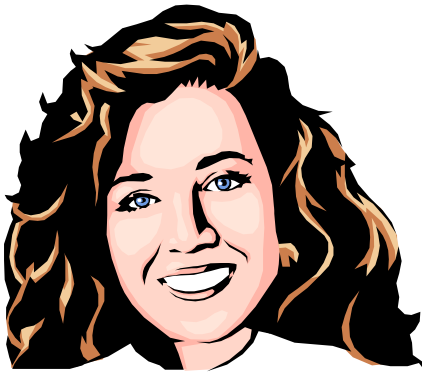


# TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

## TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 3rd Quarter - Issue #12



### STORY LESSON

#### The Fruit of a Kind Word

Mr. James Buchanan Murray was the most popular and beloved man in the whole city. He possessed a youthful face. No frown ever disturbed his brow. He went calmly to his business in the morning, greeting every one with a cheery word and a sunny smile. At the same time, he was just what he seemed to be--a prosperous business man.

Mr. Murray was extremely modest, so he was rather embarrassed when called upon at the luncheon of the Commercial Club to tell the secret of his rise in the business world, of his success in life.

"All that I have accomplished," he said, rising, "all that I am, I owe solely to the fact that in early youth, I realized that the underlying principle of life is just plain, simple kindness, a kindness that comes from the heart. Life is, after all, made up of little things. As we advance in years, we learn that the things we once prized so highly were in reality not of so great importance. Just how I came to realize this so early I can best explain to you by telling you the story of a boy I knew then.

"Jim was an orphan, and the butt of the whole

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town. He was twelve years old, small and undersized, and he never remembered having a kind word spoken to him in his whole life. He was accustomed to harsh words, suspicion, and rebuffs. As a consequence of his hard life, he was a shrinking, pitiful little figure, and the more he dodged people, the more suspicious they became; and the more suspicious they became, the more he sneaked away and kept out of sight.

"The only earthly possession of which Jim could boast was a dog that cringed and shrunk almost as much as his master. Jim was not cruel to his dog except in words, and that is really the worst form of cruelty, even to a dog. A harsh, unkind word can cause more misery and heartache than actual physical cruelty.

"One day, as Jim came down the street, he saw a bundle slip from the overloaded arms of a little lady just in front of him. As she stooped to pick it up, the others rolled down. Jim sprang to her assistance, gathering up the bundles and replacing them in her arms. 'Thank you, dear, you are a nice little boy,' she said kindly, and went on her way after giving him a bright smile.

"Jim was amazed. A queer, choky feeling passed over him. They were the first kind words he had ever heard in his whole twelve years of existence.

He stared after her. He knew she was the busy little dressmaker, who lived in a small cottage on the outskirts of the town. He watched her out of sight.

"Then he whistled to Tige and made straight for the woods and a stream that wound around the town. He sat down on the bank of the stream and did some thinking. 'Thank you, dear, you are a nice little boy,' he pondered.

'Come here, Tige,' he commanded. And Tige slunk to his feet. Then Jim lowered his voice in imitation of the little lady and said, 'You are a nice little dog.' The effect on Tige was electrical. He pricked up his ears, and if a dog could stand at 'attention,' Tige did. 'Uhum! even a dog likes it,'

said Jim. 'Well, Tige, I don't blame you; it is nice. I won't yell at you any more.' And Tige wagged his tail joyously.

"The boy continued to think, and the dog sat and watched him. Finally, the boy pulled from the odds and ends in his pockets a piece of broken mirror and looked at himself. He saw nothing but grime and dirt. He went down to the water's edge and



scrubbed it off carefully, almost painfully. Then he looked again. He scarcely recognized himself. He was surprised.

He stood erect and looked up instead of down for the first time since he could remember. A feeling of self-respect awoke within him. At that moment, the course of his life was changed. He determined to be worthy of the kind words, and to pass them on."

Mr. Murray paused. There was no sound in the great dining room. His tone, low and sweet, almost reverent, had aroused a feeling very nearly like awe in the hearts of his hearers. They had forgotten the luncheon.

