

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

To provide Bible based, true reading material for children and youth.

Year 2 - 2nd Quarter - Issue #13

HISTORY

Showdown in Siberia

"You must prove what you say!" The fierce Kirghiz tribal leader glared around the room at each of us. "One of our priests of the skin offerings tells us that you are liars and deceivers, and that you cannot prove that the day to worship your God is Sunday. If you cannot prove this, then we will certainly kill you, for we want no white man's deception in this place!" With that, he whirled and left our little church.

A chill of terror swept through the little room. The Kirghiz were indeed much to be feared. These Mongolian tribesmen had the grisly habit of tanning the flesh of human beings. Whenever they were angered or did not receive justice, they would skin their victims, tan the skins, and make what they called "worthwhile items" out of them. The minister ran out of the church after the chief. "It will take a few days, but we will find you the text," he shouted. We would be given three days.

Exiles, we had no way of escape in the frozen wastes of Siberia. The only method of transportation that we had were a few ponies that were still in a semi-wild state, having just recently been captured. However, we were not yet totally discouraged, for we thought that we knew what we believed. The minister summoned us all to our little adobe church. The Bibles that we had were given to each person who could read and understand what we were looking for—a Scripture that said to keep Sunday, the first day of the week, holy. It must be there. We believed it as Christians, and we knew that there

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must be a text to prove our belief. It was now up to us to find it.

Those who could began searching the Scriptures; those who could not knelt in prayer that we would be successful. Long hours of Scripture study and prayer failed to give us the text we so desperately needed. Much to our amazement, however, we did find many Scriptures that pointed to the seventh day as God's holy Sabbath. Nowhere, in Scripture, could we find that the Sabbath had been changed to another day!

There were 21 families in our exile colony—more than 100 people. The first two years of our exile were extremely difficult. Many people starved to death, and the horrible cold winters took their toll of life. Only the most hardy were able to survive. But our living God heard the cries of His exiles, just as He had in ages past. He was a comforting Presence in the vast wastes of Siberia, and we never felt abandoned or without hope.

We were only a group of Christians with the simple desire to worship the God of our choice, in the manner that we felt was correct. For this we found ourselves deep in the heart of Siberia, with only the wild animals and a few Kirghiz tribesmen surrounding us. The natives with

whom we had become acquainted were kind to us; but, for a long time, the language barrier between was great. They could not speak our language, and we could make no sense from their Turkic language. Time and practice were all that we needed, however, it was about two years before we really became proficient with their language.

Then that our pastor called the elders of our church together and proposed a missionary plan for these people. The pastor felt sure that God must have had a reason for allowing us to be banished to this barren wasteland, and we were reminded that God's Word never returns to Him void. We were urged to teach these Siberian natives of the living God and His dear Son who had given His life as a ransom for all men. They had interest in our way of life, as many times the Kirghiz had expressed their dissatisfaction with their terrible pattern of existence.

They could not read or write, but the Spirit of God works on all hearts. For weeks our elders, sometimes accompanied by their wives, went to the Kirghiz village to teach them of God and the Christian way of life. After several months, the Kirghiz began to come to our little adobe church.

It was at this point that we really began to introduce them to the three main points of doctrine that we, as a mixed group of different denominations, held in common.

The first point was that there was indeed a living God who cared personally for each one of the Kirghiz. The second point was that there was a Word of God, rather like a group of love letters left for all men, to assure them of God's care for them and to remind them of their duties and responsibilities to Him as His subjects. We told them that although this book had been written by men, it was God's Spirit that had moved upon the authors to write the messages. The Bible was our guide to the heavenly land for which we are all looking, where there would be no more cold winters, no more freezing to death, no more starvation or exile.

The third point we showed them was that they should not keep Friday as the day of rest as was their custom from their Mohammedan background. We told them that they should keep the Lord's day holy, which was called Sunday. This was not an easy subject for them to grasp, and we sensed their uneasiness with this doc-

trine from the very first. We also presented many other subjects surrounding these three major doctrines, such as baptism and the second coming of Christ.

