

# GOSPEL PRIMER

E. J. WAGGONER

THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL FOR CHILDREN – VOL. 4

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2 Kings 2:11 – Elijah carried to Heaven in a Chariot  
Herrliche Geschichte, 1889



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## About This Series

IN 1891, E. J. Waggoner was sent from America to England, and took over the publishing of the *Present Truth* periodical. Some time around the end of August 1892, we observe the transition from the previous editor, with a sudden increase in articles from the pen of Waggoner. In some issues, there are up to a dozen articles by him. This “stream opened up in the desert” (*Isaiah 35:6*) was not to stop until the end of 1903, when he returned to America.

Shortly after taking over the periodical work, Waggoner introduced a colum for children. His own three children would have been aged about 4, 7, and 10 at that time. The children’s column took on various names over the next ten years:

- Children’s Corner
- Children’s Page
- Easy Steps for Little Feet
- For Little Ones
- For the Children
- Gospel Primer
- Light for Little Ones
- Little Folks
- Little Ones
- Our Little Ones
- The Children
- The Home

Many of the articles collected for this series of “The Everlasting Gospel for Children” were originally published in the series that these books are named from. In the remaining few cases, I tried to organize them according to their theme, or I placed some articles among pre-existing themes.

This particular series, “Gospel Primer,” was written in the summer to fall of 1903, the last months that Waggoner edited the *Present Truth*. Its design was to take simple Bible stories and introduce very young children to some of the basic gospel truths il-



lustrated in them. In a few cases, I have changed the order of articles, to follow the chronological events of the Bible.

*Frank Zimmerman*  
*practicaprophetica.com*



# 1. The Creation of Man

Present Truth, June 25, 1903

## Genesis 2

<sup>7</sup> And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

**T**HIS is the story of the making of the first man. He was made of dust, taken from the ground, and made alive by the breath of God.

God saw that it was not good for the man to live alone in the beautiful Garden that He had made for his home. So He put him into a deep sleep, and while he was sleeping, God took a rib from his side. Of this rib He made a woman. God brought the woman to the man, and gave her to him to be his companion and help.

God called the name of the man and woman “Adam,” because He made them from the ground. But the man called his wife’s name “Eve,” because she was to be the mother of mankind.

Adam is the family name given to the human family. It belongs to you. You, like the first man, are formed of the dust of the ground, and made alive by the breath of God. You could not live a moment, if God should take His breath away from you. You would go back to the dust out of which God made you.

The plants take up the dust of the ground, and God works in them to prepare it for your food. And then the Spirit of God works in your body, to form it out of the food you take, just as much as He formed the first man out of the dust of the ground.

So God’s wonderful work of creating man is going on day by day in your own body.

## Acts 17

<sup>27</sup> ...He is not far from any one of us:

<sup>28</sup> For in Him we live, and move, and have our being.



Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden  
(Otto Stemler)



## 2. The First and Second Adam

Present Truth, July 2, 1903

### **Romans 5**

<sup>12</sup> By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin.

**T**HAT man was Adam, the first man. He disobeyed God by taking the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, which God had told him not to touch. Sin always brings death.

Adam's sin brought death not only upon himself and his children, but upon the whole world. Then the leaves began to fall from the trees, the flowers to fade and die, and the whole face of the earth was changed. The animals and birds and everything in the earth suffered because of man's sin. But,

### **John 3**

<sup>16</sup> God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Because the first Adam had fallen into sin and death, God sent the Second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ. He came to take away sin,<sup>1</sup> to save man from death,<sup>2</sup> and to bring back the earth to its first beauty and life.<sup>3</sup>

By one man sin and death came into the world, and by one Man comes salvation. This Man is Jesus, the Son of God.

### **Acts 4**

<sup>12</sup> There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

When He came into the world, a little Babe, God sent an angel to earth with this message for the children of men:

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<sup>1</sup> 1 John 3:5.

<sup>2</sup> Romans 5:21.

<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1, 22:1-5.

## Luke 2

<sup>10</sup> Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

<sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.



The Shepherds visit the Birth of Christ in the Manger.

(1905, Library of Congress)

No wonder the angels sang, when the Saviour of mankind lay  
in the manger in the Bethlehem stable,

## Luke 2

<sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

### 3. Cain and Abel

Present Truth, July 9, 1903

#### **Jeremiah 23**

<sup>24</sup> Can any hide himself in secret places, that I shall not see him?  
says the Lord.

**G**OD knows where each one of His children is. He is always watching lovingly over all.

When the first two brothers that ever lived in this earth had grown up to be young men, God came one day to the one named Cain, and asked him,

#### **Genesis 4**

<sup>9</sup> Where is Abel your brother?

Cain knew very well where Abel was, but he did not want to tell, so he said,

<sup>9</sup> ...Am I my brother's keeper?

A little while before this, both Cain and Abel had brought an offering to God. Abel was a shepherd, and he brought a spotless little lamb. This showed his faith in Jesus,

#### **John 1**

<sup>29</sup> ...the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.

