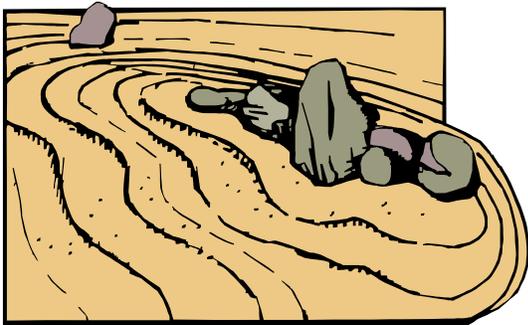


TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 2 - 2nd Quarter - Issue #2



CREATION CORNER SAND

My EARLY childhood was spent by the shore of Lake Michigan. The sound of the waves was in my ear all my waking hours and often in my dreams. Or more exactly, that sound filled wakeful times at night, for I loved to lie awake, especially on moonlight nights, and see and hear the mysterious affairs of wild life in the woods about our little house.

But I did not enjoy the lake; it was too awesome. At night the waves talked too loud, and they did not sound loving and happy. They told one another that they wanted to come up on the land and eat up the people. I trembled at the great voices that spoke through the night silences and wondered when the waves would come.

One day I told my mother what the waves said at night and asked her when they would come.

With a light on her face that I remember yet, though I was only six, she told me the waves were never, never coming up on the land to devour people. They could not, she said, for they were our heavenly Father's servants, and He had

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told them to stay in their place. And He had set a wall between us and the waves. I asked what that wall was. She said, "The sand."

Then she took her Bible and read to me how God gathered the waters together and called them seas (or lakes) and commanded them to remain where He put them. Even though the waves were proud of their strength and tossed themselves against the sand, they always rolled back into the lake and came no farther.

Later I listened to the waves with altered ears. They still talked at night, but their tones were different. They told one another that they were not going up on the land. "Here is the sand," they said. "This is the wall of our home. We obey our Father, and we are happy. We are not lonesome, for there are many of us. We clap our hands, because our Father is good."

Our heavenly Father "shut up the sea with doors, . . . and set bars and doors, and said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed." Job 38: 8-11. He has "compassed the waters with bounds." Job 26: 10. He has "placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves

thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it." Jeremiah 5:22.

In the various nights of life since then I have often heard the waves talking, and what they said would have crushed me had not my Father set His wall between my soul and them. In the world's night now, "there is sorrow on the sea, it cannot rest," for "the waters thereof roar and be troubled." Yet I am not afraid, for "God is a very present help in trouble." He is a shield (a wall) to them who trust in Him. = ^ . ^ =

HISTORY

The History of Mohamed: part 1

In the year A.D. 570, a child was born into a lower-income family, in a country that was three-quarters desert and lightly populated by poor nomad tribesmen.

Because of what Mohamed taught, within a century those tribesmen were destined to conquer half of Byzantine Asia, all of Persia and Egypt, most of North Africa, and be headed for their conquest of Spain. And the explosion did not stop there, but went on and on for hundreds of years.

Who was this man, and what did he teach?

Arabia is a large, irregular triangle that is actually part of the Sahara—the sandy belt that runs from North Africa to the Gobi Desert. The word, Arab, means arid. In the center are some grassy oases, with their palm trees and shallow wells. Around them are hundreds of miles of sandy desert.

It is a harsh land, with nights falling to 38° F. and days scorching hot. Sand-laden air cuts into skin that is not protected by long robes and head coverings.

Along the western shoreline, torrents of rain occasionally fall; and there we find the Hejaz district and its cities of Mecca and Medina where our story will center.

Back then; the Arab felt no duty or loyalty to any group larger than his own tribe. Aside from the loose authority of the clan leader (the Sheik), there were no rules. Anything could be done, including robbery and murder, as long as it helped the tribe.

Possibly a tenth of the population lived in towns along, or near, the coast. Some raised a few cattle and horses, but most grew orchards

of dates, apricots, oranges, bananas, figs, peaches, lemons, and pomegranates. Others tended sweet-smelling plants such as jasmine, lavender, thyme, and frankincense, or cupped trees to draw out myrrh (balsam) from the trunks.

This was an intersection of continents. Harbors and markets for Red Sea commerce were here, plus great caravan routes.

