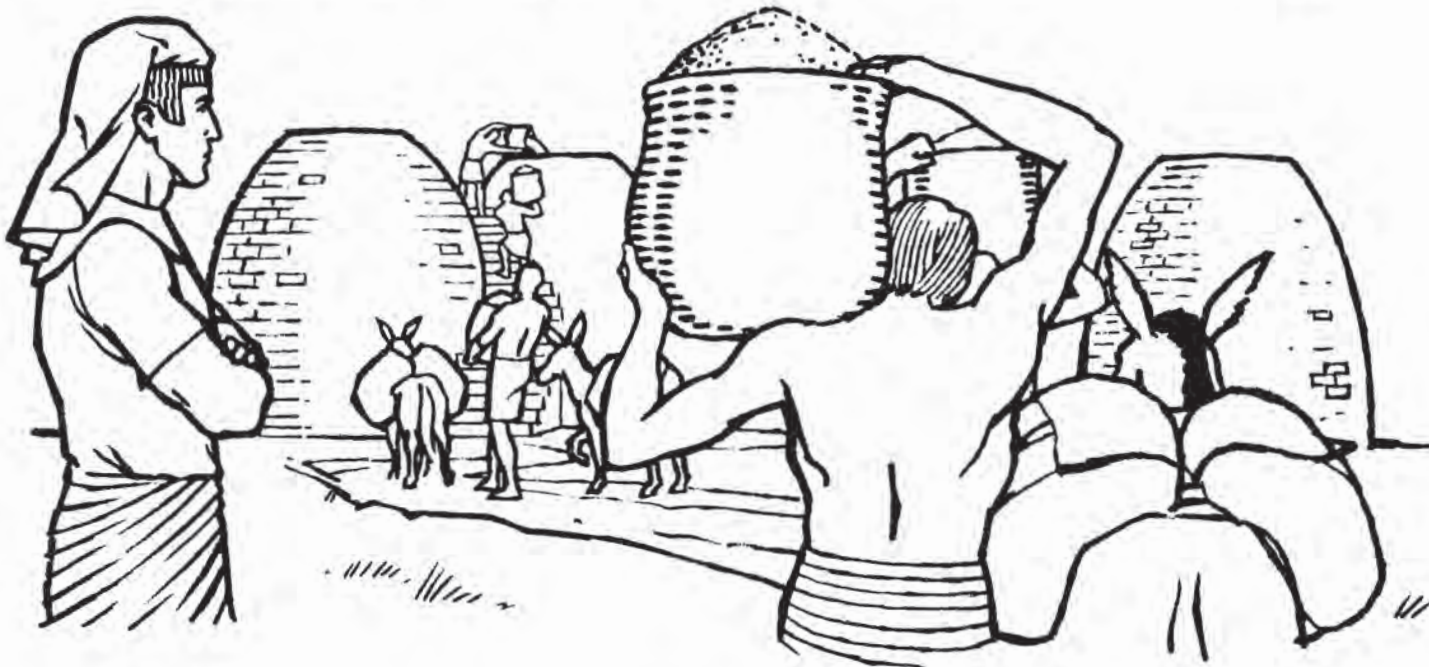
Joseph married the daughter of one of the government leaders. They had two sons — Ephraim and Manasseh.

During the next seven years, Joseph ordered many warehouses built. He gathered all the extra grain and stored it in these warehouses.

SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE

At the end of those first seven years the weather began to change. Rain came less and less often. The famine had come.

People in some nations were



already out of food. They began asking to buy grain from Egypt. Jacob's family ran out of food, too. So Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy grain. But he kept his youngest son, Benjamin, at home. He well remembered losing Joseph by sending him on a trip.

When Jacob's sons arrived in Egypt they were sent to the governor. Of course, they did not know that the governor was their own brother. So many years had passed that they did not recognize him.

Joseph remembered the dream he had dreamed when he was still a boy — that his brothers would one day bow down to him. That dream had now come true. Joseph decided to be a little harsh with his brothers. He accused them of being spies. Then he ordered them thrown in prison.

A few days later, Joseph let them buy grain and go home. But he warned them not to return without their youngest brother. And he kept Simeon in prison to make sure they returned.

By now Joseph's brothers were beginning to wonder why all this trouble was coming upon them. Was it because of all the terrible things they had done to Joseph years before?



On the way home, one brother opened a sack of grain to feed the animals. He could not believe what he saw — a bag of coins with the exact amount of money they had paid for the grain! During the rest of the trip home they worried that this might be a plot. What would happen the next time they came to Egypt? Would they be arrested for not paying for the grain?

When they arrived home, Jacob was quite upset to hear that Simeon was left in prison in Egypt. It upset him even more to hear that the governor demanded to see Benjamin.

But the time came when they needed more food. Jacob had no choice. He let them take Benjamin to Egypt.

Once again, Joseph treated his brothers harshly. When they had bought food and started home, Joseph sent his servant after them. They were

very frightened when Joseph's servant found the money they had paid for the grain in their grain sacks. The servant also found Joseph's silver cup in Benjamin's sack. He accused them of stealing from the governor and brought them back to the governor's house. They did not know that Joseph had ordered that their money and the silver cup be placed in their grain sacks.

Finally, Joseph told them who he was. As they stared at him in disbelief, he told them not to be upset. "Don't be angry with yourselves for what you did to me years

ago," Joseph said. "It was God's will that I go to Egypt."

Joseph sent his brothers back to Canaan. "Bring our father, Jacob, and all your possessions to Egypt. We still have five years of famine to come," he said. "And there is plenty of food for everyone here."

Jacob was so surprised to hear the news of Joseph, he fainted. But soon Jacob moved all his family to Egypt to be near Joseph.

It was quite an exciting event when father and son finally met again!

A few years later when Jacob



was near death, he asked Joseph to bring his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh to him. Jacob wanted to include them with his own sons in the promises God had made to him. Soon after Jacob blessed his two grandsons, he died. He was 147 years old.

MOSES

The families of Jacob's 12 sons multiplied greatly while Joseph lived and ruled. But sometime after Joseph died there arose a Pharaoh who did not know Joseph.

This Pharaoh did not like the Israelites. He was afraid they would someday turn against him, so he forced them to be his slaves. They were made to work hard, and were often struck with sticks and whips.

But still the Israelites grew in number.

So the Pharaoh came up with a cruel idea to lessen the number of Israelites. He told the Hebrew midwives to kill all the boy babies when they were born. But because the midwives feared God, they disobeyed Pharaoh. Then he ordered his people to cast all newborn Israelite sons into the river.

One set of Israelite parents had a beautiful baby boy. They hid their baby for about three months, but

could no longer keep his birth a secret.

God then put an idea in their minds!

They carefully worked out a plan to keep their son alive. They put the plan to work the very next morning.

The baby's mother placed him in a waterproof basket. Then she put the basket in the Nile River near the place where Pharaoh's daughter bathed. The baby's older sister, Miriam, ran along the river's bank to see what would happen.

Pharaoh's daughter caught sight of the basket in the reeds by the water's edge. As she opened the basket, she saw that it was an Israelite baby. But just then the baby began to cry and she felt very sorry for him. She wanted to protect this baby from her father.

The baby's sister ran to Pharaoh's daughter. "If you need someone to nurse the baby for you, I can get someone," she spoke up.

Pharaoh's daughter nodded. At once the girl ran to get her mother. Pharaoh's daughter had no idea she was speaking to the baby's real mother. She offered to pay the mother to take care of the baby.

What a blessing! Because this family trusted God, He saved their child. And they were able to raise

him during his very early years.

The time finally came, though, when they brought the boy to Pharaoh's daughter. She named him Moses.

MOSES FLEES EGYPT

Though Moses grew up as an Egyptian prince, he became more and more concerned about his own people. He did not like the way they were being treated.

One day Moses saw an Egyptian guard beating an exhausted Israelite slave. Moses became so angry, he rushed forward and killed the guard. Immediately Moses realized what a terrible thing he had done and buried the man in the sand.

The next day Moses learned that someone knew he had killed the Egyptian guard. That meant Pharaoh would soon know also. So Moses left Egypt right away before Pharaoh could send soldiers to kill him. He had quickly escaped to the mountains east of Egypt.

While in this area, Moses found a family who invited him to share their home. In return, Moses helped them herd their flocks. Later he married one of the daughters of this family.

Meanwhile, things got worse for the Israelites. Each new pharaoh treated them more cruelly than the

last. But God had not forgotten them.

GOD CALLS MOSES

One day while Moses was herding flocks, he saw a strange sight. A small bush was on fire. It kept burning, but it would not burn up! Moses stared at the bush, amazed. Suddenly a voice called, "Moses! Moses!" Moses' eyes grew bigger. "Don't come any closer. You are standing on holy ground. Take off your shoes and listen closely to what I am about to say," the voice said to Moses.

"I am God," the voice continued. "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I have heard the cries of my people. And I have chosen you, Moses, to lead them out of slavery!"

Moses could hardly believe what he was hearing! Why would God choose him for this important job?

Moses tried every way he knew to get out of it. But God kept patiently assuring Moses that He would help him.

GOD SHOWS HIS POWER

Finally, God told Moses to throw his staff down. Moses obeyed. The moment it touched the ground it became a wriggling snake!



“Now take it by the tail,” God commanded him. Moses picked up the snake and it was a rod again.

“Now put your hand inside your jacket,” God said. So Moses did so. When he pulled it out, he stared with horror at his hand. It was covered with a terrible disease!

“Put your hand back inside your jacket,” God said. Moses again obeyed and his hand became perfectly normal!

Then God told Moses that if the people still did not believe he was sent from God, he was to take some water from the river. When he poured it out upon the ground, it would turn to blood.

Even after the miracles, Moses still did not believe he could do the job. He told God he did not think he could speak well enough.

“Then I will send your brother, Aaron, to help you,” God told Moses. “I will tell you what to do and say and you will tell Aaron. Then Aaron will speak for you.”

Meanwhile, God spoke to Aaron. He told him to go into the wilderness to meet Moses.

What a reunion! The two brothers had not seen each other for 40 years!

Moses had much to tell Aaron when they met. How excited they were as they started for Egypt!

BIBLE MEMORY

Twelve Tribes
 of Israel

Reuben
 Simeon
 Levi
 Judah

Zebulun
 Issachar
 Dan
 Gad

Asher
 Naphtali
 Joseph (Ephraim, Manasseh)
 Benjamin

WORD SEARCH

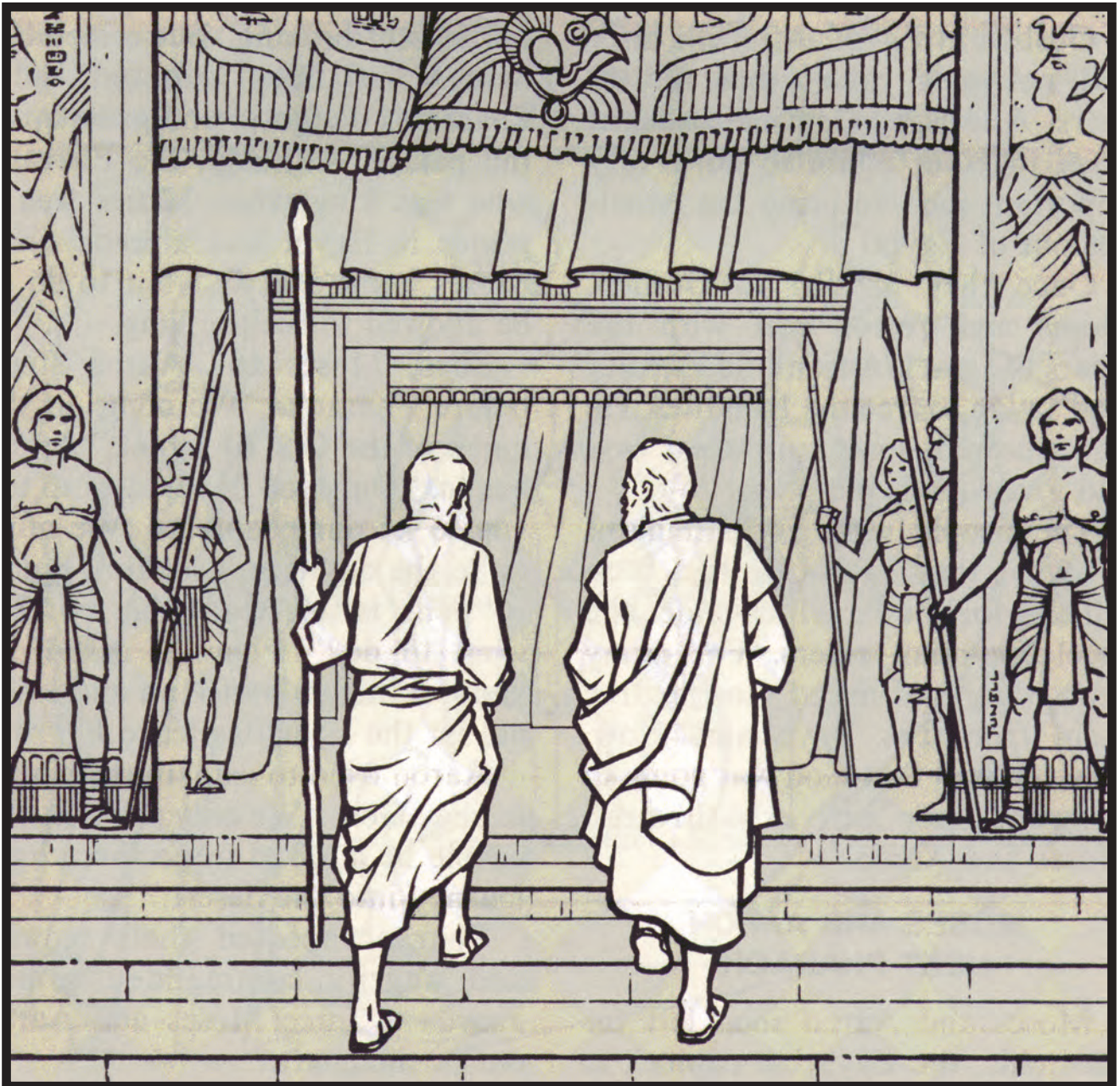
Read each sentence and fill in the blanks with the word that completes the sentence. Then find and circle that word in the Word Search. Words are hidden across, down, diagonally, and backwards!

W	G	N	I	N	R	U	B	L
P	O	T	I	P	H	A	R	M
I	T	N	R	H	A	S	O	E
T	K	G	F	A	L	I	T	E
J	M	A	E	R	D	B	H	T
R	T	S	R	O	J	E	E	E
E	A	U	R	A	B	N	R	K
U	T	S	F	H	O	J	S	S
N	P	N	A	S	C	A	N	A
I	B	M	M	D	A	M	Y	B
T	N	L	I	A	J	I	E	N
E	E	L	N	U	N	N	C	E
D	V	A	E	G	Y	P	T	B
F	E	A	L	H	S	Y	O	U
U	S	R	F	T	L	W	T	E
Q	G	O	V	E	R	N	O	R
P	E	N	D	R	B	H	G	C

- Joseph's oldest brother was named _____.
- Joseph's youngest brother was named _____.
- Joseph was thrown into a deep _____ by his _____.
- A group of Midianite _____ bought Joseph and took him to _____.
- Joseph was bought as a slave by a man named _____.
- Potiphar's wife caused Joseph to be thrown in _____.
- Pharaoh had a _____ about seven thin and seven fat _____.
- The dream meant that there would be _____ years of plenty followed by the same number of years of _____.
- Pharaoh gave Joseph the job of _____ over all Egypt.
- _____ was reunited with his son Joseph.
- Baby Moses was put into a _____ and floated down the Nile in order to spare his life.
- _____ kept Moses as her own son.
- Moses had a brother named _____.
- God appeared to Moses in a _____ bush.

YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

LEVEL 4
LESSON 4



“Let My People Go!”

“LET MY PEOPLE GO!”

Moses and Aaron had quite a lot to talk about as they traveled to Goshen in Egypt. After all, they had not seen each other for 40 years. And now, God had brought them together again to do a very important job—to bring the Israelites out of Egypt!

Once they arrived in Goshen, Moses and Aaron met with the elders of Israel. Aaron told them of God’s plan to free the Israelites. He also showed some miracles God had given them the power to do.

The people were very thankful for what they saw. Life had been difficult for the Israelites under the cruel Egyptian rulers. For many years they had asked God to free them from the Egyptians. Now, they realized that God was going to answer their prayers through Moses and Aaron.

MOSES AND AARON MEET PHARAOH

Moses and Aaron soon left for Memphis, the Egyptian capital, to

see the king. Most people cannot just walk into a royal palace and ask to see the king. But remember Moses had been adopted by a Pharaoh’s daughter and grew up in the palace. Although the Pharaoh who was king when Moses was a prince in Egypt had already died, Moses knew exactly what to do to be allowed to see the king.

Soon, Moses and Aaron stood before Pharaoh. “We come in the name of the God of Israel,” Aaron began. “Our God has told us to tell you to let our people go. We must go to the desert to worship Him.”

“Who is this God who tells me what to do?” Pharaoh asked. “I know nothing about Him and I will not let the Israelites leave Egypt!”

Aaron tried to explain their need to obey God. “We only ask that our people be allowed to go three days journey into the desert.”

Pharaoh refused their request and angrily commanded armed guards to force Moses and Aaron out of the court.

Moses was terribly discouraged and went to God in prayer. But God reminded Moses that He had not forgotten the Israelites.

“Remember, I am God Almighty, your Creator, the One who made a promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I know how the children of Israel are suffering now. But tell them I will bring great things to pass to rescue them from Egypt. Then they shall have the land that I promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

GOD PERFORMS MIRACLES THROUGH HIS SERVANTS

God again sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh's court. This time, however, Pharaoh wanted a sign to prove the power of Moses' God.

There were many servants, guards, and guests in the court. And so Pharaoh expected this to be embarrassing to Moses, while amusing to all the others.

“Throw your rod on the floor,”



Moses said to Aaron. Aaron tossed his rod onto the carpet directly in front of the king's chair. The people stared in amazement! Suddenly, the rod turned into a large snake.

Immediately, Pharaoh called for his magicians. When Pharaoh commanded they throw their rods down, they, too, became live serpents. Their trick made God's miracle look like mere trickery, too. A delighted grin came across Pharaoh's face.

But when Aaron reached down to pick up his snake by the tail, it quickly moved away toward the magicians' snakes.

Suddenly, Pharaoh's grin became a startled look of disbelief. He watched Aaron's snake move quickly here and there and gulp down all the other snakes!

All those present were quite shaken and rose to leave. Even the magicians shook their heads in defeat.

Moses and Aaron moved quickly toward the king as Pharaoh rose and started out of the court.

"We gave you the sign you asked for," Aaron reminded Pharaoh. "Now will you let our people go?"

"I will not let them go!" he angrily answered back as Moses and Aaron were taken away.



GOD SENDS PLAGUES ON EGYPT

Later that day God instructed Moses to see Pharaoh again the very next morning at the edge of the river where Pharaoh bathed.

The next day, Moses and Aaron did just as God told them. They warned the king, "If you refuse to let the Israelites leave to worship God, He will cause the Nile River to become blood! All the fish will die and you will have no fresh drinking water."

The idea of the entire Nile River turning to blood was quite amusing to Pharaoh. But in just a few minutes, his expression became quite serious. After Aaron lifted his rod and struck the river, the water in which Pharaoh bathed turned to blood right before his eyes!

For seven days, the people suffered. The Nile was their main source of water. And now it wasn't good for anything. Even small ponds had turned to blood.

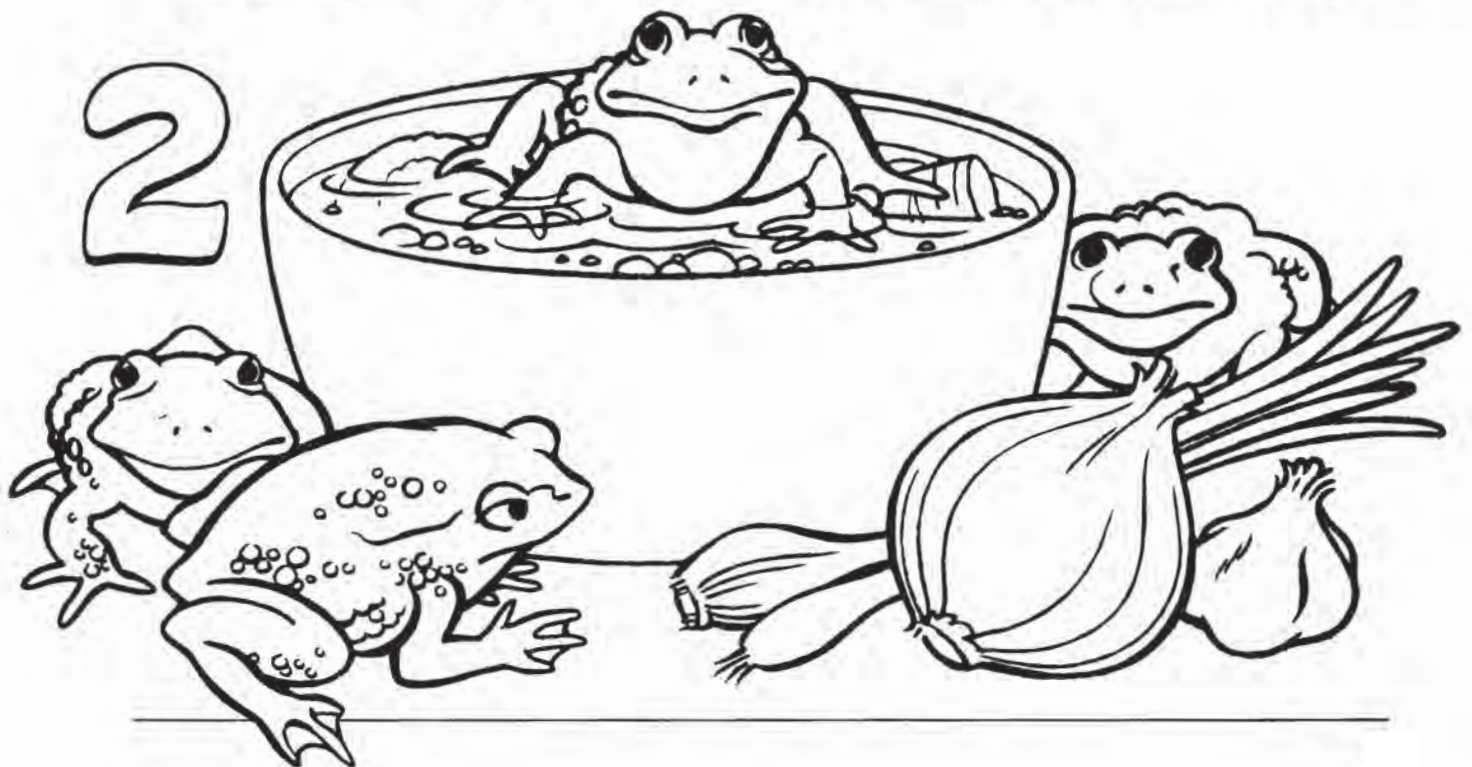
Before the week had passed, they were having a very difficult time keeping the livestock alive, since they had to dig for fresh water. Yet, Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites leave.

On the eighth day, the Nile was

clear again. But Pharaoh still would not admit God's greatness. Instead, he thought that he had won the battle of patience against the Israelite God.

But Moses and Aaron again came before Pharaoh and asked him to let the Israelites go. "If you refuse, our God will bring up millions of frogs from the Nile. They will enter your houses and even your beds. You won't be able to get away from them."

The next morning, as Pharaoh awoke, he saw something move across his blanket. Imagine the king's surprise as he lifted the blanket to find several small, hopping frogs! He jumped out of bed and with every step he took, he



could feel more of the slimy little creatures under his feet.

Just as Moses had warned, frogs were everywhere! Hundreds of them came through the windows of every Egyptian home and into all parts of the palace. Servants working in the kitchen found it difficult to cook because frogs were getting into pots, pans and flour sacks. The frogs even found their way into food after it was cooked, and on the royal table ready to be served!

The Egyptians killed as many frogs as they could. But even as the frogs died, more continued to come up from the river. Pharaoh's magicians also brought frogs upon the land of Egypt, but they could not stop the plague. Pharaoh now knew that the God of Moses had the power to stop it.

Finally, Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron. He agreed to let the Israelites go if they would ask their God to stop the plague. The next morning the frogs that were not in the river died and there were heaps of dead frogs everywhere.

But when Pharaoh saw that the frog plague was over, he again changed his mind! So God told Moses and Aaron to strike the dust of the land to bring the next plague—lice!

The Egyptians were still cleaning up the huge mounds of dead frogs when the third plague began. People and animals were soon in pain and misery as their bodies were covered with the tiny stinging insects.

The king's magicians stood before him in fear and embarrassment. The head magician admitted to Pharaoh that they were powerless to copy the plague. "We cannot do what the God of the Israelites can do," he said. "We





thought they were performing clever tricks. But we can now see that these terrible things can only happen because of a God who is all-powerful.”

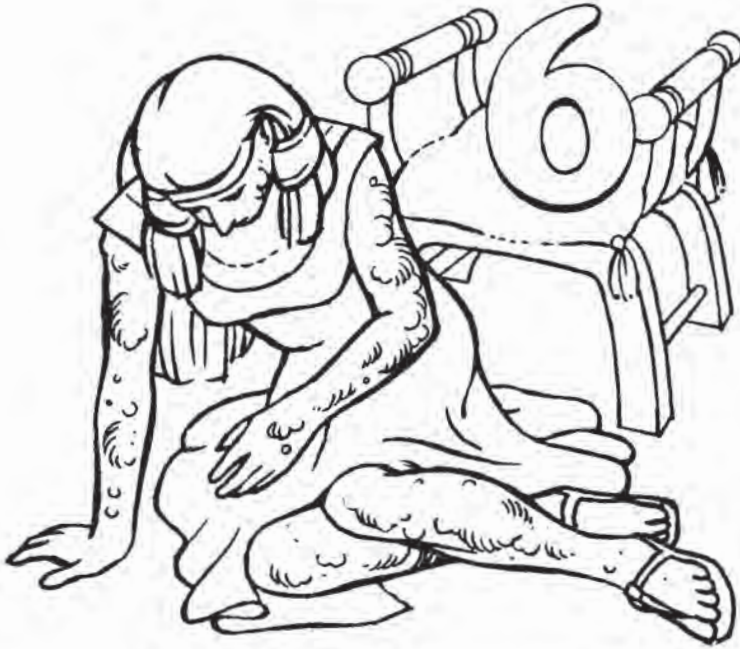
Of course, Pharaoh was very angry and his stubborn attitude caused God to bring the fourth plague—flies! It wasn’t long before the Egyptians were again in agony. Many of their crops were ruined by the insects. And soon, many people suffered illness and fever from all of the insect bites. (Beginning with this plague, Goshen, where the Israelites lived, was spared from further plagues.)

Pharaoh promised to let the Israelites go if the plague stopped. But Pharaoh changed his mind after God removed the flies at

Moses’ request. So God brought another plague upon Egypt to punish the Pharaoh for refusing to let Israel go into the wilderness to serve God.

In just a few hours after the fifth plague began, there were dead animals everywhere—dead horses, goats, sheep and cattle. However, in Goshen, God protected the Israelites’ cattle from the cattle disease. Not one animal belonging to the Israelites died from this plague!





But Pharaoh still would not let Israel go. So God told Moses and Aaron to go before Pharaoh again. He told Moses to take ashes and sprinkle them toward the sky in Pharaoh's sight.

"What terrible, evil thing are you going to do to us now?" growled Pharaoh as the two men climbed the palace steps.

"These ashes are from one of the brickdrying furnaces," explained Aaron. "Our God told us to bring them here and toss them into the air." As Moses tossed the ashes upward, the wind caught the tiny pieces of ash and scattered them in the sky. The ashes became small dust that began to settle upon the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh was quite puzzled by all

this. But suddenly, all over the city, people complained of painful blisters and sores. Everyone the dust fell upon broke out with sores. Pharaoh, too, groaned in pain from this terrible plague. But he would not give in to the God of Israel and let His people go.

Again God told Moses to warn Pharaoh. The next morning Moses and Aaron stood before the king and said: "We are here to tell you to let our people go. If you will not let the Israelites go, tomorrow heavy hail will fall from the sky. It will be so terrible that any man or animal out in the storm will die."

The next day the sky darkened and bolts of lightning streaked through the sky. At the same time, large, heavy hailstones fell from the sky.

The hail broke all the trees, crushed the crops and killed both men and animals who were outdoors. But those who believed what God said through Moses and Aaron stayed in their houses. They also brought their animals inside and both were saved from certain death.

Meanwhile, in the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were, what do you think was happening? You're right! There wasn't any lightning or hail!

Pharaoh gazed through a window of the palace at the miserable state of his city. "Call for Moses and Aaron," he commanded a servant. "Somehow protect yourself and bring them here at once."

Later, when Moses and Aaron arrived, Pharaoh called them forward. "I admit I have done wrong," Pharaoh began. "I have sinned and I know your God has brought these terrible plagues upon Egypt because of our wickedness. I promise to let your people go. Please ask your God to stop

this awful lightning and hail."

Moses left the city, stretched his arms toward the heavens and asked God to stop the plague. The lightning and hail then completely ceased.

Once the hail stopped, Pharaoh changed his mind again. And again God sent Moses and Aaron to warn Pharaoh of the next plague.

"Millions of locusts will enter the land," Aaron warned. They will eat up all shrubs and plants that have survived the last seven plagues. It will be the worst plague





of locusts to ever come to Egypt.”

By now Pharaoh had a pretty good idea that whatever Moses and Aaron said would happen. “Who do you want to go with you to worship God in the desert,” Pharaoh asked them.

“We will take everyone, young and old, and also our flocks and herds,” Moses answered.

“Only the men can go,” snapped Pharaoh. Angrily he commanded his servants to throw Moses and Aaron out of the palace.

It was a restless night for

Pharaoh. After so many terrible plagues, he couldn’t help but think seriously about the warning of another plague to come.

Early the next morning, Pharaoh arose and looked out his window. In the distance, he saw a strange, dark cloud. The cloud grew larger as it moved closer. Suddenly, the room was invaded by locusts that were bigger than grasshoppers!

As the locusts swarmed over the land, they chewed up every plant that had not been destroyed by the hail. Everywhere the Egyptians

walked, they mashed the locusts which were under their feet.

Pharaoh then called Moses and Aaron to the palace and again pleaded with them to ask God to stop the plague. So Moses prayed and asked God to take the locusts away.

Soon a strong wind came up and blew the locusts away toward the Red Sea. Pharaoh viewed the bare trees and the chewed stems of once-green plants. The more he saw, the angrier he became. "I'm not going to let the children of Israel go, he snapped at a nearby servant.

