

# TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

## TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 3rd Quarter - Issue #10



### CREATION CORNER

#### Our Tricky Minds

**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? Jeremiah 17:9**

The heart as mentioned in this verse means the mind, but not just the brain- it includes the feelings, attitudes and emotions. We often say, "Oh, I love you with all my heart", and we all know what we mean by that. This verse tells us that our fallen human attitudes, unless they are absolutely under the control of Jesus and we have been 'born again', are tricky and unreliable.

One of the deceitful tricks we do with our minds when the Holy Spirit is not fully in charge of us, is to hate someone that we know we have done wrong to. Maybe we lie or cheat or harm or rob someone, and our conscience tells us we have done wrong and makes us feel badly. Down inside we know we should repent and go and ask for forgiveness, and do what we can to make up for what we did wrong to the person.

BUT, we resist that guidance from the Holy

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Spirit. We don't want to admit we did wrong. We are like Satan, too proud to repent. So what do our tricky minds do? We start to think bad thoughts about the person we did wrong to. We start to try and convince ourselves that what we did was somehow OK, or, that the other person is wrong and hateful and deserved what we did to them.

In fact we can really start to hate them, not because they have done anything, but because our conscience bothers us every time we even think about them. This is very much what happened when Cain killed Abel.

I know of an interesting experience in this kind of thing and I will tell you the story, but at the same time I want you to know that any one of us is quite capable of doing such nasty things if; 1, we are not fully surrendered to the control of Jesus; or 2, we refuse to admit it when we do wrong.

For a number of years Trish lived in a little house in a village in a rather poor eastern province and had a rather poor neighbor in a shabby little house right next door. Trish was a registered nurse and so had a bit more income than many of her neighbors and would often give this lady useful things and help, as she needed it.

They were friendly together and even after Trish moved far away, this lady wrote and sometimes phoned. Trish had always hoped to be able to get back for a visit, but never had been able to. Trish would send money to this lady to help her and her family, and she would write letters to or call her. Now when Trish and her Mom talked together about it, They learned she was telling the same sad story to each of them separately, and not ever mentioning the money the other one had sent. This way she often got two gifts out of one story. This was sad as the lady actually had more money than Trish's mother at least.

One of her favorite stories to get them to send money was to tell how costly it was to buy wood for the woodstove. When Trish was there, both had wood burning stoves, and in the late summer and fall, had to get the loads of wood in for the winter use.

This went on for years and she was always telling how much she loved Trish and her Mom. Then Trish's now adult son did get a chance to make a trip down to visit the area where he had grown up. When he went to their old house, what was his surprise to see that the neighbor lady's house was torn down!

On asking around, he learned it had been torn down for years, as the town had condemned it and had given them a nice new house to live in. He learned where they were now living and after quite a search showed up at her door. He visited with her and found they had a lovely new place with all electric heat and they had been living there for years.

Now Trish's son said nothing about the false stories she had been sending, and he did not know how much had been sent to this lady. But when he came home again and told Trish and her mother about what he had seen, they then knew for a fact that the stories she had been telling were not true! It had not been long before that the lady had asked for money to help buy wood, and here she had not needed any wood for years.

Trish and her mother decided to say nothing, but also to stop sending handouts. However they never needed to say anything. It seemed that once this lady knew her lies had been exposed, she was bothered in her conscience and sadly, rather than repent and admit her dishonesty, she turned to hating as much as she had

claimed before to love.

That Christmas Trish sent a few dollars to their little boy for Christmas and received back a very blunt reply and never another word or card from that lady, who 'loved them' so much. But did the fact that Trish had learned of her lies undo all the kindness she had shown her? Did it take back all the hundreds of dollars, and gifts lovingly sent to her? No; but it made all her gratitude melt away into cold hatred towards those she had cheated.

I want to say to all of us, including myself, if you do wrong, don't blame someone else; don't hate the person you did wrong to, trying to sooth your conscience; don't be stubborn and hide your sins; go to Jesus and repent of your sin and go and confess to the person you have wronged and do what you can to repay their loss, because of what you did.

Throwing away a friend because you have done them wrong, and refuse to admit it, is not a smart choice! "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Pr 28:13  
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## HISTORY

### **The Counterfeiter: 8. The Counterfeit Destruction of the Wicked**

"GOD is love." He is "merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." He "so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." 1 John 4:16; Exodus 34:6; 2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16.

