

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 2nd Quarter - Issue #13



CREATION CORNER

RAGING LION!

In 1843, Livingstone, settled as a missionary in a beautiful valley in South Africa. Here he met with an experience that nearly ended his life. The natives had long been troubled by lions, which came into their cattle pens by night, and even attacked the herds during the day. All attempts to drive away the animals were unsuccessful.

It is well known that a troop of lions will not remain long in any place where one of their number has been killed. So the next time the cattle were attacked, Livingstone went out with the natives to encourage them to destroy one of the lions and thus free themselves from the whole pride.

They found the lions on a small hill covered with trees. The hunters placed themselves in a circle round the hill, and began to ascend, coming gradually closer to one another as they neared the summit.

Livingstone stayed with a native teacher on the plain below to watch the party. His companion, seeing one of the lions sitting on a rock within the circle of hunters, took aim and fired;

but the ball struck only the stones at the animal's feet. With a roar of rage the fierce brute bounded away, broke through the ring, and escaped unhurt, the natives not having courage to stand close and spear him as he passed.

The hunters again closed in and continued their march up the hill. There were still two lions in the woods, and it was hoped that a second attempt would destroy one of them. Suddenly, a terrific roar echoed from the hill. The timid hunters trembled with fear. First, one of the lions and then the other, with streaming manes and glaring eyes, rushed down past the hunters and bounded away.

As the party were returning home, sad at their failure, Livingstone saw one of the lions about thirty yards in front, sitting on a rock behind a bush. He raised his gun, took steady aim, and discharged both barrels into the thicket.

"He is shot! He is shot!" was the joyful cry.

Some of the men were about to rush in and kill the wounded beast with their spears. But Livingstone, seeing the lion's tail lifted in anger, warned them to keep back until he had fired a second time. He was just reloading his gun, when he heard a shout of terror. He looked

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around and saw the lion preparing to spring. It was too late to run. With a sav-age growl the angry animal seized him by the shoulder, and shook him as a terrier dog shakes a rat. The first shock of pain was followed by a sort of drowsiness, in which he had no sense of pain or feeling of terror, though he knew all that was happening.

The lion's paw was resting on the back of his head, and as he turned to remove it, he saw the creature's fiery eyes directed toward the native teacher, who at a distance of ten or fifteen yards was making ready to shoot. The gun missed fire in both barrels, and the lion sprang at his new enemy, biting him in the thigh. Another man also, who was standing near, was severely bitten in the shoulder. At this moment, the bullets took effect and the huge beast fell back dead. All this occurred in moments. The death-blow had been given before the animal sprang upon anyone.

Livingstone's arm was wounded in eleven places, and the bone crushed to splinters. The injuries might have proved fatal but his heavy jacket, which wiped the poison from the lion's teeth before they entered the flesh.

It was a long time before the wounds healed, and all through life the brave missionary bore the marks of this dreadful struggle with the lion. Thirty years afterwards, when his noble and useful life had ended among the swamps of Central Africa and his remains were taken to England to be buried in Westminster Abbey, the crushed and mangled arm was one of the marks that enabled his sorrowing friends in that country to identify the body as that of David Livingstone.

Readers, a lion is a terribly powerful animal, especially when it is angry. Big game hunters also know that any beast is extra dangerous when wounded. The Bible gives us a description of Satan as a roaring lion. Two thousand years ago Jesus struck a deathblow to the old devil. He is not only savage now, but he is wounded and furious.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" 1 Peter 5:8. We need protection from this wounded beast! Only the mighty power of God can keep us safe. We must beware of all of Satan's tricks and stay close to Jesus in our thoughts and ways.

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SOME time ago I had the privilege of going down into the ancient tomb of Tutankhamen in the Valley of Kings, which is over 700 miles up the River Nile. Later I went to the Cairo Museum and saw the wonderful objects that had stood in that tomb for over three thousand years.

