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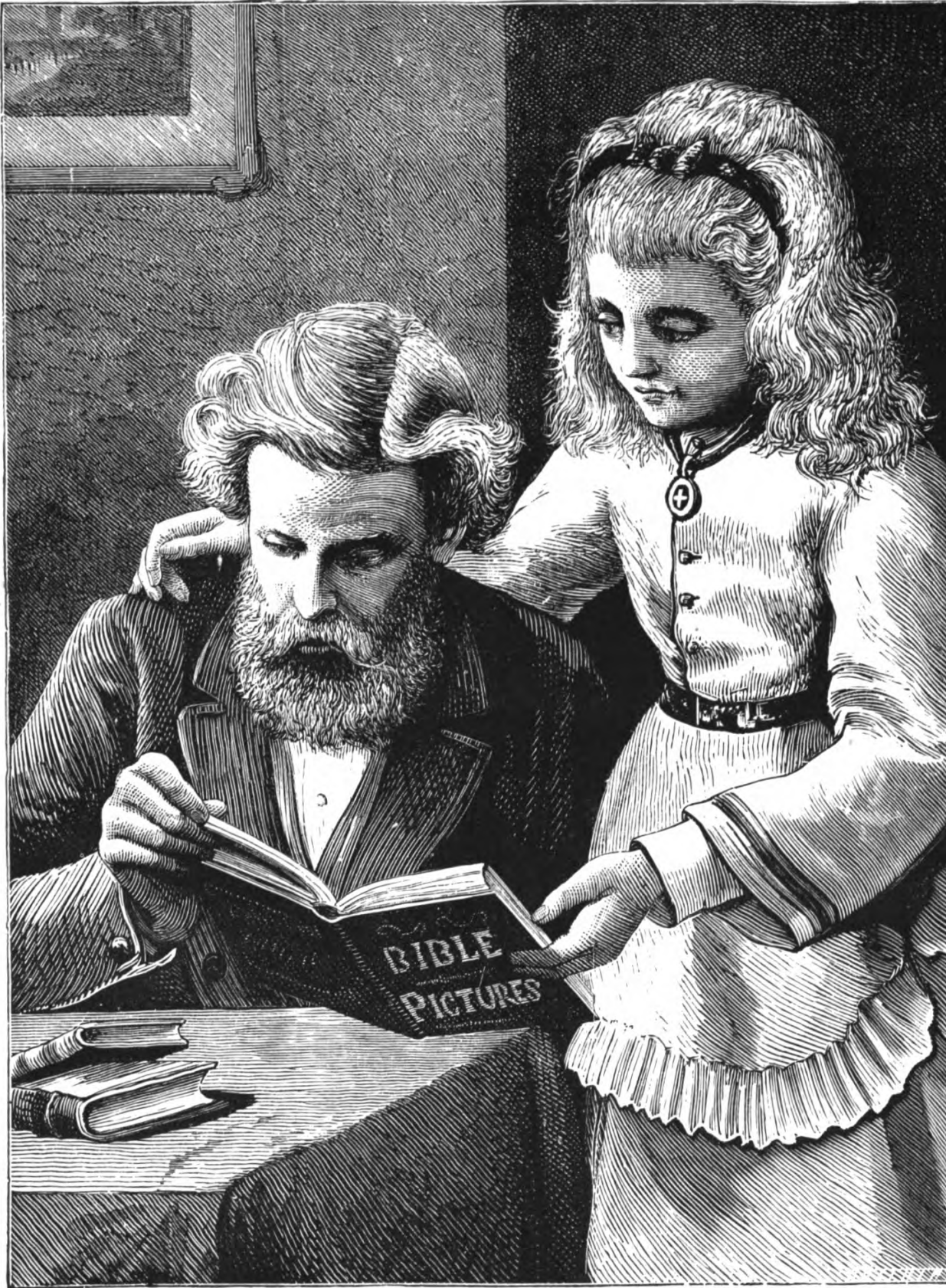












LOUISA AND HER PRESENT.

**B**IBLE  **P**ICTURES  
FOR

LITTLE PEOPLE.

Illustrating Old Testament Scenes and Incidents

BY UNCLE HARRY,

AUTHOR OF "BUY AN ORANGE, SIR," "DON'T SAY SO," "MARY DON'T HEAR US,"  
"AWAY FROM HOME," &c.



London:  
SUNDAY \* SCHOOL \* UNION,  
56, OLD BAILEY, E.C.

2524. e. 11.\*







## PREFACE.

A BIRTHDAY text-book was once given to Louisa by a dear friend. It was just what she wanted, and she prized it very much ; but the pages were made more precious still by the handwriting of her father and mother, her brothers, of aunts and cousins, and of other friends who knew her, and wished to give her pleasure.

It was carefully kept in a drawer with other treasures, and only brought out now and then to have the name of some friend written in it.

Louisa was quite right in valuing her Birthday book. It was a token of affection from a loved friend, and such gifts should not be lightly regarded.

But Louisa had another treasure in her possession—a book a thousand times more precious than the Birthday book ; the gift of her best Friend, and whose pages in its pages told of wonders which kings have desired to know, and have never known.

The Book gave her plain and sure directions to find the way of happiness. It told her of One who would help her to do right, and Who could give her strength to overcome every evil, and to fulfil every good desire.

Was this Book valued and read and loved, and looked upon as a treasure I cannot tell. I do not know what passed in the heart of the little girl; this I do know—God will bless those who love His Word, and who search Scriptures daily, that they may learn and do His will.

I have turned over again and again the pages of Louisa's Bible, and have found so many things in it that must please even little children to read. I have read to them, that I have prepared the Bible Picture Book for their use.

May He who said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me," bless the reading of it to you all. Above all, I want to lead you to esteem the Bible of books—the Bible, from which all the Pictures are taken, as the most precious, the most wonderful book in the world—your best treasure.

"PRECIOUS TREASURE, THOU ART MINE."



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**T**HE great God first of all made the heavens and earth; and then He made the earth fit for living creatures to dwell upon; and after that, having provided all they could possibly want, He made man. At first the man was like a stranger in the world, not knowing where to go or what to do. But God, who is full of love and tender care for His creatures, placed the man in a lovely garden, and, that he might be quite happy, *gave him something to do.*

There were plenty of beasts and birds to amuse and please him; but they could not talk to him. So God gave him a friend who could, and would also be

a help to him. How glad the man must have been to have someone who could understand all he said and called his wife's name Eve.

God has provided in every way for our happiness both in this world and that which is to come. He has given us kind parents, friends, and teachers, bright Sabbaths and the precious promises, and much to do for Him. For our happiness by-and-by—

Mansions are prepared above,  
By the gracious God of love,  
and if we truly love God and  
Him now, we shall each have  
dwell in.



## LOOKING, LONGING FOR, AND TAKING.

ONE day, the enemy of God and man got into the garden of Eden in a very sly way. Satan always tries to take us off our guard, and too often succeeds. The Bible tells us he went to Eve in the form of a serpent. The serpent, perhaps, was a beautiful creature, having a smooth shining skin,

the garden?" Eve replied: "Oh, no; we *may* eat of *all the trees but one*—which, our Maker says, if we even touch it, we shall die."

The serpent said that was not true: Ye shall not surely die, but ye shall be wiser than you are now. Eve began to think, "How nice to be wiser! I



with coloured marks upon it, and a very quick, sharp eye; and it seemed so gentle, that Eve was pleased, and began to talk with it.

It spoke in words something like these—"Did God *really* say you may not eat of the fruit of *every tree* in

should like *just* to try." She *looked* longingly at the fruit, then she *wished* for, then she *took* it, and gave to her husband. Both ate of it, and thus disobeyed God and became unhappy. For this, God *drove them out of the garden*.

## THE FRUIT OF SIN.

**A**DAM and Eve lost their happiness because they did not obey God's law. And now death came into their family! We will tell you how this happened. Their two sons, Cain and Abel, each brought an offering to present to God—that is, they came to worship Him. Cain brought some of the corn

in Him, and owned Him as the Almighty. He would not receive gift, because it was offered without faith, by a heart that did not love Him. This made Cain angry and envious in his heart grew stronger and stronger till at last he raised his hand in anger and struck Abel and killed him.



and fruit of the ground; Abel brought a lamb out of his flock.

God knew their hearts. If there is a wrong feeling in our hearts when we come to worship Him He will not hear us. He accepted Abel's offering, because He knew that he loved Him, had faith

Do not encourage unkind thoughts against any one. If others do better than you, do not be jealous, try to do as well, rather than envy them and be angry with them. If they are good, try to be as good as they, or even better.

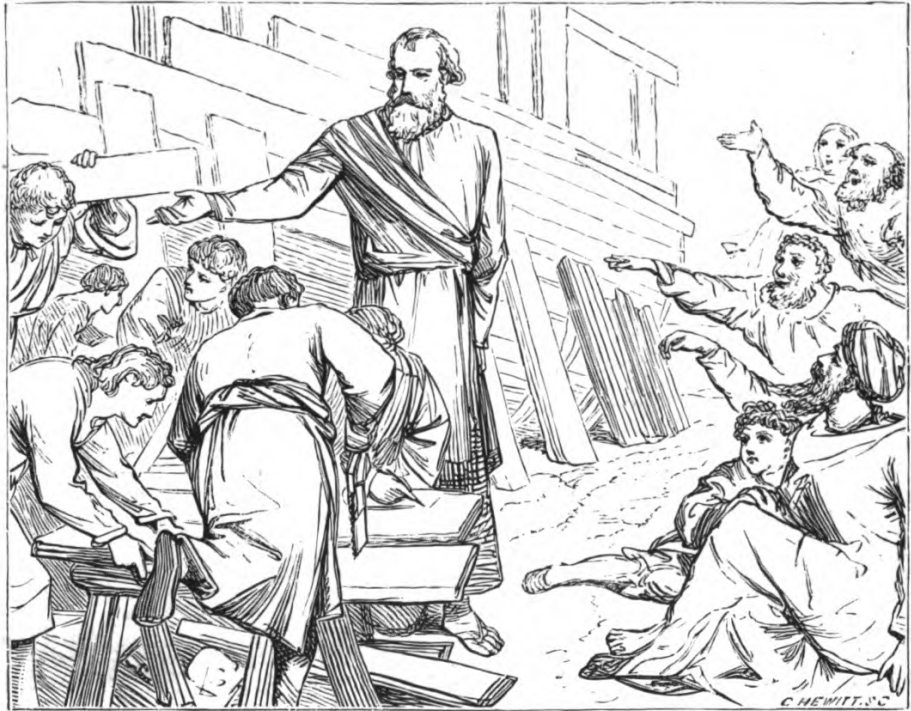
## WHAT ARE THEY DOING ?

**T**HE men in our picture are building an ark, or house of wood. It is to be very large, with rooms in it, like a ship, and to be covered within and without with pitch, to keep the water from getting into it.

We must tell you why such a great ship was needed.

The inhabitants of the earth had

loved God and served Him. His name was Noah. God told him that He was about to destroy the wicked, that he and his sons were to build an ark, in which they might be saved. Noah did what God told him, and by day, for years, worked away with will, and his sons helped him, till the ark was finished.



grown very wicked. Things were getting worse and worse every day. Men's deeds were bad, their thoughts were bad, their wishes were bad, their hearts were very, very bad. God knew all this, and how rebellious the people had become, and He could put up with it no longer.

But there was *one man who really*

loved God and served Him. His name was Noah. God told him that He was about to destroy the wicked, that he and his sons were to build an ark, in which they might be saved. Noah did what God told him, and by day, for years, worked away with will, and his sons helped him, till the ark was finished. People laughed and jeered at him for being so foolish, as they thought his flood was long coming ever to happen. Noah kept on building—for he was sure that God would do as He said. And so He did. Ask some one to read to you all about it out of the Bible.

## GOOD NEWS FOR ALL IN THE ARK.

**O**H, fancy being shut indoors and seeing nothing but water, water, water everywhere for months! How dull it must have been! And so it would have been, had not *God remembered Noah*. He never forgets His children; but He took *special* care of the ark and its contents. Besides, God

blow away the clouds, and they see the waters getting lower and lower. At last Noah, anxious to find out if any part of the earth was drying up, sent forth a raven, but the raven did not come back. He then sent forth a dove, which returned to him, and he put her in. He sent her out a second



gave Noah and his family something to do—to look after and care for the living creatures in the ark, so that the time did not hang heavily on their hands.

Still they must have been glad when the rain left off, and the wind began to

and she came flying back with an olive leaf in her beak. This was good news for all in the ark! “THE WATERS ABATING!” But Noah’s family must have been patient. The ark will be their home for two months longer, and then God will set them on dry land again.



## A RAINBOW! A RAINBOW!

AS soon as he had left the ark, Noah called his family together, and they built an altar and offered a sacrifice to God, to thank Him for His great mercy to them, and humbly to acknowledge and atone for their sin. Noah felt that, although they had been so

its rays fell upon the falling drops. rainbow! a rainbow! Listen to his voice: "*I do set—appoint—My bow in the cloud . . . for a token of a covenant*" Whenever you see that, take it as a sign that I will not again destroy earth with a flood.



wonderfully spared, they yet must confess themselves sinners in God's sight, and that they did not deserve His mercy.

Perhaps as they stood there a few drops of rain fell, and some of the eight worshippers looked timid and fearful. The sun was still shining, and some of

Whenever you look at the rainbow think how faithful God is, how kind to us all. Remember, that it was sin which destroyed world, and that God, although will punish sin, has promised to destroy the earth again with flood.

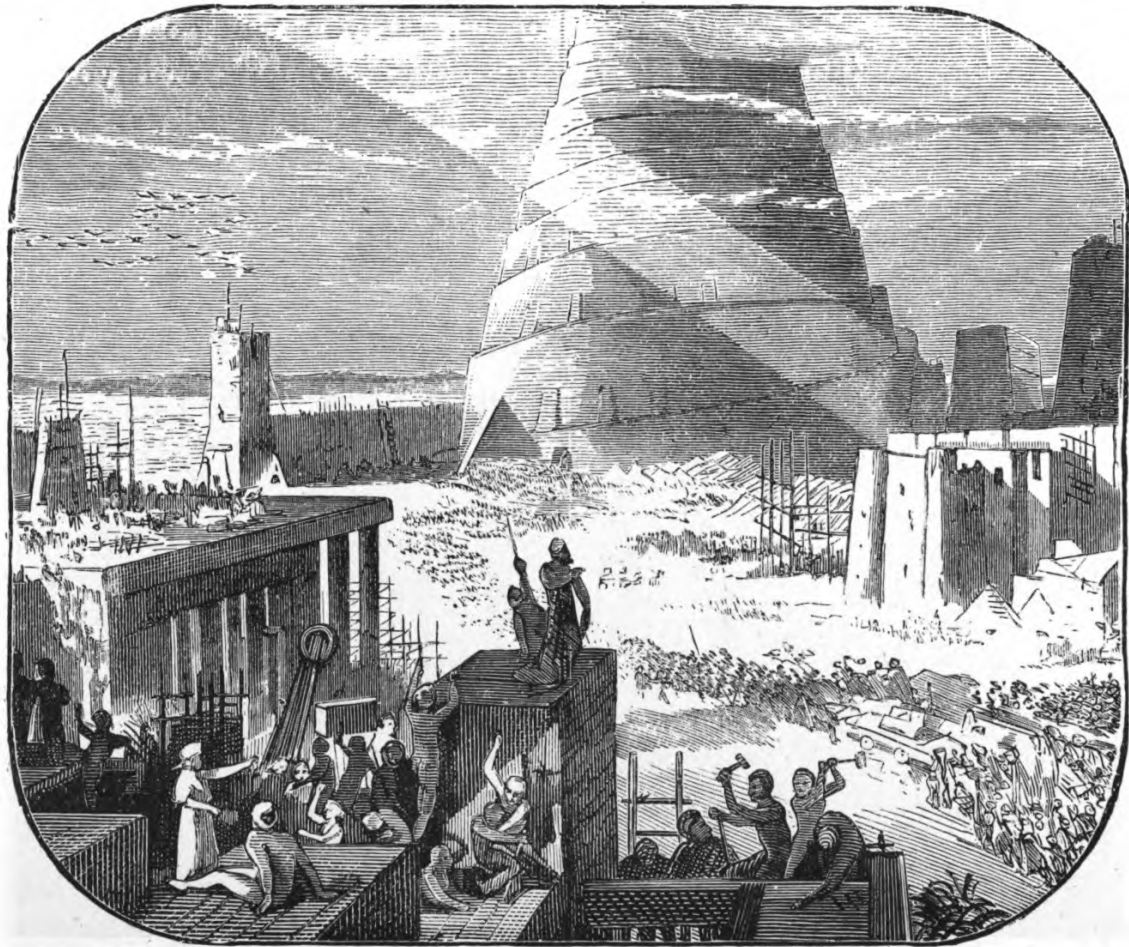


## THE TOWER OF BABEL.

ALL the people living on the earth soon after the flood spoke one language, and they spread themselves about till they came to a plain in Shinar, and settled down there. God had said that men and women were to spread

unto heaven; and let us make one name, lest we be scattered abroad the face of the whole earth."