Moses was very disappointed when he received the news. But God gave him further instructions.

As Moses stretched his rod toward the sky, a sudden gloominess settled in the sky. The sun slowly disappeared and left Egypt in darkness. It was so dark, people could not see each other and it was too dangerous to even go outside. For three days the eerie thick darkness remained.

What will Pharaoh do this time? Will He again give permission for the Israelites to leave? Will he keep his promise this time? Will he finally learn how great God is? We will learn the answers in the next lesson.



BIBLE MEMORY

Twelve Tribes
of Israel

Reuben
Simeon
Levi
Judah

Zebulun
Issachar
Dan
Gad

Asher
Naphtali
Joseph (Ephraim, Manasseh)
Benjamin

FOOTSTEPS TO FREEDOM

Help the Israelites get from Egypt to the Red Sea! Answer the statements and fill in the blanks to complete the sentences. Then transfer the answers to the blanks in the footsteps.

PALACE IN EGYPT

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

RED SEA

1, 2. Servants God chose to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.
3. King of Egypt.
4. The first plague on Egypt turned the Nile to _____.
5. From the Nile came millions of _____.
6. God brought this third plague on Egypt.
7. The fourth plague of _____ brought more misery to Egypt.
8. The fifth plague brought disease and death to _____.
9. Ashes that touched the Egyptians' skin caused _____.
10, 11. Egyptians tried to find protection from the 7th plague of _____ and _____.
12. A plague of _____ ate any trees and plants that survived the other plagues.
13. A gloomy _____ marked the 9th plague.

YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

LEVEL 4

LESSON 5



Israel Leaves Egypt

ISRAEL LEAVES EGYPT

We learned in the last lesson about God's great power. We learned that He is very great and all powerful-not like the false gods the Egyptians worshipped.

Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let the Israelites leave Egypt even though God commanded them to leave. Because of Pharaoh's stubbornness, God sent plagues upon the land of Egypt which brought much misery and suffering to the Egyptian people. In the Book of Revelation and the Olivet prophecies, versions of the 9 plagues are prophesied, but most will not repent as they should (e.g. Revelation 16:11).

Let's now review what those plagues were. Each box in the activity on page 3 shows a picture of one of the nine plagues we have learned about so far. But the pictures are mixed up. Put them in the right order by writing the correct number in the upper right-hand corner of each box. On the line near the top of each box, write one or two words describing the kind of plague that took place.

MOSES' FINAL WARNING

After the plague of darkness, Moses and Aaron were again brought before Pharaoh. "Get out of Egypt-all of you Israelites!" commanded Pharaoh. "You are free to leave this land, but you must leave your flocks and herds behind."

Moses knew what Pharaoh was thinking. If the Israelites were to travel for three days into the desert without meat and milk from their herds, they would run out of food and face starvation. They would be forced to return to Egypt for food and would become slaves again.

"We must take our flocks with us so that we can offer sacrifices to God," Moses boldly told Pharaoh. "We will not leave even one animal behind."

Pharaoh's face became red with anger. "You have just lost your freedom!" he shouted. After a long silence, Moses said, "You will not see us any more. God will send one more plague upon the Egyptians. All the firstborn in your land will

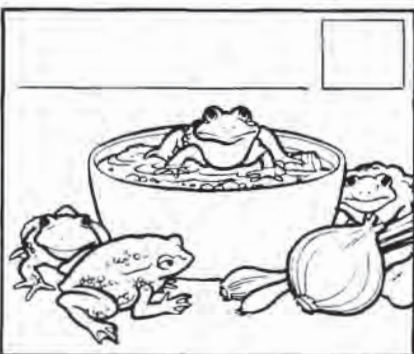
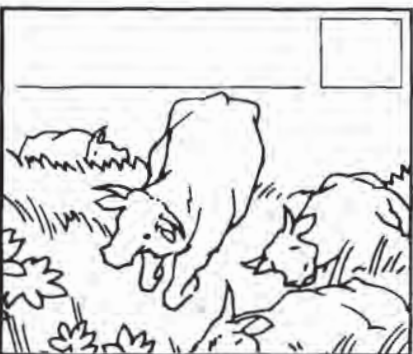
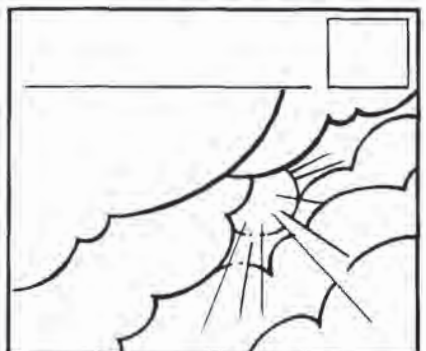
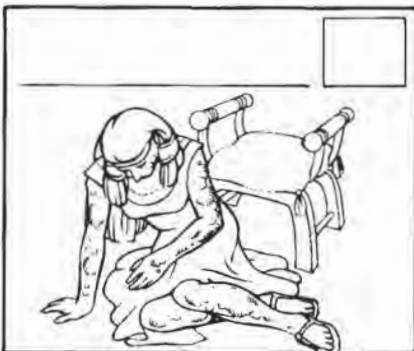
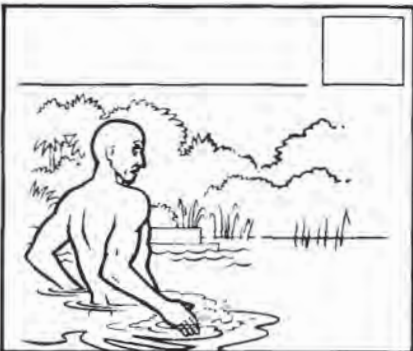
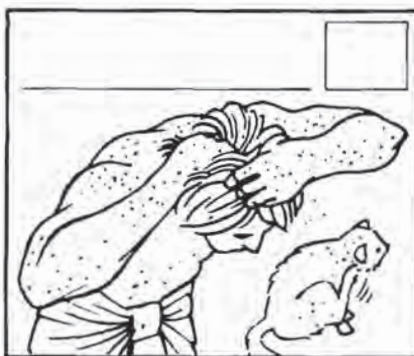
die! This includes your firstborn son, as well as the firstborn of all the animals.”

Pharaoh could only stare with a look of shock and horror. Because of the other plagues the Egyptians experienced, Pharaoh knew that Moses and Aaron spoke the truth. He sat back silently on his throne as Moses and Aaron left the court (Exodus 10:24-29; 11:4-7).

ISRAEL OBSERVES THE PASSOVER

Once again God spoke to Moses. He told him about a very important event that would take place before the Israelites left Egypt.

“This month, which I have named Abib, is the first month of the year,” God told Moses. “Tell the Israelites that on the tenth day



of this month, every family should set aside a perfectly healthy male lamb not more than a year old.

"Then, on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, each family must kill its lamb. The lamb should then be roasted and eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

"Be sure to roast it well. Eat all of it if you can, but if any part is left over, burn it up. When you eat this lamb, be dressed as though you are leaving on a long journey."

Moses listened very carefully as God continued to give more instructions. "When you kill the lamb, take some of the blood and smear it on the two side posts and on the upper part of the doors of your houses. Then, when I send an angel to slay the firstborn of Egypt, he will pass over the marked homes and your firstborn will not die.

"This day will be called the *Passover*," God continued. "It shall be a memorial or reminder to you that I spared your firstborn from the death angel. You shall keep the Passover as a feast, and it shall be a memorial to you and all your generations to come *forever*."

"The next day, the fifteenth day of the first month, you are to gather together to observe a special yearly Sabbath."

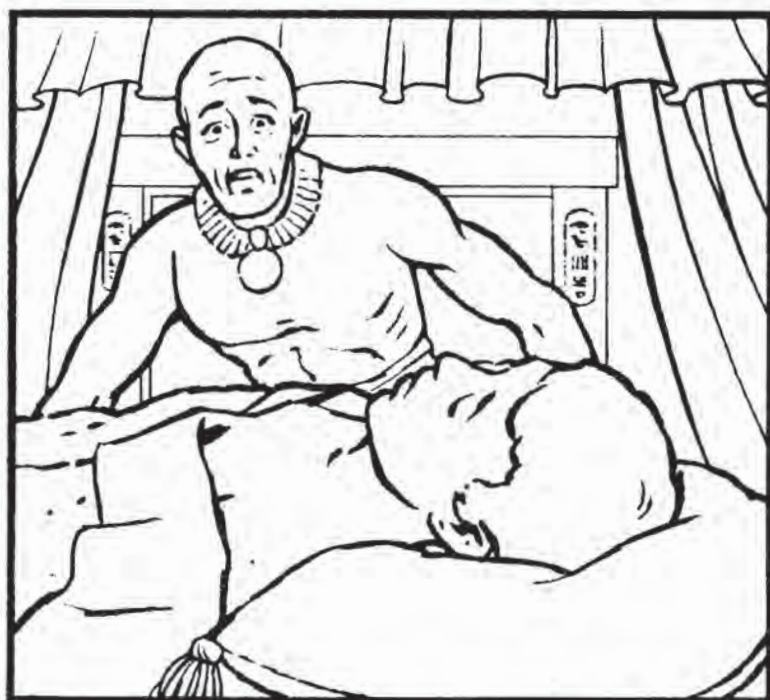
Remember, God's days begin at sundown and end at sundown 24 hours later. This Sabbath was to begin at sundown at the end of fourteenth day.

"It will be called the first day of the *Feast of Unleavened Bread*," God told Moses. "You shall put all leavening out of your houses before the holy day starts. For seven days, when you eat bread, it must be unleavened."

WHAT IS LEAVENING?

Do you know what leavening is? Look up the word "leaven" or "leavening" in your dictionary. Ask your parents to help you name three common types of leavening we find in some of our food and write them down below.

Ask your parents to show you labels on canned or boxed foods. See if you can find some foods that you should *not* keep in your home during the seven days of Unleavened Bread. Make a list of these foods below.



Leavening makes food “puff up.” When your mother makes bread, the dough must “rise” before it can be baked. The leavening in the dough makes it “puff up.” Sins of pride and vanity cause people to feel important or “puffed up” in their minds.

God wanted the Israelites to leave sinful Egypt, and to leave behind the sinful ways that are pictured by leavening. But what is *sin*? Can you find a definition of it in your Bible? Look in I John 3:4.

When Moses told the Israelites God’s instructions, they obediently prepared and carried out all that God commanded. They had no idea that hundreds of years later, on the eve of the Passover, Jesus Christ

would be killed, like the Passover lamb, to pay the penalty of our sins.

The night of the Passover in Egypt came and went quietly for the Israelites who had marked their homes with the blood of a lamb as God commanded. They remained indoors that night as God had instructed Moses.

For the Egyptians, it was a terrifying night! At midnight, all their firstborn people and animals suddenly died. Pharaoh was horrified as he looked upon the lifeless body of his oldest son.

Pharaoh began to realize, now more than ever before, the power of the God of Israel. His message to Moses and the Israelites to leave Egypt came quickly (Exodus

12:31-32). Since God told the Israelites to be dressed as though they were leaving on a journey, they were ready to go. They quickly rounded up their flocks during the daylight part of the fourteenth and began their exodus from Egypt on the night of the fifteenth.

It was a joyous occasion. God wanted them to remember the miracles He performed to free them from slavery. They celebrated what was truly “a night to be much observed on the beginning of that first special Sabbath day.”

A MIRACULOUS GUIDE

As the Israelites traveled, God used a large cloud to guide them during the day. In the evening the cloud would stop. This was a sign for the people to stop and camp for the night.

When darkness came, the cloud changed into a giant pillar of fire! It gave them light and, perhaps, warmth on cold nights. In this miraculous way God showed the Israelites what direction they were to go (Exodus 13:21-22).

Scouts and spies, sent by Pharaoh to watch the movement of the Israelites, discovered that the huge caravan was headed toward the Red Sea. Upon hearing the news,

Pharaoh decided that he wanted all the Israelites and their livestock back in Egypt.

The Egyptians had to move quickly because the Israelites had already journeyed for several days. Pharaoh and his army of horsemen and chariots thundered across the plains to overtake them. By this time, the Israelites reached a point near the Red Sea where they could see huge mountains directly ahead of them. These mountains appeared to be



blocking their way. Yet the cloud guided them onward.

Many of the elders of the Israelites disagreed with the direction God was leading them. Soon hundreds were complaining. The Israelites were horrified when they heard the news that Pharaoh's army was rapidly approaching!

In an effort to calm the people, Moses reminded them, "God is leading us and knows what is best. He will save us from the Egyptians."

Sometimes your parents may also tell you to do something a certain way because they know it is best for you. How often do you complain and argue that your way is best? Because your parents love you, it saddens them to hear you complain when they are trying to help you.

Imagine how sad God must have felt when He heard the children of Israel complain, when He was actually freeing them from slavery.

CROSSING THE RED SEA

That night, the pillar of fire moved between the Israelites and the Egyptians. Usually the Israelites camped for the night, but now God instructed Moses that they were to move on. Even more puzzling to those who questioned

God's instructions was the command to move east.

"But the Red Sea is to the east!" exclaimed several of the elders. "We are going to obey God and move east," Moses answered. As they reached the Red Sea, Moses lifted his shepherd's rod and held it out toward the water as God instructed him to do.

With a loud roar, the waters began to roll back, forming a long narrow valley through the sea! On each side the water became a towering wall. A strong wind began to blow, drying the muddy earth between the parted sea.

Several hours later when the sea bed was dry, the Israelites began walking through the sea to the opposite shore. As they neared the other side, Pharaoh's army began to rapidly pursue them through the Red Sea.

When all the people safely reached the other side, at God's command Moses stretched forth his hand toward the sea. The huge walls of water roared and thundered as they crashed downward and came together—drowning Pharaoh's army! God had miraculously saved the Israelites from the Egyptian army!

So far we have seen God work many miracles for the Israelites.

Yet when they came up against a problem, they forgot the miracles and began to complain.

Have you ever noticed that a problem seems so much bigger when you spend most of your time thinking about it? Before long, you start feeling sorry for yourself and

forget to ask God for help. Yet, when you think about all the blessings God has given you and the many times God has solved other problems, suddenly you find that God can solve this one, too. Then you become happy and thankful to God for His help and

PICTURE PUZZLE

Write out, on the lines at the right, the words that describe the pictures. If a picture or letter is followed by a plus sign, add the letters of the next word to the end of the first word. If a picture is followed by a minus sign and letters, cross out these letters that appear in the previous words. The first one is done for you as an example.



+



- dke = l i ~~d~~ ~~k~~ ~~e~~ t t l e
= l i t t l e

b +



+



- ma = _____
= _____



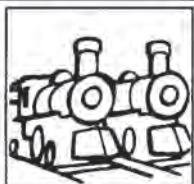
+



- sna = _____
= _____



+



-



- tai = _____
= _____



+



- ingf = _____
= _____

His wonderful blessings!

Soon after they crossed the Red Sea, God led the Israelites into the desert. After several days journey, the water they were carrying with them ran out and the people and their animals became very thirsty. God now performed another miracle. Find out what this miracle was by solving the puzzle on page 8. You can read more about this miracle in Exodus 15:23-25.

MANNA FROM HEAVEN

Despite many miracles from God, it wasn't long before there were more complaints from many of the Israelites. "We are almost out of food," some told Moses. "Why did you lead us out here into the desert to die?" whined others.

Moses prayed and asked God for help in handling these problems. Though God was not pleased with the complaints, in His great mercy, He decided to give the Israelites the food they wanted. That evening, God sent a huge flock of quail over their camp and caused the birds to fly low so they could easily be caught. It wasn't long before millions of cooked quail satisfied the people's hunger.

However, that wasn't all the food God planned to provide for them. He wanted the Israelites to

learn to be obedient and to look to Him for help. God used his next gift of food to teach the Israelites that lesson.

Each day God miraculously provided a bread-like food. Each morning, the Israelites awoke to find small, round objects on the ground. They had never seen anything like it before! This food they called "manna," which means "What is it?"

Moses repeated God's instructions to the Israelites, "Only gather what you will need to feed your family for the day. Do not gather any extra to keep overnight."

However, some people disobeyed and kept the manna overnight. When they awoke the next morning, they found the manna rotting and filled with worms. This was a lesson for the Israelites to do exactly as God told them.

"On the sixth day of the week," Moses told them, "God has instructed us to gather twice as much, that we may have food to eat on the Sabbath day." As you probably guessed, on the Sabbath morning the leftover manna was as fresh and pure as it was when they had first gathered it on the morning of the sixth day! And since God did not send manna on the Sabbath day, those who failed to

obey God's instructions to gather twice as much on the sixth day found themselves with nothing to eat on the Sabbath.

This was a strong reminder to the Israelites that the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, was holy time and that they should obey God by not working on the Sabbath. God continued to give them manna during the 40 years they were in the wilderness.

ON TO SINAI

Day after day, the Israelites continued to follow the cloud that God used to lead them through the desert wilderness. This time the cloud led them toward Mount Sinai. It then stopped and hovered over the very top of the mountain.

God then spoke to Moses and told him to climb the mountain. When Moses reached the top, he heard a powerful, booming voice say, "Give the Israelites a special message. Remind them that I have freed them from the Egyptians and brought them to this place.

"Tell them that if they will obey all My laws," God continued, "they will be my special people. They shall become a kingdom of priests and will some day rule over the whole world!"

Those in God's Church today

have the same opportunity to be God's special people if they continue to obey His laws. In the very near future, after Jesus Christ returns, God's people will have a special part in helping to rule the whole world as kings and priests!

Moses returned to the camp and gave this important message to the people. They agreed to do all that God had spoken.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Three days later, amidst a spectacular display of power, God thundered out the Ten Commandments to the awe-struck Israelites gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai. Look up Exodus 20:2-17 in your Bible and fill in the blanks to complete the Ten Commandments.

"I am the _____, which have brought thee _____ of the land of _____, out of the _____.

"Thou shalt have _____ before me.

"Thou shalt not _____ unto thee any _____, or any _____ of any thing that is in _____, or that is in the _____, or that is in the _____:

“Thou shalt not _____
_____ thyself to them, nor
_____ them: for I the
_____ am a
_____ God, visiting the
iniquity of the _____ upon
the _____ unto the _____
and _____ generation of them
that _____ me; and shewing
_____ unto _____ of
them that _____ me, and
_____.

“Thou shalt not _____ the
_____ of the Lord thy God _____
_____; for the LORD will not
_____ that
_____ his name _____.

“_____ the _____
day, to _____ it _____. _____
days shalt thou _____, and do
all thy _____: but the
_____ day is the
_____ of the LORD thy
God: _____ thou shalt not do
_____, _____, nor
thy _____, nor thy _____,
thy _____, nor thy
_____, nor thy _____,
nor thy _____ that is
_____ thy _____: for in
_____ days the LORD made
_____ and _____, the
_____, and _____
_____, and _____ the
_____: wherefore the LORD

_____ the _____ day,
and _____ it.

“_____ thy
_____ and thy
_____: that thy _____
may be _____ upon the
_____ which the LORD thy
God _____ thee.

“Thou shalt _____.

“Thou shalt _____
_____.

“Thou shalt _____
_____.

“Thou shalt _____
_____ against thy
_____.

“Thou shalt _____ thy
neighbor's _____, thou shalt
_____ thy neighbor's
_____, nor his _____,
nor his _____, nor his _____,
nor his _____, nor _____
that is thy neighbor's” (King
James Version).

God's laws were not first given to
the Israelites. They were in force
for all mankind since the creation
of Adam and Eve. If all mankind
had obeyed God from the begin-
ning, our world would be filled with
peace, happiness and prosperity—
just as it soon will be when Jesus
Christ returns to rule the earth. All
the world will then be keeping
God's Ten Commandments!

BIBLE MEMORY

The Ten Commandments

MYSTERY VERSE

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10		11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18		19	20	21	22		23	24	25	26		27	28
29	30	31	32	33		34	35		36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43

Fill in the missing words in each of the sentences below. Transfer the numbered letters to the numbered blanks above. When you have filled in all the numbered blanks, you will see a sentence found in Exodus 24 that shows what our attitude should be toward God's laws.

- The Israelites were instructed to smear _____ on the top and sides of their doorways so that the _____ angel would "_____ their homes.
 37 2,26 12 30 39
 33 16 7 15,18 1 19 36 28 13
- Yeast is a type of _____ .
 3,11 35 6 10 32,42 21
- As Moses stretched his _____ out toward the _____ , it rolled back to form a large valley through the water.
 13 30 14 13 38 22 19 41 31
- God led His people with a _____ by day and a pillar of _____ by night.
 25 29 24
- _____ drowned in the Red Sea with his army.
 5 20 9
- God worked a miracle that turned _____ water _____ .
 34 40 43 4,17 23,27 8

YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

LEVEL 4

LESSON 6



Lessons In Obedience

LESSONS IN OBEDIENCE

Our last lesson showed us that God worked many exciting miracles to bring the Israelites out of sinful Egypt. After many years in slavery, they had forgotten most of God's laws. But now that the Israelites were free, God began to teach His laws to them.

Many times God met with Moses on Mount Sinai to tell him various laws to teach the Israelites. And on one very special occasion, God thundered out to all the Israelites the Ten Commandments, or ten basic laws for man to live by.

These laws were not new; God had taught them to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. If only God's commandments had been obeyed by Adam and Eve and all those who lived after them, we would be living in a world much different from the one we are living in today. Can you imagine a world of no wars or crime, no sickness, poverty, suffering or unhappy families? The Kingdom of God will be like that.

MOSES RETURNS TO MOUNT SINAI

"Come up to me on the mountain," God told Moses. "I will give you tables of stone on which I have written the Ten Commandments."

On each trip up Mount Sinai, several men always accompanied Moses, at least part way. And on this occasion, the seventy elders of Israel assisted Moses. At a certain point, Moses stopped and chose Joshua to continue on with him. He instructed the rest of the elders to wait for a certain length of time. If he and Joshua had still not returned, they were to go back to the people in the valley below.

"If any matters arise in which you need a decision made, you are to seek advice from Aaron and Hur," Moses told the other elders.

As Moses and Joshua climbed higher, a great cloud covered the mount. At this point, they set up camp and waited for God to give them further instructions. For six

Illustrations by Greg Sandilands

days they waited, and finally, on the seventh day, God called out to Moses to come farther up the mount through the cloud.

Meanwhile, the elders had grown impatient after only a few hours wait. They decided to return to the valley below. There they were met by an equally restless and impatient crowd. After a few more days of waiting, a large group of Israelites came to Aaron.

"Where is Moses?" they asked. "Maybe he isn't going to come back. We need a god that we can

see, to guide us. Let us make one."

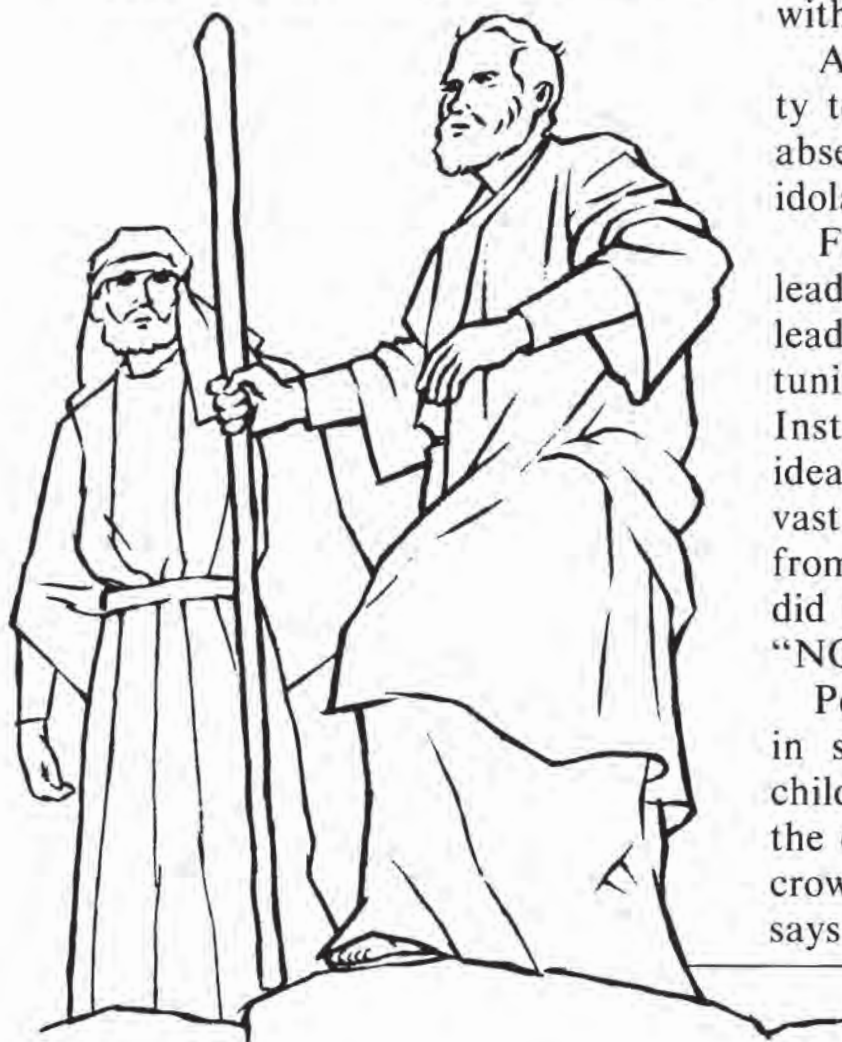
Even though they had left Egypt, many of the Israelites still had not turned from their idolatrous ways. Pressured by the people, Aaron gave in to their demands and allowed them to proceed and make an idol. He told the people, "Take off your golden earrings and bring them to me."

Great mounds of gold were collected, melted down and reshaped into a giant calf. The people became very excited and pleased with their new god.

Aaron was given the responsibility to lead the Israelites in Moses' absence—but not back into the idolatry they had come out of!

From this example of Aaron's leadership—or in this case, lack of leadership—God gives us an opportunity to learn an important lesson. Instead of stopping this foolish idea, Aaron let the pressure of a vast number of people keep him from making the right decision. He did not stand up to them and say "NO"!

Perhaps you can think of a time in school or with neighborhood children when you were faced with the choice of going along with the crowd or standing up for what God says is right. Perhaps they wanted



you to go along with a lie about something so none of you would be punished. Or, maybe you were dared to take something that did not belong to you. Write about your experience and any lessons you learned on these lines below.

MOSES RETURNS

Not only did Aaron go along with building the idol, he even set the next day aside as a special feast day. The next morning, everyone arose very early, anxiously bringing offerings to put on the altar that had been built at the foot of the golden calf.

As the Israelites worshipped their golden idol, God abruptly ended His meeting with Moses. He commanded Moses to immediately return to the valley below.

“Go now, Moses,” God commanded sharply. “Those people you have brought out of Egypt have already gone back to their sinful ways. They have built and worshipped a golden calf and made sacrifices to it. Oh, they are so

stubborn and rebellious! I should just destroy them all and make a great nation from you!”

Fearing that God would destroy the Israelites, Moses begged, “Oh, Eternal, you have brought them this far already! Don’t let their coming out of Egypt be for no reason. Please give them another chance!”

As Moses started down the mountain, he carried with him the tables of stone on which God had written the Ten Commandments. He soon arrived at the place where he had left Joshua forty days and forty nights earlier, and found him still waiting. From that place, they could hear the shouts and singing from the people below.

The closer they came to the camp, the angrier Moses became. Soon he saw the calf and the large group of people gathered around it, dancing wildly and bowing down before it. At that moment his anger became so intense that he raised the tables of stone above his head and brought them crashing down into many pieces at his feet!

Having ordered the immediate destruction of the idol, Moses confronted Aaron. “Why did you let such a terrible thing happen?” questioned Moses.

Aaron realized his mistake and

was very sorry for having given in to the sinful desires of the people. And as God commanded Moses, those who had taken part in this idol worship were slain.

God renewed his covenant or agreement with His people. And Moses made two tables of stone for God to again write the Ten Commandments by His own hand.

THE TABERNACLE

Soon after this serious problem had been dealt with, Moses carried out the instructions that were given to him on the mount. God had given him lengthy and very detailed plans for building a temporary Tabernacle. It was to be a huge tent where God could be present during the Israelites' journey to Canaan.

God required various materials to be used which were to be collected from all the Israelites. All measurements, fabric and color selections were to be made exactly as God specified. In fact, there were so many details that seven chapters of Exodus list the instructions for the building of the Tabernacle.

Israelites by the thousands brought the necessary materials to Moses while tents were immediately built to store all the materials until they were needed.

MATERIALS FOR THE TABERNACLE

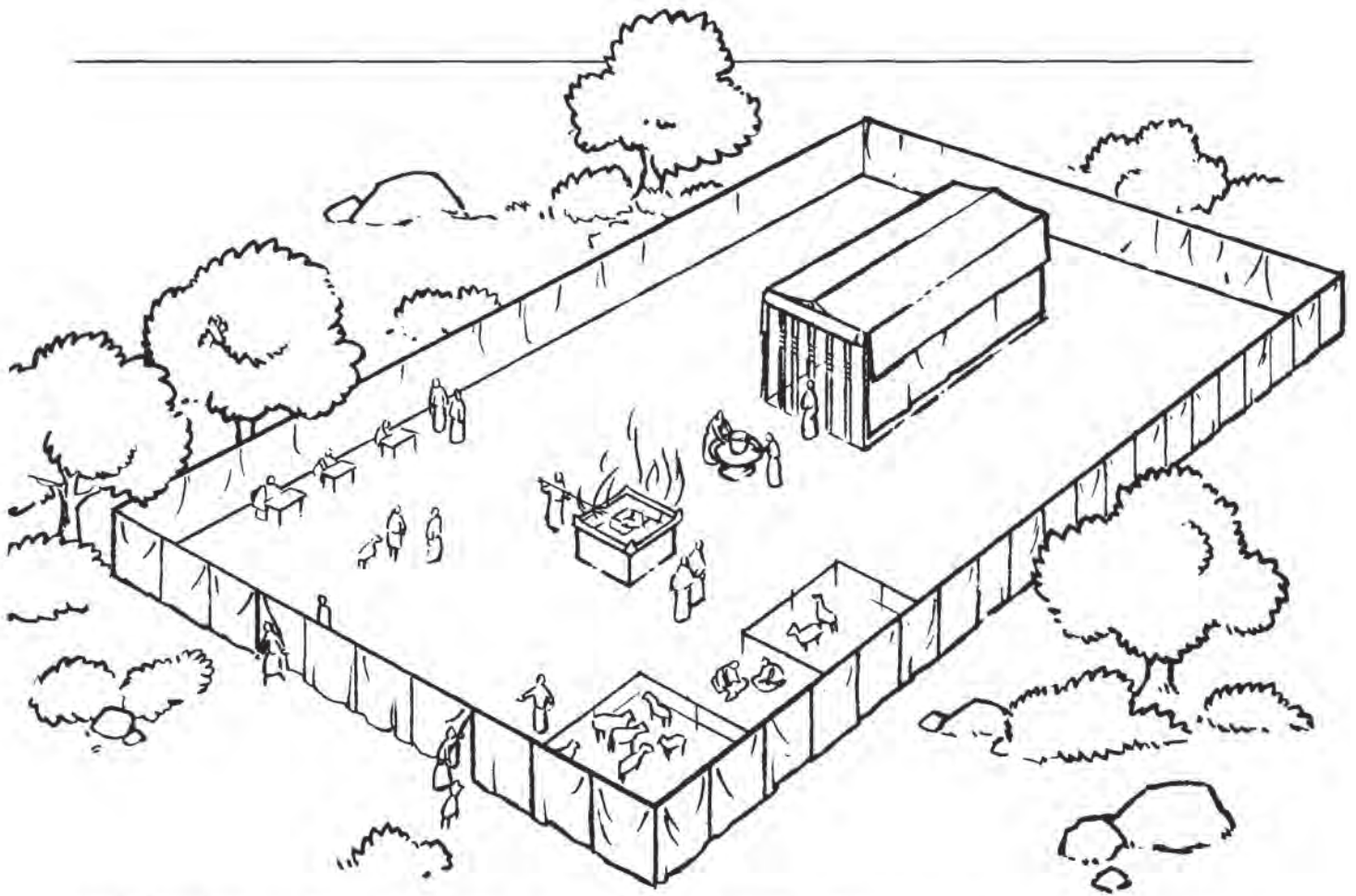
Look through Exodus chapters 25-31 and see how many different metals, colors, fabrics and other various materials (such as goat hair) you can find that were used in constructing the Tabernacle and items in it. Write them in the appropriate column. If you need more room, use a separate sheet of paper.

