

LIGHT

for the Deaf

Exalting Christ among the Deaf

July/August/September 1998

No. 160



God's
Plan
for us



Exalting Christ among the Deaf

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●
Billy Leavell,
Editor

●
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Greetings from Billy Leavell!



After the last issue was printed, we had interesting e-mail and calls about the "missing issue of *Light for the Deaf*. Two school libraries contacted us asking us to supply it. We realized our

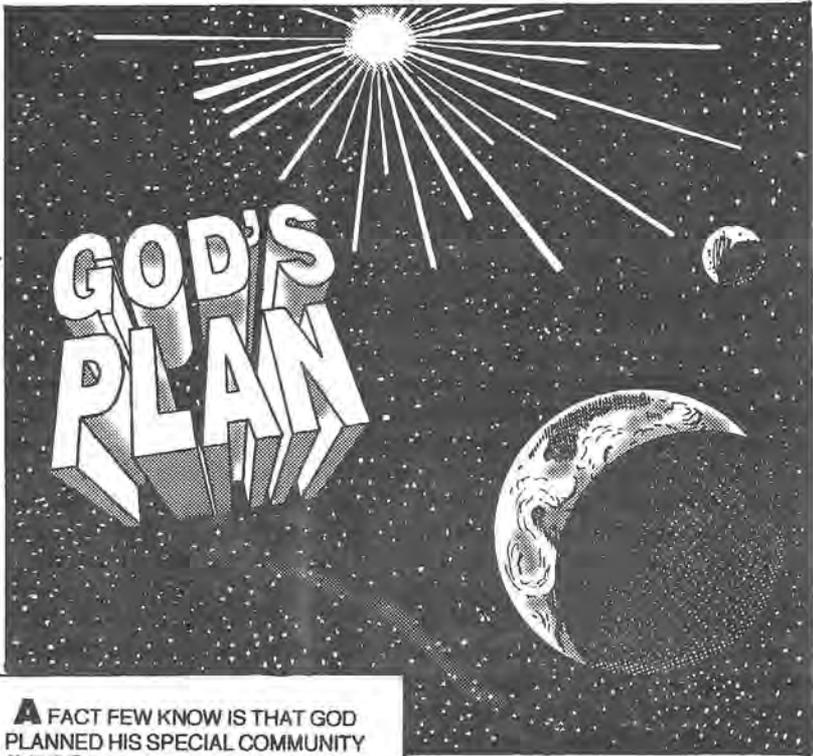
fault—we hadn't made an explanation as we should have last issue.

First of all, we never printed a *January/February/March 1998* issue. We were rather far behind schedule, so when we switched from Second Class Permit to Third Class Permit, we were able to just date our last issue *April/May/June 1998*. In other words, we skipped *January/February/ March 1998*. But this confused some of our readers, and what is more, the previous issue, *October/November/December 1997*, was numbered #157. Then the next issue, dated *April/May/June 1998*, was numbered #159. Naturally one would think there was a missing issue in between!

But the truth is that the issue before our *October/November/December* issue—the issue dated *July/August/ September 1998*—was numbered #157. So we had two issues numbered #157! When we found our error, we tried to correct this in our last issue, making it #159.

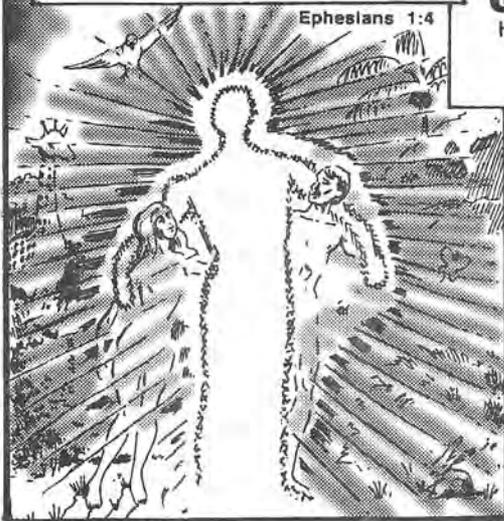
Still confused? We'll not try to make any more explanations, but to apologize and to say we've made all corrections. We hope to be more regular in our printing schedule. This issue was intended to be mailed out in late August, but a computer glitch prevented us from doing so. The problem has been now resolved and you have this issue in your hands. The Lord willing, the next issue should be out in early December.

Good reading as you begin reading about **God's Plan!**



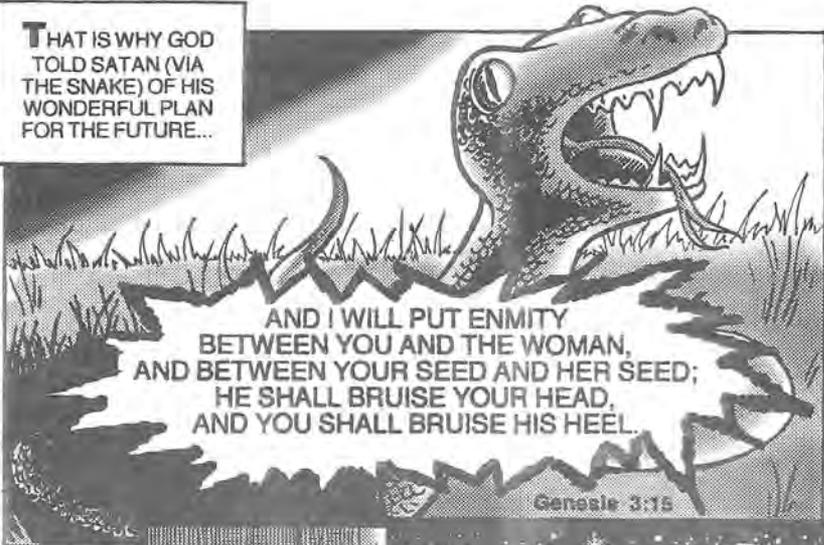
A FACT FEW KNOW IS THAT GOD PLANNED HIS SPECIAL COMMUNITY **BEFORE** HE EVEN CREATED THE EARTH!

GOD KNEW THAT EVEN THOUGH HE HAD FELLOWSHIP WITH THE TWO HUMAN BEINGS HE CREATED—



Isaiah 59:2

THAT IS WHY GOD
TOLD SATAN (VIA
THE SNAKE) OF HIS
WONDERFUL PLAN
FOR THE FUTURE...



AND I WILL PUT ENMITY
BETWEEN YOU AND THE WOMAN,
AND BETWEEN YOUR SEED AND HER SEED;
HE SHALL BRUISE YOUR HEAD,
AND YOU SHALL BRUISE HIS HEEL.