It was then, after these natives had worshiped with us for several weeks, that we were visited on that fateful day by three of the Kirghiz tribal leaders, and their spokesman had made the demand that we prove from God's Holy Word that a man must worship Him on Sunday. If we couldn't prove our doctrine, we would certainly be put to death!

Now here we were, huddled together in our little church, unable to justify our beliefs according to the Bible, and with all the evidence pointing to the fact that we were indeed wrong and had been following the dictates of men and not of God. We had no place to escape, and nothing to escape with. Many wept and prayed, for we were certain that the morning dawn would bring our doom. How we longed for the wings of a bird, to be able to flee from our persecutors!

Solemnly our pastor stood and motioned for silence. "My dear Christian brethren, take courage! God will not fail us in this time of trouble! In honesty, we have prayed and searched the Scriptures, and He has rewarded us with a gem of new truth, hidden for centuries! Do not you think that if we are honest with our brothers, the Kirghiz, that our God will soften their hearts to believe? This is what He has sent us here for; and, live or die, we must accomplish His will! Let His truth be known! And trust yourselves to Him! Tomorrow we admit the truth and God will indeed be with us, I am sure!"

We spent the remaining time of our probation in prayer, promising God that if He would hear our cries and let us live, we would do His will as revealed in His Word.

Thursday arrived, perhaps our last day of life. Clouds appropriately veiled the sun as the members of our settlement gathered in the church for a final session of prayer. At noon, the cloud of dust grew thicker as across the steppes came a herd of galloping horses, more than a hundred in all! Brandishing their sharp knives, our native neighbors headed for the church. They knew exactly how many people were in our little colony, and there was one Kirghiz rider for each of us. It was indeed a terrible reminder of what they had in mind! They

surrounded the church, jumped off their horses and stood beside them while the three leaders came inside for our answer to their question.

We had cried our last tears and spoken our last words of comfort to each other, assuring each other that if our appeal failed, we would certainly meet on the resurrection morning. Now we sat silent, at the mercy of these native men and of God.

Our minister arose and met the three men halfway up the narrow aisle. He told them that we had been misled in Europe. We had been taught falsely. We had now read the Word of God through for ourselves several times, and the only Scriptures that we could find identified the seventh day, and not the first, as the Christian Sabbath. True, there were eight mentions of the first day of the week in the New Testament, but not in a single case did we find any suggestion of holiness attached to it.

“We will not resist,” our pastor said. “You may kill us if you wish, but we hope and pray that instead you will join us in worship of the true God on His holy Sabbath.”

Then he stepped back and sat down. The three natives stood, conferring among themselves, then turned and walked out without saying a word in reply. The little door closed. It did not seem like a good omen. We sat in silence for another few moments with God. The quietness was broken only by an occasional sob. We felt as if time pressed down around us and stopped as we waited there.

Suddenly the door opened and the three men entered once again. “Don’t be afraid,” they said. “We will not kill you. We have come back to join you, and we will all worship on the seventh day as your Holy Book prescribes.” Then the chief and spokesman, began to tell us why they had made this request in the beginning.

When the caravan of native priests had arrived at the village for their skin offerings that the natives regularly supplied, the Kirghiz had nothing to give. When they explained that it was because of their friendship with the Christian exiles that they had not taken any skins, the priest asked, “Oh, then you have become Christians?”

“Yes,” the native replied.

“Then you have undoubtedly also given up your keeping of Friday, as you were taught, and begun to keep their Sunday?”

“Yes, we have,” was their reply.

The chief priest drew up to his full height, and a slow smile began to spread over his face. “Fools! Go back and ask your white friends to show you the proof that they are instructed by their God to keep the first day holy! If they cannot do that, then bring me their skins, for they lie!”

The native priests had heard about the Bible before, and some had even studied it. They told the Kirghiz that the Christians would be unable to find such a text and that they would get our skins. The priests told the natives, that, if we were really honest about Christianity, we would be keeping the seventh day holy and not the first.

Now these natives had heard our minister make an honest confession that we had all been misled, and that our Book had indeed pointed to the seventh day as the Sabbath of the Lord. They had to decide that we were honest, even though we were white! They really did want to be Christians; they were tired of such things as skin offerings. Their lives did not improve under the supervision of the heathen priests, while we helped them to advance in many ways and had asked for nothing in return.