The Lord was very angry with them for this, and said He would put a confusion of languages upon them, to such disobedience. So He made



themselves over the earth, and not *all* to live in one place; but the people grew proud, and would not do as God commanded them. So they made bricks, and then said, "Let us build a city and a tower, whose top may reach

all speak different languages, so they could not understand one another. They found then that it was of no use trying to settle in one place; and they left off building the tower, and were scattered away, and dwelt in other lands.

## A SELFISH MAN.

**A**BRAM was the father of the Jewish nation. He first lived at Ur, and then at Haran, where *his* father died. God wished Abram to leave his home, to make a new and great nation, and he went, not knowing whither he went. But he felt sure all would be right.

There being a famine in the land

But their flocks became so large that their servants quarrelled about water and the grass, which the flocks needed day by day to feed upon. Abram was a peaceable man—he did not use angry words and looks; so he said to Lot, There is plenty of room for both of us. If you will go to the right hand, I will go to the left; or if you go to



where they dwelt, Abram and his nephew, Lot, went into Egypt; but God was with them wherever they went. Abram grew very rich in silver and gold, in flocks, cattle, and servants.

After a time, Abram and his wife and Lot returned into Canaan, and went again to Bethel.

left hand I will go to the right; and if you will go to the right hand I will go to the left. Lot was greedy, and chose the best parts for himself; but he was not wise, and he afterwards found that he was very unwise; for the people among whom he had chosen to dwell were very wicked. The greedy and selfish are sure to suffer for it.

## THE ESCAPE FOR LIFE.

**A** BRAHAM asked the Lord to spare the city of Sodom, where Lot lived, if only ten God-fearing people could be found there. But even ten could not be found. So God said the city must be destroyed.

Two angels came to Lot, and begged of him to flee out of Sodom with his wife and daughters and other relations;

they perished. But the four were safe yet; there was another messenger for them, and they must be careful to attend to it.

"Escape for thy life," for death and ruin are near. "Look not behind thee," never mind who or what is left in the city, forget it all; *neither stay in all the plain of Shinar*



but his sons-in-law would not believe there was danger, and mocked him.

Early next morning, the angels hurried Lot and his wife and two daughters out of the city: only these four could be persuaded to go. The others stayed in the city, and so

side; do not wait a moment near the guilty city. "Escape to the mountain at a distance, there only will you be safe.

They started well; but, as you see in our picture, one turned back. She was Lot's wife—and she was turned into a pillar of salt.



## HAGAR AND ISHMAEL.

**A** BRAHAM was not without trouble in his family. His wife Sarah and her servant Hagar did not agree. Sarah said that Hagar's son Ishmael was mocking her son Isaac, and she asked Abraham to send both away. God also told Abraham to do so, saying that He would watch over and protect them.

Abraham obeyed God, and gave to

death of the child." She also and prayed. But hark! a break upon the still air; Hagar looks anxiously as she listens. An angel speaks out of heaven, so kindly. "What is the matter, fear not." God told the mother to lift up the lad: she sees what she had not seen before, a well of water near!



Hagar her son and provision for the journey, and they both went away into the rough and wild parts of the land. Hagar soon got into trouble; the water in the bottle was all gone, and the boy wanted more. The mother had none; so she laid him under a bush, and walked away some little distance.

Hagar said, "Let me not see the

Oh! how quickly she ran and took her water bottle, and moistened the parched tongue and lips of the boy. He revived; and God promised his mother some great blessing for him in the future.

*God was with the lad*—God had been with him now, and both mother and child would learn to trust God more and more from that day.

## ABRAHAM'S TRIAL.

**T**HE Almighty once told Abraham to take his only son Isaac, whom he loved so much, to a distant place, and to offer him up as a sacrifice to God. If anyone else had told Abraham to do this, he would have answered, No! But God told him; he trusted in God, and could say—"However hard it is, I will do it."

and Abraham carried a lighted torch and a knife in his hand. Isaac wondered where the lamb to be offered was, and said to his father, "Here is the fire, and here is the wood, where is the lamb for a burnt-offering? Has it been forgotten?" "God will provide a lamb," said his father.

See, Isaac is bound and laid up



Abraham therefore rose up early the next morning, and took with him his son Isaac, and two servants. On the third day of his journey, he left his servants behind with the ass, and he and Isaac went on together.

Isaac carried the wood to make a fire,

the wood. Behind Abraham is a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. God had sent it to be slain as a sacrifice instead of Isaac. Abraham's action reminds us of Him who spared His only Son, but freely gave Himself up for us all.



## JACOB AND ESAU.

ISAAC had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Esau was a hunter—a man of the field; Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents. One day, Esau came in from the field faint, and asked Jacob to give him some of the pottage of lentils he had been making. Jacob said he would, if he sold him his birthright. Esau foolishly did so.

Isaac's wife Rebekah heard Isaac said to Esau, and she persuaded Jacob to take some nice to Isaac, and to pretend that he was Esau.

Isaac, though he could not see, Esau's voice, and asked, Who art thou? Can it be somebody else? And he lay up on the couch, trembling all



When Isaac was grown old, and his eyes were so dim that he could scarcely see, he wished to bless his elder son, for he felt that he would soon die. So he asked Esau to prepare him some savoury meat, such as he was used to do; and Esau went away to hunt for venison for the purpose; and brought it to his father.

Esau did not know what all this meant till Isaac told him that some one had brought him venison, and he blessed *him*.

Esau was very angry; but he wickedly sold his birthright, so he had no right to complain. But Isaac was wrong in deceiving his father.

## JACOB'S DREAM.

**G**OD was very kind to Jacob; for though he had acted very wrongly in deceiving his father, and was obliged to leave his home, yet God graciously protected him and promised to bless him.

As he journeyed along, with his staff to lean upon, and his bundle, night came on, and he was in the open

But before he moved on, he said something to himself: "Surely the Lord is near me, in this wilderness plain;" for the Lord had been teaching him while he had slept. He had made him dream a wonderful dream; God had not told him beforehand.

God had spoken to Jacob in a



plain. He had no house nor tent to sleep in, so he put some stones—hard and cold as they were—for his pillows, and lay down to sleep. No danger came near. Yet it was a strange night to him, and when he awoke he was afraid.

God spoke to him very kindly: "I am with thee, to keep thee in all places whither thou goest." Jacob knew that God was near him. So that may be a pleasant sleep on a hard pillow. God can bless us even when we sleep.

## JACOB WRESTLING WITH THE ANGEL

**G**OD watched over Jacob as he had promised, and took care of him in his journey. Jacob went to Padan Aram, and dwelt with a man named Laban, and looked after his cattle. He stayed in Laban's home many years, and became rich. At last God told him to go back to his own land.

smite me, and the mother, with children."

He was then alone! Not for an angel in the form of a man came and wrestled with him all the morning. The angel wanted to go, for the daylight was coming, but Jacob clung fast to



When Jacob left Laban, he journeyed to meet his brother Esau. He sent messengers on first, who returned with bad news. Jacob was afraid, therefore he prayed to God for help. "Deliver me from the hand of my brother, for I fear him, lest he should come and

and would not let him go. He would not be satisfied without blessing. Though his thigh was out of joint, yet he held fast, and blessed him.

We can wrestle with God through earnest prayer—and not giving up praying till the blessing comes.

## BROTHERS RECONCILED.

AND Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold, his brother, who had said he would kill him when he could lay hold of him, was on the road with four hundred men!

He had sent before him a large present of cattle in droves, with a space between each drove. Each servant

What Esau thought when he received his brother's present in droves we do not know; but we are sure that he "ran to meet" Jacob with a sword nor a spear, not to kill him; but to put his arms round his neck, and kiss him. Both brothers wept for joy.



presenting his drove with the words—  
"Behold, thy servant Jacob is behind. For he said, I will appease him with the present which goeth before me, and afterward I will see his face: peradventure he will accept of me."

They met, they talked, as be-  
ought. They forgave one another,  
then each went in peace to his  
home. "How good and how precious  
a thing it is for brethren to  
gather together in unity!"



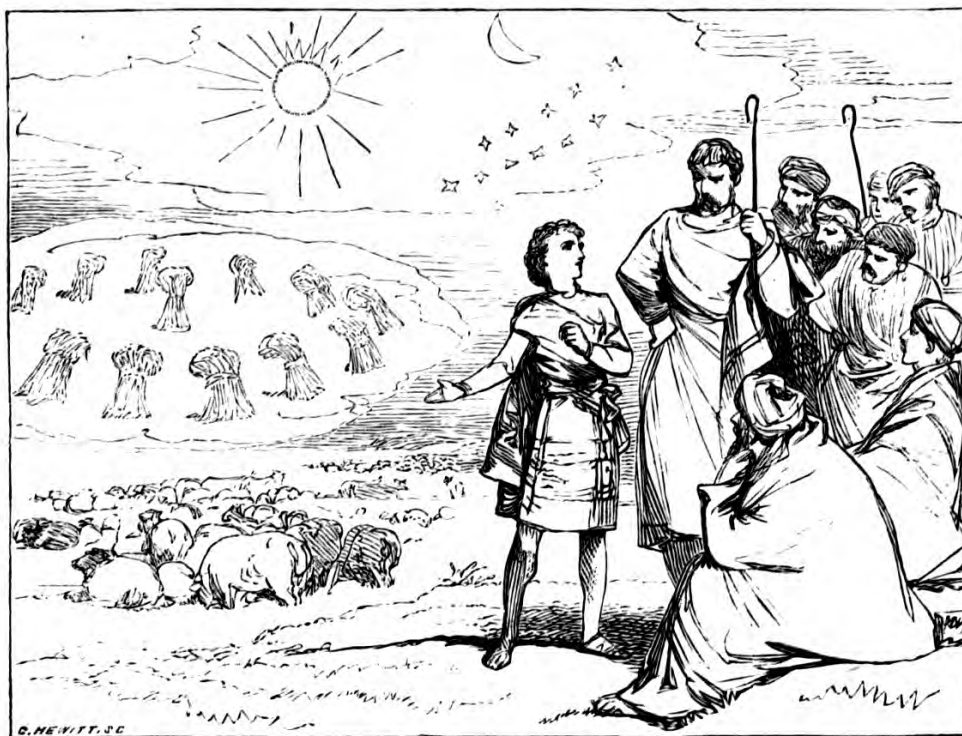
## JOSEPH AND HIS DREAMS.

**A**MONG the children of Jacob, who were with him when he met his brother Esau, there was one of whom he was very careful. It was Joseph. He was then a little child, and both his parents loved him very much.

After Joseph's mother died, Jacob gave him a coat of many colours. Joseph was born when his father was

and his father. One dream was, that they were all binding sheaves in a field, when Joseph's sheaf stood upright, while his brothers' sheaves stood round and bowed to it. The other dream was, that the sun, and moon, and stars, bowed down to Joseph.

None of them were pleased with these dreams, because they seemed



old, and was more with his father than his elder brothers. This was perhaps why Jacob seemed fonder of him than of the rest.

Their father's love to Joseph made the brothers full of envy; and nothing that Joseph did pleased them.

Joseph dreamed some wonderful dreams, which he told to his brethren

to mean that some day Joseph would be greater than all of them, and they would really have to respect him as their superior.

The brothers disliked him more than ever for his dreams, and would not speak kindly to him.

This envy in the brothers caused them much trouble afterwards.

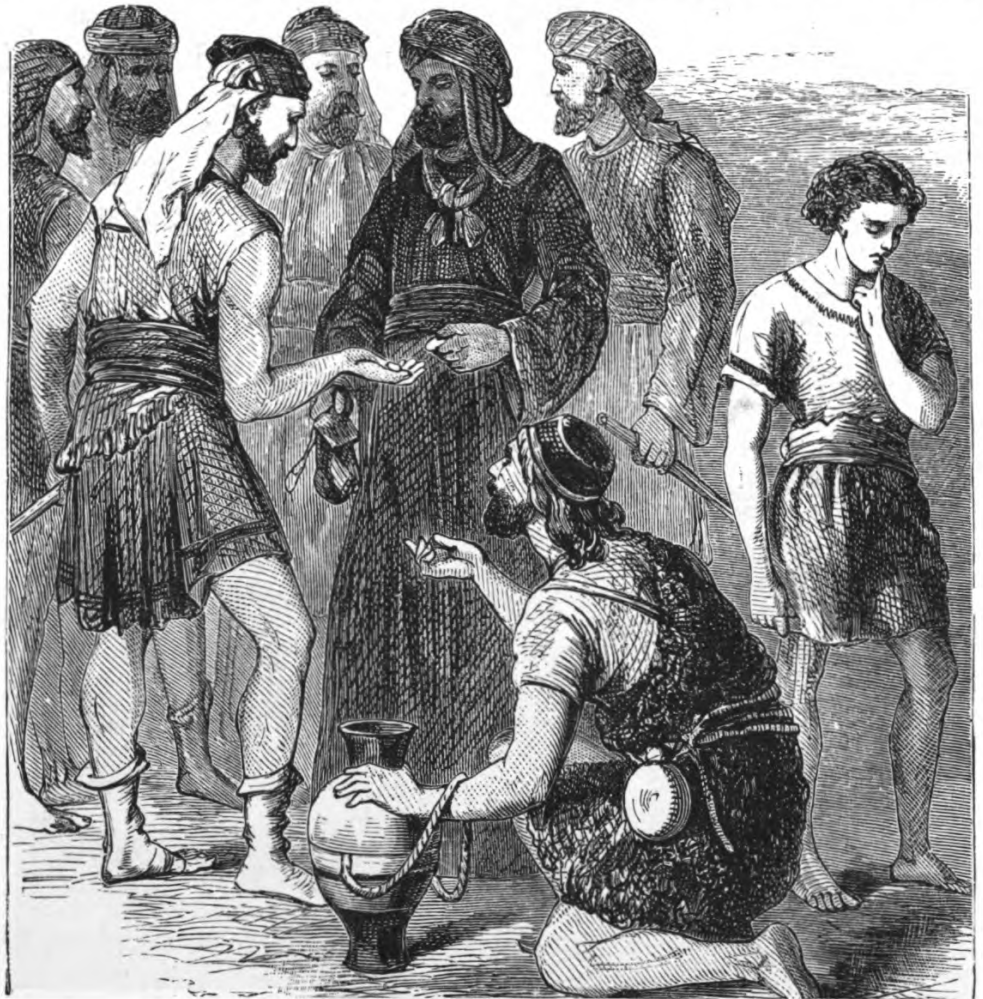


## JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BRETHREN

**J**OSEPH'S brothers were shepherds, and they had to go a long distance from home with their flocks to feed them.

One day, their father sent Joseph to see how they were getting on.

the dreamer; let us kill him." Reuben would not agree to it, persuaded them to put Joseph a pit. When they had done they sat down to eat. While were eating, some merchants



He went wandering about, but could not find his brethren. A man whom he met told him that he had heard them say they were going to Dothan. When Joseph's brethren saw him coming, they said, "Here comes

by, and Judah said, "Let us sell Joseph as a slave." So they put him up out of the pit, and sold him for twenty pieces of silver to be a slave, and to be carried into Egypt.

