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# Tales from the Great Book

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## JOSHUA
Marches on Jericho

# MOSES' LIFE IS SPARED

So, by a stroke of good fortune, the mother regained the child. And when he was grown Moses became the greatest leader of the Hebrew people.

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# Tales from the Great Book

# JOSHUA
## Marches on Jericho

by John Lehti

UPON MOSES' DEATH, JOSHUA BECOMES LEADER OF THE ISRAELITES AND GUIDES THEM ACROSS THE JORDAN RIVER INTO THE LAND PROMISED THEM BY GOD. AFTER 40 YEARS OF WANDERING THROUGH BURNING DESERTS AND OVER DANGEROUS MOUNTAINS, FOLLOWING THEIR EXODUS FROM EGYPT, THE ISRAELITES FINALLY SIGHT THE LAND OF THEIR FATHERS....

THE TRIBES HAVE ADVANCED STEADILY... BUT NOW DIRECTLY AHEAD LIES THE HEAVILY-FORTIFIED ENEMY CITY OF JERICHO!

THIS TALE IS HARD TO BELIEVE.... JOSHUA SETS OUT ALONE TO "SCOUT" JERICHO!

AND THE FIRST SIGHT OF JERICHO'S SPLENDOR AND MIGHT IS AN AWESOME ONE INDEED!
BEFORE TRYING TO SPOT ANY WEAK POINTS IN THIS FORTRESS, ONE MUST FIND A LOCATION SECURE FROM ENEMY EYES--FOR TO BE DETECTED NOW--ALL ALONE....WOULD MEAN CAPTURE AND DEATH!

IT IS A POWERFUL CITY! MAJESTIC....WEALTHY....THE KEY STRONGHOLD GUARDING THE APPROACHES TO ALL CANAAN! AND SURROUNDED BY THE MOST HEAVILY-FORTIFIED WALLS JOSHUA HAS EVER SEEN....YET HE MUST CONQUER AND DESTROY IT!

BUT HOW?..HOW CAN THIS BE DONE? SUCH A STRONG CITY---MANY LIVES MUST SURELY BE LOST!

SUDDENLY....FROM BEHIND COMES THE "CLACKLE" OF A STONE KNOCKED LOOSE!

JOSHUA IS NOT ALONE!

SO THIS MESSENGER OF THE LORD UNFOLDS GOD'S DECREE.... HOW JERICHO MUST BE TAKEN.... TO PROVE TO ALL CANAAN THAT THE ISRAELITES WILL WIN BY DIVINE HELP ALONE--NOT NEEDING THE SWORD!

"ALL OF YOUR MEN OF WAR SHALL MARCH ROUND THE CITY ONCE EACH DAY FOR SIX DAYS--LED BY SEVEN PRIESTS WITH RAM'S HORNS AND THE ARK OF THE LORD...."

"....ON THE SEVENTH DAY, CIRCLE THE CITY SEVEN TIMES--THE SEVENTH TIME GIVE LOUD BLASTS ON THE HORNS AND GREAT SHOUTS BY ALL THE PEOPLE...."

"THUS WILL THE WALLS FALL FLAT! JERICHO WILL BE YOURS!"

WITH GREAT REJOICING, JOSHUA HURRIES BACK TO CAMP....NOT KNOWING THAT TROUBLE WAITS FOR HIM!

"YOU SAY WE HAVE ONLY TO MARCH AROUND THE CITY ONCE EACH DAY....FOR SIX DAYS....AND THE SEVENTH DAY CIRCLE IT SEVEN TIMES?"
"AND DO NOTHING BUT BLAST ON THE RAM'S HORNS AND SHOUT LOUDLY?"
"WE ARE NOT TO ATTACK WITH WEAPONS?"
NAY!

THE PRIESTS ARE TROUBLED OVER THIS STRANGE BATTLE STRATEGY....THEY WALK AWAY TO DISCUSS IT.....
"HAS JOSHUA SUDDENLY GONE MAD?"
"HE WILL MAKE THE ARK OF THE LORD'S COVENANT--WRITTEN BY GOD HIMSELF--AN EASY PREY FOR OUR ENEMIES....IF HE INSISTS THAT IT LEAD A MARCH WHERE OUR SOLDIERS ARE NOT GOING TO FIGHT!"