Genesis 3:15

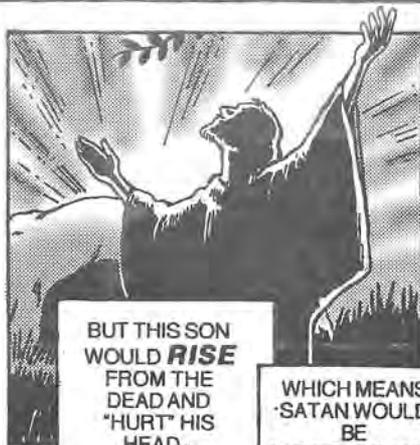
THE LORD GOD WAS
TALKING ABOUT HIS
SON-- WHO SOMEDAY
WOULD BE BORN OF
A WOMAN, A
VIRGIN...



SATAN WOULD
"HURT" THIS
SON'S HEEL--



THAT IS,
KILL HIM.



BUT THIS SON
WOULD **RISE**
FROM THE
DEAD AND
"HURT" HIS
HEAD--

WHICH MEANS
SATAN WOULD
BE
DESTROYED
FOR GOOD!

SIN-- AS CAN BE SEEN IN THE VERY FIRST BOOK OF THE BIBLE-- QUICKLY SPREAD.

 <p>CAIN'S MURDER OF ABEL Genesis 4:8</p>	 <p>SPREADING SIN AMONG THE EARLY PEOPLE OF THE EARTH Genesis 6:5</p>	 <p>NOAH'S DRUNKENNESS Genesis 9:20-21</p>	 <p>PEOPLE'S SELF-CENTEREDNESS Genesis 11:4</p>
 <p>BEGINNING OF IDOL WORSHIP Joshua 24:14</p>	 <p>ABRAHAM'S LIES Genesis 12:11-20; 20:1-13</p>	 <p>HOMOSEXUALITY IN SODOM AND GOMORRAH Genesis 19:1-11</p>	 <p>JACOB AND LABAN AS CHEATS Genesis 27:1-38; 28:16-26</p>
 <p>RAPE OF DINAH Genesis 34:1-2</p>	 <p>JOSEPH'S BROTHERS SELL HIM AS A SLAVE Genesis 37:23-35</p>	 <p>JUDAH SLEEPS WITH HIS OWN DAUGHTER-IN-LAW Genesis 38:11-16</p>	 <p>POTIPHAR'S WIFE FALSELY ACCUSES JOSEPH OF ATTEMPTED RAPE Genesis 39:7-20</p>

SIN IS TERRIBLE... IT SEPARATES PEOPLE FROM GOD.

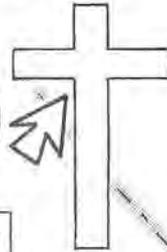
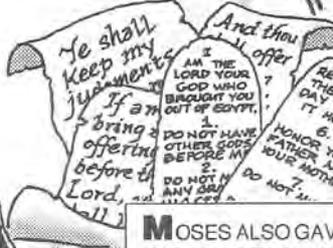
BUT GOD LOVES US.

AND HE SET HIS WONDERFUL PLAN INTO MOTION...

HE CALLED MOSES TO LEAD THE ISRAELITES OUT OF EGYPT AND TO TELL THEM...

THE LORD WILL RAISE UP A PROPHET LIKE ME, AND YOU MUST LISTEN TO HIM OR BE LOST!

Deuteronomy 18:18-19; see also verse 15



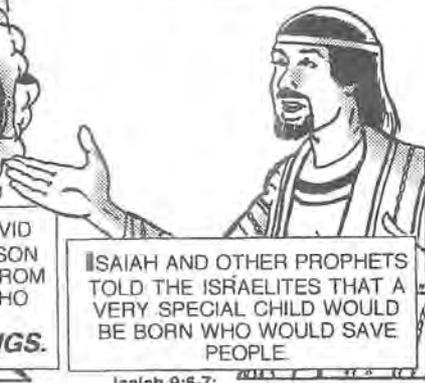
MOSSES ALSO GAVE THE ISRAELITES MANY LAWS TO POINT THEM TO THE COMING CHRIST

Galatians 3:24



GOD TOLD DAVID A SPECIAL PERSON WOULD COME FROM HIS FAMILY WHO WOULD BE **KING OF KINGS.**

Acts 2:30



ISAIAH AND OTHER PROPHETS TOLD THE ISRAELITES THAT A VERY SPECIAL CHILD WOULD BE BORN WHO WOULD SAVE PEOPLE.

Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2



SO WHEN THE TIME WAS RIGHT, GOD SENT HIS **HOLY SPIRIT** ON MARY OF NAZARETH...

AND SOON **GOD** HIMSELF WAS CLOTHED IN FLESH, GROWING LIKE ANY OTHER UNBORN BABY...

Galatians 4:4; Luke 1:34-35; Matthew 1:20

Philippians 2:5-7



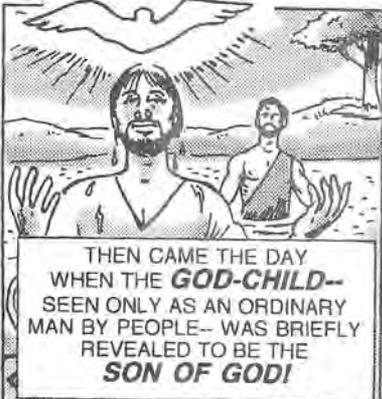
THE BABY WAS BORN LIKE **ANY OTHER BABY...**

Matthew 1:25



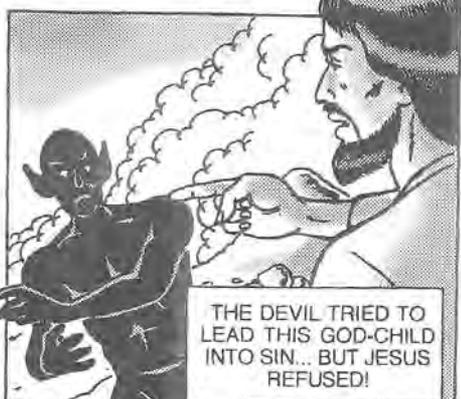
THE CHILD GREW LIKE ANY OTHER CHILD...