"Gentlemen," he continued, "I was that boy. This--your city, my city--was that little town of forty years ago. Our plant stands on the spot where that gentle woman stood when she planted in my life the first seed of kindness. She sleeps out yonder in what was then the cemetery of a country church. As a tribute to her memory I have told you this story." Author Unknown. = ^ .. ^ =

## STORY LESSON

### The Prayer of Sonny Fox for a Doggie and a Daddy

"DEAR GOD, please let Daisy go with me to Arizona." The tears fell freely on the rug. A small boy knelt in the middle of the living room, where half packed boxes and stacks of household goods in various stages of being sorted, cluttered the room. An amazed and perplexed mother stood with her hands on her hips, quietly surveying the pathetic scene before her.

A Sick Boy: Repeatedly Sonny Fox had visited the doctor, but with little relief. Finally the kind gentleman confided in the boy's parents.

"A dryer climate is the only suggestion I have for you," he said sympathetically. "I have nothing else to offer. I would advise you to go very soon, for his life is at stake."

"Where do you suggest we go?" Mother Fox asked.

"I think Arizona would be the best place," the doctor said.

So the packing began. And as she packed, Mrs. Fox found many things to give away. Two dogs would be too many for the crowded car, and since Mrs. Green had always liked Daisy, Mother asked if she would like to have her as her own. Mrs. Green readily agreed.

But Sonny was heartbroken when he learned that Daisy would not be going to Arizona, for Daisy had been his pal for years. He simply could not conceive of life without Daisy.

Patiently Mother Fox explained why they could take only one dog. Mrs. Green had promised a good home to Daisy so the problem was already solved. There were so many things to take to Arizona and so little space.

But to a loving, sickly little boy, none of this sounded reasonable. He could think of but one thing—he wanted Daisy to go to Arizona with him. He begged his mother over and over, "Please let Daisy go with me to Arizona." Finally his mother became very firm and a bit upset.

"Sonny," she stated emphatically, "Daisy is not going to Arizona! It is absolutely foolish to ask me to permit such a thing. You ought to know the car will be full of necessary things. We are taking the younger dog for your companionship. Now I want you to forget this foolish idea!"

Mother Fox's firm reply should have caused Sonny to be discouraged. Instead, he cried to God as in the opening scene of our story. He did exactly what we are teaching people to do in prayer—what Jesus commanded His disciples; that is, to Ask (Matthew 7:7).

Jesus also taught us to Believe (Mark 11:24). But while we adults are so slow to believe after we have asked, not so with Sonny Fox. He possessed a good reason for believing while on his knees. It is the same reason and same basis for faith for adults as well as children—the promises of the Lord.

Sonny believed with all his heart his little pet would go with him to Arizona. Arising from his knees he exultantly cried out, "Mother, Daisy is going to Arizona."

"What do you mean, 'Daisy is going to Arizona'?" his mother demanded. "I have already told you repeatedly that Daisy is not going to Arizona, so there!"

"Oh, yes, she is going," Sonny replied without any thought of rebuking his mother.

"Why do you say that?" his mother asked, growing more concerned by the moment at her son's apparent refusal to accept her word as final.

"Oh, Mother," continued Sonny, "I know, because Jesus told me, 'Daisy is going to Arizona,' while I was still on my knees."

"I didn't hear Him say that," incredulously responded his mother, still a bit irritated over the issue.

"No, I know you didn't," replied Sonny assuredly, but humbly. "But I did. I heard Jesus saying to me, 'Daisy is going to Arizona.'"

"But this is impossible," exclaimed Mother Fox. "Mrs. Green already agreed to take Daisy and we are not going to change our agreement with her."

While the smile of assurance rested on Sonny's face, a gentle knock sounded at the door. Mrs. Fox opened it and saw Mrs. Green standing there. Mrs. Green knew nothing of the discussion between mother and son, but she had some news.

"Mrs. Fox," began Mrs. Green. "I hope you will not feel bad. Someone happened by just a short time ago with the very kind of dog we have been wanting for a pet for a long time. So we will not need Daisy."

Daisy went to Arizona. Sonny Fox had never heard about claiming Bible promises. But God has built faith, simple faith, into the heart of a child. He has told us we must be converted and become

as little children if we would enter His heavenly home. (See Matthew 18:3.)

Not long after the arrival of the Fox family in Arizona, Daisy wandered beyond the bounds of the house where a hunter inadvertently shot her in the jaw. She struggled back to the house and crumpled in the corner.

"Oh, poor Daisy," cried Mother. "She's dying."