MEANWHILE, WORD OF JOSHUA'S BATTLE STRATEGY HAS PASSED THROUGH THE CAMP--TO THE CAPTAINS OF THE ARMY....
"WHAT IS THIS CHILD'S GAME JOSHUA WOULD HAVE US PLAY?"

"COME, LET US ASK THE PRIESTS IF ALL WE HAVE HEARD IS TRUE!"

....AND SOON THE OUTER COURT OF THE TABERNACLE IS FILLED WITH MANY ANGRY CRIES--WHILE THE PRIESTS TRY TO MAINTAIN A CALMER ATTITUDE...
"WE ARE NOT CHILDREN, BUT MEN ARMED BY GOD TO FIGHT HIS HOLY BATTLE--AND FIGHT WE WILL!"
"DO NOT BE HASTY...LET US GIVE MORE THOUGHT TO THIS!"

BUT THE CAPTAINS GROW WEARY OF THE ARGUMENTS....AND THEY MARCH UPON JOSHUA'S TENT!
THEY HAVE PICKED THEIR MOST VALIANT CAPTAIN AS SPOKESMAN...AND NOW HE PREPARES TO SPEAK...AND ACT...ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOM OF THE DAY...

....BY SAVAGELY...FEROCIOUSLY...HURLING A JAVELIN INTO THE GROUND AT JOSHUA'S FEET....AND THUNDERING IN A DEEP VOICE:
"WE CHALLENGE YOUR RIGHT TO THE LEADERSHIP OF ISRAEL!"
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT MUST BE ANSWERED QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY..

"ARE YOU WITH ME OR AGAINST ME?"
"BY WHOSE WORD ARE WE TO BE WITH YOU?"
"BY THE WORD OF THE LORD!"

KNOWING THAT ANYONE WHO MISUSED THE NAME OF THE LORD....OR QUESTIONED HIS WORD....WOULD MEET DEATH....THE ISRAELITES NOW WILLINGLY SUBMIT TO THEIR GREAT LEADER.

"NOW LET US MAKE READY!"

AND THE ISRAELITE CAMP HUMS WITH PREPARATION FOR THE MARCH UPON JERICHO.....WEAPONS ARE SHARPENED....THE ARK PREPARED..... THE RAMS' HORNS MADE READY....

NOW THE ARMY OF ISRAEL BEGINS THE FIRST DAY'S ADVANCE ON JERICHO.

....AND THE EYES OF THE MARCHING SOLDIERS LOOK OFTEN TO THE ARK FOR INSPIRATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT!

BUT OTHER EYES ALSO LOOK UPON IT--ENEMY EYES!

NOW THE THUNDER OF THE MULES' SPEEDY HOOFS ECHOES OVER THE SUN-BAKED PLAINS....THE SCOUTS ARE RIDING TO WARN THE KING OF JERICHO....

DUSTY AND TIRED, THEY INTERRUPT THE KING'S PLEASANT COURT LIFE.....ONE CRIES OUT, "THE ISRAELITE WARRIORS ARE COMING!"

"SOUND THE TRUMPETS... LET EVERY SOLDIER GUARD THE WALLS!"

AND WITH THE BRAZEN NOTES OF THE TRUMPETS RINGING IN THE AIR, JERICHO HASTENS TO DEFEND ITSELF....

ALL EYES ARE TURNED TO THE EAST WHERE HUGE DUST CLOUDS FROM THE MARCHING ARMY CAN NOW BE SEEN!

AND FROM THE INNER WALL OF THIS MIGHTY FORTRESS, THE CAPTAINS OF JERICHO'S ARMY CAREFULLY STUDY THE APPROACHING ISRAELITES...FOR ANY WEAKNESS BY WHICH TO DEFEAT THEM!

"BUT WHERE ARE THEIR WAR MACHINES?" CRIES ONE, "THEIR CHARIOTS... BATTERING RAMS?"... "THEY HAVE NONE," ANOTHER REPLIES EXCITEDLY, "AND THAT IS THEIR WEAKNESS!"
...IF THEY BUT KNEW! FOR JOSHUA MARCHES BESIDE SOMETHING FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN A MERE WAR MACHINE-- THE ARK OF THE COVENANT!