Luke 2:52



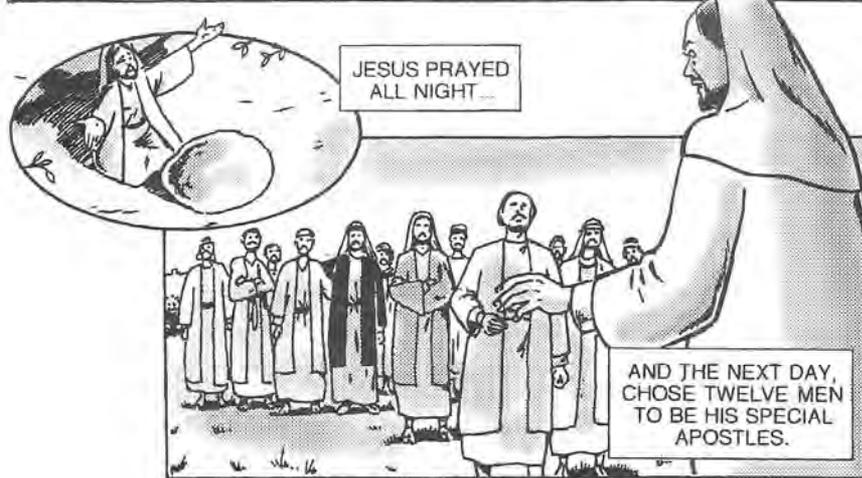
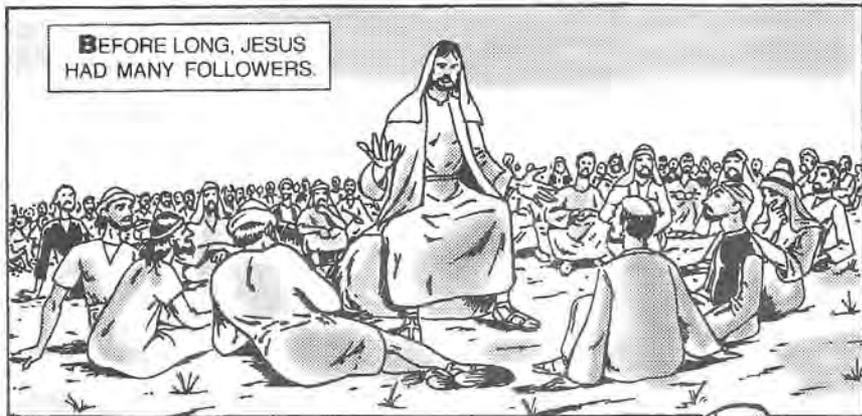
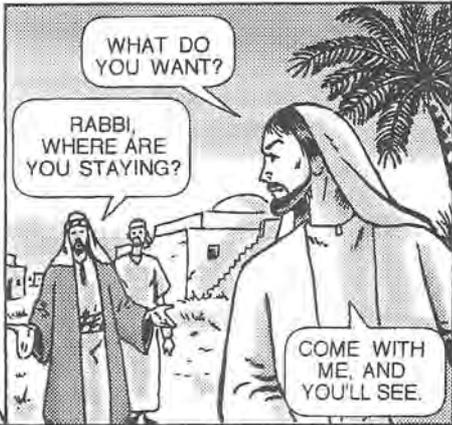
THEN CAME THE DAY WHEN THE **GOD-CHILD--** SEEN ONLY AS AN ORDINARY MAN BY PEOPLE-- WAS BRIEFLY REVEALED TO BE THE **SON OF GOD!**

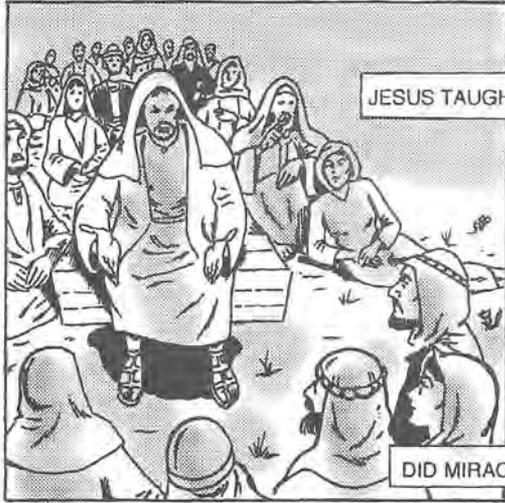
Matthew 3:13-17; John 1:32-34



THE DEVIL TRIED TO LEAD THIS GOD-CHILD INTO SIN... BUT JESUS REFUSED!

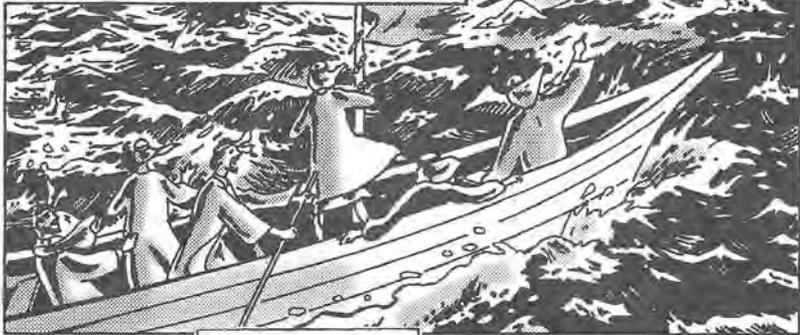
Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; Hebrews 2:17-18; see verse 14





JESUS TAUGHT...

DID MIRACLES...



HEALED THE SICK...



AND THE PEOPLE NOW BELIEVED JESUS WAS THE PROMISED **MESSIAH** OF GOD!

IN FACT
JESUS
BRIEFLY
SHOWED
HIS
GLORY
TO
PETER,
JOHN
AND
JAMES!

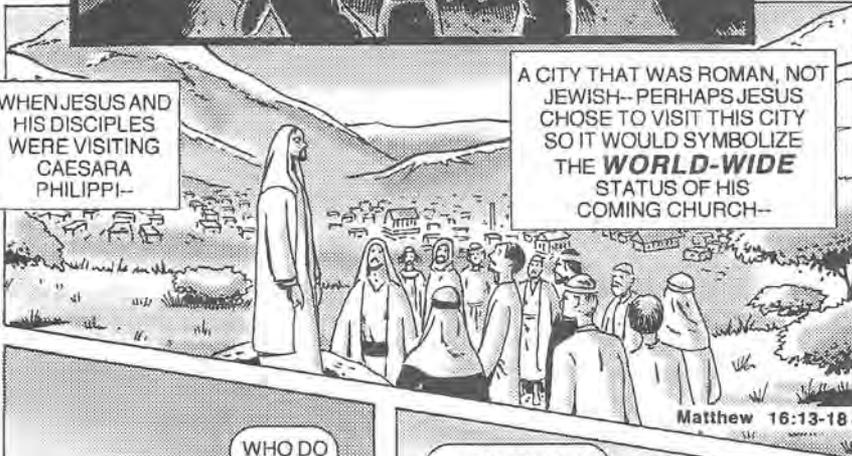


"We saw the
greatness of
Jesus with
our own
eyes."
2 Peter 1:16,
EVD

Matthew
17:1-8;
Mark
9:2-8;
Luke
8:28-36

WHEN JESUS AND
HIS DISCIPLES
WERE VISITING
CAESARA
PHILIPPI--

A CITY THAT WAS ROMAN, NOT
JEWISH-- PERHAPS JESUS
CHOSE TO VISIT THIS CITY
SO IT WOULD SYMBOLIZE
THE **WORLD-WIDE**
STATUS OF HIS
COMING CHURCH--



