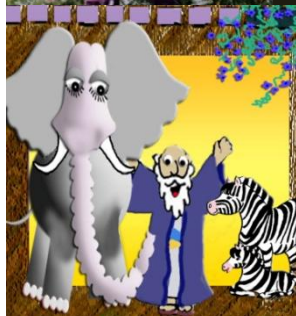
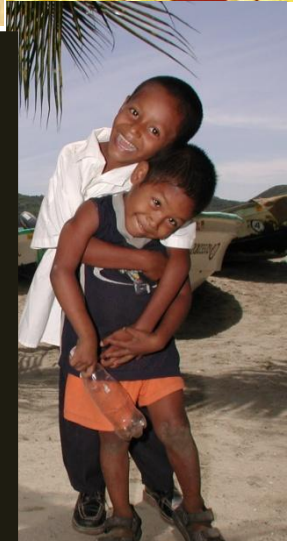




Children's Beautiful Bible Treasures



Part 4



Children's Beautiful Bible Treasures

—Part 4—

**Written by
Chariane Quille**

**Illustrated by
*Barbara Meinel Jacobs and Amanda Martins***

Cover photos:

Top: (L & R) Jon Berg

Vertical Left side (T): Angela S., (M) Robin Yamaguchi, (B) Jon Berg

Vertical Right side (T-M-B): Jon Berg

Centre: (T & B) Jon Berg

Bottom: (L) Jon Berg, (R) Angela S.

www.nurture-inspire-teach.com
Contact: info@nurture-inspire-teach.com

Bible Story Titles

Joshua, Jordan, and Jericho (Page 4)

Gideon and the Angel (Page 8)

A Pitcher, a Torch and a Trumpet (Page 12)

A Strong Man (Page 16)

Kind Ruth (Page 20)

Hannah's Prayer and Promise (Page 24)

Little Boy Samuel (Page 28)

Listening to God Speak (Page 32)

A Faithful Judge and Prophet (Page 36)

Samuel and Saul (Page 40)

King Saul (Page 44)

A Thundery Demonstration (Page 48)

A Good Heart (Page 52)

(These stories and illustrations are also included in the
"Beautiful Bible Treasures" Lessons 37-49: *Joshua and the Judges.*)



Joshua, Jordan and Jericho

Joshua had helped Moses for many years, and was a man full of faith. He was quick to obey and follow whatever God said to do. When it was time for Moses to return to God and live with Him, God gave Joshua the job of being the new leader of the Israelites. He was to lead them into the new land that God had promised would be theirs.

It was a very big job and an important responsibility. Joshua knew that the only way to succeed, and to have things go well, was to pray and ask God what to do.

One day when Joshua was praying, before entering the new country, a man was sent from God to talk with him. He was a powerful Captain in charge of God's angels. God sent him to help and encourage Joshua.

God told Joshua the plan, and gave the instructions on what to do next. It didn't look possible, or easy, to just walk into their new

land and to start building their houses, and to live there peacefully.

First of all, there was the Jordan River that would need to be crossed. Also, the city of Jericho was inhabited by ungodly people, and surrounded by a very big, strong and high wall.

It would take many miracles to even be able to enter their new country at last, but that is what God is good at doing. These things that seemed impossible, or very difficult, were not a problem to Him.

Everyone obeyed the new and amazing instructions given to them by the Lord. The priests carried the



special Ark of the Covenant box to the river's edge, and as soon as their feet touched the water, it began to part!

There was a big pathway right through the Jordan River to the other side, and everyone could easily cross it.

After crossing the river, a team of people and some priests were chosen to walk around the outside of the walled city of Jericho—one time every day, for six days. Then on the seventh day, they walked around it seven times.

They blew their trumpets and shouted at just the right time, when God said they should. Then a miracle happened!

Those big strong walls fell down flat, after the people did as God said. The Israelites were able to move into their new country at last.





Gideon and the Angel

Things were pretty tough for the Israelites, as many of them had stopped following God's instructions and rules for them. Things in their country weren't going well, and troublesome people were making things hard for them.

People had to hide their food, so that the unkind folks wouldn't come and take it. God couldn't do great and mighty miracles for them and make things all nice, until they chose to obey Him and do what He asked them to do.

