

# TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

## TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 2nd Quarter - Issue #10



### CREATION CORNER

#### The Secret Recipe: Cruelty!

This week I am sharing an article from my friends at PETA. They are trying to make this world a better place for all living things. Maybe we might find some things on their sites we do not quite agree with, but they are doing what they can to try and stop cruelty to animals. You can visit their children's site online, where you can learn about being vegetarians.

A bucket of chicken wings translates into a big body count. Think about it—every bird has only two wings (if only all math problems were this easy). Log onto KFC's Web site and you'll see that about 736 million chickens are killed when they are just 6 or 7 weeks old.

Chickens should be friends, not food! Chickens are friendly, curious little birds who value their lives just as much as you value yours. Did you know that chicken moms talk to their chicks even while the babies are still in the shell? When the chicks are born, their mom watches over them carefully, takes them under her wing to keep them safe, and

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teaches them all about life.

But chickens on fried chicken farms never get to be loved by their moms. These birds' lives are awful and scary even before they are killed and cut up for food.

Chickens raised for fried chicken are taken away from their families and stuffed into sheds with tens of thousands of other birds. (Think of how scared you'd be if you were locked inside a crowded room with thousands of people you didn't know!) The birds aren't allowed any fresh air or sunshine, and they can barely move (each chicken has to make do with a space smaller than one sheet of notebook paper).

Once they're fattened up, the birds are thrown into tiny crates and trucked to the slaughterhouse. Some chickens fall off the trucks and are left to die alongside the road. The frightened birds that make it to the slaughterhouse are killed when they are just 6 weeks old—still babies!

Chickens raised in such horrible places are not healthy for you to eat either. You can get sick from the germs on these chickens. All chickens sold for food, either fried or fresh are soaked together in big tanks of dirty water that has blood and other filth in it before they are sold for meat. Bad diseases can come from eating these poor birds.

Scientists who study chicken intelligence say

that chickens are as smart as dogs or cats. They form friendships and remember each other. Some have lots of friends and others prefer to be by themselves. They love their families, want to spend time with them, and don't want to be eaten--any more than you do. = ^ .. ^ =

## TRUE-STORY-TIME

### My Visit to Rose-Red Petra

#### THE CITY THAT THE WORLD FORGOT

WITH what amazing precision and exactness of detail the Scriptures spoke in the ancient prophecies! In the early dawn of history there were two brothers named Esau and Jacob. Two nations were to come of them, and it was declared at their birth that they would be widely differing peoples. In Genesis 25: 23 we read: "The one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger."

Esau was the father of the Edomite nation, while Jacob, became the father of the Jewish people. Side by side these people developed. The Jewish nation out reigned Edom for many generations as the prophecy said.

Regarding their later history, Bible prophecy dealt with exactness of detail. The land of each was to be desolated. But one was to perish off the face of the earth, while the other was to remain a living witness throughout all, time to the justice of the living God. Well, the people of Israel out reigned the Edomites by many generations. However, the latter became strongly entrenched in their many cities on the great trade routes between the East and West. Petra became their capital city. Petra means "rock," and is called Mount Seir in Genesis 36: 8, 9.

The Edomites despised the truth of God, and the ancient prophecy foretold their doom. In Jeremiah 49:13,17 we read: "All the cities thereof shall be perpetual wastes," and "Everyone that goes by it shall be astonished"; while in Obadiah, verse 18: "There shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau: for the Lord hath spoken it." And in Joel 3:19: "Edom shall be a desolate wilderness."

So literally were these prophecies fulfilled that not only was Edom overthrown and its people defeated, but the very name of their city was forgotten for over a thousand years. It was truly the city that the world forgot. That great and mighty

people disappeared leaving no trace and no record in secular history of the part that they had played in world events.

Petra had dropped from the memory of mankind. In fact, so completely had it disappeared that the critics of the Bible ridiculed the statements of Holy Writ. They maintained that there never was such a people. Their strong argument which seemed unanswerable was: Where is Edom situated? The city had disappeared, the people were forgotten. Not one of the race remained. No one could even produce a relic of the Edomites.

However, the spade of the archaeologists unearthed a record of Rameses III of Egypt who boasted of his campaigns and the defeat of the Edomites at Seir. The tablets of Tiglath Pileser the king of Assyria, the monuments of Esar-Haddon, and the records of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, mention the Edomites and their wonderful, city.

