

# TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

## TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 2nd Quarter - Issue #12



### CREATION CORNER

#### THE CUP OF COLD WATER

A PLANT, with its bright red berries and dark rich leaves, stood in a window; it was drooping and withering because its caretaker had forgotten its daily cup of cold water. How helpless it stood; like a picture of sadness, in the sunshine. Really, under the circumstances, clouds would have suited it better. But what a change after the refreshing drink was given! Each little leaf seemed to feel the new impulse, and in a short time it was a thing of beauty again.

Only a cup of cold water! Only a kind word to some one who is having a hard day; just perhaps, to tell of Jesus who will help them. Only a few thoughts sent out, like a dove, to find rest in a troubled life, and to speak of the peace that passeth understanding. Only a smile to a weary one, and a little poem or tract in the midst of busy hours to give new hope, or new light, along the way or a kindly letter or card of remembrance. There are so many ways to give "cups of cold water." And he who gives these as he journeys on "shall in no wise lose his reward." = ^ .. ^ =

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### PROPHETIC LESSONS

#### My Visit to Old Ur of the Chaldees

IT is a thrilling, awe-inspiring experience to walk along the streets of Ur, the original hometown of Abraham; to wander through the ruins that once were the homes of his neighbors. I had this experience while traveling in Mesopotamia. It was a long drive by car from Baghdad along the clay road that runs toward the Persian Gulf. We drove all day and after dark arrived at a small cluster of sun baked clay huts that formed the small railway junction of Ur ' and spent the night with the Arabs in one of their mud huts.

Dawn broke over that flat land, and as the sun grew stronger it served only to reveal a wide wilderness. Some two miles away an enormous mound of reddish earth rose from the dry, salty, blank, unredeemed desert. It was unmistakably the famous Ziggurat of Ur, the temple tower of the moon goddess of the ancient people of Chaldea.

I climbed the Ziggurat by the very ramp, uncovered by the excavators, which had been used by the worshippers twenty-three hundred years before Christ. I looked around at a view I shall never forget. Immediately below, clustered at the foot of the ruined temple, lay Ur. There were thousands

of roofless brick houses intersected by streets. This was the city in which Abraham was born, and from which he left for the Promised Land.

To stand and look over that dead city and read the sacred Scriptures regarding it, is a thrilling experience. Notice these words from Genesis 11: 23-31: "And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees." "And Terah took Abraham his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan."

Until 1926 so-called higher criticism was actually taught in some churches and Sunday schools regarding Abraham. It was maintained that the story of Abraham was merely traditional folklore, and that neither Abraham nor his city, Ur of the Chaldees, ever existed. Time has again confirmed the Bible, and the spade of excavation has proved the precious old Book to be true. For centuries the city of Abraham lay as nameless ruins beneath the great waste of unprofitable sands. Now that very city has been discovered and unearthed, and we find that not only was Abraham. A real man, but that Ur was a great seaport city, a cultural center, a city of libraries, art, museums, and schools.

As Sir Leonard Woolley has declared in his book, "Ur of the Chaldees," page 118: "We must revise considerably our ideas of the Hebrew patriarch, when we learn that his earlier years were spent in such sophisticated surroundings. He was the citizen of a great city and inherited the traditions of an ancient and highly organized civilization. The houses themselves bespoke comfort and even luxury."

Here is something very interesting about one of the houses in Ur which has been lately unearthed. It is reported that on the wall beside the door, on the right side as you enter, you can see a little boy's attempt to try out his new stylus, or ancient pencil. He had scratched a name on the wall in the cuneiform letters, which he, no doubt, learned in the school near by. If we translate this name into English we get this, "Abram." Was this the Abram of the Bible? It was about his time, and in his city.

Then in this same city a clay tablet was found containing a contract regarding camels. The name signed by the party of the first part is the same as scratched on the wall, "A-B-R-A-M," and of hundreds and thousands of tablets found and

translated, this is the only one with "Abram" upon it, and we have found it right in this city of Ur. We can confidently trust the Bible and the Christ of the Bible.

When God called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees, he little realized to what pinnacle of fame his obedience to God would lift him. Among ancient characters there is none that takes a higher place than does Abraham the Hebrew. To the Jewish people he is Father Abraham; the Arabic descendants of Ishmael speak of him as "the friend of God." The Mohammedans place him first among their four great prophets, while to the great Christian world he has been and still is the "Father of the Faithful."