## JOSEPH SOLD TO POTIPHAR.

THE slave merchants sold Joseph to Potiphar, one of King Pharaoh's captains, to be his servant; and a good servant he made. At last he made him manager in his house. Joseph was quite happy; and he was a blessing to the people with whom he lived.

not, lies were told about him, he was sent to prison.

Poor Joseph! what troubles he to bear! He had been hated by brothers at home, put into a pit to die, taken out and sold into slavery, and now he was a prisoner, for no wrong-doing on his part.



BARGAINING FOR A SLAVE.

One day, a most unusual thing occurred. Joseph's master was very angry with him. Why? A relation of Potiphar's tempted him to do a very wicked thing; but Joseph would not. "How can I," he said, "and sin against God?" but because he would

The Lord knew Joseph was guilty, and showed him mercy, and caused the keeper of the prison to be kind to him. The keeper allowed Joseph to help him, and let him have the keys and mind the other prisoners.

## THE BLOOD-STAINED COAT.

WHEN the brothers returned home, it was without Joseph. What excuse would they make, when their father should ask where he was?

Said one of them, "Let us pretend that Joseph has been killed by a

it. How unhappy it made J  
"An evil beast has devoured  
said he; "Joseph without do  
rent in pieces." His sons  
daughters tried to comfort him  
they could not.



wild beast." His brothers thought thus to deceive their father. So they killed a young goat, and dipped Joseph's coat in the blood, and, when they got home, showed it to their father, wickedly pretending they had found

How deceitful of them!  
sorrow it brought to Jacob's h  
God punished them for it afterv  
Envy makes men hard-hearted  
cruel. Children, if they are en  
of others, are often unkind and



## JOSEPH RELEASED FROM PRISON.

**T**WO of Joseph's fellow-prisoners each had a dream. God enabled Joseph to tell them what their dreams meant. He said that the king would order the chief baker to be put to death, but would take the chief butler back into his palace again.

The chief butler promised that he would not forget Joseph when he got out of prison; but he broke his promise, and for two whole years he thought nothing more about him.

Safe and happy himself, he forgot him who had been a friend to him in his time of need.

But there was One who did remember Joseph. Our kind and gracious God never forgets His friends—they that love Him and do His will.

Pharaoh had two strange dreams (God caused him to have them), and he

did not know what they meant; could any one of all the wise men of Egypt tell him; Pharaoh was in very great trouble about it, and did not know what to do.

Then all of a sudden it came into the chief butler's mind, that the young man in prison had explained *his* dream, and what he said came true: perhaps Joseph could explain Pharaoh's.

The king sent for Joseph, and asked him to tell him what *his* dream meant. Joseph said God would give the answer through him. The dream was so true to warn the king to prepare against a famine that would come upon the land, and Joseph told him that he had bet on it to do so.

The king rewarded Joseph, making him his principal servant.



## CORN IN EGYPT.

**T**HERE was a famine in Canaan, where Joseph's father and brothers lived. When they heard that there was corn in Egypt, ten of Jacob's sons went down to buy some. There they met Joseph their brother, but did not know him. He asked them about their family, and as they told the truth, he said they must go and

treated their brother. Joseph said what they said, but still he kept secret who he was, for he wanted to see Benjamin; and therefore he told them Simeon must be left behind for he thought that was the only way he could be sure of Benjamin coming with them when they came again. The brothers reached home



fetch their youngest brother. To make sure of this, he said one of them must stay in prison, while the others took home the corn they had bought; and they were not to come again without their youngest brother.

Reuben said this trouble had come upon them because they had so cruelly

and told Jacob what had happened. When they began to empty their sacks, they found all their bags in them. "What shall we do?" they said to themselves; "we shall be charged with stealing."

Jacob, too, was in great trouble, for everything seemed to be against him. But it was not.



## THE BROTHERS AT JOSEPH'S HOUSE.

THE corn which Jacob's sons brought from Egypt, was soon eaten up; and Jacob had to say to them, "Go again; buy us a little food." Judah said, "If we do not take

Benjamin with us, the man will not see us." Then Judah promised to take care that no harm came to him. So Jacob agreed.

When they had arrived in Egypt, no sooner did Joseph see Benjamin with his brethren than he ordered his steward to prepare dinner for them all.

Joseph's brothers, when told that they were to go into the Governor's house, were afraid that it was to answer for the money which they had taken home in their sacks.

But no such thing. Joseph had had their money, but had ordered it to be put back again. They now gave the present their father had sent.

Joseph made loving inquiries after their father. They were ordered to sit down. This man was so interested in them.

When he put his hand on Benjamin's head and said, "God be gracious to thee, my son," he broke down and went out of the room. That the visitors might not see his tears.

Soon he came back and took his seat at the table. The steward then arranged the tables according to ages. "How does he know who we are?" said they.



## BENJAMIN IN TROUBLE.

NOW a trouble came upon Benjamin, the brother of Joseph. For a time all seemed well in Egypt. The Governor was very kind to all the brothers; he had given them a feast at his house. Simeon was taken from the prison, and, with their loads of corn on their asses, they once more set out for home.

search us all, and if any one has the cup let him die, and we all will be slaves."

So they looked into every sack, leaving Benjamin's sack to the last. In his sack the cup was found. Had he stolen it? No; Joseph had ordered it to be put there, to try his brothers, and to see what they would do; but Benjamin must have



Surely they must have begun their journey with smiling happy faces. Their troubles seem all over; they are all going home. But stop! some servants or soldiers come after them, with the steward, who charges them with taking a large silver cup. The brothers say, "No; we would not steal:

been very sad, and the brothers also. When they returned to the city, Joseph told them he would keep Benjamin, and the others might go home to their father.

What was to be done? Judah had promised to take Benjamin back safely.

## JOSEPH MADE KNOWN TO HIS BRETHREN

**L**ISTEN! Judah is speaking about his brother Benjamin. He tells the Governor what trouble will come to his father if Benjamin does not return safely. "He will die with grief and sorrow. Oh! let me be kept as a slave instead of Benjamin!"

When Judah leaves off speaking, they all look at the Governor, waiting

whom you did not love, whom I sold. Is my father still alive?' The brothers were so surprised they could not answer him, wondering if it could be true, and thinking of their father (except Benjamin) of their hatred against Joseph years ago: how they had hated him and his brothers, and how they had sold him to



for him to say what shall be done. The Governor's heart was full. He ordered all his servants to go out, and then he spoke a few words, not in the Egyptian language, but in Hebrew, which came upon the brothers like a flash of lightning.

"I am Joseph, your long-lost brother,

and I am now powerful; able to punish them if I wish, but I am not willing to do so. They were glad to be together.

But Joseph did not reproach them. He said that God had over-ruled their evil for good.



## JACOB'S MEETING WITH JOSEPH.

WHEN Jacob heard the good news from his sons that Joseph was alive and well in Egypt,—that Joseph wanted him to come, and that Pharaoh had told Joseph he might send wagons to fetch him—he said he would go to see his son before he died. So all the family journeyed

went in one of the chariots to meet his father. What a happy meeting was! They could not speak for time. Their love for each other was very great, so that they both wept not for sorrow, but for joy. After time the father spoke a few words out of his full heart.



from Canaan into Egypt. On the way God spake to Jacob, and told him not to be afraid to go into Egypt, where he would see Joseph; and God also said, "I will go down with thee." So he was quite safe.

When Jacob arrived in Egypt, Joseph did not stay in his house, but

"Now let me die," said Jacob as if there was nothing else worth living for—since I have seen thy face—which I have not seen for years. It was enough to know that Joseph was alive, and had not met so cruel a death as Jacob thought had befallen him.

## JACOB BEFORE THE KING OF EGYPT

AS soon as Jacob and his family arrived in Egypt, and had come into the beautiful land of Goshen, Joseph told Pharaoh, and said, "My father, and my brethren, and their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have, are come out of the land of Canaan; and behold, they are in

the best of the land, and that he would make the active men among rulers over his cattle.

Joseph next brought his father to Pharaoh: and the old man gave him his blessing.

Joseph then gave his father and his brethren a possession in the land



the land of Goshen;" and he presented five of his brethren to the king. He asked them what they were, and they told him, and they asked that they might dwell in Goshen. Pharaoh said they might, and he told Joseph to let them dwell in the

best of the land, in a place called Rameses. Joseph did this, and saw that they were well provided for. This was in the year of their returning to his brethren goodly. Jacob lived in Goshen seventeen years.



## GOD BLESS THE LADS.

ONE day, a messenger went to Joseph to tell him that his father was near to death. Joseph went to him with his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh. When the good old man heard who were come he seemed to have fresh strength, and sat up on his bed. He spoke very kindly about Joseph's sons, said they should be like his own sons; and after-

the Son of God Himself—who deliver me from all trouble in life, and will give me life; let the same Saviour, "*bless the lads*"—let them be God's chosen ones, happy ones, saved ones.

After Jacob was dead and buried, Joseph's brothers were afraid they would be punished for the evil they had brought upon him. So they



wards these became two of the tribes of Israel called Ephraim and Manasseh, instead of one tribe called after the name of Joseph.

The two sons came near to Jacob's bed, and he kissed them, and gave his blessing to them; then he put his hands on their heads, and said, "*The Angel*"—not one of God's creatures, but Jesus,

to beg his forgiveness again. Joseph uttered no hard words; but was ready to forgive; and he did all he could to comfort them.

He gave them good advice, namely, to confess their fault to God.

Joseph died when he was a hundred and ten years old, and he was embalmed and put into a coffin in Egypt.

## CRUEL BONDAGE.

**W**HEN Joseph and all his brethren were dead, and the king who had been so kind to them was dead, a new king arose who knew not Joseph. This king treated the people very cruelly.

Seeing that the Israelites increased

whose duty it was to make them work very hard. They were compelled to make bricks without straw, and the taskmasters beat them cruelly to make them work faster, and to wear out their lives out. The king did not care



in numbers, he was afraid lest if a war broke out they should join his enemies, and fight against him, and so get the country to themselves. In order to get rid of them if he could, he made slaves of them, and set men over them,

many died through the hard treatment they endured.

Pharaoh could only whip his slaves' bodies until the man or boy died. So he can injure our souls. All who sin fully become his slaves.

## THE BABY SAVED IN THE BASKET

ONE day, two Hebrew children were watching their mother, who was making a basket to hide baby in! Why? King Pharaoh had given orders to drown all the little boys who should be born.

Perhaps the father asked God to keep it safe; then they gave the last kiss, and took the last look; and when

The baby's sister Miriam is to watch what becomes of him.

Some ladies come, and the daughter with them. They go near the little ark,—they see it,—and one of the ladies sends to fetch it, wondering what it can be.

The lid is unfastened; and they find *the child alive*. He opens



she had fastened the lid, the poor mother silently carried it away to the river to hide it.

How is it that she could leave the ark among the rushes of the river? A soldier might find it; or a crocodile kill it. The mother had faith in God. He would take care of it.

eyes, and begins to cry. The king's daughter loved that child; she saved his life; she wanted a nurse for it. When Miriam asks the princess to let her be a nurse; she fetched his mother.

The king's daughter called it her child; but it had no name, so she called it Moses, which means *drawn out*.

## BURNING, YET NOT BURNT.

**M**OSES found an Egyptian cruelly treating a Hebrew, and in taking the part of the Israelite, he killed the Egyptian; then, lest the king should kill him, he fled from Egypt to Midian, where he some time after married the daughter of Jethro. He kept the flocks of his father-in-law, and lived

Moses said to himself, I will go to this bush on fire, and see what is not burnt; why the branches and leaves are not all destroyed; why the fire does not go out.

As he went near to it, a voice came out of the fire, which said, "Moses! Moses!" and he answered, "Here



there very quietly for about forty years.

One day, Moses left the sheep for a little while, to look at something very strange and very bright. It was a fire: a bush in the field was burning—it kept on burning. The angel of the Lord, or God Himself, was in the flame of fire in that bush; but Moses knew it not.

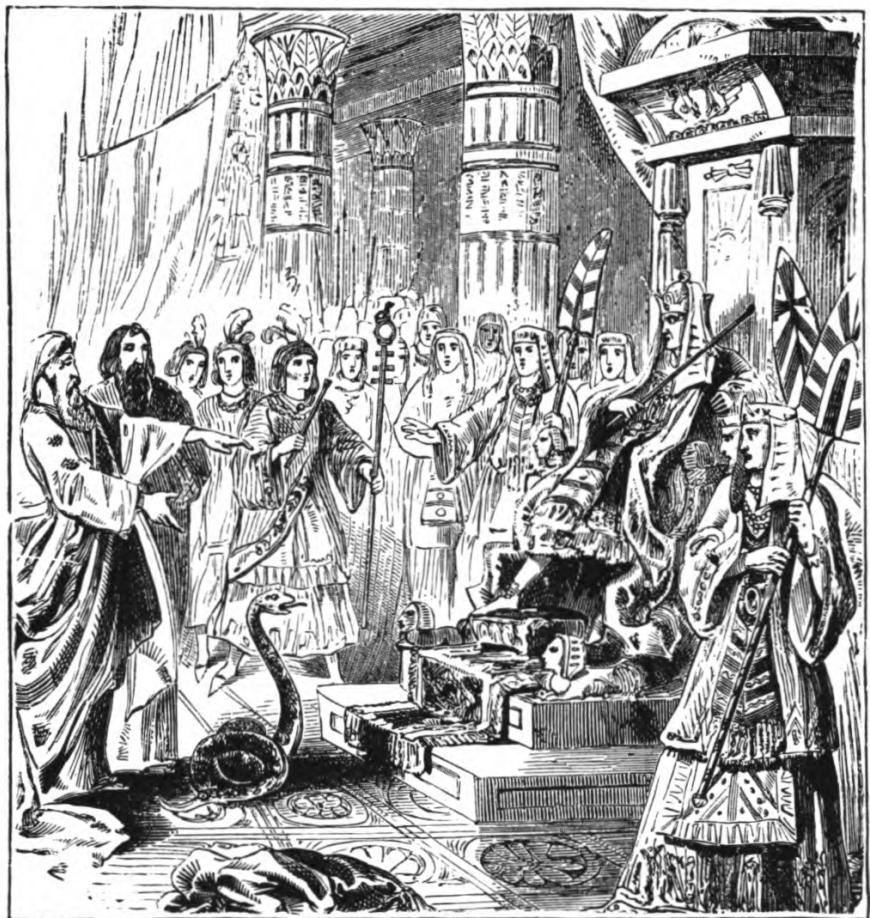
I." He was told to take his shoes off from off his feet, for the ground was holy—God was there. No wonder that Moses hid his face and was afraid. God told him He would send him back to Egypt to deliver the Israelites. Moses was afraid to go, but God promised to go with him and help him; and all his fears were gone.



## MOSES AND AARON BEFORE PHARAOH

ONE day, Moses, and Aaron his brother, both of them aged men, yet in good health, went at God's command and stood before the mighty king of Egypt with a message from the King of kings. It needed courage on their part; but they were not afraid, because they felt sure that God was with them.

for his wise men and sorcerers, were no doubt told what had been and what was expected of *them*. their tricks they could make it seem some as if they did the same things. Perhaps they threw down real serpents; for many of these men could tame serpents and carry them a



Pharaoh asked them for a sign that they had the power which they said they had. God had said Pharaoh would ask this. Aaron cast his staff on the ground, as God had commanded, and it became a live serpent! The king sent

with them, as though they were st

But one thing they did not attempt. Aaron's serpent swallowed up all the serpents of the sorcerers. This showed that Moses and Aaron possessed a power which they did not possess. God gave His servants the power.