A floor of the museum is devoted to its treasures. My first impression was gold, gold, gold! Gold shining, gold gleaming, gold almost rose red and dull, gold in solid masses, gold hammered paper thin, everywhere as far as I could see down to the end of that great corridor gleamed the bright metal for which men have fought and died throughout all time.

I looked in amazement and I began to realize what the Scripture meant when it said that Moses left the treasures of Egypt to walk the ways of God. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the value of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is invisible." Hebrews 11: 24-27.

The expression "the treasures of Egypt" was no meaningless phrase. The four chariots in the tomb were completely covered with gold; every inch was decorated either with embossed design and scenes hammered into the gold itself or with inlaid design made of colored glass and stone.

The shrine was 17 by 11 feet by 9 feet high, and was also completely covered with gold. Within this shrine was another and still another, each overlaid inside and out with gold. Within the third shrine was the sarcophagus of the finest yellow quartzite, with a lid of red granite.

The lid weighed twelve hundredweight. Within were three coffins, one fitted within the other. It was difficult to get them out, for the mass weighed several tons. The coffins were made in the shape of a human body, the first one of wood, the second with pure gold beautifully inlaid, and the last coffin cover in which the king's mummy was found, was made of solid gold. The value

of this coffin alone is said to be a quarter of a million pounds. (much more today)

The mummy was covered with twenty-two layers of mummy cloth; over the face was a solid gold mask which was the portrait of the king. King Tutankhamen was a young man, probably about eighteen years old, when he died. Inside the mummy 5 bindings 143 pieces of jewelry of various kinds were discovered.

Of the thirty-two pages that Carter, the discoverer, used to describe the examination of the mummy, more than half are given over exclusively to listing precious articles found wrapped in the coverings. The eighteen-year-old Pharaoh was wrapped in several layers of gold and precious stones.

As I looked at the almost unimaginable treasures of the Cairo Museum, especially that golden room of King Tutankhamen, I realized afresh why every child of God should not value gold very highly, for some day in the city of God we will walk on gold. It will be the paving-stones of New Jerusalem.

We think again of Moses who turned his back on all the glory and all the gold of Egypt "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Hebrews 11:25. Why should we not follow his example; why should we not in these days when everything human is passing away, give our allegiance too, to the King Eternal, and choose like Moses, if need be, "to suffer with the people of God?"

It was the custom to bury an immense amount of wealth with a king. It has been estimated that some of the tombs must have contained treasures valued at ten million pounds or more in the form of jewels, precious stones, gold, silver, cups, thrones, etc. However, practically all the tombs discovered had been robbed thousands of years before, the mummies removed, and the apartments left in a wrecked condition.

Now what does all this mean to us as Bible believers? It means a great deal, and I will tell you the main point that I wish to make. A few years ago some of the skeptics, trying to discredit the Bible, drew attention to the statement in Exodus that the Israelites made the sanctuary in the wilderness. In harmony with God's commandment they used a great deal of gold in its construction: they covered the ark with gold,

they made the cherubims out of pure gold; in fact, according to the Scriptures, a vast amount of gold was used.

But these skeptics claimed that there was not that much gold in the world in those days, that gold was practically unknown, and that the Israelites could not have had it because there was no gold in Egypt. It was not mined there, they said. But just this one tomb of an Egyptian king, a king who reigned only a short time, and only shortly before the Israelites left Egypt, has been found to be so full of gold that it has been the astonishment of the modern world. Then, think of the many Pharaohs whose tombs have been robbed during the ages; of the millions and millions of pounds' worth of gold that must have disappeared from them. The opening of this practically untouched tomb proves that there were vast quantities of gold in Egypt at the time the Israelites left that land. Yes, the Bible is true.

And as I sat and watched the sun sinking to rest in a blaze of crimson and gold behind the overwhelming grandeur of the magnificent and enormous structures of stone that told of the departed glory that was Egypt's, these enormous relics of a dead past, although cold, massive, and forbidding, told a story.