But Sonny remembered the promise of Jesus back in Georgia. He believed to such an extent, that down on his knees he went again in prayer. He reasoned with God in prayer as a man. He cried out, "Dear Jesus, you did not send Daisy to Arizona to die! Please let her live!"

With that he arose. Confidently he said to Mother, "Mother, Daisy is going to get well." Immediately Daisy got right up from the corner of death, walked over to the feeding dish and began to eat. And Daisy did get well. Sonny knew in his soul that if Jesus made a promise, using the very name of Daisy, his pet dog, in it, he could believe it. The basis of the prayer of reception is the promise of God. "We must ask for the things that He has promised." Education, p. 258.

Mr. Fox Deathly Ill: Not long afterward, Mr. Fox, Sonny's father, became very ill. The doctors diagnosed his case as spinal meningitis, and held out little hope of recovery. No one was allowed near him, except under the most restricted conditions. At home Mrs. Fox and Sonny waited heart-broken for some word from the hospital, while Mr. Fox grew rapidly worse.

Around eleven o'clock one evening, Mrs. Fox and Sonny were thinking of Mr. Fox and wondering about the future. What would home be without a husband and father?

Now Sonny remembered his prayers to Jesus about Daisy. Jesus had been so good to him, all for a little boy and his dog. He reminded Mother how wonderful Jesus is. How Jesus answered his prayer for companionship and went so far as to speak to Sonny's heart, making him a personal promise in his hour of sorrow back there in Georgia, before they moved.

Mother's face lighted up in the darkness of that sad hour. She said, "Sonny, why don't you pray for Daddy as you did for Daisy? Jesus seems to hear your prayers."

Mother's faith would have surely wavered if she had known that at that moment four doctors back at the hospital had officially pronounced Mr. Fox

dead. God mercifully conceals from us things which would completely discour-age our faith.

Sonny accepted the idea and went down on his knees once again. Buttressed by the knowledge of a Christ who had once given him a promise, and in the thought of how Jesus is willing to give a lad companionship, Sonny began to pray.

What happened while Sonny knelt there, I cannot prove, for I did not think to ask Sonny fifteen years ago, when I interviewed him about his pet dog, Daisy. In fact the reason never occurred to me for years, how Sonny could believe his Daisy could go to Arizona. The answer was simple enough; he heard the voice of Jesus speaking to his soul and promising him that his request would be granted. I can only speculate as to what happened when Sonny knelt down to ask, believe and claim the life of his Daddy. Another reason why I delight to speculate this way is that I know of people who have prayed for the lives of relatives, only to see their lives snuffed out.

I recall standing at the foot of the bed where a dear minister friend of mine had just passed away. I pleaded silently with God to bring him back to life. I asked, I believed. In my heart I seemed to receive him back from the dead, while I stood there praying, his sorrowing family standing nearby.

But Jesus did not see fit to raise my friend to life again. Therefore I would not want anyone to feel that if they have prayed for the life of a close relative, and have not had the answer in the way they thought it should come about, it is because of any lack of faith on their part, or necessarily because they have not fulfilled the conditions.

There are conditions to answered prayer, to be sure. But I think I had fulfilled the conditions when I prayed for the restoration to life of my minister friend.

Sonny Fox arose from his knees and exclaimed to his mother, "Mother, Daddy is going to get well." And Mother wondered, as she thought over the past, if it might be so, even in the face of no hope.

At that moment four doctors stood talking while Miss Harmon washed the surgical instruments. In the center of the room stood the operating table where lay the body of Mr. Fox, completely draped with a sheet. One doctor spoke to the nurse.

"Miss Harmon, why don't you stop by the Fox residence and let Mrs. Fox know the sad news. That would be better for her than a phone call." Miss Harmon nodded understandingly.

Almost inadvertently, one of the physicians

placed his hand under the sheet which draped Mr. Fox, and took hold of his wrist. His face turned pale. His colleagues noticed his facial expression with astonishment. Hurrying to the opposite side of the table and checking the pulse on the other wrist, another doctor confirmed the finding of the first physician, Mr. Fox was alive! His respiration returned to normal, his pulse strong and regular.

Today it would be considered very foolish for anyone to ask and believe that a loved one would come back from the dead. And of all things to rise from ones knees and exultantly exclaim, "He is going to live." I never recommend it. I would never want to go on record as teaching it.

Why then, are we writing this? To show that God can answer the most apparently foolish prayers. And that He delights in the simple faith of a little child.