After they had finished telling us this story, they said that they wanted to be real Christians and to follow the Bible and its sacred teachings. They returned to their village and told the priests to be on their way, that henceforth they would have no more skin offerings. The following Saturday, on God’s holy Sabbath, our little colony, together with the Kirghiz, worshiped together in our mud-brick church. = ^ .. ^ =

TRUE-STORY-TIME

Story of a Trip

When we are young we sometimes become impatient with the efforts of our parents to teach us the right ways to walk in. Here is the story of some young people who were very glad for the training they had received!

As parents, we try to set good examples for our children. We teach them to honor God and lead fulfilling spiritual lives. However, in troubled times the heaviness of reality weighs upon us and obscures our vision. We wonder what could have gone wrong. We need to remember the words of Solomon in Proverbs 22:6,

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Truer words were never spoken nor so hard to accept.

My oldest son Joshua is the light of my life. As a single mother I support the family and raise him with Christian values. When Joshua entered his teen years, he was a great kid, but he also “wanted to find himself”. We would exchange angry words and at night I would cry myself to sleep. I felt alone, abandoned and not sure where we would end up. I chastised myself for not having more patience and not listening to my son better. Joshua was always respectful to his elders, but Joshua was hurting. The impact of coming out of a dysfunctional environment had left its impression on him. When pushed too far, Joshua would certainly express his opinion. I worried that he would move farther away from the Truth and from me. Still I stayed in the Word and tried to leave him in God’s hands. God’s word would soon be proven.

Joshua and a few of his classmates were chosen to go to England over spring break. It was going to be a wonderful time for all and the kids were so excited. They rallied together to raise funds for the trip. They were at the top of the world. However, from the start I began to have reservations with chaperone that was accompanying them. She was young, inexperienced, insensitive to the kids and rude to the parents. Things didn’t feel right and I felt that the entire group was headed for a perilous journey.

The day of the long journey to England finally arrived and I drove Joshua to the airport. Trepidation filled me as we settled in to wait for the flight. Most of the parents in the group were experiencing the extreme anxiety. They were sending their son or daughter off, some 6,000 miles away for the first time. When we formed a prayer circle to ask for a safe journey the atmosphere filled with tension as the teacher tapped her toe and waited impatiently for the flight to board. After the kids boarded the plane the moms just stood there and sobbed. We formed another prayer circle right there in the airport and prayed for the safety of everyone and the strength of the children to take care of each other. Little did we realize how much this was going to be put to the test.

Immediately upon arrival in London, the tour became disastrous. The little group was not met by anyone and they were stranded in the middle

of Heathrow airport. They had no idea what to do and the teacher merely stood around, wringing her hands and crying. As Joshua later related that he just dug deep down in his spirit and asked God for some directions. It was obvious, he said, that they weren’t going to get any support from the teacher. He and his best friend Sam just took charge and tried to resolve the problem.

They quickly sprang into action. They organized the kids, gathered the luggage and found transportation to their hotel, which ended up being two hours away! The tour was a disaster and each day brought fresh challenges to the group. Unpredictable transportation, getting lost and missed meals all took a toll on the kids. There was no direction or guidance and with no input from the teacher they stood alone. However, Joshua and Sam stood strong and rallied the others to do the same. They encountered other university students who had joined the tour and only wanted to party. These older kids became intoxicated every night, banged on doors in the middle of the night and were completely rowdy at all of the tourist stops, and it was embarrassing and it was a nightmare. At dinner, when the kids sat down to eat, teacher did not take the lead at all in saying grace, but Joshua did. He would look everyone in the eye and say, “So, who is going to say grace tonight?” If no one volunteered then he or Sam would take the lead. Each night they prayed for guidance, wisdom, and most of all a safe return home.