Gideon was a man that loved God and respected Him. He wished people would start following and obeying God again, and he wished things would get better in their country, but it seemed impossible.

One day as he was threshing wheat in a secluded place so that the Midianites, as they were called, wouldn't come and take his

family's food, something very surprising happened to him.

An angel of God appeared to Gideon and told him that he was a strong and good man, and that God wanted to use him to be the one to make their country nice and safe again.

Gideon was amazed to see an angel, and he wanted to know for sure that it was God who was calling him to do that very big job. Gideon brought some food to the angel and set it on a rock.

When the angel touched it with the top of his staff, all of a sudden, fire came out of the rock and burned up the food and the broth that Gideon had poured on it. It was amazing!

Gideon knew then that what the angel had said was true, and he chose to obey God and do what he was called to do.



Gideon prayed and wanted a sign from God to prove that he was the one that God was calling to do this job. Gideon placed some thick wool on the ground outside.

He asked God to make the wool wet in the morning with dew, and to have the ground around the wool still be dry. And that's just what happened! The wool was very wet—wet enough to fill a bowl with water—and the ground surrounding the wool was totally dry.

Then Gideon prayed for the opposite to happen, and it did! God made the ground wet, but the wool that was on top of the wet ground was completely dry.

Normally, that would have been impossible. Only God could have done it! It showed Gideon that God was near to him and would do miracles for him, if Gideon would obey whatever God asked him to do.





A Pitcher, a Torch and a Trumpet

Gideon had prayed and proven God's words of instructions to him to be true. He was ready to go and do whatever job God had for him. There were many people interested in helping him.

A whole lot of people came to be on Gideon's team—many thousands! However, God wanted to surprise everyone with what He could do, with just a small band of men. He wanted to show His special miracle-working power.

Gideon had faith and acted in obedience when God told him that his team of helpers were too many, and to send many of them home.

God said that if there was anyone who was lacking courage or confidence in His help and strength, that they should be the first to leave—so, many returned to their homes.

Then God told Gideon to observe the men drinking at the river, and told him who to choose and who to send back home.

Finally, only 300 men were left on Gideon's team.

However, a few faith-filled and obedient people who are following God are enough for Him to do a great job.

A clay pitcher, a torch, and a trumpet, were what each of the 300 men on Gideon's team were told to get. How would those interesting items do the job of chasing away multitudes of people? Well, God's plan worked! He did the part that they couldn't do.

At night, while all the Midianites were asleep in their tents, Gideon and his men crept quietly into the camp.



Then, at just the right time, in the middle of the quiet night, they made **BIG**, sudden, loud noises!

The sound of the clay pots smashing, the blowing of the trumpets, and each one yelling out so loudly was enough to shock those trouble makers!

They ran out of their tents and made a dash for it. They were so startled, surprised and shocked about what was going on, that they ran away as fast as they could!



God's interesting and new idea worked.



A Strong Man

A man named Manoah and his wife had no children. One day an angel of the Lord appeared to the woman, and told her some wonderful news. God was going to give them a child—a very special son. He was to belong to the Lord, to do His will, and was whom God was sending to help the Israelites.

God needed a strong man who loved Him, and would live his life as God's helper for the people.

The woman went and told her husband all that the angel had said, and he wanted to meet the angel too, as he had more questions to ask.

The parents were very eager to obey all that God wanted them to do, and wanted to find out more instructions so they could do the best job possible in raising and training their soon-to-come child. He would need the right childhood preparation and care in order to do his job—the job he was sent to Earth to do.

The Manoah and his wife prayed for another chance to talk with the angel, and God sent him again to them. The angel appeared again to the woman while she was out in the field, and then called her husband to come quickly. They both talked to him and listened carefully to his words.

Then it happened! They had a son, just as God said they would.

They were wise parents and trained him well. They obeyed all that God had wanted them to do.

His name was Samson. He kept long hair, as God had told his parents he needed to. When he was grown and ready to begin his work for the Lord, he began to feel the Lord's spirit leading him in what to do.



Samson loved God, and prayed, and did whatever God told him to do.



It was a very difficult time for the Israelites, as there were some hurtful and unkind people causing them trouble—because they hadn't been following God's instructions and rules. God wanted to help change things for the better, and so had sent Samson.