METALS	COLORS	FABRICS AND OTHER MATERIALS

Moses directed Bezaleel, a grandson of Hur from the tribe of Judah, to be in charge. Bezaleel's assistant would be Aholiab of the tribe of Dan.

These two men were highly skilled in all areas of building and decorating. And, equally important, God knew their good character would result in the Tabernacle being built exactly as planned—a building of *quality*!

After months of careful labor, the Tabernacle was finally finished. Moses looked upon it with great



satisfaction, knowing that it had been made as God had instructed. So Moses called all the workers together and praised them for a fine job, and asked God's blessing on them.

The Tabernacle must have been quite a thrilling sight to behold. It was erected in a large fenced area with space between the Tabernacle and the fence, known as the Court of the Tabernacle.

There was only one entrance into the court, and the altar was placed just inside that entrance. The laver, a huge bowl made of brass, was

located between the altar and the Tabernacle. It contained water in which the priests washed their hands and feet before performing their duties.

The Tabernacle itself, had two rooms. The first room, called The Holy Place, contained several symbolic items. The second room, somewhat smaller, was called The Holy of Holies. It was a sacred area, entered only by the high priest, and only once a year on the Day of Atonement.

Located in The Holy of Holies was a gold covered wooden chest

called the Ark of the Covenant. Mounted on its solid gold lid, called the Mercy Seat, were two golden figures. The two tables of stone containing the Ten Commandments were inside the chest.

With the Tabernacle completed, Moses brought Aaron and Aaron's sons into the court. As God directed, Moses anointed them with oil and they were ordained to be priests in the service of the Tabernacle. When everything was in order, the lamps were lit, and sweet incense was burning, a very interesting event occurred.

The cloud of God that rested on Mount Sinai suddenly began moving toward the Tabernacle. And from that time on, the cloud of God hovered over it during the day, and became fire over it at night.

Just as God was very exact in His plans for the building of the Tabernacle, so He was also very exact in His instructions for the offerings. There were many types, such as burnt offerings, peace offerings, food offerings, sin offerings and others. These offerings were designed by God to teach Israel the habit of obeying Him. The offerings also taught the need for a Savior to come who would pay for the sins of the world.

Offerings were to take place

twice daily, and only unblemished animals were to be used for burnt offerings. Their perfect or unblemished quality was important because they were a symbol of the Savior who would later come to die for the sins of all mankind. And since that event has occurred, the offerings are not necessary for us to perform today (Galatians 3:19).

TWO PRIESTS REBEL

Moses made it very clear to Aaron and his sons that God wanted all Tabernacle duties carried out exactly and solemnly. Aaron's two sons, Nadab and Abihu, are an example of how serious the sin of disobedience is to God.

One morning Nadab and Abihu arrived at the Tabernacle as usual for their duties as priests.

"The fire on the altar has burned down very low," said Abihu.

"It's almost time for Father to come to take some live coals into the holy place," said Nadab worriedly. "We must hurry and get some quickly!"

"I have an idea," suggested Abihu. "There is a campfire burning not far from the gate. Let's fill our censers with the live coals from that fire."

Both of them knew that the only

fire that was to be used in The Holy Place was the sacred fire from the altar. Nevertheless, they filled their censers with the “strange” fire and returned to the court.

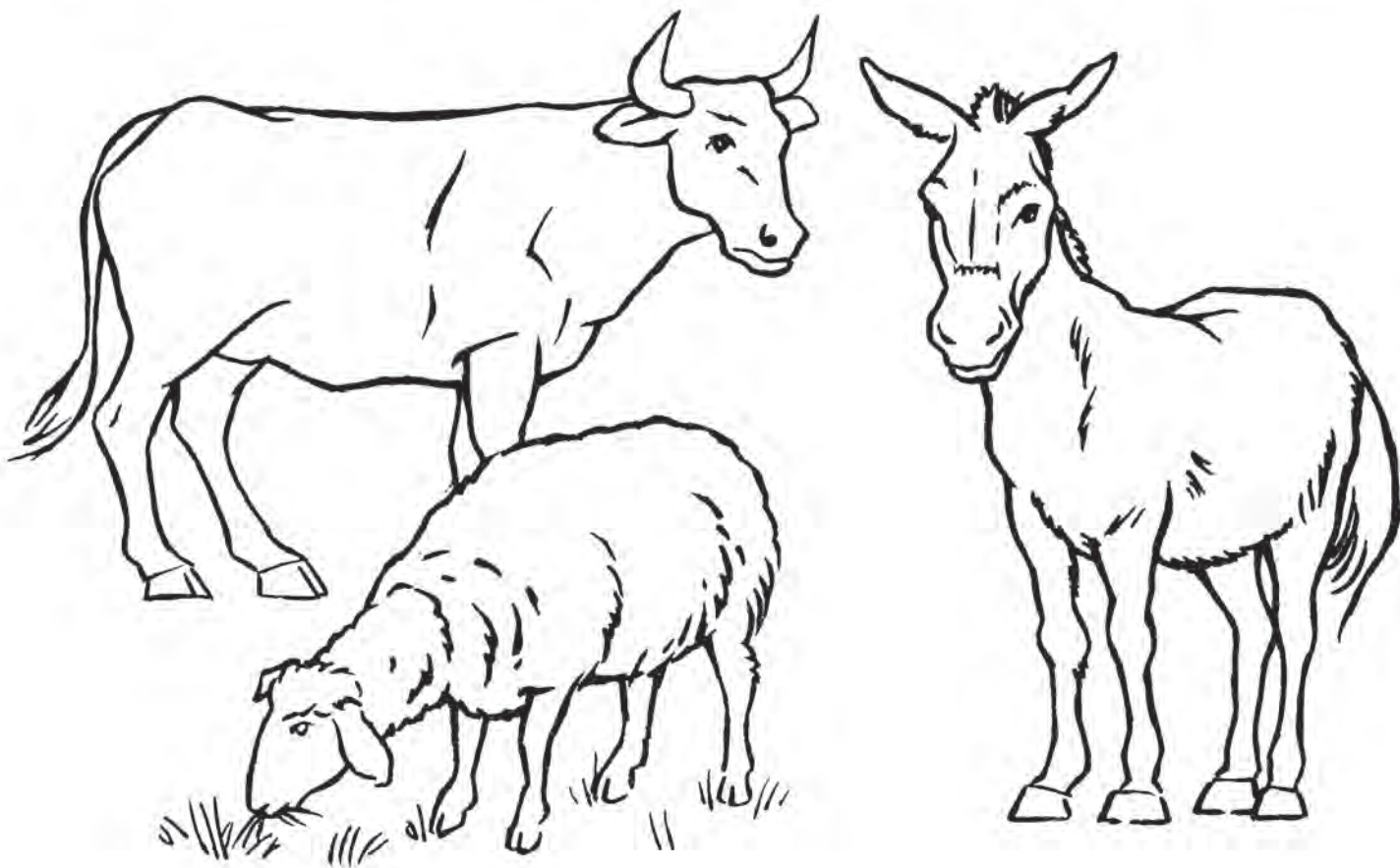
“We can’t wait for our father any longer,” Abihu said impatiently. “These coals will soon burn out.”

The two brothers walked slowly toward the Tabernacle and into the room called The Holy Place. As they sprinkled the incense on the

coals that were in their censers, they realized the terrible thing they had done.

Fearfully, they ran back toward the curtained entrance. But they had already disobeyed, and hissing shafts of fire shot out from the inner room and struck the men so that they died.

What a terrible penalty to pay—but God punished them just as He warned that He would punish them if they appeared before Him without proper regard



for His Tabernacle rules. It was an example showing that we must all learn that God means what He says.

Thereafter, Aaron's other two sons, Eleazar and Ithamar performed duties of the Tabernacle in place of their dead brothers.

GOD GIVES HEALTH LAWS

Since God had chosen the Israelites to be His people, He also wanted them to be a healthy and productive nation. So He revealed laws to them that would insure better health. These laws reveal which types of animal flesh are good for people to eat, and which are not.

We usually think of the word "clean" as a word describing something that has been washed and is free from dirt. But God used the words "clean" and "unclean" in a different way.

When God created the animals, birds, and fish, He created two kinds—those that are good for people to eat and those that are unfit for people to eat. God calls these animals "clean" and "unclean."

Just as the commandments were known before God gave them to Moses on Mount Sinai, so was the knowledge of clean and unclean

CLEAN AND UNCLEAR ANIMALS

Below are the names of animals listed in categories of clean and unclean, but they are written in code form. Break the code by replacing each letter with the letter that comes before it in the alphabet. Write each correct word in blank above each coded word.

CLEAN	UNCLEAN
1. _____ MBNC	5. _____ SBCCJU
2. _____ EFFS	6. _____ TRVJSSFMT
3. _____ DBUUMF	7. _____ EPHT
4. _____ NPPTF	8. _____ IPSTFT

meats. Noah knew about them.

In an earlier lesson, we learned that God told Noah to take on the ark seven pairs of clean animals and one pair of unclean animals. Do you know why Noah took so many more clean animals? So he and his family would have plenty to eat as well as have enough of each kind of animal to reproduce themselves and keep their kind alive after the Flood. Since the unclean animals would not be eaten, one

pair—a male and a female—was enough to bear young and keep their kind alive.

In Leviticus 11, God explains the rules for deciding whether an animal is clean or unclean.

God said, “You may eat any animal that has a parted hoof and chews a cud.”

In the picture on page 8, you can see the difference in the appearance between a parted and unparted hoof.

Some animals, such as cattle, have the ability to hastily eat food, then later bring bits of food back up from their stomachs to be chewed more thoroughly. Those bits of food are called cuds. A camel chews the cud, but is still unclean because its hoofs are not divided. So, to be considered clean, an animal must satisfy both requirements.

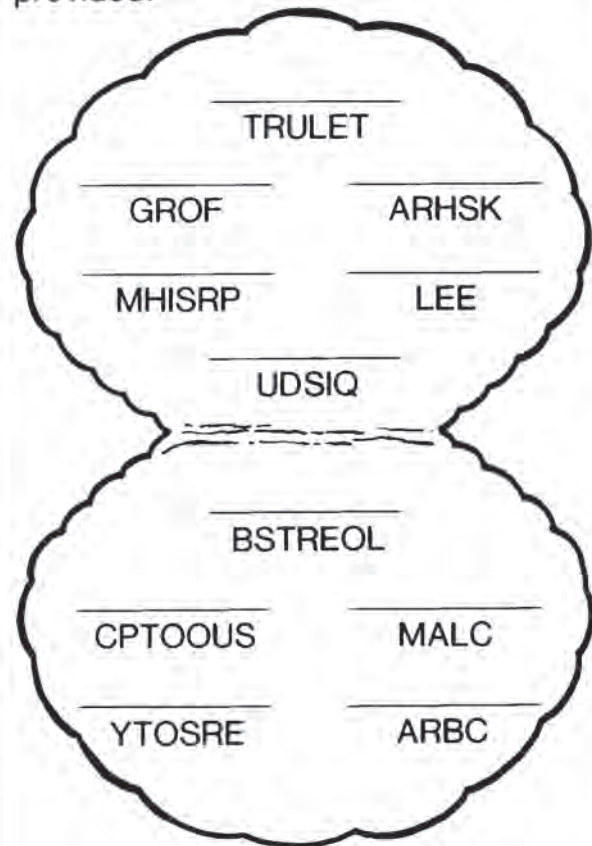
WATER CREATURES

God also made it very easy for us to know which water creatures may be eaten. In order to be clean, they must pass two tests: they must have fins and overlapping scales.

Many unclean varieties of water creatures are considered special foods and are often very expensive. Yet, many of them are nothing more than scavengers feeding

UNCLEAN WATER CREATURES

See how many names of unclean water creatures you can find by unscrambling the letters in the shell, and writing them in the blanks provided.



mainly on decaying carcasses at the bottom of the ocean.

BIRDS

The Bible doesn't give specific rules for determining clean birds. It merely lists the different kinds of birds that are unclean.

The only clean birds God specifi-

CLEAN AND UNCLEAN BIRDS

Use the following code to spell out the names of the birds in each section. You may need to ask your mother or father to help you to understand how the symbols relate to the letters.

A	B	C	J	K	L	T	X
D	E	F	M	N	O	S	U
G	H	I	P	Q	R	V	W
							Y
							Z

Example: L J V = **CAT**

CLEAN

L N F L U O O = _____
 F N O J > J O V = _____
 F F F O O O = _____
 J E A O = _____
 F < J F L = _____
 V < F U O < = _____
 J < L U = _____
 F E E > O = _____

UNCLEAN

O J F U O = _____
 A < L V < F O = _____
 U < A A J F J = _____
 F J A O O = _____
 L F E > = _____
 E > V F F L N = _____
 E > L = _____
 F O L F L J O = _____

cally names are the quail, dove and the pigeon. But when we examine them, we can see that they have certain characteristics in common. And for a bird to be clean, it must have all the characteristics, since unclean birds lack one or more of the characteristics.

In this lesson we will not dwell on those specific characteristics, but will merely familiarize ourselves with examples of birds in both the clean and unclean categories.

God also named other creatures considered to be clean. Look up Leviticus 11:20-23 and list some of those creatures on the lines below.

Today, most people eat many of the creatures that God says should not be eaten. This is just another area in which man is disobedient to his Creator. Many viruses have come from eating unclean animals.

Whether the circumstances involved idols or offerings in the Tabernacle, or clean and unclean meats, the Israelites had many opportunities to learn lessons in obedience. If only they had learned those lessons, they could have reaped the wonderful blessings that God gives to those who love Him and keep His Commandments!

BIBLE MEMORY I Samuel 15:22-23

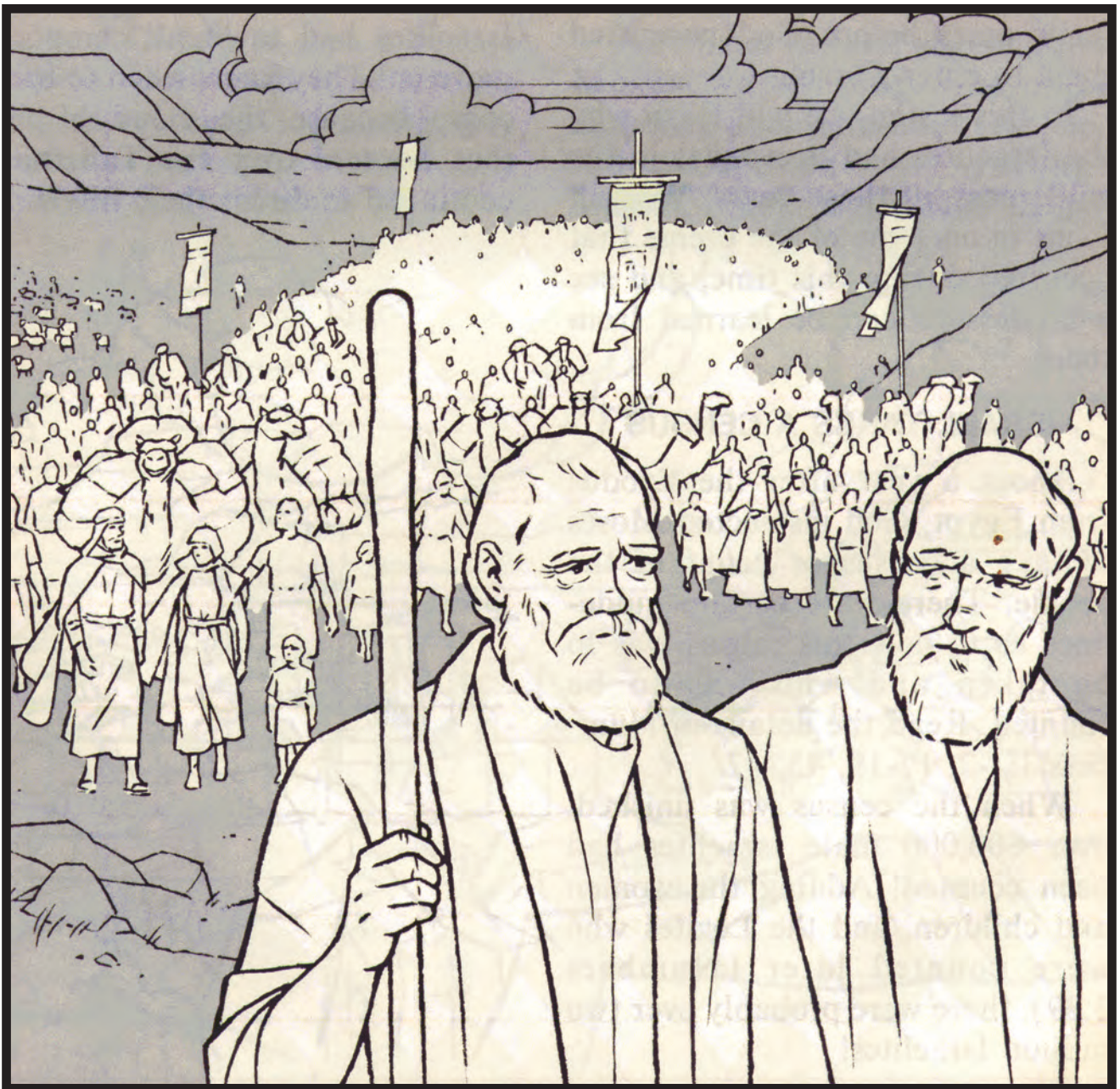
MYSTERY PUZZLE

Complete each statement or phrase by writing the correct answer in the blanks of the puzzle to the right. You may have to look up some of the scriptures in your Bible to find the answers. When you are finished, the letters in the box, when read from top to bottom, will identify a subject about which God instructed Moses.

- | | | |
|--|---------------|---|
| 1. "... two ____ of gold ..." (Ex. 25:18) | 1. _ _ _ _ _ | <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> <div>4</div> <div>5</div> <div>6</div> <div>7</div> <div>8</div> <div>9</div> <div>10</div> <div>11</div> <div>12</div> <div>13</div> <div>14</div> <div>15</div> <div>16</div> <div>17</div> <div>18</div> <div>19</div> <div>20</div> <div>21</div> <div>22</div> <div>23</div> </div> |
| 2. ____ waited patiently for Moses for forty days and forty nights. | 2. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 3. "... pure oil ____ beaten for the light ..." (Ex. 27:20) | 3. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 4. "... forty sockets of ____ ..." (Ex. 26:21) | 4. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 5. "And Moses went into the midst of the ____ ..." (Ex. 24:18) | 5. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 6. Some Israelites still desired to worship ____. | 6. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 7. "____ stones ..." (Ex. 25:7) | 7. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 8. The calf was made of ____. | 8. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 9. ____ allowed the golden calf to be built. | 9. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 10. The people offered their earrings to make a golden ____. | 10. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 11. God wrote the commandments on two tables of ____. | 11. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 12. ____ was one of the seventy elders of Israel. | 12. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 13. "... fine twined ____ ..." (Ex. 26:1) | 13. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 14. "... in the two ends of the mercy ____" (Ex. 25:18). | 14. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 15. Moses went up to Mount ____ to meet with God. | 15. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 16. "... a grate of network of ____ ..." (Ex. 27:4) | 16. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 17. "the swine ... he is ____ to you" (Lev. 11:7). | 17. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 18. Seventy ____ of Israel accompanied Moses part of the way up the mount. | 18. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 19. One thing clean fish must have is ____. | 19. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 20. "... ten ____ of fine twined linen ..." (Ex. 26:1) | 20. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 21. Clean animals must have a parted hoof and chew a ____. | 21. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 22. Also, clean fish must have overlapping ____. | 22. _ _ _ _ _ | |
| 23. "... a ____ of pure gold ..." (Ex. 25:31) | 23. _ _ _ _ _ | |

YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

LEVEL 4
LESSON 7



The Wanderings of Israel

THE WANDERINGS OF ISRAEL

After leaving Egypt, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness forty years before God permitted them to enter Canaan.

In this lesson, we will learn why the Israelites had to wander in the wilderness all those years. We will focus in on some of the events that occurred during this time, and see what lessons can be learned from them.

ISRAEL TAKES A CENSUS

About a year after the Exodus from Egypt, God instructed Moses to take a census or count of the people. There were certain guidelines as to how this census was to be taken and who was to be counted. Read the details in Numbers 1:1-2, 17-19, 45, 47.

When the census was finished, over 600,000 male Israelites had been counted! Adding the women and children, and the Levites who were counted later (Numbers 3:39), there were probably over two million Israelites!

Imagine what a difficult task it must have been each time the Israelites had to break camp and move on! They knew when to break camp because the cloud of God that hovered over the Tabernacle continued to direct their travel. As



Illustrations by Ken Tunell

long as it remained over the Tabernacle, they camped. But, whenever the cloud rose and began to move, the Israelites knew it was time to leave.

With such a large number of people, everything had to be done in a precise and orderly manner. So God showed Moses how to organize and assign duties to the various families. There was even a certain order in which each tribe left the camp. Everything God does is very carefully planned, without any confusion (I Corinthians 14:33).

MIRIAM AND AARON CRITICIZE MOSES

Moses' brother Aaron and his sister, Miriam, became quite upset because of the Ethiopian woman he had married. They spoke against Moses and criticized him.

"Moses should never have married that woman," they said.

Aaron and Miriam also said that Moses was taking too much authority upon himself. "Has God indeed spoken only through Moses?" they said. "Has he not



spoken through us also?"

Aaron and Miriam should have known better than to be critical of a servant of God—especially the one that God had put over them in authority.

Suddenly, God spoke to Moses, Aaron and Miriam. "Come to the Tabernacle at once!"

After they entered the Tabernacle, God told Aaron and Miriam to step forward.

"Listen carefully," God angrily told them. "I am the One who chooses My servants. Let me assure you that Moses is My servant. I speak directly to him, not through dreams or visions. Why, Miriam and Aaron, were you so foolish as to speak against My servant Moses?"

As punishment for their sin, what happened to Miriam? For the answer read Numbers 12:10 and fill in the blanks. "And the _____ departed from off the _____; and, behold, _____ became _____, _____: and _____ looked upon _____, and, behold, she was _____." (Leprosy is a deadly disease. You may wish to look up the word in an encyclopedia to learn more about it.)

Aaron said to Moses, "Please help us. Please don't hold this

foolish deed against us. Ask God to heal our sister."

Moses then called out to God, "Please heal Miriam. Be merciful and forgive her and Aaron of their sin, and take this horrible disease from her."

God answered Moses, saying, "Because of Miriam's disrespect for authority, she must be sent away from the camp for seven days."

Having spent that week thinking about her sin and repenting, Miriam was brought back into the camp, completely healed.

Aaron and Miriam learned an important lesson—that criticizing and speaking evil of God's servants is rebellion against God's government. It is the same as speaking evil against God.

SCOUTS SENT INTO CANAAN

After Miriam was brought back into the camp, the Israelites moved further north. The cloud led them to an area called Kadesh.

When the Israelites had set up camp there, God instructed Moses, saying, "Choose twelve leaders—one from each of the twelve tribes. They are to go ahead into the land of Canaan and bring back a report of the land."

Moses then passed on the information to the twelve men he had selected. "You twelve are to go up into Canaan as scouts," he said. "Carefully observe everything. View the land and see what kind of people dwell there. Note whether the land will produce good crops and what types of buildings there are. Bring back samples of the crops that grow in the land. Be brave and of good courage, for God is with you!"

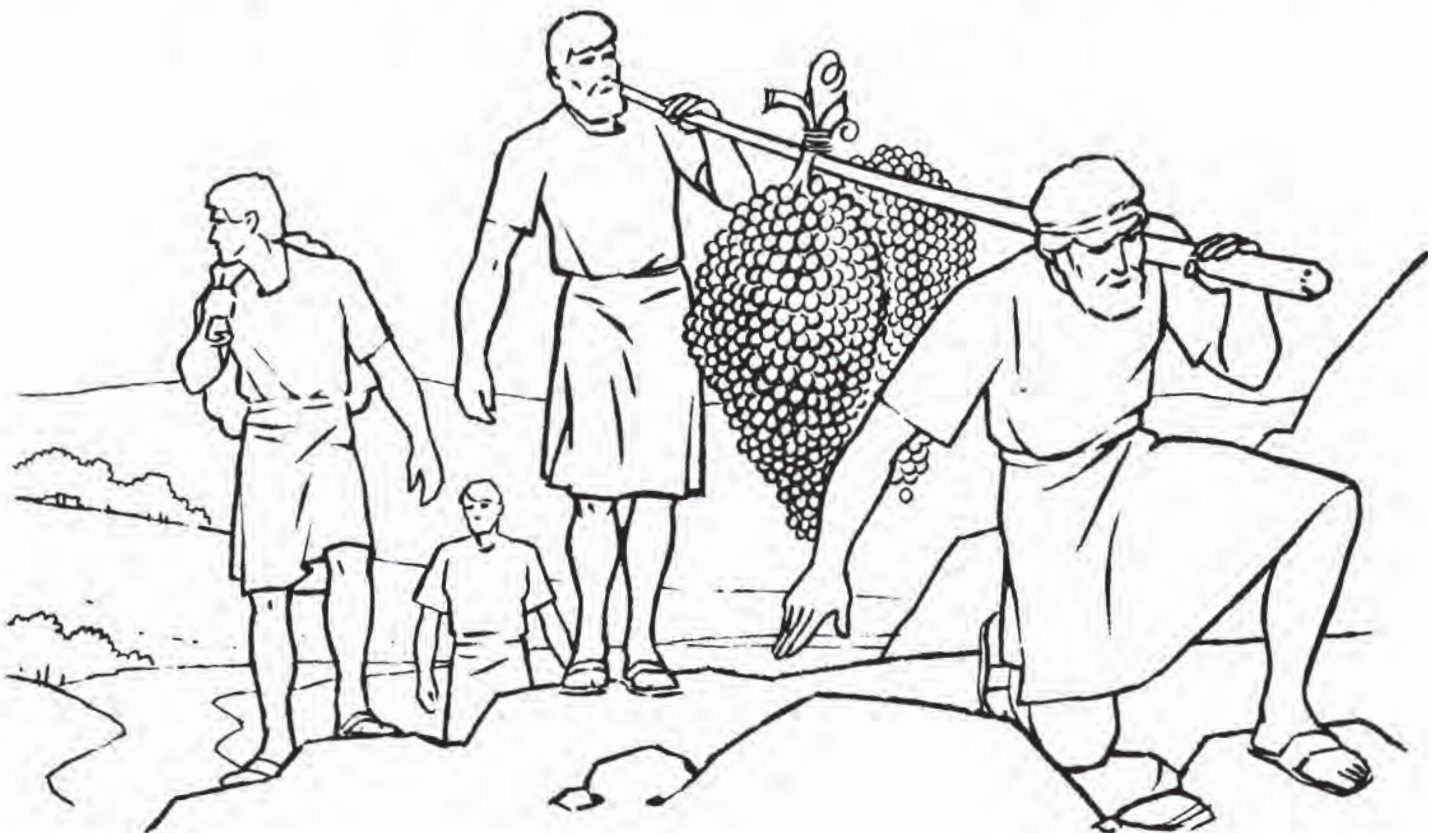
After many miles of traveling through the blazing sun, the scouts reached the land of Canaan. They could not believe what they saw!

The land was beautifully green and rich with fine crops.

At one point during their journey, the scouts cut a cluster of grapes from a branch. The cluster was so large, they had to hang it on a pole which was carried on the shoulders of two men!

As the twelve men proceeded through the various cities, they took careful note of how numerous the people were, and whether they were warlike, peaceful, strong or weak.

At the city of Hebron, the scouts spotted men who looked taller than ordinary men. As the scouts came



nearer and nearer, the men appeared taller and taller. The scouts' eyes grew wider as they realized that these men were giants almost twice their size! These giants were the descendants of Anak, the father of a race of giants (Numbers 13:22).

During their expedition, the scouts gathered figs and other food samples. They finally returned to camp, forty days after their departure.

TEN SCOUTS SPREAD FEAR

As leaders of the expedition, Joshua and Caleb were the first to report to Moses. "It is a good land," they said. "Large areas are fertile, growing abundant crops as you can see from what we brought back." After giving more details, they then gave the other scouts the opportunity to add to their account.

"The land is fertile as Joshua and Caleb have said," added one scout. "But they did not tell you that the men we saw were all giants. The cities have tall, thick walls around them with large armies behind them."

The people listening to the scouts were startled by what they heard. Panic soon set in. Caleb, the scout from the tribe of Judah, stepped

forward and tried to quiet the people.

"Please listen to me!" he shouted. "This man you just heard does not speak for all of us. He is lying. Not all the cities have high, thick walls and not all the people are giants. God can help us overcome anyone in Canaan!"



The other ten scouts continued to spread fear about what they had seen. Only Joshua and Caleb told the truth and had faith that God would take care of any obstacles along the way. Read Numbers 14:7-8 and fill in the blanks. "And they _____ unto all the _____ of the _____ of _____, saying, The _____, which we _____ through to _____ it, is an _____ land. If the _____ delight in us, then he will _____ us into this _____, and give it us; a _____ which _____ with _____ and _____."

