

# WORDS OF LIFE

## COVERED EYES



Mrs. Wang, a Chinese lady who lived in the interior of China, had the wonderful experience of seeing God work a great miracle on her behalf. One day she was sitting in the dust by the roadside; a little girl was beside her. Mrs. Wang was very poor and there was a sadness on her hard face. As she sat staring stoically into space, a white woman came down the street. She smiled and spoke kindly to her.

"Come to our woman's meeting," she said. "There you will hear about the love of the only true and living God Who gave His Son to die for sinners."

Mrs. Wang promised to come. She went to the meetings. At last she saw her need as a lost sinner and accepted the Lord Jesus as her Saviour. Things changed in her life then. She had a new nature and a new love in her heart. The hard, sad expression left her face; she no longer wore dirty clothes; she combed her untidy hair.

Her husband was not pleased with the change in her. "You have eaten of the white man's doctrine!" he cried. "You shall go to no more meetings! If I catch you coming out of one I will kill you!" he

stormed. But Mrs. Wang continued to go to the meetings and trusted the Lord to protect her.

One day Mr. Wang was sure his wife was at the meeting, and waited outside the gate until she should come out. There he sat, his eyes turned on the door. At last it opened and the people came out. Mrs. Wang was filled with fear as she saw her husband sitting, scowling, near the gate. Timidly she walked toward him. But he made no sign of recognizing her. Quickly she walked past him and went home.

Later her husband entered their home. "Where have you been?" he demanded. "I was sure you had gone to those meetings of the foreigners."

Mrs. Wang was amazed. "I did go," she informed him. "I saw you watching for me, and walked by you unseen!"

Yes, God had covered his eyes!

Mr. Wang was so impressed with the fact; he had no words of reproach. He no longer tried to hinder her from going, nor did he threaten to harm her if she did.

We do not know if Mr. Wang's eyes were opened to receive the Gospel.

You will remember how God blinded the eyes of a whole army who had come to fight against His Israelite people. This story is found in 2 Kings 6.

Unless you have trusted in the Lord Jesus, you too are blind, for "the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, Who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (2 Cor. 4:4).

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin,

The light of the world is Jesus;

Like sunshine at noonday His glory shone in,

The light of the world is Jesus.

Come to the light—

'Tis shining for thee;

Sweetly the light

Has dawned upon me.

Once I was blind,

But now I can see,

The Light of the world is Jesus!

# I Don't See Why I Should

"Lord, I pray Thee, open his eyes" (2 Kings 6:17).

"Isn't it a beauty," said Chipper as he rubbed his hand over the sleek sides of his new bike.

"It sure is," agreed his older brother Peter, "and just the right size for you. Try it out."

Chipper didn't need any urging. Off he went like a flash. His clothes were just a little too big, and rather patched. They had been hand me downs from big brother Peter, and then from brother Fred. Mrs. Brown sighed as she wondered if there would be anything left of them to save for little brother John. His clothes were a little too big, but the almost new bike given him by the neighbor across the street was just the right size. Around the block went Chipper. Soon he was back to show off some more.

"Can I try it now?" asked Fred. "It sure was nice of Mr. Collins to give you such a lovely bike." Chipper didn't say anything. "We always share our things," said his mother gently. "I don't see why I should," grumbled Chipper, and off he went around the block again. This time it wasn't nearly so much fun. But why should he share, he thought to himself angrily. He never had anything of his own. He shared his bed with little John. His clothes were never new. This lovely bike was all his own. Why not keep it just for himself.

"O, Chipper, may I have a ride," called his sister Marjorie. "I'm such a little bit bigger than you. I'm sure I would fit on it. Can't I try it?" Chipper's jaw stuck out defiantly. "Won't you let your sister share your bike?" said his mother sadly.

"I don't see why I should," said Chipper defiantly, and off he went again. "I don't see why I should. I don't see why I should. I don't see why I should," said Chipper all the way around the block. He was still saying it when he got around to his front door once more.

"Chipper doesn't see," said little John. "No," grumbled Marjorie, "Chipper's blind, he can't see."