Being a mom, I called several times to see how things were going. Once, when the teacher told me that she didn’t know where the kids were I panicked. I was astounded. What was the going on over there? Who was in charge and why was this happening? I didn’t really need to worry as later Joshua told me that he and Sam were handling things one day at a time and that they were just fine. How sad for such young shoulders to bear that burden. How wonderful that he had been raised with the spiritual values to get him through difficult times!

The kids finally arrived back home and Joshua got off the plane looking worn and ragged. He had just shouldered too much. His friends relayed to me that they were so grateful that Joshua had been strong and that if it hadn’t been for him they didn’t know what they would

have done. He came down the ramp and collapsed into my hug and said, "Oh mom, it's so good to be home!" Later he told me that although the time was stressful he was so glad that he had the spiritual foundation and deep roots to see him through. He said, "And mom, it's all due to you!"

What greater compliment could he pay me? Suddenly, all the pain and anguish that we had experienced together was worth it. Suddenly the words "Train up a child" were crystal clear. Joshua and I were back on solid footing and God indeed had been true to his Word. =^..^=

MISSION STORY

Pauliasi Bunoa: 2

Here we must pause a moment to introduce another young man by the name of Alipati ("Albert") Rainima. He had been won by the preaching of John Cole and was the first Fijian to begin to keep the Sabbath. He was a promising young fellow, and one day delighted John Fulton by saying, "Misi Fulitoni, a man tried to argue with me the other day that sprinkling was enough and that we need not be immersed for baptism. He said when Jesus said, 'Suffer the children to come unto me,' He was actually baptizing them by sprinkling. How would you answer that?"

John thought quickly and said, "Well, Alipati, the Bible simply says that Jesus placed His hands on their heads and blessed them:"

"Yes, but isn't there a text to prove that Jesus was not baptizing them?"

"I don't think of a text just now," said John.

"Well, I know one. And it shut that man up quickly and he couldn't say anything more. John 4:2. It says plainly, 'Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples.' "

"That satisfies me too!" said John with a smile, then added, "Alipati, keep on studying the good old Book and you'll be a preacher someday."

"That's what I want to be, Misi Fulitoni," said Alipati earnestly. And from that moment Alipati became one of John's close friends also.

Toward the end of 1898 John got a letter from John Cole telling him he had found a little press and was sending it to them on the ship 'Pitcairn'.

The missionaries in Fiji were so happy! John decided to move over to Suva Vou with Calvin

so they could work together when the press arrived. He also knew his wife and children were returning in February! Little by little the Fulton house was dismantled and rebuilt in Suva Vou. By February all was ready.

The boat from America arrived, and Susie, her children, and her mother were on board looking very well. What a welcome they were given! Shouts of joy from the children, loving hugs and tears of joy from everybody.

And as soon as the customs officers cleared their luggage it was loaded onto the mission boat and they sailed joyfully across the bay to their new home at Suva Vou.

Then they were shocked as they received a letter from Elder Daniells, the president of the Australian Conference, telling John they wanted him to be the president of the Queensland conference. "No! No!" they all agreed.

"No! No!" said Pauliasi and Alipati. And Ratu Ambrose added as tears rolled down his face, "We cannot let you go. You belong to us. We need you more than they do!"

John wrote to the General Conference asking them to let him stay a humble missionary in Fiji and not a conference president.

"We'll soon have our press." Said John, "Susie and Edith have already translated some hymns. We'll soon be able to print them. Calvin can't preach in Fijian yet, Pauliasi hasn't taken his stand yet, and dear old Ratu Ambrose; oh, how can I leave them? I am sure the General Conference will let us stay."

In due time the letter came, allowing them to stay on in Fiji, and about the same time the Pitcairn arrived with their precious little printing press all packed securely in prunes!

With great joy the little hand press was set up in a corner of the Parkers' house, and they all started on their new duties as press workers. John had a little experience setting type at College. The others had had no experience at all, but that didn't stop them. Calvin rolled up his sleeves, put on an apron, went to work. At first he set the type from left to right as when typewriting, so that it came out backwards when it printed. But he learned by experience and it was not too long before he was a good at it.

Soon the rhythmic throb of the press as the boys fed in the sheets of paper and pulled down the lever, sounded like music in their ears. Their first creation was a small hymnbook, and how

the members of the Lotu Savasava enjoyed singing the good old Adventist hymns! Then they did a small book of Bible studies on Daniel two and the signs of Christ's second coming.