Today, under the roof of the mosque at Hebron is his monument. It is covered with gorgeous green brocade and shielded by a silver grille. In the middle of the floor is a circular opening covered with a grating. From this grating is a lamp suspended. Peering down through the opening you can see the lamp burning in the darkness far below. You are looking into the cave of Machpelah, where rests the dust of Abraham. He left Ur with his eyes fixed on the promise of the Eternal. He was content to be a stranger and a pilgrim, "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:8-10.

But let me assure you that the blank and unredeemed waste of unprofitable sand that stretches as far as the eye can see, is not what Abraham saw. Today it seems incredible that such a wilderness should ever have been inhabited by man, and that the dusty, weathered hillocks at one's feet cover the temples and houses of a very great city. But such is the case.

It has been found that the houses of Ur had two storeys in Abraham's time, and contained from fourteen to twenty rooms, with plastered and whitewashed walls; built in a better way than during Nebuchadnezzar's reign.

Documents reveal that a high educational system existed during that period, with the following subjects taught in the schools: languages, writing, arithmetic, geography, and natural science. Jewelry and other gold and silver objects discovered in the tombs of Ur showed that craftsmanship had reached an exceedingly high level.

We now know that in the days of Abraham, Ur had had a long and glorious history. The excavation of the royal tombs has revealed a fabulous store of treasures; objects of gold and silver were abundant,

not only as ornaments for personal adornment but also as vessels. Weapons and even tools were made of precious metals. Copper was a metal in everyday use. They also used glass, bronze, tin, and iron.

In their flourishing days the arts and crafts rose to a high level of perfection and beauty, which was not seen again for centuries. This is especially interesting to the Bible lover, for the Bible knows nothing about the fable of early barbarians and uncivilized men gradually developing into civilized peoples. Excavations have confirmed the Bible in this also.

As Dr. Hall in his history of the Near East declares: "When civilization appears it is already full grown."

The same was discovered in the monuments of ancient Egypt. Notice this statement from Mr. Philip H. Groose in his book, "The Monuments of Ancient Egypt," page 291: "The information derived from the monuments of Egypt is entirely opposed to the imagined progress of art and science. On the contrary, the more remote the antiquity of the records which have been preserved to us, the greater is the skill, the power, the knowledge, and the taste which they reveal."

These ancient peoples even had a greater knowledge of astronomy than was prevalent in civilized Europe 3,500 years later. Works of art, astonishing in their beauty, have been found to be relics of the first, not latter ages. How wonderfully the spade of the archeologist is confirming this precious old Bible of ours!

Dr. A. H. Sayce, that eminent authority and archeologist, declared when speaking at a great meeting in the Albert Hall, London, on December 4, 1923: "A skeptical attitude toward the records of the Old and New Testaments is today usually the mark of ignorance or semi-knowledge. The leading scientists have returned in great measure to what may be termed the traditional views on the subject, and' nowhere is this more strikingly the case than as regards the historical records of Scripture."

Recent findings of the archeologist continue to show that the ancient worshippers of the moon goddess of Ur, unknowingly prepared for us the baked clay evidences that God's Word is true. The silent dead are giving emphatic testimony to the truth of the Bible records. As man has scraped away the dust of these ancient cities and tombs, and the Bible, the lamp of time, sheds its light, we see Abraham and other great characters of Scripture

revealed as living originals, historical characters.

The evidences of the divine origin and historic accuracy of the Holy Scriptures were never so strong as they are today. Recently a prominent archeologist was asked if any discovery had been made in all the wide-spread diggings in Bible lands that contradicts the Bible. Note the answer of this man of research: "No, not one. There has not been the faintest disproof of the Bible, but many corroborations."

This is not only interesting, but comforting; the witnesses of a bygone world testify to the correctness of the deathless Word of our God and cry aloud from the dim past that the Bible is the Word of truth. Burnside's - 1950 = ^..^ =

## **TRUE-STORY-TIME**

### **Healed by an Angel**

**By O. Montgomery**

Edith Donaldson Brownsberger tells the story in her own words, as written to W. C. White, Ellen White's son:

"All who were in that congregation saw the work of healing that was done by the angel of the Lord, but as far as I know there were only four who saw the light of the angel. Those four were James White, Mary Kelsey White, Ella King Sanders, and I. What we saw then we could not forget.