## THE PLAGUES.

ONE day, as King Pharaoh stood on the banks of the River Nile, Moses met him, and told him that if he would not let the people of Israel go out of his land, the Lord God would turn the water of the river into blood. Pharaoh would not hearken to Moses, and so the water was turned into blood.

plagues were sent: flies swarmed land and houses wherever the Egyptians lived,—then their cattle were made sicken and die,—then the people were afflicted with boils and blains. A terrible hailstorm, too, battered down men, cattle, herb and tree; this was followed by locusts, which covered the



Seven days passed; but still Pharaoh disobeyed God's command. God then sent live frogs all over the land, which entered houses, beds, ovens, went among the bread and the food, and troubled the Egyptians. For a while the king seemed a little humbled, but this did not last; and so the other

of the earth and ate up the fruit of it; and then a plague of thick darkness so that they could not see one another. The Israelites had light in their dwellings. Now Pharaoh was willing to let the Israelites go, but wanted them to leave their flocks and herds behind. But this could not be.

## THE PASSOVER.

**T**HE time had come when the children of Israel were to prepare to leave Egypt. But before they left, something was to be done: a lamb was to be slain—its blood to be taken and sprinkled outside each door, on the side-post, and at the top, so that the angel who was sent to destroy the Egyptian firstborn, might see the sign, and not

The night was dark and all was quiet. The Egyptians slept; but the Israelites were awake, eating the lamb—for the flesh of the lamb was to be cooked and eaten with bitter herbs.

In the dead of night an angel came and killed the firstborn in every house; but he passed over houses where Israelites dwelt.



enter that house. The blood was a sign of the safety of the people, young or old; it kept away death from every house on whose door-posts it was sprinkled. God had commanded this.

This done, the doors were [shut.

What was the end of it? they were sent away in haste. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. He was slain for us: and if we are found obeying God and trusting in what Jesus has done, God will pass over our sins for His sake.

## LEAVING EGYPT.

**H**ERE is a picture of the Israelites leaving Egypt. They are just setting out on their journey to Canaan—a beautiful country, which God has promised they shall have some day. Moses is their leader, appointed by God. But God Himself has promised to be with them, to guide and protect

follow; or to stop, if the pillar stop. The pillar of cloud was the sign of God's presence.

God is everywhere present, and will be our guide now if we ask Him.

How glad the Israelites must all have been to leave Egypt, where they had been so cruelly treated! How glad



them. How did He do it? A pillar, long and narrow, appeared over their heads. By day it looked like a bright cloud; by night it seemed like a pillar of fire.

Storms or winds could not drive it away. It was always near enough to be seen by all, and to be their guide. As the pillar moved, they were to

fully they would walk and carry their bundles! One thing they have forgotten: what Joseph wished was that he was dying, a hundred and forty years before, that they should carry the coffin containing his bones, to bury them in the land of Canaan, where they got there. And they did not forget to do so.



## PHARAOH AND HIS HOST DESTROYED

**A**FTER the people of Israel left their houses in the cities of Egypt, they met with a new and unexpected trouble. King Pharaoh, with his great army of horsemen and chariots, followed the Israelites, to bring them back into slavery. No doubt the Israelites, young and old, were dreadfully afraid when they saw the army

At first Moses told the people stand still, and they did so with great fear, looking for help from God. Then God directed Moses to tell the people to march forward.

Moses went forward, held out his rod, and the waters divided; and the Israelites passed over in safety. Their enemies attempted to follow; but God



following them at a distance—especially just at that time, for they seemed to be shut in on all sides. In front was the Red Sea, and there was neither boat nor bridge to take them across; on each side were rocks or very steep hills, up which they could not climb; so that there seemed no way of escape.

broke off the wheels of their chariots and they moved very slowly. Then the waters rolled back and destroyed them all.

Oh, how the Israelites sang unto the Lord, who had triumphed gloriously, praising Him for saving them out of the hands of their enemies.

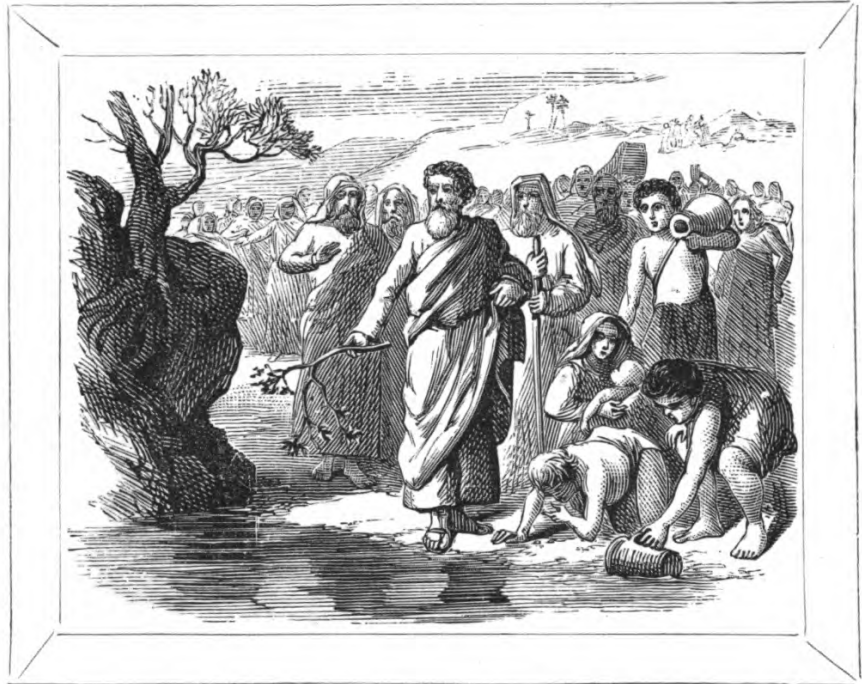
## BITTER WATER SWEETENED.

**G**REAT was the joy of the Israelites when they were safely out of Egypt. But their troubles were not all over yet.

They first went out into the wilderness of Shur, where they found no water fit to drink. The Bible says that when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters, for they were bitter.

Red Sea; their oppressors had overthrown, all by the hand of who had always appeared for people in their time of need.

Moses, wiser than they were, their trouble to God. God heark to his prayer, and told him how waters might be sweetened. The showed him a tree which, when he



And the people complained, and spoke hard words to Moses, their leader, and asked him what they were to drink. They need not have been angry with Moses, and would not, had they not been impatient. They must have forgotten the wonderful things that had been done for them already. They had passed safely through the

cast it into the waters, the were made sweet.

A little further on there was water at all; and the people ready to stone Moses, but God, kind even to the unthankful, in an to Moses' prayer, found water for t again.

“Forget not all His mercies.”

## BREAD FROM HEAVEN.

**T**HE road to the promised land was wild and dreary. It was a long journey; and their month's provisions were nearly all gone—not enough for all—and the people began to get hungry. They could see no signs of food: no gardens of fruit, no fields of corn, no houses, no

shops; nothing but a rocky and barren wilderness. sent them bread from heaven. How wonderful! In the evening, quail came and covered the camp; and the night the dew fell, and lay on the ground, damp and wet. In the morning, when the sun dried up the dew, the people saw something else. On all the ground "there lay



shops; nothing but a rocky and barren wilderness.

Some of the people wished they were dead or back in Egypt again. They ought to have trusted in that God who had so often appeared for them, and been their Helper. His word tells us that He pitied them even now, and

quantity of small round things"—small as the hoar-frost—and white. The people called it "manna" which means—What is this? It was white, like seed, good to eat, and could be baked. There was enough for all. It was gathered six times a week.

## PRAYER DOES WONDERS.

**T**HERE is a battle going on in a valley, while on the hill is an old man—it is Moses—sitting upon a stone, with his hands lifted above his head. Some enemies to God's people have attacked them in a very cowardly way; and now they are defending themselves. See how anxiously he

Moses grew tired, and only dropped his arms for a moment, the enemy was able to succeed.

But see, he has helpers, who hold up his hands when he is tired; and the battle goes on until sunset, when the enemy is beaten and flees. This could not have happened if God had not



watches the fight. His hands being lifted towards Heaven means that he looks for help from above. Perhaps he says, "Lord, help Thy people to win the victory. Drive away our enemies."

God did help; He heard the old man's prayers. We are sure of this; for when

answered His servant's prayers. Many prayers did wonders.

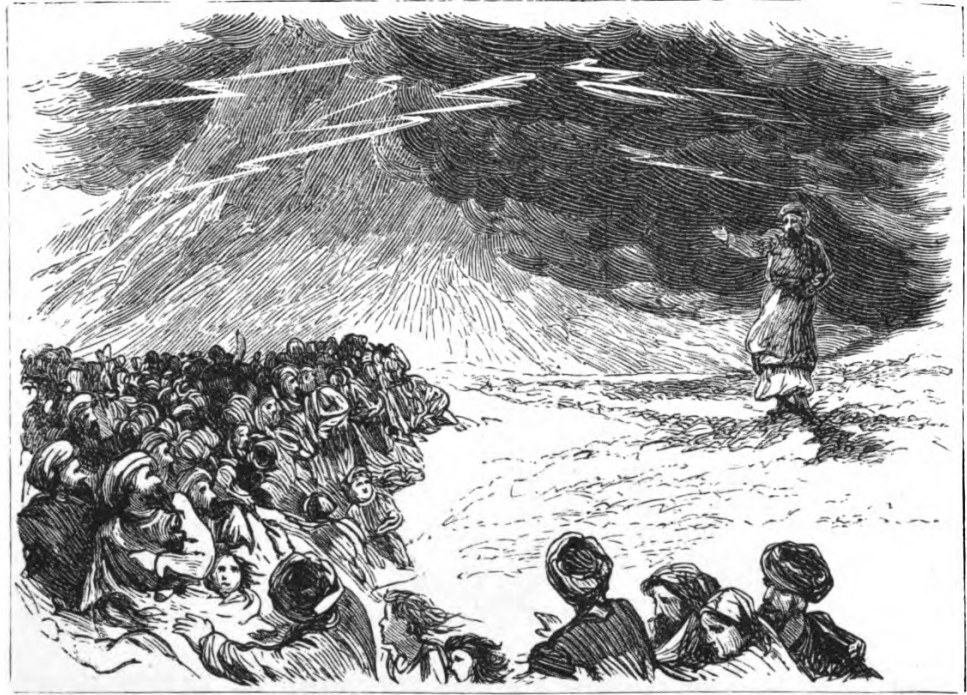
We ought to hold up one another's hands—help one another, that is, in good. The youngest child who follows Jesus can pray for friends and companions when they are in trouble or difficulty, or have anything hard to



## WAITING TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE.

**G**OD sometimes spoke to Moses, who told the people God's will. One day, God said He would speak from the top of a mountain,—that the people should hear His voice; but they must not go near. On the third morning, the people stood looking on the mountain. On it there were thunders and lightnings, a thick cloud,

God speak? What we call the *Ten Commandments*, showing what is our duty to God and to one another. These commands may be put in a very few words—"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and thine neighbour as thyself." We are to have no other God—no image of God. There must be no taking of God's



and the loud voice of a trumpet. The people trembled; the mountain itself shook.

God's voice was heard calling to Moses to go "up to the top of the mount"—into the smoke and cloud, near to the fire and lightnings. Moses went up. And what words did

name in vain—no breaking the sabbath day which God had appointed—no disobedience to father or mother or those set over us—no hurting others by word or deed—no evil thoughts or desires. If we obey these laws, we shall love God and love one another—and shall be happy.

## GOD'S LAW BROKEN.

ONCE Moses was up on Mount Sinai for nearly six weeks. The people said, because he was gone so long, that he was either dead or had left them altogether.

At last their patience was gone, and they asked Aaron to make them some image of God, to have with them, and

Moses did not know what the people were doing till God told him. Then he began to pray to God for them, for they were in great danger. When that Moses went down from the mountain with the two stones. When he came near enough, he saw the calf, and the people dancing. He was



bow down to, as they had seen done in Egypt, where the true God was not known.

Aaron, perhaps to try if they were in earnest, asked them for some gold to make the image with. And he made the gold into an image like a calf, and the people burned fire before it, and danced round it, and shouted. But this was *breaking God's law.*

angry, and he threw down—and broke—the tables of stone.

Then he took the calf—the help of the image of gold, melted it, and made it into pieces, very small, like dust. God also was angry with the people, and on that day, three thousand were killed!

If we break God's law, we shall be punished sooner or later.

## THE PEOPLE FORGIVEN.

A VERY solemn scene once took place between God and Moses. God had told Moses to lead the people through the wilderness to Canaan ; but he feared whether God would go with the people as their guide and protector, on account of their disobedience. In fact, the Lord had

not go without Thee—Thy presence will show whether this is Thy people.

“Show me Thy glory.” Let me see more than the mere sign of Thy presence—than the pillar of cloud. But this could not be. God would show His goodness and mercy, but not



threatened to withdraw His presence, and to go no further with them.

So Moses asked most earnestly that God would forgive the people and go with them.

“Show me Thy way,” he said. Oh, do let me know what You are going to do with this people. I can-

not see Thy glory. No man can look upon God's face and live.

God put him into a cleft of the rock while He passed by him, and let him see some of the rays of His glory—as much as he could bear.

We can see God only through Jesus Christ.

## CHEERFUL GIVING.

**G**OD told Moses one day that he must prepare for Him a movable house for His worship and service, and told him how it was to be made. Moses therefore told the people what was to be done. Then every one went home to see what he could furnish for the sacred work. No one said he could

Those women who had nothing to give, gave their labour in weaving the material brought by others. The most wise and clever men set to work to make the posts, and rails, and curtains, and boards, and rings, and coverings; whilst even the little children did something to help.



do nothing; but every one, according to his means, brought an offering to the Lord. Those who had them, brought precious stones and jewels, for the ephod and the breastplate. Those who could not give jewels or gold, brought silver, or wood or cloth.

They kept on bringing till Moses had to say, "Don't bring any more."

This was cheerful giving to the service of God. Children make an offering to God when they give of their little means to help forward His kingdom on earth.

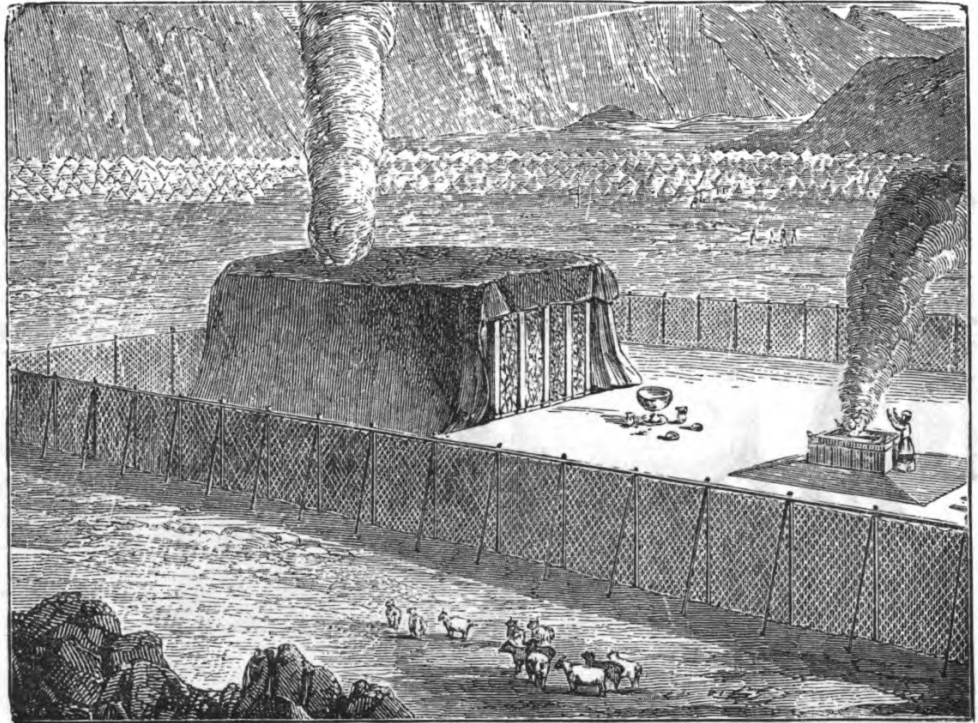


## A TENT FOR WORSHIP.

**T**HE tabernacle, or tent, which God had told Moses to prepare, could be easily put up and taken down as the people journeyed. Moses had been shown how it was to be put together, and what it was to be made of. The people cheerfully did what they could to help. Some ground was fenced in, and

in building. When we go about anything with a will, how much we may do in a short time!