AND NOW THE ARCHERS OF JERICHO WAIT FOR THE ISRAELITES TO MARCH WITHIN RANGE OF THEIR WAR BOWS... WAIT WITH DEATH DRAWN TIGHT ON THEIR BOW STRINGS!
JOHN LEHTI

THE TRAINED EYES OF THE ISRAELITE SOLDIERS CAN TELL WHAT THE MOVEMENTS ON THE WALL MEAN---THEY CAN EXPECT A DEADLY SHOWER OF ARROWS ANY MOMENT!

BUT WHO WOULD SEEK SHELTER?.....WHO WOULD RUN AND HIDE?!.. LIKE THEIR LEADER, JOSHUA, THE ISRAELITES' FAITH IS STRONGER THAN ANY FEAR....THESE SOLDIERS ARE CARRYING OUT THE ORDERS OF THE LORD, HIMSELF.... AND THEY KNOW THEY CAN NOT BE HARMED.....
"NOW", MUTTERS THE OFFICER IN COMMAND, "NOW, THEY ARE WITHIN BOW RANGE"...AND, ON HIS ORDERS, A VOLLEY OF ARROWS GOES HISSING INTO THE AIR!

UP INTO THE BLUE SKY....CUTTING A SHARP, SWIFT PATHWAY....THEN CURVING DOWNWARD IN OMINOUS DESCENT TO....
....BUT WHAT IS THIS?.....WHAT HAS HAPPENED?.....EVERY ARROW FALLS SHORT OF THE MARK!

THE SOLDIERS OF JERICHO ARE STUNNED....DID A SUDDEN HIGH WIND SPRING UP TO BLOW DOWN THE ARROWS....OR DID THE VERY HAND OF GOD STOP THEM IN THEIR FLIGHT?....WHO AMONGST THEM CAN EVER TELL?

"IT IS THEIR GOD THAT PROTECTS THEM," SHOUTS AN OFFICER ON THE WALL. "SEE....EVEN NOW THEY CARRY HIM IN A GOLD BOX....HIS POWER HAS STOPPED OUR ARROWS!"

AND AS IF FATE WERE ON THE SIDE OF JERICHO, THE ISRAELITE PROCESSION STOPS SUDDENLY...WITH THE ARK DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE GATE!

BUT BEFORE THE LOOKOUT ON THE WALL CAN SIGNAL BELOW.....THE TRUMPETS' EAR-PIERCING BLAST SPLITS THE AIR....AND JOSHUA BELLOWS, "SHOUT, FOR THE LORD HAS GIVEN YOU THE CITY!"

NEVER BEFORE HAS SUCH A THUNDEROUS DIN BEEN HEARD....FOR THE ISRAELITES SHOUT AS WITH ONE GIGANTIC VOICE....EXPRESSING THEIR COMPLETE FAITH IN GOD TO CRUSH THE TOWERING WALLS!
THE ROLLING WAVES OF SOUND BREAK OVER THE WALLS.....ECHO THROUGH VIBRATING BUILDINGS....THE GROUND TREMBLES....THE ENTIRE CITY SHAKES, AND...
.....THE WALLS COME TUMBLING DOWN!.. OVER THE HEAPS OF BROKEN BRICK AND STONE....THROUGH SWIRLING CLOUDS OF UNSETTLED DUST, JOSHUA AND THE ISRAELITES SWEEP INTO THE CITY--THE CITY CONQUERED WITHOUT THE USE OF A SINGLE SWORD....JUST AS THE LORD HAD PROMISED!
AND FOR OVER 500 YEARS THIS FORMER "CITY OF BEAUTIFUL PALMS" REMAINS A BARE, DESOLATE PILE OF RUBBLE....A FIVE-CENTURIES-LONG MEMORIAL TO THE POWER AND INVINCIBILITY OF THE ISRAELITES' LORD GOD, ALMIGHTY!
JOHN LEHTI

# THE FIERY FURNACE

IN THE year 587 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, gathered a powerful army and marched on Jerusalem. The Israelites fought valiantly but retreated from the advancing enemy hordes and soon the besieged city was conquered. To the great dismay of the Israelites, the victorious ruler removed part of the holy vessels from the temple and carried them off to display as trophies in his treasure house.