Cain was a gardener, and he brought some fruit for his offering. God was pleased with Abel's gift, but He did not take any notice of Cain's gift, because it was not offered in faith.

Because of this, Cain was jealous, and hated Abel. One day he struck him and killed him. There was no one near, and Cain did not tell what he had done. But God saw, and that was why He asked Cain,

#### **Genesis 4**

<sup>9</sup> Where is Abel your brother?



Jesus said,<sup>4</sup>

### 1 John 3

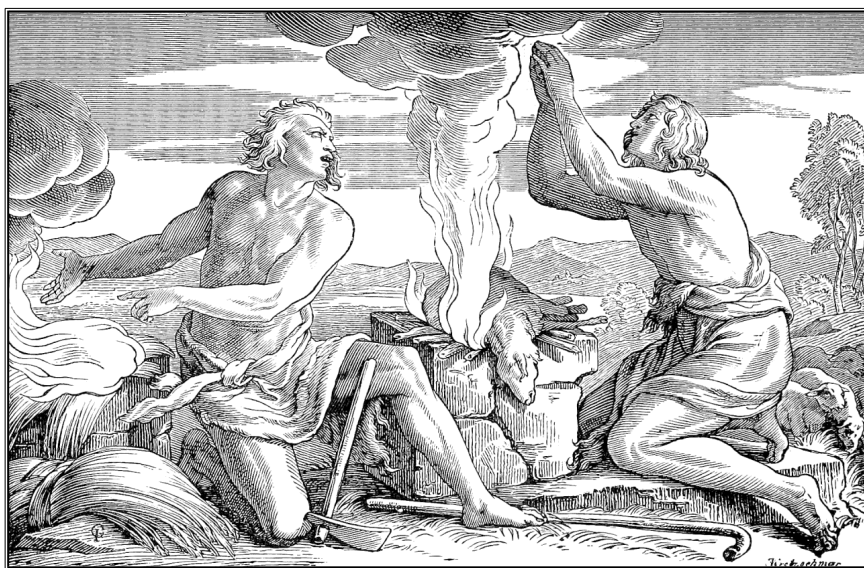
<sup>15</sup> Whoso hates his brother is a murderer.

This is because the one who hates another has in him the same deadly seed that was in the heart of Cain. At any time it might lead him to the same terrible deed.

You think it is a dreadful thing to kill. So it is, but in the sight of God it is just as bad to hate.

### 1 John 4

<sup>7</sup> Let us love one another, for love is of God.



The Offerings of Cain and Abel  
(The Bible in Picture and Story, 1889)

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<sup>4</sup> **Matthew 5** <sup>22</sup> ...whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, You fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. <sup>23</sup> Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has ought against you; <sup>24</sup> Leave there your gift before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

## 4. Enoch: The Second Coming

Present Truth, July 23, 1903

**E**VER since Adam disobeyed God, and brought sin and death into the world, God's children have been looking forward to one thing. That is, the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus comes, the trumpet will sound, and He will call forth the dead. All who loved Him will hear His voice, and wake up and come out of their graves.

### **1 Corinthians 15**

<sup>52</sup> The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

### **John 5**

<sup>28</sup> The hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice,

<sup>29</sup> And shall come forth.

The holy angels will come with Jesus. They will gather God's children together from all parts of the earth.

### **Matthew 24**

<sup>31</sup> And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Then they will be caught up to meet Jesus in the air.

### **1 Thessalonians 4**

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

<sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

He will take them back with Him to the New Jerusalem, the beautiful city of God. This is what God's people have all been waiting for.

Enoch told the people of his day that the Lord was coming to save the good and to punish the wicked.

### **Jude**

<sup>14</sup> And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints.

Because he believed this, he lived a pure, holy life. He walked with God, and did always the things that pleased Him.

### **Genesis 5**

<sup>22</sup> And Enoch walked with God.

### **Hebrews 11**

<sup>5</sup> Enoch...had this testimony, that he pleased God.

God did not let Enoch die and go into the grave. He took him to heaven without dying, just as He will take those who are watching for Him when He comes.

### **Genesis 5**

<sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

### **Hebrews 11**

<sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him.

By this the people were taught how God will reward the good. Elijah, a prophet of God, did not die, but was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire.

### **2 Kings 2**

<sup>11</sup> There appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire,...and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

### **Psalms 68**

<sup>17</sup> The chariots of God are...thousands of angels.

The angels are so bright and glorious that they look like...

