

THE LOST BOOK FOUND

II Chronicles 34:1-33.

LESSON 89 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: "If a man love me, he will keep my words" (John 14:23).

BIBLE TEXT

II Chronicles 34:1-33.

1 Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years.

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.

3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.

4 And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust of them, and strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them.

5 And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.

6 And so did he in the cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, even unto Naphtali, with their mattocks round about.

7 And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.

8 Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.

9 And when they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, and of all the remnant of Israel, and of all Judah and Benjamin; and they returned to Jerusalem.

10 And they put it in the hand of the workmen that had the oversight of the house of the LORD, and they gave it to the workmen that wrought in the house of the LORD, to repair and amend the house:

11 Even to the artificers and builders gave they it, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed.

12 And the men did the work faithfully: and the overseers of them were Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites, of the sons of Merari; and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to set it forward; and other of the Levites, all that could skill of instruments of musick.

13 Also they were over the bearers of burdens, and were overseers of all that wrought the work in any manner of service: and of the Levites there were scribes, and officers, and porters.

14 And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the LORD given by Moses.

15 And Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan.

16 And Shaphan carried the book to the king, and brought the king word back again, saying, All that was committed to thy servants, they do it.

17 And they have gathered together the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers, and to the hand of the workmen.

18 Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath given me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.

19 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes.

20 And the king commanded Hilkiah, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Abdon the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king's, saying,

21 Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book.

22 And Hilkiah, and they that the king had appointed, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college:) and they spake to her to that effect.

23 And she answered them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell ye the man that sent you to me,

24 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah:

25 Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be poured out upon this place, and shall not be quenched.

26 And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to enquire of the LORD, so shall ye say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel concerning the words which thou hast heard;

27 Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his

words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD.

28 Behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place, and upon the inhabitants of the same. So they brought the king word again.

29 Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.

30 And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD.

31 And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book.

32 And he caused all that were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

33 And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in Israel to serve, even to serve the LORD their God. And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

NOTES

A Young King

Josiah was very young, only about eight years old, when he began to be the king of Judah. Yet he was probably the best king since the time of David. Although very young, he had a heart that loved God.

At the age of sixteen he sought the Lord earnestly and loved Him all the days of his life. The work of God had been neglected by his father and grandfather. Manasseh, Josiah's grandfather, was one of the most wicked kings of Judah. The Temple, God's House, had not been repaired and kept up for years. It was a big church and needed to have much work done on it. It took much money to repair it. People from all over the land gave offerings, and the money was brought to the Temple.

Book Found

One day when they were working in the Temple a priest named Hilkiah found a book. He said: "I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD." They took the book to the king and read it to him. When King Josiah heard the words of the book, he was very sad, for he learned that his people had not done as

the words in the book told them they should do. No doubt he was afraid that God would punish him and the people; and God probably would have done so if they had not repented, and had shown Him they were sorry.

Josiah loved the Lord and wanted to do the things that were right, but he did not have the Bible as we have today to tell him just what the Lord wanted him to do. But now he had the book, which taught them how the Lord wanted them to serve Him. We have the Bible today and learn how to serve the Lord by reading His Word.

Sent to Enquire

King Josiah sent men to find out from a good woman, Hulda the Prophetess, about the words in the Law. Shaphan the scribe had read to the king that the Lord would bring evil upon that place and the people there because they had forsaken Him and worshiped other gods. The king thought she would know, and she did know. She sent word to the king that the Lord would bring trouble upon the people because they had forsaken Him, but not in King Josiah's day. Because the king was sorry and had wept and prayed before the Lord, the Lord heard his prayer and would not bring evil upon him. God said he should have peace all the days of his life.

The Law Read

The king called for a great meeting at Jerusalem and read to the people out of the books of Moses – the first five books of the Bible. Then the king stood in his place and promised to follow the Lord with all his heart and to do the words in the book with all his soul. He also had all the people promise to serve the Lord with all their heart. As long as King Josiah lived, the people served and loved the Lord their God.