Some time later, Nebuchadnezzar commanded a servant of his household named Ashpenaz to find the most intelligent and educated youths among the Hebrews. He announced that these young men would be trained for positions of high favor in his court.

Among the youths chosen for this honor were Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The enemy king ordered that they be taught the language and lore of the Chaldeans who were the astrologers and magicians of Babylon. He also commanded that they should receive a daily portion of meat and wine and other delicacies from his own provisions.

The young Hebrews, however, preferred not to eat better than their kinsmen in bondage. So, when Ashpenaz set the royal food before them they refused to eat it. Instead, they requested that they be given a simple diet of peas, beans and water.

Ashpenaz was frightened. "But the king commanded that you eat his food," he cried. "If you don't eat it and you become thin and undernourished he'll be angry and cut off my head!"

"Don't worry," answered Daniel. "We'll be just as healthy on the diet we've chosen. Try us for ten days. If, at the end of that time, we appear to be less nourished than the other young men of the court you may deal with us as you see fit."

Finally, Ashpenaz agreed to give them the food they wanted. At the end of ten days the four young men appeared to be healthier and fatter than the others who ate from the king's larder. From then on Ashpenaz withheld the royal wine and meat and continued to feed them the simple diet they preferred.

God favored the four young men. Their learning and wisdom soon became the talk of the court and when at last they were brought before the king he questioned them and was amazed at their great knowledge.

"By my beard," he chuckled, "you are ten times wiser and more learned than all the magicians and astrologers in my realm!"

As a consequence of this meeting, the king made Daniel ruler over the entire province and appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to other positions of high office. With regret Daniel parted from his three friends, but they knew they would meet again shortly.

Months passed. Then one day Nebuchadnezzar summoned his royal craftsmen to come before his throne.

"I command you," he said sternly, "to make a huge image of gold. I want it to be the finest and biggest idol you can fashion."

Within a few hours the king's designers and artisans and goldsmiths were hard at work. Day and night they hammered and chiseled and the smelting ovens roared. Finally, after many weeks of labor, the idol was ready and the king was summoned to inspect it. To the king's great delight he discovered that it was forty-five feet high, an impressive creation of superb skill.

"Wonderful," he shouted with glee. "You have done well. It is a truly magnificent idol!"

After Nebuchanezzar commanded that the great image of gold should be taken out and set up in the Plain of Dura, he retired to his chambers to draw up a royal decree. Then he sent for his princes, governors, captains, judges, treasurers, counsellors, sheriffs and all the other high officials of the kingdom to dedicate the idol.

When everyone was assembled, the king ordered his herald to announce the royal decree. The herald mounted a platform with an elaborate show of dignity and read the announcement at the top of his voice. "To you it is commanded, oh people, that at whatever time you hear the sound of horns and music you shall fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar, the king, has set up. All those who fail to do so shall be cast into the midst of a fiery furnace!"

A deep silence fell upon the multitude. Suddenly, a great din of horns and music echoed across the plain. Immediately everyone fell down and adored the idol as the king had commanded. Everyone, that is, except Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego; they stood resolute in their love of God and

steadfastly refused to worship the false idol.

Now the astrologers and magicians of the court, who had lost favor with the king because of the young Hebrews' wisdom, looked upon this act of defiance with intense delight. Spurred on by their jealousy, they rushed to the king and told him of the young men's disobedience.

Nebuchadnezzar rose from his throne trembling with rage. No one had ever dared to disobey him before. He raised his fist and his voice thundered with fury.

"So they refused to worship my idol, eh?" he roared. "Well, I'll teach them to disobey the king. Bring them to me at once!"

When the three young men were ushered into his presence the king was pale with suppressed anger. He eyed them coldly and gnashed his teeth as he spoke.

"Have I heard correctly?" he demanded. "Is it true that you have refused to worship my golden idol?"

"Yes, sir," the young men replied.

The king scowled at this open admission of guilt. He rose and towered above the steadfast Israelites.

"I'll give you one more chance!" he bellowed. "I shall order my musicians to play another fanfare. Then, if you don't fall down and adore the idol—into the fiery furnace you'll go!"

"We are not afraid," answered Shadrach. "We still refuse to obey you."

"God will protect us," said Meshach. "If it is His will, He will deliver us from your fiery furnace."