"Well, Pauliasi," said John one day, "how do you like our press now?" "It is very good, Misi Fulitoni," he replied. "But I am very heavy-hearted."

"Why is that, Pauliasi?"

"Well, I find in my heart two great desires. I want to do what the Bible tells me to do, and I want the Bible to tell me that what I have been doing is right. I have visited the English missionaries of my church. They say that Christ changed the Sabbath but they cannot give me one text from the Bible that says so. They say that the seventh-day Sabbath was only for the Jews, but they cannot give me one text that says so. They say that the Lotu Savasava is only a little Lotu and it will soon disappear. But it is not disappearing, it is growing larger and larger."

"And the Lotu Savasava has a Bible text for everything it preaches and for everything it does," added John.

"Let me give you another text," said John, for he felt it was time for Pauliasi to make a decision. "Maybe this text will help. It is James 4:17. 'Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.' "

"Then am I a sinner?" he asked a little angrily. Without waiting to hear more, he turned and went away. For a moment John wondered if he had spoken wisely, but soon Pauliasi was back again. His face was all smiles. "It's true! It's true!" he said. "It was the Word of God that said I was a sinner. But I have surrendered myself to God and His Word, and my burden has been taken away. Now I know what I am going to do." Soon Pauliasi was baptized, and everyone knew that he was truly a Seventh-day Adventist.

Working together they soon were printing their own paper called the 'Rarama' (light).

Pauliasi said that with a boat called Thina ["lamp"] and a monthly paper called Rarama they would really wake up old Fiji. Alipati could hardly wait and said he would put his full time in selling Rarama. = ^ .. ^ =



Year 2: 2nd Quarter:
"FAVOURITE BIBLE STORIES"
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 10: "ELIJAH & THE FIERY CHARIOT"

For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible. Just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days.

There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

MEMORY VERSE: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." Malachi 4:5,6

Sunday

Text: 1 Kings 19:1,2 "And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time."

Elijah parted with Ahab at the gate of the city, and Elijah was now so very tired that he wrapped himself up in his mantle and lay down to sleep. Ahab went home and told his wicked wife all about what had happened on the mountain that day. Perhaps Ahab really thought that Jezebel would realize that the true God was not Baal but the God of Heaven and stop her idol worship.

But Jezebel was wicked to the core and would not repent or change. Flying into a rage, she declared that Elijah would die for what he did to spoil her religion. In doing this she was defying the God of heaven in a very bold way. She sent a messenger to Elijah saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

The messenger hastened to the weary prophet Elijah, where he was sleeping soundly and awoke him and told him Jezebel's threat. Now Elijah should not have been afraid of this wicked woman's words but he was very tired and was awakened from a sound sleep. His first thought was that he must get out of there and go back to hiding. After all, he had been hiding from the queen for 3 ½ years at God's command.

No doubt disappointment hit him as well, as after such an obvious display of the power of the true God, it seemed unthinkable that this woman would persist in her idolatry, but she did. Elijah took off running and went to Beersheba and left his servant there and then headed out into the wilderness.

Thought - The messenger of the Lord has told us: "Had he remained where he was, had he made God his refuge and strength, standing steadfast for the truth, he would have been shielded from harm. The Lord would have given him another signal victory by sending His judgments on Jezebel; and the impression made on the king and the people would have wrought a great reformation." Prophets and Kings pg. 160

Monday

Text: 1 Kings 19:4 "But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers."

Elijah thought that the people would surely give up all their Idolatry after this display of God's power, and that Jezebel would no longer have influence over the mind of Ahab. He felt that now there would be a speedy reform throughout Israel. All day on Carmel's height he had toiled without food. Yet when he guided the chariot of Ahab to the gate of Jezreel, his courage was strong, despite the physical strain.

But now here he is out in the wilderness, huddled under a Juniper tree so discouraged that he wants to die.