With the discovery of these ancient tablets from Egypt, Babylon, and Assyria, interest was again aroused amongst Bible students and archaeologists, and the result was that in 1812 the British Archaeological Society sent in a young Swiss explorer to try and find this lost city. He disguised himself as an Arab so as to avoid the certain fate of infidels in those parts. He traveled throughout Jordan with little success. However, through becoming friendly with the Arabs and aiding them medically he was told of wonderful ruins that had been discovered, and the Arabs led him to a remarkable cleft in the rock nearly a thousand feet deep and barely wide enough to permit the passage of a single file of men.

The local Arabs being very superstitious, feared to enter it. However, undaunted, this Swiss traveler plunged into this slot in the rock wall. The winding passage down which he traveled narrowed until he could touch the two walls with outstretched hands and could scarcely see the top of the mountains 1,200 feet above him.

The path lay in perpetual gloom, the chilly darkness hiding the fierce rays of the desert sun. This passage provided the most impregnable entrance that any city has ever possessed. It is the only approach to this the most wonderful natural fortress that I have ever seen anywhere in the world. This canyon, three miles in length, is so narrow that in places it would be well-nigh impossible for two horsemen to ride abreast.

The traveler pressed on regardless of the menacing cliffs until suddenly the passage widened, and a flood of sunlight was admitted by a gap in the mountains. Here the Swiss scholar looked in amazement, for before him carved in one piece from the living rose-red sandstone cliff was a wonderfully preserved temple, sixty feet in height, a temple carved literally like a cameo from the cliff face.

He was looking at a city that no European had seen for well over a thousand years. There was this great dead city, carved from the sheer sandstone heights that ringed the valley, tier after tier of majestic, but empty, tombs, temples, dwelling places, and palaces—every structure hewn from the living, multicolored sandstone. It was well called the “rose-red city, half as old as time.” It was evident that a very large city had once existed here. These ruins were not relics of a feeble race certainly not of a people who were likely to perish utterly, but how true are the Bible prophecies!

Petra, this principal city of the Edomites, is found in one of the most rugged places on earth. Ranges are thrown up to form the weird mountains, like mountains of the moon, thus looming one of the wildest, weirdest, and most fascinating regions on earth. The sandstone is brilliantly hued with a wide range of color—yellow through to brown and then through red to purple. The buildings that once evidently covered the floor of the valley are gone, worn away by the wind and rain of centuries, but here and there small remains are yet to be seen. However, far up the sides of the encircling mountains these valley people have left imperishable records of their former existence in buildings, some of them as large as churches.

There the are tombs, palaces, and dwelling places, all hewn from the solid rock. I saw flights of steps, temples were beautifully carved pillars, and excavated residences of large dimensions in one of which is a single chamber which I calculated to be at least sixty feet in length.

I climbed up an old path of a cliff face to the high place. God strongly warned Israel against the worship connected with these high places. There, the Edomites worshipped the sun, and one can still see the altar facing the east. This rock-hewn altar is made in a perfect circle symbolizing the sun, and here the human victims were offered to the blazing

orb of day. The circular hollow in the center which caught the blood and drained it away is still to be seen. The prophets of God warned that this counterfeit worship would lead to destruction. Utter desolation both of the country and the family of Esau was foretold, and utter desolation is certainly now their condition.

When Christ was riding into Jerusalem in triumph, the Pharisees requested: “Master, rebuke Thy disciples.” They did not want to hear the hosannas come to Christ. Christ answered them: “If they held their peace the very stones would cry out!”

In this infidel age when nations and people are dishonoring God and disobeying His Word, God has raised up witnesses from the dead to show forth His authority and power and truth. Rocks of the rose-red city of Petra cry warning. Rocks from that rock city witness to the truthfulness of the Word of God. The God of the Bible is today worshipped by millions, while the high places of Edom and other heathen centers are but tourist attractions.

It would take days and weeks to visit every excavation of this wonderful fascinating rock city of the dead. One can count at least three thousand temples, tombs, and dwelling places cut from the rock.