"In spite of your threat," said Abednego, "we will not worship your idol."

Nebuchadnezzar loomed above them. His former affection for the three youths changed to hatred.

"You have disobeyed me," he shouted "—and the penalty is death!"

Then he turned to his general and commanded. "Heat the furnace! Heat it seven times hotter than usual!"

Soon the execution fire was blazing with intense fury. The great tongues of flame that leaped from the mouth of the furnace were so hot that no one could go near it. But Nebuchadnezzar in his anger was anxious for the immediate death of the three youths.

"What are you waiting for?" he screamed to his officers. "Bind them and throw them in—at once!"

The soldiers bound Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and dragged them, fully-clothed, toward the fire. Then, staggering before the blazing heat, they threw them headlong into the furnace—but in doing so, the soldiers got too close to the fire and were devoured by the flames.

In the meantime, Nebuchadnezzar, his dark eyes gleaming with satisfaction, watched the three young men as they fell into the midst of the fire. But his satisfaction was short-lived. His fiendish expression changed to a gasp of surprised terror. He approached as close to the furnace as he dared and gaped in open-mouthed astonishment.

"Look!" he cried. "They're walking about, praising God in the midst of the flames. They appear to be unharmed. And there's someone else walking with them—He looks like the Son of God!"

The king stared, stricken, while he tried to collect his wits. "Shadrach! Meshach! Abednego!" he shouted. "Come forth. Come out of the furnace!"

The king and his high officials fell back in bewildered silence as the three young men stepped from the furnace. Not a hair on their heads was singed, no part of their garments was burned—they didn't even smell of smoke from the fire.

Nebuchadnezzar stepped forward. His face had now softened with an expression of deep respect.

"Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego," he murmured humbly. "Blessed be the God who sent His angels to deliver His servants who believed in Him."

Then the king issued a decree. "Hereafter," he said, "any people, any nation who speaks against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego shall be destroyed and their houses laid waste—because there is no other god who could perform such a miracle!"

Nebuchadnezzar promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to positions of even greater power and honor than they held previously. And from that day forward their influence was great in Babylon.

THE END

Tales from the Great Book

# KING SAUL and the WITCH OF ENDOR

by John Lehti

SAUL, AS KING OF ISRAEL, HAS VIOLATED GOD'S WISHES MANY TIMES... NOW, IN THE TWILIGHT OF HIS CAREER, HE FACES THE COMBINED ARMIES OF FIVE PHILISTINE KINGS... BUT GOD IS NO LONGER WITH SAUL...THERE IS NO ONE TO WHOM HE CAN TURN FOR ADVICE AS...

SAUL TREMBLES IN FEAR AT THE SIGHT...

...OF THE HUGE PHILISTINE ARMY NEARLY SURROUNDING THE MOUNTAIN.
ONLY GOD CAN TELL ME HOW TO ESCAPE THIS TRAP... I MUST PRAY IMMEDIATELY.

IS HE TRYING TO FOOL HIMSELF -- OR US?
YEA! EVERYONE KNOWS THAT GOD HAS TURNED AWAY FROM HIM LONG AGO!

ENTERING HIS TENT, SAUL PREPARES FOR PRAYER IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE LAWS OF MOSES.

BUT GOD DOES NOT ANSWER HIS PRAYERS... NEITHER BY SIGNS NOR DREAMS...

IF ONLY SAMUEL WERE STILL ALIVE! HE COULD ADVISE ME... GOD NEVER DESERTED HIM!

HURRIEDLY, HE SUMMONS HIS ADVISERS. "FIND ME A WOMAN THAT HAS A FAMILIAR SPIRIT," HE DEMANDS. "A WITCH!"

A W...WITCH!
B-BUT...

BUT THERE ARE NO WITCHES!
YOU HAVE DRIVEN THEM ALL FROM THE COUNTRY!

CERTAINLY THERE MUST BE ONE THAT WAS OVERLOOKED. FIND HER FOR ME...

THERE...THERE IS ONE AT ENDOR.
GOOD. I SHALL GO TO HER IMMEDIATELY....

OUR KING MUST BE MAD... IT IS AGAINST GOD'S LAWS TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH A WITCH!
DREADFUL THINGS ARE SURE TO COME OF THIS!

