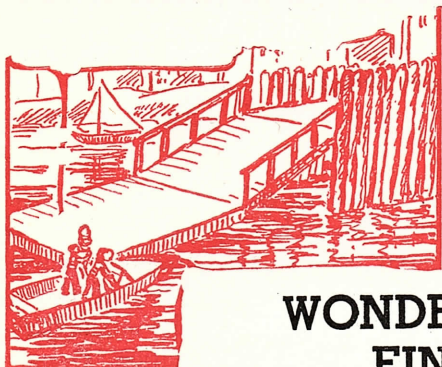


WORDS OF LIFE



WONDERFUL FIND

"Day was dying in the west," and when the sun begins to set in the Pyreness, darkness settles quickly. Two sisters, Alice and Beth, with an old friend, Miriam, as their guide wended their way to the hotel where they were to spend their holidays.

"We must stop," said their guide, "at the little church building. It will be well worth our time, and I think we shall still get to the hotel before dark."

The little party climbed the steep hill and entered the ancient porch. A huge figure attracted their attention. "Who is he supposed to be?" whispered Beth. "I see this figure up in the mountains, down in the plains, everywhere!"

"That is Saint Anthony," answered the guide. "I don't know much about him, but one thing I do know. He helps people to find things that they lose. Many a piece of money he gets out of my family I can tell you."

"What do you mean, Miriam?" gasped Beth.

"Oh, we are a careless family," replied Miriam. "We lose a lot of things and have to ask Saint Anthony to find them for us. Only this week my sister lost a valuable necklace. We searched everywhere for it without success. At last she said, 'Saint Anthony, if you will tell me where I can find my necklace, I will put three francs into your money chest at the church.' Almost immediately she laid her hands on the necklace in her own cupboard."

There was a pause. Then Alice softly and shyly suggested that there was One much more powerful than Anthony. He could do everything. He did far beyond what was asked of Him.

"I suppose you mean God," said Miriam. "But I

never heard about praying to Him about anything so trivial. He is too big and exalted to consult on such a subject."

"Not so," said Alice. "Sixteen years ago I remember standing on a wharf. Before getting in one of the little boats for a ride down the river, a friend handed me her costly ring. I fumbled and the heirloom fell into the water. Much distressed I lifted up my heart to the Lord. I knew it was not too trivial for Him. And He heard me. Almost immediately someone cried out, 'Oh, it's here! It's here!' It was almost as if the waters had cast up the ring on the wet stones. Quickly we recovered it. And Saint Anthony had nothing to do with it," she triumphantly added.

Long before there was a Saint Anthony, there was a remarkable find at a river's edge. An axe-head had been lost. The grief was great, for it was borrowed and the young man could not replace it. And there were no skin divers in those days to retrieve sunken treasure. But God's prophet was there! "Show me the place where it fell," said Elisha. The young man did so. Then Elisha cut down a stick and threw it into the water. Marvel of marvels, the iron axe-head swam up to the stick. The man reached down his hand and recovered the axe. God is still able to work marvels for those who trust Him as the following incident shows.

Apple Butter from Heaven in 1961

The sinking sun lit up the desert and the mesas that surrounded the mission station. Its reflection cast a golden glow over the heads of the family gathered for evening devotions. The reading was 2 Kings 4. "Who were the sons of the prophets?"

asked Brenda. "Were they Elijah's sons or Elisha's sons?"

"Neither," answered their father. "It seems they were young men who wanted to know more of God's Word,



and who wanted to serve God. Elisha had a school for them. They lived with Elisha, and he fed them as well as taught them."

"A school! and they lived there! That must have been like us," said Beth. "I wonder what Elisha did when there was no jam or butter for their bread!"

"Jam or butter!" expostulated Greg. "Didn't you hear? There was famine in the land. They didn't even have bread!"

"But God sent them bread," interrupted Jeff. "He didn't let them go hungry. And it was enough for a hundred men. There aren't even a hundred at our school. And they're boys and girls. They wouldn't eat as much as men. God can send bread enough for us."

"And even jam," echoed Grandma, for Grandma had had a bright idea.

"In war days," mused Mother, "butter was rationed along with meat. Many went without butter so that they could have a little more meat—and God has sent us lots of meat." Then Mother chuckled. "One day we were invited out to dinner in a fancy res-

taurant. Fried chicken and corn on the cob. A note on the table said, 'We are cooperating with the war effort by serving a butter substitute.' Oh, well, we thought, who cares whether we have butter or oleo on our corn. The wrapper may say oleo but when it comes to the table it's butter. But it wasn't oleo on the restaurant table that day. It was apple butter. And who wants apple butter on corn on the cob?"

"But wouldn't apple butter taste good on this home made bread?" murmured Beth. "Wouldn't it?" they all agreed. "But we have no apple butter," reminded their father.