Matthew 16:13-18

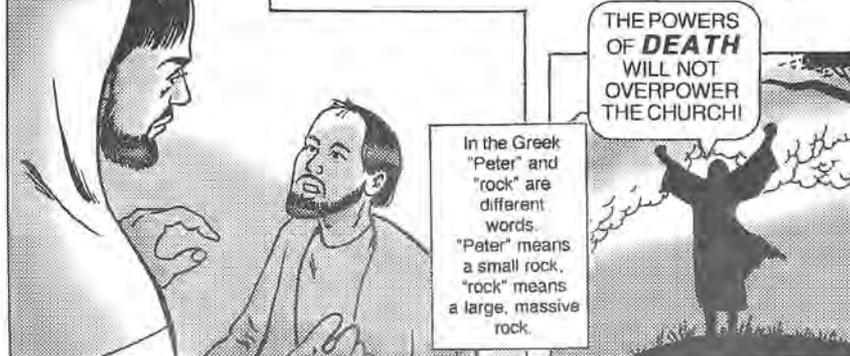
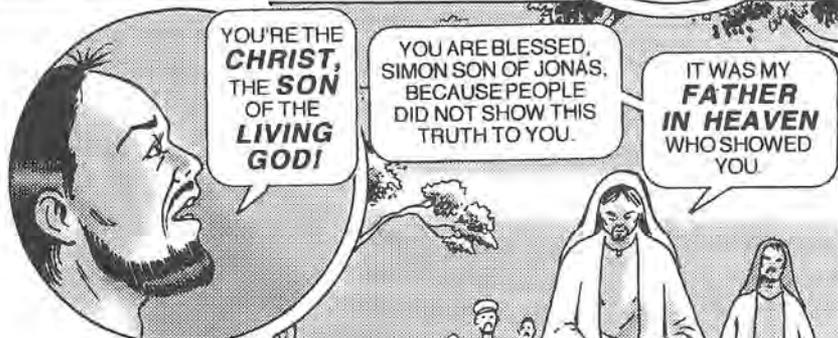
WHO DO
PEOPLE
SAY I
AM?



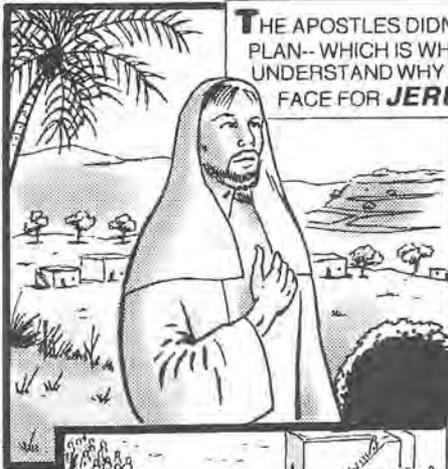
SOME THINK
YOU'RE REALLY
**JOHN THE
BAPTIZER.**

OTHERS
THINK YOU'RE
ELIJAH.





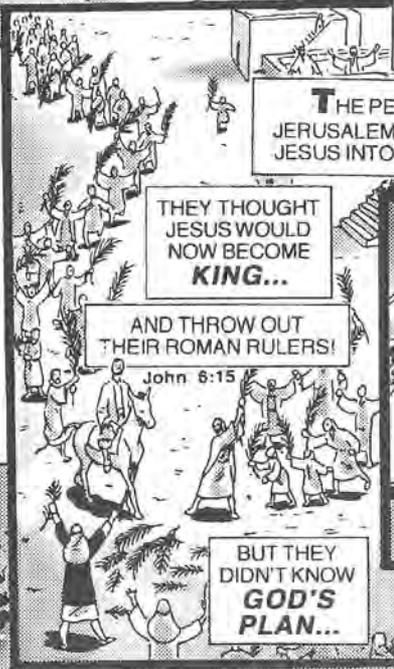
Luke 9:51,
Matthew 16:21;
Luke 18:31



THE APOSTLES DIDN'T KNOW GOD'S PLAN-- WHICH IS WHY THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY JESUS SET HIS FACE FOR **JERUSALEM!**



JESUS WENT TO JERUSALEM, FOR THIS WAS PART OF THE **PLAN.**



THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM WELCOMED JESUS INTO THEIR CITY!

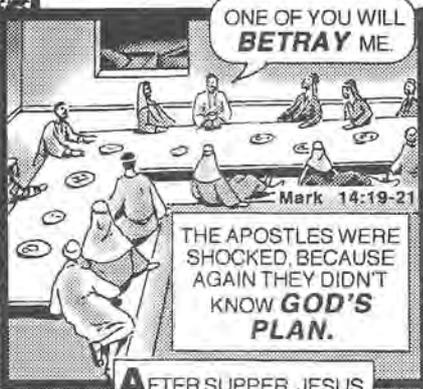
Matthew 21:1-10;
Mark 11:1-11;
John 12:12-16

THEY THOUGHT JESUS WOULD NOW BECOME **KING...**

AND THROW OUT THEIR ROMAN RULERS!

John 6:15

BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW **GOD'S PLAN...**



ONE OF YOU WILL **BETRAY ME.**

Mark 14:19-21

THE APOSTLES WERE SHOCKED, BECAUSE AGAIN THEY DIDN'T KNOW **GOD'S PLAN.**

AFTER SUPPER, JESUS KNEW THE VERY TERRIBLE THINGS THE PLAN REQUIRED.



FATHER, LET THIS CUP OF SUFFERING PASS FROM ME--

BUT ONLY AS **YOU** PLAN, NOT AS I PLAN.

Matthew 26:39

AN ANGEL COMFORTED JESUS AND GAVE HIM STRENGTH...



Luke 22:43

THEN JESUS WAS ARRESTED...

Matthew 26:47-56

HELLO, RABBI!



AND TAKEN AWAY...

Matthew 26:50



WHERE THE JEWISH COUNCIL, THE **SANHEDRIN**, CONDEMNED HIM TO DEATH.