More than half of the population of Arabia consisted of wandering Bedouin, the nomads of the desert who moved with their flocks from one pasture-land to another. Although they loved horses, the camel was their mainstay in the desert. Even though it only traveled eight miles an hour, it could go without water for five days in the summer and twenty-five in the winter.

The camel provided everyone with milk. Its dung was burned for warmth in the chilly nights. The women washed their babies in its urine, to fend off insects. When a camel died, its tender meat was a delicacy, and its valuable hair and hide were made into clothing and tents. The Bedouin could live day after day on a few dates and a little milk.

When not busy with other duties, the Bedouin occupied themselves with tribal war. They called them razzias, or raids. But, by mutual agreement, at certain periods of the year, everyone would maintain a "holy truce," so they could attend religious feasts or attend to their crops and other needed activities.

The rest of the time, the Bedouin fought with one another or robbed travelers who did not pay them tribute. These were powerfully built men who loved the freedom of the desert, where they could do whatever they wished.

Next to their horses, camels, women, and date wine, the Arabs loved stories and poetry. Since few could read, in their spare time they would sit and listen as one, and then another, would tell them legends or recite poems. This quality would come in handy when a young man, soon to be born, began telling them strange things.

For 25 centuries, from Abraham to Mohammed, the Arabs were not a nation but only a multitude of tribes, either stationary or wandering. As far as others were concerned, they had no geography, no history, and no importance. But times were soon to change.

This is the story of a people who rose above

their climate and soil, and used their religion to conquer a sizeable part of the world.

The Kaaba, the holy place in Mecca, was the main object of worship from very ancient times. Kaaba means a cube. Arabs believe the angels originally built it at the dawn of history.

A rectangular stone structure 40 feet long, 35 feet wide, and 50 high, it is located near the center of the Masjid al-Haram, or Sacred Mosque.

In the southeast corner of the Kaaba, five feet from the ground (so it can easily be kissed) is embedded the Black Stone. Made of dark red material, oval in shape and about seven inches across. Westerners consider it to be a meteorite. But the worshipping Arabs believe this stone was sent down from God out of heaven before the time of Abraham. They also believed that it covered the tomb of Abraham, before it had been brought to Mecca.

Within the Kaaba, Before Mohammed's triumphal entry into Mecca in A.D. 630, were several idols representing tribal divinities. One of them was called Allah, and was probably the tribal god of the Quraish. Three others were Allah's daughters: al-Uzza, al-Lat, and Manah. They had been worshiped from ancient times.

The tribe of Quraish (Koreish) was in charge of the Kaaba. This made them the leaders of Mecca and the most important of all the tribes of Arabia.

Mecca is in a winding valley at the foot of three barren mountains. The soil consists of rocks and the water is brackish. The pastures are far from the city, and good fruit is not any closer than the gardens of Tayif, about 70 miles away.

One might wonder why Mecca was the most important Arabic city in ancient times. The answer is that between Yemen and other localities, and the cities of Asia and Europe, the trade routes led through Mecca. Ships regularly docked at the port city of Juddah (today called Jidda), not far from Mecca. Part of the wealth of the nations passed through the city.

In addition to Arab worshipers of the Kaaba idols, there were also Christians and Jews in Arabia, when the prophet was born. The Arabian religion was a jumble of Judaism, Christianity, Magism, and idolatry. But Sabeism, the worship of sun, moon and stars, was the main religion. The crescent moon and stars is still

seen on Arab flags.

This was the world into which Mohammed was born. = ^ .. ^ =

TRUE-STORY-TIME

'RICH AND POOR'

One day a very wealthy man took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people can be.

They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family. On their return from their trip, the father asked his son,

"How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked.

"Oh Yeah" said the son.

"So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father proudly.

The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others.

We have to buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them. Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

With this the boy's father began to think. When he opened the Bible he happened to read, "For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?" (1 Corinthians 4:7).

The Spirit of God reproved the wealthy man about sin, righteousness and of judgement. He turned to God like Zachaeus in the Bible. That change made him a wealthy man in the eternal kingdom of God.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up yourselves treasures in heaven, where nei-

ther moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal; For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21). = ^ .. ^ =

STORY LESSON

OUR MUSCLES

Many people in the world eat meat. Where does this meat come from? From the grocery store, you may say. But where does the store get it? From the muscles of an animal, which has been killed. Squeeze your arm, and you will notice that the bones are covered by a soft substance, which is your meat, or muscle. If you see the skinned body of an animal, you can see that some of the flesh is white or yellow and some of it is dark red. The white or yellow part is usually fat. The dark red part is meat, the animal's muscles.