Whether it be in Karnak with its magnificent time-defying ruins, mightiest of antiquity, or the seventy-seven pyramids that lift their heads above the desert wastes, one of which required two and a half million blocks of stone in its construction, and one hundred thousand slaves working steadily for twenty years, they all tell of the might and grandeur of ancient Egypt and of the amazing evidence that God has given to us of the inspiration of His Holy Book.

For remember, the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel lived at the time when Egypt was a mighty nation. She had had a line of kings such as no other nation under heaven had possessed, and it seemed as though she would last for ever. These prophets predicted certain things about Egypt, which at the time of their prediction, about 600 years B.C., seemed impossible of fulfillment. When most other people were predicting unending prosperity for Egypt, the prophets of God pronounced the very opposite. See Isaiah 19 and Ezekiel, chapters 29 and 30.

These prophecies have all been fulfilled.

Notice some of the statements from Ezekiel: "They shall be a base kingdom; neither shall it [Egypt] exalt itself any more above the nations, for I will diminish them, and they shall no more rule over the nations. The pride of her power shall come down. I will make the land of Egypt desolate and the county shall be desolate in that thereof it was full. I will sell the land into the hand of the wicked, and I will make the land waste, and all that is therein by the hand of strangers. I the Lord have spoken it; and there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt."

When the city of Rome was founded, Egypt was already two thousand years old. Rome became powerful and conquered the world, including Egypt, and it was in turn conquered by barbarian nations from the north. Egypt was still powerful, still rich and full of people. When the Arabs came in the seventh century it took them fourteen months and the lives of 23,000 men to capture Alexandria alone, and then its fall was due to treachery. They destroyed the famous Alexandrian library, which was a world calamity. This library supplied the Arabs with fuel for six months.

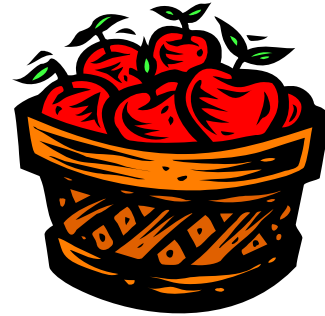
If the prophecy had said that Egypt, like Babylon, would be utterly destroyed, the skeptics would have good reason to laugh, for Egypt has not been destroyed. It has been reduced and brought down to a low level, a very low level compared with its former glory. Babylon was destroyed, Chaldea was destroyed, Assyria was destroyed, but not Egypt. The Scripture says that Egypt would be diminished but not destroyed. She is still a nation, but on a very low plane compared with her past.

Egypt stands today as a great witness to the Word of God. A testimony to the truthfulness of the Bible. As I saw its ancient ruins, its mighty pyramids, its endless deserts, the smiling green of the valley of the Nile fertilized every year by the overflowing of the river, my mind meditated on the brevity of human life, for remember, if time should last, the great cities of our modern age would probably not endure as long as the ancient temples' of Egypt. They would pass away and new civilizations would arise, but the Word of God stands for ever.

In His kingdom God's people will look back on this earth as the kindergarten which preceded the great university of heaven. My friend, Let Him be King will you not give your heart to

Christ now of your life and Savior of your soul?

"Him that comes to Me," Jesus declared, "I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. And never forget the eternal words: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Burnsides - 1950
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TRUE-STORY-TIME

Apples, Courtesy and Compassion

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. Well, as such things go, one thing led to another. The sales meeting lasted longer than anticipated.

Their flights were scheduled to leave out of Chicago's O'Hare Airport, and they had to race Pall Mall to the airport. With tickets in hand, they barged through the terminal to catch their flight back home. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table, which held a display of baskets of apples. Apples flew everywhere.

Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding. All but one. He paused, took a deep breath and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him and told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight.

Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the floor. He was glad he did. The 16-year-old girl at the apple stand was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her, no one

stopping or to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them into the baskets, and helped set the display up once more. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket. When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$20 for the damage we did. Are you okay?"

She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister..." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride, and he wondered. Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"

Do people see Jesus in you? We can be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live in a world that is blind to His love, life and grace. If we really know Him, we will live, walk and act as He would.