Matthew 26:59-66



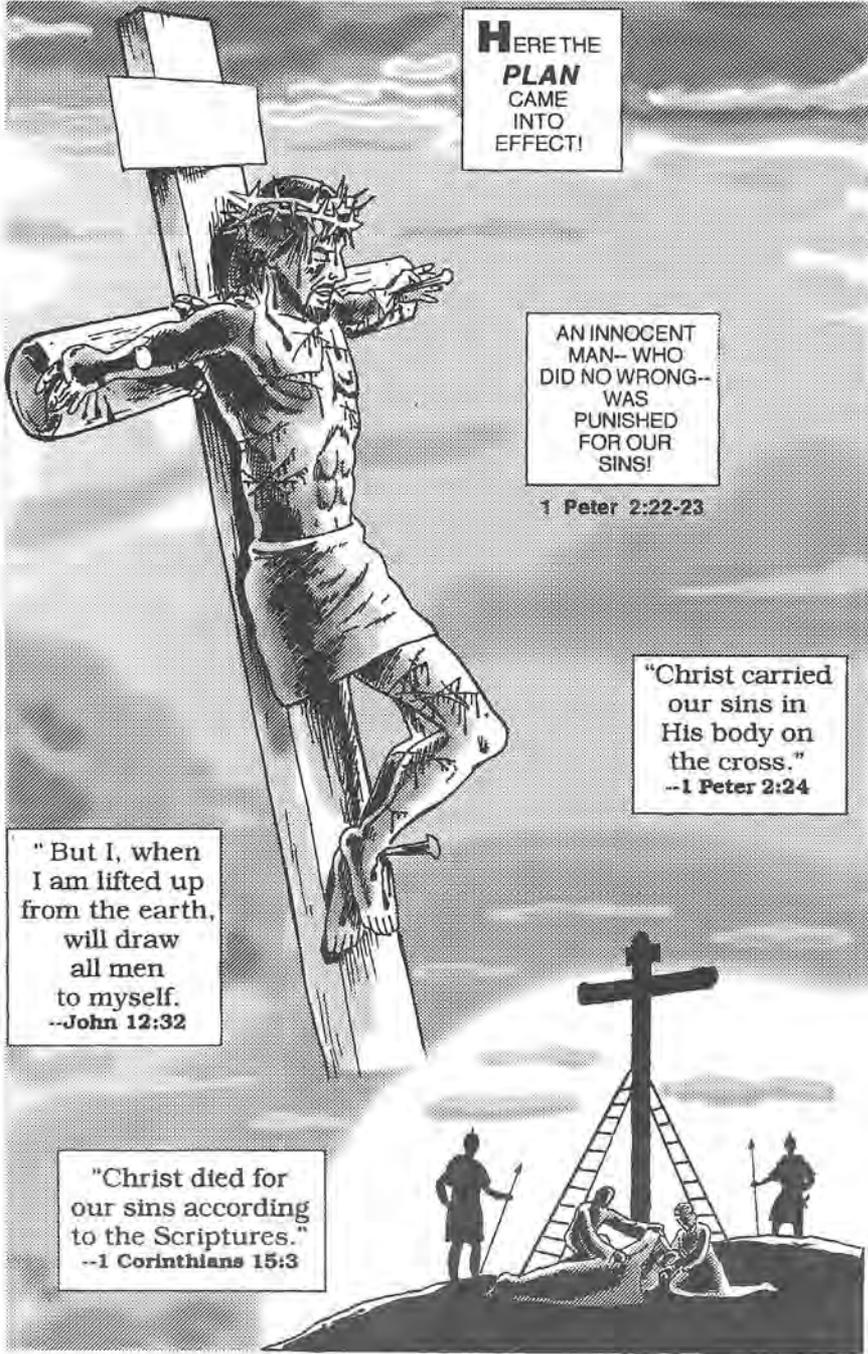
JESUS WAS SENT TO THE GOVERNOR PONTIUS PILATE...

Matthew 27:1



AND CONDEMNED TO BE **CRUCIFIED**.

Mark 15:15-20



HERE THE
PLAN
CAME
INTO
EFFECT!

AN INNOCENT
MAN-- WHO
DID NO WRONG--
WAS
PUNISHED
FOR OUR
SINS!

1 Peter 2:22-23

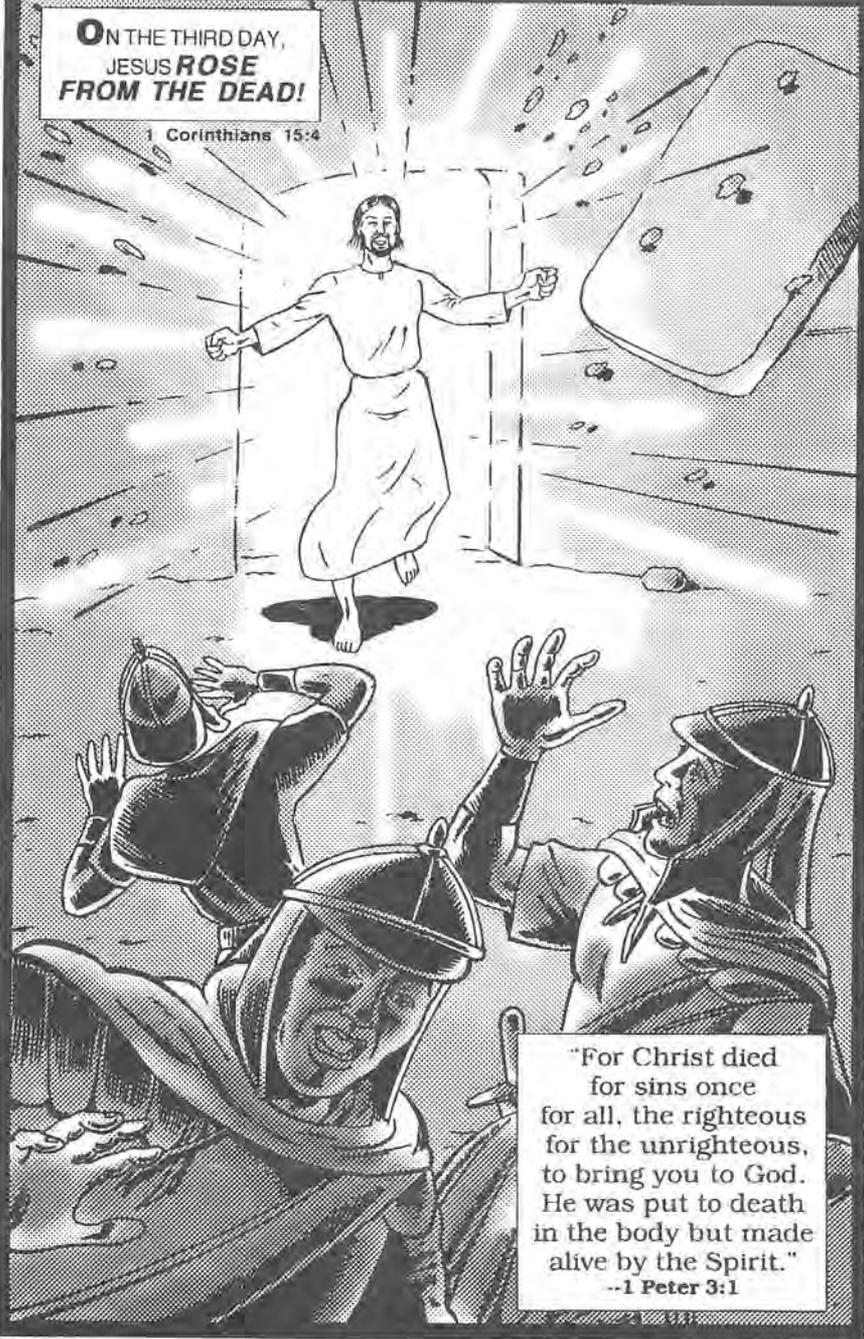
"Christ carried
our sins in
His body on
the cross."
--1 Peter 2:24

"But I, when
I am lifted up
from the earth,
will draw
all men
to myself."
--John 12:32

