

THE

CAPTAIN



IT HAPPENED ONE WINTRY SUNDAY AFTERNOON AS BRUCE AND BOB WERE RELAXING WITH THEIR FATHER...



BOYS, I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU... ABOUT HEAVEN!

SURE, DAD! BUT BOB AND I ALREADY KNOW ALL ABOUT HEAVEN!

OH YOU DO?

SURE! YOU'VE ALREADY TOLD US! HEAVEN'S A WONDERFUL PLACE, WHERE NO ONE GETS SICK, OR WILL EVER DIE!

...AND THERE WILL BE NO SADNESS OR DISAPPOINTMENT THERE. AND THE BIBLE SAYS IT'S REAL BEAUTIFUL!

WELL, THAT'S ALL TRUE, BUT THERE IS MORE TO IT THAN THAT.

... IN FACT, ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE, YOU BOYS CAN'T GET INTO HEAVEN!



WHAAT?!

THE BOYS WERE STUNNED. THEN THEY LISTENED TO THE EXPLANATION THAT FOLLOWED.

HEAVEN IS A PERFECT PLACE, AND GOD IS GOING TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

IN THE LAST BOOK OF THE BIBLE GOD SAYS THIS ABOUT HEAVEN, "NOTHING UNCLEAN WILL EVER ENTER IT, AND ALL WHO PRACTICE SHAMEFUL ACTS OR WHO DECEIVE OTHERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER."*

*REVELATION 21:27



HAVE YOU BOYS
DONE ANY
WRONG? HAVE
YOU EVER
TOLD A LIE?

WELL
SURE, YOU
KNOW
WE HAVE,
DAD! BUT...
BUT...



... BUT ALL OF OUR LIVES YOU'VE TOLD US SO MUCH
ABOUT HOW WONDERFUL HEAVEN WAS, AND WE'VE
BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING THERE SOME
DAY, TO BE HAPPY FOREVER!

YOU MUST'VE **KNOWN** WE COULDN'T
GO, DAD! WHY DID YOU TELL US
ABOUT A PLACE WE WON'T
EVER SEE?

LONG MOMENTS PASS, AS THE
TERRIBLE TRUTH SINKS IN...



FINALLY... WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU
BOYS IS THE TRUTH FROM GOD'S
WORD, THE BIBLE. BUT I'M VERY
HAPPY TO TELL YOU HOW YOU CAN
STILL GET TO HEAVEN, EVEN
THOUGH YOU'VE DONE WRONG
THINGS THE BIBLE CALLS SIN.

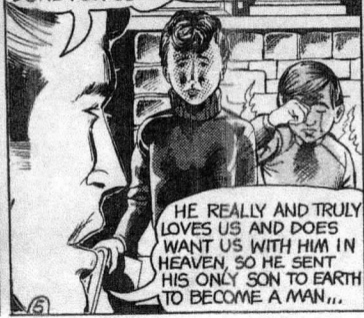
BUT HOW CAN **THAT** BE?
YOU TOLD US ONCE THAT
GOD NEVER CHANGES HIS
MIND!

YEAH! AND IF HE HAS TO
KEEP HEAVEN PERFECT
BY NOT LETTING SINNERS
IN, HOW CAN **WE** GET IN?

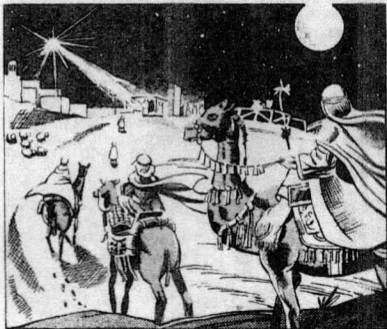


RIGHT! GOD DOESN'T CHANGE HIS
MIND, AND EVILDOERS **WON'T** GET IN!
BUT HERE'S WHAT GOD HAS
DONE FOR US--

HE REALLY AND TRULY
LOVES US AND DOES
WANT US WITH HIM IN
HEAVEN, SO HE SENT
HIS ONLY SON TO EARTH
TO BECOME A MAN...