Do we often get so busy and caught up in our own affairs that we go barging through life, heedlessly knocking over the apple carts of those around us? Do we cause pain and trouble to others and not even notice, just happy that we got what we wanted? Jesus is watching to see if we live our lives in selfishness or if we treat others with the respect and courtesy due to our fellow beings. = ^ .. ^ =

STORY LESSON

The Power of Prayer

"Be not too busy with thy work and care to look to God, to clasp thy hand in His. Miss thou all else, but fail not thou of this. Thou needs not all alone thy burdens bear; Listen and wait; obey and learn His will, His love and service all thy life shall fill."

THE great freight and passenger trains are never too busy to stop for fuel. No matter how congested the yards may be, no matter how crowded the schedules are, no matter how many things demand the attention of the trainmen, those trains always stop for fuel. But why do they spend time stopping for fuel when there is

so much to do? Oh, the men operating them know they cannot run trains without fuel.

Fuel is the source of power. The trains just must take time to be supplied with power. If they did not, the railroad traffic would be tied up. "Dead engines" with their trains would be strewn along the road, and traveling would be not only dangerous, but impossible. So the trains take time to be supplied with power enough for efficient service

Prayer is the greatest power on earth for winning souls. Of his conversion, Hudson Taylor, who was a mighty man of God, says: "One day, which I shall never forget, when I was about fifteen years old, my dear mother being absent from home some eighty miles away, I had a holiday. I searched through the library for a book to while away time.

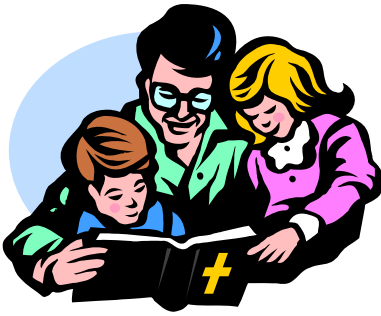
I selected a gospel tract, which looked attractive, saying: 'There will be an interesting story at the commencement, and a sermon or a moral at the end. I will take the former, and leave the latter for those who like it.'

I little knew what was going on in the heart of my dear mother. She arose from the dinner table with an intense yearning for the conversion of her boy, and feeling that, being from home, and having more leisure than she otherwise would, there was a special opportunity afforded her of pleading with God for me.

She went to her bedroom, turned the key in the door, and resolved not to leave the room until her prayers were answered. Hour after hour did that dear mother plead for me, until she could praise God for the conversion of her son.

In the meantime, as I was reading the tract, 'The Finished Work of Christ,' a light was flashed into my soul by the Holy Spirit that there was nothing to be done but to fall on my knees and, accept this Savior and His salvation, and praise God forevermore.

While my mother was praising God in her closet, I was praising Him in the old warehouse where I had retired to read my book. When I met mother at the door, on her return, with the glad news, she said: I know, my boy; I have been rejoicing for a fortnight in the glad tidings you have to tell me." MATILDA ERICKSON ANDROSS 1917 = ^ .. ^ =



**Year 3: 2nd Quarter:
"GIVE US A KING"**

**WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 13: "GOLDEN
CALVES AGAIN!"**

This series of Bible Story Lessons is about Israel's Kings. For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible. Just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days.

There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

MEMORY VERSE: "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments." Exodus 20:4-6

Sunday

Text: 1 Kings 12:26-27 "And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah."

Now as we learned, the kingdom was divided as a result of the foolishness of Rehoboam, the son of Solomon. Jeroboam ruled in the ten tribes and Rehoboam ruled in Judah and Ben-

jamin.

Now Jeroboam had been a true worshipper of God, however he too had grown up influenced by idolatry. Now when he was in a position to have made great reforms and led the Israelites back to the true God, he failed to trust in God and through selfishness, he did a great evil. This evil eventually resulted in the total destruction of the ten northern tribes.

Jeroboam began to worry that the people of the ten tribes would go back and join up with the descendant of David later on. He was especially worried because of the yearly feasts of the Passover and others.