"Remember those dried apples," broke in Grandma. "Yes," they remembered. They'd enjoyed them so much when they were sent to the mission a couple of years before. But there were so many of them! There were still large cans of dried apples in the back of the cupboard of every home on the station. Grandma gathered them all together. And yes, there was still some vinegar in the cupboards, and there was lots of spice. Into the huge pot it went. Soon delicious smells were filling the large kitchen. Jar after jar was filled with the savory food. Soon the table was filled with the jars. Then each cupboard got its share.

The God who provided them with bread provided them with a butter substitute too. And it lasted until there was once more oleo in the refrigerators and jam in the cupboards. R. S.



This man has lost something and Elisha is going to help him recover it. To see what the object is, draw from dot 1 to 11. Color picture.

"O thou man of God, there is death in the pot.
2 Kings 4:40.

Death in the pot! 'tis always there,
The bane of all our food,
When we partake it without fear,
Without an eye to God.

Unless He sanctify the meat,
And bless us from the sky,
Unless we too His glory eat,
Our souls by eating die.

A SPECIAL VERSE FOR THE WEEK

THE LORD KNOWETH HOW TO DELIVER THE
GODLY OUT OF TEMPTATIONS, AND TO RE-
SERVE THE UNJUST UNTO THE DAY OF JUDG-
MENT TO BE PUNISHED. 2 Peter 2:9.

Continued Story . . .

JEREMIAH and the Seven Kings

A True Story Retold

by
FANNY M. GOFF

King Zedekiah had ordered Jeremiah to be taken out of the pit and demanded that he tell him all the truth about the perilous situation.

"If I tell you," said Jeremiah, "You will put me to death." "As the Lord lives," the King answered, "I won't put you to death nor give you over to those men that want to kill you."

"Then, God says that if you will go out and surrender to the Chaldeans, your soul will live and they won't burn the city, but if you won't go out, they'll burn it with fire and you won't escape from them either."

"But I'm afraid of the Jews. I'm afraid that they'll hand me over to the Chaldeans and then mock me."

"No, they won't hand you over," Jeremiah assured him. "I beg you to obey the Lord's voice. It will be well with you and your soul shall live."

Zedekiah was almost persuaded, but lacked the courage to take that definite step of obeying God. That day he had a blessing and a curse put before him, and for fear of what others would say, he chose the curse. We do not read that he ever had another opportunity.

"Don't tell anybody what we've been talking about, and you won't die," he said. "If the princes get to know that you've talked with me and ask you what we said, just tell them that you begged me not to put you back in the prison."

They took Jeremiah back to the court of the prison, and he was there until the fall of the city. When the princes asked him about his conversation with the King, he answered as the King had said, and they went away and left him alone.*

The city of Jerusalem resisted the Chaldean army that was camped around it, besieging it, for a year and a half. During that time, God spoke to Ezekiel down in Babylon, "The King and the princes are going to

dig a hole through the wall in the twilight and escape, but I'll spread my net and catch him and bring him to Babylon. But he won't see the land, although he's going to die here." *

Meanwhile, the famine in the city was getting more and more intense. Any that had a store of bread, hoarded it, so as to save, if possible, his own life, and those who had nothing, starved. We read that in the siege of Samaria many years before, the people paid a great price for a donkey's head or dove's dung to eat, and probably they now did the same in Jerusalem. We do know that before the siege finally was ended the mothers were killing, cooking, and eating their own children. **

Finally the Chaldeans were able to break open a hole in the city wall, and their army marched in. That same night, Zedekiah and his princes fled through a secret door in the wall that led out from the palace garden. All that night they ran down the mountain toward the Jordan River, trying to escape, but the next day, the Chaldean soldiers caught up to them near the city of Jericho and took them prisoners.

Although the Chaldean army had surrounded Jerusalem for a year and a half, Nebuchadnezzar was not there. He was in the city of Riblah, 200 miles to the north. So the Chaldean officers took Zedekiah and his sons and the princes to Riblah to the king of Babylon. He then pronounced judgment on them. He remembered that Zedekiah had broken his oath with him and had resisted his army for such a long time, so he now could take vengeance on him. With Zedekiah looking on, he first had each of the princes killed. Then Zedekiah, horrified, watched as they killed all of his own sons, one by one. This was the last thing he ever saw on earth, because they then bored out his eyes. They loaded him with chains, and took him to Babylon, where he died in prison.

A month after the fall of the city, Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard of the Chaldeans, arrived at Jerusalem. He burned the king's palace and the rest of the houses, and leveled the walls around the city. Then he went to the beautiful temple that Solomon had built. He tore down the two main brazen pillars that held it up and took all the gold off the walls, also the brazen sea and any vessels that had been left before, and broke them in pieces to make it easier to carry them to Babylon. Then when he had taken everything of value, he tumbled down all the great stones with which it was built, and left it a pile of ruins.