God gave Samson great and unusual strength. It was a miracle and a gift of God. There was nothing anyone could do to stop him.

With God helping him, he was stronger than anyone else—as long as he obeyed God's instructions, prayed for God's help, and knew it was God who gave him that special gift.

God made Samson the judge of Israel, and he did that job faithfully for 20 years!



Kind Ruth

Naomi was a woman who loved the Lord and trusted Him through all the difficulties in her life. As she was getting older it seemed she wouldn't have anyone left to take care of her. There was a kind woman called Ruth, who was like a daughter to her.

Ruth said she would stay with Naomi always. Together they travelled to Bethlehem, as they heard there was food there, and it was the time of the harvest.

Ruth went out to a field to pick up any grain that the harvesters dropped, so that she and Naomi would have food to eat.



When the man who owned the field found out who Ruth was—that she was the kind lady who was taking care of Naomi, he let her stay in his field and continue to pick up the fallen grain pieces.

Boaz was his name, and he was a relative of Naomi. He wanted to make sure those ladies had enough, and even told the reapers to drop extra handfuls of barley for her to collect.

Boaz let Ruth eat lunch with him and the harvesters and drink their water too, as she worked hard in the hot sun gathering all the barley that she could.

By the end of the day she had plenty to bring back for her and Naomi to eat.



God was taking good care of them, as they followed Him and loved Him.

Ruth was a kind and loving woman and Boaz chose to marry her. Together they had a dear little baby whom they called Obed.

Grandmother Naomi was happy to help care for her new grandson. They were a happy family, and all things had worked out for the best in the end.





Hannah's Prayer and Promise

Hannah was a woman who loved God very much and took time to talk with Him in prayer. She knew God answered prayer even if some prayers took a long time to be answered.

As soon as you pray, God hears what you ask for, but it's not always the best time or way for your request to be answered right then and there. Sometimes you have to wait for awhile, and then it works out for the best in the end.

Hannah had wished for a child for a long time and often talked to God about it. However, it wasn't the right time for her special prayed-for boy to be given. --Until one day, when she and her husband and other relatives were visiting a place called Shiloh.

They took a trip there each year to pray and to praise and worship God. They would enjoy a feast and talk with friends and relatives who were there too.

At the feast Hannah was feeling very sad as she saw others with their families and their children, but she had none. It made her cry and pray with her whole heart for God to give her a son.

She promised then, at that feast, that if God would let her have a child she would let him serve God all his life. Priest Eli saw Hannah praying, and asked her about it.

She then explained to Eli how she was feeling, and he encouraged her and said that he knew God would answer her prayer.

Hannah felt happy inside! She had faith that her prayer would be answered soon.





Hannah then did have a child! --A special little baby boy.

She named him Samuel, and she loved him very much.

He was a special boy who would have a special job when he grew up.



Little Boy Samuel

How would you like to live in a place that only certain special people got to be? Samuel was brought to live with Priest Eli so that he could start to serve the Lord right away and get to hear His words. Samuel didn't have to wait until he was old.

Samuel was the only child that had that privilege of serving God and learning of His ways while living in the tabernacle. He had the rare and special opportunity to get to hear and learn about what was written on the old scrolls—God's words of instruction to everyone.

Samuel helped with the jobs that needed to get done and learned how to pray. Samuel got to wear a special outfit that was made just his size—just like a Priest wears. He had his own matching set, to be the same as Priest Eli, who was caring for him and teaching him.

Hannah and Elkanah praised God for how wonderful He is and for the great things He can do and that He did do! God had answered Hannah's prayer and had given them a son, and now was preparing Samuel for his special future ministry.

Samuel helped with the humble jobs; he respected God's Words, and was obedient too. He grew in faith and wisdom. He was right in the place that was best for him.

It was different than what other children needed to do, but it was just right for him.

Each year Samuel's mother would bring him a new coat to wear for the next year.



Elkanah and Hannah had more children too! God had blessed them and they were a happy family with three more boys and two girls.

They would go up to the feast each year as usual and get to see Samuel, their big brother, there.

Even when he was young he was a good example of believing God's words and following what He said to do.





Listening to God Speak

Samuel stayed with Priest Eli and helped him do the special jobs they did to serve the Lord. Samuel learned about God and learned to pray.