I wish that every unbeliever could stand as I did in this city of the rock and there open the sacred Book of God and read the words of the inspired pen written when this desolate place was one of the great cities of the ancient world. His unbelief would be arrested as the stones of this ruined city speak as one risen from the dead. One is compelled to read the handwriting of God Himself in the desolation and perpetual ruin around it. Petra, the wonderful city of the Edomites, would become “the stones of emptiness!” See Isaiah 34:11. May we heed the advice then given in verse 16 of the same chapter: “Seek you out of the book, of the Lord, and read: no one of these shall fail!” Burnside’s – 1950 = ^..^ =

**TRUE-STORY-TIME****Who's your Daddy?**

A seminary professor was vacationing with his wife in Gatlinburg, TN. One morning, they were eating breakfast at a little restaurant, hoping to enjoy a quiet, family meal. While they were waiting for their food, they noticed a distinguished looking, white-haired man moving from table to table, visiting with the guests.

The professor leaned over and whispered to his wife, "I hope he doesn't come over here." But sure enough, the man did come over to their table.

"Where are you folks from?" he asked in a friendly voice.

"Oklahoma," they answered.

"Great to have you here in Tennessee" the stranger said. "What do you do for a living?"

"I teach at a seminary," he replied.

"Oh, so you teach preachers how to preach, do you? Well, I've got a really great story for you." And with that, the gentleman pulled up a chair and sat down at the table with the couple.

The professor groaned and thought to himself, "Great . . . Just what I need--another preacher story!"

The man started, "See that mountain over there? (pointing out the restaurant window). Not far from the base of that mountain, there was a boy born to an unwed mother. He had a hard time growing up, because every place he went, he was always asked the same question, 'Hey boy, who's your daddy?"

"Whether he was at school, in the grocery store or drug store, people would ask the same question, 'Who's your daddy?' He would hide at recess and lunch time from other students. He would avoid going in to stores because that question hurt him so bad.

"When he was about 12 years old, a new preacher came to his church. He would always go in late and slip out early to avoid hearing the question, 'Who's your daddy?"

But one day, the new preacher said the benediction so fast he got caught and had to walk out with the crowd. Just about the time he got to the back door, the new preacher, not knowing anything about him, put his hand on his shoulder and asked him, 'Son, who's your daddy?"

"The whole church got deathly quiet. He could feel every eye in the church looking at him. Now everyone would finally know the answer to the

question, "Who's your daddy'.

This new preacher, though, sensed the situation around him and using discernment that only the Holy Spirit could give, said the following to that scared little boy...

"Wait a minute! he said, "I know who you are, I see the family resemblance now. You are a child of God."

With that he patted the boy on his shoulder, and said, "Boy, you've got a great inheritance, go and claim it."

With that, the boy smiled for the first time in a long time and walked out the door a changed person.

He was never the same again. Whenever anybody asked him, 'Who's your Daddy?' he'd just tell them, "I'm a Child of God'." The distinguished gentleman got up from the table and said, "Isn't that a great story?"

The professor responded that it really was a great story!

As the man turned to leave, he said, "You know, if that new preacher hadn't told me that I was one of God's children, I probably never would have amounted to anything!" And he walked away.

The seminary professor and his wife were stunned. He called the waitress over and asked her, "Do you know who that man was who just left that was sitting at our table?"

The waitress grinned and said, "Of course, everybody here knows him. That's Ben Hooper. He's the former governor of Tennessee!" Author Unknown = ^ .. ^ =







## STORY LESSON

### A Car Parable

Just as Jesus used the common things around Him to teach lessons, so we are going to look at lessons from cars.

Jack wanted a New Car. He had saved because he wanted a really Good Car, not just an ordinary kind, but something really special. It was his dream for years to have a Special Car.

So off he went to the Car Dealers and after much searching and asking questions, he found his Dream Car. It was beautiful, fast, and very well made. When he drove it, it handled so well he could hardly believe it!

He paid the price and wanted to take off in His Car, but as the dealer presented him with the keys, he also handed him A Book. It was a fairly large Book, and he said to Jack, "Now it is very important that you read this Book, and be careful to follow all the instructions in it. This is a very Special Car and it needs special care. It is brand new and it needs time to get broken in. You must not drive it too fast, for the first little while, until all the parts are settled in. You must just use certain kinds of fuel and oil for this Car and you must..."

"Oh, are you going to talk all day?" Jack snapped, "Don't you think I know how to drive? Just gimme the keys, I want to get going!" He snatched the keys and started out the door.