Have you ever seen a Juniper tree? Well, they are low to the ground and very prickly. You would have to crawl under their scratchy branches. So here was Elijah under the juniper tree. We all have times when things seem so dark and impossible to us that we are 'under the juniper tree' like Elijah was. At these times it is best to think about God's promises and just rest in His arms.

But God didn't get angry with the tired prophet. He did a very sweet thing for His discouraged servant. You remember that Elijah had had nothing to eat for a long time and he had gone through amazing physical strain. He had reminded the king to have some lunch, but he didn't have any himself. So now God sent an angel to help poor worn-out Elijah.

He felt a gentle touch and heard a kindly voice. He started up thinking that he had been found and must run again, but he saw the sweet face of an angel and there beside him was a bottle of water and on a little fire was some fresh cake. He ate and drank and went back to sleep.

The second time the angel awoke him and said: "Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee." So he had another fresh, warm cake and water and then he got up and went on his way. Those must have been wonderful cakes because the Bible tells us, "And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God."

Thought - It is important to know that when we have a time of a lot of excitement, it is always followed by a time of depression, and so we must not let either the 'ups' of life or the 'downs' of life shake our confidence in God. This is also a reason why excitement is not really good for us!

Tuesday

Text: 1 Kings 19:9,10 "And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant,

thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

Now God starts to talk to Elijah. He asks him a simple question, "What are you doing here? Who sent you on this hasty flight into the wilderness? What errand have you here?" Elijah tells God his sorrowful story, but God is about to teach His prophet a wonderful lesson that all of us need to learn.

"Go out and stand on the mountain," God said to him and he did. Notice how the Bible tells the story: "And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice."

Can you imagine a wind so strong that it would break rocks? But in all three of those terrible displays of power, Elijah did not find the presence of God! Then God spoke to him with a 'still, small voice', and Elijah covered his face and head with his mantle, as he knew the presence of the Lord was there in that small voice.

Once again God asks Elijah, "What doest thou here, Elijah?" Once again Elijah tells God all about his troubles. Then God simply tells the prophet to get back to work. He gives him a list of jobs to do, and Elijah realises from the tasks given him, that God knows what He is doing. The evildoers were not going to get away with wickedness forever. But there was work for God's faithful prophet to do.

God told Elijah to; "anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room."

"And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him." So God showed Elijah that He still had quiet faithful ones that although hidden away, had not left the worship of the God of heaven. I am sure there were 'home churches' in

Israel in those days!

He also made it clear that the wicked ones who refused to repent after all that God had done to show them their error, would meet with an unhappy end!

Thought - It is not the fancy speeches, the big media screens and illustrations; it is not the huge P/A systems and exciting music that bring hearts to Jesus, it is the still small voice of the Holy Spirit working on the heart! Noisy, exciting displays only drive the Holy Spirit away from us.

Wednesday

Text: 1 Kings 19:19,20 "So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?"

Elijah traveled until he came to a large tract of land where there were servants ploughing with oxen. Elisha, the son of the man who owned the land was working with them and ploughing with a team also. Along came Elijah and as he was walking past, he turned and threw his mantle over Elisha.

It was a test to see if the young man would recognise the symbol and respond to it. Quickly Elisha ran after Elijah and asked him to just wait until he said goodbye to his parents, and he would follow him. He recognised that the signal meant that he was to be the next prophet in Israel. Elijah tried to tell him he was wrong, and that he didn't mean anything by it, but Elisha passed the test and had faith in what the Holy Spirit had told him it meant.

He did an interesting thing, he slew one team of oxen and using the yokes and plough in the fire, he cooked them up into soup and fed all the people and then went with Elijah to be his servant and learn from him.

Elisha stayed with Elijah after that and cared for him as a servant. He did not have the idea, 'Well, I am called to be a prophet too, so I don't have to do common work'. Oh, no! He was a faithful servant to Elijah. It is in the humble

duties of our daily lives that our characters are formed for good or for evil.

When you are tempted to leave your bed or room in a mess, or to be sloppy about your clothes or books, leaving things where you finished with them instead of putting them away, remember that those, whom God uses for great tasks, first learn to be careful and faithful in little things.