But there is one thing certain. It would have been wrong, very wrong, for Sonny Fox, having heard the voice of Jesus, making him a definite promise, to have ignored it just because someone else did not know about it.

So we are to accept God's word in the Bible as His message, speaking to us personally. Just because someone else knows not of the specific promises we know, is not sufficient reason for us to ignore them, and fail of the wonderful reward that comes by having the faith of a little child in approaching an understanding God of love and a wonderful Jesus who gave Himself for us.

"For any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received." Education, p. 258.

Sonny Fox claimed exactly what Jesus promised him. He did not add. He did not take away. He took the naked word of God and stood on it with both feet of faith.

So may we. We need not add to them. We need not subtract from them. We may take them with the same full assurance Sonny Fox had.



## TRUE-STORY-TIME

### The Wall of Resentment

A story tells of a merchant in a small town who had identical twin sons. The boys worked for their father in the department store he owned, and, when he died, they took over the store.

Everything went well until the day a dollar bill disappeared. One of the brothers had left the bill on the cash register and walked outside with a customer. When he returned, the money was gone.

He asked his brother, "Did you see that dollar bill on the cash register?" His brother replied that he had not. But the young man kept probing and questioning. He would not let it alone. "Dollar bills just don't get up and walk away! Surely you must have seen it!" There was subtle accusation in his voice. Tempers began to rise. Resentment set in. Before long, a deep and bitter chasm divided the young men. They refused to speak to each other. Then they finally decided they could no longer work together and a dividing wall was built down in the center of the store. For twenty years hostility and bitterness grew, spreading to their families and to the community.

Then one day a man in an automobile licensed in another state stopped in front of the store. He walked in and asked the clerk, "How long have you been here?"

The clerk replied that he'd been there all his life. The customer said, "I must share something with you. Twenty years ago I was 'riding the rails' and came into this town in a boxcar. I hadn't eaten for three days. I came into this store from the back door and saw a dollar bill on the cash register. I put it in my pocket and walked out. All these years I haven't been able to forget that. I know it wasn't much money, but I had to come back and ask your forgiveness."

The stranger was amazed to see tears well up in the eyes of the middle-aged man. "Would you please go next door and tell that same story to the man in the store?" he said. Then the man was even more amazed to see two middle-aged men, who looked very much alike, embracing each other and weeping together in the front of the store. After twenty years, the brokenness was mended. The wall of resentment that divided them came down. It is so often the little things- like resentments- that finally divide people. And the solution, of course, is to let them go. There is really nothing particularly profound about it. But for fulfilling and lasting

relationships, letting them go is a must. Refuse to carry around bitterness and you may be surprised at how much energy you have left for building bonds with those you love. = ^ .. ^ =



**Year 3: 3rd Quarter:**

**"GOD'S MESSENGERS: THE PROPHETS"**

**WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 12: "EZEKIEL"**

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: "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1**

**Corinthians 10:11**

**Sunday**

**Text: Ezekiel 1:4-6 "And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire. Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings."**

Remember how Jeremiah's message was to tell the people that God was going to allow them to be captured and the city destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar? Well, first some of the people were captured and taken to Babylon. In one of the early batches was the young prince Daniel, who later became a prophet for the Lord.

Later as the city fell and many were taken captive to Babylon, one of them was a priest named Ezekiel. Jeremiah lived at the same time but he did not go to Babylon.

The Word of the Lord came to Ezekiel as he was sitting on the banks of the river Chebar and praying and thinking sadly about all the things that had happened to his people. Ezekiel was weighed down with sad memories and fears. The land of his fathers was desolate. Jerusalem was destroyed. The prophet himself was a stranger in a land where ambition and cruelty reigned supreme. As on every hand he saw tyranny and wrong, his soul was distressed, and he mourned day and night.

All at once God showed him a wonderful site. He saw a whirlwind seeming to come from the north, "a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber." A number of wheels, overlapping one another, were moved by four living beings. High above all these "was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it." "And there appeared in the cherubims the form of a man's hand under their wings." Ezekiel 1:4, 26, 10:8.

The wheels were so complicated that they seemed to be in confusion; but they moved in perfect harmony. Heavenly beings, sustained and guided by the hand beneath the wings of the cherubim, were driving these wheels; above them, upon the sapphire throne, was the Eternal One; and round about the throne a rainbow, the symbol of God's mercy.