* Ezekiel 12:12, 13 ** Lamentations 4:10

BIBLE STUDY PAGE



Elisha, Who Wrought Deliverance for the Sons of the Prophets — 2 Kings 4:38-44; 6:1-7 (Read either portion)

In today's lesson we have some interesting miracles wrought by Elisha. They seem unrelated but are necessary if we would get a complete picture of his life and work. It is to be noted that they were miracles of mercy.

1. Death in the Pot (ch. 4:40).

Dearth. This is one of the thirteen famines of Scripture, probably the one referred to in 2 Kings 8:1. Sometimes famine was sent as a punishment for sin (2 Sam. 21:1, 2), sometimes as a test of faith (Gen. 12:10), and sometimes to bring a people, or a person, back to God as the prodigal was brought back to the father (Luke 15:20).

Death. Elisha commands the prophets to put on the "great pot," not a small pot. Probably they were using a small pot owing to the scarcity of food. Now God was going to meet their need in a special way, and because He was the God who "gave to all men liberally and upbraideth not," they put on the great pot. One of the prophets saw a plant which looked harmless, but was really poisonous, and put it into the pot. The bitter taste showed that something was wrong and the cry went up, "There is death in the pot." So there was. How did it get there? Through the unwitting mistake of a young man, who didn't know what he was doing. There is still "death in the pot," not through a mistake on Adam's part, but through deliberate disobedience. "By one man's disobedience sin entered into the world and death by sin."

Deliverance. Elisha had a very simple remedy—a handful of meal was cast into the pot and "there was no harm in the pot." The meal speaks of Christ, in His atoning sacrifice on Calvary. "Through death He destroyed him that had the power of death" and the result is deliverance.

2. Feeding One Hundred Men (ch. 4:42-44).

This incident probably took place during the same famine. **Supply.** Twenty loaves of barley bread and ears full of corn in the husk thereof were brought as first fruits to God and the prophets. This was the portion due to the priests, but the priesthood had failed and therefore it was brought to the prophets who had replaced the priests. The fact that this man brought the first fruits proved that he had not bowed the knee to Baal and was loyal to God and His law.

Sufficiency. Elisha's servant didn't think that twenty thin, wafer-like loaves were sufficient for one hundred men. This reminds us of the five barley loaves and two small fishes, and Andrew's, "What are they among so many?" There is enough in Christ and in the gospel to meet the need of every person in the world.

Surplus. There was something left over, as in the feeding of the five thousand. Somebody has said that in the first miracle we have "Jesus saves," and in this miracle, "Jesus satisfies." And so it is.

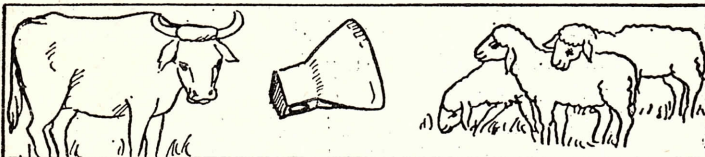
3. The Iron that Swam (ch. 6:1-7).

Evidently the number of prophets increased to such an extent that expansion was necessary. The prophets asked Elisha's permission to go and cut down trees for building purposes. "Every man a beam" sounds good and shows a willingness on the part of each to do what they could do to help. Of course the work was made easier when every man did his bit. Many hands make light work, even in the Lord's work.

Lost. The axe-head was lost, not when the man was idling away his time but when he was using it. We can lose our power even when we are active because out of touch with God.

Lent. The fact that it was borrowed worried the man most of all. Everything we have is lent to us. It belongs to God, our time, money and gifts.

Lifted. The wood made the iron swim. It was recovered where it was lost. Where did you lose your joy, peace, and power? That is where recovery begins. When Abraham went down to Egypt he was at Bethel, when he left Egypt thirteen years after he went back to Bethel (Gen. 12:8; 13:3). The point of departure was that of restoration.



HEEPS _____ Luke 15:_____

XO _____ Exodus 22:_____

NSO _____ Luke 15:_____

TRAINME _____ Ex.22:_____

XEA DEAH _____ 2Kings 6:_____

LIVESR _____ Luke 15:_____



These lost things are all found in the chapters referred to. Write words properly and fill in references.

MEMORY VERSES



MEMORY VERSE — For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 2 Cor. 5:21.

ALTERNATE MEMORY VERSE — We should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead. 2 Corinthians 1:9.

Daily Scripture Readings



Lord's Day—2 Kings 4:38-39. What did they put into the pot?

Monday—2 Kings 4:40-41. How did Elisha fix the food?

Tuesday—2 Kings 4:42-44. What happened according to the word of the Lord?

Wednesday—2 Kings 6:1-3. Where were they going to make a dwelling place?

Thursday—2 Kings 6:4-7. How did Elisha recover the axe?

Friday—2 Cor. 5:14-17. When will a man be a new creation?

Saturday—2 Cor. 5:18-21. What did Christ do for sinners?