"I know that your father saw it, because when I came home that night after the meeting Elder White said to me, 'Did you see the angel?' When I replied in the affirmative, he took my hand and said, 'Child, thank the Lord that He opened your eyes. He did it for some purpose.'

"I was then boarding with Brother and Sister Robert Sawyer, where your father and mother and you and your wife were boarding.

"Mary also talked with me. I do not remember any words that she spoke, but my impression is that she saw about the same as I.

"Your mother had just returned from some extended trip. She came home in the early part of the week, and she had an appointment to speak the next Sunday night in the Tabernacle. The Lord had made known to her that some matter which had been shown her in vision concerning the condition of the Battle Creek church and the sanitarium were to be made known to the people.

"But she had come home sick. She had a severe cold, was very weak, and she was so hoarse

that she could not speak above a whisper. Every morning and every night the burden of your father's prayer was that she might be healed and given strength to speak or that the burden of the meeting might be taken from her. I expected the prayer to be answered by the lifting of the burden.

"When Sunday night came your father said, 'Ellen, shall I call off the appointment?' She answered, 'No, the burden rests heavy upon me.'

Then he carried her out to the carriage in his arms and took her to the Tabernacle. She scarcely had strength to walk as he assisted her to her seat on the rostrum. After the opening exercises she arose and, leaning upon the desk, began to speak.

"Her voice was only a whisper. Ella and I were sitting directly in front, but I could not hear her words.

"A few months before this I had traveled in company with Sister White from my Oregon home to Battle Creek. On the way we had stopped over for several weeks in Oakland, California, and also in Colorado. I had often slept in the room with Sister White and early every morning I would be awakened by her voice in prayer. I could see her kneeling by her bedside, her eyes open and looking upward, her hands clasped and moving one over the other in the manner familiar to those who have seen her in prayer.

"She prayed aloud, and after all these years these words ring in my ears, 'He is the chiefest among ten thousand and altogether lovely.' 'He is high and lifted up, and the train of His glory fills the temple.' She was beholding her Saviour.

"If I had known then what I know now, if I had appreciated the precious privilege that was mine, I would have listened more intently to those prayers. But I was a child; the atmosphere was peaceful and heavenly, and I fell asleep to be awakened later by her voice telling me it was time to get up.

"Then when I saw dear Mother White almost too weak to stand alone and unable to speak above a whisper and knew that for days she had been praying for healing and help from her heavenly Father, I could not understand why the Lord did not hear her prayer and give strength to carry the heavy burden He had laid upon her.

"I felt rebellious. I wanted to take her home and put her to bed and care for her as I used to care for my own mother. I could not understand how a God of love could require of His servant such hard and impossible things. I felt that I did not love such an unjust God, and I did not want to serve

Him.

"While these thoughts were passing through my mind, a shock like an electric shock passed through me and I trembled all over. Then I saw a light of dazzling brightness. This light was as much brighter than an electric light as an electric light is brighter than our tallow candles that we used to have for lights.

"I saw no shape or form. The light came from what seemed to me to be an opening in the roof of the building. My eyes were drawn to it just as it appeared to enter the building. The light moved over my head directly to Sister White. It enveloped her and then everything on the rostrum was hidden by the light. I was blinded and could see nothing for some moments.

"When I could see again, the light had vanished and Sister White stood erect at the edge of the rostrum. She was holding her Bible outstretched in one hand and her voice was pealing out like a bell.

"Her first words were, 'God has sent His angel and strengthened me.'

"Then I knew that the angel of the Lord had healed her. Then I understood that the Lord had not only required her to walk by faith right up to the edge of the precipice, but also to step off by faith, trusting in His strength.

"I do not remember much that was said that night. I could not understand it. I was bewildered. I had just come from the Methodist Church, and I thought that the Adventist people were a consecrated Christian people. The warning that God sent to Battle Creek church, and especially to the sanitarium and Doctor Kellogg, was confusing to my mind at that time. Later I could understand it.

"When Sister White came home that night she was well; there was no trace of her severe illness left and none was manifested later. The next day she was well and strong.

"Many times I have thought of your father's words, 'Thank the Lord, child, that He opened your eyes! He did it for a purpose.' I was a faithless, 'doubting Thomas,' and the Lord had mercy on me. While I was thinking those wicked, rebellious thoughts and doubting His love and justice, He proved to me that He 'is true and faithful concerning His promises.' "[Signed] EDITH D. BROWNSBERGER." Review and Herald, September 30, 1943. = ^..^ =



## STORY LESSON

### Another Car Parable

Now no body would ever really do what is in this story in real life, but in spiritual living most of us do it quite often.