This is the character of the God we serve. It seems hardly possible that Satan, the master counterfeiter, should make the majority of the Christian world believe that God is cruel, vindictive-anything but what He is. Yet this is what has happened as a result of the counterfeit teaching regarding the destruction of the wicked. Here is the picture as it is commonly understood and taught today:

A sinner lives a few short years-perhaps ten, twenty-five, or, even in rare cases, a hundred-before he dies and comes before the judgment bar of God. Because of his refusal to accept salvation, he is sentenced to eternal hell-fire.

A hundred years pass. Writhing in agony, the sinner lifts his voice to God and pleads for mercy, for death rather than torture. Back from heaven thunders the voice of God: "No, burn on!" A thousand years more pass, then a million. Additional pleas addressed to the Ruler of the universe receive the same uncompromising sentence: "No, burn on!" Time stretches on endlessly; passing millenniums are but the inch marks on a never-ending scale; but throughout the universe, as each mark is passed, the voice of the Creator echoes: "No, burn on!"

Probably no doctrine of devil worship has ever created more infidels than has this, for no intelligent being could love or worship such a God. Yet such is today a commonly accepted teaching of the Christian church. One book, written for children, describes the picture in detail, telling how the saliva sizzles in the mouth, the blood boils in the veins. The sinner opens his mouth to ask for water, and fire shoots out, as it does also from his ears, his nose, and his eyes.

The origin of the doctrine of eternal hell-fire, as anyone who gives the subject a thought must know, is in ancient demon worship. It is the generally accepted theory among heathen tribes today. Buddhist temples contain pictures of souls being cast into hell-fire, while the four "heavenly kings"-hideous figures in dark, each carrying a pitchfork, and wound around with the coils of a serpent -look on.

Olcott declares, on page 49 of his "Sun Lore of All Ages," that is was the generally accepted belief among all ancient sun worshipers that at death men were sent either to the sun or to the moon, there to suffer eternally in fire for their misdeeds. The ancient Germans taught that all evildoers received eternal punishment in the heat of the sun. In a book written within the past century by the (R) Tobias Snoden, the learned preacher seeks to prove that the sun is hell, and that the sunspots are gatherings of damned souls!

Some Christian churches today teach that there is a purgatory where those undeserving of eternal torment may go to be purified of their sins, after which they will be received into heaven. Indulgences of a certain number of days are granted for the saying of certain magic words, or for doing good deeds. The Douay Version of the Scriptures, in its -Preface, promises three

hundred days out of purgatory to everyone who will spend fifteen minutes in reading the sacred pages.

The Bible itself does not mention or even hint at this place called purgatory and clearly teaches that there is no such thing as eternal torment for the wicked.

To answer this very charge against Him, God declares in Nahum 1:9-11: "What do ye imagine against the Lord? He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time. For while they be folden together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry. There is one come out of thee, that imagined evil against the Lord, a wicked counselor."

### **"The Wicked Shall Perish"**

Other Bible prophets add their testimony against the ever-repeated charge of demon worshipers that God Himself is a demon. "I will utterly consume all things from off the land, saith the Lord. I will consume man and beast. . . I will cut off the remnant of Baal [literally master or lord; but used among the Hebrews and many ancient nations as the specific title of the sun-god]; . . . and them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops." Zephaniah 1:2.

"The wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away." Psalm 37:20

"Evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be." Verses 9,10

Isaiah plainly declares that the wicked shall be destroyed, and the fires will go out which burn them: "Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it." Isaiah 47:14.

Nor does there need to be any speculation as to the location of the place of punishment. It is not on the sun or in some cavern beneath the surface of the earth that those who chose eternal death will find it; it will be on this earth itself, and in the sight of the righteous. "Be-

hold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. . . . And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts." Malachi 4:1-3.

### The Destroyer Will Be Destroyed

Even Lucifer himself shall be brought to ashes upon this earth in the sight of the watching righteous. "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty: . . . I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee." Ezekiel 28:17, 18.

The Scriptures teach that nowhere are men now being burned for their sins. "Where are the dwelling places of the wicked? . . . The wicked is reserved to the day of destruction" (Job 21:28-30), or, as Peter says: "The heavens and the earth which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men," when the "elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Peter 3:7, 10-

In spite of the fact that Romans 6:23 declares that "the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord," a great majority of professed Christians seem to persist to reading into this verse that the wages of sin is eternal life in hell-fire, thereby making their Creator the most diabolical of demons.