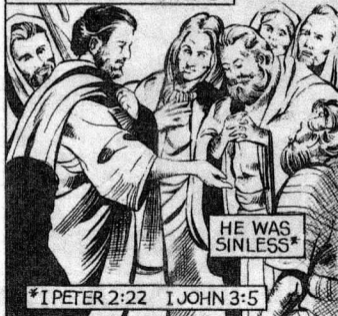


HE WAS BORN AS A BABE IN BETHLEHEM
THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS NIGHT.



THAT'S WHY WE CELEBRATE
CHRISTMAS — TO REMEMBER
HIS BIRTH.

HIS NAME WAS JESUS. JESUS LIVED
A GOOD LIFE. IN FACT, HE **NEVER**
DID ANYTHING WRONG.

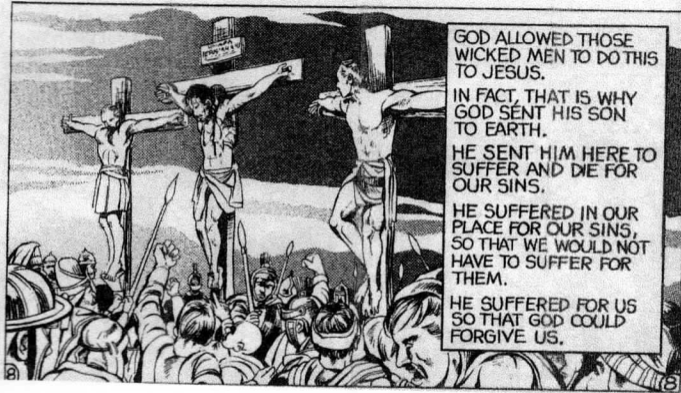


*I PETER 2:22 I JOHN 3:5

BUT WICKED MEN HATED HIM, AND
THEY TOOK HIM AND NAILED HIM
TO A CROSS.



HE DIED ON THAT CROSS.



GOD ALLOWED THOSE WICKED MEN TO DO THIS TO JESUS.

IN FACT, THAT IS WHY GOD SENT HIS SON TO EARTH.

HE SENT HIM HERE TO SUFFER AND DIE FOR OUR SINS.

HE SUFFERED IN OUR PLACE FOR OUR SINS, SO THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE TO SUFFER FOR THEM.

HE SUFFERED FOR US SO THAT GOD COULD FORGIVE US.



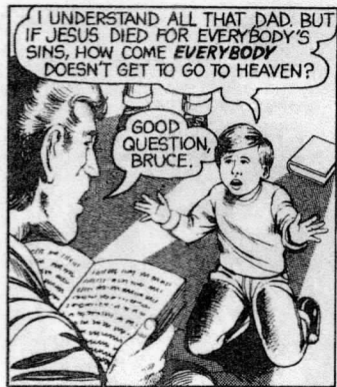
I GET IT, DAD! IT'S LIKE IF YOU WERE TO GET A SPEEDING TICKET. THE LAW SAYS A FINE HAS TO BE PAID. AND IF YOU CAN'T PAY FOR IT, BUT YOUR FRIEND DOES, THE LAW IS STILL SATISFIED, AND YOU GO FREE. RIGHT?

THAT'S RIGHT BOB, **EXCEPT...**

WHEN IT COMES TO OUR SINS, **NO ONE** BUT JESUS COULD EVER SUFFER ENOUGH FOR THEM. BECAUSE GOD'S LAW REQUIRES A PERFECT SACRIFICE, AND THE BIBLE SAYS THAT HE IS THE **ONLY PERFECT ONE.**

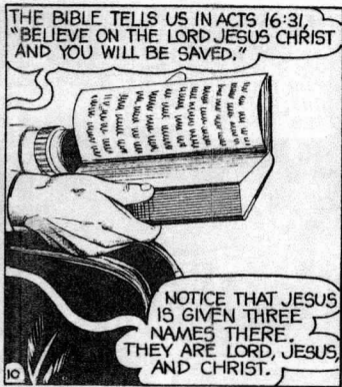


REMEMBER, HE WAS SINLESS.