Many of the Israelites continued to complain and express their desire to return to Egypt. Some began to talk about finding a new leader.

The crowd grew more restless and soon began throwing stones at Moses, Aaron, Joshua and Caleb. More stones and heavier stones began to pelt them, when suddenly a blinding flash of light came from inside the Tabernacle. As the ground shook, the shouting ceased.

Moses pleaded with God not to kill all the people for their rebellion. God extended His mercy and decided to spare them.

But they would still have to pay a penalty for their sin.

God told Moses that even though two years had passed since the Israelites left Egypt, and Canaan was only a short distance away, they would spend another thirty-eight years wandering in the wilderness.

The Israelites would wander in the wilderness a total of forty years. That would be one year for each day that the scouts searched Canaan. During that time, all those who were then twenty years of age and older, except for Joshua and Caleb, would die in the wilderness.

The people also witnessed another example of the seriousness of lying and stirring up rebellion. The ten scouts who spread fear about Canaan suddenly collapsed and died!

Not wanting to wander in the desert thirty-eight more years, many of the Israelites left early the next morning and tried to enter Canaan against God's orders. But they found themselves in the middle of an ambush. The Amalekites and Canaanites slaughtered most of these rebellious Israelites. A few who were severely injured made it back to Kadesh to tell about their horrifying experience.

These examples are recorded for us in the Bible so that we can learn from them. It is best to learn from the mistakes of the Israelites and not to repeat them ourselves. Let's try not to be like the Israelites who were constantly being punished for their rebellion and disobedience.

Do You Remember?

1. God instructed Moses to take a _____ or count of the people of Israel. The male Israelites alone numbered over _____.
2. _____ was stricken with a terrible disease called _____ after she criticized Moses.
3. Criticizing and speaking evil against God's servants is _____ against God's government.
4. Moses sent _____ scouts to search the land of _____.
5. Only _____ and _____ gave honest reports of what they saw.

KORAH WANTS MORE AUTHORITY

Not long after the Israelites finally left Kadesh, another terrible event occurred.

There was a man named Korah who was a first cousin to Moses

and Aaron. Korah strongly felt that he should be in a position of great responsibility. His desire for more power and authority grew to the point of wanting Moses' position as leader of all Israel!

Over a period of time, Korah was able to convince high-ranking Israelites that Moses and Aaron had too much power. Eventually 250 Israelite leaders agreed to join him and his three friends Dathan, Abiram and On. These men were envious of Moses and Aaron and conspired against them.

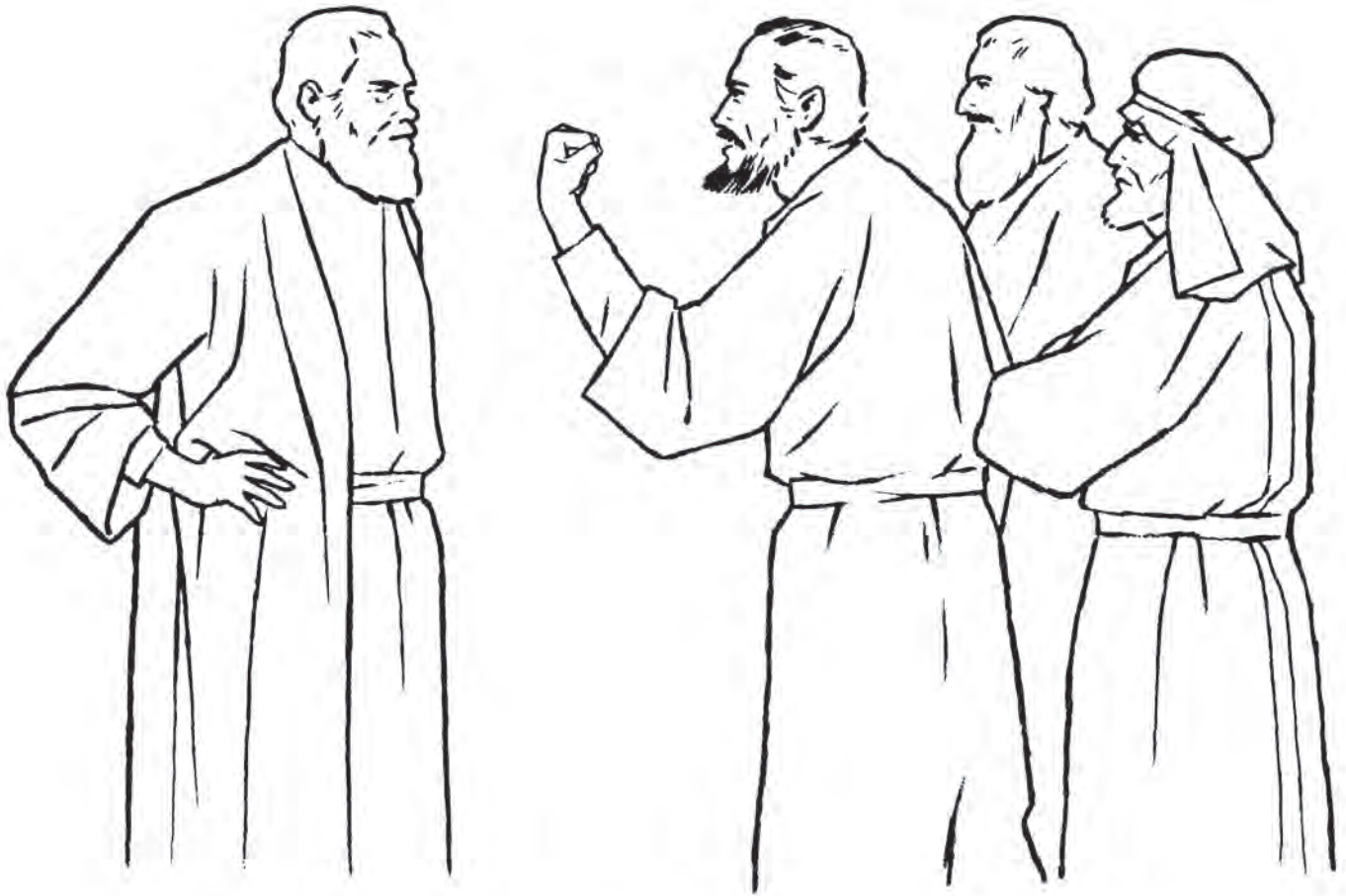
One morning, all these ambitious men gathered before Moses' tent. With Korah as their leader, they came to demand of Moses that some changes be made in the government.

Korah said, "Ye take _____ upon you, seeing all the _____ are holy, every one of them, and the _____ is among them: wherefore then _____ ye _____ yourselves _____ the _____ of the _____?" (Numbers 16:3.)

They accused Moses of taking too much authority upon himself.

Moses was quite shocked by this attitude and knew he must seek God's help.

Moses turned to Korah and said, "Go home. You and your followers



return in the morning with censers. Aaron and the priests will do the same. God will then show us whom He has chosen as His servants.”

In the morning, God saw that Korah and his followers were still in total rebellion against Him and His government. God told Moses and Aaron to separate themselves from the people, for He would soon destroy them all. But Moses pleaded with God not to punish all the people because of the evil deeds of a few.

God then told Moses to warn the people to stay away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Soon the earth began to tremble and a deep pit formed next to their tents. All at once, the three men and their families, except their children, were swallowed up by the earth! What a horrible sight to behold. Many Israelites frantically fled for their lives!

Then, bolts of fire suddenly struck and killed all 250 of Korah’s followers. How plainly God shows

us that rebellion against His government will not be allowed!

MOSES LOSES HIS TEMPER

The Bible doesn't give many details about the movement and activities of the Israelites during the years that followed Korah's rebellion.

We pick up the story again just months before the forty years of wandering is fulfilled. Those who were under twenty at the time the scouts gave their evil report thirty-eight years before, had since grown up. They would soon enter the Promised Land, the land of Canaan.

The Israelites were now camped at Kadesh. When they were camped at Kadesh many years earlier, there was plenty of water. But conditions had changed in thirty-eight years, and now many of the springs had long since dried up.

Faced with a severe water shortage, a large crowd gathered outside Moses' tent.

"We want water!" they shouted.

"Why have you brought us out here to die?" others cried.

As Moses and Aaron listened to the angry crowd, they realized that they needed God's help. They

immediately entered the Tabernacle and bowed their faces to the ground in prayer.

In Numbers 20:8, God told Moses, "Take the _____, and _____ thou the _____ together, thou, and _____ thy _____, and _____ ye unto the rock before their _____; and it shall _____ forth his _____, and thou shalt _____ forth to them _____ out of the _____: so thou shalt give the _____ and their beasts _____."

Moses took the rod and walked toward the rock. The people were still very angry and quickly gathered around Moses and Aaron and followed them.

As Moses stood with Aaron on the rock, he angrily shouted to the mob, "Listen you rebels! Must we fetch you water out of this rock?"

Moses then lifted the rod and sharply struck the rock twice. As water gushed out from the rock, the crowd shouted with delight.

But God was not pleased with Moses and Aaron. Their attitude was not right. They seemed more concerned about teaching Israel to respect them rather than showing God's power and causing them to respect Him.

"I told you to speak to the rock,"



God said to Moses. "But you let your anger interfere with my instructions. Instead, you struck the rock as if your way was better.

"You and Aaron gave the people the impression that it was through your power, and not Mine, that water would come from the rock.

"As a result of your disobedience and failure to give honor to Me for the miracle, you and Aaron will not be allowed to enter Canaan with your people!"

Moses and Aaron were terribly

disappointed, but they knew they had sinned. They repented and God forgave them, but they still had to pay the penalty.

We can see from this incident that God is not a respecter of persons, no matter who they are. God expects obedience from everyone, including His chosen servants.

Look up the following scriptures, which show that God is not a respecter of persons, and then fill in the blanks.

Romans 2:11: "For there is _____ of _____ with God."

Colossians 3:25: "But he that doeth _____ shall _____ for the _____ which he hath done: and there is _____ of _____."

The more we know and understand God's truth, the more He expects of us. We cannot afford to think we are better than others just because we know God's way. We have a greater responsibility to obey God and keep His commandments.

Even though Moses and Aaron were not permitted to enter Canaan, they will undoubtedly be given great responsibility in the government of God in the World Tomorrow!

YOUTH

LEVEL 4

BIBLE

LESSONS

LESSON 8



Israel Enters The Land Of Canaan

ISRAEL ENTERS THE LAND OF CANAAN

The Israelites continued their journey toward the land of Canaan, traveling north to the area of Moab. They pitched camp in the plains of Moab, on the east side of the Jordan River, near Jericho.

Balak, the Moabite king, heard of Israel's military conquests, and how they had conquered the Amorites. He was worried that he and his people would suffer the same fate.

BALAK SENDS FOR BALAAM

Balak thought that if a curse were put on the Israelites, he might be able to defeat them. So he sent messengers to the pagan prophet Balaam. Balaam knew about God, but took part in the pagan religion of Babylon.

When the messengers arrived, they told Balaam that the king wanted him to return with them and to curse Israel. Knowing that he could curse Israel only if God allowed it, Balaam said to the men: "Stay here overnight. I will talk to

God and let you know in the morning what I will do." The messengers did as Balaam asked.

God spoke to Balaam that night. Read what God said to him in Numbers 22:12 and fill in the blanks. "Thou _____ go with _____; thou shalt _____ the people: for _____ are _____."

The next morning, Balaam told the messengers that God refused to give him permission to go with them and curse Israel.

When Balak heard this report, he again sent messengers to Balaam. This time he sent men of higher rank, who tempted him by offering as a reward whatever he wanted, including great wealth.

Again Balaam asked the men to stay overnight and he would speak with God. The thought of having a rich reward led him to once again ask God for permission.

That night, God spoke to Balaam. "If the men come to you

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again in the morning, go with them. But you are to say only what I tell you to say.”

The next morning, Balaam arose, saddled his donkey, and went with the men from Moab.

A TALKING DONKEY!

While Balaam rode his donkey toward Moab, the animal suddenly ran off the trail into a nearby field. In anger Balaam struck the donkey with his staff.

Balaam had not seen what his donkey had seen. An angel of God had been standing in the path, holding a shining sword!

The path Balaam was on soon led him through a vineyard. Again the angel stood before the donkey. The donkey was now trapped between two vineyard walls. It made a desperate attempt to pass by. As it lunged to one side, the donkey ran into the wall, pinning Balaam’s foot against it. Balaam angrily struck the donkey again.

Further down the trail, the angel again blocked a narrow place in the path. The donkey had no place to turn. It became so frightened that it collapsed. Balaam was furious and struck the donkey with his staff a third time.



Then God performed a miracle. The donkey spoke to Balaam! "What have I done to you to cause you to hit me with your staff these three times?" Can you imagine a talking donkey?

Balaam was astonished! "Because you have made me look ridiculous before the other men," he replied. "I wish I had a sword in my hand, for I would kill you with it!"

"But am I not your favorite donkey—the one you have ridden ever since I became yours?" asked the donkey. "I have served you faithfully. Have I ever treated you as harshly as you have just treated me?" Balaam admitted that the donkey was right.

At that moment, God caused Balaam to see the angel holding the sword. Balaam fell to the ground before the powerful being.

"Why have you struck your donkey these three times?" the angel asked. "I was standing in the path and your donkey tried to dodge me. If it had not, I would have slain you with my sword."

"I have sinned," Balaam admitted. "If you are displeased, I will return home at once."

"You are not to return home," replied the angel. "You are to continue with the men and tell

King Balak only the things I tell you to speak."

When Balaam arrived, he told Balak that he could only speak the words that God allowed him to speak. Balaam would like to have cursed Israel, but God did not allow it. Rather, on four different occasions, God used him to pronounce blessings upon the children of Israel! Balak was very displeased. He had much to think about as he and Balaam went their separate ways.

ISRAEL LED INTO SIN

Balaam could not forget about the great wealth that was offered to him by King Balak if he would curse Israel. Soon, his overpowering desire for riches led him to think of an evil scheme he was sure would bring down God's curse on all Israel.

Balaam knew that the children of Israel were blessed as long as they continued to obey God. He also knew that if they sinned, they would bring curses upon themselves. So Balaam's plan was to promote sin between Israelite men and the pagan women of Midian and Moab.

Soon, Israelite men were committing fornication with and marrying these women. This

resulted in Israel's following the evil practices and customs of these people, which included idol worship. God was very displeased and sent a plague which took the lives of the Israelites who were guilty of these terrible sins.

The wrong desires of one man, and the rebellious attitude of the Israelites, led to sins that resulted in the deaths of 24,000 people!

DEFEATING THE MIDIANITES

Soon thereafter, God instructed Moses to punish the Midianites for their part in leading the Israelites into sin. He chose a thousand men from each tribe to fight against the Midianites.

Even though far outnumbered, the Israelites quickly defeated the Midianites. Balaam was among the many who were killed in battle. God proved to Israel once again that numbers are not important when He is fighting their battles for them. This is a great lesson for us today.

Another important lesson we can learn is from what God says is the result of lusting after money and material possessions, as did Balaam. Turn to I Timothy 6:10 and fill in the blanks.

"For the _____ of _____ is the [a] _____ of _____"

DECODE THE VERSE

Why did God have so many of the stories of the Israelites' sins recorded in the Bible for us today? To find the answer, decode the following verse. Above each letter, place the letter that comes before it in the alphabet. Then find this verse in I Corinthians 10 and fill in the verse number.

"
 Opx uiftf uijoht xfsf pvs
 fybnqmft' up uif joufou xf
 tipvme opu mvtu bgufs fwjm
 uijoht' bt uifz bmtf mvtufe
 (I Corinthians 10: ____).

all _____: which while some _____ after, they have _____ from the _____, and pierced themselves through with _____."

Do You Remember?

1. Balak, the king of Moab, wanted _____ to _____ Israel.
2. Balaam struck his _____ three times, not realizing there was an _____ blocking its path.
3. The donkey _____ to Balaam.

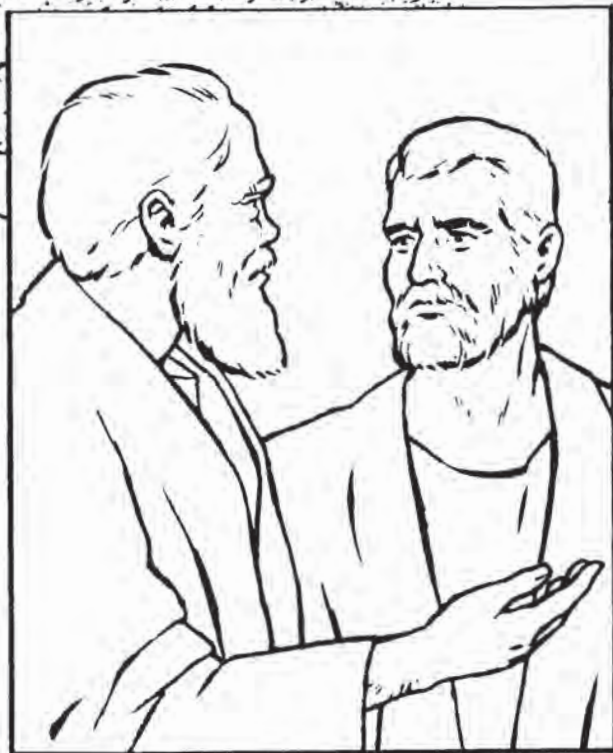


4. What lesson can we learn from the story of Balaam? _____

DIVIDING THE LAND

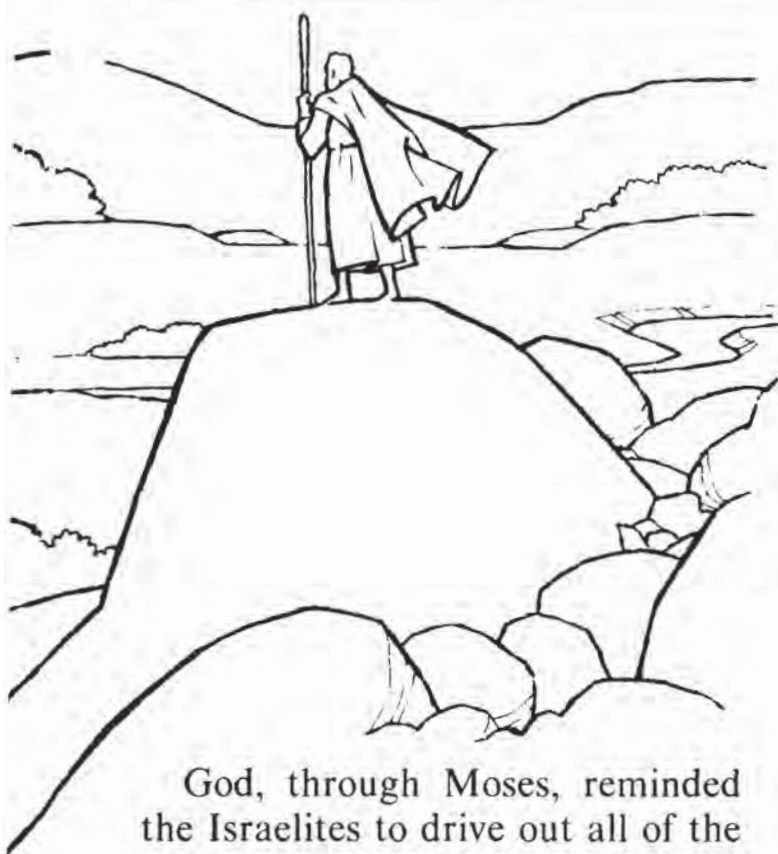
Before the Israelites entered the Promised Land, God instructed Moses to take another census of the people. Over 38 years had passed since the first count was taken. The census would help in fairly dividing the land among the twelve tribes according to numbers.

God also defined the boundaries of the Promised Land. The tribes of Reuben, Gad and one-half of Manasseh would remain on the



eastern side of the Jordan River. The other tribes would settle on the western side.

Certain cities were to be set aside for the Levites, who were not to inherit land since their inheritance was the priesthood (Joshua 18:7).



God, through Moses, reminded the Israelites to drive out all of the inhabitants of the land of Canaan. The Israelites were to destroy their idols, altars and areas of pagan worship (Numbers 33:52-53). God commanded the Israelites to do this so they would not be led into idolatry by the Canaanites.

The Israelites were also reminded to always observe the weekly and annual Sabbaths, as an everlasting sign between them and God. God also gave them instructions concerning tithing and civil government.

Results of obedience and disobedience were also clearly outlined by God. As an assignment, on a

separate sheet of paper make two columns and entitle them **Blessings for Obedience** and **Curses for Disobedience**. Read through Deuteronomy 28 and write the blessings in one column, then the curses in the other. (Ask your parents for any help you may need.)

Moses encouraged the Israelites to always observe God's laws and teach their children to do the same (Deuteronomy 6:7). He also reminded the people of God's mercy and justice.

JOSHUA BECOMES ISRAEL'S LEADER

"Joshua shall become Israel's leader after your death," God told Moses. So Moses called for Joshua to stand before him and the people of Israel. Moses told them that God had appointed Joshua as their next leader.

God reminded Moses, who was now 120 years old, that he would only view the land of Canaan from afar before his death, because of his disobedience at Kadesh.

So Moses climbed to the top of Mt. Nebo where he saw the magnificent Promised Land. After seeing the beautiful green valleys and rolling hills, he died.

After Moses' death, Joshua officially became Israel's leader. "Be

strong and of good courage," God told Joshua. "Meditate on My laws and obey Me and I will be with you wherever you go." This was very encouraging to Joshua.

SPIES SENT TO JERICHO

The people of Israel were now ready to cross the Jordan River at a place not far from the city of Jericho. This news soon reached the people of Jericho, who were very fearful of the Israelites. Jericho was a walled city along the route that Israel was taking and would have to be destroyed as God had commanded.

Joshua sent two spies to the city of Jericho. When they arrived, they walked through the gates and into the city. While in the city, night came and the gates of the city were shut. The Israelite spies hid in an inn that was owned by a woman named Rahab. Rahab understood that God

had given the land to the Israelites. She helped the two men escape by lowering them down the city wall by a rope from her upper window.

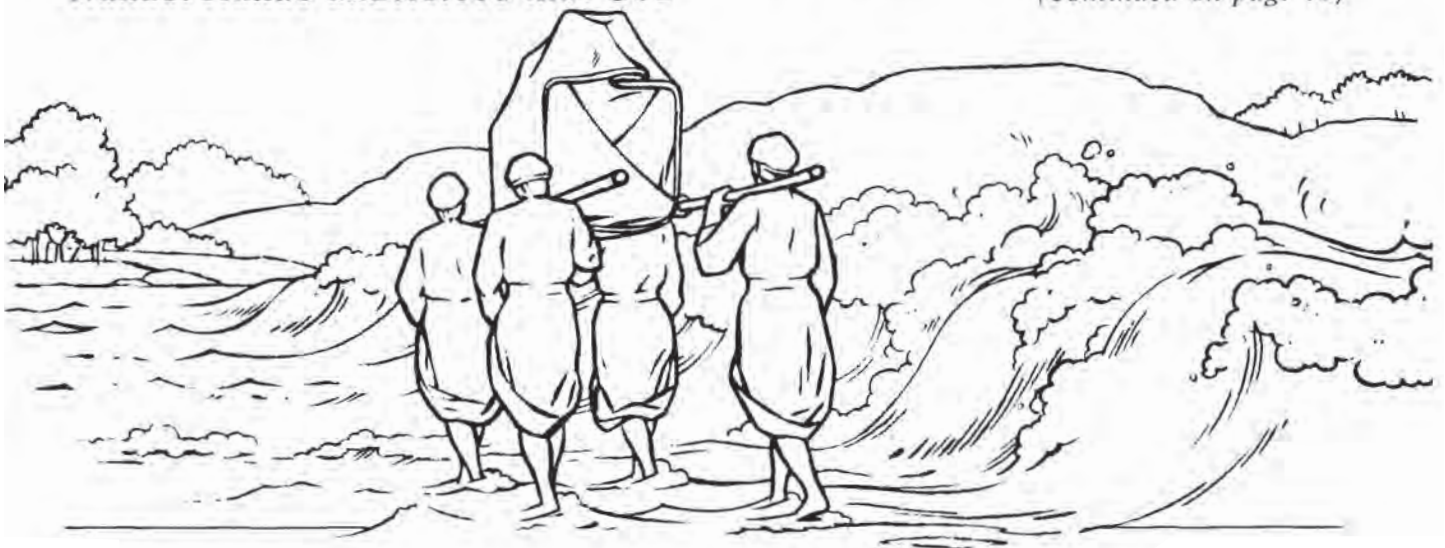
Because of her kindness toward them, the spies promised Rahab and her family protection when Israel attacked the city. The two men then returned to camp and reported to Joshua. Three days later, Joshua told the Israelites they would cross the Jordan River the next morning.

When morning came, Joshua told the priests to carry the ark of the covenant, as God had commanded, and wade into the water's edge.

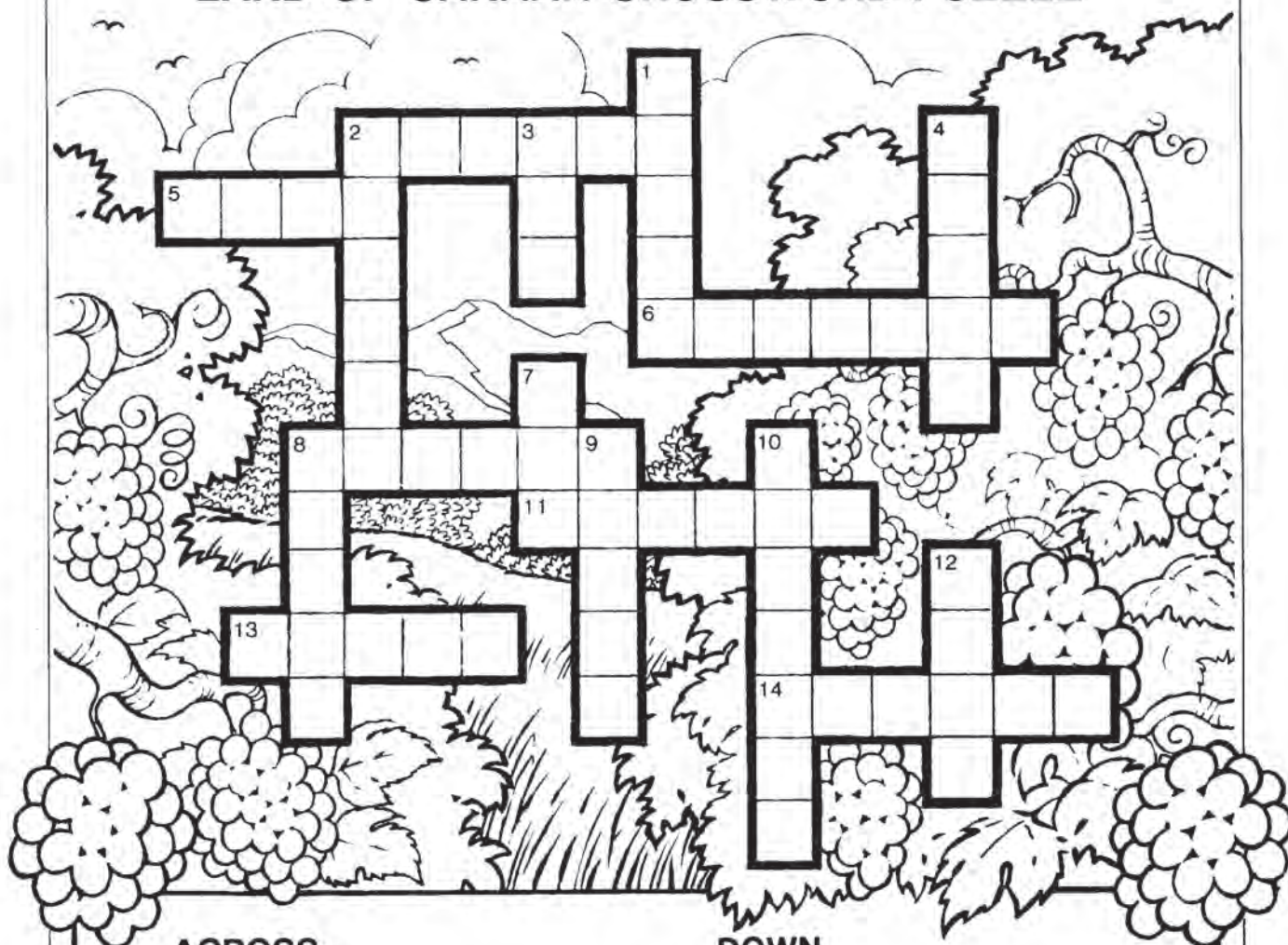
When they did, the water drained away to their left. At the same time the water to their right stopped flowing.

The priests holding the ark remained standing at the river's edge until all the Israelites had

(Continued on page 10)



LAND OF CANAAN CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

2. God caused the waters of this river to stop flowing.
5. The mountain Moses climbed to view the Promised Land.
6. People of the tribe of Levi.
8. Prophet who was asked to curse Israel.
11. An animal that talked.
13. The woman who helped two Israelite spies escape from Jericho.
14. The Promised Land.

DOWN

1. A being that blocked the path of Balaam's donkey.
2. Israel's leader after the death of Moses.
3. One of the twelve tribes of Israel.
4. Israelites who hid in Rahab's inn.
7. One of the twelve tribes of Israel.
8. Moabite king.
9. He led the Israelites out of Egypt.
10. The walls of this city fell down.
12. A place where the Israelites camped.

crossed. Then they crossed the dry river bed. After they reached the opposite shore, a loud rush of water was heard as the river once again began to flow.

Imagine how inspiring this miracle must have been for Israel that day!

THE FALL OF JERICHO

While Joshua viewed the city of Jericho from a distance, God appeared to him in the form of a man with a gleaming sword. This Being, the One who later became Jesus Christ, explained to Joshua exactly how Jericho was to be destroyed.

The next day, the army of Israel assembled together. Immediately behind the army, as God instructed, were seven priests. Each of the priests had a trumpet made from a ram's horn. Behind the priests were the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant.

The king of Jericho must have been quite nervous as he saw thousands of Israelites silently march around the city followed by the priests blowing trumpets.

When the Israelites finished marching once around the city, they returned to their camp. This they repeated each day for the next six days. The Canaanites were puzzled, not knowing what to expect.

On the seventh day, the Israelites marched around the city as they had during the first six days. However, when they finished the circle, they did not return to camp. They circled again and again—seven times!