"None so blind as those who will not see," called out Peter as he and Fred started off with their fishing poles. Always before Chipper had gone along with them. Peter had made Chipper a fishing pole and sometimes he let Chipper try the one he had earned by working Saturdays and saving his money. This time they didn't even ask him to come along.

But of course Chipper had his new bike. None of the others, not even Peter, had a bike. "No use sticking around here," said Fred rather loudly. "Chipper's just not going to share that bike."

"I don't see why I should," said Chipper again more stubbornly than ever before. Off he went again to the same sad, angry tune. "I don't see why I should. I don't see why I should. I don't see why I should."

"I do wish Chipper would get his eyes opened," cried Marjorie. "He's just spoiling all our fun."

"Yes," sighed Mrs. Brown. "Our family does have such good times when we all share. We'll have to pray for Chipper."

After supper that night when their father took down the Bible, he read from John nine. "And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth."

"Just like Chipper," interrupted little John.

"Just like Chipper, what do you mean?" asked their father.

"Chipper says he doesn't see." Chipper hung his head. "And Marjorie says he must be blind if he can't see." Chipper got very red. His father went on reading. He read of the way the Lord Jesus made clay and anointed the eyes of the blind man and he became able to see.

"Oh, I wish the Lord Jesus would do that for Chipper," said John. "It isn't fun at all when he can't see. He's so cross and grumpy. He made Marjorie cry. And Peter and John went away just because he was so mean. I wish the Lord Jesus would make Chipper see."

"I wish He would too," said Chipper very quietly. And do you know that very night He did! The Lord Jesus opened Chipper's eyes to see how selfish and stubborn and sinful he was. The Lord Jesus opened Chipper's eyes to see Him dying on the cross for Chipper's sins. That night Chipper trusted the Lord Jesus as his very own Saviour. He was so happy that he not only wanted to share his bike with his family, he wanted to share his Saviour with everyone he met.

## ACROSS

The words fitting this puzzle are all found in 2 Kings 6. Sometimes two words that fit will be found in the same verse so you will need a pencil with an eraser on it.

1. v. 11; 2. v. 13; 3. v. 14; 4. v. 9; 5. v. 16; 6. v. 19; 7. v. 15; 8. v. 16; 14. v. 20.

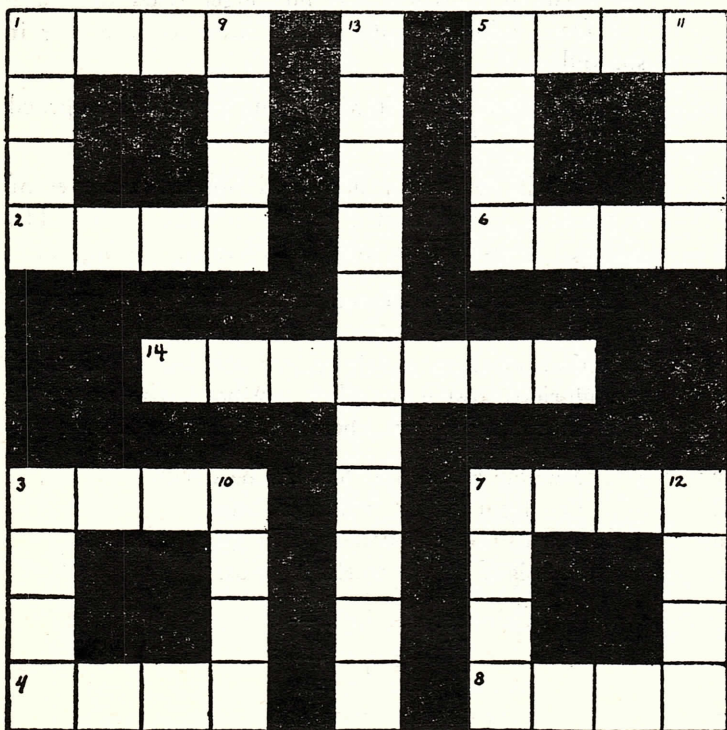
## DOWN

1. v. 10; 3. v. 8; 5. v. 19; 7. v. 22; 9. v. 18; 10. v. 17; 11. v. 7; 12. v. 12; 13. v. 12 (plural).

