

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 2 - 2nd Quarter - Issue #7



CREATION CORNER

AGE OF THE EARTH: 2

It is amazing how the facts of science vindicate the Bible Writings. It says in the Bible that God made this world about 6,000 years ago. When we turn to the discoveries of scientists, archaeologists, and historians, we learn that the information they discovered agrees with what the Bible says. Consider these facts:

11 - Down in the oil fields of Texas, or anywhere else in the world, when drillers first penetrate into oil, there is a "gusher." Oil spurts up out of the well, fast and hard. This is caused by high pressure in the oil vein. But, analysis of the surrounding rock shows that all the pressure should be gone within a few thousand years,—yet there it is: high pressure. This shows these deep rock formations and the entrapped oil cannot be older than 7,000 to 10,000 years.

12 - Scientists tell us it takes 300 to 1,000 years to make one inch of topsoil. Yet the average depth of topsoil is only about eight inches. On this basis, the earth could only be a few thousand years old.

13 - Century after century, Niagara River

keeps eroding away. The length of the gorge, to the point where the erosion is taking place (which is Niagara Falls), is 7 miles. Since it is known the erosion is about 3.5 feet per year, the age of the falls could only be about 5,000 to 10,000 years at the most. However, the Flood would have greatly accelerated that erosion.

14. Everyone has heard of the Mississippi delta. It is a lot of dirt that has been washed out into the Gulf of Mexico by the Mississippi River. Every year the delta is enlarged by about 300 million cubic yards (229 million cm) of mud. Yet, if the world were very old, that delta is not as big as it ought to be. Calculations reveal it has only been forming for about 4,620 years. But, if the world were even 120,000 years old, that delta would extend all the way to the North Pole! So keep that in mind, the next time you look at a map of Louisiana.

15 - Many islands in the Pacific are made by coral, which grows and hardens at a steady rate. Coral growth rates indicate the earth is quite young. No known coral formation is older than 3,500 years.

16. Sequoias are never older than 4,000 years, yet they seem to be the original trees in

CONTENTS:

CREATION CORNER

HISTORY

OLD-TIME-STORY

STORY LESSON

MISSION STORY

WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON

their areas. Bristlecone pines were once thought to be older (over 4,000 years); however, it is now known that some years they have two tree rings. Therefore, the sequoias remain the oldest. Since nothing can kill a sequoia, except man's axe and a worldwide Flood, the age of the sequoias—earth's oldest living tree—is important.

17. If mankind had been living on earth for millions of years, we should find records extending back at least 500,000 years. But, instead, records only go back to about 2000-3500 B.C. Then, when writing began, it began fully developed. Well-authenticated Egyptian dates only go back to 1600 B.C.

18. Bible records carry us back to a Creation date of approximately 4000 B.C., with a Flood date of about 2348 B.C. Scientific facts, such as we find here, point us toward the same dates.

19. Prior to 2250 B.C., we have not one record of a solar eclipse ever having been seen by people! Because it is totally accurate, that earliest recorded astronomical event is a significant date. It came only about a hundred years after the Flood. We have reason to believe the sky was darkened with volcanic eruptions for years after the Flood ended.

20. The oldest writing (pictographic Sumerian) cannot be older than about 3500 B.C. The earliest Western script (Proto-Sinaitic) began about 1550 B.C.

21. No really verified archaeological datings predate the period of about 3000 B.C. More ancient dates come from radiocarbon dating; But, prior to about 600 -B.C., they were known to be much more inaccurate. In every instance, our earliest aspects of civilization (crops, animal husbandry, metallurgy, building, cities, etc.) go back to the Near East. This agrees with the Bible record —(Genesis 8:4).

22. Records of ancient languages never go back beyond 3000 B.C.; yet, beginning in the Near East, there are language families which have spread all over the world since then.