When all was finished, as God commanded, it was set apart for His service; a bright cloud rested upon it to show that God was present and would remain there. The cloud of



within it was a covered room without a window, made of movable boards and overhanging curtains. Part of it might be called a Royal Place, for there the King of kings was to dwell. The other part was to be for a place of sacrifice and worship for His people.

The tabernacle was only six months

side was to guide the people. When the cloud moved from the tent where God's worship was carried on, the people continued their journey, following the cloud. God thus pointed out the way they were to go. He sends His guides those who seek Him.

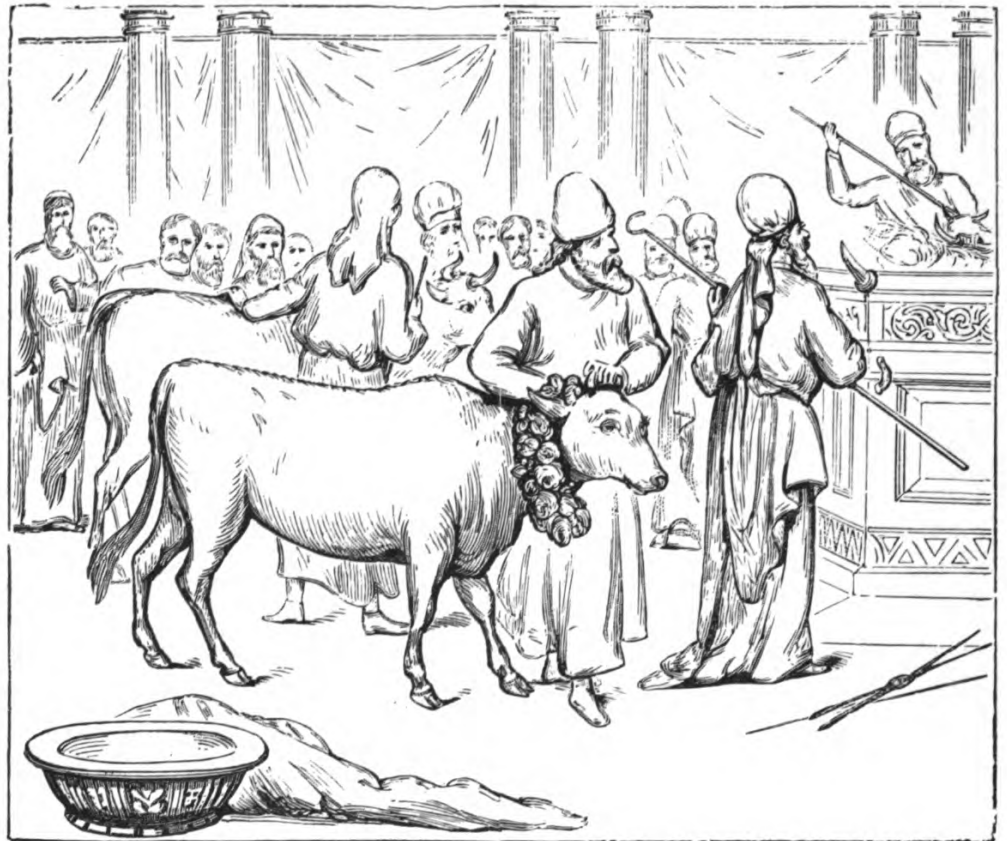
Remember when you are in God's house, that He is there.

## HOW GOD WAS TO BE WORSHIPPE

**W**HEN the tabernacle was built, Moses told the people that God was to be worshipped by prayer and offerings, especially by the shedding of blood,—killing the lamb or goat, and sprinkling its blood before the Lord, as a sign that those who worshipped

and asked God to accept the life of an animal—bullock, lamb, or goat—stead.

But now we do not shed the blood of bullocks, or goats, or lambs, in places of worship; because for us the blood of the Lord Jesus, the Lan



were sinners, and that God would only take away sin by the shedding of blood.

In presenting an offering, the giver was to put his hands on the head of the victim. In this way he confessed that he deserved the punishment of death,

God, was shed once for all, to take away sin for ever.

Be thankful that Jewish sacrifice is not required of us now,—for Christ's offering was so perfect, so precious, full of merit, that it need not be repeated. Whosoever trusts in Him will be

## THE HIGH PRIEST.

**I**N the worship of God, some men were chosen to serve in His house ; they were called priests, and over them all was the high priest. God chose Aaron to be the first high priest to offer sacrifice for the people. As the high priest, he had to stand between the holy God and the sinful people. He

scarlet, and fine linen, enriched with gold and precious stones. God commanded some of the good and clever men and women of Israel to make the dress.

The high priest carried the people's sins to God, and asked pardon for them when offering the lamb.



stood as God's servant. He taught the people, prayed for them, blessed them.

On their behalf, he presented the offerings and sacrifices. No one could speak with God but through Him, but not one of them was forgotten. Aaron, when engaged in the worship of God, wore a dress of blue, purple and

All this was a picture of what would be. We need no priests now,—we come to God through Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest.

Aaron and his successors in office died ; but Jesus ever lives, and little children can speak to God through Him.

## THE PEACE OFFERING.

**I**F you had lived in the East in the old time of the world you would have seen men standing by a sort of platform, called an altar, on which a fire was burning, with a calf, or lamb, in the midst of them. By-and-by you would have seen one of the men kill the animal, then cut it into pieces,

were, feasted together in token of friendship. One portion was placed on the altar as an offering to God, the part was returned to the giver, to be eaten by him with his family and friends; and part he took himself as a mediator that laid his hand upon the sacrifice. They could not thus eat together un-



sprinkle some of the blood upon the altar, and lay the whole or part of the calf or lamb upon the fire: and very likely you would have asked, What does all this mean?

The Peace offering was so called, because, in it God and His people, as it

they were agreed, so that it was a symbol of fellowship and friendship between God and man.

The lamb slain was to remind the Jews of the promised Saviour, who made peace for us, by the sacrifice of Himself.



## NADAB AND ABIHU.

**A**ARON had four sons who had daily duties at the tabernacle. One of the duties of the sons of Aaron was to offer incense on the golden altar, at the very time that the daily sacrifice was being offered.

On the first service of this kind, the fire of the great altar was kindled from heaven, and God said this fire was to

into the tabernacle. No sooner they enter than a flash of fire— forth like a flash of lightning— them dead.

How dreadful! But God will be mocked.

They offered incense in their own way and not as God had commanded.

A good child, when he comes



be used in all sacred services, and it was not to be allowed to go out. Those who had to burn the incense were to kindle their fire from this altar, when they went into the tabernacle.

Nadab and Abihu one day treated it as of no consequence, and filled their censers with other fire, and brought it

ask his father for some favour, will not behave rudely, but will reverence his father, will ask in a proper manner. So we must come into God's presence, draw near to Him, serve Him, without pride, with fear, feeling that God knows all things that we have done.

## THE ESCAPED GOAT.

ONCE a year, on a given day in early autumn, at nine o'clock in the morning, the people of the camp of Israel might have been seen hastening to the house of God—the tabernacle or temple. The service was to last all day; the people were to do no work, not even to eat. They were all to seek the forgiveness of their sins.

go, where he went to meet with God. After a time he returned.

The other goat was then brought before the priest, who laid his hands on its head, while he confessed before God *the sins of the people*, as if he would lay them on the goat. A man was chosen to lead the goat away, and drive it into the country, far into the ro-



First of all, the priest confessed his *own* sins, offered sacrifice, and obtained pardon from God. He then stood at the tabernacle door with two shaggy, long-haired goats by his side. One of them he killed, and carried some of its blood into the Holy place, where none but he might

wilderness, that the people might never see it again.

This was to show that Jesus would bear away the sins which were laid upon Him. He made peace with God by the sacrifice of Himself. And God says: "Their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."

## THANKSGIVING DAY.

**T**HE harvest is generally a joyous time; and it is right at that season to praise God for His goodness. The Jews were taught to do so. They were commanded not to taste any of the harvest until the first-fruits of the wheat had been offered to God, with thanksgiving and praise.

They were to own God's goodness at

richly wrought, and ornamented with flowers, which were solemnly presented in the temple. On this occasion, baked loaves were carried up with other offerings; and it was the duty of God's minister to lift up the offering in the sight of the people, and present them for God's acceptance, in God's house, and in His presence.



the beginning of the harvest; to think of God as they gathered in the precious ripe corn; and to praise Him at the end of the harvest.

On the fiftieth day after the Passover, the people went up to Jerusalem in solemn processions, carrying their offerings of first-fruits; many in baskets

But the people in their joy for the good harvest were not to forget that they were sinners in God's sight, and hence a kid of the goats and two young lambs were to be offered, to show that His favours were undeserved by them. The thought of their unworthiness would make them more grateful.



## HARVEST HOME.

**H**UNDREDS of years ago, once a year, throngs of people might have been seen on their way to Jerusalem, carrying in their arms great boughs of trees; while near the city, under its walls, and about its gates, were a number of leafy huts, from which happy people were passing in and out.

temple only, but in tents, or booths made of the branches of trees set up in the fields, in the streets, in the courts, and about their houses, and in other places. The feast was to last seven days, the people living in tents all that time.

This was to remind the Jews of the years which brought no harvest to their fathers, when they lived in the



What did all this mean? It was the Feast of Tabernacles. God commanded the Jews to hold this festival, as soon as they had gathered the wheat fully grown and ripened, and the stores of grapes also ripe and sweet. They were told to keep it not indoors, not in the

in the wilderness, and vine-dressers and olive-dressers had no work to do that when they thought of this, their hearts might be filled with gratitude to God who fed His people in the wilderness, and who is the Giver of every good and perfect gift.



## JUBILEE YEAR.

**Y**OU have often heard a trumpet blown. Trumpets have different sounds. They may be blown for peace or for war; for alarm and danger, or for joy and gladness. To the Jews, the sound of the jubilee trumpet was the best of all. It was sounded only once in fifty years; yet it was waited for,

Freedom was proclaimed to every servant or slave was to be free; debts were to be forgiven; lands and gardens given back in all parts of Canaan to the Jews, the land which God had given to them.

What joy the jubilee brought with it! All the past debts were taken



month by month, day by day, and when at last it sounded, it was heard with great joy. Why? Because it brought with it good news for servants, slaves, captives, and poor people.

The year of jubilee was God's gift: a whole year's holiday from work, which God Himself gave, to be spent in praise, and thanksgiving, and holy joy.

away, forgiven, blotted out, by God's own command.

And will God deal the same with our souls? Is there not a time of jubilee for sinners? Will not Jesus set us free? When? Must we wait fifty years? Oh no! Jesus is ready now to set us free. "Behold, now is the accepted time."

## THE TWELVE SPIES.

AS the people of Israel came to the end of the long wilderness many of them were very glad. Before, however, the people went any further, twelve men were chosen at God's command to go into Canaan, and see, and bring back word, what sort of a land it was, what kind of fruit grew there, what cities there were,

They brought some beautiful fruit, which showed what a good land it was. One branch from a vine, especially, was so laden with grapes that it took two men to carry it.

But ten of the spies frightened the people with a long story about giants they saw there, who, they fea



and learn something about the people who dwelt in them.

The twelve men went on their mission; they passed through the land, noticing carefully all they saw as they went along, and at length—after nearly six weeks—came back to the encampment of the Israelites.

would be too strong for them, if they attempted to go to Canaan.

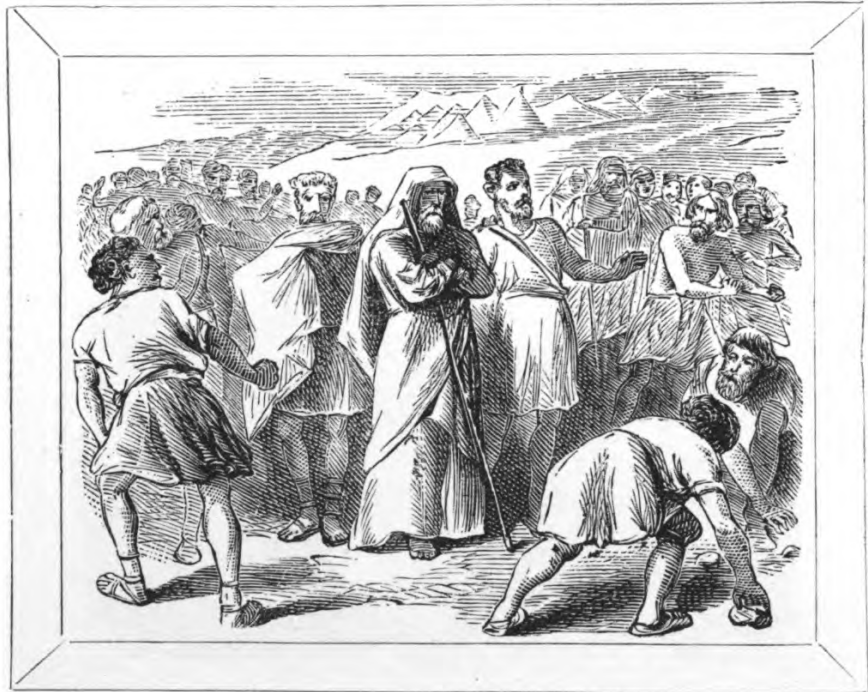
God punished them for this, because it showed they would not trust in Him to bring them there. The ten who were the people who distrusted God, were not allowed to go into the promised land at all.

## THREATENING JOSHUA AND CALEB.

AS we told you, the Israelites were frightened when they heard that there were giants in the land of Canaan, and that the people dwelt in walled cities; and they began to murmur against their leaders, and to wish that they had died in the wilderness. They talked, too, about making another

greater and stronger than all who could be against them. "The Lord is with us," said they: "that should be enough." The people would not listen, but wanted to have them stoned.

Suddenly a bright light shone from the midst of the cloud that



captain. Moses and Aaron fell on their faces, and began to intercede with God for them.

While they were praying, Joshua and Caleb, the two faithful ones of those who had searched the land, begged of the people not to rebel against God, and not to be afraid, for God, who was with them, was

abode upon the Tabernacle. God manifested His presence to be felt; He decided the matter.

The people did not trust in God's love: hence they were fretful and unhappy. They did not trust in God's wisdom, and chose their own way. This kept them out of Canaan. Unbelief shuts many out of heaven.

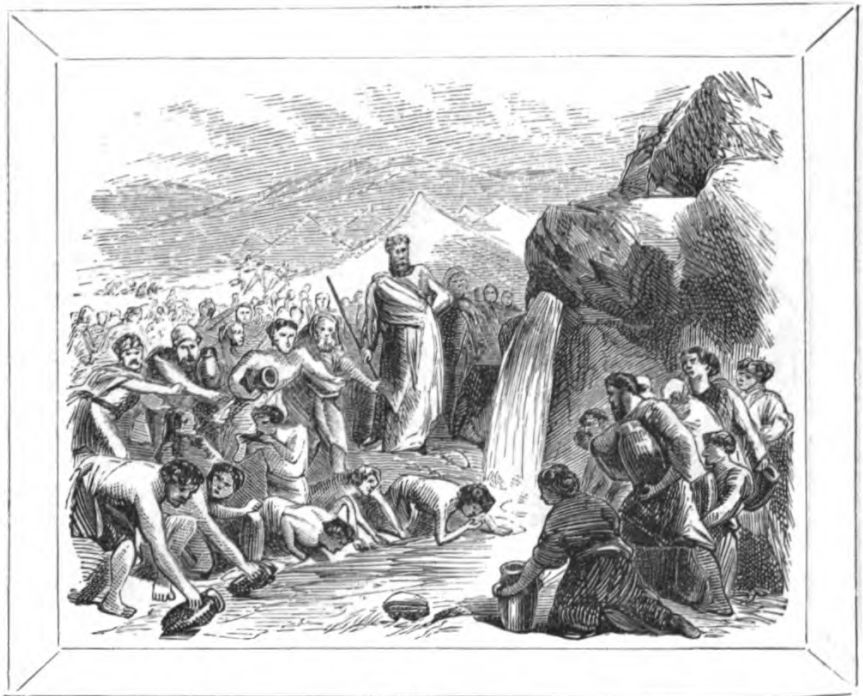
## THE SMITTEN ROCK.