"Wait!" the dealer called, "You forgot your Book!"

"Oh, I don't need no old Book!" Jack grumbled, but he snatched it too from the dealer's hand and hurried out the door. Jumping into his Dream Car, he headed out of the parking lot with a screeching of tires and roaring of engine. The dealer shook his head and went back to work.

It was only a few weeks before Jack was back at the Car Dealer. "This Car you sold me is faulty!" he yelled as he burst through the door. The engine is making weird noises and she is hard to start.

"Did you read your Book?" the Dealer answered quietly.

"Book, shmook!", Jack snapped. "I don't need any Book to tell me how to drive a Car!"

"Well, did you use this certain fuel? What about that special oil? Did you drive at the proper speeds for breaking in the engine? Did you..."

"Hey, will you quit trying to make it look like I am stupid or something? I always use this other gas and that other oil. That is what I like, and no old Book is going to tell me different! If you won't fix my Car, I will fix it myself; I know all about how to fix it. I will just add some chemicals to the fuel and oil and dump some stuff into the rad. That will fix it."

Well time went on, and Jack's car got worse and worse, and finally it wouldn't go at all. Then Jack was really mad, he stormed into the Car Dealer's place and demanded that he fix the car right away, and for free as it was under warrantee.

"I'm sorry", said the Dealer, "If you had read your Book, you would know that we cannot honor a warrantee if you don't follow the instructions in the Book. If you follow the Book, we promise to keep your Car running smoothly."

So it was that Jack was stuck with a broken-down and half wrecked car, instead of the Dream Car he had wanted.

Boys and girls, God gave us a Book, it is called the Bible and it is the Owner's Manual for our bodies, our minds and our lives! It has careful instructions from our Maker and tells us how to have a Wonderful Life and Salvation as well. But all too many are like Jack, they just want to get the fun out of life and they despise the Creator's Book. Then when they are left with a broken-down life and body, they complain to the Creator that He was not fair.

When a person buys a New Car, and the dealer shows them the Manual for it, a wise person says, "Yes, I will be careful to do all that is written in This Book, and then my New Car will give me good service for a long time."

I have never yet heard someone turn around and say to a Car Dealer, "You are just too Bossy, you just want to spoil my fun with your old Rules!" And yet this is what people say to God every day, and His Rules for Life are given only because He wants us to be safe and happy and live forever with Him!

Don't be like silly Jack! = ^ .. ^ =



**Year 3: 2nd Quarter:**  
**“GIVE US A KING”**  
**WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 10:**  
**“THE GREAT TEMPLE”**

This series of Bible Story Lessons is about Israel's Kings. 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: “Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.” Psalm 99:5**

**Sunday**

**Text: 1 Kings 5:5 “And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name.”**

As we learned last week, Solomon at first when he became King, was determined to do what was right. As soon as his kingdom was settled, after four years, he got busy to carry out the words of his father David to build the wonderful Temple for the worship of God. The building of the temple took seven years.

David had drawn plans and laid up a lot of material that was to be used to build and now Solomon asked Hiram, king of Tyre, and he sent many great cedar logs from the forests at Lebanon to go into the building. Solomon gave him food in exchange for the logs.

They fastened the logs together in great rafts and floated them down from Lebanon to Israel. Solomon ordered 30,000 men to serve in the work

of cutting and shipping these logs for the temple. The men went 10,000 at a time for one month and then they came home for two months while the other ten thousands went.

Many men were also busy making ready the place where the temple was to be built and building retaining walls and great foundations. The temple was to be built on Mount Moriah. This was the very mountain where Abraham had offered his son Isaac.

Solomon had thousands and thousands of men all at work on the different jobs of making the foundation and preparing the stones and wood for the building. It was a very busy time. The people were happy as they worked to build the Temple.

**Thought** - The Temple became known as Solomon's Temple, not God's Temple. Why was this? It was because of what Solomon did later on in exalting himself and disobeying God.

**Monday**

**Text: 1 Kings 8:54-56 “And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. And he stood, and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying, Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.”**

When the temple was finished, Solomon held a great gathering and the Ark was carefully brought up from the sanctuary to the Most Holy Place in the Temple. When it was placed in there, the Cloud of the Lord's presence did come into the Most Holy Place and the priests had to go out because they could not stay there because of the cloud.