INSIDE HIS TENT, KING SAUL DISGUISES HIMSELF SO THE WITCH WILL NOT RECOGNIZE HIM.

SAUL ASKS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO GO WITH HIM. ONLY TWO OF THE YOUNGER AND MORE ADVENTUROUS ARE WILLING.

SO LEAVING HIS SON, JONATHAN, IN COMMAND, THE KING AND HIS TWO MEN STEAL DOWN THE MOUNTAIN...

...TO REACH ENDOR THEY MUST CROSS THE VALLEY OF JEZREEL WHERE THE PHILISTINE ARMY IS ENCAMPED.
MT. TABOR
ENDOR
KISHON RIVER
PHILISTINE ARMY
VALLEY OF JEZREEL
JEZREEL
MT. GILBOA
SAUL'S ARMY
JORDAN RIVER
SAUL'S ROUTE TO ENDOR.

...OCCASIONALLY THEY PASS SO CLOSE TO THE PHILISTINE GUARDS THEY CAN HEAR THEM BREATHING!...

SILENTLY, THEY WADE THROUGH THE SWIFT CURRENT OF THE KISHON RIVER...CAREFULLY--FOR THERE ARE SLIPPERY ROCKS, WAITING TREACHEROUSLY FOR A MISSTEP...

CLAZNNNGG
THAT ROCK... I SLIPPED!
...AS ONE OF THE YOUNG SOLDIERS LEARNS - TOO LATE!

IT SOUNDED LIKE THE RING OF A SWORD TO ME!
IT CAME FROM OVER HERE SOMEWHERE.

TO ARMS! I HEAR ISRAELITES!

I SEE NOTHING.
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN IMAGINING THINGS!

YOU DRANK TOO DEEP OF THE WINE TONIGHT.
NEXT THING YOU'LL BE DREAMING YOU'VE CAPTURED SAUL HIMSELF.. HA! HA! HA!

NOW ALL IS CLEAR... KING SAUL AND HIS MEN CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY TO ENDOR.

SHORTLY...
THAT IS THE CAVE AS IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED TO ME!

SEE IF SHE IS IN THERE.

SLAY ME FIRST, MY KING, BUT ASK ME N..NOT TO GO IN TH-THERE!
I HAVE CHILDREN FOR GUARDS INSTEAD OF MEN!

SO! I SHALL LEAD THE WAY!

WHO COMES TO MY LAIR... AND WHAT DO YOU SEEK?

I SEEK HELP... AND ADVICE.
WHAT HELP CAN I GIVE YOU?

I WANT YOU TO BRING UP THE SPIRIT OF THE MAN I NAME.
I CANNOT DO SUCH THINGS. YOU KNOW THAT KING SAUL HAS BANISHED FROM ISRAEL ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SUCH POWERS!

BUT I HAVE BEEN TOLD OTHERWISE... I HAVE BEEN TOLD YOU HAVE THE POWER!

WHO SENT YOU TO TRAP ME THIS WAY? YOU WILL CAUSE ME TO LOSE MY LIFE!
FEAR NOT...

...I SWEAR AS THE LORD LIVES, NO PUNISHMENT SHALL COME TO YOU!

...WHOM DO YOU WANT ME TO BRING UP!
SAMUEL.

AND THE WITCH OF ENDOR SETS ABOUT HER WEIRD RITUALS...

...SUDDENLY, HER SCREAMS ECHO THROUGHOUT THE CAVERN AS SHE PEERS INTO THE SWIRLING MISTY FUMES!

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO YOU SEE?

WHY HAVE YOU TRICKED ME?

FEAR NOT — I HAVE SWORN THERE WILL BE NO HARM TO YOU.
YOU ARE SAUL!

...BUT IT IS EVIDENT THE WITCH HAS NOT EXPECTED HER FAKERY TO PRODUCE THE SCENE SHE HAS JUST WITNESSED...

NOW, WHAT DID YOU SEE?

GODS! GODS COMING UP OUT OF THE EARTH!...AN OLD MAN IN A MANTLE!
LET ME SEE!

...AND AS SAUL STARES INTO THE SWIRLING SMOKE...
...A VISION SLOWLY FORMS!

...THE SPIRIT OF SAMUEL SLOWLY EMERGES FROM THE STEAMY MIST....