### **Psalms 104**

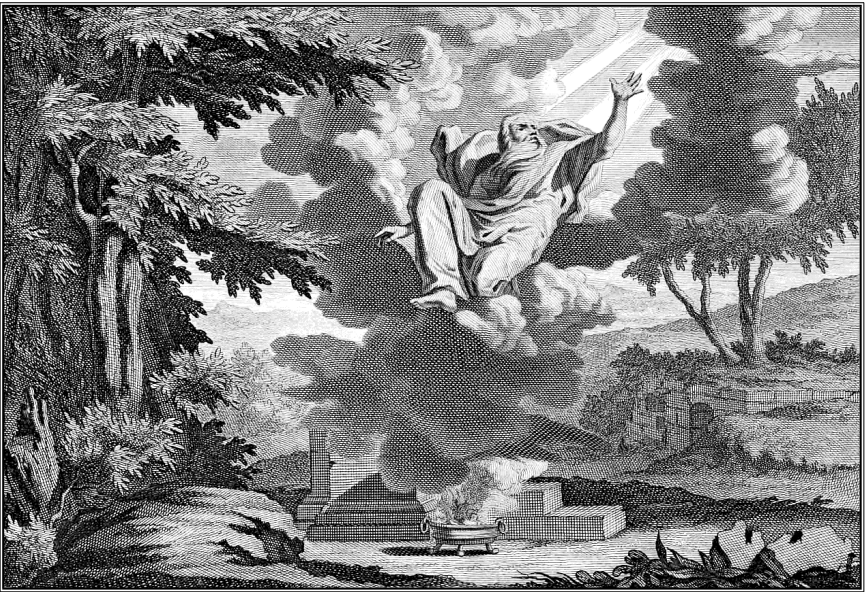
<sup>4</sup> ...a flaming fire.



So Elijah was caught up just as all God's people will be when He comes.

**Mark 13**

<sup>27</sup> And then shall He send His angels, and shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.



Enoch is taken to Heaven

(Histoire du Vieux et du Nouveau Testament, 1700)



Jesus gathers His Children at the Second Advent  
(Heinrich Halmen, Sabbath Rest Advent Church)

## 5. Methuselah

Present Truth, September 24, 1903

**I**N THE DAYS before the flood men lived to be very much older than they do now. The man who lived longest of all was Methuselah. His father was Enoch, the man who walked with God, and was taken by God to heaven.<sup>5</sup>

Methuselah was grandfather to Noah, and helped him to build the ark. Methuselah did not live to see the flood, for he had become a very old man. He died the year the flood came, having lived for nine hundred and sixty-nine years.<sup>6</sup>

God does not want His children to die. Sin brought death, but Jesus came to the world and died for us that we might live for ever. Methuselah's life seems to us a very long one because sin has so shortened the lives of men. Seventy years seems a long time to live now.

The life that Jesus gives to those who love Him, will never end. That life will not be lived in a world of sin and suffering as was Methuselah's, but in the earth made new. There we shall see the wonderful tree of life on which grows a different kind of fruit every month, and whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.<sup>7</sup>

There no one will ever say, "I am sick."<sup>8</sup>

### **Revelation 21**

<sup>4</sup> And God shall wipe all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.

Methuselah lived in a time of great wickedness. All the people were corrupt, and the earth was filled with violence.<sup>9</sup> But in the new earth there will be peace.

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<sup>5</sup> *Genesis* 5:21-24.

<sup>6</sup> *Genesis* 5:27.

<sup>7</sup> *Revelation* 22:2.

<sup>8</sup> *Isaiah* 33:24.

<sup>9</sup> *Genesis* 6:11.



**Psalm 37 [Matthew 5:5]**

<sup>11</sup> The meek shall inherit the earth.



The New Earth will be full of Peace  
(Der Grosse Kampf, 1911)

## 6. Noah

Present Truth, July 30, 1903

### Genesis 6

<sup>3</sup> And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years.

FOR one hundred and twenty years Noah warned the people that God was going to send a flood of waters upon the earth, because the people were so wicked.<sup>10</sup> All this time he was building an ark, so that he and his three sons and their families might be saved when the flood should come. God showed him just how to build the ark.<sup>11</sup>

If any of the people had believed Noah's words, they might have been saved with him in the ark. For one hundred and twenty years God waited for them to repent. All this time the Holy Spirit was working on their hearts to turn them to God.<sup>12</sup> But the people would not listen; they went on in their wicked ways. Noah was the only good man in all the land.

When the ark was finished God sent some of every kind of animal and bird to Noah, and they were put into the ark.<sup>13</sup> So some of each kind were saved alive to multiply in the earth after the flood.

When everything was ready, God told Noah and his sons and their wives to come into the ark. When they were safe inside He shut the door.<sup>14</sup>

Seven days passed after Noah was in the ark before the rain began to fall.<sup>15</sup> Then the rain poured down from above, and the wa-

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<sup>10</sup> *Genesis* 6:5-13.

<sup>11</sup> *Genesis* 6:14-16.

<sup>12</sup> *1 Peter* 3:18-20.