23. Estimates, based on population changes, indicate that about the year 3300 B.C., there was only one family.

24. Evolutionary estimates of the age of the earth have constantly changed and lengthened with the passing of time (now they are saying 5 billion years). But the scientific evidence remains constant; and, as new authentic evidence

emerges, it only fastens down the dates even more firmly. It all points to a beginning for our planet, about 6,000 years ago. Some may see it as 7,000 to 10,000 years, but the evidence points most distinctly toward a date of about 4,000 B.C. for the origin of our planet. The evidence for an early earth, is not only solid, it is scientific.

True science agrees with Creation and the Flood, as given in the Bible. We can be thankful we have our Bibles. = ^ .. ^ =

HISTORY

The History of Mohammed: part 6

In 622, seventy-three citizens of Medina came privately to Mohammed and invited him to make Medina his home. They pledged themselves to protect him and his followers. He asked them whether they would protect him as faithfully as their own families. They asked what reward they would receive if they did; and he answered, Paradise.

An agreement having been made, the prophet ordered his followers at Mecca to leave in small groups and go to Medina. Mohammed and Abu Bekr, and their families, remained quietly at Mecca until all the rest had fled.

At about the same time, Abu Sufyan, grandson of Umayya, came into power in Mecca. Filled with hatred for Mohammed and his followers, he planned to eliminate them. But, upon learning that the followers had left, the Quraish gave a small group of assassins the task of getting rid of the prophet. They were afraid that, if he went to Medina, he might raise an army and attack Mecca.

Learning of the plot, on July 16, 622, Mohammed fled with Abu Bekr to the cave of Thatur, about five or six miles south of Mecca.

Meanwhile, the Quraish sent out parties of armed men on swift horses, to search the route to Medina and bring the refugees back to Mecca. They returned in three days, not having found anyone.

Then, in the night, Abu Bekr's children brought camels to them; and the two men rode northward, night and day, for 200 miles until they reached Medina. They arrived on September 24. This event, the Hegira (flight), became famous in Muslim history. Seventeen years later, the Caliph Omar designated July 16, 622—the

first day of the Hegira—the official beginning of the Mohammedan era.

The flight to Medina was important, because it marked the turning point in Mohammed's life. Before that time, he was a persecuted prophet; after that time, he was a revered leader of one or more cities.

But the flight to Medina marked another, even more important, turning point—one that would affect entire populations and produce rivers of blood for centuries to come.

All through those previous years, Mohammed had been a quiet man who taught peace and kindness, in addition to many strange things. For this, he was misunderstood, ridiculed, and persecuted.

But when the prophet went to Medina in 622, something changed within him. He became warlike—a border chieftain, intent on plunder and theft, and ultimately a prophet of death to those who refused to accept him.

What was the cause of this remarkable change? Historians say it was because Mohammed had finally acquired great power and authority, and it went to his head.

But, the present writer believes there was another reason.

For twenty-five years, Mohammed remained faithful to his first wife, Khadija, until her death in 619. It seemed she had a strong, steadying influence on him, which kept Mohammed moderate and even-dispositioned in the midst of many turbulent neighbors.

But Khadija died in late 619. Within about eight months, the Hegira occurred. Between the two events, Mohammed married Sauda and became engaged to marry a seven-year-old flighty child, Aisha. Throughout the remainder of his life, amid all his later marriages, Mohammed especially loved Aisha, which had been the youngest and prettiest of them all. No longer did the man have Khadija as a wise counselor.

If Mohammed had died in 619, he would probably be mentioned today in the most obscure Arab history as a self-proclaimed prophet of the seventh century. But the situation was soon to dramatically change. = ^ .. ^ =

OLD TIME STORIES

“Well, Robert, where have you been walking this afternoon?” said Mr. Andrews, to one of his pupils, at the close of a holiday. “Oh, William and I went for a hike round to Campmount, and home through the meadows. But it was boring, hardly saw a single person.”

“But where is William?”

“Oh, he was so tiresome, always stopping to look at this and that, so I went on without him.