A man had never owned a car before. Often he had seen other people zoom past in their powerful cars and how he wished he could travel that fast also. So he went and got a car.

One day his neighbor was surprised to see the man pushing his car down the road. He went to speak to him and asked what was wrong with his car.

“Why?” said the man, “This is my new car, isn’t it nice? But you know, I almost wish I hadn’t bought it, I am so tired of pushing it all the time!”

“Yes, but why are you pushing it?”

“Well how else can I get it to go?”

“Let me show you”, said the neighbor, “Did they give you a key when you bought the car?”

“Yes, I have it here.” He gave the key to the neighbor who showed him how to put the key into the ignition and start the powerful engine and soon he was zooming down the road.

Now nobody would be that foolish, but often in the Christian life we are. I will explain. We come to the place where we want to be a Christian, so we go and join a church somewhere and then we hear and read about how a Christian ought to live. So we decided to try and live like that.

We try so hard to be good. But over and over we keep falling into the same sins and it seems so hard. We are as tired as the man was pushing his car wherever he went. Sometimes we think it is no use to even try to be a Christian.

But the Bible shows us a better way. It gives us many precious promises and also shows us that whatever God tells us to do, is also a promise, and He gives the POWER for us to do it. All we have to do is ask for it by faith, making a choice to obey the Lord, and taking hold of the promises asking in Prayer for the Power to do it.

Prayer is the KEY in the hand of Faith that unlocks; or, if you please, starts the engine! What is Faith? Basically Faith means believing what God says and that He means what He says. Cars may fail to start, but His Word cannot fail!

Let us all stop trying to ‘do it ourselves’, and take hold of the Power that Jesus has made available to us. We can overcome all wrong habits and sinful ways in the mighty power of the Creator’s Word! His promises are sure. He spake and it was done! = ^ .. ^ =

## POEM LESSON

### A Cruel Boy’s Strange Dream:

ONCE a sweet boy sat and sung on a limb;  
On the ground stood a sparrow-bird, looking at him.

Now the boy, he was good, but the sparrow was bad,

So it shied a big stone at the head of the lad;  
And it killed the poor boy, and the sparrow was glad.

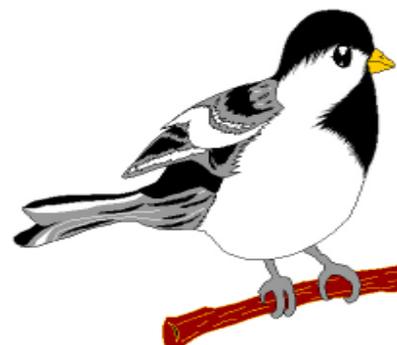
Then the little boy’s mother flew over the trees.

“Tell me, where is my little boy, sparrow-bird,  
please?”

“He is safe in my pocket,” the sparrow-bird said;  
And another stone shied at the fond mother’s head;  
And she fell at the feet of the wicked bird, dead.

You imagine, no doubt, that the tale I have mixed;  
But it wasn’t by me that the story was fixed.  
’Twas a dream a boy had after killing a bird;  
And he dreamed it so loud that I heard every word,  
And I jotted it down as it really occurred.

- Good Words. = ^ .. ^ =





**Year 3: 2nd Quarter:**  
**“GIVE US A KING”**  
**WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 12:**  
**“THE KINGDOM DIVIDED”**

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: “Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.”**  
**Leviticus 19:32**

**Sunday**

**Text: 1 Kings 11:28-31 “And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph. And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field: And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces: And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee.”**

Last week we learned how as Solomon turned from obeying God and went all the way into heathen idolatry, that The Lord sent a message to him that the kingdom would be taken from his family and given to his servant. However the Lord was so merciful to Solomon and said it would be taken from his son, and part of it would still be left with the house of David, for the sake of His promise to David.

There was a man in the house of Solomon who was a servant there and the son of a servant. His name was Jeroboam. He was a hard worker and wise and Solomon had already made him a governor over the tribes of Joseph's sons.