One night he learned to also listen to God's Words that would be spoken to him personally. He was sleeping soundly in his bed that was near the Ark of the Covenant—a place very few were allowed to be.

Eli was getting old and couldn't see very well, so it was a great help to have Samuel around.

One of Samuel's jobs then was to make sure the special lamp that was near the Ark of the Covenant was always lit, and to add more oil to it when it was needed. He kept checking on it during the day and if he woke at night too.

One night as young Samuel slept something woke him up—a voice calling his name.

He was accustomed to helping Eli and was quick to obey when he was called. Samuel ran quickly to Eli's side ready to help and to listen, but Eli said he hadn't called! Who was it?

Samuel went back to bed to try and sleep again, but he was called again and went right away again to Priest Eli.

When this happened a few times Eli realised that it was the Lord calling Samuel; so he instructed him what to do and say.

When Samuel went back to bed for the third time he heard the Lord calling him clearly.

Samuel then sat still and said, "Speak Lord, for Your servant is listening."

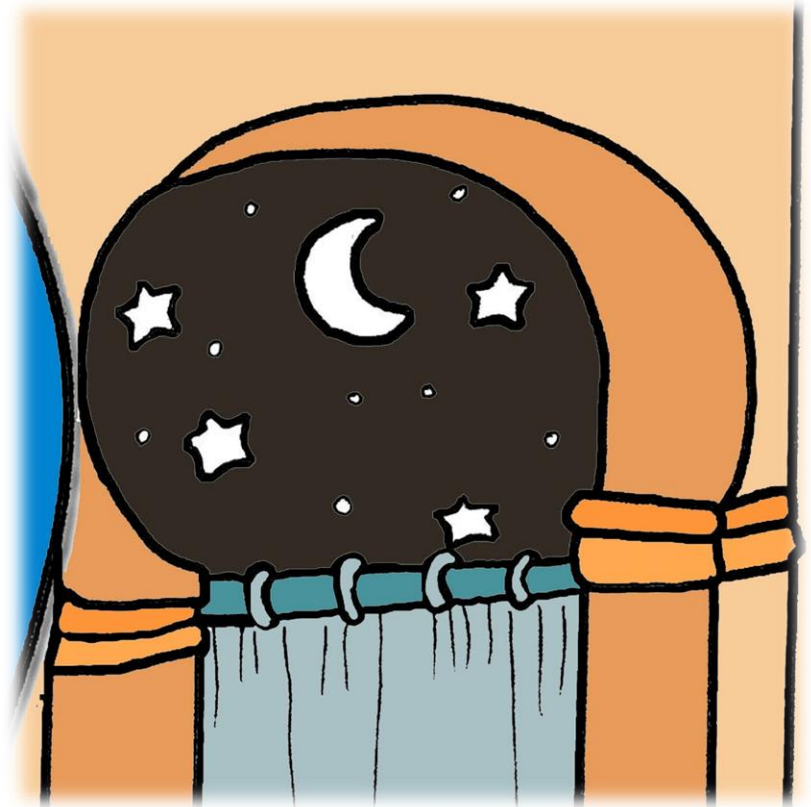


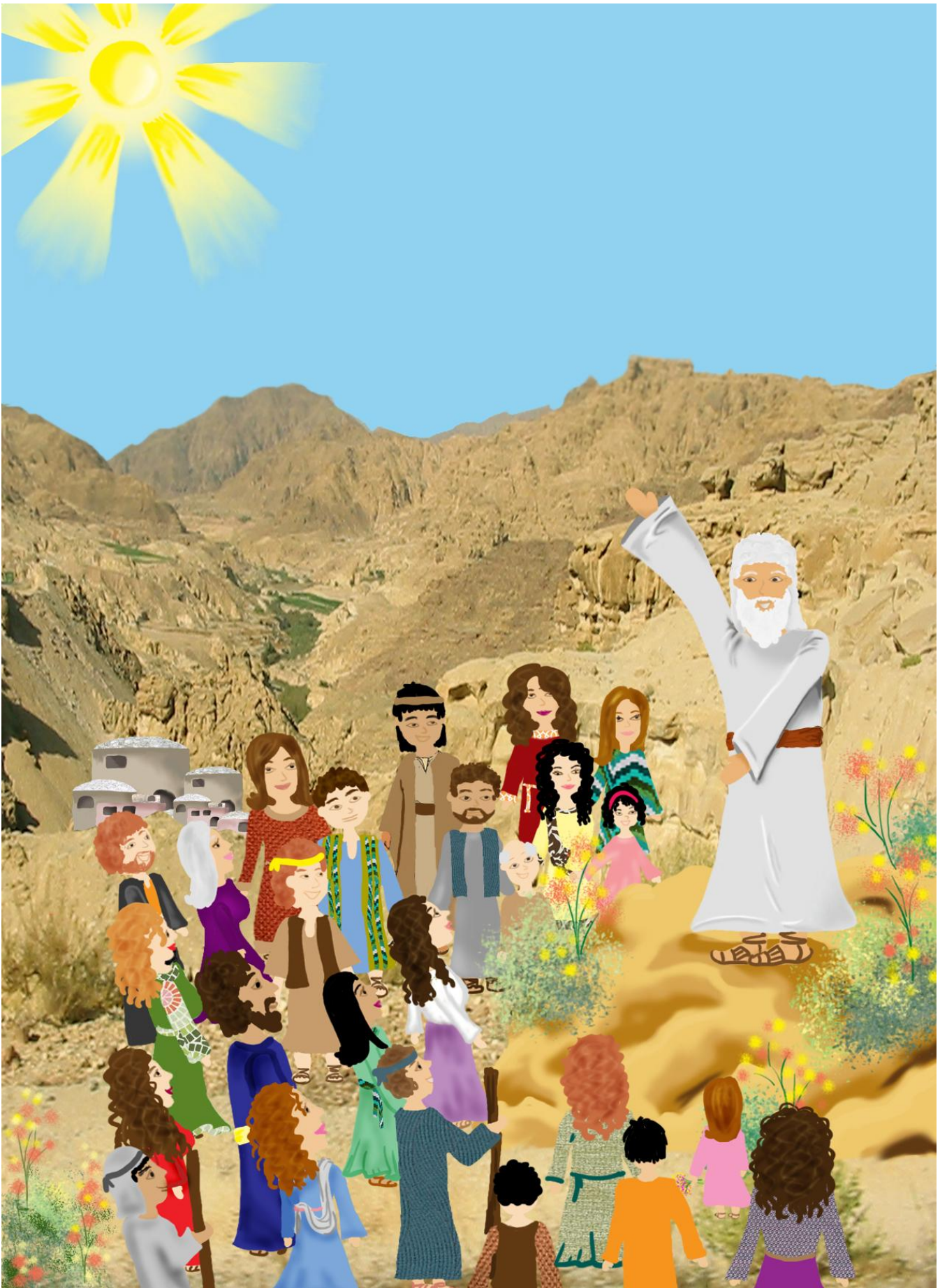
Samuel heard God's words and remembered them and told them to Eli the next morning.

God had called and chosen Samuel to be a prophet and continued to speak to him as he grew older.

He was a judge as well, and told the people God's Words—for God's Words were what he loved most of all.

Praying for the people was also one job he did very faithfully.





A Faithful Judge and Prophet

Samuel loved God so much, and was very respectful and obedient when God talked with Him. Everyone began to respect and appreciate Samuel too.

He was helping things in the country change for the better, by praying and hearing from God and helping to teach everyone what God wanted them to do.

When people were going their own foolish and disobedient ways, then troubles came. But when they listened to and obeyed God's words, and did what Samuel the prophet and judge told them from the Lord, then their situation improved.

One time when things weren't going well at all, and troublesome people were giving the Israelites a hard time, the Israelites decided to do something they shouldn't have done.

Instead of praying and being sorry for not following God's ways, and changing, they tried to do something else to protect themselves.

The special Ark of the Covenant that Priest Eli kept safely was taken away by some of the people.

This Ark of the Covenant reminded people that God was near and would care for them just as He had when the Israelites travelled in the wilderness.

The people thought that if they had that special Ark with them, rather than leaving it in the tabernacle, it would protect them and chase away the trouble makers. However, that didn't work.



Samuel reminded them what needed to be done. If they began to obey God and follow His words then He would do the miracles and make the country a nice place to be again.