I UNDERSTAND ALL THAT DAD. BUT IF JESUS DIED FOR EVERYBODY'S SINS, HOW COME **EVERYBODY** DOESN'T GET TO GO TO HEAVEN?

GOOD QUESTION, BRUCE.



THE BIBLE TELLS US IN ACTS 16:31, "BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND YOU WILL BE SAVED."

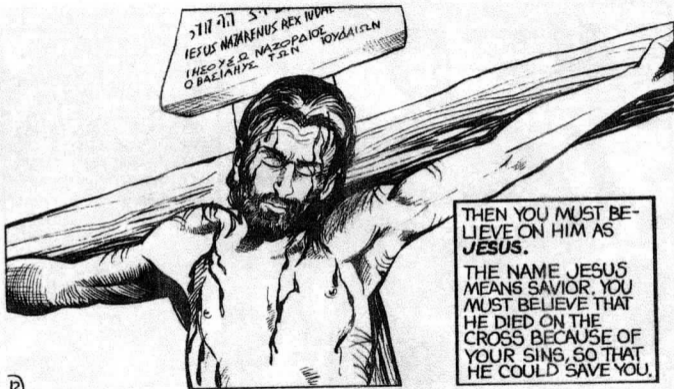
NOTICE THAT JESUS IS GIVEN THREE NAMES THERE. THEY ARE LORD, JESUS, AND CHRIST.



THAT MEANS THAT IN ORDER TO HAVE YOUR SINS FORGIVEN YOU MUST **FIRST** OF ALL BELIEVE IN HIM AS YOUR **LORD**. (LORD MEANS RULER.)

THAT MEANS THAT YOU MUST SURRENDER YOURSELF TO HIM WITH A DEEP DESIRE AND WILLINGNESS THAT HE BECOME THE LORD AND RULER OF YOUR LIFE.

HE MUST BE YOUR CAPTAIN, AND YOU MUST SEEK TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT AND OBEY HIS ORDERS.

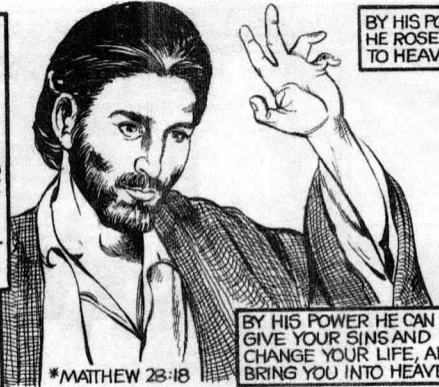


יהושע נצרי מלך היהודים
ΙΗΣΟΥΣ ΝΑΖΩΡΑΙΟΥΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΤΩΝ ΙΟΥΔΑΙΩΝ
IESUS NAZARENUS REX IUDAE

12

THEN YOU MUST BELIEVE ON HIM AS **JESUS**.
THE NAME JESUS MEANS SAVIOR. YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT HE DIED ON THE CROSS BECAUSE OF YOUR SINS, SO THAT HE COULD SAVE YOU.

THEN YOU MUST BELIEVE ON HIM AS **CHRIST**.
THE NAME CHRIST MEANS, THE ONE WHO HAS ALL POWER. GOD THE FATHER HAS GIVEN JESUS POWER TO DO EVERYTHING THAT HE HIMSELF CAN DO.
JESUS SAID, 'ALL POWER IS GIVEN UNTO ME IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH.'*



BY HIS POWER HE ROSE INTO HEAVEN.

BY HIS POWER HE CAME BACK TO LIFE ON THE THIRD DAY AFTER HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS.

*MATTHEW 28:18

13

BY HIS POWER HE CAN FORGIVE YOUR SINS AND CHANGE YOUR LIFE, AND BRING YOU INTO HEAVEN.

THANKS FOR EXPLAINING ALL OF THIS, DAD. I THINK I UNDERSTAND IT NOW.

ME TOO!

IN THAT CASE, I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU TWO...