WHY HAVE YOU DISTURBED MY PEACE?
THE PHILISTINES HAVE MY ARMY SURROUNDED AND GOD HAS LEFT ME!

SO I HAVE CALLED YOU THAT YOU MAY MAKE KNOWN TO ME WHAT I SHOULD DO.
WHY ASK OF ME WHEN THE LORD HAS LEFT YOU AND IS YOUR ENEMY?

THUS THE CAREER OF A PROUD KING COMES TO ITS BITTER END...SAUL IS BROKEN BY THIS PRONOUNCEMENT OF DOOM... A PROPHECY THAT WILL COME TRUE ON THE MORROW, EXACTLY AS SAMUEL HAS ANNOUNCED!

# JESUS CURES *the* LEPERS

# ELIJAH THE PROPHET

IN THE NINTH CENTURY B.C., DURING THE REIGN OF KING AHAB, ISRAEL HAD FALLEN INTO SPIRITUAL DECAY. AHAB WAS MORE EVIL THAN ALL THE KINGS BEFORE HIM AND, ENCOURAGED BY HIS PAGAN WIFE, JEZEBEL, HE COMMANDED THE PEOPLE TO WORSHIP THE FALSE GOD, BAAL. SOMETIMES, EVEN HUMAN VICTIMS WERE OFFERED AS SACRIFICES ON THE ALTARS OF THE TERRIBLE DEITY WHILE THE WORSHIPPERS DANCED ABOUT THEM, HOWLING LIKE WILD BEASTS...

To this day "Jezebel" is the term used to describe a wicked woman. This vicious queen hated all those who believed in God. She hunted down the Prophets of Jehovah and slaughtered them without mercy...

Then there appeared in Israel—no one knows from where—a strange, a holy, an angry man. Like an avenging spirit he approached the throne of Ahab...

The King was dumbfounded by the courage of Elijah. By the time he recovered his wits, the Prophet had disappeared as quickly as he had come...

But the soldiers searched for the Prophet in vain. Later, on the outskirts of the city, the voice of the Lord came to Elijah...

Elijah dwelt for some time in the place appointed by God. The ravens brought him bread and meat and when he was thirsty he drank from the brook...

Finally, the brook dried up and Elijah was fearful lest he die of thirst. But the Lord appeared to him again...

So Elijah went to Zarephath. At the gate of the city he saw a woman gathering firewood...

Elijah dwelt for a time...

Then, one day, a great tragedy befell the widow...

Elijah carried the boy up to the loft to his own bed...

The Lord heard the voice of Elijah. Shortly afterward...

Elijah set forth to obey the Lord's command. Once again he stood fearlessly before the King...

On Mount Carmel...
LET THE FALSE PROPHETS PUT A CALF ON THEIR ALTAR AND I WILL PUT A CALF ON MINE. THEN LET THEM CALL ON BAAL AND I WILL CALL ON THE LORD--AND THE GOD THAT ANSWERS BY SETTING FIRE TO THE WOOD BENEATH THE ALTAR WILL BE THE TRUE GOD!

All that morning the false prophets cavorted before their altar, calling on Baal in vain to set fire to the sacrifice...
OH, BAAL, HEAR US!
SET FIRE TO THE SACRIFICE!
HA-HA! MAYBE YOUR GOD IS ASLEEP! CRY LOUDER--PERHAPS YOU CAN AWAKEN HIM!

Then Elijah rebuilt the altar and dug a wide trench about it...
POUR WATER OVER EVERYTHING TO MAKE THE TEST MORE DIFFICULT! FILL THE TRENCH! NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO THE LORD!

By evening all was ready. A respectful silence held the multitude...
HEAR ME, OH LORD, HEAR ME! LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THOU ART GOD... THAT I AM THY SERVANT, AND THAT I HAVE DONE ALL THESE THINGS AT THY WORD!

Suddenly!
THE LORD, HE IS GOD!
THE LORD, HE IS GOD!

AHAB, YOU HAVE SEEN THE WONDER OF GOD! NOW THE RAIN WILL COME! FOLLOW ME! GET THEE DOWN TO THY PALACE BEFORE THE RAIN STOPS THEE!

By the time Elijah and Ahab reached the palace a great storm was sweeping over the land...