Soon in comes William, all dirty and wet, but he was all excited about his walk, and he brought back a handkerchief full of interesting things. He had a piece of mistletoe, and some strange flowers off the moor and wanted to learn about them. He saw a woodpecker, and followed a peewit, (killdeer) because he thought its wing was broken, till it led him into a bog, and he got wet; but he did not mind.

In the bog he met an old man cutting turf, who told him all about turf-cutting; and then he went up a hill, and saw a wonderful view. Because the place was called Campmount he looked for and found the ruins of a Roman camp. He was just full of stories of what he had seen and thoughts enough to last him a week.

Mr. Andrews, his teacher, tells him all about the things he collected. But notice that William went over exactly the same ground as Robert, who saw nothing at all.

Mr. Andrews said to the boys, in his solemn, old-fashioned way: “So it is: one man walks through the world with his eyes open, and another with them shut; and Mr. Eyes will notice and learn things that Mr. No-eyes will never see.

“Some sailors can go around the world, and when they come back, could tell you nothing but the signs of the bar rooms, and the price of the liquor. While other people could not take a short bus trip without having learned lots of useful things.

“While many a thoughtless person can travel through Europe without gaining a single idea worth crossing the street for, the observing eye and inquiring mind find interest and delight in every ramble. William, continue to make use of your eyes; and you, Robert, learn that eyes were given you to use.”

Choose to be Mr. Eyes; don't be Mr. No Eyes, if you wish to be happy and successful. = ^ .. ^ =

STORY LESSON

Keeping Our Brain & Nerves Healthy

What do you think a boy or girl would be good for without any brain or nerves? Such a boy or girl could not see, hear, feel, talk, run about, or play, and would not know any more than a cabbage or a potato knows. Our mind is one of the most amazing gifts that God has given us. It is “with the mind” that we “serve the law of God.” Romans 7:25.

Your mind makes you everything you are—your thoughts, feelings, and decisions. It is through our mind that God speaks to us. In all that we do, we need the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. If we welcome Him into our heart, or, in other words, our mind, we will be obeying the instruction of Paul: “Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:2. The transforming power of Christ changes our characters—our thoughts, decisions, and feelings. Our part is to will and to choose; His part is to do through us.

Our Brain sympathizes with our Body. Have you ever had a headache? Did you feel happy and cheerful when your head ached real bad? Could you study and play as well as when you were feeling good? It is very important that we should keep our brain and nerves healthy, and to do this we must take good care of the stomach and all our other organs, because the brain sympathizes with them when they are sick. Remember, God communicates to us through our minds. We can, then, understand how important it is to keep the body healthy, so that our minds will be also healthy and clear.

We must have fresh air to breathe. How do you feel when a room is stuffy and too hot? Do you not feel dull and sleepy, so that it becomes hard to study? This is because the brain needs good, pure blood to enable it to work well. So we must always be careful to have plenty of pure air to breathe.

Exercise the Brain: What do we do when we want to strengthen our muscles? We make them work hard every day, do we not? The exercise makes them grow large and strong. In just the same way, if we study hard and learn our lessons well, then our brains grow strong, and study becomes easier. But if we become lazy, and do not take the time to learn our lessons

well, then the study does not do our brains very much good. Seeking to understand the Bible is one of the best exercises for the brain.

When you feel tired of study, and you begin to feel dull and stupid, try taking a walk in the fresh air. An hour of physical exercise of some sort, rests you and makes you feel more alert, so that you can learn more easily. This is because exercise is necessary to make the blood circulate well. It will then supply the brain and nerves with fresh, pure blood. So the same exercise that makes our muscles strong makes our brains healthier also.

Our Diet affects our brain and nerves—we need to eat plenty of good, simple food, such as fruits, nuts, grains, and vegetables. It is not good to eat the flesh of dead animals, as it places a burden on the whole system to digest it and get rid of the poisons from it. It simply is not the best for health. Mustard, pepper, vinegar, pickles and all hot sauces irritate the brain and nerves. Remember how Daniel and his friends were 10 times smarter? Well you can be too!