We have about five hundred different muscles in our body. They cover the bones and make the body round and beautiful. They are of different forms and sizes.

Most muscles are arranged in pairs; that is, we have two alike of each, one for each side of the body.

If you examine a piece of meat carefully, you will see it is made up of bundles of small fibers or threads of flesh. You can pick one of the small fibers into fine threads. Now, if you look at one of these under a microscope, you find that it is made of still finer fibers, which are much smaller than the threads of a spider's web. One of these smallest threads is called a muscle fiber. Many thousands of muscle fibers make a muscle.

Most muscles are attached to bones. Generally, one end is attached to one bone, and the other to another bone. Sometimes one end is connected to a bone and the other to the skin or other muscles.

Many of the muscles are not joined to the bones directly, but are attached by firm cords called tendons. If you place the thumb of your left hand upon the wrist of your right hand, and then move your right fingers, you can feel these cords moving underneath the skin.

With your left hand, grasp your right arm just in front of the elbow. Now shut the right hand tightly. Now open it. Repeat several times. You can feel something moving in the flesh. This is caused by the working of the muscles, which

shorten and harden when they move.

All the movements of the body are made by means of muscles. When we move our hands, even when we close our mouth or eyes, or smile, we use muscles. We could not speak, laugh, sing, or breathe without muscles.

Did you ever have a fit of sneezing or hiccoughing? If you ever did, very likely you tried hard to stop but could not. Do you know why you can't stop sneezing or hiccoughing when you want to? It is because certain muscles in the body do not act only when we wish them to, but when it is necessary that they should. The muscles that make us sneeze or hiccough are like that. The arm and the hand do not move unless we want them to do so. Their muscles are called 'voluntary muscles'. But what if our heart was like that? We would have to always stay awake to keep it going, the same with our breathing. We breathe when we are asleep as well as when we are awake, because the breathing muscles work even when we do not think about them.

The stomach, the intestines, the blood vessels, and many other organs of the body have this kind of muscles. The work of these involuntary (self-acting) muscles is very wonderful indeed. Without it we could not live. Consider how de-pendent we are, each moment of our lives, upon the delicate machinery by which the most important work of our bodies is performed, and how careful we should be to keep it in good order by taking proper care of ourselves. Every breath we take, every beat of our heart, is God's wonderful gift of life to each of us. Isn't the body He has given us a wonderful thing! = ^ .. ^ =



MISSION STORY

TWO LITTLE HEROES: E.B. HARE

The Boy Who Was True Till Death

HE was sick, poor little chap! The joy of his father's heart. The star of his class at school. All day long he lay on his mat and moaned. There was something the matter inside. No, he hadn't been eating green apples, -'cause there aren't any apples in the jungle; but it was something else much worse, and he couldn't eat for days, and his poor little tongue was all coated and furred, and his mouth had that nasty high-fever smell.

His dear mother had been by his side all the time trying to get him to eat, just a little bit, but he could not. "Then just a little chew of betel nut to make your mouth taste better," she coaxed.

His little head shook, but mother pretended not to see that, and went on preparing the dainty morsel, - a little bit of leaf, a little bit of nut, and a little bit of lime, and, to make it something special, she added a little tobacco and some sweet-smelling spices and said, "Now, open your mouth, sunshine, while mother pops in this nice little bite."

But his lips tightened for a moment till he loosened them to whisper, "Mother, I feel that I'm going to die, and I do want Jesus to find me with a clean mouth." He surely knew about Jesus all right, - he had been going to one of our village schools for a year; and a little boy of ten can learn a wonderful lot in a year..

"But, son," she argued, "you don't have to swallow it. Just chew it a little bit, to clean up your mouth, and then spit it out. Come on!"

But a strange, pained look came into his face as he replied, "Oh, mother, I promised I wouldn't, I promised I wouldn't; I promised Jesus. I'd be so ashamed if I touched it again. Wouldn't you, mother, if you had promised? Oh, mother, I wish you would promise, and father too!"

And just then father happened along. "What's this you want father to promise to do, son?" "Stop chewing betel nut," replied mother; "and I'm thinking that if we could die as quietly and as happily as this, it would be well for us both to promise!" Daddy couldn't talk at all for a little while, but by and by he said, brokenly, "I'll tell you what son - I'll promise - to build a new schoolhouse next year!"