...WOULD YOU BOYS LIKE TO ASK JESUS TO BE YOUR LORD AND CAPTAIN, AND ASK HIM TO FORGIVE YOUR SINS AND BRING YOU TO HEAVEN SOME DAY?

YEAH!

SURE DAD!



FOLLOWING THEIR FATHER'S EXAMPLE, THE TWO BOYS KNELT IN PRAYER AND ASKED GOD TO FORGIVE THEIR SINS.

THEY ALSO TOLD JESUS THAT WITH ALL THEIR HEART THEY WANTED HIM TO BE THEIR LORD AND CAPTAIN FROM THAT DAY ON.

THEY THEN HAD THE WONDERFUL JOY OF KNOWING THAT THEY WOULD BE WITH HIM IN HEAVEN FOREVER.



YOU CAN HAVE THIS JOY, TOO! THE BIBLE SAYS "ALL HAVE SINNED,"* INCLUDING YOU, AND BECAUSE OF THIS ALL ARE LOST.

BUT CHRIST DIED TO SAVE YOU!

RIGHT NOW, WHEREVER YOU ARE, WITH ALL YOUR HEART, GIVE YOUR LIFE TO JESUS, AND ASK HIM TO BE YOUR CAPTAIN!

*ROMANS 3:23

16

YOU DON'T NEED TO PRAY A LONG PRAYER, BUT BE SURE YOU MEAN IT. YOU MAY PRAY WITH THESE WORDS, AND MAKE THIS YOUR VERY OWN PRAYER TO GOD. THINK OF THE MEANING OF EVERY WORD AND SENTENCE AS YOU PRAY.

"DEAR GOD, I KNOW I AM A SINNER. I BELIEVE JESUS DIED FOR ME. FORGIVE MY SINS AND HELP ME TO LIVE RIGHT. AND DEAR JESUS, I WANT YOU TO BE THE LORD AND CAPTAIN OF MY LIFE. WITH YOUR HELP I WILL SEEK TO PLEASE YOU IN EVERYTHING. LEAD ME FOREVER IN YOUR WAY."

SIGNED _____

DATE _____ 19 _____



IF YOU PRAYED, AND REALLY MEAN IT— THEN PUT YOUR NAME ON IT, AND THE DATE, AND KEEP THIS LITTLE MESSAGE AS A REMINDER OF THE DAY YOU MADE THIS PROMISE TO THE LORD AND HE BECAME YOUR CAPTAIN.

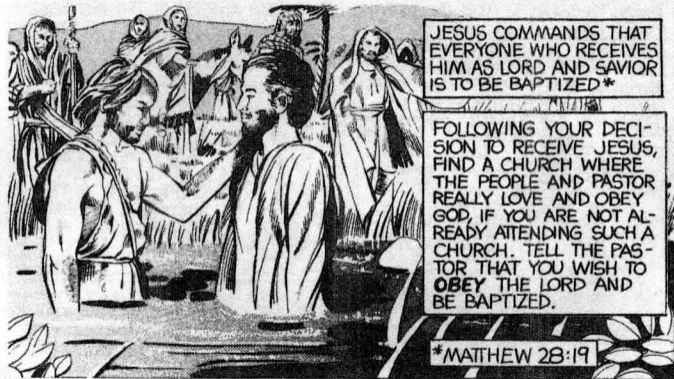
READ IT OVER WHENEVER YOU NEED ENCOURAGEMENT AND HELP.

AND KNOW THIS, GOD PROMISES IN THE BIBLE THAT HE WILL BE WITH YOU, TO HELP YOU IN YOUR NEW LIFE.*

*HEBREWS 7:25 AND 13:5-6
I CORINTHIANS 10:13. ROMANS 8:26-28
GALATIANS 4:6-7



18



JESUS COMMANDS THAT EVERYONE WHO RECEIVES HIM AS LORD AND SAVIOR IS TO BE BAPTIZED*

FOLLOWING YOUR DECISION TO RECEIVE JESUS, FIND A CHURCH WHERE THE PEOPLE AND PASTOR REALLY LOVE AND OBEY GOD, IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY ATTENDING SUCH A CHURCH. TELL THE PASTOR THAT YOU WISH TO OBEY THE LORD AND BE BAPTIZED.