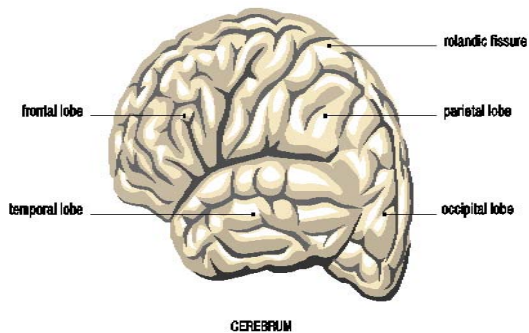
We must allow the brain to rest at the proper time. When we are tired and sleepy, we cannot think well and cannot remember what we learn if we try to study. If we have plenty of sleep we awake in the morning rested and refreshed, because while we have been asleep our Creator has put the brain and nerves in good repair for us. We ought not to stay up late at night. It is said that one hour of sleep before midnight is worth two hours after midnight. We should not eat late evening meals or snacks, as this will prevent our sleeping well.

Watching TV really ruins the brain! All TVs have a flickering light that affects the nervous system and hypnotizes the mind. If you want to see what I mean, just watch people’s faces as they watch TV and see their hypnotized and blank expressions. Also the programs and commercials with their fast moving pictures and sounds are designed to place ideas into our minds without our permission. We are warned to guard the gates of our minds and TV messages sneak right past the gatekeeper. If you watch TV, try staying away from it for a month—notice how much clearer you think—then turn it off forever!

When a person flies into a temper, it is not healthy for the brain and nerves. God can give us strength to overcome bad tempers, and we

will be much happier and healthier.

Bad habits are hard to give up, and so we should be careful to avoid them. God is always there to help us in overcoming temptation. It is our choice, and if we do choose God's will and way, He will supply the strength. When a young person learns to swear, or to use slang words, the brain after a while will make him swear or use bad words before he thinks. In a similar manner other bad habits are acquired. It is much better never to learn these habits from the start.



MISSION STORY

Fulton in Fiji- Trials of Faith

NOVEMBER, 1896, began to un-fold, and little Aganisi's eyes began to sparkle. "How many more sleeps till my birthday, Mamma?" she asked every morning.

"Only a few more sleeps," answered her mother. "You'll be three years old on the ninth."

"Will I be a big girl then, Mamma?"

"Of course."

"And will I have a party, and a cake, and some presents?"

"Oh, Aganisi, I wish I could say Yes. But,—Aganisi, we have no money."

"Will it come someday, Mamma?"

"Of course, my darling."

"And if it doesn't come, we could have the party and the cake and the presents after the money comes. Couldn't we, Mamma?"

"Yes, my darling."

The money didn't come in time for the birthday.

"But it's sure to come before Christmas, isn't it, Mother?" asked Jessie.

"Oh, I do hope it will," replied mother.

But the money didn't come before Christmas, and it didn't come before New Year's.

Time and time again John reverently took

out the copy of Sister White's letter to Uncle Samuel, and read, "The cloud may appear dark to you at times in itself, but when filled with the bright light of Jesus, it is turned to the brightness of gold, for the glory of God is upon it." He read those precious, comforting words over and over to Susie, and their courage was renewed and their faith sustained. He read those precious, comforting words to John Cole and his good wife, Fanny, and they both took courage.

But he was just human enough to add, "Six months without any money, John! Do you suppose the General Conference has forgotten us?"

"No, sir! I don't believe the General Conference has forgotten us," John Cole replied.

"Well, we surely have prayed enough about it. Maybe the Lord has forgotten us?"

"No, sir, John! The Lord has not forgotten us! But I believe this is a test! You remember Adam was tested and tried on three points: His fleshly desires—appetite; his faith in God—'Hath God really said?' and, his ambition and pride—'Ye shall be as gods'

"And when Jesus was about to begin His ministry, He was tested and tried on those same three points: Appetite—'Make these stones bread'; Faith in God—'Cast your-self down, for His angels will protect you'; and, His pride and ambition—'Worship me just once and I will give you all the kingdoms of the world.'