## A SPECIAL VERSE FOR THE WEEK

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD ENCAMPETH  
ROUND ABOUT THEM THAT FEAR HIM, AND  
DELIVERETH THEM.

Psalms 34:7.



## Continued Story . . .

# JEREMIAH and the Seven Kings

A True Story Retold

by

FANNY M. GOFF

Nebuzaradan took the people that were left, captive to Babylon, except a few poor farmers who were to work the land. Also he chose Gedaliah to stay on in the land and serve as governor. Gedaliah's father was Ahikam, the prince who had saved Jeremiah from those who waited to kill him; and his nephew was Michaiah, the young man who had listened to Baruch reading the book of Jeremiah and told his father and the other princes about it.

Before Nebuzaradan left Riblah, the King called him and charged him about Jeremiah the prophet. "When you get to Jerusalem, you're to take him and look after him well. See that no harm comes to him, and do with him whatever he himself chooses."\*

The captain of the guard found Jeremiah bound with chains with all the other captives. He first freed him from the chains and then said to him, "The Lord your God pronounced all these evils on this place. Now I've released you and am going to let you choose what you wish to do. If you wish to go with me to Babylon, I'll look after you well. But if you wish to stay here in the land of Judah, the whole land is before you. Choose any place you like for your own."

Jeremiah chose to stay in his own country. He learned that the new governor Gedaliah had decided to live in Mizpah, 10 miles to the north, so he settled down there too.\*\*

King Nebuchadnezzar must have had spies in Jerusalem during the siege, because he showed such knowledge of conditions inside the city after its fall. He not only freed Jeremiah from his chains and honored him with his special attention, but he made a wise choice of a governor over the land. Gedaliah's family had been outstanding for many years as God-fearing men. The new governor seems to have been the same.

During the years of war, many of the Jews had fled for safety to the neighboring countries. Now, when they heard the news that Ahikam's son, Gedaliah, had been chosen governor by Nebuchadnezzar, they started returning to their homes from all parts.

Gedaliah received them graciously and told them, "Don't be afraid to serve the Chaldeans. Go and live on the land and harvest the crops, and at the same time serve King Nebuchadnezzar, and it'll be well with you. I plan on living here in Mizpah to receive any Chaldean messengers that arrive."

One of King Zedekiah's relatives had fled to the land of Ammon during the troubles in the land. His name was Ishmael. He was a cruel, ambitious man. When he heard that Gedaliah was governor, the news made him envious. He thought that since he was one of the royal family, that should be his place. Baalis, the king of the Ammonites, also had his eyes on the land, so the two men agreed that Ishmael should go and murder the new governor.

Gedaliah received Ishmael and the ten men that had come with him in his usual courteous manner, without suspecting anything of their treason. The governor had appointed captains over the people who lived in the different parts. One of them was Johanan. When Ishmael arrived in the land, he boastfully talked about what he had come to do, and Johanan heard about it. He went straight to Gedaliah and warned him, "Do you know that King Baalis of the Ammonites has sent Ishmael here to murder you?"

"I don't believe it," replied the governor.

Still Johanan was not satisfied. He called Gedaliah aside and talked to him secretly, "Please let me go and kill Ishmael, and nobody will know about it. Why should he be allowed to come and murder you and scatter all the remnant of the Jews that have been gathered here in the land?"

"No, you won't do that," answered Gedaliah. "You're not telling the truth about Ishmael."\*

Some days later, Ishmael and the ten men with him went to Mizpah to call on Gedaliah. The Governor welcomed them warmly and invited them to stay for dinner. After they had all eaten together, Ishmael and the ten men got up from the table, drew their swords, and murdered Gedaliah. At the same time they killed everyone else that was in the house, among them, some soldiers and some Chaldeans.

For two days no one knew about Ishmael's terrible crime. Then he saw 80 men coming down the road from the north. They had rent their clothes and shaved their beards, and were on their way to the ruined city of Jerusalem to present offerings and incense before the Lord. When Ishmael saw that they were passing by, he went out of Mizpah to meet them. Like a hypocrite, he wept as he walked along, and, when he got to where they were, he told them, "Come and see Gedaliah in Mizpah."