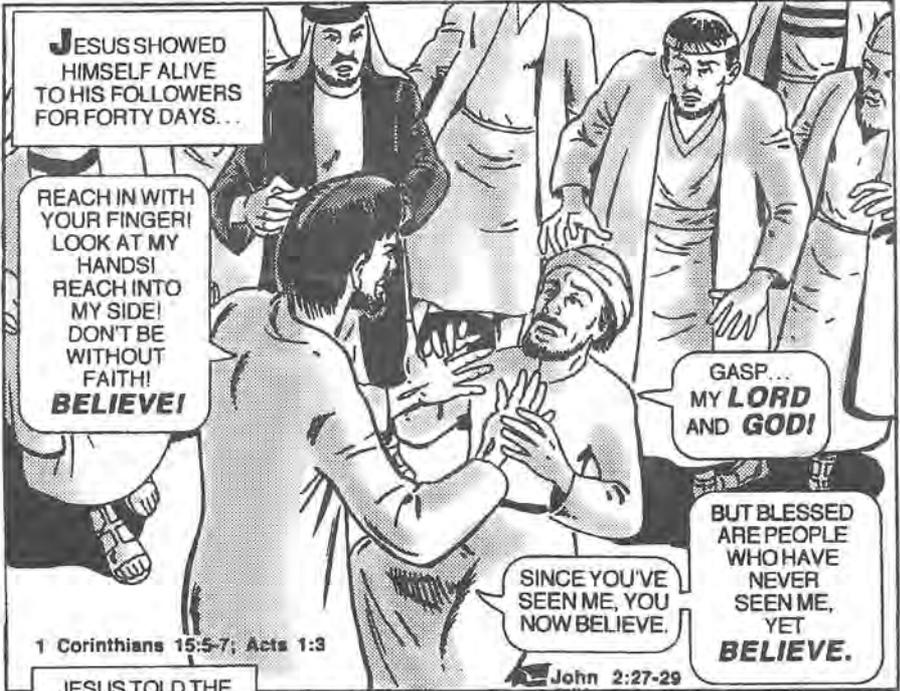
"Christ died for
our sins according
to the Scriptures."
--1 Corinthians 15:3

**ON THE THIRD DAY,
JESUS ROSE
FROM THE DEAD!**

1 Corinthians 15:4



"For Christ died
for sins once
for all, the righteous
for the unrighteous,
to bring you to God.
He was put to death
in the body but made
alive by the Spirit."
--1 Peter 3:1



JESUS SHOWED HIMSELF ALIVE TO HIS FOLLOWERS FOR FORTY DAYS...

REACH IN WITH YOUR FINGER! LOOK AT MY HANDS! REACH INTO MY SIDE! DON'T BE WITHOUT FAITH! **BELIEVE!**

GASP... MY LORD AND **GOD!**

BUT BLESSED ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER SEEN ME, YET **BELIEVE.**

SINCE YOU'VE SEEN ME, YOU NOW BELIEVE.

1 Corinthians 15:5-7; Acts 1:3

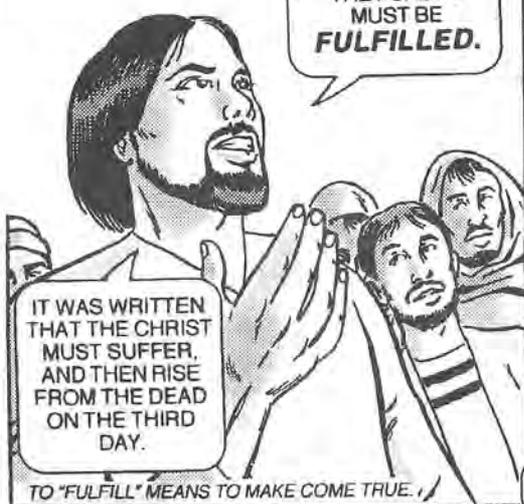
John 2:27-29

JESUS TOLD THE APOSTLES ABOUT **GOD'S PLAN--** WHY JESUS DIED AND WAS RISEN AGAIN!

I TOLD YOU THAT ALL THE THINGS WRITTEN ABOUT ME IN THE LAW OF MOSES, THE PROPHETS, AND THE PSALMS MUST BE **FULFILLED.**

THEN, BEGINNING AT JERUSALEM, REPENTANCE AND REMISSION OF SINS WILL BE PREACHED IN CHRIST'S NAME.

YOU ARE **WITNESSES** OF THESE THINGS.



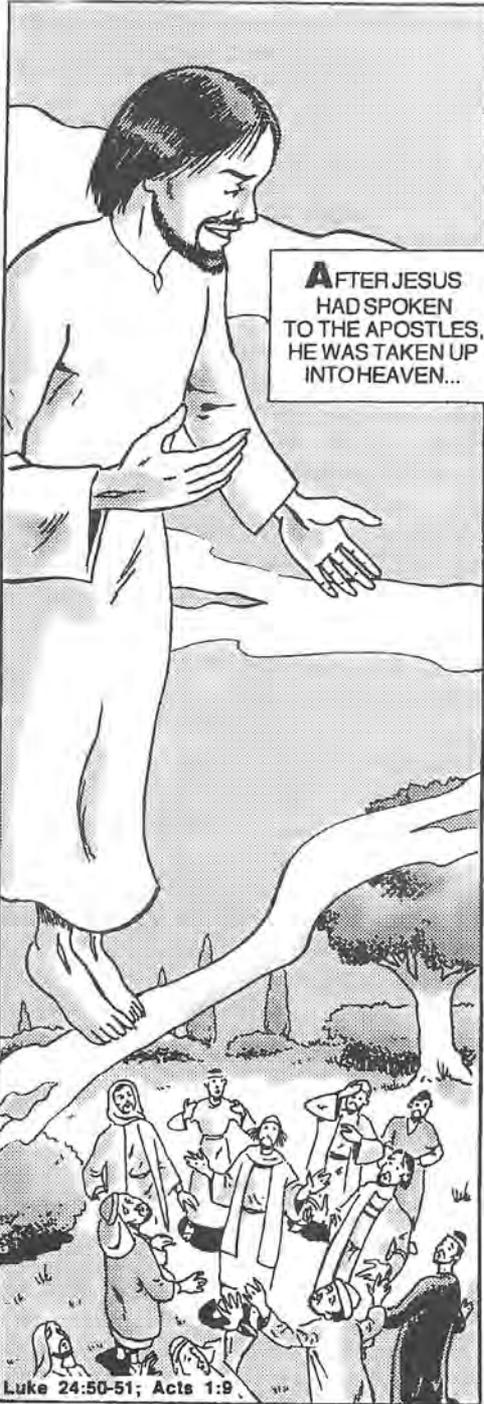
IT WAS WRITTEN THAT THE CHRIST MUST SUFFER, AND THEN RISE FROM THE DEAD ON THE THIRD DAY.

SEE, I SEND THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER ON YOU!