"And, John, the Lord is testing and trying us now. Before He can trust us with success He must be sure that we are not mere hirelings, working for the bread we eat. He must be sure that we will believe in Him no matter what happens, and He must be sure that no worldly ambition can lure us from our duty to Him: I know we are safe in the hands of God no matter what happens."

"And say, we have another problem coming up. Not only have we been without money for six months, but do you know it hasn't rained for several weeks and the water in our tanks is almost gone? We have had to limit its use for just cooking and drinking. If it doesn't rain soon, I don't know what we will do."

"There is a little stream at the foot of our hill that empties into the bay."

"But the tide rising and falling each day makes its water so brackish that it is not usable."

"I wonder how far up the ravine we would have to go before we found the water fresh enough for us to use?"

"Why don't we go for a walk sometime and find out?"

"All right! Come on, let us go now!" agreed John Fulton. So the two Johns went down the hill to the little stream and began walking up the ravine. The dense tropical undergrowth made their walking difficult. But they hadn't gone far before John Fulton stopped short and said, "Listen! What's that sound I hear?"

John Cole stopped, cocked his head in the direction of the sound, and held his breath. And then he heard it too, clear and distinct. "It sounds like falling water to me!"

"A spring?"

"It could be! Let us go home and get our chopping knives and cut our way to that sound and see!"

"Let's do that," said John Fulton excitedly, and they did. They got their big knives and cut their way to the sound, and found a beautiful spring and a pool of sweet fresh water.

"We've found a spring of water nearby!" they shouted to their Fijian neighbors. "Impossible!" they cried. "We've lived here all our lives and never heard of a spring of water anywhere near here."

"Well, come and see!"

They went and saw, and were amazed. "Sombo! Sombo!" they cried. "Where did this spring of water come from?"

In their hearts the two missionaries believed that their God had either provided the spring of water or had led them to discover it just when they needed it, to assure them that He was still with them and would never leave them nor forsake them (Heb. 13: 5). So they thanked God and took courage. = ^ .. ^ =



Year 2: 2nd Quarter:
"FAVOURITE BIBLE STORIES"
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 7: "THE
DREAMS COME TRUE"

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: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

Sunday

Text: Genesis 40:46-48 "And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt. And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same."

The seven years of plenty passed quickly and Joseph did his job faithfully and well. Grain was gathered and stored up in storage bins; until there was so much that nobody could count it.

During this time he had two little boys born to him, Ephraim and Manasseh.

Then came the seven years of famine. The rains did not come and the crops did not grow. It affected not only Egypt, but also the countries for a long ways around Egypt. It affected Jacob and his family where he lived also.

Soon the people of Egypt came crying to Pharaoh that they had no food, and Pharaoh sent them to Joseph, who opened up some of the storage bins and sold them food. He knew that it was important to sell the food, rather than give it to them, to prevent it from being wasted. It had to last for 7 years.

The people bought the grain with money, then they ran out of money and Joseph let them trade their starving animals for grain, when they ran out of animals he let them trade their lands to

Pharaoh for food.

Soon the brothers of Joseph in the country of Canaan began to run out of food. They did not know what to do, but their father had heard a rumour that there was grain to be bought in Egypt, although he could not understand how that could be possible. So he sent down the ten brothers with money to buy grain in Egypt.

When they arrived, they were sent in to see Joseph to see if they were to be allowed to buy grain or not, after all, they were not Egyptians. Here was Joseph sitting in his throne room, busy at his work, and he looks up to see the next customer and there are his 10 brothers standing there! And what do you suppose they did? That's right, they all bowed to show him respect, just like in his dreams.

Thought - We should always be careful not to waste food or anything that might be of some use to others or ourselves.

Monday

Text: Genesis 42:21-23 “And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us. And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required. And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spake unto them by an interpreter.”