"Oh, will you, daddy?" and a smile lit up his pained face.

"And will you and mother go to worship every Sabbath?" "Perhaps, son," Father would have said more, but he couldn't; and, fondly caressing his little boy's head, only after a long time was he able to add, "There, son, try to rest a little and be quiet."

And before long, his face still lit with the smile his father's promise had made, the little fellow fell asleep in Jesus. Oh, how I hope to see the little man when Jesus comes to wake up His little jungle heroes!

The Boy Who Went First

"LAST time I came through here by myself, I heard an animal right in there!" and my little guide stopped to point into a dense tangle of jungle creepers and saplings.

We were on our way to Lapota outstation, and we had trudged over many a weary mile together, - through bamboo forests, up little stream paths, and the boy's merry chatter had made the time pass quickly. But now we were working our way through an old rice cultivation that was allowed to go to jungle again, where weeds and little bamboos rose like a solid hedge before us. We spoke but little as our hands pushed open the path, -saving our ears for sounds; for such places are dangerous.

As my little friend pointed his unsheathed sword in that direction, I had no difficulty in believing his next statement. "I couldn't tell whether it was a tiger or a wild pig, but I pulled out my sword and ran for my life, and didn't stop till I had passed this tangle and had entered the big trees."

I was just thinking that that was just about what I would do if I saw a tiger coming through the thicket to meet us, when he added, "It was wet, too, - early in the morning, and the dew was very heavy, and I was wet through." Then a new thought struck him, and turning round in the small track his eyes sought mine. "Thara," he said, "the morning we come back all this long grass will be wet with dew; what will you do? You will get sopping wed!"

For a moment he was genuinely troubled, but a broad smile told of a solution to the difficulty. "I know," he said, "I'll go first, and as I brush past the wet grass, the dew will all shake on me, and you will be all right, - no, not dry, but - not very wet, -not wet as me! That's what

I'll do; I'll go first." And away we went again, tramp, tramp, tramp, on our way to Lapota.

We had a lovely time together at the outstation over Sabbath, then early Sunday morning we began the return journey while the dew was still on the tall grass. We were both sopping wet in a very short time, but he marched ahead. He went first, and he seemed delighted when I assured him I wasn't so wet as he was.

I would rather have led the way myself, but I let him go first because he was a jungle hero.
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Year 2: 2nd Quarter:

"FAVOURITE BIBLE STORIES"

WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 2: "DAVID, THE SHEPHERD BOY"

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: "...For the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7.

Sunday

Text: 1 Samuel 16:11,12 "And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD

said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he."

Samuel had served God faithfully all his years, but as he grew older, the people, wanting to be like the heathen nations demanded a king. Saul had been chosen of God, and as long as he stayed humble before God he was blessed. But Saul became so disobedient that finally God rejected him and sent Samuel to anoint someone else who would one day be the King of Israel.

He was sent to Bethlehem, and he took a young cow with him, to offer a sacrifice so Saul would not be suspicious and have Samuel killed. It shows that the people still respected the prophet of God very much, because when they heard he was coming the people of that town were afraid and worried. They thought something was wrong, but Samuel assured him he was there on a peaceful mission to offer a sacrifice and he invited the rulers to come to a feast and also a man named Jesse and his sons.

The sacrifice was offered, but before Samuel would sit down to the feast, he asked to see the sons of Jesse and one by one they came before him. When he saw the first one he thought, "Wow, surely this must be the one, as he is such a handsome and noble-looking man!"

But God said to Samuel the words of our memory verse, and told him that He sees the heart and this man's heart was not right before God. Finally all six of Jesse's sons had passed before Samuel and he was puzzled because God did not accept any of them. So he asked Jesse if he had any more sons.

"Oh, there is just the youngest one and he takes care of the sheep." Jesse said.

"Send someone to fetch him", said Samuel, "For we won't sit down to dinner until he comes."

When the messenger came running to David, out in the fields with the sheep, David was startled and surprised. He left quickly to hurry to the town to meet with Samuel the Prophet.

When he appeared, Samuel could see he was different from the rest. He saw with pleasure the handsome, manly, modest shepherd boy, the voice of the Lord spoke to the prophet, saying, "Arise, anoint him: for this is he." David had proved himself brave and faithful in the humble office of a shepherd, and now God had chosen him to be captain of His people. Samuel took the oil, and anointed him from among his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David

from that day forward. The prophet had accomplished his appointed work, and with a relieved heart he returned to his home at Ramah.