One day as he was walking in the field, the prophet of God came up and took a new garment and tore it into twelve pieces. Then he told Jeroboam to take ten of those pieces. He was to be king over ten of the tribes of Israel, but this was not to happen until Solomon was dead.

God told Jeroboam the same as he told all the kings, “If you will obey me and walk in my commandments, I will bless you and be with you and your family will be kings after you.”

However Jeroboam was not the type to just wait around, he began to stir up trouble for Solomon. Solomon learned that Jeroboam was the one God was going to give Israel to and he tried to kill him just like Saul had tried to kill David. Jeroboam fled into Egypt and did not return until Solomon died.

**Thought** - The results of our deeds come back on us sooner or later.

**Monday**

**Text: 1 Kings 11:43 “Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.”**

Rehoboam was the one of the sons of Solomon, the one who he had chosen to reign after him. He was the son of an Ammonite Princess and had been surrounded by idolatry as he was growing up.

Later after Solomon repented and turned back to God, he tried to teach his son the right ways and to undo the effects of the idol worship from him and teach him the ways of the God of heaven.

But because of Solomon's own sins, Rehoboam was not much interested in listening to his father preach to him. He did not have any strength to his character. He would worship God for a while, but

then would sink back into the heathen worship he learned from his mother.

He also had grown up in the richest palace in the world! He liked luxury and selfish pleasure. He had the idea that to be King was to have his own way in everything. But God intended Kings to be the servants of the people and look out for their best interest, not their own.

**Thought** – The way children are first taught when they are young has a very strong power over them. If you were taught right, be happy! If not, don't give up, just ask God to help you overcome and if you make a firm choice to serve Him, He will teach you His ways!

### Tuesday

**Text: 1 Kings 12:1-4** “**And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king. And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;) That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying, Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.**”

It is important to notice that even though God had said ten of the tribes of Israel would be taken away from Solomon's house, still Rehoboam was given a chance and a choice. If he had been a wise man serving the Lord, he would have kept the kingdom.

Solomon had been such a rich king, and he had money and goods coming into him from all over the world. He had more than anyone could ever want. And yet when he went into devil worship, the blessing of God was partly removed and he did not prosper.

Also, he went into great expense as he built all these temples and shrines and idols for his wicked wives and himself to worship. Pagan idolatry is always an expensive business as the huge feasts and entertainments and all the heathen priests and so on cost a king's fortune.

It was not long before Solomon began to take

money most unfairly from the people of his kingdom. He set up taxes and more taxes until the people became poor to support his luxury and he did not care.

He passed laws and made the people of the land do so much work for him that they hardly had time to care for their own lands and families! The king that had been wise and gracious became cruel and hard hearted. The people mourned for the selfishness of the king.

**Thought** – Remember what God had told Samuel to tell the people when they wanted a king? Well it all came true to the letter! (see 1 Samuel 8:9-18)

### Wednesday

**Text: 1 Kings 12:6-8** “**And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people? And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever. But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him.**”

The people of Israel now came to King Rehoboam and they asked him honestly if he would make the burden that Solomon had put on them a little lighter, and if so, they would gladly serve him and have him for their king.

This was Rehoboam's chance to save his kingdom. Would he take it?

He sent for the old and wise men that had stood as counselors to Solomon in his better days. “What should I do with these people?” he asked.

The wise old men advised him to listen to the people, show kindness to them. If he did the people would happily serve him all his life.

Rehoboam thought about it, but it did not appeal to his selfish, ease loving character. He decided to call the young men he had grown up with, many of them idol worshippers. They were like him, they liked to party and have a good time at the expense of others.

In they came to his throne room. “What should

I do?" he asked them.

"Well, your majesty", they said, "You are the KING! What you want is what counts, not what they want! You better show them who is boss and put them in their place."

Now no doubt this young man was pretty much used to being spoiled and having his own way since he was little. He liked how his buddies flattered him and he liked the idea of being boss, so he called the people together and made a cruel and terrible announcement.

**Thought** – Many young people today are turning away from the counsel of the old and wise, which God would have them to follow, and listening to the counsel of the young and foolish. Be sure you don't make that mistake!

### Thursday

**Text: 1 Kings 12:13,14** "And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him; And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

Jeroboam had quickly come from where he was hiding out in Egypt as soon as he heard of Solomon's death. He had talked to the people of Israel but they all decided, no doubt under the influence of the Holy Spirit, to give the son of Solomon one last chance. But he threw it away.