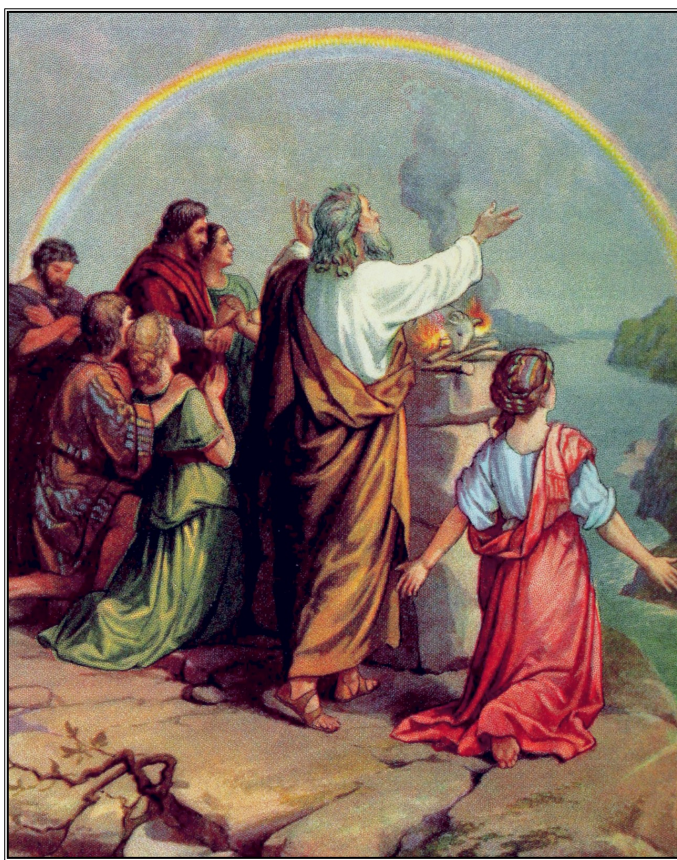
<sup>13</sup> *Genesis* 7:1-9.

<sup>14</sup> *Genesis* 7:13-16.

<sup>15</sup> *Genesis* 7:10.

ter that was under the earth gushed forth.<sup>16</sup> The water rose to the tops of the highest mountains, and every living thing was swept off the earth.<sup>17</sup> None but Noah and those with him in the ark were saved.

God said that while the earth remains He will never send another flood of waters upon it.<sup>18</sup> He put the rainbow in the cloud as a sign of His promise.<sup>19</sup>



Noah offers thanks to God – The Rainbow Covenant  
(Bible Stories for Sunday School, 1922)

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<sup>16</sup> *Genesis* 7:11.

<sup>17</sup> *Genesis* 7:19-23.

<sup>18</sup> *Genesis* 8:21-22; *Genesis* 9:11.

<sup>19</sup> *Genesis* 9:12-17.

## 7. Abraham and Isaac

Present Truth, August 27, 1903

**I**SAAC was the Son of Abraham. He is called the child of promise because God had promised him many years before he was born. If we believe God's Word we shall be children of promise too.<sup>20</sup>

One day God said to Abraham,

### **Genesis 22**

<sup>2</sup> Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and get into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering.

It was very hard for Abraham to do this, but when he thought of the goodness of God in giving Isaac to him, he said,

"I will trust God. He gave Isaac to me, and He is able to raise him even from the dead."<sup>21</sup>

So early one morning he and Isaac, with two servants, started on their journey. It took them three days to reach the place of which God had told them. Abraham and Isaac went up the mountain alone.<sup>22</sup> Isaac asked,

### **Genesis 22**

<sup>7</sup> Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?

When the altar was built, and the wood laid upon it, Isaac learned that he was to be the lamb, and he was willing to lay down his life to please God.

Just as Abraham was lifting his knife to slay his son, God called to him, and said,

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<sup>20</sup> *Galatians* 4:28.

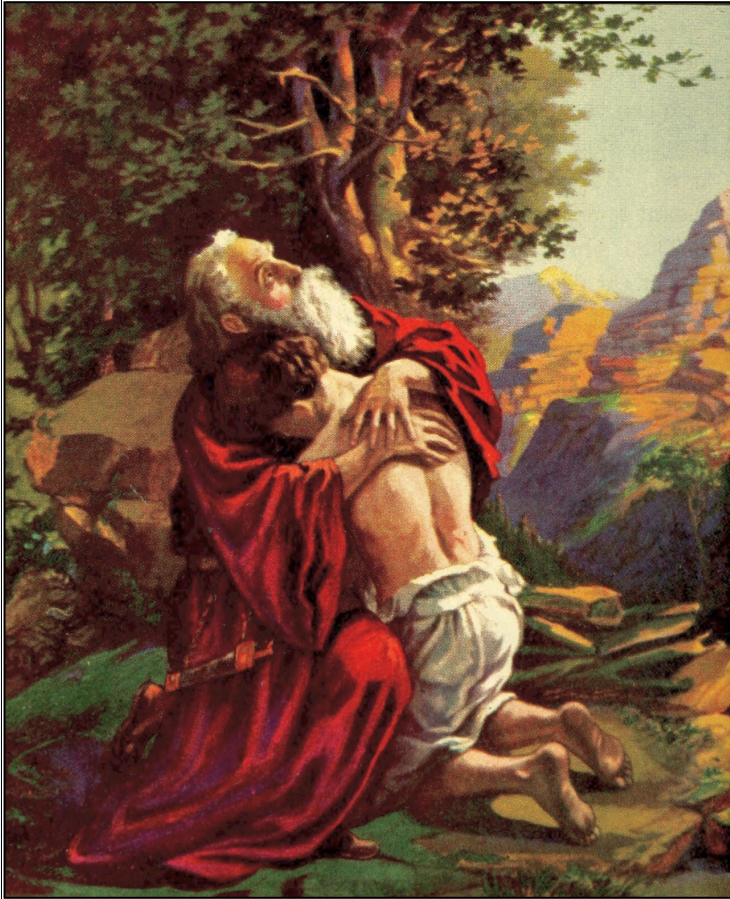
<sup>21</sup> *Hebrews* 11:17-19.