**S**TILL in the wilderness, without a home! Yes: but why? Disobedience had caused it all.

Moses and Aaron are very weary with the trouble and sadness of the long journey through the desert. But now a new difficulty arises! The fountains of water, which they expected to find

rock, and cool water should flow. But they *smote* twice, angrily, striking proudly and harshly to the people. They seemed to forget that it was God's power which brought water from the rock.

God was angry with them for claiming the power which belonged



in the place where they now rested, are dried up.

The people complain bitterly as though it were Moses' fault.

God pitied them, although He did not excuse their fault: and He bade His servants Moses and Aaron take that wondrous rod of which you have heard before, and *speak* to the

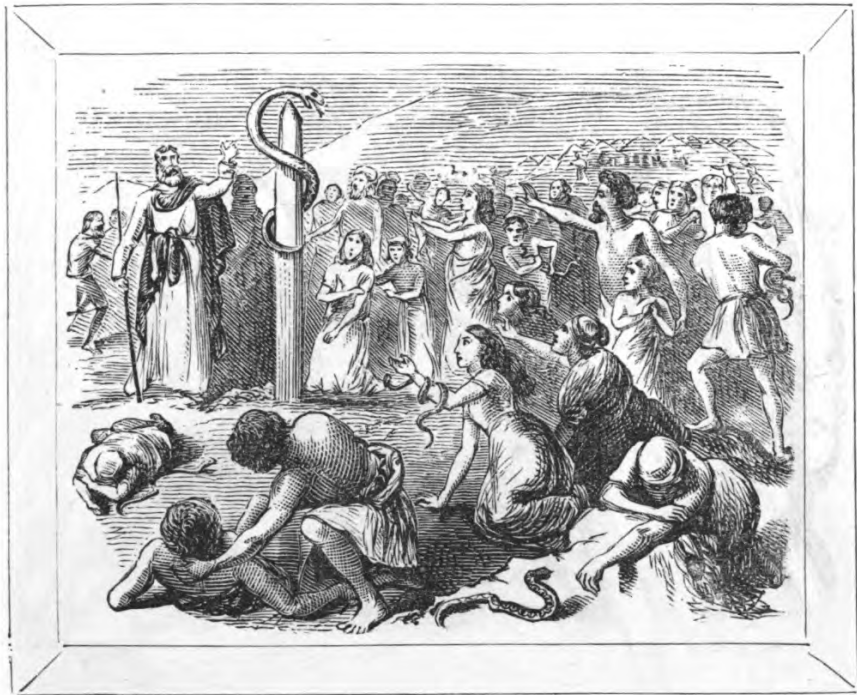
to Him only, and He would not punish over the sin of His servants. Because Moses and Aaron not only spoke angrily, but seemed to think more of themselves than God, they were told *they* should not enter the promised land. God is just. Let us fear to offend Him. He is not offended when we sin.



## THE BRAZEN SERPENT.

THE Israelites had been wandering for nearly forty years in the desert. Bread from heaven had been given them daily, and they had not been suffered to lack water for thirst. But they were discontented, grew tired of the bread; and as they were in a dry, burnt-up part of the desert, they said the water would

young nor old could escape their bite and the people could find no cure for it: and it seemed as if all the people must be destroyed. No wonder then they came to Moses and asked Him to pray to the Lord for help; but He did not at once take away the serpents. He told Moses to make a serpent of brazen



fail. They grew very impatient and ungrateful.

The Lord God heard their murmurs—as He knows and hears everyone's murmurs now—and sent fiery serpents, whose bite or sting made the flesh hot and burn like fire. These serpents came among the people, glided into the tents; and many died. Neither

the same shape and colour as the living ones, and put it on a high pole; and then whosoever looked upon it should be saved from death.

Depend upon it, hundreds looked and quickly, too. All who looked, lived. Sin, like a serpent, has bitten us, and we shall perish unless we look and trust in Jesus.

## BALAAK REPROVED BY AN ASS.

**B**ALAK, King of Moab, was terrified at the progress God's people were making; but he did not feel strong enough to oppose them by arms, so he thought he might do it in another way. He hired Balaam to curse the Israelites. Balak was foolish enough to think that then God would forsake them.

God was displeased at Balaam's conduct, and to show His power, caused the ass to rebuke the madness and cruelty of the wicked prophet, trying to urge it forward, though an angel stood in the way to prevent progress.

Balaam now saw that God was against him; but though he felt he



At first Balaam said he would not do what Balak wished; but at last, when larger rewards were offered by the king, he was willing to do as desired.

Early one morning he set forward upon his ass. An ass in those countries was a noble and highly-valued animal, only used by great people.

sinned, he did not repent, and was unwilling to go back if *ordered* to do so.

Many only wish to leave off their sins when they have no power to commit them. Balaam blessed Israel—in his heart he desired to curse them; but God would not allow him to do so.

## CITIES OF REFUGE.

**B**EFORE God's people entered the promised land, they were told to build six cities of Refuge—three on each side of the River Jordan, so that there should be a refuge within half a day's journey of every part of the land.

The roads to these cities, we are told,

death of their kindred by taking life of the manslayer.

See, in our picture, the man pursued. He has fled towards nearest refuge city. He found the way clearly pointed out at every turning. How he rejoices and hastens onward! Now he is close to the city, and



were wider than usual, and always kept in good order; and the word "refuge" was written at the different turnings where there would be any doubt which way to take.

These cities were appointed for any who by accident caused the death of another. It was considered to be the duty of near relatives to avenge the

soon enter it and be safe. How thankful he must be!

The man running for his life would not stop to pick up flowers or pebbles. No; he would not rest until he reached the city.

Oh, that all who have sinned against God were as eager to flee for refuge to Jesus!



## THE DEATH OF MOSES.

**M**OSESES was a very good man. God made him good. You remember about his being put in an ark of bulrushes—found by the king's daughter. How he saw the burning bush. How he did great wonders in Egypt in God's name: led the people through the Red Sea—took them to

end of the land of Canaan to the o—its trees, hills, corn-fields, ci towns, even to the sea. Having h long look at the promised land, w he had once hoped to enter, his v was done.

He died on Mount Nebo, in land of Moab, near Canaan; as



Sinai — struck the rock — and made the serpent of brass.

Now, as he is going up the mountain to die, how the people watch the good old man! Before he died, God showed him the good land, and spoke to him about it. He could see for miles and miles away over Jordan—from one

had told him. God did not let know where He buried His servan

The people all mourned for th days; but their leader was safe happy in heaven.

Many years afterwards, Moses Elias talked with Jesus on a moun in Palestine.



## JOSHUA THE CAPTAIN.

**J**OSHUA was a brave man, but the work he had to do was difficult—to lead the Israelites into Canaan. There was the rolling river Jordan in the valley before them; the mountain wall behind him; the multitudes on the hill-side; the wicked and cruel enemies whom he would have to drive

God told Joshua to read His Word often, to think about it, and obey it, and then he would be prosperous and happy.

Joshua never said, "I can't," for he knew that as long as he obeyed God's command God would be with him to help him.



out of the fair land beyond, into which Joshua must lead the people. Enough to make even Joshua's stout heart to quake. What did God say to him?

"As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee; I will not leave thee, but be near to thee, to give thee wisdom and help, and strength in times of need."

Children often find it hard to do what they ought—to say no to those who would lead them wrong—not to mind when others tease them because they do right. Those who say "I cannot," more often mean they will not. If we are willing and obedient, God will always help us.

## CROSSING THE RIVER JORDAN.

**G**OD, by His servant Joshua, told the Israelites to cross the Jordan. They had three days' notice to get ready. They were told to prepare victuals, for the manna which God had sent them every day would soon cease.

As the passage of the Red Sea proved that God was with Moses, so the

What was to be done? The ark of the covenant went first, with a sign of God's presence resting upon it. It was carried on poles. The moment the priests' feet touched the water, the current stopped.

How kind God was! He told the priests who bare the ark to stand



passage of the Jordan showed that God was also with Joshua.

It was the time of year when Jordan overflowed all its banks, so that the river was very deep just now, nearly a quarter of a mile wide. The current, too, was very swift, and beyond a man's depth; and there were no bridges nor boats.

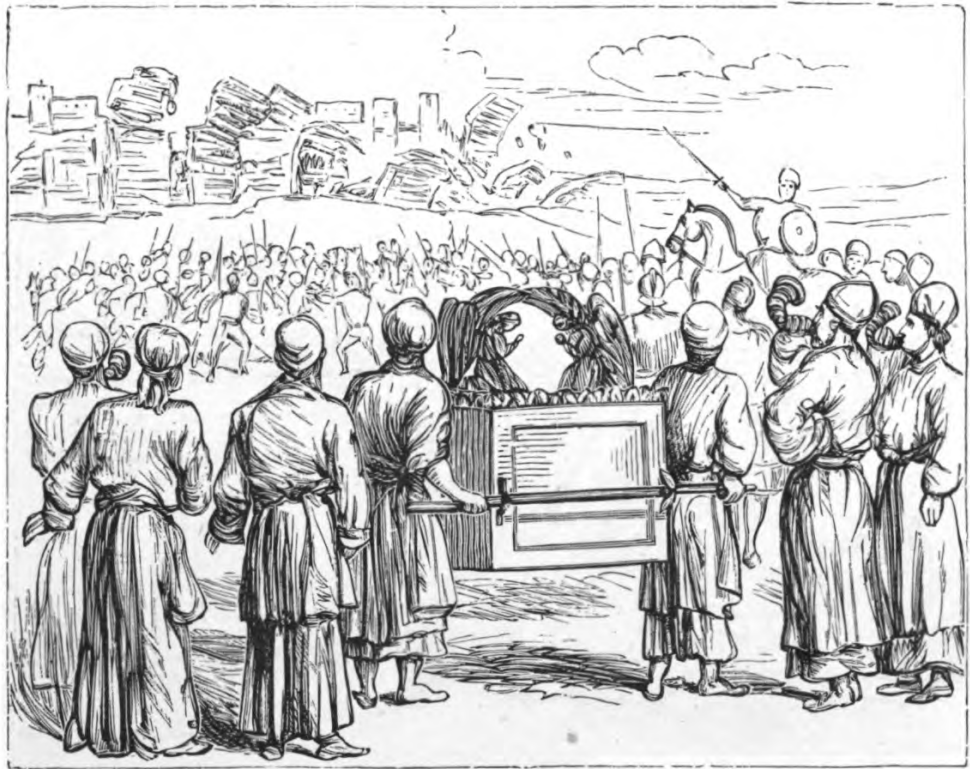
in the midst of the Jordan till all were over the river, that the people might not be afraid to cross; and so they went secure of God's protection.

God is always the same to all people. He leads those who put their trust in His word. And He will do whatever trouble comes upon them, children, He will be with them.

## SHOUTING DOWN A CITY.

THE Israelites had crossed the river, and were about to march through the land which God had given them ; but the great and strong city of Jericho was right in their way. Could they cast down the strong walls and pass on? Surely not. An earthquake might do it, or mighty battering rams ;

ing silently, the trumpets being carried before the ark. The Israelites did not know the secret and wondered ; the men of Jericho laughed. On the seventh day, they marched round seven times, when the command was given. Shout! With a crash, the walls fell inwards all round the city. A way was



but the Israelites had no power in their arms or weapons for such a task. He, however, who had stayed the waters of the rolling Jordan, could throw down the walls and towers of great Jericho.

Yet the Israelites had to do something. For six days they marched round the city—the armed men tramp-

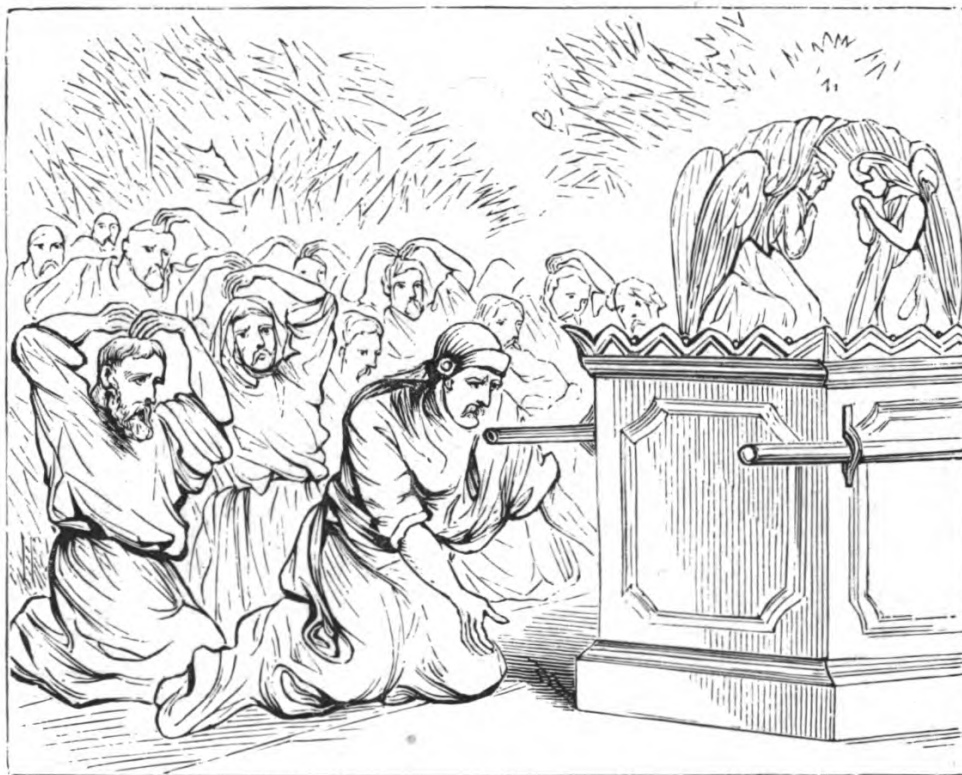
made for the Israelites to go forward. They climbed the ruins ; the city was theirs! How mighty is God, to work His will by any means, or by none.

The Canaanites were probably the most wicked people that ever lived, and it was in this way that God punished them.

## ACHAN'S SIN: WHAT IT DID.

**A**FTER the city of Jericho was taken, Joshua sent men to look about the mountainous parts of the country. They returned with the report that three thousand men might capture the city of Ai; but they could not. Joshua felt something must be wrong, and so he and the elders of

take nothing for themselves from the ruins. One of them took a portion of the spoil, and hid it in his tent. He knew who it was, but said He would not help Israel until they had found out who had done it. Search was made for the guilty man, and Achan was found out. Joshua begged



Israel went and humbled themselves before God. God told Joshua that some one had forgotten that God sees all things; had been foolish enough to covet fine clothes and a little money; and taken for himself what God had forbidden.

The people of Israel were told to

to tell all the truth. He confessed but he was stoned to death with his family.

Nobody will know, thought Achan, and so some say. Remember, God sees and knows when we do wrong. He hates sin, and will surely punish it.



## READING THE LAW.

IN a lovely valley between two rocky hills, clothed with summer beauty, two great companies gathered, full in each other's sight, half on one hill-side and half on the other hill-side. In the midst of one of the companies stood a brave-looking man, dressed in the

and by the people who were standing on the opposite hill-side.

Why did he read these blessings and cursings? Perhaps it was the people, in their joy at having defeated their enemies, should thank themselves grand and strong, and



garb of a captain, with a number of men in white robes around him. There was an altar made of stone near him, on the side of which there was some writing; it was a copy of the law. A great hush came over the people as he began to read, so loud that he could be heard right down the valley

and get that all their greatness and happiness must come from obeying God.

Not only the men and women of the congregation of Israel were called to listen, but the "little ones" and servants.

The commandments of God must be observed by all, even by little children.