Proudly the young King sauntered out to appear before the people of the tribes of Israel. And what did he tell them? Basically he said that if they thought Solomon made their lives hard, just wait and see what he would do. He said he would make their load heavier and if his father had beaten them with whips, he would beat them with scorpions!

That did it. Any hope to save the kingdom was now gone. The ten tribes said, "What have we to do with the house of David, let's go home Israel". So Rehoboam found himself king only over the cities of Judah and Benjamin, while most of the country rebelled against him and chose Jeroboam as their king.

He did not give up right away, he decided to send the tax collector to try and make peace with them. What happened? The people of Israel caught the man and stoned him to death! Rehoboam then

was afraid for his own life and fled back to Jerusalem.

He started to gather an army to fight against the ten tribes and force them back in line. He realized he had been foolish and for a while he smartened up and followed the Lord.

**Thought** – Often when once we make a foolish choice, we find we cannot undo it.

### Friday

**Text: 1 Kings 12:21-24** "And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying, Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD."

Rehoboam was going to fight against the tribes who had rebelled. But God sent a prophet to tell him not to do it. He told the king it was the will of the Lord that Israel would be divided.

The king and the people listened to the message and did not go to war against their brother tribes. For the first few years, Rehoboam's kingdom did very well. One reason was that at first he decided to obey the Lord.

Another reason was that many wise and good men came from the ten tribes and joined themselves to the king, as they did not want to leave the house of David. These men were a blessing to Judah and Benjamin.

Rehoboam planned wisely and built cities of defense and made them strong, placing wise captains of the army in each one. He seemed for a while to turn from his silly ways and be wise as his father had first been. But sadly, he soon turned back to the exciting and debasing ways of paganism

and left off to serve the Lord.

How sad the words: "It came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the Lord, and all Israel with him." 2 Chronicles 12:1.

It wasn't long before God allowed an enemy, Shishack king of Egypt, to attack and take many of the cities of Judah. He also went right into Jerusalem and stole away the beautiful shields of gold Solomon had made.

The prophet of God warned Rehoboam, "Because you have forsaken God, I will let Shishack the king of Egypt rule over you!" But when the people heard this, they repented and the Lord showed them some mercy. He would not allow Shishack to destroy them, but they would have to

serve him and pay money to him.

So in a few years the kingdom of Israel went from being the greatest nation the world has seen, to a weak and divided country, serving the king of Egypt. Why? Because they left off to obey the Lord and served their selfish hearts and worshipped idols.

**Thought** - "No man liveth unto himself. None perish alone in their iniquity. Every life is a light that brightens and cheers the pathway of others, or a dark and desolating influence that tends toward despair and ruin. We lead others either upward to happiness and immortal life, or downward to sorrow and eternal death. And if by our deeds we strengthen or force into activity the evil powers of those around us, we share their sin." Prophets and Kings 94. = ^ .. ^ =

## SOMEBODY'S MOTHER

THE woman was old, and ragged, and gray,  
And bent with the chill of the winter's day;  
The street was wet with a recent snow,  
And the woman's feet were aged and slow.

She stood at the crossing and waited long  
Alone, uncared-for amid the throng  
Of human, beings who passed her by,  
Nor heeded the glance of her anxious eye.

Down the street, with laughter and shout,  
Glad in the freedom of school let out,  
Came the boys like a flock of sheep,  
Hailing the snow piled white and deep.

Past the woman so old and gray  
Hastened the children on their way,  
Nor' offered a helping hand to her,  
So meek, so timid, afraid to stir,

Lest the carriage wheels or horses' feet  
Should crowd her down in the slippery street.

At last came one of the merry group  
The happiest lad in all the group;  
He paused beside her, and whispered low,  
"I'll help you across, if you wish to go."

Her aged hand on his strong, young arm  
She placed, and so, without hurt or harm,  
He guided the trembling feet along,  
Proud that his own were firm and strong.

Then back again to his friends he went,  
His young heart happy and well content.  
"She's somebody's mother, boys, you know,  
For all she's old, and poor, and slow;

"And I hope some fellow will lend a hand  
To help my, mother, you understand,  
"If ever she's poor and old and gray,  
When her own dear boy is far away."

And "somebody's mother" bowed low her head  
At home that night, and the prayer she said  
Was: "God, be kind to the noble boy,  
Who is somebody's son and pride and joy!"  
- Selected.