There is an old spiritual that says, 'Ezekiel saw a wheel, way up in the middle of the air; a wheel with in a wheel, way in the middle of the air.' It was a most bright and amazing scene. Everywhere things seemed to be moving and in great confusion and yet when he looked closer he could see that the Great God on the throne, was really in charge and directing all the movements of the angels and wheels.

There are times when to us everything seems

confusing and out of control in our lives. At times like these, trust in God and wait for His guidance.

**Thought** - There are people today who try to tell us that Ezekiel saw a flying saucer from some other planet. This is not at all true. This was a vision from God to give information about God's work for man. Ezekiel understood the meaning God was showing him.

### Monday

**Text: Ezekiel 1:9, 10** "Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle."

The prophet here sees four living creatures. Each one has four faces. We can see that these are shown to mean something, not to describe a real animal or creature. They are a symbol of something, just as the 'wheels within wheels' were a symbol also.

One of the ways we learn about God's truth, especially prophecy symbols, is to look carefully in the Bible and find all the places where something similar is talked about. By putting these things together, we can learn more about what the symbols mean.

By careful study we can learn many things about this vision. First, is there somewhere else that we see four symbolic creatures something like these? Yes. It is in Revelation 4:7,8 "And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."

We don't have space in this lesson to tell all the things these creatures show us. They represent God's true and faithful people. Read Ezekiel 1 carefully and then notice this information. The feet are strait and have the sole of a calf. A calf was used as a sacrificial animal. These men have sacrificed all for Christ and their fellow man. Those who only give what they "have to" will not be part of this group, only those who value heaven more than worldly things will be among these faithful

ones. That their feet are “strait” shows that they walk the “strait and narrow” path of righteousness. Matthew 7:14.

V. 9. “Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.” These “creatures” have the True Word of God and so are together in their mission as shown by the joining of their wings. Again, they follow that strait pathway laid out by our Savior.

Now, for the faces; the first face is the face of a man. These are men, but these men also have the face of a lion, that is, the Lion of the tribe of Judah; they reflect Christ. On the left side, they have the face of an ox, a beast of burden. These are men who have a true burden for their brethren and a great desire to honor God.

Last, they have the face of an eagle. An eagle in prophecy, among other things, represents power and vision. As overcomers, these men have “power with God and with men and have prevailed.” Genesis 32:28. The vision these men have received is the testimony of Jesus Christ, the Spirit of Prophecy.

**Thought** – It is very important when we study Bible to always ask God in the Name of Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to help us to understand truth. Also we should not try to guess about what things mean in prophecy without looking carefully at what the Bible says itself.

## Tuesday

**Text: Ezekiel 1:14 “And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.”**

And now the wings. Wings represent many things: In Exodus 19:4, wings “carried” the Israelites out of bondage; Ecclesiastes 10:20 says, “that which hath wings shall tell the matter.” One of the things that wings represent is that they carry something, in the case of the 144,000, it is the final warning from God. Another thing that wings represent is speed as in Daniel’s vision concerning Alexander the Great. The final movements will be rapid ones and the message of warning shall go out to the world very quickly by simple means.

Wings also protect, and these ‘creatures’ have wings covering their bodies. They are ‘Under His Wings.’ They carry the message of God’s truth and they carry it pure and straight and they carry it fast under the power of God!

We want to understand that as our memory verse tell us, the things recorded in our Bible, are especially for us today. If they were only for the people back then, the Lord Jesus would not have protected and brought them to us today.

You will find as you get into reading the Bible and asking Jesus to teach you, that you will see that the Bible is not some old book that doesn’t mean anything today. Oh no! You will find it is alive and describing things happening right now in the church and in the world, clearer than even people today can describe them.

**Thought** – We can all choose to be part of those faithful ones that the four wonderful creatures show to us.

## Wednesday

**Text: Ezekiel 8:1,3 “And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell there upon me. And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north.”**

Ezekiel’s book has some of the most amazing picture prophecies of the whole Bible in it. Be sure to read the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> chapters carefully. Here Ezekiel sees Jesus. We know it is Jesus if we look carefully at Revelation and Daniel and we see how He is described there, this bright Being is the same one seen by Daniel and John.

Here Jesus reaches over and picks up Ezekiel by a lock of his hair and carries him all the way to Jerusalem. Now we know that this was a ‘vision’ sort of like a dream-movie that Ezekiel was shown. He did not really fly to Jerusalem, but God could really take him in vision on such a trip if He wished.