You see, all Israel was supposed to go to the temple at Jerusalem for these sacred feasts. At least once a year each man was to appear before the Lord at the temple where the Ark of the Covenant was kept.

So Jeroboam thought this was a danger to his kingdom and decided he had better do something about it. Now if he had not been so selfish, and had obeyed and trusted in the Lord, he and Israel would have been blessed. But the more he worried, the darker grew his thoughts until he made a terrible choice.

Thought - We never need to fear evil will come from obeying the Lord. Even if it looks that way to us, God will bring good out of it.

Monday

Text: 1 Kings 12:28,29 "Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan."

Certainly Jeroboam must have been greatly influenced by the example of Solomon when he set up false temples and idol worship in Jerusalem for the sake of his heathen wives. He had the idea that religion was all the same- as long as one worshipped it didn't much matter where or how.

He made two golden calves, and set them up, one in Bethel, and the other in Dan. How very sad, he put an idol in the very place that was called the 'House of God'! This was where Jacob had set up a stone as a monument after he had the dream of the ladder to heaven. Now Bethel was to be made a doorway to hell.

It was bad enough to make these idols of the symbol of the sun god, but he also told the people, just as the wicked children of Israel had done after they left Egypt, that those images were the gods that had brought them out of Egypt. Then he told the people, "It is too much effort for you to go all the way to Jerusalem to worship God, you can worship here."

He then tried to get some of the Levites to come and work for him and serve these idols, which he claimed only represented the God of heaven, but they would not do it.

Then he went even further, he made his own time for a yearly feast, and hired even some of the 'lowest' of the people as priests and so he offered sacrifices to these calves and had a big celebration for the people to attend.

Thought – Sometimes we can really convince ourselves that because of the situation we are in, it is OK to do wrong. There is never a time when it is OK to do even the smallest wrong.

Tuesday

Text: 1 Kings 13:1,2 "And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. 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."

Did God just allow Jeroboam to go on without a warning? Oh No! God sent a prophet and he arrived just as Jeroboam himself was offering incense to his idols on his altar he had made. The prophet spoke to the altar and said the words of our text, then he went on to say that he would give a sign that this was true and would happen. He said the altar would be rent (Broken or split).

Right away the altar was broken and the ashes spilled out on the ground. Now Jeroboam should have repented at such a clear sign for the Lord that he was doing wrong. But what did he do? Anger and rebellion rose up in his heart against the true God of heaven, that dared to show before all the people that he was doing

wrong.

He stretched out his hand to order that the man of God be arrested and killed. As soon as he stretched out his hand to order this, his whole arm withered up like an old stick and he could not bring it to his side again. There he stood with his arm sticking out and withered all up.

Now he was really terrified. He cried to the man of God to please pray for him that his arm be restored. The prophet did pray, and God in mercy did heal Jeroboam's arm. He sure did not deserve to be healed, but God was giving him another chance to change and do right.

Thought – God deals with us so kindly, none of us deserve even the least blessing He gives us, but He pours them out anyway.

Wednesday

Text: 1 Kings 13:7-9 "And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward. And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest."

Now the God of Heaven had given this prophet some very careful directions. He was not to stop to eat or drink anything and was to go straight home by another route than he had come.

Jeroboam, after his arm was healed, asked the prophet to come and have a meal and receive a reward from the king. You can see why God did not want this to happen. It would have made Jeroboam feel that everything was all right between him and God, when it certainly was not. He still needed to repent and turn away from his terrible sin of idolatry.

The prophet was careful to refuse the king's offer and started on his way home, riding his little donkey on a route different than the one he had come on. So far all was well. He was obeying God.

How quickly the word of what had happened at the altar spread through the land! Soon it reached the ears of an old man who also had at times been used by God as a prophet. He boasted that he would get the prophet to come to his

house and have a meal, even if God had told him not to.

What a terrible thing to try and trick someone into doing wrong! Off he went and caught up with the man of God who was going straight home, as he had been commanded.