Part of the confusion is undoubtedly caused by the lack of the equivalent in modern languages for the Greek word *aionios*. Meaning, literally, "age-lasting," the word was used freely by the Greeks to describe almost anything, both temporal and eternal. In the Greek, it is perfectly proper to speak of an age-lasting tree, an age-lasting man, an age-lasting God, and an age-lasting hell-fire. In every such case, the meaning of *aionios* is governed by the age or perpetuity

of the thing described. In the case of God, *aionios* would be equivalent to our English word "eternal," because He is eternal; in the other three cases, *aionios* would be limited by the life span of the thing in question. As one lexicographer has expressed it, *aionios* is like a tree toad-it changes its color with its surroundings.

This confusion as to a modern equivalent of *aionios*, from which we get most of our "eternals" and "everlastings" in the Bible, together with the handed-down doctrine of demonology, has resulted in an unfortunate translation that at times appears contradictory to the texts quoted above; a little study into the original, however, removes the apparent contradiction, and leaves God's name untarnished as a just and humane being.

Again we have two teachings dealing with an important Christian doctrine, one originating among the devil worshipers of ancient Babylon, the other being clearly set forth in the Scriptures. One we know to be counterfeit, aimed to discredit the Creator and to lead men to despise His name; the other presents the just and mercy-tempered punishment that will be meted out to those who persist in rebellion against divine law. Knowing the source of each of these teachings, the true Christian can do but one thing in his thinking and teaching concerning the destruction of the wicked: He will flee out of Babylon, as commanded in Revelation 18:1-4, and take his stand firmly upon the word of God. From Murl Vance - 1940 = ^..^ =



## TRUE-STORY-TIME

### An Amazing Healing

This testimony was written by Pastor F.C. Gilbert, and it happened around the end of the 1800s.

After closing a series of evangelistic services in a tent in the city of Salem, Massachusetts, several of the friends greatly desired to assist in the breaking up of the camp. Among those who were helping us was one brother who had recently accepted the faith of Christ, and who had learned to love Jesus and His truth. This man had been rescued from the depths of sin, and the Lord Jesus had done great things for his soul. True, he was but a babe in Christ, but his heart was burning with love for Jesus. He was devoting a great deal of his time to learning the will of the Lord, and he longed to do all he could that he might drink deeper draughts from salvation's wells.

He spent considerable of his time during the summer in helping us at the tent, and he longed for the time to come that he might have the privilege of attending a camp-meeting where he might learn more of the word of the Lord. The day had arrived when we must take down the tent to prepare for the camp-meeting which would be held in about ten days. Being a sailor and familiar with the handling of canvas and masts, Brother C. wished to assist in the folding of tents, and the lowering of the large tent mast.

The gospel tent was a fifty-foot, circular tent, and the mast was about thirty-eight feet long, and about ten inches through at the base of the pole. While he was lowering the mast, a spliced rope tied about a stake to assist in lowering the pole, gave way, the mast was out of control, and the rope became wound diagonally across his back. This rope so tightened about him that it drew him against the large stakes, breaking four ribs, each rib in two places; and throwing him to the ground, the mast fell across both his legs. It was a miracle that the man was not instantly killed.

He was bruised, torn, and lacerated. It so affected him that he became nearly insane before the physician arrived. He kept pacing to and fro. One of the skilled physicians of Salem, Massachusetts, was immediately called, and he told the brother that if he did not stop moving about, he might die at any minute, as the

ribs, the way they were broken, might pierce his lungs. He was gotten under control while the physician gave him medical attention. He was thoroughly bandaged, but was a sad spectacle to look upon. His back was terribly bruised, and the ropes and the mast had torn clothing and flesh from different parts of his body.

After the doctor had done all he could to relieve him, he assisted him to his own carriage, and carefully drove the man about one and a half miles to his home. It was sad indeed to see this poor brother in such a terrible condition after he had interested himself so much in the work of God, and his heart was longing to go to the camp-meeting but a few days ahead. As the doctor was about to take him home, I asked the physician his opinion of the brother's condition. He said:

"If everything goes well, he may be able to get out in two months, but he may never get out of this alive. He has four ribs broken, and each rib is broken in two places. He is also injured generally."