## A PROMISE MADE.

**J**OSHUA, the Captain of God's people Israel, had grown very old in his master's service, and was expecting soon to take a journey to "the better land," so he called all the people together for the last time, and spoke to them very solemnly about their duty to God.

children. *God was there too;* and in His presence, after Joshua had reminded them of the great things God had done for them, the people made this solemn promise—**THE LORD OUR GOD WILL WE SERVE, AND HIS VOICE WILL WE OBEY.**

Joshua then wrote down all the



The place where they met was the valley of Shechem, which, with its splendid oak trees, under which the patriarch Abraham had taken shelter years before, always looked beautiful.

It must have been a wonderful sight to see so many hundreds standing around the good old man—fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, even little

had passed, and in memory of that event, set up a stone under an oak

Whenever the people saw that stone he said it should remind them and their children of the promise they had made to serve and obey the one living and true God. How many things there are around you to remind you of your duty to God!

## A PROMISE BROKEN.

**A**FTER Joshua's death, Judges were raised up to be the rulers of the Israelites, and there was a long period of quietness and prosperity, and the Jews were very careful to live as God's people should. But at last, in several parts of the country, they forgot God's presence and their own promise, and disobeyed God's

war in the gates." God noticed this sin, and punished it, by allowing the nations who lived near them to rob them of their corn and fruit, their sheep and oxen, and to put many of them to death.

If we do wrong, we are sure to suffer for it, sooner or later. God's command is, Thou shalt worship t



command, and worshipped and served idol-gods as the Canaanites did.

They had not truly repented, for they repeated the sin of which so many of them were guilty in the days of Joshua, and so their troubles increased. God's Word says—  
"Israel chose new gods, then was

Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve. If we put anything in the place of God, if we love other things more than we love Him, we sin; and like the Israelites, who worshipped Baal and Ashtoreth, are guilty in God's sight. "Little children, keep yourselves from idols."



## GIDEON, THE FARMER SOLDIER.

**F**OR seven years it seemed as if God had left the Israelites to themselves. One thing is certain, for a long time they did not seek help from God, and tried to get themselves out of their trouble by means of the Canaanitish gods. When they prayed to God for help, it came in a way they did not expect.

not now deliver them; besides, himself said his family was poor, and he was the least in his father's house, and could do but little. God said He would give him power and strength.

Gideon then asked for a sign, and the angel burnt up the food, which had been prepared for him; and so proved his power. The same night



One day, an angel came and sat under an oak. Near him was a brave young man named Gideon, busy beating out the corn, to hide it from his enemies. The angel said to him, **THE LORD IS WITH THEE.** Gideon did not think so—he thought that God had forsaken them, and would

Gideon, at God's command, threw down the idol of Baal, and cut down the grove of trees, and an altar to the Lord was set up in its place.

What God tells us to do He enables us to do. God gives even the youngest of us something to do. It is a present help in trouble.



## THE DEW AND THE FLEECE.

**W**HEN Gideon had destroyed Baal's altar, he prepared to go against the Midianites. He blew a trumpet; and many people came to help him. The enemies of Gideon and of God also gathered together: a very great army. Gideon put up a prayer to God. He wished to be quite sure before he went forth to

with dew, while the ground is dry. It was so; the next morning a bowl of water was wrung out of the wool while on the ground there was not a drop.

Well, was it really God who gave this sign? Let it be the other way. The wool all dry, and the ground covered with dew. God



battle, that God had really sent him; for he felt himself to be so young, inexperienced, and unworthy.

It is always better to think little, than too much, of ourselves. Gideon asked for a sign, to be given at his own threshing floor, with the fleece of a sheep. Let the wool be wet

it be so. Then Gideon was quite sure.

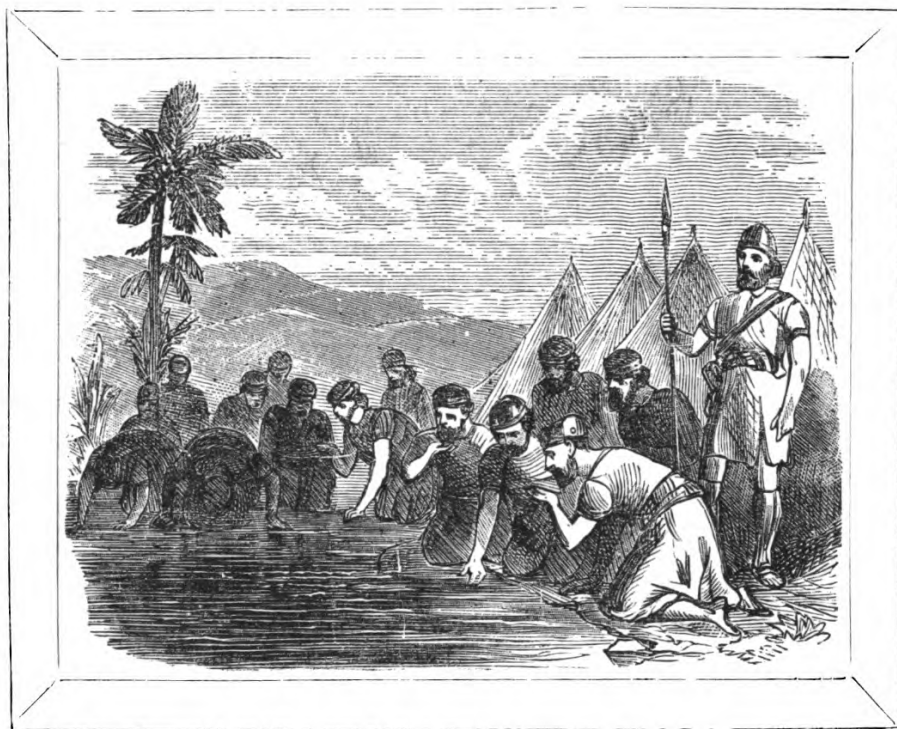
These wonders were done to show how God cared for Israel. He is the God who answers prayer. Gideon had what he asked. We are not to seek for such wonders now, but God hears our prayers for what we really need.

## CHOOSING AN ARMY.

**G**IDEON, having been shown by God who should go for Him against the enemy of His people, ordered the trumpets to be blown, and sent messengers to gather an army; and soon thousands came together. But though their enemies were very many thousands more, God said that Gideon had "too many" soldiers to

hundred did this—were sent home. The three hundred who were left were brave and ready men, and better than all, God was on their side.

God told him to take his servant Phurah with him and go down to the camp of the Midianites, and hear what they were talking about. He listened, and one man was telling another the



help him. So any who were "fearful and afraid" were told to return home; and twenty-two thousand went back. But yet God said there were "too many," for He meant to save Israel by a few only. The best men were chosen in this way: all who knelt down to drink—nine thousand seven

he had dreamed that a cake of barley bread had tumbled into a tent in Midian and overturned it. His companion said, Then God has delivered Midian into the hands of Gideon. God meant to show him that he need not fear to go against his enemies with so few men.

## A WONDERFUL DELIVERANCE.

**I**T was night; the Midianitish army was asleep, Gideon and the Israelites were awake, watchful, ready to march. What are they doing? Every man has an earthen pitcher, a torch of wood ready to light, and a trumpet.

Very silently the three hundred

torches, set their trumpets to their mouths, and blow a long blast. The sudden flame and crash and trumpet sound terrify the heathen with terror: they rush to their tents, supposing that thousands upon thousands are upon them; they are in the dark, mistaking friends for enemies, and they strike one another down,



march down the hill to the tents of the enemy: a hundred behind, a hundred to the right, a hundred to the left. Every man carries his lighted torch, in an earthen pitcher, hiding it as in a dark lantern. When all is ready, the soldiers clash their pitchers together, letting the fragments fall, raise high the flaming

torches, and many lie dead upon the plain, while the rest rush out of the camp for safety. Gideon and his soldiers follow them, and the victory is won.

It was God who made the three hundred so mighty, who put so wonderful a plan into Gideon's mind; who caused the heathen to flee.

## A STRONG MAN.

**S**AMSON was raised up to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines, who troubled God's people very much. Samson was strong, fearless, temperate, bright and cheerful. His name means sunny. He was just the man for the work he was called to. In the Bible we read of many wonderful things he

broke their cords as if they were to. He also slew a thousand of God's enemies with the jawbone of an ass. Some persons tried to get hold of him at Gaza to kill him; but he got up at midnight and took the doors of the gate of the city, and went away with the posts, bar and all, and carried them



did, and how, in many ways, God blessed him.

One day, he went to see his parents at Timnath. On his way, a young lion roared against him, and Samson rent it as if it had been a weak little lamb. To try his strength, the men of Judah bound him with two new cords, and he

his shoulders up to the top of a distant hill.

But, like many others, Samson grew proud of his deeds of strength and spoke as if it was his own achievement that had gained the victory. He was punished for not giving the honour to God.



## SAMSON IN PRISON.

CAN this be the man who once rent the lion with his own hands, and carried the city gates up the distant hill? Why, he is in prison! blind too, and wearily turning a heavy millstone, hour after hour, while a cruel jailer mocks his sorrow, and makes him work faster and faster.

How is this? The secret is, he became wilful and did many things to show off his own strength and to please others, without thinking whether he should please God. So God left him to himself, to show him that he could not do without His help.

A wicked woman artfully persuaded Samson to tell her the secret of his strength. He did, and she cut off his hair while he was asleep, and then told the Philistines, God's enemies;

and they laid hold of him, and put his eyes out, and cast him in prison.

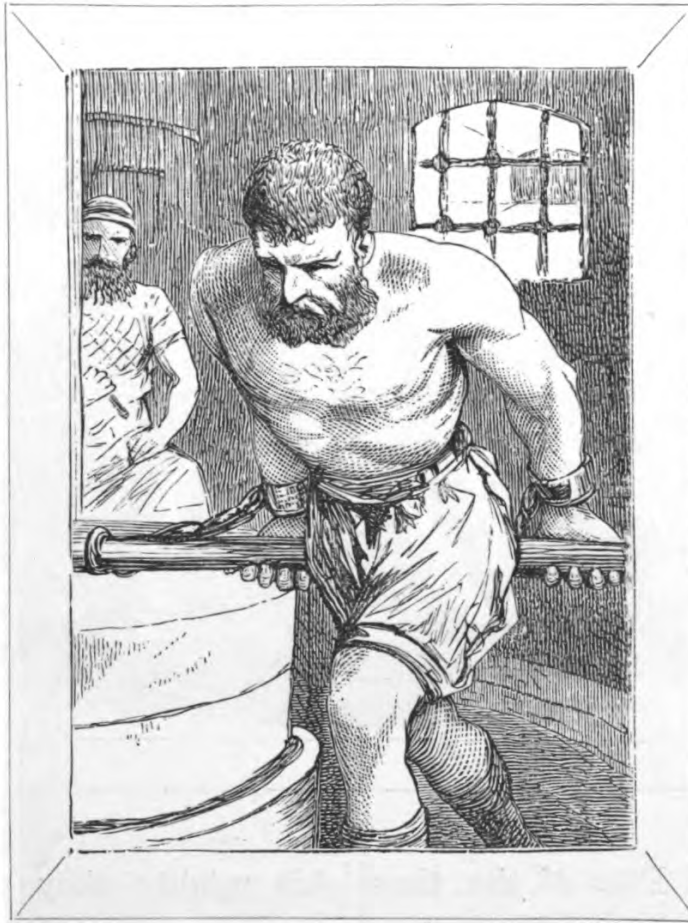
Our own way often turns out

be the wrong way and so Samson found it; he took his own way, and suffered for it, many others who trust in their own strength. I should have prayed, "Hold Thou me up, and I shall be safe."

However strong we may be, we cannot do without God's strength.

We cannot be as strong as Samson, but we may be strong to do right, to conquer temptation and ourselves, and serve God.

The Apostle Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." So can we, if we love and serve Him.



## DEATH OF SAMSON.

**T**HE Philistines worshipped a famous idol called Dagon. It was half like a fish, and half like a man. When these people found that they had been able to bind Samson with fetters of brass, they said that it was their idol that had helped them to do it; and so thousands gathered together to hold a festival in

which supported the house. During the time he was in prison, Samson truly repented of the sin of which he had been guilty, and so he felt that God alone could help him now; and he prayed to Him for strength to overcome his enemies and God's enemies. Then he pushed against the pillars of the house with



honour of Dagon. Part of the time was spent in sport, and Samson was called to make fun for them, that they might laugh at him, and speak against his God—the God of Israel.

When Samson got tired, he was allowed to rest a little. So he asked a lad to lead him close to the pillars

his might: they gave way, and the building fell, crushing three thousand of the Philistines. God will not be mocked. Fear to offend against Him.

God gives us our strength; and the blessing we enjoy comes to us from God. Let us devote all our power to His service.

## NAOMI AND RUTH.

**I**N the days of the Judges of Israel, there was a sad famine in the land, which lasted ten years, and many of the people left the country, and went to live in Moab. Among them was a woman named Naomi, with her husband and two sons.

When the famine ceased, most of

to them, and advised them to remain in Moab, where they would be better off than they might be if they went with her. Ruth begged hard to go with her, but Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, and went back home. Ruth said to Naomi, "Whither thou goest, I will go." Ruth wanted to be with her



the Jews returned to their own land. Naomi also set out to return to her own land. But what a change had taken place in her family! Her husband and her two sons were dead!

Her son's wives, Orpah and Ruth, were still alive; but Moab was their home, and Naomi, when she was leaving for her own land, spoke kindly

always, as long as she lived, for she not only loved Naomi, but she loved Naomi's God.

Naomi said she might go with her. Ruth loved the company of those who feared God, and was glad to leave her country where the people worshipped idols. Do you prefer the company of God's people?

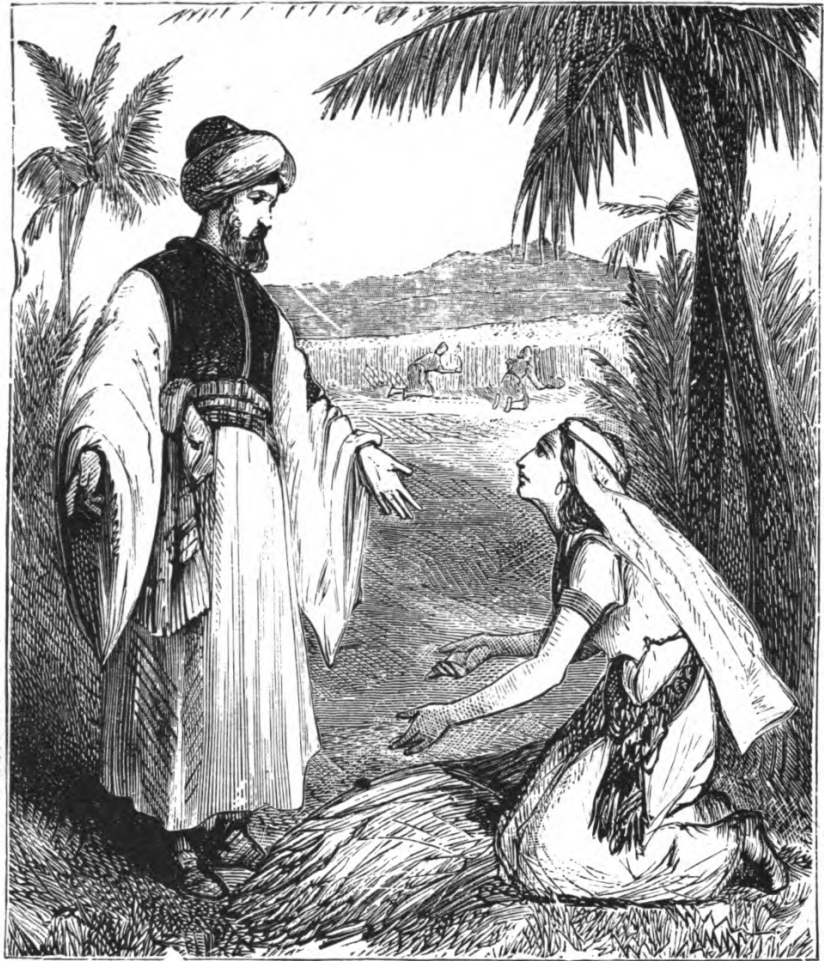
## RUTH GLEANING.