Then Solomon went up onto a special platform there he kneeled down and prayed to God the dedication prayer. How solemn and earnest were his words that day and He called upon God to bless the people and to be merciful and forgive them when they would pray to Him in the temple. He also asked God to bless the strangers from other lands who would learn to worship the true God of Heaven.

When we pray to God, we should always kneel

before Him to show our respect. Standing to pray, or standing in a circle holding hands, is not the way to honor God properly. Solomon knelt during his prayer and afterwards stood to pronounce a blessing on the people. You can read his wonderful prayer in 1 Kings 8.

“Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.” 2 Chronicles 7:1

After that there was a wonderful time of gladness. What a huge celebration it was; “And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered unto the LORD, two and twenty thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.” These were dedicated to the Lord but were also used to provide a large feast for the people that lasted for two whole weeks.

**Thought** – It would have indeed been a wonderful witness to God’s glory had Solomon always remained true to the Lord. As people would come to see the wonderful temple, they would learn about the services which told about a Saviour to come and how by faith in this coming Saviour, sins could be forgiven. As people came to Solomon to learn about His great wisdom, he could have told them the truth about the God of Heaven Who had blessed Solomon with this wisdom and greatness. Others would have wanted to follow God too and the temple would have been God’s temple. It would have stood for all times and we would have been able to see it today.

## Tuesday

**Text: 1 Kings 9:4-7** “**And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel. But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and**

**worship them: Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people.”**

It is good to read all of what God said to Solomon when He spoke again to him when the temple was finished. God knew that already Solomon was gradually turning away his heart from serving God to pride and selfishness. God knew what would happen as a result of the wrongs that Solomon had already started to do and the wrongs he would do.

God told Solomon that if the people of Israel turned away from serving God, they would eventually be destroyed and so would the temple be burned and destroyed. People would hiss and be astonished and want to know why it had happened and they would say, “This has happened because the people of God turned away from following and obeying God!”

God knew that the people would follow their king and turn their hearts away from God also. The warning God gave Solomon needs to be read and thought of by each one of us. God deals the same with His people now as He did then. If we are willing and obey God, He can and will bless us, but if we turn away and serve ourselves and our own ideas, we will eventually be destroyed just like the great Temple that was one of the wonders of the world!

Our God is the same yesterday, today and always. If we have a humble and teachable spirit and obey His Word, then He does bless us and is with us. If only Solomon would have listened and stopped doing the things that he was starting to do in pride and disobedience to God!

**Thought** – Always remember that God’s blessings are not found in great riches and wealth and luxury, as He knows that such things are not good for us. But He blesses with power to live a good and useful life, and joy and peace in the heart. These blessings even all the riches of the world cannot buy.

## Wednesday

**Text: 1 Kings 7:13,14** “**And king Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre. He was a widow’s son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to**



**work all works in brass. And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work.”**

Even in the very building of the Temple, Solomon made a mistake that would cause trouble even down through the ages. Remember the story of how the first sanctuary was built in the wilderness by Israel under the Lord’s instructions? Well at that time, God gave special knowledge and wisdom to two men of Israel, so they could make the special furniture and so on for the sanctuary.

After the job was done, God did not take away the special gift, and these men and their children after them were famous in the world for being able to do wonderful work in metals and other crafts.

At first these men remained humble and used their gift to bless others. But after a while they began to charge very high wages for their work and soon a spirit of moneymaking drowned out the good of the gift God had given them.

Now already Solomon was starting to fail to ask guidance from God as much as he did at first. When he wanted a man to make the special work for the temple, he did not remember to ask God, whom he should choose. Instead he sent to a heathen nation and hired a man who, though he was a descendant of one of these two men, was a heathen.

This man was Hiram, (sometimes written Hiram) and he was not a worshipper of the True God. He should not have been allowed to work on the Temple. God only likes people to do His work who love to do it, because they love to serve him. But this man demanded huge amounts of money to do the work. He did not care that it would be a privilege to even work for free on the House of God!

Soon the selfishness and pride of this man began to spread to the other workers. Soon this group demanded high wages or they would go on strike. Then another group demanded. Instead of the wonderful temple being built by people who loved to serve God, it was being built by selfish people who only wanted to get what they could out of the king. This spirit has remained even down to our day in the hearts of men who do not love to serve the Lord.