I felt sad and sorry for the poor man, and wished that something might be done to help him. It was evident that human skill had done all it could, and the regular course of things must now be followed. All that we could now do was to leave the matter in the hands of God. After the brother reached his home, it was found that he was unable to lie down in his bed; he had to be bolstered up. A strap device was arranged for him, so that by careful handling, he was able to move himself, by the aid of this strap, from one side of the bed to the other. Each time he moved, the action was accompanied with groans.

Several days after he was confined to his bed, I called to see him, and it was then that I found him in the condition just described. He felt thankful to God that his life was spared, but he was sorry to think he could not go to the camp-meeting. It seemed sad that after he had waited a long time for the privilege of enjoying such a blessing as he would receive at the camp-meeting, he should now have to be denied the privilege. While we were visiting together, I did all I could to encourage him to trust in the Lord, and told him that all things worked together for good to those that loved the Saviour. But, somehow, I felt in my heart that the Lord would do a work for that man. He confessed all his sins to

the Saviour, and he longed for a deeper experience in God.

Before I left him, we had a season of prayer, and it was a blessed and precious season. The Holy Spirit came very near to us, and we felt sure that the presence and power of the Lord was in the room. We especially asked God to give the brother strength and health, and, if it would be for His glory, to completely heal him. I went away assured that God would do that which would be for His glory.

Two or three hours later, as he was lying in bed, he seemed to hear a voice saying to him, "You are well, why don't you get up?"

Heeding the call, he immediately threw the bed covers from him, and jumped from the bed. He tore the bandages from his body, and went to the door of the next room where his wife was. He called for his clothing, and put it on. He was a well man; his bones seemed to be as strong as ever; and he felt perfectly whole. It brought a shout of victory to his soul, and joy to his home. This happened Thursday night, just four days after the accident occurred.

The doctor came the next morning, as usual, to attend the patient, but the brother was around the house out-doors. "Where is the man?" the doctor asked.

He was then informed what had taken place. He was almost dazed. The physician was not a strong believer in the Lord, but here something had actually happened that was explicable to him. He knew the man's ribs were broken, four of them, each one in two places, and he knew that by no law of nature could the man have so improved from the condition he was in on the previous morning when he called to see him, as to get well so soon. He left the house puzzled and baffled, but admitted that the man was well.

The brother went to church the next Sabbath, and related his experience before the members present. The Spirit of the Lord came near with great power. It was a wonderful meeting, and it resulted in the conversion of his mother, an old woman who had reached threescore and ten years, and who had never made any profession of the Christian religion. The next day the brother rode his bicycle ten miles, and felt no ill effects from his trip. The man surely was healed.

When the time came for the camp-meeting, the brother was in attendance. It strengthened

his faith, and was a great blessing to many others to whom he told the story. While I personally knew the Lord had healed the man, I wished to have another physician examine him, so that there might be added evidence of the power of God to heal and to strengthen. I had the man present himself for examination to a skilled physician on the camp-ground. I myself saw how bruised and lacerated the man's body was just a few days before, but now his flesh was as fresh and clear as a child's. The doctor examined his ribs very carefully, and applied every test that a physician could apply. He said that the man's bones were perfectly sound.

The doctor turned to me, and asked, "Do you know it for a fact that this man had his bones broken as has been described?"

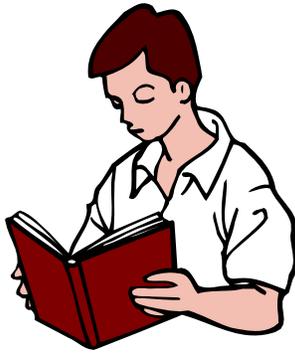
I told him what I saw with my own eyes, and gave him the testimony of the physician. The doctor was a noted physician of the city of Salem, Massachusetts, and there was no reason to doubt but that the man's ribs were broken, and his conduct at the time of the accident attested it.

Then said the doctor, "It is one of the most wonderful cases I have ever seen. There is nothing the matter with this man's ribs, they are all perfectly sound. The Lord surely did a remarkable miracle upon this man."

As far as I know, the man has been perfectly well from that day to this; he is constantly rejoicing in the great and mighty power of the blessed Christ. = ^ .. ^ =



A Camp-meeting Scene.