After the seventh time, the Israelites came to a halt. Trumpets blasted forth loud and long, followed by thunderous shouts from the soldiers. Read Joshua 6:20 and write down what happened. _____

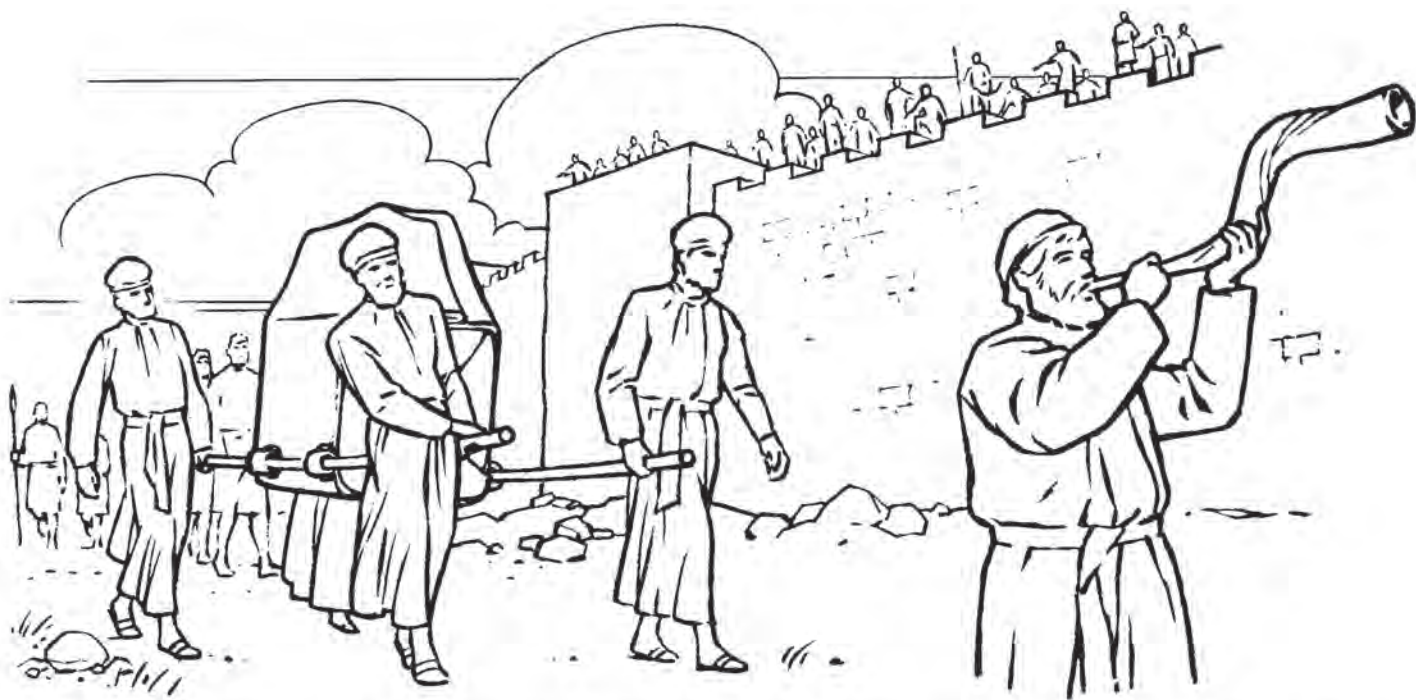
_____.

Imagine the awesome sight as the wall around Jericho suddenly came crashing down! The only part of the wall that remained standing was where Rahab's house was located. The Israelite army rushed into the city and killed all the people and their livestock as they were commanded, with the exception of Rahab and her family.

Joshua continued to lead Israel as they proceeded to conquer the land of Canaan. Gradually the Israelites settled in their new land.

JOSHUA'S PARTING MESSAGE

Before his death at the age of 110, Joshua called together the leaders of each tribe and reminded them of all the wonderful things



God had done for them. "God will fight your battles for you as long as you continue to obey Him," Joshua reminded them. "Do not befriend the Canaanites. If you do, they will lead you into idolatry and disobedience against God."

Turn to Joshua 23:13 and fill in the blanks below to see what would happen to the Israelites if they disobeyed God: "Know for a certainty that the _____ your _____ will _____ any of these _____ from before you; but they shall be _____ and _____ unto you, and _____ in your sides, and _____ in your eyes, until ye perish from off this _____ which the Lord your God hath _____ you."

During the time of the elders who lived after Joshua, the Israelites continued to obey God. But after the death of the elders, every man began to live the way he thought was best. The people no longer obeyed God. They failed to drive out the remaining Canaanites and began to worship idols.

As a result of their disobedience, God punished the nation of Israel. Many problems began to plague the nation just as Joshua had warned. Enemies attacked and oppressed the people. When the people cried out to God for help, He would raise up a leader, known as a "judge," to deliver them from their enemies during his rule.

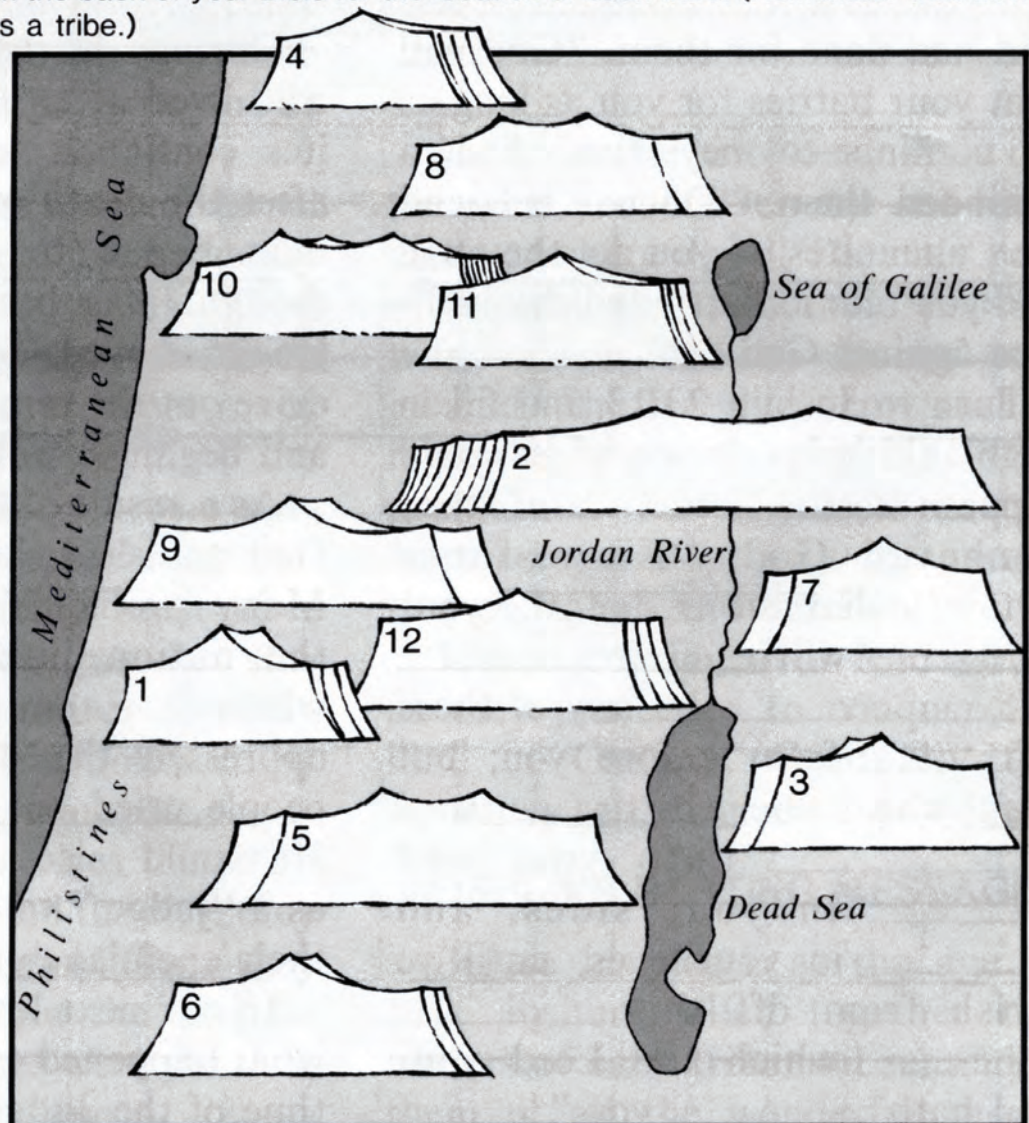
In our next lesson, we will learn what happened to Israel during the time of the Judges.

BIBLE MEMORY Psalm 23:1-6

ISRAEL IN THE PROMISED LAND

Unscramble the names of the tribes of Israel and write their names on the lines provided. Then transfer the names to the proper tents on the map, showing where each tribe was to settle. See a Bible atlas or map in the back of your Bible for the location of each tribe. (Remember that Levi did not inherit land as a tribe.)

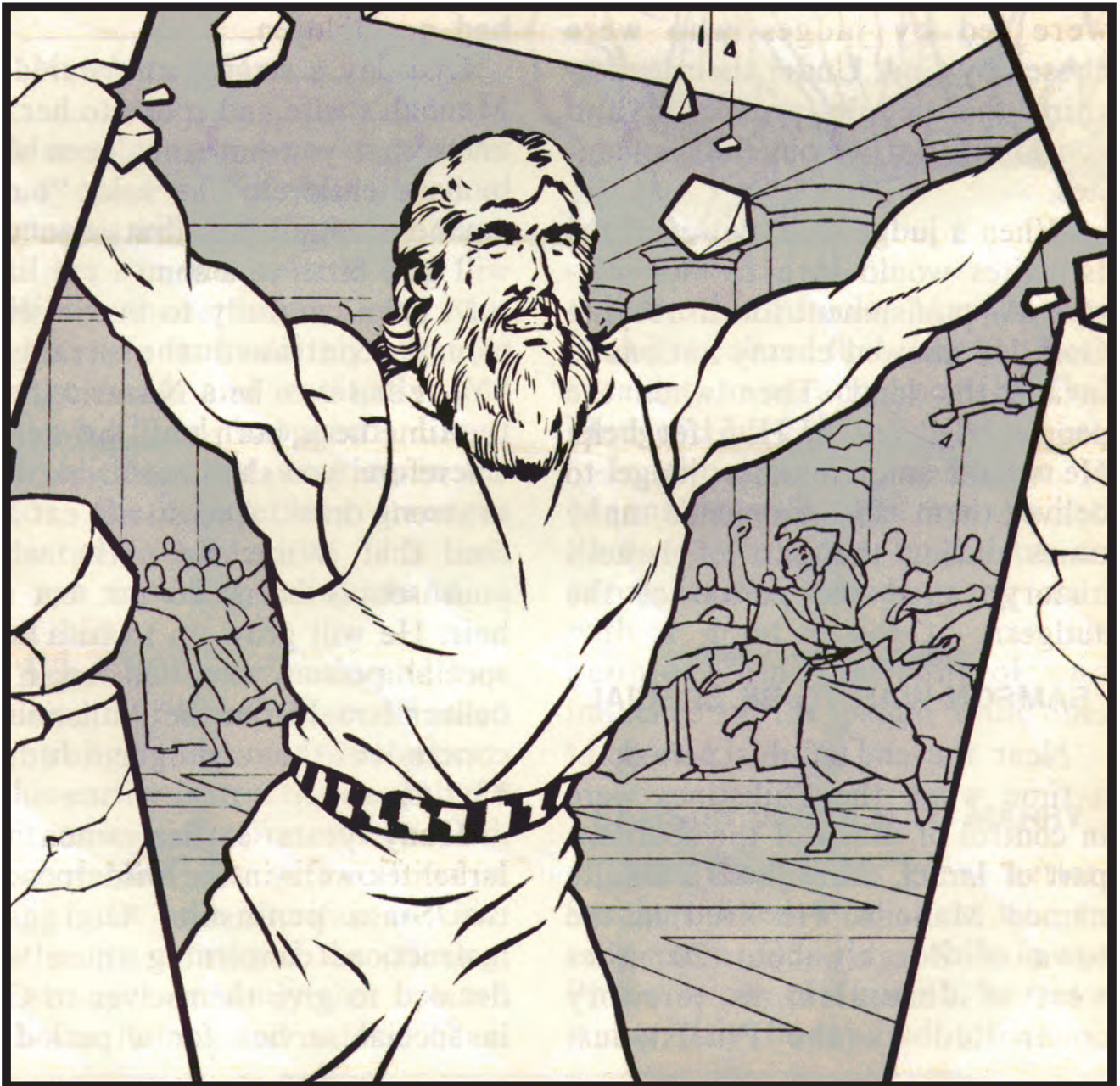
1. _____
AND
2. _____
AANMSHES
3. _____
UEREBN
4. _____
HESRA
5. _____
AHUJD
6. _____
SMNOIE
7. _____
DGA
8. _____
PAHAINTL
9. _____
PAIEHRM
10. _____
BLUZENU
11. _____
SACRSIHA
12. _____
IAJNBEMN



YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

LEVEL 4

LESSON 9



Samson – A Judge Of Israel

SAMSON—A JUDGE OF ISRAEL

During the years that followed Joshua's rule, the Israelites were led by judges who were chosen by God. Under their leadership, the people prospered and continued to drive out the Canaanites.

When a judge died, however, the Israelites would turn to idol worship. As punishment for disobeying God, He allowed enemy nations to invade the land. Then when the people cried out to Him for help, He would send another judge to deliver them. This happened many times during the part of Israel's history called the period of the Judges.

SAMSON WAS TO BE SPECIAL

Near the end of this period, at a time when the Philistines were in control of much of the southern part of Israel, there lived a Danite named Manoah. He lived in the town of Zorah, about 20 miles west of Jerusalem in territory controlled by the Philistines.

Manoah and his wife had been married for several years, but they had no children.

One day a stranger appeared to Manoah's wife and spoke to her. "I know that you have not been able to have children," he said, "but I am here to tell you that soon you will give birth to a son.

"Listen carefully to my instructions," continued the stranger. "Your son is to be a Nazarite from the time he is born until his death. Therefore, you shall not drink wine or strong drink. And do not eat any food that is unclean. Also, when your son is born, do not cut his hair. He will grow up to be a very special person who will begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines," concluded the stranger (Judges 13:2-5).

Many years earlier, when the Israelites were in the wilderness of the Sinai peninsula, God gave instructions concerning those who decided to give themselves to God in special service for a period of

Illustrations by Ken Tunell

time. The promise to enter such service was known as the Nazarite vow. Anyone who made this vow kept three special rules.

Look up the scriptures below and list these three rules.

1. (Numbers 6:3-4) _____

2. (Numbers 6:5) _____

3. (Numbers 6:6) _____

Manoah's son was to observe these rules all of his life, and Manoah's wife was to observe them until her son was weaned.

When the stranger left, Manoah's wife immediately went to her husband and excitedly told him what had happened. Later, when she was out working in the fields, the mysterious stranger appeared to her again. This time she ran to bring her husband to meet him.

"What will our son do and how shall we rear him?" Manoah asked the stranger. The man then repeated his earlier instructions to refresh their memories. Grateful to God, Manoah and his wife offered a young goat as a sacrifice to God. As the fire consumed the offering, the stranger suddenly shot upward with the flames and smoke! Star-



tled by the miracle, Manoah and his wife realized that they had been speaking to an angel sent by God (Judges 13:6-21).

In time, a son was born to Manoah's wife. He was named Samson. He grew up to be an exceptionally strong young man with a great desire to free his people from the control and influence of the pagan Philistines (Judges 13:24-25).

SAMSON DECIDES TO MARRY

Even though he knew better, Samson liked Philistine women very much. One day, while in the Philistine city of Timnath, he met a young lady he wanted to marry.

His parents were shocked and disappointed, but Samson insisted on the marriage. They finally agreed to meet her parents and arrange for the wedding (Judges 14:1-4).

While on the way to Timnath, Samson went ahead of his parents to see if the trail was safe. Suddenly, a roaring lion leapt toward him. With tremendous strength given to him by God, Samson killed the lion with his bare hands!

Samson and his parents finally arrived in Timnath. After arranging for his marriage to the Philistine woman, they returned home.

After a couple decided to marry in those days, it was customary to allow a period of time to pass until the time of the wedding. Therefore, it was some time later that Samson and his parents journeyed to Timnath for the marriage ceremony.

When they arrived at the place where Samson slew the lion, he went aside by himself to the spot where he left the lion's dead body. Only the skeleton remained. Inside he discovered a beehive filled with honey. After taking some of the honey to eat, Samson rejoined his parents on their way to Timnath. He gave them some of the honey,

but did not tell them about the lion (Judges 14:8-9).

SAMSON'S RIDDLE

During the seven-day wedding feast, Samson posed a riddle to 30 Philistine men who were attending. "I've got a riddle for you," he said. "If you can answer it before the end of the feast, I'll give each of you a fancy shirt and an expensive robe. But if you can't, then you must give me 30 of each."

After thinking it over, the men agreed. "Now, what is your riddle?" they asked.

Samson then said, "Out of the _____ came forth _____ [something to eat], and out of the _____ came forth _____" (Judges 14:14).

The men tried to solve the riddle, but could not. In desperation, they went to Samson's wife and demanded that she tell them. But she could not because Samson had not given her the answer.

"You'd better find out for us," the men told Samson's wife. "Otherwise, we'll burn down your father's house with you in it!"

Fearing what would happen, she tried to get Samson to tell her the answer to the riddle. But he would not. It was not until the last day of the wedding feast, after much

pleading and many tears, that he finally told her. She then revealed the answer to the men.

That afternoon, several hours before the feast ended, the men confidently approached Samson. "We have the answer to your riddle," they said. "What is _____ than _____? and what is _____ than a _____?" (Judges 14:18.)

Samson was furious! Although he suspected that his wife had been forced to reveal the answer, he left to fulfill his promise. He soon returned, carrying a large sack. "Here are the clothes," he said. Later, thirty dead Philistines were found in the city of Ashkelon without shirts and robes! Still angry, Samson returned home

without taking his wife with him.

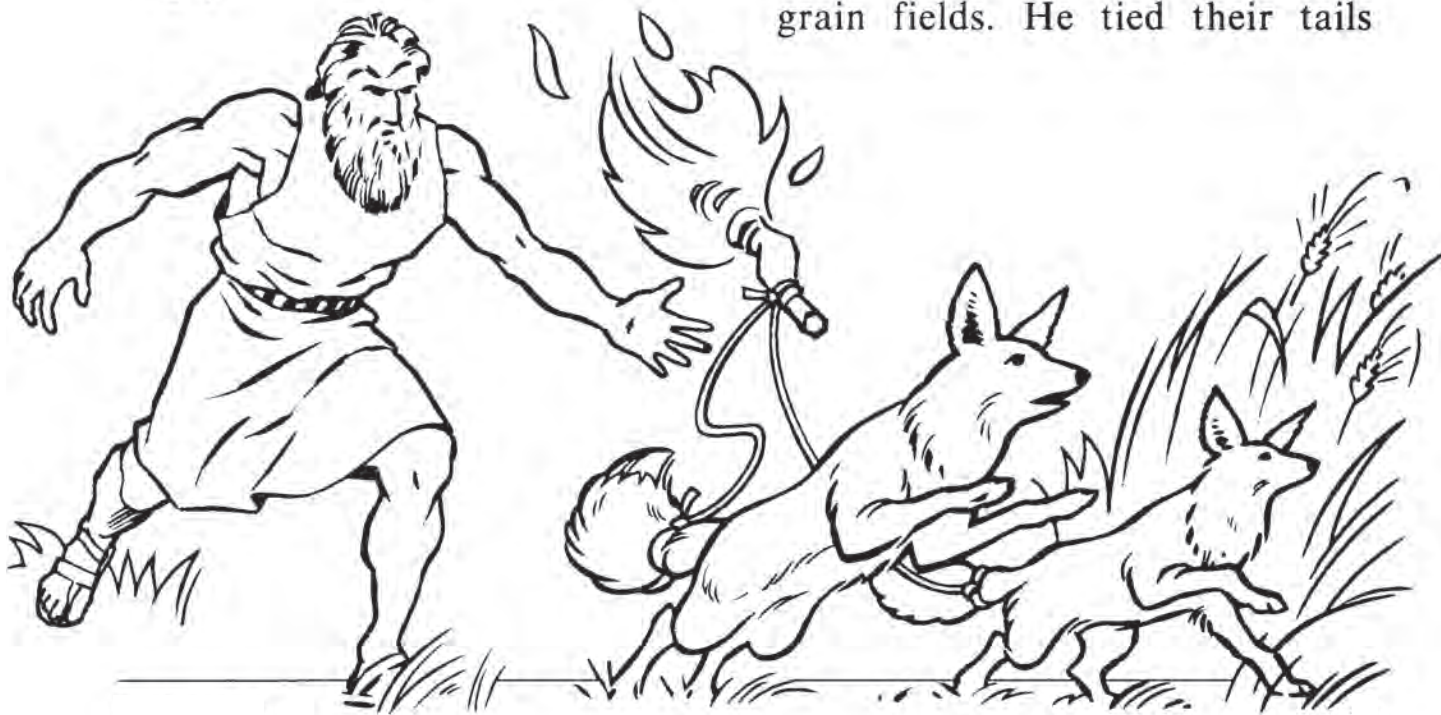
When his anger had calmed, Samson returned for his wife. "I've come for my wife," Samson told her father.

"I didn't think you were going to return," her father replied, "so I gave her to another man. She is now married to someone else."

Samson burned with anger. He stormed off, intending to get even with the Philistines. As we shall see, God was allowing these events to happen in order to bring about the eventual deliverance of the Israelites from the Philistines.

SAMSON TAKES REVENGE

Samson soon caught 300 foxes and took them to the Philistine grain fields. He tied their tails



together in pairs and then fastened a torch between each pair of tails. After lighting the torches, he released the foxes. They rolled and scampered through the grain fields, setting them ablaze! Many valuable crops were destroyed in the roaring flames (Judges 15:4-5).

When the Philistines discovered that Samson was responsible for the devastating fires, they went to his father-in-law's house and set fire to it. Both he and his daughter were burned to death.

Samson was very angry when he heard this, and told the Philistines that he would cause them trouble until the score was settled. So he and the Philistines fought until a great number of them had been killed.

Samson then fled the area and hid in a mountain cave in Judah. He had become a great enemy to the Philistines, and so they sent an army to Judah, near where Samson was hiding. They threatened violence to the people of Judah unless he was captured and delivered to them.

Frightened by their threats, the men of Judah promised to deliver Samson to the Philistines. Samson knew that he would have to go along with the plan or end up fighting his own people in an

attempt to escape. "I'll willingly go with you if you'll promise to keep me alive," he said to the men who came for him. They agreed.

The men from Judah then bound Samson with ropes and took him to the Philistines. Cheering as the bound Samson was brought into their camp, the Philistines began to mock and poke fun at him. Suddenly, with added strength from God, Samson flexed his muscles, snapping the ropes binding him as if they were mere threads!

Philistine soldiers began to rush toward him. Seeing the jawbone of a donkey, Samson grabbed it and began swinging with all of his might. The mighty blows crushed or severely wounded all who came near. By the time the remaining soldiers retreated, 1,000 of the enemy lay dead on the ground! (Judges 15:14-16.)

Exhausted and extremely thirsty, Samson looked for some water, but could find none. "You have given me this great victory," he cried out to God. "Please don't let me die of thirst and fall into the hands of the Philistines!"

Samson soon heard a faint bubbling sound. Before him appeared a spring of clear, fresh water! After being refreshed by the

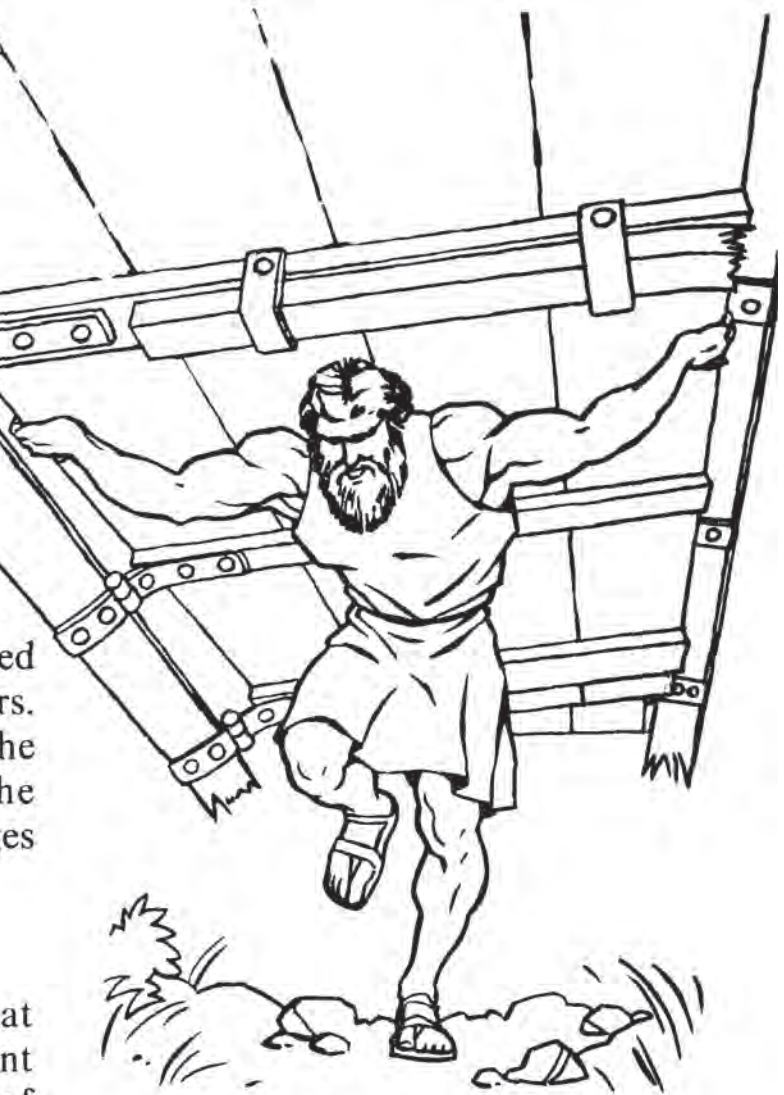
cool water, Samson's strength returned. He thanked God for the miracle and named the place "Well of the Implorer" (Judges 15:19).

After his victory over the Philistine army, God made Samson judge over Israel. He continued in that office for the next 20 years. During that time, however, the Israelites were still under the control of the Philistines (Judges 15:20).

SAMSON NEARLY TRAPPED

One day, near the end of that twenty-year period, Samson went to the Philistine capital city of Gaza near the Mediterranean Sea. Because of his long hair and bulging muscles, the Philistines easily recognized him. He entered an inn, planning to stay there for the night. When the Philistine leaders learned that Samson was inside the city, they hurriedly gave orders to shut the gates of the city to prevent him from escaping.

At midnight, Samson left the inn and was about to leave the city when he noticed the main gates were locked. Deciding to play a trick on



the Philistines, he grabbed the left gate post and tore it loose from the wall. He then did the same with the right post, completely removing the gates from the walls. Samson was now free to leave.

Lifting one edge up, Samson squeezed under the gates and hoisted them onto his shoulders. After balancing them, he walked away from the city. Several miles later he stopped, leaving the gates atop a high hill! (Judges 16:3.)

No matter what attempts the

Philistines made to capture or kill Samson, they failed. God helped fight Samson's battles for Him. He would have been helpless without miraculous strength from God, as he would soon discover.

SAMSON AND DELILAH

Some time later, Samson fell in love with a beautiful Philistine woman named Delilah. When the Philistine leaders learned of this, they secretly offered her a large reward of 5,500 pieces of silver if she would discover and tell them the secret of Samson's strength (Judges 16:5).

Soon afterwards, Delilah began to question Samson about the source of his strength. "I admire your strength very much," she said. "Please tell me the secret of your great strength and how you could be captured."

Thinking for a moment, Samson replied, "If my enemies were to carefully bind me with seven strong, green strips of bark twisted together, then my special strength would fail me and I would be as weak as any other man" (Judges 16:7).

Delighted that Samson gave her the information so easily, Delilah soon contacted the Philistine leaders. They gave her the special cord she requested, and furnished sol-

diers to hide in her house to leap on Samson after he was tied up.

Later, when everything was ready, Delilah reminded Samson of what he had said. He then allowed her to tie him up. He was surprised when Delilah suddenly shouted, "The Philistines are here!"

Suddenly, Samson broke the cord as though it were only a thread. He was completely unaware of the hidden soldiers, who quietly left after seeing him break the cord (Judges 16:8-9).

"Why did you trick me about the source of your strength?" Delilah asked. "Please tell me the truth now."

Again, because of his deep feeling for Delilah, Samson felt that he should give an answer, but he was too cautious to tell her what she wanted to know. "If I were bound tightly with strong new ropes that have never been used, then I would be as weak as any other man," he said.

So later, Delilah obtained the new ropes and again hid a group of soldiers in her house. She then bound Samson tightly. After tying the last knot, she abruptly backed away and shouted, "The Philistines have come!" But Samson again broke free before the soldiers could rush out from their hiding place.

Delilah was frustrated, but not ready to give up. "You have mocked me twice now," she said to Samson. "Don't you love me enough to tell me your secret?"

After thinking for a moment, Samson replied, "If you weave my hair into the fabric of a loom, then I would lose my strength."

One evening Samson allowed Delilah to weave his hair into the fabric of her loom. He fell asleep in the process. When she was done, she again screamed, "The Philistines are upon you!" But much to her disappointment, Samson awoke from his sleep and quickly freed his hair from the loom.

Delilah was becoming increasingly displeased and impatient. Nevertheless, she continued to question Samson. "How can you say you love me after mocking me three times about your great strength?" she asked in a very displeased tone of voice. But Samson refused to tell her.

From then on, Delilah kept questioning him daily. Finally, after her continual nagging, Samson gave in and told her the secret. "I have been a Nazarite from birth," he said. "If my hair were cut, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as anyone else" (Judges 16:16-17).

Delilah was certain that at last Samson was telling her the truth. Later, she contacted the Philistine leaders and reported that Samson was about to become their prisoner. Once again she arranged for the soldiers to hide in her house.

When Samson arrived, Delilah met him with unusual warmth. She sat down and encouraged him to relax beside her with his head in her lap. As she softly stroked his hair, he closed his eyes and fell asleep.



Delilah silently signaled to one of the men in hiding, who came over and gently cut off Samson's long hair with a razor.

"The Philistines have come for you!" Delilah shouted. Samson awoke but did not realize that the great strength he had been given by God was now gone.

The Philistines charged out of hiding and swarmed over him. Samson at first tried to beat them off, but suddenly realized he no longer had his great strength. The soldiers were able to easily capture and bind him.

Later, Samson was blinded by the Philistines and led off to prison. There he was forced to push a heavy millstone in the grain grinding room.