Thought - Jesus said "He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much. Luke 16:10

Thursday

Text: 2 Kings 2:3,4 "And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho."

Elijah did many wonderful tasks for the Lord in the next several years and through them all, Elisha stayed by his side and served him faithfully. One day the Lord told Elijah that his work was almost finished. Elijah went on a journey to pay one final visit to the 'Schools of the Prophets' where the young people of the land were being trained to know and serve God. He repeated to the students the important lessons he had taught them before and urged them to remain true to God no matter what.

Again Elisha was tested, for as he visited each school, Elijah would say to him, "Stay here for I am going on to the next school", but Elisha would say, "No, I will not leave thee!" God had revealed to Elisha that Elijah was soon to leave him and also the students in the school of the prophets told him they had been shown this also. So each time Elijah invited Elisha to stay behind and rest from all the tiresome traveling, he refused and stayed right with the prophet of God.

Finally they came to the river Jordan and they stood side by side on its banks while from far off, fifty students were watching what would happen. Again Elijah invited Elisha to stay behind but he wouldn't. Elijah took his mantle

and rolled it up and smote the water with it, and the waters opened up and made a path for them to cross over just like the Israelites had done years before.

When they went over Elijah asked Elisha, "What shall I do for thee before I be taken from thee?" Now the younger man could have asked for money or fame, but he asked that he might have a double portion of the Spirit that was with Elijah. By this he showed he knew that it was only the power of the Spirit of God that could make his work worthwhile.

Now Elijah could not promise this to the younger man but he told him that if he saw Elijah when he was taken from him, God would grant his request. So they walked on together talking a while.

All of a sudden "it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces."

Thought - It is interesting that in these schools, the students were not taught magic or how to work miracles, they were taught to work hard, obey God and be faithful to all His commandments.

Friday

Text: 2 Kings 3:11,12 "And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces."

It was still again and all that remained on earth of Elijah—was his mantle. Elisha wept because he knew he was going to miss Elijah, and now he must take up the work himself, but gathering his courage, he took the mantle of Elijah and when he reached the river, he smote the water and prayed as Elijah had done. The waters opened up before him and he went back to where the students were watching in the dis-

tance.

When he came back to them they asked him to let them go and look for Elijah. “lest peradventure the Spirit of the LORD hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley.” Elisha said no, but they begged so much finally he said they could go and look, and they searched for him for three days but he was not found. Just like what happened with Enoch before the flood.

“And when they came again to him, (for he tarried at Jericho,) he said unto them, Did I not say unto you, Go not?”

Elijah represents the people who will be alive on this earth when Jesus comes and they will go to heaven with Him without ever dying. We call this ‘translation’. Elijah was one who was sent to speak with Jesus just before He went to the cross, on the mountain of transfiguration. Moses was there also, and he represented the people who will be raised from the dead and then go home with Jesus.

There is another important thing that we are told about Elijah, we are told that we who are faithful to God in these last days are going to have a message like the message Elijah carried to Israel!

What was Elijah’s message? He told the people that there was only one true God, the God of creation. And he warned them to turn

from their idol worship and repent of their selfish indulgence in heathen religion and holidays and serve God and He would forgive them and be their God. He told them to worship the true God and to obey Him in all things. He also warned those who would not repent, that they would have a terrible end!

This is the same as our 3 angel’s messages today, they call on all people to serve the God of Creation, that it is now a time of judgement and we are to repent and obey God. They tell us to come away from those who are not interested in obeying God’s Word, and they warn us that those who choose to obey men’s ideas instead of the God of heaven’s commandments are going to have a terrible end! But the message also tells us that if we repent, God will forgive us and teach us His ways.

Thought - “In such a time as this, every child of God should be actively engaged in helping others. As those who have an understanding of Bible truth try to seek out the men and women who are longing for light, angels of God will attend them. And where angels go, none need fear to move forward. As a result of the faithful efforts of consecrated workers, many will be turned from idolatry to the worship of the living God. Many will cease to pay homage to man-made institutions and will take their stand fearlessly on the side of God and His law.” Prophets and Kings pg. 171 = ^..^ =