**Year 3: 3rd Quarter:**  
**“GOD’S MESSENGERS: THE PROPHETS”**  
**WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 10: “JOSIAH**  
**AND JEREMIAH”**

This series of Bible Story Lessons is about God’s Messengers, His Prophets. 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: “Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number.” Jeremiah 2:32**

**Sunday**

**Text: 2 Kings 22:1,2 “Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.”**

As we learned last week, Josiah, the eight-year-old son of Amon, came to the throne after his father died for his wickedness at the hands of his own servants. The people executed the murdering servants and then put the boy Josiah on the throne. By this time the northern kingdom of Israel had been destroyed and the land of Judah was all that remained of the once great nation of Israel. How great they could have been if only they had listened to God’s messengers and obeyed His Word.

Josiah was to rule for thirty-one years, the faithful ones in the kingdom began to hope for better days, for the new king, though only eight years old, feared God, and from the very beginning “he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.” 2 Kings 22:2.

Born of a wicked king, he had temptations to follow in his father’s steps, and few helpers to guide him in the right way. But Josiah determined to be true to the God of Israel and chose to do right. He decided he would obey all the counsel God had given to guide the kings of Israel, and so God was able to bless and help him.

Although many prophets had been killed by Manasseh, including Isaiah, God sent more during the time of Josiah. Habakkuk was one of them. It was during the reign of Josiah the word of the Lord also came to Zephaniah. And in the thirteenth year of Josiah’s reign, God called Jeremiah to the task.

The messages of these prophets as well as the determination of King Josiah to obey the Lord started a revival that helped delay the fall of Jerusalem.

**Thought** - Even when one is a child, they can determine to obey the Lord.

**Monday**

**Text: 2 Kings 22:10,11 “And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiyah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.”**

Now one of the first things Josiah did was to order the temple to be cleaned up and repaired. As the priests were doing this they found a copy of the Book of the Law, which had been lost and hidden away for many years.

In the early years of Hezekiah, he had commanded that this book, actually part of our Bible, should be read to the people every week. But through carelessness it was lost and as wickedness increased, there was little interest in finding it.

Now Hilkiyah the priest found this book and gave it to Shaphan the scribe, to take to the

king, Josiah asked him to read it and he listened closely. Now he felt really bad and tore his clothes as he realized how terribly far they had gone from the true Word of God.

The king called for the priests to come and then he sent them to ask of the Lord if there was any hope for Jerusalem to be spared. They went straight to Huldah the prophetess and asked her to ask the Lord about this for the king.

Soon the answer came from God through the prophetess. God said that because of all the wickedness, of the people His wrath would fall on Jerusalem. But He also said to Josiah, that because he had humbled his heart and wept before the Lord, God had heard him and the terrible destruction, which surely was coming, would not happen in the time of his reign. This greatly encouraged the king.

**Thought** – There is a power in the reading of the true Word of God that is not found in any other book! Read from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy every day and you will find that power.

## Tuesday

**Text: 1 Kings 13:2 “And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men’s bones shall be burnt upon thee.”**

Josiah was another man whose name was foretold long before he was born. If you remember the story of the man of God who came to prophesy against Jereboam and his altar in the words of our text. Now these words were about to be fulfilled.

When Josiah got the message from the Prophetess, he called a meeting of all the leaders and elders in Judah and he himself read the book of the law to them. Then he stood by a pillar and solemnly made a covenant before God to keep what was written in that book and to obey God. The Elders and people stood also and vowed the covenant with him.

He then wasted no time but put the priests and temple workers to work to remove all the stuff used for heathen worship out of the temple

of the Lord and burn them and carry away their ashes.

He got rid of the heathen priests of Baal and got rid of the groves and fancy gardens where the people worshipped the idols. He got rid of those who did wicked and unclean acts in the name of pagan worship.

He destroyed the place where the people and even the kings had offered their children to Baal. He burned up the chariots of the sun, and got rid of the horses the kings before him had given to the sun god. He kept right on going, breaking down false altars, smashing the idols and even destroying the heathen temples that Solomon had built for his wives’ gods.

Then he came to a place where stood an ancient altar surrounded with the graves of those who had worshipped and burned offerings to heathen gods. This was the very altar of Jereboam, who had set up idols in the nation of Israel to prevent them from going to Jerusalem to worship God. Josiah ordered that the bones of the people be dug up and taken out of their graves and burned on the altar and then he saw the grave of the prophet of God.