*MATTHEW 28:19

THEN, TO GROW IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE THERE ARE FOUR THINGS YOU MUST DO...

FIRST: HAVE A TALK WITH YOUR LORD EVERY DAY IN PRAYER, AND EVEN SEVERAL TIMES A DAY.* TALK **EVERYTHING** OVER WITH HIM, BOTH THE LITTLE AND BIG THINGS.



AND DON'T FORGET TO THANK HIM FOR THE THINGS HE WILL BE DOING FOR YOU.

* YOU DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO KNEEL AND CLOSE YOUR EYES TO TALK TO GOD. YOU CAN TALK TO HIM WHENEVER YOU WANT AND WHEREVER YOU ARE.

SECOND: READ HIS INSTRUCTION BOOK, WHICH IS THE BIBLE. YOU MUST READ THIS TO KNOW WHAT HIS DIRECTIONS ARE FOR YOU.



READ SOMETHING FROM THIS BOOK EVERY DAY. START WITH THE GOSPEL OF LUKE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ A LOT, BUT ASK GOD TO GUIDE YOU AND THEN THINK A LOT ABOUT WHAT YOU DID READ.

(20)

THIRD: TELL OTHERS ABOUT THE WAY TO HEAVEN. THEY NEED YOUR HELP. AND WHEN YOU HELP THEM IT WILL ALSO HELP YOU TO BECOME A STRONG CHRISTIAN.



BESIDES THAT, THERE ARE GREAT REWARDS IN HEAVEN PROMISED FOR THOSE WHO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.*

(21)

* DANIEL 12:3

AND **FOURTH:** THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN YOU WILL KNOW THAT YOU HAVE NOT PLEASSED GOD. YOU MAY HAVE DONE OR SAID SOMETHING THAT WAS WRONG.

GO TO GOD RIGHT A-WAY AND ASK HIM TO FORGIVE YOU FOR DOING THAT THING.

BE SURE AND ASK FORGIVENESS FROM ANY PERSON YOU MAY HAVE WRONGED, TOO. **GOD WILL FORGIVE YOU.***

* I JOHN 1:9

IF YOU DO THESE FOUR THINGS YOU WILL REALLY PLEASE YOUR LORD AND CAPTAIN, AND YOU WILL GROW AND BECOME MORE AND MORE LIKE HIM. "EVERYONE WHO CONQUERS SIN AND SATAN WILL INHERIT EVERYTHING, AND I WILL BE HIS GOD AND HE WILL BE MY SON." (REVELATION 21:7)

THE MOST WONDERFUL THING ABOUT THE DEATH OF JESUS WAS THAT DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM. HE AROSE FROM THE GRAVE THE THIRD DAY AFTER HIS DEATH. HE **LIVES!** AND HIS PROMISE TO THOSE WHO LIVE FOR HIM IS "I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS."

HE ALSO SAID, "I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU. AND IF I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU, I WILL COME AGAIN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU UNTO MYSELF;



SO THAT WHERE I AM, YOU MAY BE ALSO."

LIFE IS VERY SHORT. AND FOR **YOU** IT MAY BE SHORTER THAN YOU EXPECT. BUT IF YOU LOVE THE LORD AND SERVE HIM, YOU WILL LIVE ON FOREVER IN HIS KINGDOM.

ADAPTATION & ART BY DERYL SKELTON, FROM A TRUE STORY BY RAY W. JOHNSON

A Word From Paul

"I plead with you dear brothers as you think of how merciful God has been to you, that you now give your bodies to Him as living sacrifices. Serve Him with a life that is truly pleasing to Him, a life freed from impurity and wickedness. Can you do any less than this when you think of all He has done for you?

"Don't let the unbelievers around you influence you to have the same low aims they have, but let God fully change you by giving you a new

mind and character. Then God will lead you to discover what His good, delightful, and perfect will is for your life."

—from Paul, Romans 12:1-2