<sup>22</sup> *Genesis* 22:3-5.

## Genesis 22

<sup>12</sup> Lay not your hand upon the lad, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son from me.

Then Abraham looked behind him, and saw a ram which he took and offered in the place of Isaac.<sup>23</sup> This lesson is to teach us how much God loved the world when He gave His only Son, whom He loved, to die in our place.



Abraham understands better God's love in giving His Son.  
(Bible Primer, 1919)

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<sup>23</sup> *Genesis 22:13.*

## 8. Jacob and Esau

Present Truth, September 3, 1903

JACOB was the younger son of Isaac and Rebekah. His brother's name was Esau. Jacob was selfish and bought his brother's birthright for a little food.<sup>24</sup> But Esau would not have sold it if he had prized God's gifts.

Jacob wanted the blessing too, and got it by making his father think he was Esau.<sup>25</sup> Esau was angry and wanted to kill Jacob. Rebekah sent him to his uncle's till Esau's anger was over.<sup>26</sup> So Jacob went.<sup>27</sup>

It was a long journey. Night came and he was tired. He made a pillow of stones, and lay down to sleep. He dreamed that he saw a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. Angels were walking up and down on it. The Lord stood at the top and told Jacob that He would care for him wherever he went.<sup>28</sup>

When Jacob awoke he said,

### **Genesis 28**

<sup>16</sup> Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not.

He had forgotten that...

### **Proverbs 15**

<sup>3</sup> The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

That is why he had done wrong. But God loved him and was teaching him how ready He is to forgive sin. For the ladder is Jesus<sup>29</sup> who has opened up a way from earth to heaven that we may

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<sup>24</sup> *Genesis 25:29-34.*

<sup>25</sup> *Genesis 27:6-29.*

<sup>26</sup> *Genesis 27:41-45.*

<sup>27</sup> *Genesis 28:10.*

<sup>28</sup> *Genesis 28:11-15.*

<sup>29</sup> *John 1:51.*



come boldly to His throne of grace for all the help we need.<sup>30</sup>

That is why we say “for Jesus Christ’s sake” when we pray. The angels are our helpers. We shall never do wrong if we remember that Jesus and His angels are always with us to keep us in the right way.

Jacob called the name of that place “Bethel,” which means “the house of God.”<sup>31</sup>



Jacob's Dream of a Ladder joining Heaven and Earth  
(*Thesaurus Sacrarum Historiarum*, 1585)

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<sup>30</sup> *Hebrews* 4:16.

<sup>31</sup> *Genesis* 28:19.

## 9. Proud Korah

Present Truth, September 10, 1903

MANY of the children of Israel had pride in their hearts. Korah thought he ought to be the leader of Israel instead of Moses.<sup>32</sup> He forgot that God had given each of them his work, and that without God's help he could not even do his own work right.

Satan had put the evil thought into Korah's heart, and instead of asking God to take it away, Korah allowed it to grow. So he thought more and more of himself. Soon he was saying evil things about Moses and Aaron to the rest of the people, and many of them listened and believed.

Moses felt very sad when he found out what was going on. He asked the Lord to help him, and God promised to let everybody know whom He had chosen.<sup>33</sup>

The next day Korah and his friends were to burn incense before the Lord. God had said that only His fire was to be used for burning incense. Any other was called "strange fire," so that if Korah's company really loved God, they would have said,

"We cannot burn incense unless God gives us fire."

But they thought their fire was as good as God's, and they came with their censers and the incense burning upon them.<sup>34</sup> Then the Lord caused the earth to open and Korah and his chief friends were swallowed up.<sup>35</sup>

Do not let us be like Korah, full of pride and unwilling to do the little things. If we let Him, Jesus will make us meek, and lowly like himself. Then by-and-by He will say to us,

"Well done."<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> *Numbers* 16:1-3.

<sup>33</sup> *Numbers* 16:4-5.

<sup>34</sup> *Numbers* 16:18.

<sup>35</sup> *Numbers* 16:32-33.