Thought - We must be careful in admiring people who may seem to be so handsome, witty, beautiful or popular- if their heart is not right with God, we can be misled.

Monday

Text: Acts 13:22 “And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.”

Centuries before Jesus was born, David, in the freshness of boyhood, kept watch of his flocks as they grazed on the hills surrounding Bethlehem. The simple shepherd boy sang the songs of his own composing, and the music of his harp made a sweet accompaniment to the melody of his fresh young voice. The Lord had chosen David, and was preparing him, in his solitary life with his flocks, for the work He designed to commit to his trust in after years.

When Samuel anointed David, he did it secretly and no one else knew about it. David must have wondered how it would ever happen that he would go from his job as shepherd out on the hills, to the throne of a king.

David had been one to think much on spiritual things and after he was anointed, he was even more guided by the Holy Spirit. David was also a prophet, and in the Psalms that he wrote there are many wonderful prophecies about Jesus and even last day events. Be sure to read and learn the 23rd Psalm as he there teaches lessons about Jesus love by comparing the work of a shepherd.

Being a shepherd was not an easy job. It was a solitary and lonely life but it tended to make David depend more on God. Any emergency that would arise, he had to handle himself, as there was no other people handy to help him. Lions, bears, wolves and other dangerous animals would try at times to attack the sheep, and a shepherd had to quickly fight with staff and slingshot to defend his flock. Strays had to be found and brought back, sick or injured animals had to be patiently cared for. So he learned to pray much and depend on God and also to be alert and quick to figure out ways of doing things.

The simple life in the fresh air and sunshine also helped him to grow strong and healthy. Watching the things of nature helped him to learn more about nature's God.

Thought - Around a thousand years after David kept the sheep on the hills of Bethlehem, other shepherds were doing the same thing and they heard the angels tell of the birth of Jesus, the Redeemer.

Tuesday

Text: 1 Samuel 16:21-23 “And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armour bearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.”

David did not long have to wonder how God was going to prepare him to be the king of Israel. Saul, now that he knew that he had been rejected by God as king, had terrible fits of rage and depression. He was tormented by evil angels.

The Bible has some wording here that needs to be rightly understood. It says 'evil spirit from God', now God does not SEND evil spirits to torment, however, when we refuse to obey God and refuse to humble our hearts and admit we are wrong in choosing our own way over the will of God, then God cannot fully protect us from Satan's evil hosts, and they are allowed to harass us.

Saul was in rebellion against God, he thought he had been treated unfairly and instead of humbly accepting what God had said, and seeking to obey Him from that time forward, his proud spirit raged and brooded until he was at times mentally ill.

It was thought that some beautiful sacred music might help the king to have more peace. So someone who knew about David the shepherd, son of Jesse and his lovely sacred music, told King Saul about him.

David found himself in the very court of the King, where he was able to learn about the ways of royalty, and the many temptations that surrounded a king. He played his heaven-inspired music for Saul and as the king's mind was brought into thoughts of the goodness of God,

he found peace and felt better.

This was also a way that God was using to plead with Saul to humble his heart and repent of his rebellion. But although while listening to the music, his heart turned a bit to the Lord, he quickly returned to his pride and rebellion again.

When not needed at the King's palace, David still returned to his work, and the young shepherd went from the king's house to the fields and hills of his pasture with a sense of relief and gladness.

Thought - When we rebel against God and refuse to humble ourselves and truly repent, Satan can harass us and torment us. It is better to truly repent of our sins, obey and walk with God.

Wednesday

Text: 1 Samuel 17:17-19 "And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren; And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge. Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines."

Saul and the armies of Israel were at war with the Philistines. David's three oldest brothers had joined Saul's army and were camped in the valley of Elah. David was at home caring for his father's sheep. There were no radios, TVs or telephones in those days and so news had to be carried by person. His father called David and asked him to go and take a gift to his brothers and see how they were doing.

He left the sheep with a servant and started out on his long journey to see his brothers. When he arrived at the camp, he left the presents he had brought with someone and ran to say hello to his brothers.