ONE day Ruth went into the field of the farmer Boaz to glean, to pick up the ears of corn which the reapers had dropped. Boaz saw her, and asked his men who she was. They told him that she had come from Moab with Naomi.

Boaz spoke to Ruth, and told her she might glean in his fields when she pleased; and he would not allow his men to hinder her. Ruth was glad, and bowed herself before Boaz. Boaz told her he had heard of her, and how she had left her own land to seek and to serve the true God.

At mealtime, perhaps in the middle of the day, Boaz invited her to have

some of the bread, which had provided for the reapers. Ruth sat beside the men and women who were cutting down and tying up the corn, and Boaz handed her some baked



for which she was thankful.

After she was gone, the farmer Boaz told the men to drop some handfuls of grain for her purpose. He showed her a kind of kindness. She beat the grain, and what she gleaned, she was near a bushel, she took it to Naomi, who she loved much.

God was with Ruth.

He is with all that fear Him, and poor need God's help. Those who seek Him, He blesses and makes happy.

“BLESSED IS EVERY ONE THAT FEARETH THE LORD; THAT WALKETH IN HIS WAYS.”—Psalm cxxviii. 1.



## A PRAYING MOTHER.

**A**FTER the death of Samson, Eli became the judge of the Israelitish nation. He was also the high priest.

One day as Eli sat in the tabernacle he saw a woman come and kneel down. Her lips moved, but she spoke so softly, that no one but God could hear what

others: that woman was Hannah, wife of Elkanah, who lived at Ram and who went up to Shiloh every year to sacrifice unto the Lord.

God did grant her request, and called her son "Samuel," which means "heard of God." God always hears sincere prayer.



she said. Eli said she was tipsy; but she was not: she was praying to the Lord, and asking Him for a great gift, a little boy of her own, making a solemn promise to God, that if He would hear and answer her prayer, she would give back her son to Him to serve in the tabernacle all the days of his life.

We should not be in a hurry to judge

How thankful should we be though others may mistake us and motives, God knows all, and will judge us rightly.

It is not so much what we look like as what we *are*. Some children look very good, but if you knew their hearts better or at home you would find them far otherwise.

## LENT TO THE LORD.

**H**OW glad Hannah was! how she thanked God when her little son was born! Every time she nursed little Samuel she loved him greatly.

But Hannah loved God more than she did her son. When Samuel was yet young, she took him with her to the house of God—the tabernacle. She showed him to Eli, the priest, and she

After his mother was gone, Samuel was dressed in white linen, and he went with Eli in the services and worship of God. But did Samuel ever see his mother again?

Though they were parted, they did not forget each other. Oh, how Hannah made a new coat and brought it to Samuel every year.



said she would lend him to the Lord as she had promised. For how long? A week, a month, a year? No; for as long as he lived. What did she mean? That she would leave her little son with Eli, to be taught by him to be a prophet—a servant of the Lord God.

What happy meetings they have had since that time! How many have been, for Hannah and her son only saw each other, but met to worship God together. They both loved God above all things, and more than any body else.

## SAMUEL CALLED BY GOD.

ONE night Eli and Samuel lay down as usual to sleep in some part of the building where God was worshipped. The lamp was still burning, for it was not yet daylight. Both Eli and Samuel were asleep. Some one waked Samuel: it was a voice that sounded in his ear, calling him by name, "Samuel." He opened his eyes, sat up, and said,

the voice spoke quite plainly again, "Samuel."

And Samuel arose from his bed quickly, and went to the aged priest, he lay on his bed. Here am I, ready to do anything you want; for thou didst call me: I heard the name plainly, no one else is near; it must be your voice.



"Here am I." But he could see no one; so he jumped up, and ran to Eli, who, as he thought, had called him. But Eli told him to lie down again.

Samuel felt sure some one had called him, but he lay down again, perhaps wondering who it could be. As he lay,

No, Samuel; it is a greater and a better friend than Eli. It is God who has spoken. Eli told him so. At last Samuel waited for God's own voice. He heard his own name called. Notice his answer, "Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth."

## SAMUEL AND ELI.

**S**AMUEL was about twelve years old. His work consisted in such duties as opening the gates in the morning, lighting and trimming the lamps, carrying messages for priests and Levites, and waiting upon the high-priest Eli.

You remember how God appeared to Samuel. Oh, what a word it was

have done, so God's message is sent by a boy. Eli was a good man but he let his sons have their own way, although God had told him what would be the consequence. He proved, but he did not punish. Now God was about to punish the high-priest Himself, and he would accept no sacrifice for the sin of Eli or his children.



God had to tell him. It was that Shiloh, where God's house had stood for three hundred years, was to be destroyed! Every one would wonder and fear when it took place. God had told Eli of this before, but Eli had not paid the attention he should

Samuel did not quite like to have tell Eli all this; it troubled him very much. Eli saw something was wrong, and asked Samuel what it was. God had said to him. Samuel told him everything; he hid nothing from him.

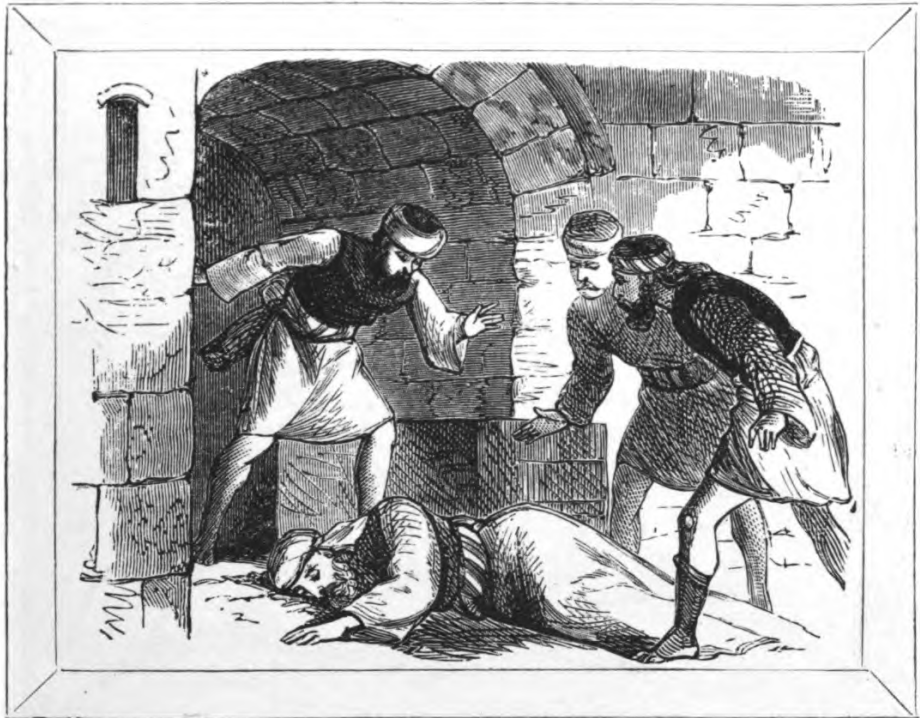


## DEATH OF ELI.

**T**HE people of Israel could call the land their own; for God had said it should be theirs. But when they went into Canaan, they had to defend themselves against the Philistines, who fought against them. Many terrible battles took place in the days of Samuel. Two sons of Eli were with Samuel in

with them, God would also go with them, and they would get the victory. Eli's sons went with it. It pleased the soldiers, and they shouted as if God were on their side. But they had no right to expect God's blessing, for they had done what He had forbidden.

Eli, the high priest, sat upon a seat



the tabernacle at Shiloh; but though they had the care of the ark of God, they did not do as God commanded them.

One day the people and elders sent to Shiloh to fetch the ark, to take it with them to a great battle. They thought that if they carried the ark

near the road. He was now ninety-eight years old. He was afraid that God was not with the people, afraid that trouble was near, and that the ark might be taken by the enemy. It was taken.

Eli was told the sad news. He could hear no more, but fell down and died.

## THE FALL OF THE IDOL DAGON.

**I**T was a gloomy day for the children of Israel when the ark of God fell into the hands of their enemies. The Philistines at first were victorious, but their triumph was very short. They had defeated the Hebrews, but they had not defeated the God of the Hebrews. A Power which they could not see soon

smitten again, and in the early morning they found it upon the threshold, in a worse condition than it was before. It was lying on its face on the ground before the ark of the Lord; its knees and both the palms of its hands were broken. Only the stump—the fishy tail—of Dagon was left.



showed them the folly of worshipping idols.

They had put the ark in the house of their god. The next morning they found their idol lying flat on its face, in front of the ark. It had been smitten by an unseen Hand. They set it up in its place again; but in the night it was

The people of Ashdod were aghast when they saw what had befallen their idol; and they were soon glad to get rid of the ark, which was bringing disaster upon them.

God will not be mocked. His word says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me."

## THE ARK SENT BACK.

THE ark of God was carried by the Philistines from place to place; but the sufferings inflicted on the people, and the destruction it brought to their property, made it an object of dread wherever it was taken. At last, the Philistines felt that they must restore the ark to

it was the God of the Hebrews had smitten the Philistines.

Great was the surprise of the Hebrew reapers in the valley of Bethshemesh when they saw a procession halting on the neighbouring hills, with a cattle-drawn cart, unguided and alone, was coming down the steep descent



God's people; they would not take it to them, it must be allowed to go away alone. They tied two cows to a new cart which they had made, and they laid the ark upon the cart.

The cows were then let go without any one to guide them; if they went towards Bethshemesh, then the Philistines said they would acknowledge that

Listen to the shouting of the Hebrews—"The Ark! the Ark of God!" The cart draws nearer, entering a plot by the roadside and stops. The Levites lift the ark from the cart, then break up the cart, and offer the pile of wood upon a large stone, and offer the cattle in sacrifice to God.

## THE EBENEZER STONE.

**T**HE Israelites were spending a day in humiliation and prayer before the Lord at a place called Mizpeh. They were truly sorry for their sins: and on that occasion they acknowledged the prophet Samuel as their leader and judge. While they were praying, the cry was heard,

the weapon All-prayer. Samuel offered a lamb in sacrifice, and the people prayed to the Lord for help.

Then He whom Israel sought showed His power. No need yet of the sword and bow. Clouds gathered in the sky more quickly than the Philistines could advance. The light



“The Philistines!” From the hill of the watch-tower, where the Israelites were worshipping, could be seen clouds of dust, the flash of spears, coming quickly along the valley.

Before taking up arms in their defence, the Israelites betook themselves to what John Bunyan calls

nings flashed, thunderbolts fell. Before Israel’s men of war struck a blow, the Philistines fled in fear and confusion.

Samuel raised a memorial stone when the battle was over, and wrote upon it, EBENEZER—“Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.”



## SAUL CHOSEN KING.

THE people of Israel were happier, had they but known it, than any other nation in the world; for God Himself was their King. He gave them laws, and sent them priests and prophets to tell them what to do.

But they were not content with

own heart." But the Israelites wanted a king to please *them*. God let them have their desire.

Here, then, was the very man None like him. A head and shoulder taller than any one else; a strong, brave, frank, free-spoken young man.



this; they wanted to have a king whom they could see, who would live in a palace, who could march to battle, a man like themselves, only grander, stronger, nobler to look upon.

God would have sent a king, as He did, in His own time, "after His

But to be tall, strong, clever, is not everything: and by-and-by this favourite king of theirs led them into sad trouble. How much wiser had the people served God as their King and had no thoughts but how to please Him!

## SAMUEL'S GOOD ADVICE.

**W**HEN Saul had been chosen king, he took Samuel's place as ruler; but Samuel continued to be God's prophet, and therefore he called the people together and gave them some good advice.

He told them that they were wrong in asking for a king, and that they

Samuel told the people not to fear the King of kings, but to obey the Lord, and He would bless them, and their children, and their cattle, and their flocks, too. Remember, said he, that God's power to punish and destroy is still the same. Then, although it was a terrible year when such things did not happen, he asked God to send a thunderstorm



ought to have trusted in the Lord and waited patiently until He saw fit to appoint their ruler.

None of the people could charge Samuel with having done any wrong. Then why did they want a king? Perhaps they were like some children who want a promised gift "now," and have not the patience to wait for it.

and immediately a terrible storm came upon the people, which showed that what Samuel said was true.

Fear the Lord, who is still near to save or to destroy; serve Him—the great King, in truth, with all heart.

"Fear Him, and you will then  
Have nothing else to fear."

## SAUL REJECTED.

**S**AUL began well, but did not continue to do well. He grew self-willed, proud, and despotic; and he disobeyed the Almighty, and in many ways sinned. At length, God could not bear with him any longer.

The Almighty had said that the Amale-

said for God, but they did it really for their own use.

Samuel was sent to meet Saul, and give him a message from God. Before Samuel could say a word to him, Saul said that he had done all that God commanded him. This was untrue



kites, a people who had wickedly fought against Him, must be destroyed, and He told Saul to destroy them; but neither Saul nor his soldiers were to keep anything belonging to the Amalekites for themselves.

The people, and Saul with them, however, destroyed only what was worth little and kept the best; they

But the sheep began to bleat, and Saul was found out.

Samuel told Saul that because he had lived only to please himself, and not the people, instead of pleasing God, he was to be king no more. God had called him off; and Samuel, though he loved him, could not save him from ruin.

“Be sure your sin will find you out”

## DAVID ANOINTED KING.

**H**UNDREDS of years before Jesus was born, the great prophet Samuel was seen entering the pleasant village of Bethlehem, a heifer being driven before him.

Saul, having disobeyed God so often, was soon to be no longer king, and Samuel had been sent to find a man who would be a good king.

One by one the prophet saw them strong, handsome, noble-looking; not one of them was the chosen.

Are there any others? "Oh yes, —the youngest; his name is David: we do not think very much of him. Where is he?" "Somewhere in the fields with the sheep." He must come. Here is the choice of God. V



His errand was chiefly to one house, where lived a man named Jesse (Ruth's grandson: you have heard of Ruth). God had told Samuel that one of Jesse's sons was to be the king of Israel. But which? Jesse had eight. Seven of them were gathered into the house.

would have thought of looking for a king in the sheepfold? Yet it was a good preparation.

Good David, whose Psalms have so often been sung:  
At first was not noble nor grand:  
He was only a shepherd-boy when he was young,  
Though afterwards king of the land.



## THE GIANT CONQUERED.

**T**HOUGH David was to be king of the land, it was not yet; so that he still kept his father's sheep. He delivered the poor lambs out of the mouths of the wild beasts. One day he killed a lion and a bear; but he knew quite well who had helped him; not any of his brothers, but the Lord God alone.

body, and made them all run. David saw the strong man, and asked about him, and said at last that he was not afraid to fight with him. God helped him twice—with the lion and the bear; and he was certain that God would help him yet again. He fought and killed the giant.



At another time, he was sent by his father to his brothers, who had gone with other soldiers to fight for king Saul against the Philistines, who were enemies to the people and to God. While speaking to some of the soldiers, a great giant came forth, and frightened every-

The giant came to meet David, with a sword, a spear, and a shield to keep off the blows. David had only a sling and a few stones; but went in the name of the Lord. When the giant lay dead at his feet, David gave God the praise.

## THE UNGRATEFUL KING.

**K**ING Saul set David over the men of war because of his courage and bravery in killing the Philistine. Every one admired the brave young man who had risked his life for his country.

After the battle with the Philistines was over, the soldiers marched back with joy, and were met by women with

Well, did not all this hurt David making him proud? Oh no, he behaved himself wisely in a very difficult position. God kept him humble, and in his heart he gave Him the praise.

King Saul one day had David to play on his harp before him; but while his thoughts were in the king's mind,



music, and singing, and dancing. They were all so glad that the giant and their enemies had been slain or driven away! But all this made the king angry: and he began to envy, fear, and hate young David. He feared that as the people loved him so much, David would be made king in his stead.

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he tried to kill David. How mean, ungrateful! More than once this was done. But David escaped.

We are only safe when God keeps with us. It was so with David. The Lord was with him in all his troubles, and delivered him from all his fears. The same help may be ours.

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