GOD ANSWERS SAMSON'S PRAYER

One day the Philistines decided to hold a great celebration in honor of their pagan god Dagon, a half-human, half-fish idol whom they thought delivered Samson into their hands. It was to be a very special event at which all the Philistine leaders would be present (Judges 16:23).

On the day of the celebration, about 3,000 people were gathered in the temple of their god. They

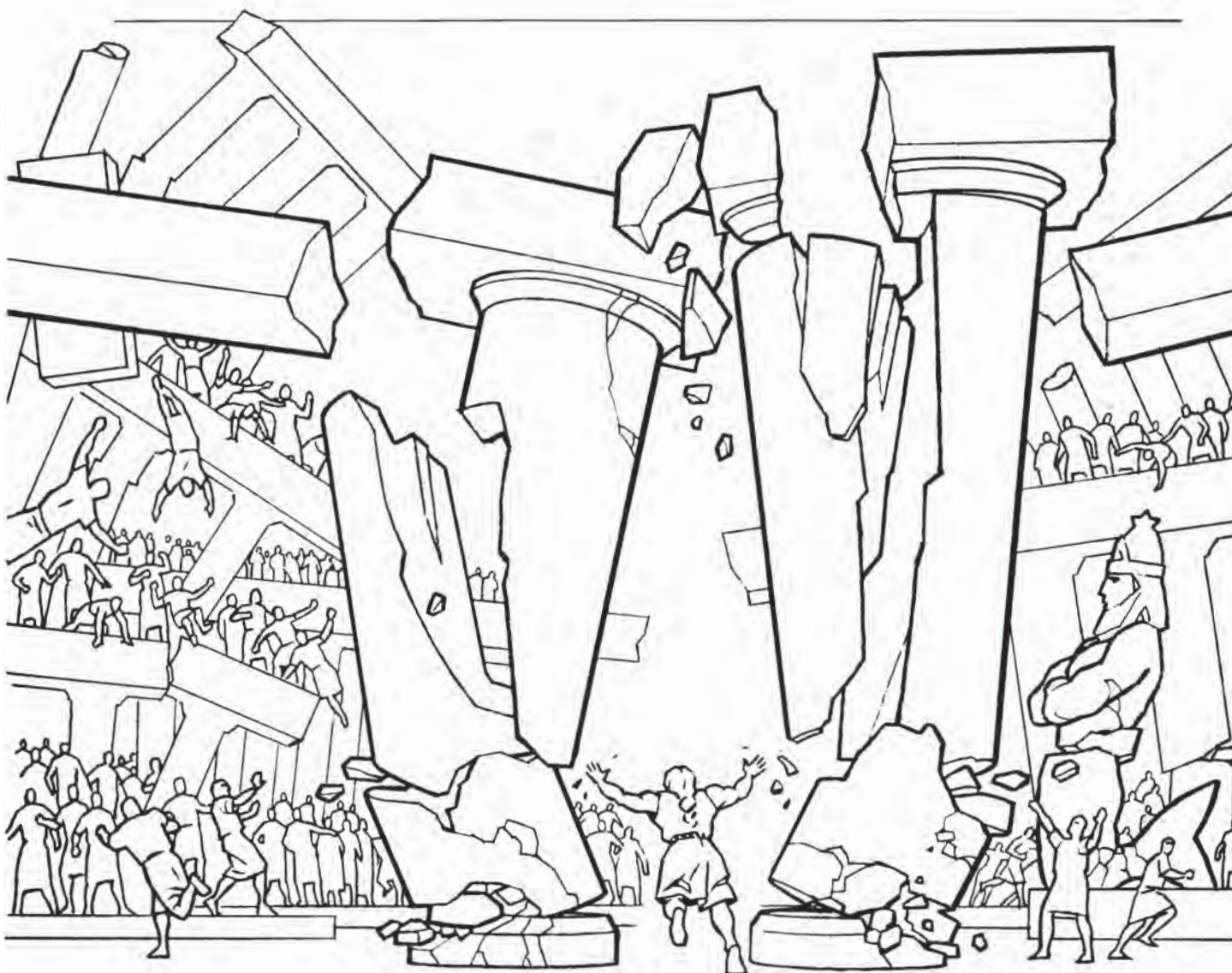
cheered as they saw Samson brought into the temple, being led by a small boy. They praised their god at the sight of the man who had once caused them so much trouble.

The entire roof and balcony of the temple were supported by two large pillars that were very close to each other. "Please lead me to the pillars so that I can rest against them," Samson told the boy.

Later as Samson stretched his arms out between the pillars, he fervently prayed to God. "Great God, help me to avenge the sight of my eyes upon the Philistines. Give me strength once more. Let me die with these people."

"And _____ took _____ of the two _____ upon which the _____ stood, and on which it was borne up, of the _____ with his _____ hand, and of the _____ with his _____" (Judges 16:29).

God answered Samson's prayer, giving him tremendous strength once again. As he pushed against the heavy stone pillars with all his might, they buckled and collapsed, causing the stone roof and balcony to come crashing to the ground! Samson died in the rubble along with the Philistine leaders and



other important officials.

Thus ended 20 years during which Samson judged Israel and delivered them from the Philistines. He was one of the last judges sent by God.

Samson's weakness for Philistine women had caused him much trouble. But despite this weakness, God used him to help deliver the

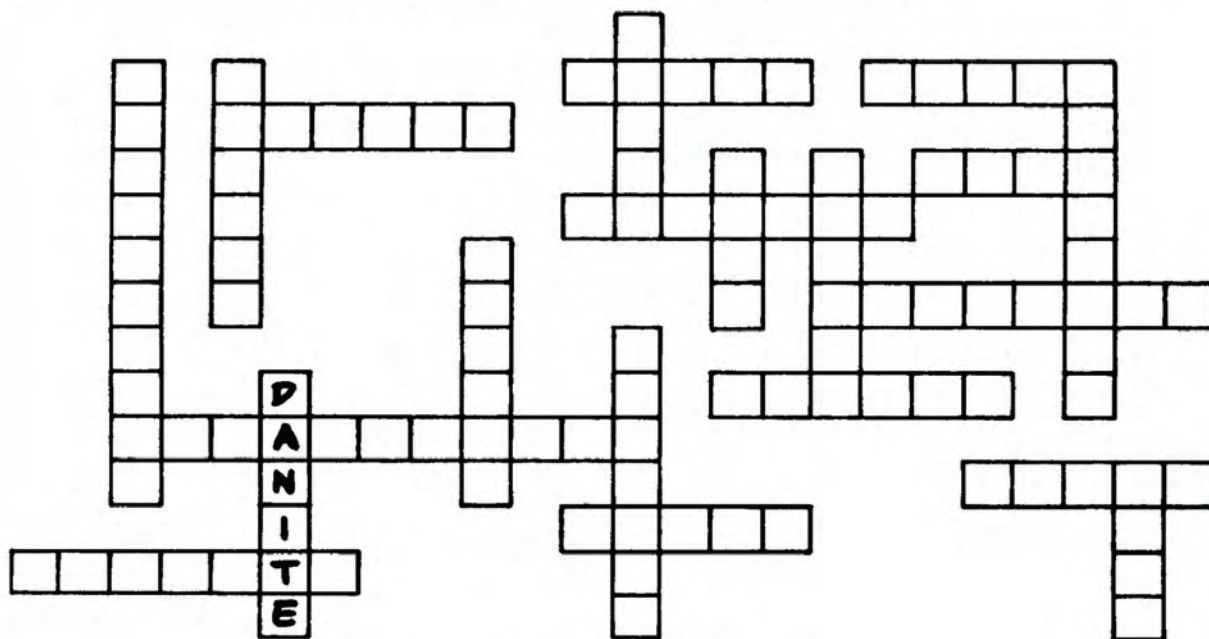
Israelites from their enemies. The miraculous feats he performed were not accomplished by his own strength alone, but through the great power and strength of the Creator God!

In our next lesson, we will learn about a young woman named Ruth, who also lived during the period of the Judges.

BIBLE MEMORY Philippians 4:8

CRISS-CROSS PUZZLE

Using the words in the Word List below, write the correct letters in the squares of the puzzle. One word has already been done to help you get started.



Word List

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|--------------|----------|
| ✓ DANITE | HONEY | MANOAH | STRANGER |
| DELILAH | IDOL | NAZARITE VOW | STRENGTH |
| DONKEY | ISRAEL | PHILISTINE | TIMNATH |
| FOXES | JAWBONE | RIDDLE | |
| GRAIN | JUDGE | RULES | |
| HAIR | LION | SAMSON | |

After you finish the puzzle, choose 12 words from the Word List. On a separate sheet of paper, write 12 complete sentences using one of these words in each sentence.

YOUTH

LEVEL 4

BIBLE

LESSONS

LESSON 10



Ruth – A Virtuous Woman

RUTH—A VIRTUOUS WOMAN

During the time of the Judges, there was a famine in the land of Israel. Also at that time, a man named Elimelech lived in the town of Bethlehem with his wife, Naomi, and two sons. He and his family decided to move to the land of Moab until the drought was over.

While they were in Moab, Elimelech died. His two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, both married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, the other a woman named Ruth (Ruth 1:1-4).

Ruth was a Moabite whose family history included Lot, the nephew of Abraham. You may remember the story of Abraham and Lot from earlier lessons.

RUTH RETURNS WITH NAOMI

Several years later, both of Naomi's sons died. Life became difficult for the young women and their mother-in-law. Then, when news came that the famine had ended in Israel, Naomi decided to

return to her home in Bethlehem (Ruth 1:5-6).

Ruth and Orpah also wanted to leave with Naomi. But Naomi wanted them to stay in Moab. They were both still young and Naomi thought they should stay and remarry men from their own nation.

Orpah finally agreed with Naomi and turned back. Ruth, however, wanted to stay with Naomi.

"Intreat me not to _____ thee, or to _____ from following after _____: for whither _____, I _____; and where thou _____, I _____: thy _____ shall be _____, and thy _____ my _____" (Ruth 1:16).

Naomi was very pleased by these words. She knew that Ruth would not change her mind. So together they journeyed on.

Naomi was happy to see familiar faces as she and Ruth entered Bethlehem. It was not long before many of the townspeople had gath-



ered around to welcome her home. Many were happy to see that she had returned.

After arriving in Bethlehem, Ruth reminded Naomi that it was harvest time in Israel. She had watched other women gleaning barley in the fields and decided to join them the next morning (Ruth 1:22; 2:2).

Gleaning was the gathering of produce left behind by the harvesters. It was not considered stealing. One of the laws given to the Israelites by God allowed the widows and poor to have what the harvesters left on the ground. And since Ruth was a widow, she could glean in the fields (Leviticus 19:9; 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:19).





RUTH MEETS BOAZ

The next morning, Ruth took a large bag and went to a field where barley was being harvested. After receiving permission, Ruth took a place well behind the harvesters.

Later in the day, Boaz, the owner of the field, came to where the harvesters were working.

"God be with you," he called to them.

"May God bless you," they answered back.

As Boaz went past Ruth, he realized that he had never seen her before.

"Who is that young woman?" Boaz asked a servant.

"She is the Moabite woman who returned here with Naomi, the widow of Elimelech," he explained. "She came early this morning asking permission to glean."

Ruth looked up to see Boaz walking toward her.

"If you need to glean," Boaz told Ruth, "please stay here in my fields close to my women servants. I have instructed my men to treat you with the greatest respect."

Ruth was so overwhelmed by Boaz's kindness that she fell on her knees and bowed her head to the ground.

"Why are you being so kind to

me?" Ruth humbly asked. "I am just a stranger in your land."

"I have heard how well you have served your mother-in-law," Boaz answered. "She has told many people how you have willingly left your country to come and care for her. May God reward you for what you have done and protect you for trusting in Him to guide you."

Ruth thanked Boaz and joined the other workers during their noon meal.

After the meal, Ruth quickly took her place behind the harvesters. Unknown to her, Boaz had instructed his workers that Ruth should receive special privileges.

"Let her glean where she wishes," Boaz told his servants. "And do not be angry if she follows you closely. I also want you to leave a little extra on the ground for her."

Later that evening, Ruth beat out the grains on the threshing floor. To her delight, it yielded about a bushel of fine barley. That would be enough to make many loaves of bread. When she arrived home, Naomi was surprised to see so much grain (Ruth 2:3-18).

"The field where I gleaned today is owned by a man named Boaz," Ruth told Naomi.

"I know who Boaz is!" Naomi

exclaimed excitedly. "He is a close relative of my dead husband. He is a man who respects God. You will do well to glean only in his fields."

Do You Remember?

1. Why did Elimelech and his family move to the land of Moab? _____
2. Who was Elimelech's wife? _____
3. Ruth's family history included _____, the _____ of Abraham.
4. What did Ruth do shortly after arriving in Bethlehem? _____
5. Ruth gleaned in the field of a man named _____.
6. What did Boaz instruct his servants to do for Ruth? _____
7. Boaz was a man who respected _____.

NAOMI HAS A PLAN

Ruth had much to tell Naomi after each day's gleaning. Soon Naomi could see that a close friendship was developing between Ruth and Boaz.

"You know I want the best for you," Naomi said to Ruth. "I can

see that Boaz cares deeply for you. Tonight you must put on your best perfume and your nicest clothes and go to the threshing floor. Boaz will be working there. Wait until he is asleep and then quietly go in and lie at his feet."

Naomi knew about the Israelite custom concerning widows. The nearest male relative of a dead husband was to marry the widow if she had no children.

Ruth agreed to follow Naomi's advice. Later that evening, Ruth went to the threshing floor. Quietly

she peered inside and noticed that Boaz was just finishing his evening meal.

She watched as he stretched out on the straw-covered floor to sleep. She waited a short while until she was sure that he had fallen asleep. Then she quietly slipped inside, lifted the blanket from his feet and carefully lay down.

At midnight, Boaz suddenly awoke. Feeling someone was at his feet, he quickly sat up.

"Who are you?" he blurted.

"I am Ruth," she replied ner-



vously. "I understand that you may marry me since you are a close relative of my dead husband."

And Boaz replied: "_____ be thou of the _____, my daughter: for thou hast shewed _____ in the _____ than at the _____, inasmuch as thou followedst not _____, whether _____ or _____."

"And now, my daughter, _____; I will do to thee _____ that thou _____: for _____ the city of my people doth _____ that thou art a _____" (Ruth 3:10-11).

Ruth was happy to hear these words from Boaz. "However," Boaz added, "there is a man who is a closer relative than I."

Ruth became worried to learn that Boaz was not her closest relative. But he assured her that he would take care of the problem the next day. So she lay at his feet until morning.

Ruth awoke and prepared to leave before sunrise. But before she left, Boaz asked her to hold out her veil. He then filled it with grain as a gift for her and Naomi.

Ruth quickly ran home to Naomi, showed her the grain and told her everything that had happened. Naomi assured Ruth that Boaz would no doubt solve

the problem that very day (Ruth 3:14-18).

BOAZ MAKES A DEAL

Early in the morning, Boaz went to the main gate of the city where much of the town business was

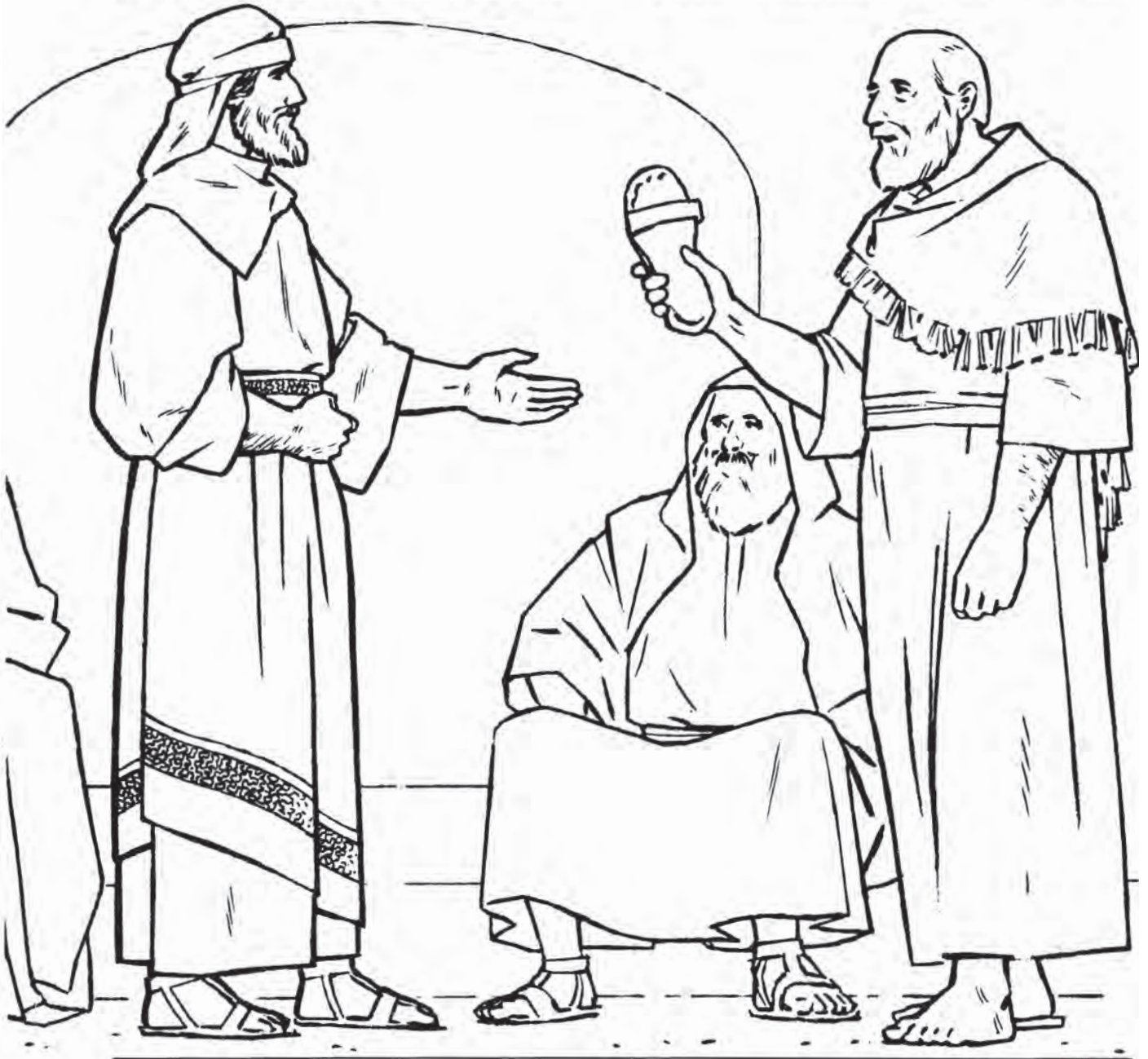


conducted. There he hoped to find the other man who was closely related to Ruth.

Before long, the man came and Boaz greeted him. "I have some important news for you!" Boaz said. "Wait here until I return."

Boaz returned shortly with 10 of the leading men from the city. It was a custom to have several people witness a business agreement.

"Elimelech's widow, Naomi, has a piece of land to sell," explained Boaz. "And since you are the clos-



est relative, you should have the first choice to buy it. But if you prefer not to, then I would like to buy it.”

“I will buy it!” the man said without hesitation.

“But I must also tell you,” added Boaz. “The sale of the land includes marriage to Ruth, Elimelech’s daughter-in-law, and having a family by her!”

The man’s excitement gave way to disappointment. “Then I cannot afford to buy it,” he sadly told Boaz. “I do not have the money to buy the land and support a wife and child, too.”

Boaz received just the reaction he hoped for. The man slipped off his shoe and handed it to Boaz. This showed that the nearest relative would pass on the responsibility to the next closest relative. In this case, it would be Boaz (Ruth 4:8).

Boaz then restated the agreement to the man and the witnesses. “We are witnesses to this agreement,” they said. “May your wife be as Rachel and Leah.”

Boaz hurried to tell Ruth the good news. They were both happy that God so wonderfully blessed them.

The story of Ruth teaches us an important lesson—the lesson of loyalty. Ruth was a young woman



BOAZ

RUTH

OBED

JESSE



DAVID

when she willingly left Moab and her family. Her love for her mother-in-law and God's way of life was important to her.

Because of her loyalty and obedience to God, she was blessed with a wonderful marriage to Boaz. They were also blessed with a son they named Obed. Later, Obed married and had a son named Jesse, the father of King David (Ruth 4: 13-22). Mary the mother of Jesus, and also Jesus were descendants of Ruth.

In our next lesson, we will learn about the prophet Samuel.

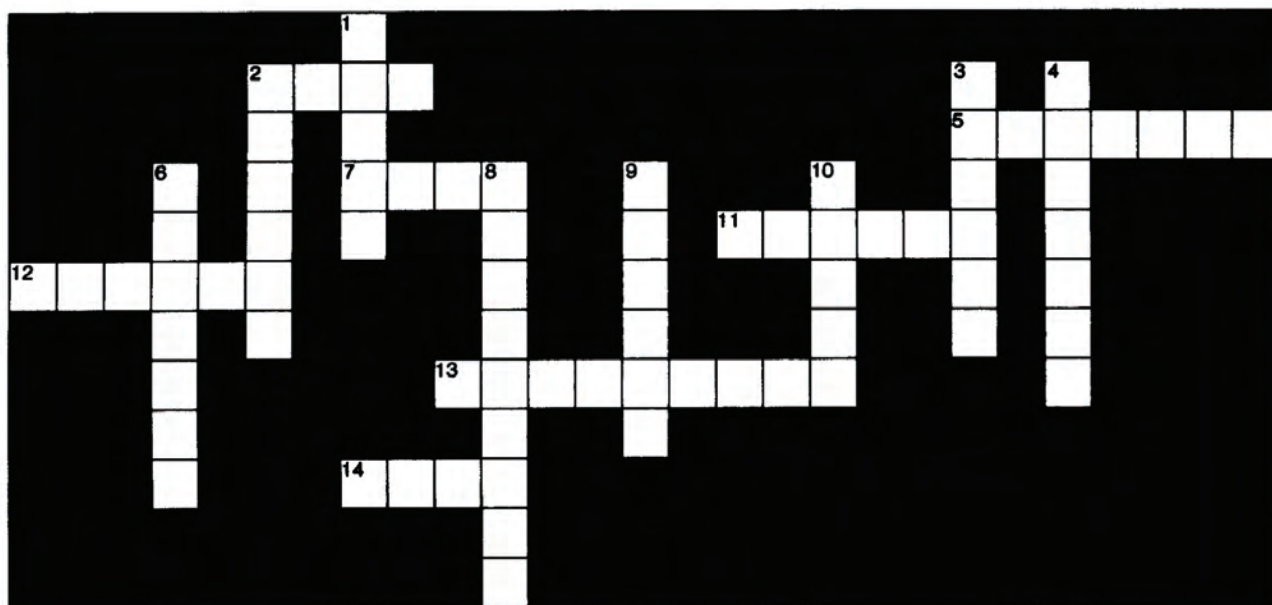
Do You Remember?

1. Why did Ruth go to the threshing floor while Boaz was asleep?

2. Was Boaz the closest relative to Ruth? _____.
3. What did Boaz give Ruth to take home with her to Naomi?
_____.
4. Where did Boaz go the next morning? _____.
5. Why did Boaz bring 10 of the leading men of the city to the main gate? _____
_____.
6. Who was the son of Boaz and Ruth? _____.
7. Who was the great-grandson of Boaz and Ruth? _____.

BIBLE MEMORY Psalm 133:1-3

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

2. Ruth's second husband.
5. Lot's uncle.
7. Ruth was from the land of ____.
11. Naomi's native land.
12. Lack of food.
13. Naomi's husband.
14. She was a virtuous woman.

DOWN

1. Ruth's mother-in-law.
2. Grain.
3. Ruth's first husband.
4. Long period without rain.
6. Orpah's husband.
8. Town where Naomi lived.
9. Those who ruled in Israel.
10. Ruth's sister-in-law.

YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

LEVEL 4

LESSON 11



Samuel The Prophet

SAMUEL THE PROPHET

Elkanah was a Levite who lived near Mount Ephraim. He had two wives, named Peninnah and Hannah. Peninnah was angry because Elkanah favored Hannah, and Hannah was unhappy because she had no children.

Having two wives was not right, and only caused problems for Elkanah and his family. But in this family, God caused a child to be born who would later become a prophet to the people of Israel.

HANNAH ASKS FOR A SON

When the time for the yearly sacrifice arrived, Elkanah and his family went to the Tabernacle in Shiloh. While they were there, Peninnah said mean things to Hannah. This made Hannah very unhappy.

Elkanah tried to cheer Hannah, but she wanted to be alone. So she went near the Tabernacle and began to pray silently (I Samuel 1:1-10).

"Please help me to have a baby

boy," Hannah prayed to God. "If you will do this, I will gladly give him to serve at the Tabernacle all his life."

Hannah did not know that Eli the priest was watching her as she prayed. After a short while, the elderly priest walked over to speak to her. He thought that Hannah had been drinking too much wine.

"I have not had any wine to drink," Hannah replied to Eli. "I have been unhappy, and was only bringing my problem to God."

Hannah then told Eli why she was so unhappy. Eli told her that God would soon give her what she asked. This made Hannah very happy. Hannah then returned to eat with her family. She knew God would answer her prayer.

Several months later, Hannah gave birth to a baby boy. She called him *Samuel*, which means "asked of God."

After Samuel's birth, Elkanah prepared for another trip to Shiloh. It had been about a year since

Illustrations by Ken Tunell

Hannah had prayed for a son at the Tabernacle (I Samuel 1:11-21).

"I will not be going with you this year," Hannah said to Elkanah. "When Samuel is weaned, I will take him to the priest as I have promised."

When Samuel was still a small boy, Elkanah and Hannah took him to Shiloh. At the Tabernacle, Hannah told Eli that she was the woman who had prayed for a child. Hannah was thankful that God had answered her prayer, and to have Samuel her son serve at the Tabernacle.

While they were there, Eli asked a blessing on Hannah for giving Samuel to serve at the Tabernacle. God later blessed Hannah with three more sons and two daughters. And each year, Elkanah and his family returned to spend time with Samuel. Hannah also made him a new coat to wear and brought it with her to Shiloh each year (I Samuel 2:19-21).

HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS DISOBEY GOD

Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, shared in the duties of the Tabernacle. But they did not





obey God. Remember how Aaron's sons, _____ and _____, were killed because of their disobedience to God? (Leviticus 10:1-2.)

God had given rules as to how the offering should be cooked and divided. One part of the meat was for God, another part for the priests and the rest was given to the person who brought it. The part for God was to be roasted while the rest was boiled.

But Hophni and Phinehas were greedy. They began to take their share of the meat before roasting the part that was for God. They also roasted their part instead of boiling it, and stole part of the family's share.

Many people could see that they were disobeying God's laws. The Israelites did not want to bring their offerings to the Tabernacle. But many feared to disobey or blame a priest of doing wrong (I Samuel 2:12-17).

After a while, the aging priest learned about the actions of his sons.

"I have heard news about your conduct at the Tabernacle," Eli sadly said to his sons. "You are causing the people to sin against God."

"Who are these people? They have told you lies!" Hophni and Phinehas answered. "They have no right to judge us!"

"God is our judge and you should fear Him," Eli warned them. "Your bad examples are causing people to stay away from the Tabernacle."

Eli could see that his sons would not listen to him. Their attitude was not one of repentance. Eli knew that they should be punished, but he did not keep them away from the Tabernacle (I Samuel 2:22-25).

Not long after this, a man came to the Tabernacle. He had a message for Eli. The elderly priest knew that the man was a messenger sent by God.

“God chose Aaron and his family to be priests to serve Him,” the messenger said to Eli. “God also gave rules about offerings and other duties at the Tabernacle. God knows of your failure to punish your sons for their actions. You have honored your sons above God by allowing them to continue serving at the Tabernacle. Soon they will lose their lives. God will then choose a priest who will faithfully serve Him.”

GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL

One night, Samuel was awakened by a voice calling his name. Thinking that Eli had called for



him, Samuel ran to the priest's room.

“Here I am,” Samuel said to Eli.

“I did not call for you,” Eli sleepily answered. “Go back to bed.”

Samuel returned to his room. But before he could fall asleep, he again heard his name. Samuel quickly ran to Eli's room, where he was again told that he had not been called.

When Samuel heard his name a third time, he again ran to Eli's room.

“Here I am,” Samuel said to Eli.

This time Eli knew that God had called Samuel's name. Eli told Samuel what to say if he heard the voice again.

A short time later, when God called to Samuel, what was Samuel's reply? (1 Samuel 3:10.)—

Samuel must have been surprised when God spoke to him. But Samuel listened carefully to what God had to say.

“I am going to allow some terrible things to happen to the people of Israel,” God told Samuel. “But first I will punish Eli and his sons for their sins. Eli has been careless in allowing his sons to serve at the

Tabernacle. Soon they will all die.” Samuel was saddened by this message from God and lay awake all night. He planned to say nothing to Eli about the message in the morning.

In the morning, Eli called for Samuel, and said, “I know God spoke to you last night. Tell me all that He said. Do not keep anything from me.”

After hearing what God had said, Eli was sad. He knew that God would do as He had said.

As time went on, Samuel grew to become a man. He also became well known in Israel as a prophet. He was also wise, and people listened carefully to what he said (I Samuel 3:19-21).

Do You Remember

1. Elkanah's two wives were named _____ and _____.
2. Why was Hannah unhappy?_____
_____.
3. Who was the priest who saw Hannah praying?_____.
4. Hannah named her son _____, which means _____.
5. Samuel served at the _____.
6. What were the names of Eli's sons? _____ and _____.
7. Did Eli's Son's obey God?_____.

PHILISTINES TAKE THE ARK

In a battle against the Philistines, many Israelites were killed or wounded. The Israelite leaders were surprised and saddened by the loss.

“How could we lose against the Philistines?” they asked themselves.

The Israelites should have known that God would not bless their disobedience. The leaders of Israel then decided that they needed the Ark in their camp to win against the Philistines.

The next morning, a group of Israelite soldiers arrived at the Tabernacle in Shiloh. They had come to take the Ark of the covenant back to their camp. When they did, Hophni and Phinehas went with them.

The Israelites cheered when they saw the Ark. Their shouting was so loud that it was heard by the Philistines. The Philistines soon learned that the Ark had been brought to the Israelite camp. Many of the Philistine soldiers became fearful because they had heard of the powerful God of Israel (I Samuel 4:3-8).

Then a Philistine officer spoke up, and said, “Be _____, and _____ like [act like]

men, O ye Philistines, that ye be _____ unto the _____, as they have been to _____: quit yourselves like _____, and _____” (I Samuel 4:9).

The Israelites depended on the Ark rather than God to keep them safe. They were not ready when the Philistine army attacked again. When the fighting stopped, the Israelites had lost more than 30,000 men. But that was not all they lost!