Ezekiel was taken to the temple where he used to work and he was shown the reason why God had destroyed it. What was he shown? Well read carefully and you will see many things.

He was shown priests worshiping heathen idols; he saw priests practicing heathen magic and worshipping animals. He saw that while they did the service of God, in their minds they were worshipping pagan devil-gods. He saw woman ‘weeping for Tammuz’ the heathen sun God. He

saw them practicing a form of fortune-telling. He also saw them turning their back to God and worshipping the sun!

God destroyed the Temple and the city for these terrible wicked things. He will also destroy those who do these things today. Are they being done? Oh, yes! 'Weeping for Tammuz' for forty days, is what the churches call 'Lent' today. The magic and fortune-telling is practiced even by some ministers, who teach holding a weight on the end of a chain or string over food to learn if it is good. Also some do this to find water, or other things either in the ground or on a map. This is devil work!

Finally we know that nearly all the people in the church and the world are going to turn their backs to God's Sabbath and worship the 'Sun-day'.

**Thought** – God promised to always protect His chosen people, but He never promises to protect those who refuse to obey His Word!

### Thursday

**Text: Ezekiel 9:4** “**And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.**”

The same vision of Ezekiel continues in chapter 9 and 10. In Chapter nine we see a kind of judgment taking place. Now remember that these visions have to do with the end of time and not the time that Ezekiel was writing them down. Jerusalem was already destroyed at the time he saw this vision.

He saw a man with a linen priest's garment on and a pen and ink with him. This man was to go through Jerusalem and mark those who were upset by the sin and wickedness in the city, and were crying about it and trying to warn others. Only these ones would be spared.

Who is this man in linen? It is Jesus, who right now is doing the special work of the High Priest on the special time of judgment in heaven. He is studying the records and the lives of all the people in 'Jerusalem'. What is 'Jerusalem' in this vision? It is all those who claim to belong to Jesus. All those who claim to be 'Christians'.

Jesus is 'setting a mark' or a seal on those who are the faithful ones. They will be saved in His kingdom. Where else do we see a 'mark or seal'? In Revelation we see angels holding the four winds

of trouble, and another special 'angel'- 'Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.' Revelation 7:3 It is the same time of judgment we are seeing in both visions.

**Thought** – If we turn to Jesus with all our hearts and learn His truth and ask Him to forgive us and take sin out of our lives, we can have a wonderful life with Him now, and we will be 'sealed' to be saved in His kingdom.

### Friday

**Text: Ezekiel 37:1, 2** “**The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.**”

Ezekiel, like both Isaiah and Jeremiah, often felt it wasn't much good to tell people about the Words the Lord was showing him, because they just did not want to listen. One day Jesus took Ezekiel on another vision trip. This time he set him down in a valley that was all covered in dead bones.

Ezekiel says that the bones were very dry. They were like the people who he was trying to tell the Truth of God to, they were spiritually dead and dried up inside.

God asked Ezekiel a question, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And he answered, "O Lord God, thou knowest." He could not think it could be possible. Neither did it seem possible that his messages to the people about the Word of God would do any good.

Then God told him to 'prophecy' to those dry bones. So He stood there and preached a sermon to the dry bones. What was he to tell them?

"O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD." Yes, he was not to tell them some entertaining story, or sing lovely music to them, or even tell them jokes; he was to tell them "Hear the Word of the Lord!"

Verse 5 "Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live."

What happened when the Prophet preached to the bones? They all started to join together. Then there came flesh onto the skeletons and then skin over them. There they were, all whole bodies. But they were not alive!



What was Ezekiel to do? God told him to 'prophesy' to the wind, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So he did, and they all came to life and stood up on their feet a great army of people.

There is great meaning for us today in this vision. When the True Word of God is preached, even to those who seem to be nothing but dry bones, they will 'come together'. Then when the 'wind' of the special last rain of the Holy Spirit is

sent, there will be a great army of faithful believers who will stand faithful for truth.

There is also seen in this chapter a promise that Jesus will also raise those faithful ones who have died, from their dusty graves, and take them to make up His Heavenly Kingdom when He comes.

**Thought** - May each one of us really hear God's Word, and preach 'Hear the Word of the Lord' to all dry bones today! = ^ .. ^ =