SEE, JEZEBEL, MY QUEEN? THE RAINS HAVE COME--JUST AS ELIJAH PROPHESIED!

FOOL! MAYBE YOU'RE TAKEN IN BY THAT WILD-EYED PROPHET--BUT I'M NOT!

Fuming with anger, the wicked Jezebel summoned a servant to her chamber...

TAKE THIS MESSAGE TO ELIJAH! TELL HIM THAT I WILL HAVE MY VENGEANCE! TELL HIM THAT I WILL HAVE HIM SLAIN BY THIS TIME TOMORROW!

When Elijah received the message he fled into the wilderness...

WHAT'S THE USE! OH, LORD, I AM DISCOURAGED. PLEASE--TAKE AWAY MY LIFE!

ARISE AND EAT, ELIJAH! AND GO UNTO HOREB, THE MOUNT OF GOD!

When Elijah reached Mount Horeb he entered a cave--and again the word of God came to him...

YOU THINK, ELIJAH, THAT YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE LEFT WHO LOVES ME. BUT DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED. THERE ARE SEVEN THOUSAND IN ISRAEL WHOSE KNEES HAVE NOT BOWED UNTO BAAL...

OH LORD, YOU HAVE FILLED ME WITH RENEWED HOPE. COURAGE RISES WITHIN ME. NOW, I CAN CONTINUE TO DO THY WORK!

The paths of Elijah and Ahab never crossed again. Some years later the wicked king was slain in a battle against the king of Syria...

MASTER!

I'M--I'M DYING! TAKE ME...AWAY FROM THE BATTLE...

Eventually, Jezebel also perished. After Ahab's death, his son, Ahaziah, reigned as king of Israel. He, too, was a wicked man and adored the false god, Baal, as his father had done before him.

One day King Ahaziah fell through a window and was seriously injured...

I AM GRIEVIOUSLY HURT. GO, INQUIRE OF BAAL-ZEBUB, THE GOD OF EKRON, WHETHER I SHALL RECOVER OR DIE!

YES, MASTER!

The angel of the Lord appeared to Elijah and instructed him to meet the messengers of the stricken king...

HALT! IS THERE NOT A GOD IN ISRAEL? WHY DO YE GO TO INQUIRE OF BAAL-ZEBUB, THE GOD OF EKRON? TELL KING AHAZIAH THAT HE WILL NOT RISE FROM HIS BED, HE SHALL DIE!

When Ahaziah heard Elijah's message he was afraid. So he sent a captain and fifty soldiers to capture the prophet...

THOU MAN OF GOD, THE KING HAS ORDERED ME TO BRING YOU TO HIM. *COME DOWN!*

IF I BE A MAN OF GOD, THEN LET FIRE COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND CONSUME THEE AND THY SOLDIERS!

Immediately, fire descended from heaven and engulfed the soldiers!

Once more, King Ahaziah sent a captain and fifty men against Elijah and again the soldiers were consumed by fire. Then again he sent another captain and fifty men who pleaded with the prophet to spare their lives...

Then Elijah suddenly appeared in the king's royal chamber...

YOUR EFFORTS TO CAPTURE ME HAVE BEEN IN VAIN! BECAUSE YOU HAVE DEFIED THE GOD OF ISRAEL YOU WILL *SURELY DIE!*

So Ahaziah died according to the word of the Lord. But now the time had come when Elijah himself was to pass away. According to God's instructions he had appointed Elisha to be his successor. As the day drew near for Elijah to leave this earth he wanted to be alone. But Elisha would not leave him...

Elisha followed Elijah until they reached Jordan...

I PRAY THEE, ELIJAH--BEFORE YOU GO, LET A A DOUBLE PORTION OF THY SPIRIT BE UPON ME!

THOU HAST ASKED A HARD THING. NEVERTHELESS, IF THOU SEE ME WHEN I AM TAKEN FROM THEE, IT SHALL BE SO!

And behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire, and Elijah was carried by a whirlwind into Heaven...

And thus, his mission accomplished, the prophet of justice, Elijah, vanished from this earth as mysteriously as he came.

*—END—*

# THE GOOD SAMARITAN

AND TO THIS DAY, ANYONE WHO HELPS HIS FELLOW MAN IS CALLED A GOOD SAMARITAN.