**Thought** – So it ended up to be Solomon’s Temple and not God’s, even though at first, God did accept it.

### Thursday

**Text: Matthew 21:42 “Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone**

**which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?”**

An interesting object lesson happened in the building of the Temple. It was a story that Jesus later used to teach the people. As we have said, the stones and logs for the building, were all to be prepared ahead of time, so when the temple was actually built, it was to go together like a giant Lego set. There was to be no noise of hammers or saws as it was built.

Imagine how carefully they had to number the pieces and prepare them according to the plans or they just would not fit. The stones were huge that were to be used in the foundation. In fact, a few of them are still standing today in what is called ‘the Wailing Wall’ in Jerusalem, where the Jews like to come and pray.

As they were putting the foundation together, there with the stones brought from the quarry was a strangely shaped stone of great size. The workers could not figure out where it was supposed to go. It did not seem to fit anywhere, so they pushed it to one side and kept on building. For a long time it was an annoyance as it was just in the way.

Then there came a time when they found they needed a very special stone to make the corner. It had to be very strong and large as it had to bear all the great weight of the building and hold it together.

If they chose a stone not strong enough the whole building could fall down! They searched and tested stones but none were right for the job. Some just crumbled when great weight was put on them, others would crack when the sun and the frost came.

Then somebody remembered the rejected stone. They brought it to the place and tested it. Sure enough, it was found to fit perfectly and could bear all the weight needed.

In this real happening, God had left an object lesson pointing to Jesus. When He would come to earth, He would be rejected as someone who just did not fit anywhere in worldly ideas.

But for those who will accept Him, they find He is the one on which they can safely build their whole lives and their hope for Salvation. The stone rejected became the most important stone of all!

**Thought** – Jesus is the Sure Foundation Stone. If we surrender to Him we will find Him a safe refuge from all trouble. Those who reject Him will one day perish in their sins.



## Friday

**Text: 1 Kings 6:12-14** “Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father: And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel. So Solomon built the house, and finished it.”

God richly blessed Solomon as long as he was willing and obedient. If only Solomon would have always stayed obedient to the Lord, then Israel would have been the greatest nation on earth and people from the entire world would have learned about the True God of Heaven from Israel, and His fame would have been everywhere.

Israel was very large in the time of Solomon and great caravans were constantly passing through from the east and west. God had placed Israel where all the world's traffic tended to come through it. He had also given to Solomon a Missionary Spirit, to desire to give the knowledge of the Lord's Truth to all the world's people.

Gradually though, Satan was able to change the missionary spirit into a desire to make money and do business. Solomon built great, strong cities where the caravans had to pass so he could make money off them.

Many years before, through the Prophet Moses, God had left warnings for anyone who should become a ruler or king in Israel. You can find these rules in Deuteronomy 17:17-20. Any king was supposed to have them handy and read and follow them always.

Solomon knew these rules, and when he obeyed them, all went well. But bit-by-bit he began to break

these rules. One rule was that the king should not have a lot of wives, and everyone knew that no Israelite was to marry a person from a heathen religion. Nor was he to have lots of horses and chariots. Neither was he to get involved in gathering up riches and money. He was not to think that just because he was a king, that he was better than the people he ruled. All were to be equal in Israel. The King's job was to serve the people.

First Satan led Solomon to make a deal with Egypt and marry the Princess. It seemed to him that he had gotten away with breaking God's rules, as the Princess did become a worshipper of God. But soon Solomon was marrying more heathen wives and breaking all the rules God had laid down for kings!

Ever so slowly Solomon was led from worshipping the True God, to the place where he was bowing down to heathen idols. How Satan was laughing at that! How terribly did this affect the entire nation as well. If the King, who was known to be so wise, would take part in heathen feasts and worship, the people thought it must be alright for them to do it too. Can you see why we must never look to another human being to guide us as to what is right? We need to study God's Word for ourselves.

Finally God declared that the kingdom would be taken from Solomon and his family and given to a servant. But because of His promise to David, he would let 2 tribes remain under David's descendants.

**Thought** - It is so sad that Israel was only great for a very few years, then by insisting on disobeying God, they lost His blessing. We can only be truly blessed if we fully trust and obey God. It is not huge and costly buildings that really honor God. People who love and serve Him with a humble heart honor Him much more than all the riches of Solomon. Character is Heaven's wealth. = ^ .. ^ =