<sup>36</sup> *Matthew* 25:21, 23.



The Earth swallows Korah, Dathan and Abiram  
(Reynolds, 1801 - British Museum)

## 10. Hannah and Samuel

Present Truth, August 13, 1903

HANNAH was a woman of Israel who was very sad because she had no little children.<sup>37</sup> Many times she asked God to give her a son. She promised that she would give him back to God to be His servant.<sup>38</sup>

One day when Hannah stood at the door of the tabernacle weeping and praying, Eli, the high priest, saw her. He did not know she was praying, but thought she had been drinking too much wine. So he spoke sharply to her.<sup>39</sup>

Hannah told Eli that she was not drunken, but that she was telling God of her trouble. Then Eli was sorry for his mistake. He told Hannah to go in peace, and God would give her what she had asked for. Hannah believed his words and she went away very happy.<sup>40</sup>

The little son that God gave Hannah she named Samuel, which means, “Asked of God.”<sup>41</sup> As soon as the child was old enough to leave her, she took him to the house of God. She told Eli that God had given her the child she had prayed for, and she had brought him to give him to the Lord.<sup>42</sup>

Samuel was left at the tabernacle with Eli and he had work to do in God’s house. Once a year his mother came to see him, and brought him a little linen robe to wear in the tabernacle.<sup>43</sup>

Samuel waited on Eli, who was a very old man. He was obedient and attentive to Eli, and did his work faithfully. One night

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<sup>37</sup> 1 Samuel 1:5-7.

<sup>38</sup> 1 Samuel 1:11.

<sup>39</sup> 1 Samuel 1:9-14.

<sup>40</sup> 1 Samuel 1:15-18.

<sup>41</sup> 1 Samuel 1:20.

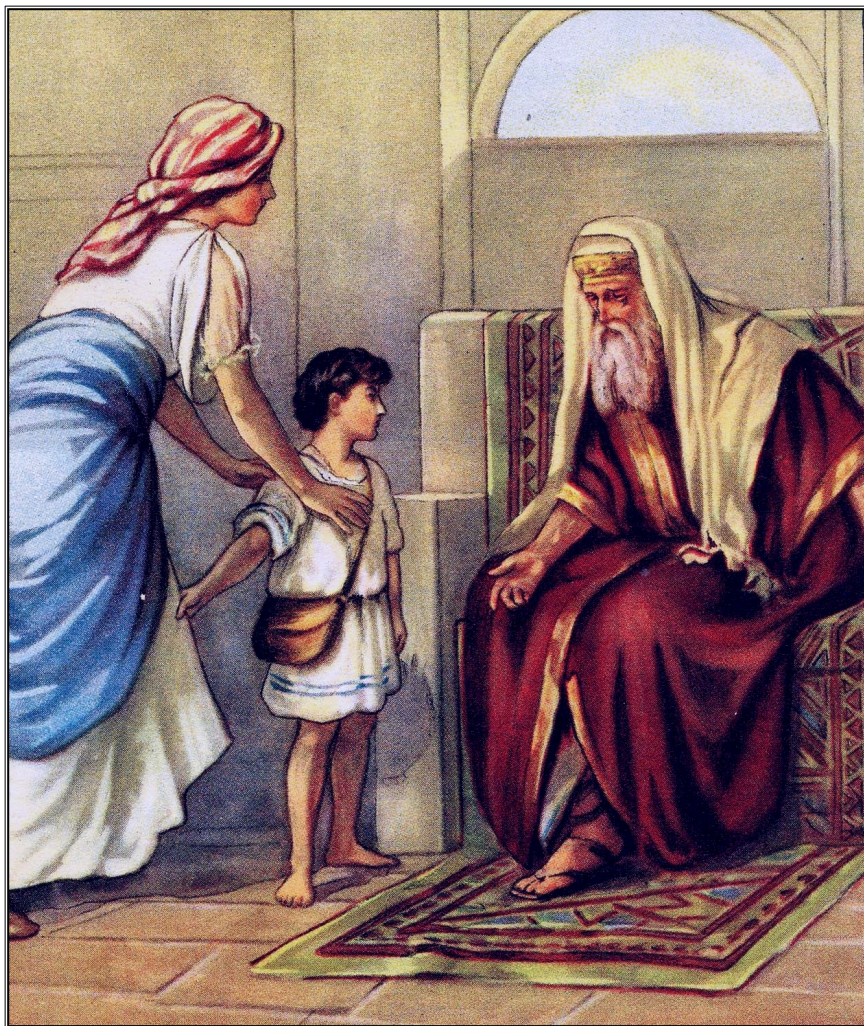
<sup>42</sup> 1 Samuel 1:24-28.

<sup>43</sup> 1 Samuel 2:18-19.



God called him by his name and spoke to him, and gave him a message for Eli.<sup>44</sup>

Samuel grew up to be a great and good man. He was a prophet of God, and judge of Israel.<sup>45</sup>



Hannah brings Samuel to work with Eli  
(Children's Bible Cards, 1896-1913)

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<sup>44</sup> 1 Samuel 3:1-18.