BUT STAY IN JERUSALEM UNTIL YOU RECEIVE **POWER** FROM ABOVE.

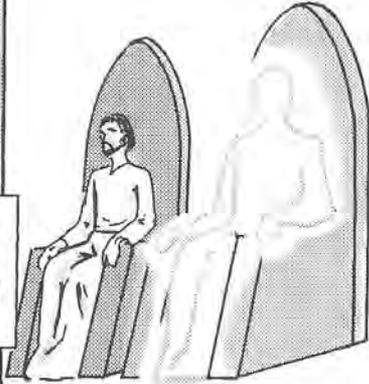
TO "FULFILL" MEANS TO MAKE COME TRUE. /

Luke 24:44-45



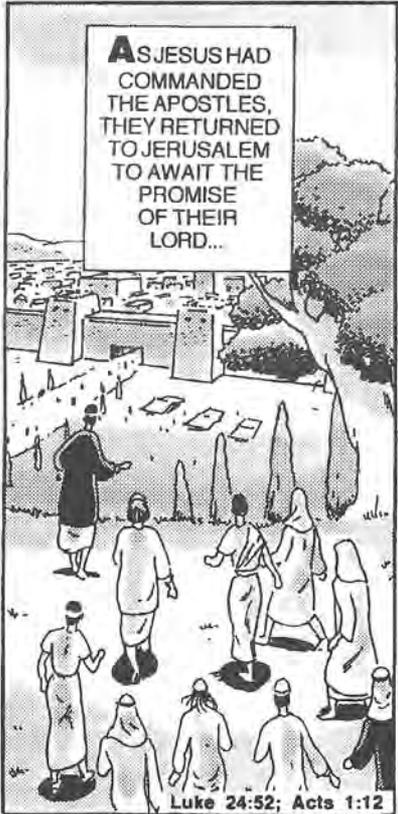
AFTER JESUS HAD SPOKEN TO THE APOSTLES, HE WAS TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN...

Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:9



WHERE HE SAT ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF GOD.

Mark 16:19



AS JESUS HAD COMMANDED THE APOSTLES, THEY RETURNED TO JERUSALEM TO AWAIT THE PROMISE OF THEIR LORD...

Luke 24:52; Acts 1:12

ON THE DAY OF THE JEWISH FEAST PENTECOST, THE APOSTLES WERE ALL TOGETHER...

WHEN THE **HOLY SPIRIT** CAME ON THEM!

Acts 2:1-4



PETER PREACHED THE VERY FIRST GOSPEL SERMON TO THE JEWS WHO CAME TOGETHER...

HE TOLD THEM ABOUT **GOD'S PLAN**-- WHY JESUS DIED AND WAS RISEN AGAIN!

LET ALL THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL KNOW **FOR SURE** THAT GOD HAS MADE THE SAME JESUS CHRIST--

THE ONE YOU **CRUCIFIED**--

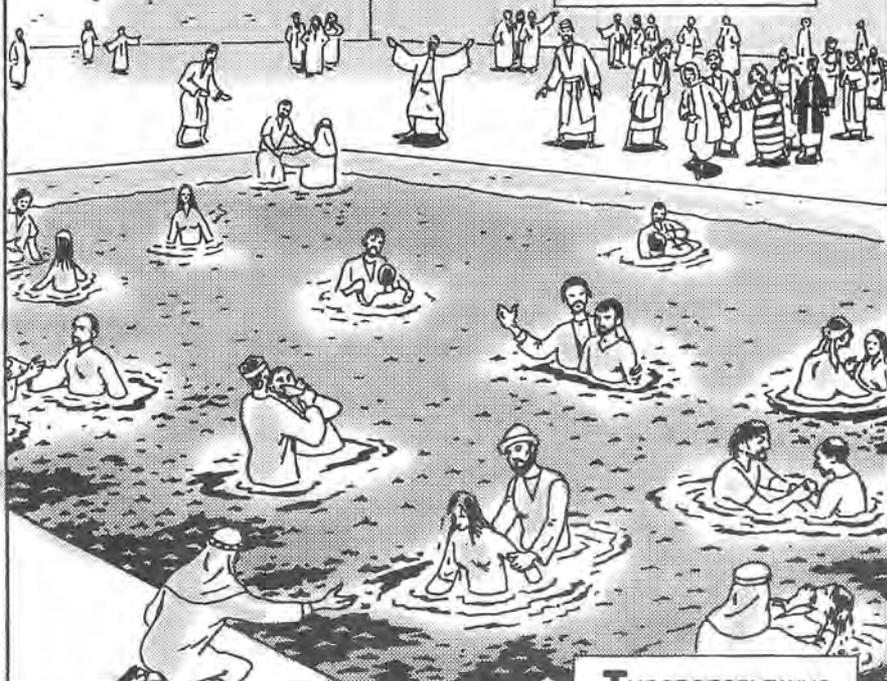
BOTH **LORD AND CHRIST.**



Acts 2:36

THOSE WHO GLADLY ACCEPTED THE WORDS OF PETER AND OF THE OTHER APOSTLES CAME FORWARD TO BE BAPTIZED...

...and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.
--Acts 2:41

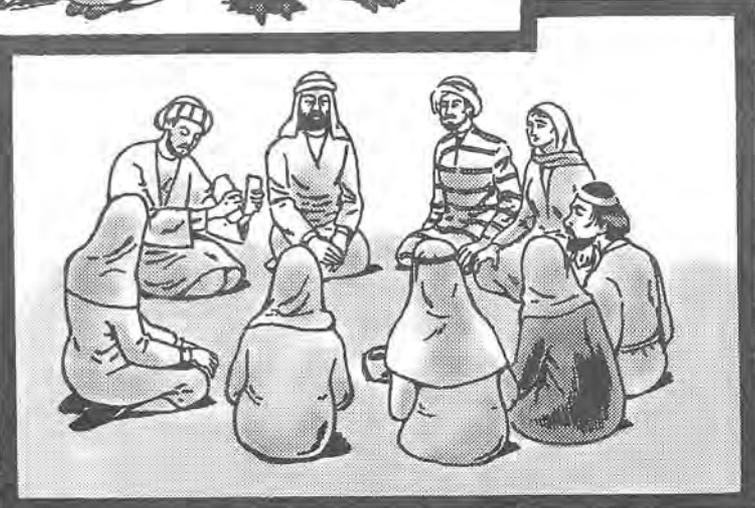


THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAD OBEYED THE GOSPEL ON PENTECOST DAY WERE VERY HAPPY TO BE IN CHRIST!