“What is that?” he asked. And then he was told the story of the man of God and the prophecy he had made that mentions Josiah by name and said he would do the very thing he had just finished doing, burn men’s bones on that very altar. Josiah ordered that grave was not to be disturbed, but he went on his way breaking down altars and idols throughout the land.

**Thought** – Josiah didn’t just talk about doing right, he got busy and did something about the wicked idols and altars and destroyed them. If you have wrong things in your home, be like Josiah and get them out and destroy them!

## Wednesday

**Text: 2 Kings 23:19, 20 “And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the LORD to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel. And he slew all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars, and burned men’s bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem.”**

Josiah did not even stop with Judah, he went to Bethel and then even on to Samaria and destroyed the heathen idols, groves and priests. Then he returned to Jerusalem. Josiah also arrested the witches, wizards and fortunetellers and had them executed.

Then he ordered that the Passover be celebrated. The temple was all prepared and the people came to celebrate the Passover in the way the Bible said to do it. It was a wonderful time of revival.

Josiah was an amazing king. The Bible tells us: "And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him". 2 Kings 23:5

But the Lord still said that Jerusalem would be destroyed. Why was this? Would not the Lord be merciful to those who repented? Yes, He would and He was, but God knew that most of the people had only followed Josiah because he was king, but they had not themselves turned from their paganism in their hearts. As soon as Josiah would be gone, they would go right back to it.

Josiah reigned for 31 years and when only 39 he was killed in battle when he had gone up to fight against the forces of Egypt. He was brought back and buried with great sadness in his own sepulcher.

**Thought** – God has forbidden people to be witches or wizards, or to have anything to do with them. Whether they know it themselves or not, they are the servants of Satan. Even to read or watch stories about these things, even if we don't believe in them, makes a highway for Satan to come in to deceive and tempt us.

### Thursday

**Text: Jeremiah 1:6-8 "Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD."**

Jeremiah was a young Levite being trained for work in the temple. He was just a youth when God called him as a prophet. He felt he could not do this job, "Ah, Lord God, I am a

child," he said. But God said, "Say not I am a child." Then God touched his mouth and told him He had put His words in Jeremiah's mouth.

God gave him an interesting message for himself. He told him that he would have to speak the messages of rebuke to the people and the leaders and that he was not to let the rejection of those messages, or the anger and hatred bother him but to keep right on speaking and writing the messages God would give him.

God even gave him a special promise of help: "And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee." Jeremiah 1:19.

For forty years, Jeremiah was to stand as a witness for truth and righteousness. In a time of gross apostasy he was to show in life and character the worship of the only true God. During the terrible sieges of Jerusalem he spoke the messages from God. He was to predict the downfall of the house of David and the destruction of the beautiful temple built by Solomon. And when imprisoned because of his fearless words, he was still to speak plainly against sin in high places.

He is known as the weeping prophet. Despised, hated, rejected of men, he was finally to witness the literal fulfillment of his own prophecies of impending doom, and share in the sorrow and woe that should follow the destruction of the fated city.

In the messages of Jeremiah we can see clearly that if only the people would have returned to God with an honest heart, He would not have allowed Jerusalem to be destroyed. But no matter how kindly and earnestly God spoke to the people and begged them to return to Him, they hardened their hearts and stopped their ears.

**Thought** – It is not enough to just follow a good leader, we need to each one know God personally and serve Him with an honest heart.

### Friday

**Text: Jeremiah 4:23-25 "I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled."**

Jeremiah was shown many things beyond

his own days as well. He saw not only the destruction of Jerusalem and the carrying away into captivity of the Jews, he also saw and predicted when they would be allowed to return and rebuild.

In our text above we see something even more amazing, he was shown what this old earth will look like during the time when no one is left alive on it except the devil and his angels! These texts show the earth after Jesus has come and taken the faithful to heaven. All the wicked are killed by the brightness of Jesus coming and the terrible earthquake has broken the cities down. In fact as he looks, he sees the hills and mountains still shaking.