<sup>45</sup> 1 Samuel 3:19-20.

# 11. David and Goliath

Present Truth, August 6, 1903

**G**OLIATH of Gath was a Philistine giant. He was nearly ten feet tall.<sup>46</sup> When the Philistines fought against the Israelites, Goliath was their champion. He told the Israelites to send a man to fight with him. If the Israelite should kill him, all the Philistines would be servants to the Israelites. But if he should kill the Israelite, then all the Israelites would have to serve the Philistines.<sup>47</sup>

For forty days there was not found an Israelite who dared to fight with Goliath.<sup>48</sup> At last David, a young shepherd, came to the camp. As soon as he saw Goliath, and heard his proud words, he told King Saul that he would go and fight with the giant.<sup>49</sup>

David took his shepherd's staff and his sling, and chose five smooth stones out of the brook. With these he went against Goliath.<sup>50</sup> The giant had a heavy suit of armor, a great sword in his hand, and a man carrying a strong shield before him.<sup>51</sup> David had no armor and no spear. He trusted in God to deliver him.<sup>52</sup>

When Goliath saw the shepherd boy coming he mocked him, and said that he would slay him and give his flesh to the fowls of the air.<sup>53</sup> But David answered:

## 1 Samuel 17

<sup>45</sup> You come to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel.

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<sup>46</sup> 1 Samuel 17:4.

<sup>47</sup> 1 Samuel 17:8-10.

<sup>48</sup> 1 Samuel 17:16.

<sup>49</sup> 1 Samuel 17:20-32.

<sup>50</sup> 1 Samuel 17:40.

<sup>51</sup> 1 Samuel 17:5-7.

<sup>52</sup> 1 Samuel 17:37.

<sup>53</sup> 1 Samuel 17:42-43.



Then David took a stone and slung it, and it sank into the giant's forehead. Goliath fell upon his face to the earth.<sup>54</sup> David ran and took Goliath's own sword, and cut off his head.<sup>55</sup>

### 1 Samuel 17

<sup>51</sup> ...when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.



One stone from David's sling brings Goliath down.

(Histoire Sainte 18th c)

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<sup>54</sup> 1 Samuel 17:49.

<sup>55</sup> 1 Samuel 17:51.

## 12. Nazareth

Present Truth, October 1, 1903

**N**AZARETH was the city where Jesus lived when He was young. He lived there for many years till He had grown to be a man. All the people knew Him, but they did not know He was the Son of God.

Nazareth was a wicked place. It had a bad name, and one man said,

### **John 1**

<sup>46</sup> Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?

That is why God chose it for the home of His Son. He wanted everybody to know that no one is too bad for Jesus to save them and dwell in them.

When Jesus was a man, He left Nazareth for a time. On His return, He went to church as usual on the Sabbath. There were many people present. When He stood up to read, all eyes were turned on Him. He told the people that God had sent Him to teach and help them.<sup>56</sup> But they said,

### **Luke 4**

<sup>22</sup> Is not this Joseph's son?

They would not believe He was the Son of God. As they listened and doubted, Satan put an evil thought in their hearts, and soon they grew so angry that they pushed Him out of the church and drove Him out of the city. They led Him to the top of a steep place, to throw Him down the hill and kill Him. But they could not for God took care of Him and saved His life.<sup>57</sup>

With a heavy heart Jesus left them to go to another city. He could not teach them for they would not believe. How sad that

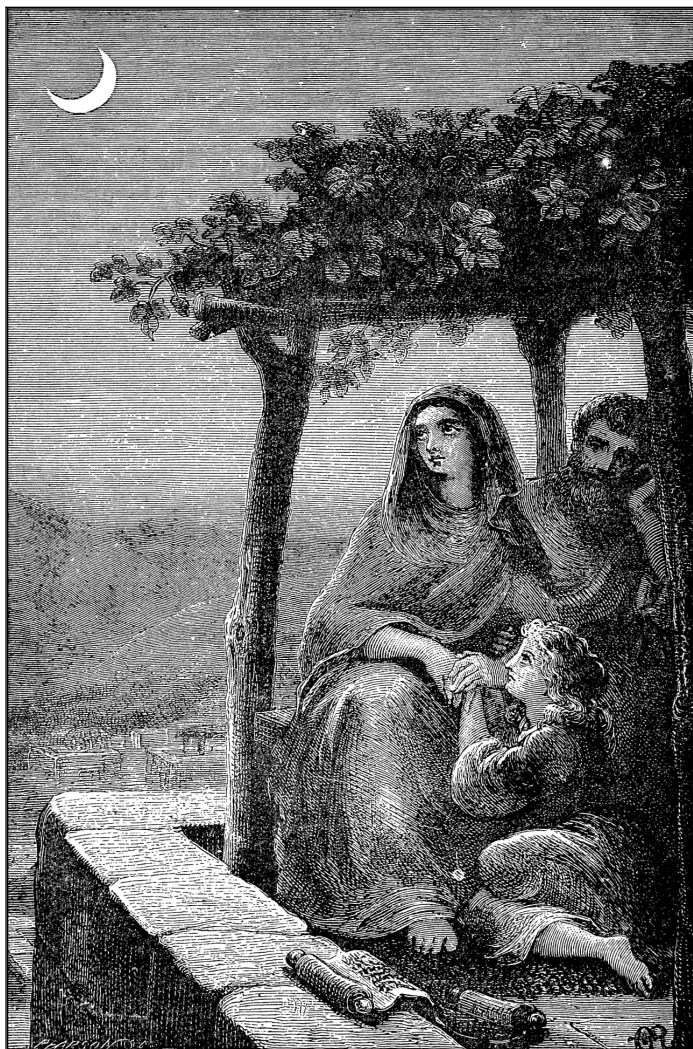
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<sup>56</sup> Luke 4:16-21.