Everyone wanted to change and to do things God's way. This was a good decision and brought wonderful results.

Then Samuel prayed for them and God answered their prayers and made things pleasant again.

The Ark of the Covenant was put in a safe place, and for many years the people chose to listen to God's words that were spoken through Samuel, and to love and obey God.





Samuel and Saul

Samuel had done his best to lead and teach the people of Israel God's ways. However, after many years they wanted to have a king to be their ruler, instead of a prophet leading them to follow God as their Heavenly King.

When Samuel prayed and asked God what He wanted to do about it, God said that they could have an earthly king, but it wouldn't always be easy for them.

Hearing God's Words through His prophet and obeying God would be much easier than having a ruler telling them what to do. If the king wasn't following God's ways then it would make things very difficult for them.

Even when Samuel explained what God said, the people still wanted to have a king as a ruler. God knew this would happen, and many years before had been preparing someone to do the job.

One day when Samuel was praying, God told him that a man would visit him the next day, and that he was the right man to be the king. Samuel got prepared, as God had said, and told the cook to make sure to set aside a good portion of the food that was to be served the next day, for a special guest that was coming.

A man called Saul, along with a servant, was looking for his father's missing donkeys. They decided to find the prophet Samuel and ask for his help. They knew that if Samuel prayed, God could tell them where the donkeys were.

When Samuel saw Saul coming, God told him that he was the one that was to be the king. Samuel told Saul some surprising things. He invited him to a special dinner that day and also said not to worry about the donkeys, because they had already been found.



Then Samuel told Saul that he was an important man and he was just the person that the people were wanting.

Saul didn't understand that. He didn't think of himself as being anyone extra special. Even though he was tall and strong and could do lots of things, he was humble and thought of others as better than himself. But a humble man who prays and knows that he needs God's help is the best kind of man for the job of being a king.

Samuel poured some special oil on Saul's head, as a demonstration of God's spirit and power helping him to do the job of soon becoming the king of the country. Saul went home then to help his father until it was the time to be crowned as king later on.





King Saul

The prophet Samuel talked with Saul, after he had poured oil on his head to show that he was to be the king of the land of Israel. The Lord told Samuel just what was going to happen next on Saul's journey back home to his father.

Each of the events happened, just as Samuel said they would! Saul was amazed. It was a sign to him that God was leading him to do that new and special job.

On his way home Saul met a group of prophets who were making music and were prophesying. The Lord's Spirit was on Saul and he began to prophesy as well. People who knew him from before were surprised!

Saul was like a new man, with new thoughts and feelings and reactions. God had changed his heart and given him the ability to do the job of being the future king.

Prophet Samuel called all the people together to let them know who was to be their king.

People from all the tribes of Israel were there. This was a very important event for them.

First, God let them know what tribe the king would come from, and then He revealed what family the king was to be from. And last of all God showed who from that family was to be the king.

It was clear to all, after finding out step-by-step who God wanted it to be, that Saul was the one that God had chosen to be the king.