As he was talking to them what should he see but this Giant Goliath, standing up on a hill and shouting insults about Israel and Israel's God. And he could see that all the soldiers of Israel were afraid and trembling as they saw the giant. This had been going on for forty days and the giant said if a man would fight him and beat him, then the Philistines would serve Israel. All the army of Saul was depressed and afraid.

David spoke up and asked why someone didn't do something about this wicked man who was insulting God. "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" V.26

At this his older brother, Eliab, was angry with David and said, "Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle." But David said, "What have I now done? Is there not a cause?"

In other words, 'Why are you mad at me? Isn't there a reason for me to say this?' David would not let the matter rest. He would not stand by and listen to this heathen insulting and defying the God of Heaven.

David's brothers had a problem similar to the brothers of Joseph had; they were jealous of David. They remembered that Samuel had come to see David privately, but David was their little brother, and they were afraid of his being honoured more than they were. Eliab also knew David was right, Israel should not be fearful before this heathen giant, but it made him angry to be told so.

Thought - We must always guard against having jealousy toward anyone who we think is being honoured more than we are. Jealousy is a terrible thing that will destroy all who keep it in their hearts.

Thursday

Text: 1 Samuel 17:3,4 "And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them. And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span." (over 9 feet tall)

It wasn't very long before King Saul heard about what David was saying and had the young man brought before him to talk with him. Now Saul knew that what David was saying was true, and there was a time when he would have had that kind of faith.

Saul listened with astonishment to the words of the shepherd, as he said, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Saul tried to talk David

out of the idea, but the young man was not to be moved. He replied in a simple, unassuming way, and told that while guarding his father's flocks he had fought and killed a bear and a lion, "The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee."

Saul now commanded that his own armour be put on David for the battle. But when David put it on and started to walk towards the place where the Giant was challenging, he soon turned back. People watching thought he had 'chickened out', but not so. He just told the king that he could not fight with the king's armour on, as he wasn't used to it.

Soon the watching soldiers saw the amazing sight of a young man, dressed as a simple shepherd, armed with only a staff, a leather bag, and a sling, heading out to do battle with the giant who was wearing fantastic armour and armed with sword, shield and spear. No one doubted that he would surely be killed.

And the one who was most sure of this was Goliath of Gath, who saw this person coming towards him and roared, 'Am I a dog that you send out someone against me with a stick and stones?' He was insulted to bits at the thought of what was coming so boldly to fight HIM, the mighty champion of the Philistines!

Thought - It seems a common mistake for people, when they start looking to the power of man, to forget all about the POWER of God.

Friday

Text: 1 Samuel 17:45,46 "Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."

All eyes were fixed on the youth and he strode down the hillside towards that giant, who was working himself into a frenzy yelling curses and insults at Israel, Israel's God and especially that

'boy' heading out to fight him. No one believed he could win, and yet in the hearts of some there was the thought, 'Maybe? Just maybe, there really was a God of Israel.'

They saw him stop; awe, yes, he was going to turn back! But all he did was look around the stream at the bottom of the hill where he selected five smooth stones. David had spent many hours in target practice while on the hills of Bethlehem caring for the sheep, and he knew just what kinds of stones were best to use in a sling. All shepherds needed these skills to defend their flocks.

Slipping four stones into his bag, he put one in the sling and shouting out the words of our text he raced up the hill towards the foul-mouthed giant. Goliath can't believe his eyes! For forty days he had been enjoying watching the hosts of Israel hide and slink around like whipped pups and now here is this youth heading boldly up the hill towards him without any hesitation at all.

In his pride, rage and self-confidence he made his fatal mistake; he pushed back his huge, brass helmet, perhaps to take a better look, and exposed his forehead as he started towards David, intending to make mince-meat out of him.

The sling whirled and Zing! went the stone through the air. It struck the giant between the eyes and all watching gasped as they saw the huge warrior put his hands out before him as if he were blind. Then he staggered and fell head-long.

Quick as a flash, David, who did not even have a sword, sprang to the giant, grabbed Goliath's own sword from the sheath, and cut off his head. The hills echoed with the shout of triumph from Israel's army. The Philistines were confused and terror stricken and they ran in fear for their lives.

The armies of Israel chased after them and a great victory was had that day.

"The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Proverbs 18:10

Thought - It was pride that caused Saul to be rejected as King of Israel and it was pride that caused the downfall of the boastful giant of Gath, Goliath. Do you have pride in your heart? If you ever do, plead right away for Jesus to take it out! = ^ .. ^ =