“And the _____ of _____ was _____” (I Samuel 4:11). The Philistine soldiers also killed the two men standing near the Ark, Hophni and Phinehas.

Later, Eli heard the news of his sons’ death and the loss of the Ark. The elderly priest was so upset at the news that he fell backward from his chair. Those around him rushed to help, but Eli died from the fall (I Samuel 4:16-18).

The Philistine army returned to the city of Ashdod. There they placed the Ark in their temple next to a statue of Dagon, a pagan god. In the morning, when the priests came into their temple, they were greatly surprised. The statue of Dagon had fallen to the floor in front of the Ark!

Workmen quickly set the statue back on its base. But when the



priests entered the temple the next morning, the statue was once again on the floor. This time the statue had broken in several pieces (I Samuel 5:1-4).

Soon the people of Ashdod began to have painful sores. Some of the Philistines died from the sores. God also allowed thousands of mice to plague the people. And soon, many Philistines began to blame their problems on the Ark.

"The Ark cannot stay with us," said a Philistine leader. "It is only bringing us suffering and death!"

The leaders of the Philistines all agreed that something had to be done with the Ark. They decided to take the Ark to the Philistine city of Gath (I Samuel 5:6-8).

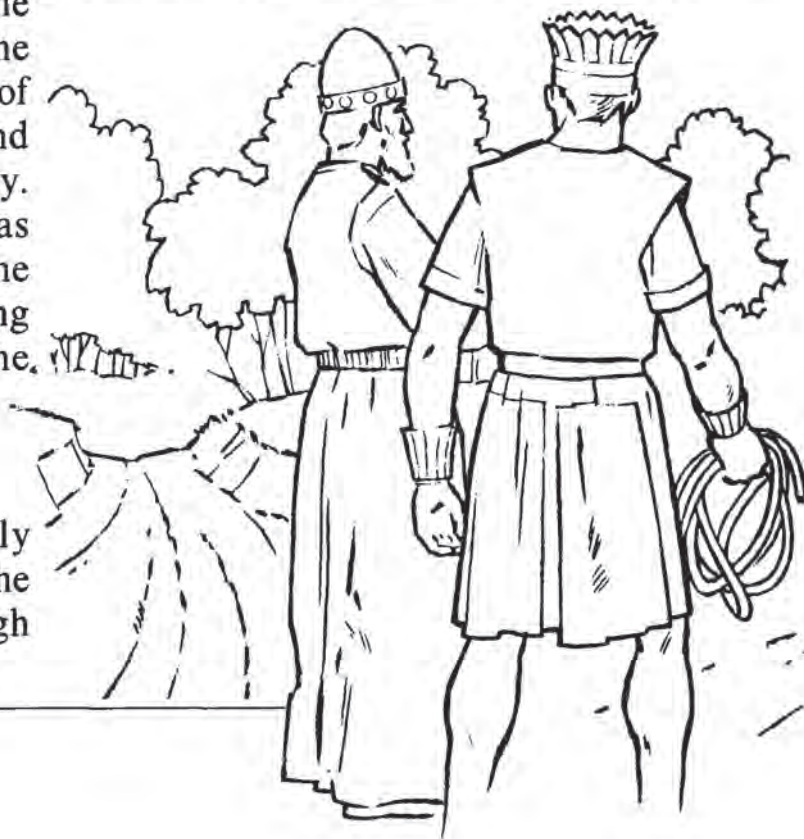
As soon as the Ark arrived, the people of Gath began to have the same painful sores as the people of Ashdod. They also decided to send the Ark to another Philistine city. For seven months the Ark was moved from city to city. Each time the painful sores brought suffering and death to many among the Philistines.

THE ARK IS RETURNED

The Philistine leaders finally decided to return the Ark to the Israelites. They had suffered enough from the mice and painful sores.

"Let us make a new cart to carry the Ark," a Philistine priest said. "It should be pulled by young cows who have not been trained to pull a cart. Then we will see which way they will go. If they go toward the land of Israel, we will know that the God of Israel has brought us this misery. But if the cows pull the cart some other way, we will know that the plagues happened by chance" (I Samuel 6:8-9).

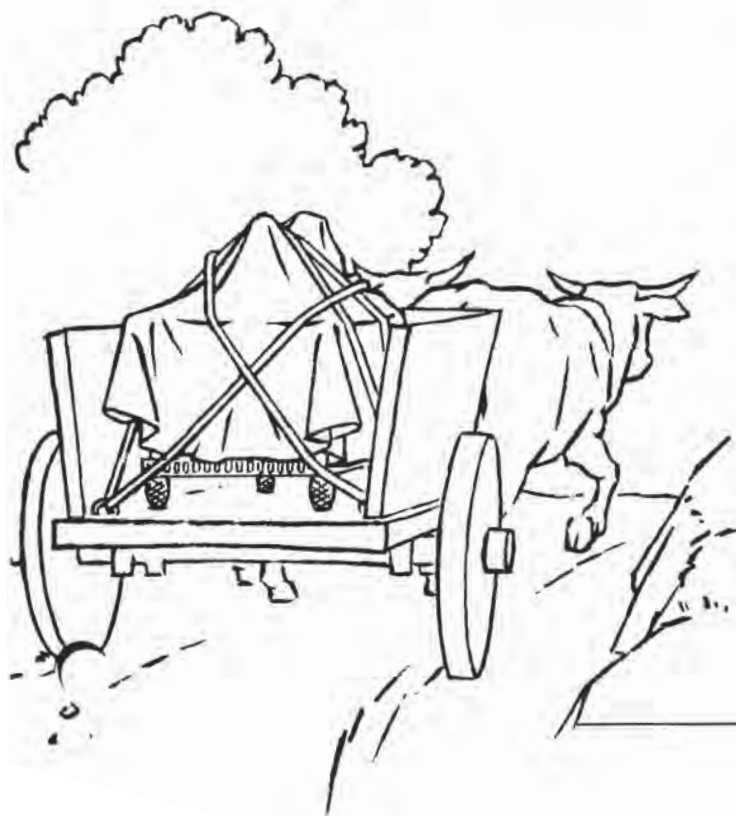
When the Ark was put on the cart, the Philistine leaders watched to see which way the cows would go. As the cows came to a fork in the road, the Philistine leaders were surprised. The cows turned down the road that led to a town in Israel. The Philistines then knew



that their suffering had come because of the Ark.

Many Israelites stopped working in their fields as the cows pulled the cart toward the Israelite town of Beth-shemesh. Some ran to the road to see what was in the cart. They were happy to learn that the Ark had been returned.

The Israelites quickly cut up the wooden cart for firewood and sacrificed the two cows. Some Israelites went to tell others that the Ark had been returned. Soon, thousands of people had heard the news and came to see the Ark. But, sad to say, they had forgotten, or were never taught, how to handle the Ark. Many had touched it or looked inside.



God had warned the Israelites that if any touched or looked inside the Ark they would die. It was to be carried only by the poles that had been made for it (Exodus 25:12-15; Numbers 4:5-6, 15).

Those who had touched or looked into the Ark began to die. Thousands of people died that day because of their disobedience. God gives us this example to teach us the value He places on obedience.

The people of Beth-shemesh asked the men from another Israelite town to come and take the Ark. When they did, they took it to the home of a man named Abinadab. His son, Eleazar, was asked to care for the Ark. It remained in Abinadab's house for the next 20 years (I Samuel 7:1-2).

Do You Remember?

1. The _____ took the _____ after winning a battle against the Israelites.
2. Eli's two sons, _____ and _____, disobeyed God and were killed by the Philistines.
3. What happened to Eli after he learned that the Ark had been taken by the Philistines? _____

4. The Philistines placed the Ark in a temple next to a statue of _____. What happened to the statue? _____

5. God sent _____ and _____ upon the Philistines.

6. How did the Philistines return the Ark? _____

7. What happened to the people of Beth-shemesh who touched or looked into the Ark? _____



THE ISRAELITES WANT A KING

As Samuel grew older, he gave more and more duties to his sons, Joel and Abiah. But they disobeyed God's laws, and their sins were soon told to Samuel (I Samuel 8:1-4).

"Your sons are not honest and just as you are, Samuel," one elder explained. "You are getting old and we will need someone to lead us. We want a king!"

Samuel was saddened by what

he heard and went into another room to pray.

"Give the people a king," God said to Samuel. "They are not rejecting you as their leader. They are rejecting Me. Since the day I brought them out of Egypt, they have disobeyed and served other gods.

"Listen to them and give them a

king. But warn them about the kind of life they will have under a king's rule," God continued.

Samuel returned to the elders and warned them just as God told him to do.

"Your young men will be put into a large army," Samuel told the elders. "And many will have to make weapons of war. A king will take your women to be bakers, housekeepers and cooks. He will take your best fields and vineyards to give to those in high office. He will take your servants and a tenth of everything you produce. You will not be happy with a king!"

There was a moment of silence, then one of the elders stepped forward.

"We are sure it cannot be that bad," he told Samuel. "We still want a king. We want to have a king over us to fight our battles!"

The Israelites were making the same mistake they had made many times before. Instead of looking to God for help, they wanted a king like the other nations around them. Samuel told them that they would soon have their king and sent the men back to their cities (I Samuel 8:19-22).

In our next lesson we will learn about a man named Saul, Israel's first king.

Matching Plus

Draw a line from each word in the left-hand column to the matching word or phrase in the right-hand column. Then underline a sentence in the lesson that contains each word. Also, choose three words from the list and write three sentences on the lines below using one of the words in each sentence.

Ark	Priest
Tabernacle	Samuel's mother
Samuel	They took the Ark from the Israelites
Eli	God brought painful sores upon the Philistines because of this
Philistines	Samuel served at the
Hannah	He became known as a prophet

BIBLE MEMORY Psalm 1:1-16

SAMUEL WORD SEARCH

Find the words in the Word Bank below in the Word Search puzzle. Words may be read up or down, left to right or right to left, backward or at an angle.

H O S A K Q U I S A M U E L B P O D A G O N H O
O A R B C F R C S A M J B L I J N O O P H Y G P
P P S J E A L F O R T B Y S E H H A N T H E Q R
H T H H E A B C I W T W Z O U R H M K R A L X O
N C F I D M D K E J S U F H C P D P E L I H U P
I O N J N O O O R R L M G A O F M H Y O S W S H
W B P X A E D E N O G J I N G A N O T N T T D E
P H I L I S T I N E S O E N I R G N V K E I L T
W V L J T Y N A U F E N S A R K O T T H D D O V
E N R N T K D I S T K Y C H O P P H I N E H A S
A S K E D O F G O D O D T S E I R P H R I J M L

WORD BANK

ASHDOD	DAGON	KING	HOPHNI	PHILISTINES
COWS	PRIEST	ELI	PHINEHAS	ASKED OF GOD
HANNAH	SAMUEL	ARK	PROPHET	

YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

LEVEL 4

SPECIAL FEAST LESSON



The Spring Feasts

SPRING FESTIVAL
EDITION

THE SPRING FEASTS

The ride home from Sabbath services was always a special time for the Patterson family. They usually drove down the road that wound through the countryside, where the scenery was perfect for enjoying the change of seasons.

Today, after weeks of seeing the ground covered with a thick blanket of snow, the Patterson's were delighted to see patches of green grass stretching across the rolling landscape. They noticed the newly blossomed wildflowers that brought a rainbow of color to the roadside.

"Let's stop for just a few minutes, Father," suggested Linda. "Those wildflowers would make a beautiful bouquet to take home."

As the family got out of the car, Linda excitedly exclaimed, "Oh, look Mother! Over there are some sheep with new baby lambs! This is what I really love about springtime. Everything is so new and fresh, like a new year starting over!"

"That's exactly what it is," explained Dad. "In God's way of

counting time, the new year *does* start in the spring."

"Oh," said Tony, "then that's why God's annual festivals start in the spring at the beginning of the real new year!"

"That's right," agreed Dad. "But man has caused confusion by starting the new year in the middle of the winter."

"That doesn't make much sense," concluded Tony.

"No," replied Dad, "but man has lost sight of many things God has so sensibly established. For instance, God begins each month with a new moon, yet man has invented a calendar with months based on heathen worship. Even the days of the week are named after pagan gods."

As the family returned to the car for the trip home, Mr. Patterson reminded his children that the spring festivals were coming soon. He then suggested they have a special family Bible study after dinner.

Illustrations by Ken Tunell

GOD'S FESTIVALS FOR US TODAY

Later that evening, the Patterson family gathered together in their living room.

"Do you remember what we discussed this afternoon—how mankind has lost sight of so many of God's ways?" asked Dad. "Well, not only has mankind confused the months and days, but man has even

WERE GOD'S FESTIVALS JUST FOR THE ANCIENT ISRAELITES?

Look up the following three scriptures in your Bible and fill in the missing words. Then transfer the letters which have numbers under them to the numbered blanks in the mystery verse at the bottom. When you have finished, the mystery verse will tell you if God's festivals were meant only for Moses and the Israelites, or whether they are also meant for us today.

Matthew 26:18

"And he [Jesus] said, _____
into the _____ to such a man, and say _____ him, The
Master saith, My time is at _____;
keep the _____ at thy house with my disciples."

Mark 14:1

"After _____ days was the _____
of the passover, and of _____
_____"

Acts 20:16

"... for he [Paul] _____, if it were
possible for him, to be at _____ the day of
_____"

“

... 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33
34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56
57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67
” (Leviticus 23:21).

replaced God's yearly festivals with pagan holidays such as Christmas and Easter."

"Yes," added Mom, "and most people today have never even heard of some of God's festivals. Or, if they have, they think that those days were kept or observed only in Old Testament times. They think that we do not have to observe them anymore. But God tells us differently."

In the activity on page three, there are three New Testament scriptures. They show that Christ and the New Testament Church, hundreds of years after the time of Moses, observed God's festivals.

WHY GOD'S FESTIVALS

God commands us to keep His festivals. But why? Is it because God enjoys telling us what to do?

Does your mother remind you to put on a sweater when the weather is windy simply because she enjoys telling you what to do? No. She does it because she is trying to help you stay warm and to prevent you from catching a cold.

Does your father tell you not to play in the street just to keep you from having fun? No. He is trying to protect you because he knows you could be run over by a car.

In both cases, your parents have

a reason or purpose for giving instructions to you. When God gives His Church instructions or commands, it is because He has a reason for it. He wants to teach us to live His way, the way that will make us happy. Therefore, God also gave us His annual festivals *for a purpose!*

God's festivals remind us of the wonderful plan He has for all mankind. Each festival is like a chapter in a book. Each tells us a part of the story or plan. When we read a book, we don't begin in the middle or at the end of the book, but at the beginning. We read the chapters in order. In the same way, God gives us His festivals in a particular order. The events of each step in God's plan must take place before the next step begins.

Because most people know little or nothing about these special days, they do not know of God's great plan and what their future will be.

Let's now take a look at God's festivals along with the Patterson family and understand what they mean. Only then will you know what *your* future can be!

THE ISRAELITES IN EGYPT

As the Patterson family began their Bible study, Mr. Patterson

UNSCRAMBLE THE PLAGUES

Unscramble the letters to name the first nine plagues. Then write them in the spaces at the right in the order in which they happened. If you need help, read Exodus 7:14 through Exodus 10:23.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| alsiomhtrs | 1. _____ |
| nrdskase | 2. _____ |
| clei | 3. _____ |
| ulcsots | 4. _____ |
| oibsl | 5. _____ |
| rgfos | 6. _____ |
| lsife | 7. _____ |
| siaedesd
(livestock) | 8. _____ |
| (water turned
to) ldobo | 9. _____ |

reviewed the time when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt.

“For over two hundred years, the Israelites were forced to work for taskmasters,” he began. “They were not permitted to worship God and they were forced to work seven days a week. It wasn’t long before the Israelites forgot about God’s laws, including the Sabbath. Year after year they lived very unhappy lives. Finally, it was time for God to rescue them.

“After God chose Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses

went before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, many times.

“Linda, do you remember what God did to Egypt when Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go?” asked her Dad.

“He brought terrible plagues on Egypt,” recalled Linda. “But I’m not sure I can name them all.”

Perhaps you can help Linda name the first nine plagues in the puzzle at the top of this page.

God told Moses that there was to be only one more plague—the death of the firstborn of Egypt—before Pharaoh would finally permit the Israelites to leave Egypt.

THE FIRST PASSOVER

“This month [called Abib] is the first month of the year,” God told Moses. “Tell the Israelites that on the tenth day of this month each family should select a perfectly healthy male lamb—one that is less than a year old. Keep the lamb until the sunset beginning the fourteenth day. Then each family must kill their lamb, roast it, and eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.

“Whatever part of the lamb that is left uneaten should be burned. Also on that night, everybody should be dressed as though they were leaving on a long journey.

“When you kill the lamb, take some of the blood and smear it on the top and sides of your doorposts. Then, when the death angel comes to slay the firstborn in the land of Egypt, he will see the blood and *pass over* the marked houses.”

MEANING OF THE PASSOVER

As Mr. Patterson explained God's instructions to his family, he also pointed out a very important fact. When God teaches His people spiritual lessons, He often gives them physical examples, or *symbols* so they can better understand and remember those lessons.

For example, the Israelites killed a lamb, which is a symbol of Christ. Jesus is often called the “Lamb of God” (John 1:29). He is also called “our Passover” (I Corinthians 5:7). The lamb's shed blood was also a symbol of an event that would take place hundreds of years later. Let's understand.

The “Word,” the member of the God Family who would later become Christ (John 1:1-3, 14), the son of God, would be born as a human being and later be put to death. The shed blood of the lambs the Israelites were to kill was a *symbol* of Christ's blood which poured out of His body when He was cruelly beaten and killed.

Again, even the month and day of that first Passover was special or significant. It was in the same month and on the same day, hundreds of years later, that Christ was killed. Most people today do not realize the importance or significance of Christ's death.

Christ came to this earth to live as a human being, having been born of the virgin Mary. God was His father through a miracle and therefore Christ was both the “Son of God” and the “Son of man.”



Jesus Christ grew to adulthood living a perfect life—*totally obedient* to God's laws. Never once did he sin, emphasized Mr. Patterson.

"He didn't deserve to die, did He?" asked Tony.

"No, Tony, Christ didn't deserve to die because He never sinned," replied his Dad. "But it was all a part of God's special plan so that we all might have the opportunity to one day live forever as members of God's Family!

"We have all sinned, or disobeyed God's Ten Commandments (Romans 3:23). Unless our sins are forgiven, we will suffer the result or penalty of sin, which is death. This death would be forever—*eternal* death with no hope of ever living again.

"But Christ's sacrifice paid that penalty for us, making it possible for God to forgive us of our sins when we repent of them. And so when we commit a sin, if we are truly sorry and ask God for forgiveness, He will forgive us of that sin and regard it as though it never happened."

THE PASSOVER TODAY

Mr. Patterson went on to explain the special symbols that Christ gave His disciples on Passover night before His death.

During the Passover meal that night, Christ showed His disciples the *new way* He wanted them to keep the Passover from that time forward. The first thing He did was to wash the disciples' feet. He explained the lesson He wanted them to learn from this—that we should *love* and *serve* one another.

Jesus then took unleavened bread, broke it in pieces and told His disciples to eat it. After they had eaten the bread, He gave them a cup of wine to drink.

At the Passover service in God's Church today, we continue to follow Christ's example. We eat broken, unleavened bread, *symbolizing* Christ's cruelly beaten but sinless body. It was beaten so we could be healed of our sicknesses and diseases when we ask God's ministers to anoint us and pray for our healing (James 5:14; I Peter 2:24). Then during the service we also drink a small amount of wine, *symbolizing* Christ's shed blood by which our sins are forgiven when we repent.

Let's go back now to the events in Egypt. Having eaten the Passover lamb and gotten dressed for traveling as God had instructed, the Israelites waited for word to leave Egypt.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian people

suffered terribly as a result of the last plague when all the firstborn of Egypt died, including the firstborn of animals. Even the firstborn of Pharaoh's own family was killed. The Egyptians were now quite anxious for the Israelites to leave. "Please take of our gold and silver, our clothes—anything you want," they begged. "But please leave before even greater harm comes to us."

During the daylight part of the fourteenth day, the Israelites gathered their belongings and all that they could carry from the Egyptians. Then, on the night of the fifteenth, they began their exodus from Egypt.

THE DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

God instructed Moses that this night was to be a memorial, a reminder that He brought them out of Egypt. It was a "Night to be Much Observed" every year at the beginning of the fifteenth day of the first month.

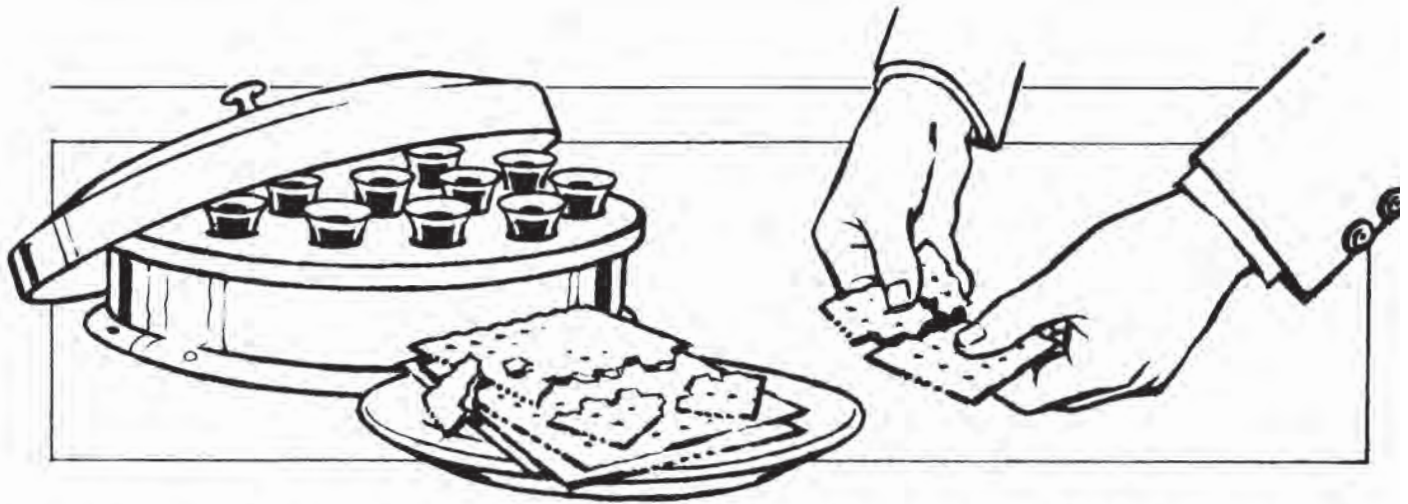
God also said, "Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread: even the first day ye shall [have] put away leaven out of your houses . . . And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation . . ." (Exodus 12:15-16).

These instructions were for observing the Feast of Unleavened Bread. For seven days they were to eat unleavened bread. And on the first and last days they were to have Church services because these were Holy Days.

Notice once again that God uses symbols to teach us. He uses Egypt as a symbol for *sin*. Just as the Israelites came out of Egypt, God's people are to come out of a sinful way of life.

Now *leaven* is another symbol for sin mentioned in the Bible. Therefore, God instructs us to remove all leavening and leavened goods from our homes just before the seven Days of Unleavened Bread, as a symbol of putting sin *out* of our lives. And how do we put sin or Satan's way out of our lives? *By keeping God's commandments!*

Examples of leavening include baking powder, baking soda and yeast. Leavening causes bread dough to rise or "puff up," therefore God uses this example to teach us that sin is similar to leavening. Only a small amount of leaven is necessary to make a large amount of dough rise. In the same way, if we allow even a few sins into our lives, soon our entire life becomes filled with Satan's way of "get." And so we must



really work at putting sin out of our lives.

Mr. Patterson gave Tony and Linda an assignment to do during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

“Think of ways in which you sin,” he said, “and begin to work on and overcome these sins during the Days of Unleavened Bread.”

“I know one I need to work on,” said Linda. “I borrow many things from Tony without asking and I don’t return them. I know that’s stealing.”

“I know one I need to work on, too,” said Tony. “I don’t always tell you and Mom the truth if I think I will get in trouble. I know it is a sin to lie.”

“Those are both excellent things to work on and I’m sure you can think of more,” said Dad. “Then during the Days of Unleavened Bread we can help each other and talk about the results.”

Tony and Linda have quite a challenge before them, but over-

coming is what God tells us we must all do (Revelation 2:26) if we want to be in God’s Family someday. Why don’t you join Tony and Linda in their challenge by sharing their assignment?

Talk to your parents. Ask them what they feel you need to overcome the most. Then at the end of the seven Days of Unleavened Bread, discuss the results with them. We must remember, though, that putting sin out of our lives by keeping God’s commandments is something we must continue all year long and for the remainder of our lives!

PENTECOST

It is impossible for us to obey God’s commandments like we should without special help from God. That brings us to Pentecost or the “Feast of Firstfruits”—the next festival and step in God’s plan for mankind. Pentecost means “fiftieth (day).” It is the only festival that

must be counted to know on what day it is to be kept.

Up until the time of the beginning of the New Testament Church, God called only a small number of people to whom He gave His Holy Spirit. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses and just a few others between Adam and Christ were included in this number.

But God made His Holy Spirit available to many more people on the day of Pentecost in June of A.D. 31. It was on this day that God began His New Testament Church by sending the Holy Spirit to be in Christ's disciples. But still, the number of people was very small when compared to all those living during the time of the apostles.

Before we learn why it is still the few who are being called by God today, let's see if we can understand what God's Holy Spirit is. First of all, think about a pet you may have—a dog, a cat or any animal. Animals have *instinct*. Instinct means they sense when they are hungry or thirsty, and they know how to take care of their young. No one needs to teach this to them.

Unlike humans, however, animals cannot think. We are aware that we exist, but animals are not

aware of their existence. What makes us different? God has put a special spirit within us, giving us the ability to think and make decisions. That special spirit is called the "spirit in man."

When we become mature adults and God calls us, and when we repent or turn away from Satan's way of life which is the "get" way and begin to obey God and live according to His "give" way of life, we can then be baptized into God's Church.

At that time, God sends His Holy Spirit to unite with the "spirit in man" that is in our minds. At that moment a new spirit life is begotten—just like at one point in time you were begotten in your mother's womb. God puts only a small amount of the Holy Spirit into us at first. But God expects us to grow spiritually. And so the Holy Spirit gives us the power we need to help us put sin out of our lives and to obey God's commandments like we should.

Then, if we have been overcoming sin with the help of God's Holy Spirit, and if we have remained faithful to the end of our lives, God will change us into spirit beings at Christ's Second Coming. At that time, we will be born of the Spirit of God into the Family of God. Our

bodies will then be made of spirit—just like God's spirit body.

WHY FIRSTFRUITS

Do you know why Pentecost is sometimes called the "Feast of Firstfruits?" God is again using symbolism. You see, there are two harvest seasons in the part of the world where ancient Israel lived. One is in late spring or early summer when only a small harvest is reaped. But in the fall is the much larger harvest.

God uses these harvests to show us that He is calling only a small group of people into His Church *now*, in comparison to the rest of the population of the earth and the number of people who have lived and died before we were born. Those in God's Church today are a part of the coming small harvest to be reaped into God's Family at Christ's coming. And so they are called "firstfruits."

The larger harvest will take place after Christ returns to earth. Billions of people will be given the opportunity to become a part of God's Family.

"Those events are pictured by the fall festivals, aren't they?" asked Tony.

"Yes," answered Dad, "God very appropriately placed the festi-

vals picturing the larger spiritual harvest at the time of the year the larger physical harvest occurs."

"But Dad," wondered Linda, "what about the children in God's Church who are not baptized and do not have God's Holy Spirit within them?"

"God puts you in a very special group," replied Mr. Patterson. "Even though His Spirit is not *in* you, it is *with* you. You are not cut off from God as the children who are not in God's Church. Because your parents are in the Church, you can learn to keep God's commandments and God will bless you as you do your best to obey Him and us.

"Even more exciting," continued Mr. Patterson, "God will also give you the opportunity to become a part of His Church when you are an adult if you then choose to follow God's way of life.

"I'm sure you both remember what a wonderful time we had during the fall festivals. But remember, the events pictured by the fall festivals could not happen if the events pictured by the spring festivals had not happened first. God's festivals are all part of a wonderful, orderly plan that God has for all of mankind. What an exciting future you have to look forward to!"

GOD'S MASTER PLAN

Complete the statements by filling in the blanks with the correct answers. Then use those words to complete the puzzle on the right. When you are finished, the letters in the box, when read from top to bottom, will tell you what God's festivals reveal to us.

1. The events of each step in God's _____ must take place before the next step can begin.
2. Christ is often called the _____ of God.
3. God sent _____ on Egypt when Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go.
4. We eat _____ during the Days of Unleavened Bread.
5. On the first Passover, the Israelites were instructed to put lamb's blood on their _____.
6. Pentecost is also called the Feast of _____.
7. _____ was chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.
8. Putting sin out of our lives means obeying God's _____.
9. Pentecost symbolizes God giving the _____ to His Church.
10. God's festivals were not to be observed just in Old Testament times, but are to be observed _____.
11. _____ makes bread rise and

also pictures sin.

12. God brought the Israelites out of _____.
13. During the Days of Unleavened Bread, leavened bread is a symbol of _____.
14. The shed blood of the lamb on the _____ day pictures Christ's shed blood.
15. The Day of _____ follows the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____
6.	_____
7.	_____
8.	_____
9.	_____
10.	_____
11.	_____
12.	_____
13.	_____
14.	_____
15.	_____

YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

LEVEL 4

SPECIAL FEAST LESSON



A Look Into Your Future

FALL FESTIVAL
EDITION

A LOOK INTO YOUR FUTURE

The young boy and his sister looked out the window from the sofa. "Look at the trees across the street, Sis," remarked Tony. "The leaves are starting to turn red and gold."

"I guess autumn has finally come," said Linda. "That means that the Feast of Tabernacles will be coming soon. Remember how exciting it was last year?"

"I sure do," Tony said. "Let's go

ask Dad about our plans for this year!"