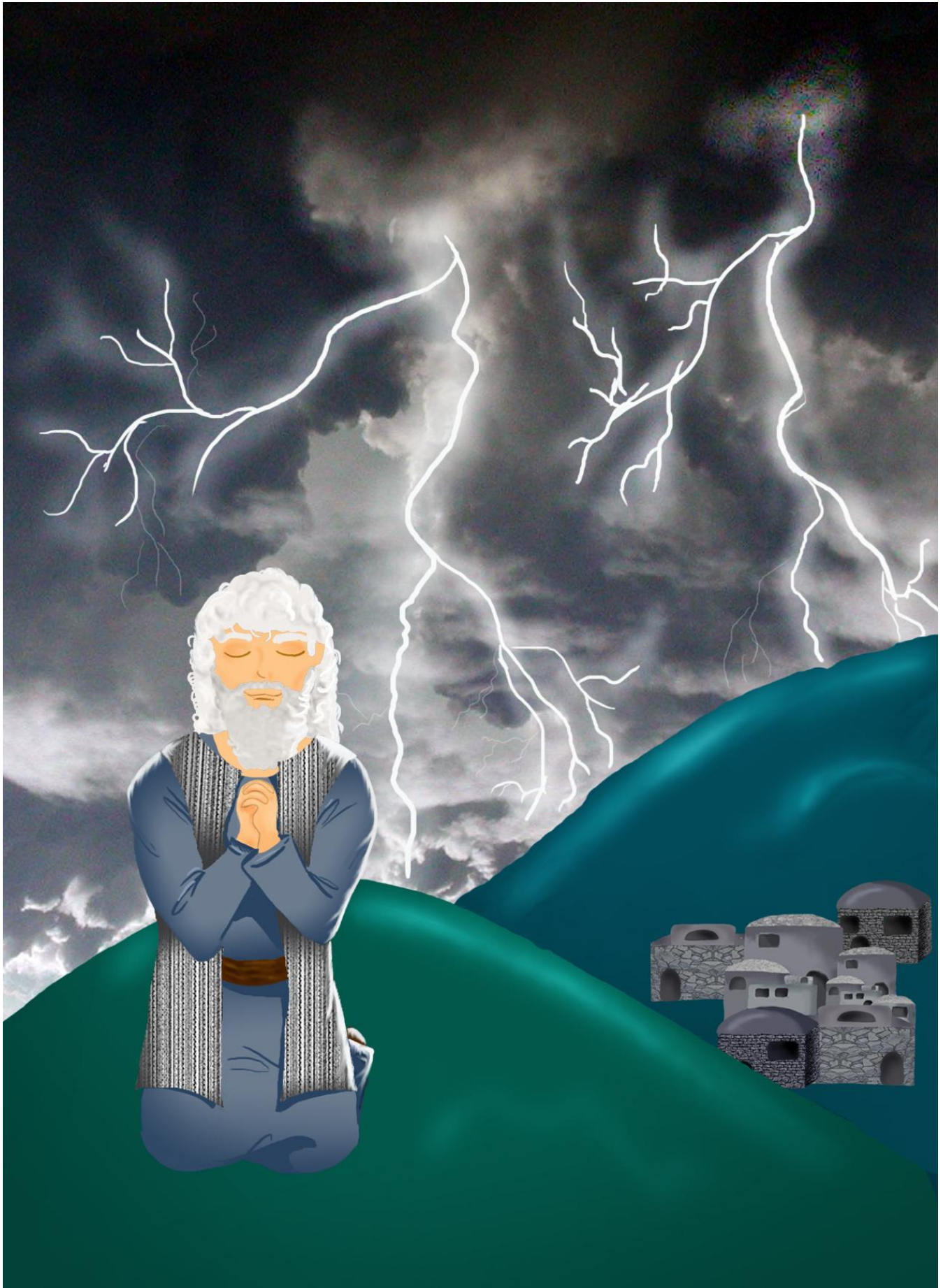


Saul was feeling nervous and shy about being a king when he saw all those people together, so he hid.

But God told Samuel where Saul was—he was hiding by all the stuff that was in a pile.

When Saul stood up he was a very tall man and everyone shouted, "God save the King!"





A Thundery Demonstration

It was very important that King Saul and all the people follow God's Words and instructions and not choose to go their own wrong way.

Samuel told everyone the Lord's Words and reminded them that God was in charge and the wise thing to do would be to listen to Him and obey Him.

Everyone had pushed to have their own way—to have a king as a ruler—even though God had told them that it wouldn't make things easier.

In fact it could make things very difficult for them, if the king wasn't behaving in ways that pleased the Lord, and was instead full of his own ideas, and was selfish, and disobedient to God's ways.

Yet, everyone said they still wanted a king—since most of the other countries around had one.

However, when God granted their request, somehow they felt sad in heart, because they knew it wasn't the best choice—but it was too late to change.

They were sorry for not listening to God better and not choosing to have things His way, even though it was different than what other countries had.

But then Samuel encouraged them with God's Words, that even if they had demanded to be given something that was not God's best choice for them, it was still possible to have things go well in the country if they all—including the king—were faithful to follow in God's ways.



Then Samuel prayed and God showed everyone a sign to let them know that He was right there.



Even though it was a sunny day, Samuel prayed and God sent thunder and rain right then!

God was so powerful and near to them all and He knew everything that was going on.

Everyone realised that following and respecting God was the best thing to do.