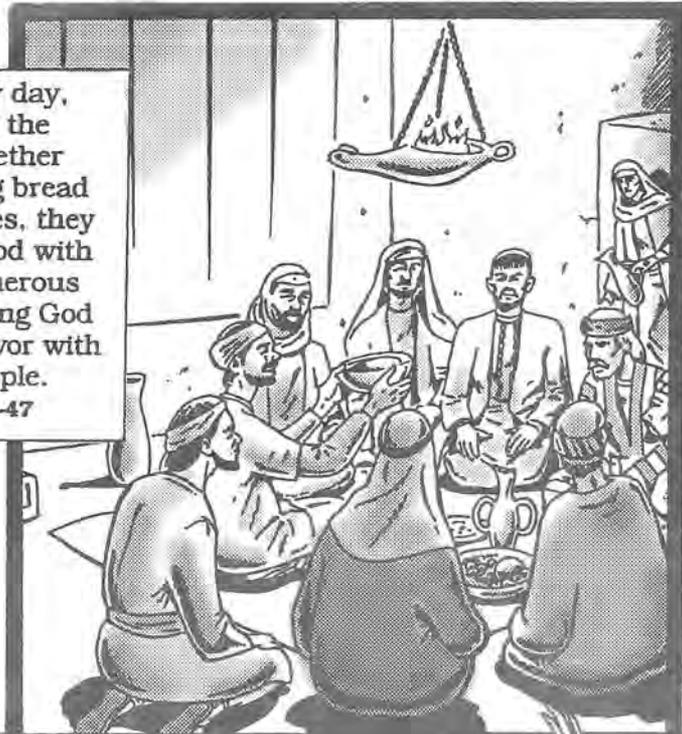


And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
--Acts 2:42



And day by day,
attending the
temple together
and breaking bread
in their homes, they
partook of food with
glad and generous
hearts, praising God
and having favor with
all the people.

--Acts 2:46-47



And the Lord
added to the
church daily
such as should
be saved.

--Acts 2:47



GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU IS
TO ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST
AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR...



TO REPENT (QUIT YOUR
SINS), TO CONFESS YOUR
FAITH IN CHRIST, AND TO
BE BAPTIZED INTO JESUS
CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION
(REMOVAL) OF SINS.

WHAT WILL YOUR RESPONSE BE TO THE WONDERFUL PLAN GOD HAS MADE
FOR **YOU**? ONLY **YOU** ARE THE ONE WHO WILL DECIDE IF YOU ACCEPT
GOD'S PLAN THROUGH CHRIST!

Questions and Answers

Once again this issue's questions come from Ray Powell of Birmingham, AL. Please feel free to send in your own questions. You may send them to us at 1106 Colonial Road, Memphis, TN, 38117-5599, or like, Ray, fax them to us. If you have e-mail, you can send your questions to us at WLeavell@aol.com.

Who were the Nephilim as the RSV calls them, or Giants in the earth, as the KJV calls them?

Not enough detail in the Scriptures is given us for a definite answer. Some people think that these "giants" were the children born to evil angels and human beings. Genesis 6:2 in the King James Version says, "*There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.*" This is the verse people use to "prove" that these giants were the offspring of angels ("sons of God") and human beings (daughters of men). In some translations the word "*giants*" is translated "*nephilim*". Even the EVD/ERV translates it as "*nephilim*".

Actually, the word "*nephilim*" is not a translation, but comes directly from the Hebrew language. A check shows that the word comes from a root word, *naphal*, meaning to *fall*. The meaning may be a person who fell from God's grace. Some scholars think this refers to those angels who fell from God's grace and followed Satan. Other scholars think this refers not to angels, but to men who fell from God's grace. Reading backwards, we read about the descendants of Cain who became sinners, and about the descendants of Cain's brother Seth, who became followers of God. Read Genesis 4:16-24 for Cain's family line and Genesis 4:25-26, 5:6-32 for Seth's family line.

The issue is still not settled because we do not have enough evidence for the meaning of the word "*nephilim*". The translation "*giants*" comes from the Greek Septaugint. Some scholars admit that the King James Version may be in error using this translation. The only other passage using "*nephilim*" is in Numbers 13:33, and there it does refer to huge people. But the word itself means fallen people, and those Canaanite people were certainly fallen from God, worshipping false gods and doing other sins.

It is our personal belief that Genesis 6:4 refers to the descendants (sons) of Seth seeing the descendants (daughters) of Cain and intermarrying with them. Their children became the "heroes" of that time, but their morals were very low which led to the great wickedness of the world's people. Because of this God, sent the Great Flood just a few verses later (see verse 17). It is a good lesson for us in that Christians should not marry non-Christians, the children born to them may not be Christians either.

Why did Ruth propose to Boaz?

That is an interesting way to put it, Ruth "proposing" to Boaz.

What the Bible says is that Ruth's wise mother-in-law Naomi saw that Boaz would be a good husband for Ruth (Ruth 3:1-2). Naomi instructed Ruth to hide in the field that night when Boaz and his men celebrated the end of the harvest. Ruth was to watch where Boaz would lie down to sleep for the night. Then Ruth was to go, take the cover off Boaz's feet, and lay down near his feet (Ruth 3:3-4). Ruth did so, and in the middle of the night, when Boaz woke, he saw Ruth laying by his feet. In the darkness, Boaz could not see who it was. He called out, "Who are you?" Ruth then replied that she was Ruth. Here is where the "proposal" is: in the King James Version, Ruth said, "Spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman" (Ruth 3:8-9). This was a way of asking for Boaz' protection over Ruth, since she was a widow and living with her mother-in-law, and both she and Naomi were poor (Ruth 1:4-5 and 1:20-21).

The meaning is that Ruth wanted to marry Boaz so she and her mother-in-law could be under his protection. Of course it is very likely that both Boaz and Ruth liked each other very much already. Boaz was very happy about Ruth's request and eventually did marry Ruth. This union produced a baby son named Obed, who later grew up to be the grandfather of David (Ruth 4:13; 21-22).

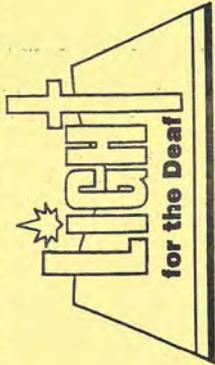
Now why did Ruth "propose" to Boaz and not the other way around? We believe it is because there was no other way. Ruth was a widow, and Boaz apparently was not actively seeking a wife. Boaz might never have asked Ruth to marry him if she had said nothing. Boaz was free to refuse or to accept her request. And the fact he accepted her request happily shows that he did not object to Ruth's bold question.

Why in the scripture Christ is called the Rose of Sharon?

The Bible never says Christ is called the "Rose of Sharon". What you are asking about is Solomon 2:1, where the husband (possibly Solomon himself) is saying to his wife, "I am the Rose of Sharon." One popular hymn applies the title to Jesus. It is probably this hymn which made you think the Bible applied the title to Jesus.

That's it for this issue. But before we go, may we remind you that it would be of great help to us if you would tell us of any new address you have moved to before you move, because it cost us 50¢ for each copy sent back to us. The Post Office will not forward *Light for the Deaf* to you, unless you have specified a request on your card for them. Please also include your old address so we can quickly find it on our computer and make the changed. Thank you and God bless you!

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