Now Joseph had been in Egypt for a long time. He was just a teen-ager when his brothers had cruelly sold him and now, dressed as an Egyptian and speaking to them through an interpreter, there was no way they could recognize him. But he sure could recognize them.

Now he knew that he had the power to have them all killed, if he wanted revenge, but as a true servant of the God of Heaven, he had no such ideas. But he did want to find out if they had changed, or were still mean and cruel, before he ever told them who he was. He did not see his little brother Benjamin, and wondered if they had got rid of him also.

He pretended to be angry and said that they were spies. They were very upset and tried to explain that they were not spies, by telling the ruler about their elderly father and other brother

still at home.

Now Joseph told them that they were spies, and the only way that they could prove they were not, was to send one of them home to fetch their younger brother and then he would know they were not spies. In the mean time he had them all put in prison for three days.

Then he brought them out, and told them that they could go and take grain for their families, but they had to leave one brother behind in prison, until they brought back their other brother so that he would know they were not spies.

They were very upset and began to talk to each other thinking that Joseph could not understand them. They were very sure that this trouble was happening to them because of what they had done to Joseph.

As they were talking, Joseph left his throne because he started to weep. When he came back, he took Simeon, who had been the most cruel, and had him sent back to prison, while he ordered that grain be given to the others, and they be allowed to go home before their families would starve.

But, he told them they would never see his face again if they did not bring their other brother to prove they were not spies.

Off they went, leaving Simeon behind in prison, they felt very sad but hurried home with the food they knew was so badly needed at home. On the way one of them opened his sack to give some food to his donkey and what did he see but his money wrapped up on top of the food. When they checked they found it was the same with all the sacks.

Now they were really scared; “he is going to say we are thieves and kill us when we come back”. When they got home and told Jacob about what had happened he was very upset. ‘You have robbed me of my children’, he cried, ‘Joseph is gone and now Simeon is gone and you shall not take Benjamin away!’

Thought - Now Jacob was doubly sad now as he thought that he would never see Simeon again either.

Tuesday

Text: Genesis 43:11-13 “And their father Israel said unto them, If it must be so now, do this; take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down to the man a present, a little balm,

and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds: And take double money in your hand; and the money that was brought again in the mouth of your sacks, carry it again in your hand; peradventure it was an oversight: Take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man."

But the famine was very bad, soon Jacob told his sons that they must again travel into Egypt and buy grain for them so they would not starve. The reminded him that they could not go without Benjamin and he refused to let him go. Finally however he had to let him go or all of them would starve, including Benjamin.

It was a worried and solemn group that made their way into Egypt again. Soon they stood before Joseph and again they all bowed and showed respect to him. Joseph saw his brother Benjamin and wanted to run and hug him, but he still did not know if it was wise to tell the brothers who he was. Had they really changed?

Joseph thought of a test, and ordered that a wonderful feast be prepared for his brothers, and had the group taken to his house, there they found Simeon had been let out of prison and was there too. "Now see what is going to happen", they said, "He is going to make us all slaves!"

They talked to the Stewart of Joseph's house and they told them that they were so sorry because they had found their money in their sacks when they went home the last time and so they had brought twice as much money as before. He told them not to worry, that God had given them treasure in their sacks.

The Stewart brought them to Joseph's house and there he gave them water and had them wash their feet, and gave food and care for their tired donkeys as well. The brothers made ready the presents they had brought for the Egyptian governor, and waited anxiously to see what was going to happen to them.

Thought - The bad memories about what they had done to Joseph really bothered the ten brothers badly, but Benjamin knew nothing of their guilty secret.

Wednesday

Text: Genesis 43:26-28 "And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves

to him to the earth. And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive? And they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance."

Again Joseph's early dreams were fulfilled as he saw his eleven brothers bow to show him respect. They gave him the presents and then his eyes picked out Benjamin, whom he had not seen since he was a little boy, and Joseph had to leave the room again as he started to cry, he loved his little brother so much.