Book Preserved

It was wonderful that the Lord kept this book hidden away in the Temple all these years and let Hilkiah find it at this time. Wicked kings that did not love the Lord had destroyed many of the holy things that belonged to the House of God, but some way the Lord did not let them find this book of the Law. He kept it hid until there was a king on the throne who loved Him, and then He let the book be found. God knew that King Josiah would read it and would do the things that were written in the book. God knows all about us and knows just what we are doing and what we will always do.

Before children are able to read, they need to have the Word of God read to them so that they may understand and obey it. We read from the Bible in our Sunday School, and our ministers also teach it to us, but we need to read it every day in our homes so that we will know it well and can always remember what the Lord wants us to do, because God speaks to us through His Word.

Working for Jesus

Although Josiah was very young when he became king, God helped him to be a good king. God can and does use children to work for Him, if they love Him with all their heart.

Samuel was another boy whom God called when very young. His mother took him to the Temple and gave him to God. We remember that he worked in the Temple. The Lord called Samuel one night and he answered, "Here am I." "And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again." Samuel did not know that it was the Lord's voice that he heard. "And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me." And then Eli understood that the Lord had called Samuel. So Eli told Samuel to lie down again and if the Lord called him once more Samuel should say, "Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth." So Samuel went and lay down once more, and the Lord came, and stood, and called again, "Samuel, Samuel." Samuel answered, "Speak; for thy servant heareth." Then the Lord told Samuel the things He wanted him to know about what was going to happen to the people there. God must have talked to Samuel many times, for he grew up to be a man who loved God very much and did the work God gave him to do.

Joash, another little boy, was only seven years of age when he became king. When he was anointed king the people clapped their hands and said, "God save the king." He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. It was this king who first set up a chest for receiving the money, or offerings, in the church. (See II Chronicles 24:8-11; II Kings 12:9-11.) Today in our churches we have boxes, or chests, on the walls for receiving tithes and freewill offerings. We never ask people for money in our services. When they give their gift to God it is because they love to do it.

Children Saved

A young man who ushers in our church testifies, "I was brought up in a Christian home where I heard the Bible read and taught from infancy. When just a small boy, God put a desire in my heart to serve Him. I realized I would have to have a change of heart. When only five years of age, I knelt at my mother's bedside one night, and asked God to change my heart. In a few moments of prayer, I felt the joy and peace of Heaven come down. I began to rejoice and said, "Mamma, I feel so good in here!" – placing my hand over my heart. And best of all, it is still real in these days." His little daughter was saved, sanctified, and received the baptism of the Holy Ghost when only eight years of age. If we give our lives to Jesus when we are young we shall have many years of work for Him and help others to be saved.

When God Speaks

God still talks to the hearts of children. Did you ever feel in your heart when you told an untruth, or took something that did not belong to you, that you had done wrong? That was God talking to your heart and showing you that you were a sinner. Right then you were old enough to be saved. If you do not come to Him when you are young, your heart may become hard. God says, "To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Hebrews 3:15). If you wait till you get older, it may be too late and you may lose your soul. Some children hear God's voice calling them when only five, six, or seven years old. How much happier little children are when they are saved and can live without sin, because Jesus keeps them from being bad! Some may say that you are too young, but God will tell you to give Him your heart. Jesus loves little children. He said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16).

QUESTIONS

1. How old was Josiah when he became king? II Chronicles 34:1.
2. What book was found in the Temple? II Chronicles 34:15.
3. Did the young king love the Lord? II Chronicles 34:2-4, 27, 28.
4. What promise did the king have the people make? II Chronicles 34:31, 32.
5. Name two other little boys who worked for God. I Samuel 3:10; II Chronicles 24:1, 2.