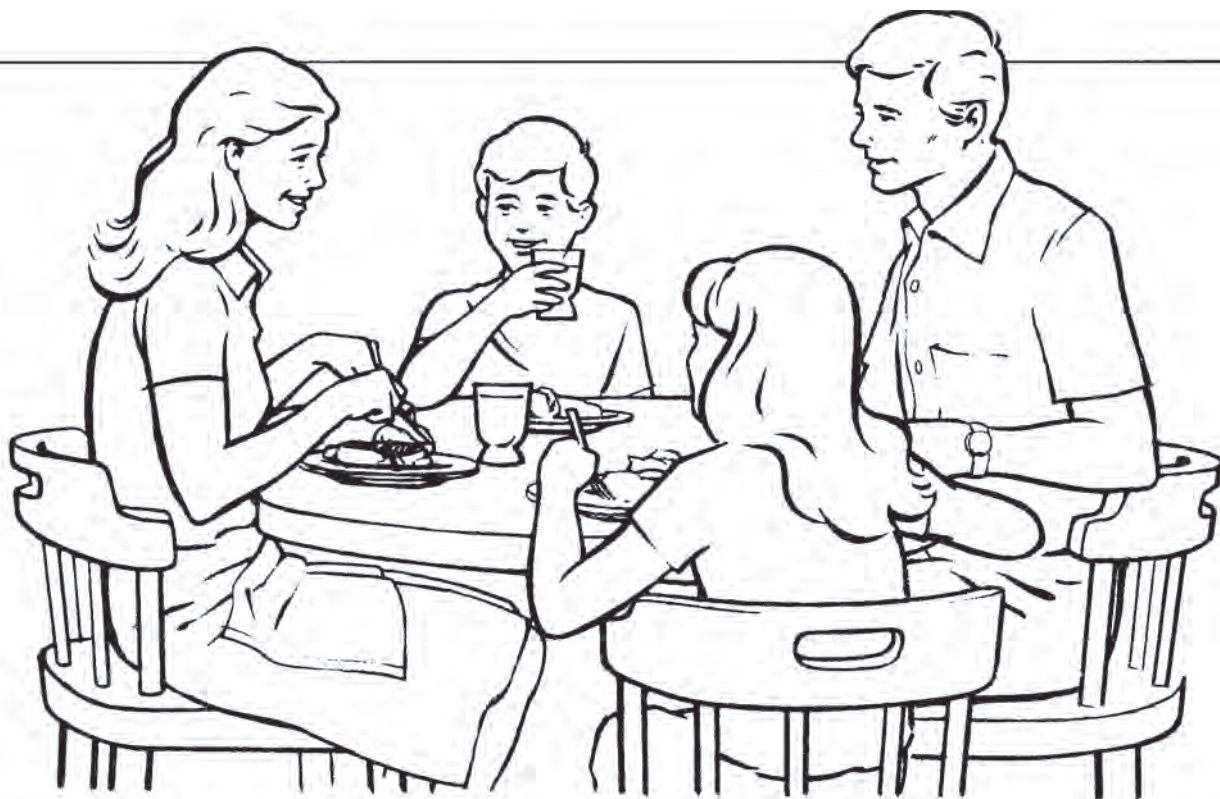
A few minutes later Tony and Linda found their father in the garage repairing the car.

"Hi, Dad," said Tony. "Linda and I were just talking about how exciting the Feast of Tabernacles was last year."

"We can hardly wait for it to come this year!" said Linda excitedly.



Illustrations by Ken Tunell and Michael Jon Woodruff



Their father crawled out from under the car.

“Whoa! Slow down! I can understand your excitement, but don’t forget about the festivals that come before the Feast of Tabernacles. They teach us about some very important events. And if they didn’t come first, we wouldn’t have the Feast of Tabernacles and the Millennium to look forward to.”

“But I don’t understand, Dad,” replied Tony.

“I’ve almost finished replacing this hose,” Dad said. “As soon as I clean up, Mom should have dinner ready. We’ll talk about this over dinner, OK?”

After Dad asked the blessing on the evening meal, Tony reminded

him of his promise to explain God’s festivals.

“Do either of you remember the festivals that have already come this year?” asked Dad.

“I think I remember them, Dad,” replied Tony. “First came the Passover. Then came the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The next festival was . . . um . . .”

“Pentecost was next,” added Linda.

“You remembered those well,” said Dad. “Those are all of the festivals that come in the spring. Let’s take just a moment to review what those festivals teach us. You see, when we learn the meaning of the festivals in the order they come each year, then we can understand

God's plan for all mankind.

"Passover is an important occasion," their father continued. "It reminds us of the death of Christ. His death made it possible for us to be forgiven of our sins. And it gave us the opportunity to receive eternal life in the future."

Father then reminded Tony and Linda that the Days of Unleavened Bread picture putting sin, or Satan's way of "get," out of our lives.

"The Days of Unleavened Bread are followed by Pentecost," explained Dad. "It pictures the time that God's Holy Spirit first came to begin the Church of God. It pictures those people God calls into His Church in this age before Christ's return. God gives them His Holy Spirit to help them build character like His. Then they will be able to rule with Him in the

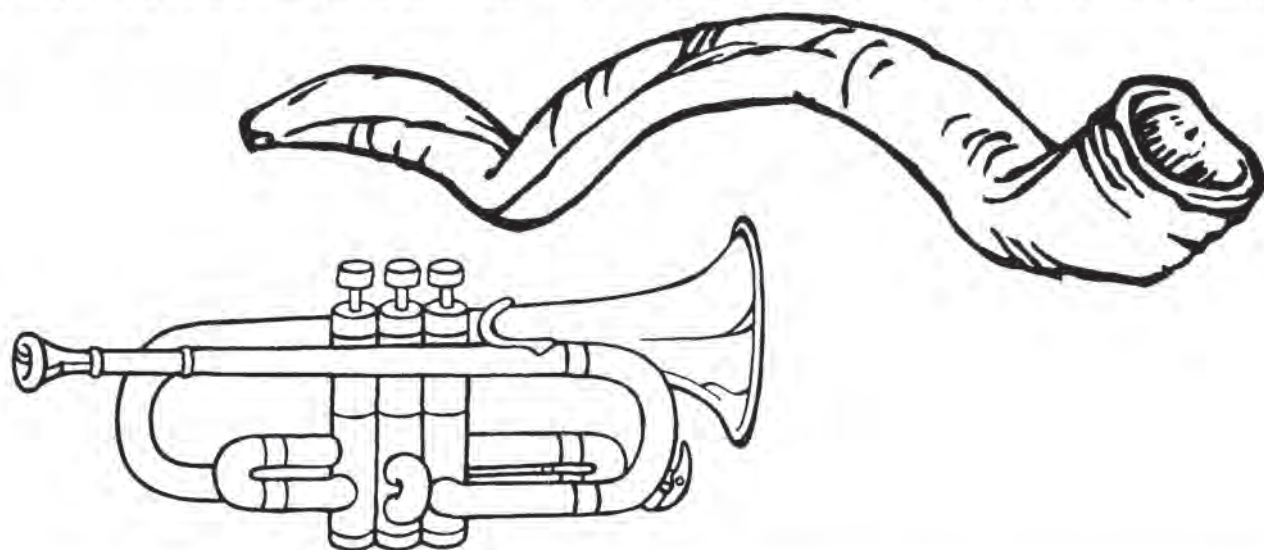
World Tomorrow. Your Mom and I are among this group of people.

"And that brings us to the rest of God's festivals, which come in the autumn of the year. They all picture events that have not yet happened."

"The first fall festival is the Feast of Trumpets, isn't it?" asked Tony.

"That's right, Tony," answered Dad. "In Old Testament times, this day was made known each year by the blowing of the shofar. A shofar is a horn made from the horn of a ram. It has a very loud sound and was often used as an alarm of war.

"When what the Feast of Trumpets pictures is about to be fulfilled, seven trumpets will sound. Christ will return at the sound of the last trumpet, but before that a terrible time of trouble is coming



on the people of the earth. World war and plagues will kill millions of people.”

“Will we be killed too, Dad?” asked Linda.

“No, we can escape this terrible time. God promises to protect those of us in God’s Church who obey Him. Just before this time, God will lead us into a place of safety. But all people on earth would be killed unless a very important event took place—the return of Jesus Christ at the sounding of the seventh trumpet.

“That trumpet sound will be heard around the world!” added Dad.

“Wow, I never knew how important the Feast of Trumpets was!” said Linda.

“But that’s not all,” continued Dad. “That is also the time when all the dead who received God’s Holy Spirit and obeyed His laws will be resurrected. Even those we have read about in the Bible will be raised from the dead—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David and all the others who obeyed God. Then just as fast as you can blink your eyes, your mother and I will also become spirit beings just like Christ!”

“Then comes the Feast of Tabernacles?” asked Tony.

“Not yet,” replied Dad. “After

Christ returns, He will set up God’s rule or government on earth. But if Satan could still cause people to want to fight and kill each other, we would not have the wonderful World Tomorrow that the Feast of Tabernacles shows. So the next step in God’s plan is to put Satan out of the way. This event is pictured by the Day of Atonement.”

Linda asked, “Isn’t that the Holy Day when we fast?”

Dad nodded as Linda went on: “Why do we fast on that day? I remember how hungry and weak I felt.”

“That’s exactly why God wants us to fast. We couldn’t live very long without food. Those of us in God’s Church are learning an important lesson. And that is, we cannot survive without God. With Satan put away, *all* people will have the opportunity to know God and His laws.”

Tony’s eyes widened. He was beginning to understand now. “I see,” said Tony. “When Satan isn’t around and everyone knows God’s laws, we can rebuild the earth the right way.”

“That’s right, Tony,” agreed Dad, “and that brings us to the Feast of Tabernacles. It is often called the Millennium because it

will last one thousand years.”

As Tony and Linda talked with their parents, they became even more excited. They never realized what an exciting future the Millennium promised them. Their parents would be spirit-born leaders with Christ then. And they would be human leaders. Just like Tony and Linda, you can have the opportunity to be a physical leader during the Millennium.

Tony and Linda began to think of all the ways that the World Tomorrow would be different from the world they live in today. One of those ways is described in Isaiah 11. Write the letter that comes before each letter you see. For example, the first letter is U. T comes before U in the alphabet so you would write T on the line above U. Do the same for each letter to unscramble the verse.

“
U I F X P M G B M T P T I B M M
E X F M M X J U I U I F M B N C B O E
U I F M F P Q B S E T I B M M M J F
E P X O X J U I U I F L J E B O E
U I F D B M G B O E U I F Z P V O H
M J P O B O E U I F G B U M J O H

U P H F U I F S B O E B M J U U M F
”
D I J M E T I B M M M F B E U I F N

“Just think how happy a blind or deaf or crippled person will feel to be healed in the Millennium,” said Mother. “What a wonderful time it will be!

“It will be safe to take a walk at night too,” she continued. “People will not kill or steal from each other. They will begin to think about doing things to make others happy. We have a special opportunity to do just that at the Feast of Tabernacles. We can take people out to dinner or serve them in other ways to show them how much we love and appreciate them.”

Can you think of ways to make someone else’s Feast happier? List your ideas here. _____

“I think it’s fun to travel and meet other children in the Church,” said Tony. “I’m sure glad you’ve taught us to save second tithe.”

“Yes,” answered Dad, “God commands us to keep the Feast of



Tabernacles. And He knew we would need money for traveling and to use during the Feast. So He commands us to keep a tithe, or one tenth of our income, so we will be able to go to the Feast and enjoy it."

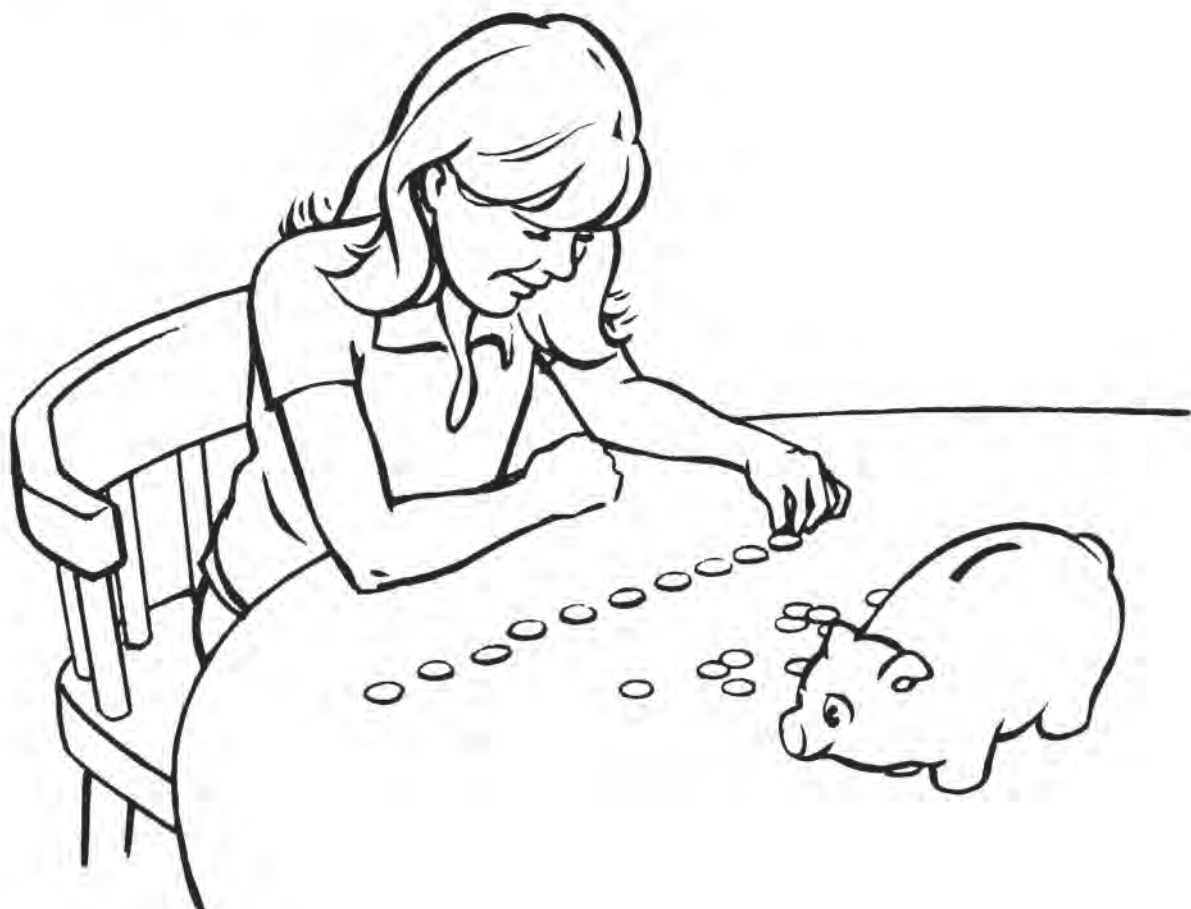
"It's easy for me to figure out one tenth when all I have is pennies," said Linda. "But Mrs. Tanner gave me \$3 for taking care of her plants last week while she was on vacation. And I can't seem to divide it up the right way. Would you show me how?"

Linda brought her piggy bank from her bedroom and emptied many dimes onto the table.

"Let's do it this way," said her father. "You know that one dollar has 10 dimes. Put those dimes in a row."

"Now take another 10 dimes and place one on top of each of the dimes in the row. Then do the same with the third dollar's worth of dimes," continued Dad.

"Oh, I see," said Linda. "Each of the ten stacks has the same number of dimes. So each stack is



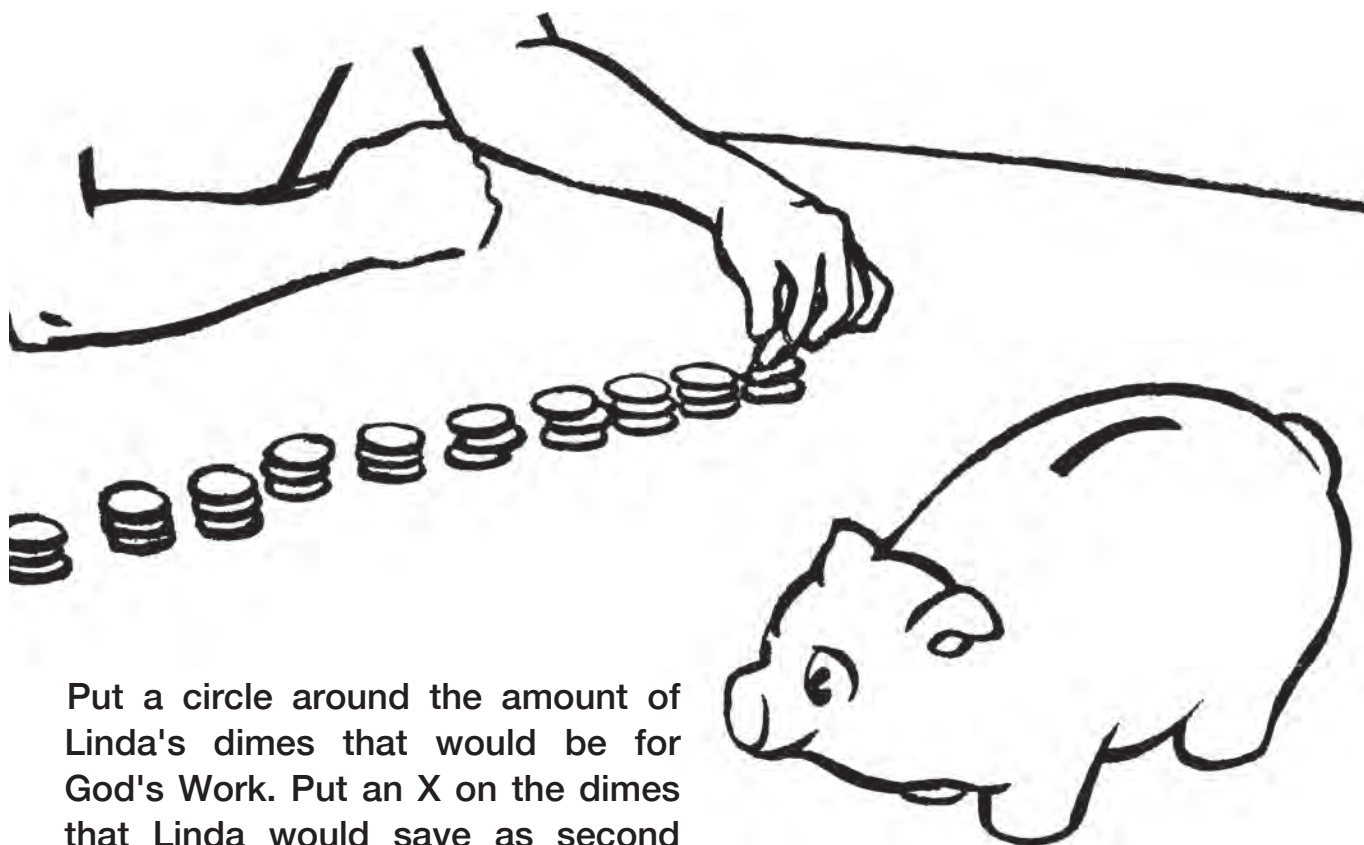
one tenth. The first tenth goes to God's Church to help do the Work. I'll put this second stack in my special second tithe box in my drawer," said Linda.

"We've talked about most of the festivals God has given us," said Dad, "but the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the sixth step in God's plan. God commands us to keep seven festivals each year. Do either of you remember what the last one is?"

"I think it's called the Last Great Day, but I don't remember what it means," said Tony.

"Let's think about after the Millennium," explained Dad. What will happen to all those billions of people who lived before the Millennium and died without knowing about God and His laws?"

"So does the Last Great Day picture



Put a circle around the amount of Linda's dimes that would be for God's Work. Put an X on the dimes that Linda would save as second tithe.

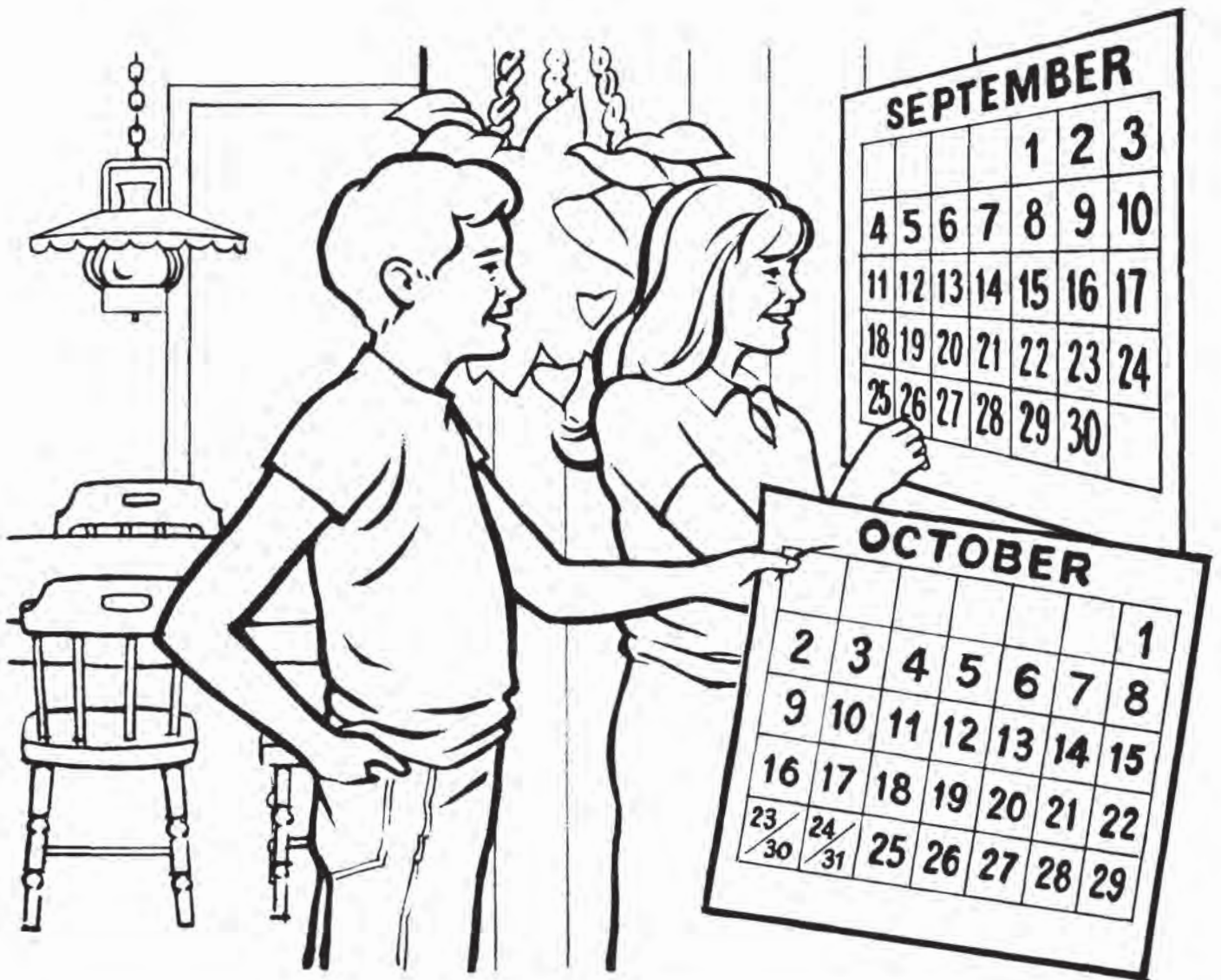
a time for all those people?" asked Linda.

"That's right," said Dad. "This festival pictures the resurrection of all those people to physical life. This time is called the Great White Throne Judgment and it will last 100 years. These people will now have the opportunity to learn God's way and how it leads to a life of

happiness. God wants everyone to have a chance to be happy and live forever!"

"Now that I understand God's festivals better," said Linda, "I can hardly wait for them to come!"

"Me too," agreed Tony. "Let's go find the calendar and see when the Feast of Trumpets will be this year."



In Deuteronomy 16:15 God tells us where we are to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Color the route that leads to the Feast site and spells out the seven-word answer to the question, "Where do we keep the Feast?"



FIND THE MYSTERY FESTIVAL

Directions: Answer each question and write the correct answer in the corresponding blanks of the puzzle. When you have filled in each answer correctly, the letters in the boxes will spell out the name of one of God's festivals.

1. _____		_____
		2. _____
3. _____		
		4. _____
		5. _____
		6. _____
		7. _____
		8. _____
		9. _____
		10. _____
		11. _____
		12. _____
		13. _____
		14. _____

1. Which festival pictures putting sin out of our lives?
2. The last four festivals take place during what time of the year?
3. Which festival pictures the time when all the people who have ever lived and died without

knowing God's way of life will have the opportunity to live God's way of life and receive eternal life?

4. During the terrible time before Christ's return, God promises to lead those who obey him into a _____

5. The tithe that God commands us to pay to help do the Work is called the _____ tithe.

6. During the festival described in Leviticus 23:27 God says, "... ye shall _____ your souls"

7. Tithe means a _____.

8. In Old Testament times, a trumpet made from a ram's horn was called a _____.

9. The fifth festival pictures _____ being put away.

10. The tenth of our income that

we are commanded to save for the Feast of Tabernacles is called the _____ tithe.

11. The Feast of Tabernacles pictures a period of time called the _____.

12. On each of God's holy days we are commanded to give an _____.

13. How many festivals do we observe each year?

14. During the fifth festival we are to _____, which means to go without food and water.

HOW LONG IS A MILLENNIUM?

Here is how to find the number of years in a millennium. Look up the scriptures to find the right numbers and write them in the spaces provided to the right. Then just follow the direction to add or subtract.

Write down the age of Methuselah found in _____
Genesis 5:27.

ADD: The number of festivals God commands us to keep each year.

+ _____

= _____

SUBTRACT: The number of days until Pentecost minus 10 (Lev. 23:16).

- _____

= _____

Continue on next page

Write down the last number from page 13

SUBTRACT: The day of the month God commands us to keep the Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:27).

—
=
=

ADD: The number of years in the Great White Throne Judgment period (Isa. 65:20).

+
=
=

SUBTRACT: The day of the month which begins the Feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:34).

—
=
=

SUBTRACT: The number of days we are to keep the Feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:34).

—
=
=

SUBTRACT: The day of the month we are commanded to keep the Feast of Trumpets (Lev. 23:24).

—
=
=

SUBTRACT: The number of seasons of the year during which we are to bring special offerings to God (Deut. 16:16, 17).

—
=
=

Equals the number of years in a Millennium!

=

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

Today and Tomorrow

Look at the newspaper headlines below. Are all of them like what we see in today's newspapers? Or are some waiting to be written in the newspapers of the World Tomorrow? What will be the exciting news when Jesus Christ rules the earth?

Put an X in the column where each best fits.

HEADLINES	TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS	TOMORROW'S NEWSPAPERS
PEACE TALKS FAIL, WAR BREAKS OUT		
DISEASE EPIDEMICS TAKE LIVES OF MILLIONS		
FAMILIES STAY TOGETHER NOW		
DIVORCE RATE SKYROCKETS		
MILLIONS STARVE AS DROUGHT WORSENS		
PERFECT WEATHER EVERYWHERE		
NATIONS AT PEACE, NO MORE WAR		
BAD WEATHER RUINS CROPS AGAIN		
NO NEED FOR HOSPITALS, EVERYONE HEALED		
CRIME RATE DROPS TO ZERO		
COUNTRIES REPORTING BUMPER CROPS, PLENTY OF FOOD		

Now write a headline that you would like to see in a newspaper during the Millennium:

MY FEAST SCRAPBOOK

Write a paragraph each day telling about the exciting things you did, the places you visited or new friends you made. Then draw a picture about your paragraph. You may wish to include postcards, photographs, or any other souvenirs to add to your collection of Feast memories!

DAY 1

DAY 2

DAY 2

.....

.....

.....

[illegible]

.....

.....

.....

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#####
#####
```

.....

DAY 3

DAY 3

MY FEAST SCRAPBOOK

DAY 4

DAY 5

DAY 5

MY FEAST SCRAPBOOK

DAY 6

MY FEAST SCRAPBOOK

DAY 7

DAY 8

.....

.....

[illegible][illegible]

.....

=====

[illegible]

.....

.....

.....

WORD SEARCH CHALLENGER

See how many of the words in the list below you can find in the Word Search. They are hidden across, down, and diagonally. There are even a few written backwards for you Word Search experts.

Autumn

Feast of Tabernacles

millennium

festivals

character

Feast of Trumpets

motel

resurrection

Day of Atonement

World Tomorrow

second tithe

offering

Last Great Day

airplane

auto

shofar

ram

place of safety

Christ's return

boat

services

travel

Y	D	M	N	W	B	P	A	C	A	F	P	B	C	C	L	Q	F
K	A	J	S	O	M	U	I	N	N	E	L	L	I	M	A	E	K
S	Y	U	A	R	Y	O	B	C	D	A	A	D	N	B	A	L	C
M	O	T	X	L	C	A	T	D	E	S	C	M	B	S	J	A	D
P	F	W	D	D	U	F	E	E	J	T	E	A	T	F	E	S	F
G	A	K	F	T	H	Z	R	O	L	O	O	O	G	I	R	T	E
E	T	V	U	O	I	A	A	V	O	F	F	E	R	I	N	G	D
U	O	M	J	M	F	Z	M	N	L	T	S	M	N	K	G	R	S
T	N	F	H	O	Y	M	C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	E	E
R	E	E	H	R	J	T	K	B	S	U	F	N	H	J	R	A	C
R	M	S	T	R	A	V	E	L	T	M	E	W	N	V	G	T	O
O	E	T	I	O	W	R	K	O	H	P	T	O	I	F	H	D	N
W	N	I	X	W	N	J	L	B	I	E	Y	C	R	O	A	A	D
N	T	V	S	A	S	T	V	S	P	T	E	P	O	P	Q	Y	T
X	V	A	C	C	H	R	I	S	T	S	R	E	T	U	R	N	I
G	J	L	S	U	O	B	K	L	R	M	O	Q	N	K	R	O	T
R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	O	D	Q	L	V	H
S	M	N	T	Z	A	E	N	A	L	P	R	I	A	R	M	U	E

Fulfilling Matthew 24:14 and Matthew 28:19-20



Continuing Church of God www.ccog.org
Daily Bible News Prophecy www.cogwriter.com

CCOG.ASIA This is a website focused on Asia. It has articles in Mandarin Chinese as well as some in English, plus some items in other Asian languages.

CCOG.EU This is a website targeted towards Europe. It has materials in many European languages.

CCOG.IN This is a website targeted towards those of Indian heritage, and includes materials in Hindi.

CCOG.NZ This is a website targeted towards those in New Zealand.

CCOGCanada.CA This is a website targeted towards those in Canada.

CDLIDD.ES La Continuación de la Iglesia de Dios. This is the Spanish language website for the Continuing Church of God.

PNIND.PH Patuloy na Iglesia ng Diyos. This is the Philippines oriented website with items in English and Tagalog.



BibleNewsProphecy channel
www.youtube.com/BibleNewsProphecy

ContinuingCOG channel
www.youtube.com/continuingcog

ContinuingCOG Africa channel
www.youtube.com/ccogafrica

The *Continuing Church of God* also uses printed and electronic magazines, books, and weekly letters to the brethren to also support Matthew 24:14 and Matthew 28:19-20.