<sup>57</sup> Luke 4:23-30.

they should send away their best friend! Do not let us send Jesus away as did the people of Nazareth, but let us say to Him,

Come into my heart, Lord Jesus,  
There is room in my heart for You.<sup>58</sup>



Jesus grew up in Nazareth  
(Pictorial Bible and Commentator, 1878)

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<sup>58</sup> E. S. Elliott, Hymn: *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*, 1864.

## 13. Lazarus

Present Truth, September 17, 1903

**L**AZARUS and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were the friends of Jesus. They loved Him very much, and He often stayed at their house.

When Lazarus was ill, his sisters sent to tell Jesus, but He did not go to them till He knew Lazarus was dead. When she knew He was coming, Martha went to meet Jesus, and said to Him,

### **John 11**

<sup>21</sup> Lord, if You had been here my brother had not died.

Jesus said,

<sup>23</sup> Your brother shall rise again.

Martha said,

<sup>24</sup> I know he will rise again...at the last day.

Jesus said,

<sup>25</sup> I am the rising again and the life.

When Jesus saw Mary and the people weeping. He was sad, and said,

<sup>34</sup> Where have you laid him?

They said,

<sup>34</sup> ...Lord, come and see.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus wept,

—and the Jews said,

<sup>36</sup> Behold, how He loved him.

The grave was a cave and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said,

### **John 11**

<sup>39</sup> Take away the stone.

Martha said,

<sup>39</sup> ...Lord,...he has been dead four days,

—but Jesus replied,

<sup>40</sup> If you will believe you shall see the glory of God.

Then they took away the stone. Jesus prayed, and cried with a loud voice,

<sup>43</sup> Lazarus, come forth.

<sup>44</sup> And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes.

Jesus said,

<sup>44</sup> ...Loose him, and let him go.

How glad Mary and Martha were to have their dear brother again. They knew now that Jesus had waited till their brother was dead in order that He might show forth the glory of His Father, which could raise men from the dead.

Wouldn't you like to be the friend of Jesus? You can be if you love and obey Him. And one day, if you die as Lazarus did, Jesus will say to you,

“Come forth,”

—and you will rise again, to die no more.



## 14. Signs of the Second Coming

Present Truth, October 8, 1903

WHEN Jesus was doing His work in this world He often had not where to lay His head.<sup>59</sup> Many times when weary with His labors, and needing rest, He would go to the Mount of Olives. Often He spent the whole night there praying for the people, learning the will of God and receiving strength for His work.<sup>60</sup> Sometimes His disciples followed Him.

One day they came to Him when He was on the mountain and asked Him to tell them about the signs of His coming and the end of the world.<sup>61</sup>

He told them that Satan would work with great power to turn people from God, but that all who stand firm to the end shall be saved.<sup>62</sup> He promised to send the good news of His coming, and of His power to save to all the world, so that none need be lost.<sup>63</sup>

He said that when the last days should come He would put signs in the heavens to remind the people that He was coming.<sup>64</sup> Already these have been seen. More than one hundred years ago there was a wonderful dark day. No light came from the sun, and when night came the moon looked like blood, and gave no light. Some years after the stars fell from heaven just as Jesus said they would.

On the same night that He was taken to be crucified, Jesus sang a hymn with His disciples on the Mount of Olives, and after He had risen from the dead He met them there again. As He talked with them,

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<sup>59</sup> *Luke 9:58.*

<sup>60</sup> *Luke 21:37; 6:12.*

<sup>61</sup> *Matthew 24:3.*

<sup>62</sup> *Matthew 24:11, 23-24, 31; 10:22.*

<sup>63</sup> *Matthew 24:14.*

<sup>64</sup> *Matthew 24:29.*



## Acts 1

<sup>9</sup> ...He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

As they watched Him go up to heaven, two angels stood by them, and said:

<sup>11</sup> This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven.



Jesus will come again in the same way that He left  
(de Wit, 1748 - Rijksstudio)