LESSON RESOURCES

TITLE

THE LOST
BOOK FOUND

Lesson 89

2 Chronicles 34:1-33

Wonderful Book

WATCH AND PRAY 17



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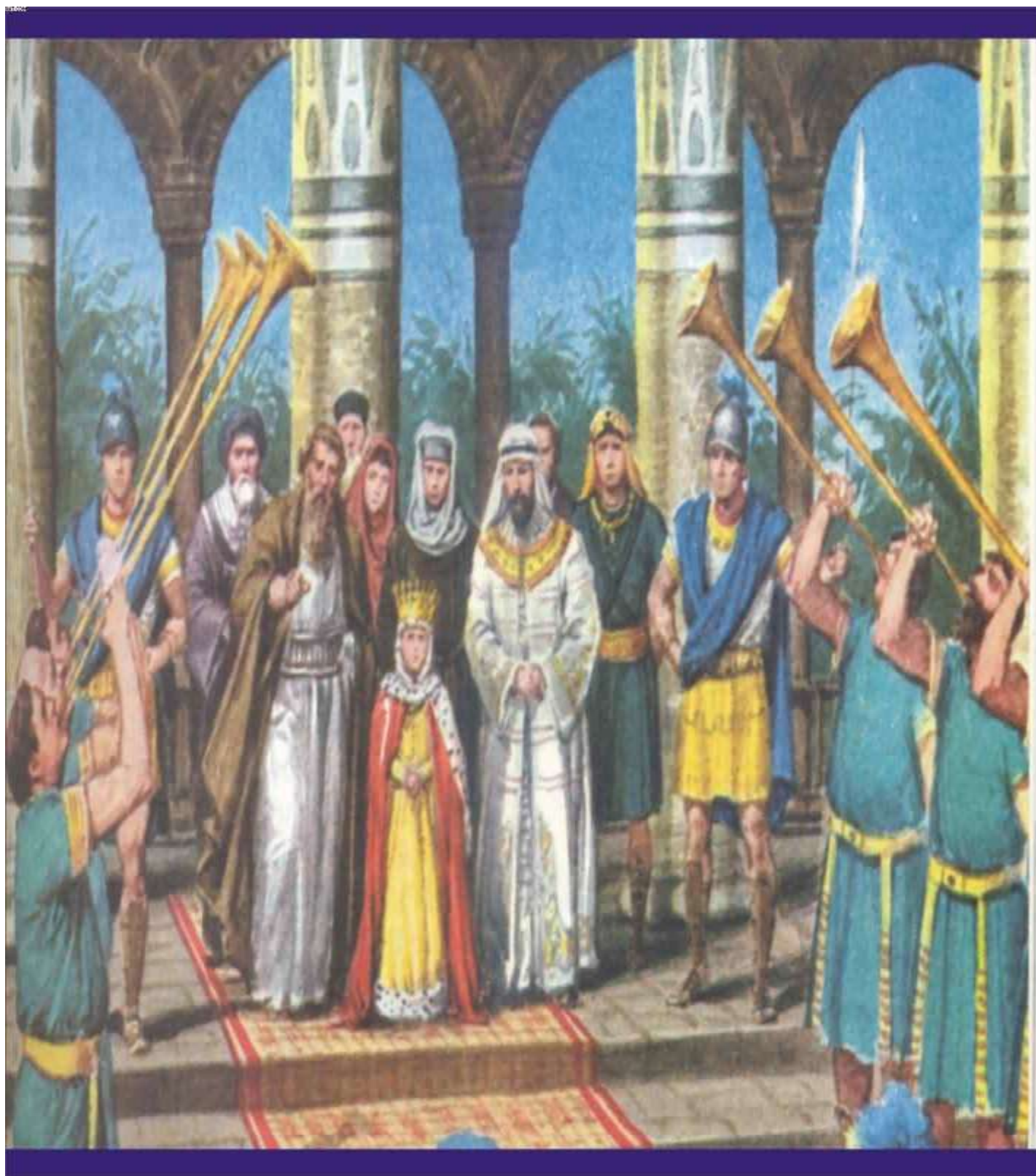
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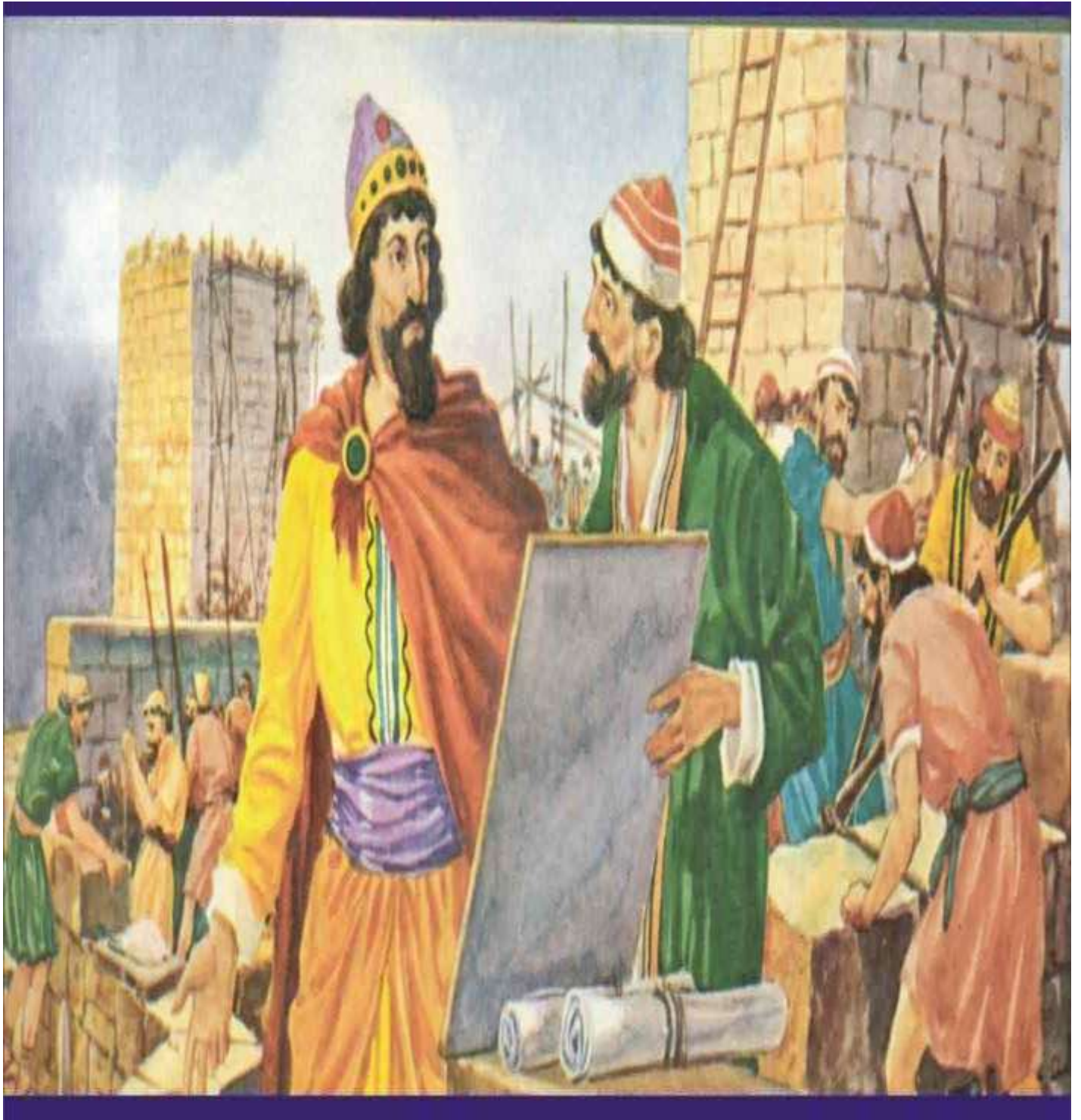
Wonderful Book

Wonderful Book! That
shines in golden splendor
Down thru the years to
make the spirit blest;
Wonderful Book that stirs
the living dead
To radiant life and song,
Eternal rest.

PICTURE 1



PICTURE 2



PICTURE 3



PICTURE 4