Now the old prophet told the man a lie, he told him that he too, was a prophet of God. That part was true, but then he told him that God had sent a message to him telling him to bring the man of God home for a meal. Now this was a lie.

The man refused, but the older man kept lying and asking him until the man of God foolishly gave in and went home to the old prophet's house.

Now God could not allow this disobedience to go unpunished, after all, He was trying to show the king and all Israel the importance of obeying God completely.

Thought – The man of God should have remembered that if God wanted him to change his course, He would have told HIM, not sent someone else to tell him!

Thursday

Text: 1 Kings 13:20-22 “And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back: And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee, But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the LORD did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcass shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.”

The two prophets were sitting at the table having a hearty meal, and likely an interesting talk together. All at once the old prophet who had lied looked horrified, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and he cried to him the words of our text. A terrible judgment was to happen to him because he did not obey God but listened to the lying prophet.

Now quickly the old prophet had the donkey saddled for the man of God and he was on his way home. But he was never going to get there.

As he traveled along thinking of the terrible rebuke that had come to him, all at once a lion leaped from the side of the road and pulled him from his donkey and killed him. There he lay, dead on the road for all to see the results of disobedience to the Lord's word.

Now, just in case some folks would say it was just an accident that he got killed by a lion and it had nothing to do with the Lord, that lion, who obeyed the command of the Lord, stood beside the body of the man for hours like a solemn guard. He did not eat the man or harm the donkey, which would have been perfectly normal to be killed and eaten by a lion.

There lay the disobedient prophet, and there stood on one side the stately lion, and on the other side the unharmed donkey. We don't know how long they stood there, but it was a long while. Long enough for the word to spread around and finally back to the prophet who had lied to the man of God. Then he got his donkey and went to where this awesome sight was to be seen. How his heart must have trembled as he saw the clear evidence of the hand of the Lord! Maybe then the lion went away, I do not know, but the old prophet was able to get the body and put it onto one of the donkeys. He took it home and buried it, mourning over him, “Alas my brother!” He told his sons that when he died, to bury him with the man of God.

Thought – The prophet had listened to the temptations of Satan when he decided to go and lie to the man of God. Satan wanted to undo all the effect of the warning of God on the people and the king.

Friday

Text: 1 Kings 13:33,34 “After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places. And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.”

Romans 14:23 “...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”

Now there are many lessons in this sad story for us to learn. Notice the text from Romans, what does it mean? It means that we should

never listen to anyone who wants to get us to do what we truly feel in our hearts is not right with God.

There is a thing called 'integrity', and it means that we are honestly doing what we believe to be right according to our conscience. We should never go against our 'integrity'.

Now our integrity can sometimes be wrong, and if so, the Lord will guide us to learn the truth from his holy Word, then we should obey that word and change our integrity. For example, maybe for years I keep Sunday. I think I am doing right. But one day I learn that the seventh day is the day to keep.

I check it out in the Bible, and sure enough, I was wrong. So now if I change and keep Sabbath, I am still in my integrity. But if I decide to keep on with Sunday now I know better, I am not in my integrity any more.

The man of God went against his integrity when he listened to the other prophet because the Lord had told him clearly what he was to do. It does not matter who tells us, we must

not go against God's commands to us. Just because the Lord has spoken through a person at one time does not mean that he might not sin later. We always must double check with the Word of God and not go against it.

Why did the Lord heal the rebellious king and yet have the lion kill the disobedient prophet? Well, you remember that the man of God had told the king the Lord had commanded him not to stop and eat or drink?

The Lord was trying to show Jeroboam and the people of Israel that it was important to OBEY the Lord totally. If the prophet then had disobeyed and nothing had happened, then it would have undone that entire lesson the Lord was showing Israel. That was Satan's plan when he got the old prophet to boast of how he could persuade the man of God to turn aside. But now all could see that it was a foolish and dangerous thing to ever disobey the Word of God!

Thought - I would urge you by the power and help of Jesus, to never go against what you know is right, not even if a minister or a king tells you to! = ^..^ =