Now once he had recovered himself, he washed his face and ordered the meal to be served. He sat in a separate table as he was an Egyptian and they would not eat with other people.

The brothers were so surprised when they found they were all seated at their table in order of their ages. This was very spooky, how could that Egyptian ruler know their ages?

Then Joseph began to send tasty dishes to their table for each one of them, but to Benjamin, he sent 5 times as much food as for the others. He wanted to see if they were still jealous like they had been of him.

But they all ate and drank and enjoyed the meal very much. None of them showed any jealousy of Benjamin, indeed they seemed happy that he was so honoured.

After this they were given the grain they wanted and started on their way home with happy hearts. But all that was soon to change.

Thought - If you have brothers and sisters, always remember to be kind and unselfish to them, never pick on the little ones and make them cry or get angry. Jesus is very sad when such things are done.

Thursday

Text: Genesis 44:11-13 "Then they speedily took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack. And he searched, and began at the eldest, and left at the youngest: and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his ass, and returned to the city."

Joseph had set up one final test for his broth-

ers that would tell him whether or not they were truly changed from the cruel men they had been, and to decide if he would tell them who he was. He had told his Stewart to put all the money back in their sacks and to put his special silver cup, which had been a gift from Pharaoh into Benjamin's sack.

He waited for a while until the brothers would be well on their way and then he sent the Stewart after them with soldiers and told him to arrest the man who would be found to have taken the cup.

So he chased after them and when he caught up, he said, "Why have you returned evil for the good that my master did for you? One of you has stolen my master's special cup!"

"Oh, no!" they all cried out, "We would never do that! You can search our sacks and if you find it in any ones sack, you can kill him and make all of the rest of us slaves."

But the Stewart said, "No, whoever has the cup will be my master's slave, the rest of you can go home."

So they took down the sacks and one by one the Stewart opened them and searched them. The brothers were not worried, as they knew none of them had done this, but they all went pale when as the Stewart reached Benjamin's sack, he reached in— and there was the special cup!

They were horrified and tore their clothes and went back to Joseph's house. He was still there waiting to see what they would do. When they saw him they all fell on their faces before him.

He said angrily, "Why have you done this? Did you not know that a revealer of secrets like me would find out and know what you had done? Now this man will be my slave and the rest of you can go home and take food for your families."

Now Joseph knew if they were jealous of Benjamin, the way they had been of him, they would welcome the chance to leave him behind. But they didn't, Judah came up to the governor and pleaded with him telling the whole story about the family and begging him to let him stay and be a slave rather than his little brother. He told him that his old father would die of grief if Benjamin did not return safe.

Thought - It was obvious that these men

had truly repented of the evil deed they had done to Joseph all those years before.

Friday

Text: Genesis 45:3-5 "And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence. And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life."

Now Joseph could wait no longer; asking all of his servants to leave the room and just leave him alone with the brothers, he broke down and wept aloud for a long time.

Then he said, "Come close to me, I am your brother whom you sold into Egypt, I am Joseph. Is my father yet alive?"

The 10 brothers were terrified, they could not speak, and they just stood there!

Joseph asked his brother Benjamin to come close and he threw his arms around him and kissed him and wept with joy. Then he continued and told them that there were still going to be five more years of famine and they were to go back and bring their father and their families and come into Egypt, and he would take care of them.

He wept and kissed all his brothers and assured them that he had forgiven them. He told them to return to his father and tell him the truth that Joseph was still alive and about all his honor and glory that he had in Egypt. Then he sent them on their way with many rich gifts and special things for his father.

Pharaoh heard about what had happened and he was happy, and also sent gifts and wagons to carry their families into Egypt. Soon the caravan was on its way, not now in sorrow but in great joy to bring the good news to Jacob.

Thought - They had one more hard task to face—they had to tell Jacob the truth about their wicked deed. He was startled, but then said "I will go to Egypt and see my son Joseph, before I die." = ^..^ =