A Good Heart

It was a big job for Saul to be the king, and one thing you really need if you are the king is faith. However, instead of having the faith to obey the Lord's instructions, Saul chose rather to do the things that others thought were best.

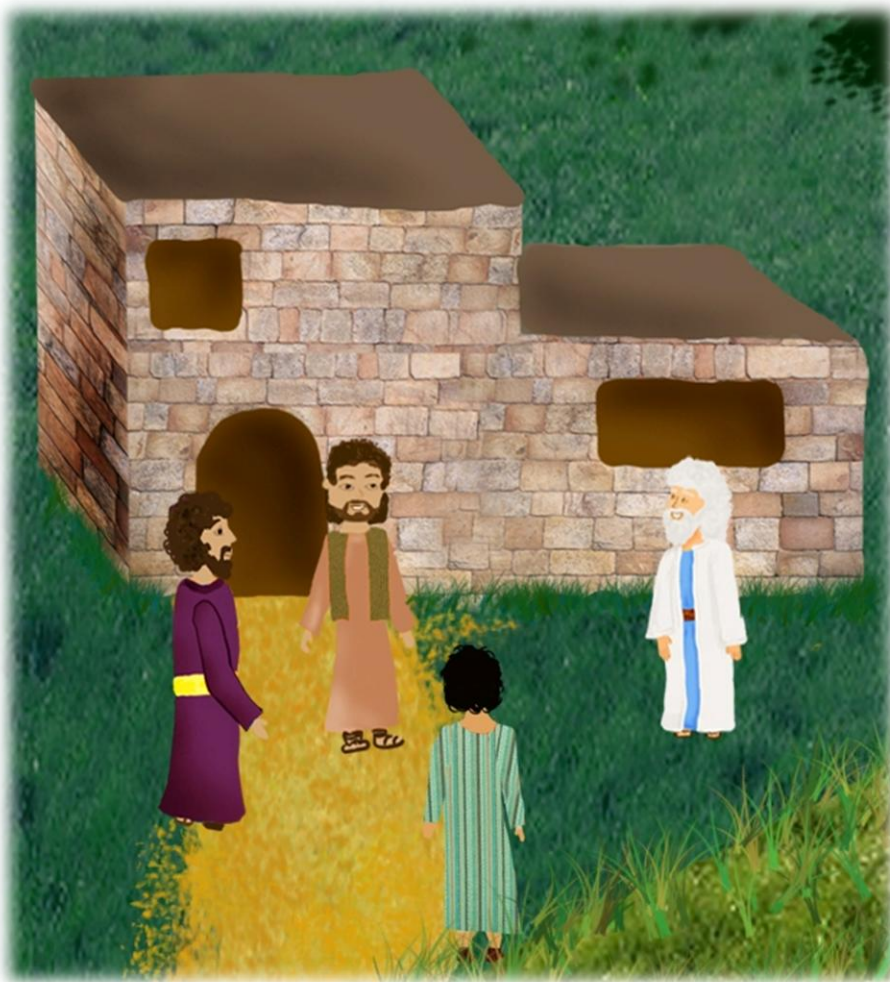
He disobeyed what God, through Samuel the prophet, said for him to do. If he'd had more faith and trust in God's plan and care, then he would have been more obedient to God's words.

Because Saul did what others said to do, out of fear or worry, rather than what God asked him to, it displeased God and showed a lack of faith in Him. Samuel needed to find someone else to be the king; someone who would do what God asked them to do.

God told Samuel that one of Jesse's sons in Bethlehem was to eventually be the new king. Samuel invited Jesse and all his grown sons to a feast.

One-by-one the men stood in front of Samuel to see which one was to be chosen. God said that being tall and strong and good-looking wasn't going to make them a good king.

God looks on the heart and what people are feeling and thinking and what they are motivated to do.



None of Jesse's seven sons that stood there for Samuel to choose from received God's approval for being the king.

Samuel asked if Jesse had any more

sons, and he said "Yes". His youngest, David, was watching over the sheep.

When he came and stood before Samuel, God said that he, this young man David, was to be the next king after Saul.

Samuel poured the special oil on David's head, and God's Spirit came on him.

It would be years before David was the king, but with God's Spirit he could make wise decisions while preparing to be the king, and learning just what he needed to know before it was time to rule the country.