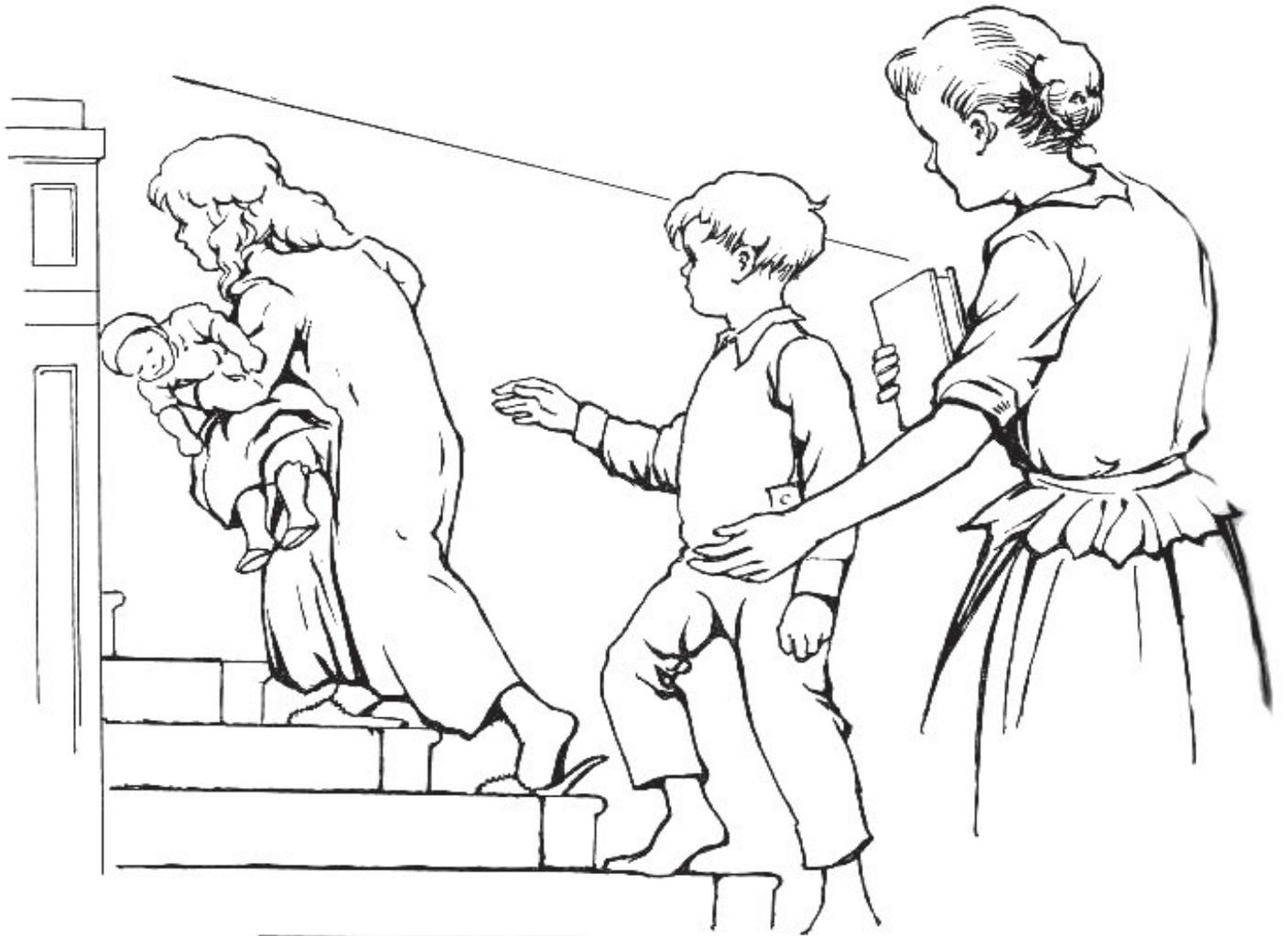
Where else do we see some of these same words? Notice: "And the earth was without form,

and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." Genesis 1:2

This was before life was created on this earth. Now Jeremiah sees it again brought back to darkness and emptiness. The word 'void' means empty. For one thousand years it will stay like that, and Satan and his nasty bunch will have nothing they can do except walk up and down and see the mess they made of things.

I hope each one of us will be at home with Jesus in heaven during those days when the earth is again dark and empty.

**Thought** - If the messages of Jeremiah go all the way to the time after the 2<sup>nd</sup> return of Jesus, we know they also apply to us today. = ^ .. ^ =



**BEDTIME STORY TIME**