\* Jeremiah 41

(To be Continued)

# BIBLE STUDY PAGE

## ELISHA, WHO WAS PROTECTED BY GOD — 2 Kings 6:15-23

In today's lesson we have

### 1. Frustrated Plans.

After the miracle of healing performed upon his famous and favorite general, Naaman, Benhadad was convinced that the Israelites were the people of God and enjoyed His protection. It would have been well if he had let it remain at that. Although avoiding a pitched battle with the Israelites, he allowed, and probably encouraged, marauding bands to engage in a hit-and-run campaign. His aim was the capture of the king of Israel. More than once he met with his army staff in the privacy of his own bedroom and made his plans, only to discover that somehow or other someone had heard what the plans were and warned the king of Israel to avoid certain places where an ambush awaited him. Upon enquiry he found that Elisha was the one who had told the king of Israel what the plans of the Syrian king were. How did Elisha know? God told him. Benhadad's plans were frustrated because they were an attempt to frustrate the plans of God for Israel. The Bible is full of illustrations of this. Satan, knowing something of the divine purpose, has used men all unwittingly, to try and prevent the fulfillment of such purposes. Pharaoh sought to defeat God's purpose regarding Israel by making them slaves in Egypt. Herod sought to slay the child Jesus, the Jews and Romans crucified Jesus. All these, and many more, were efforts to defeat the counsel of God and they were all failures.

### 2. Formidable Protectors.

The repeated failures troubled the Syrian king, just as

every attack on Christianity for the past nineteen centuries troubles our enemies now. No weapon ever formed against God and His people has prospered. Hearing that Elisha was living at Dothan, the Syrian king makes a forced night march to that city. Elisha's servant rises early in the morning, and to his consternation sees a large army of Syrian troops surrounding the city. Wild with terror he rushes to the prophet with the news that they are surrounded by the enemy. Elisha was not in the least dismayed by this mighty host. He had the assurance of faith. He knew whom he trusted. He also tried to encourage the weak faith of his servant, or rather, to stand by him in the moment when his faith had utterly broken down. "Fear not," was his word to the frightened young man. We are thus taught to stand by those who are weak, and to restore them when they break down or go astray through unbelief. Elisha told his servant to "Fear not" and gave him a good reason for not being afraid—"For they that be with us are more than they that be with them."

### 3. Festive Provision.

Elisha and his servant meet the Syrians who tell him that they are seeking Elisha. Quite evidently they didn't recognize him. Elisha prays that the enemy might be smitten with blindness and then promises to lead them to the prophet. He keeps his promise and leads them to the last place where they wanted to go, Samaria. Again Elisha prays, this time that their eyes might be opened. What a shock they must have gotten when they found themselves in the enemy's stronghold. Jehoram wants to kill them but Elisha says, "No, let us feed them and send them home." This was a strange thing to do with enemies, capture them, feed them, and send them home free. This prophet of grace shows that it is mercy and not judgment in which God delights; and that He brings even His enemies into His banqueting house, and His banner over them is love. One lesson is, "If thine enemy hunger, feed him." Are we prepared for that?

H. K. D.



Start with the letter T in THEY and go from square to square, up, down, forward, backward; diagonally, and spell out last thirteen words of reference given. Some letters used more than once.

## MEMORY VERSES

**MEMORY VERSE** — As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth even for ever. Psalm 125:2.

**ALTERNATE MEMORY VERSE** — If God be for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31.

## Daily Scripture Readings

**Lord's Day**—2 Kings 6:8-9. How did Elisha warn the king of Israel?

**Monday**—2 Kings 6:10-12. What did Elisha tell the king of Israel?

**Tuesday**—2 Kings 6:13-15. Why was the servant worried?

**Wednesday**—2 Kings 6:16-17. What did the young man see when his eyes were opened?

**Thursday**—2 Kings 6:18-19. Where did Elisha lead them?

**Friday**—2 Kings 6:20-21. What question did the king of Israel ask?

**Saturday**—2 Kings 6:22-23. Where did Elisha send them?