

Believe

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

Mark 5:35, "While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe."

So much is said in scripture about faith and believing in Jesus and all that God has said. To believe is to have faith in God and in Jesus. As Jesus told the father of the girl in Mark 5, we should not fear, but believe in the promise of God. The real question is - Do we really believe in God, his son Jesus, and all that he has said?

This father who was seeking help for his daughter had come to Jesus and begged for his help. He had to be heartbroken when he was told that she was dead and that it was too late. The Lord merely told him not to fear, but to believe. He did believe and was blessed to see his daughter raised from the dead. Faith is rewarded in those who dare to trust in God, not in what he world tells them.

In John 11 we see the story of Lazarus who was dead and buried for four days. His sister, Martha, likewise thought it was to late for the Lord to do anything. She said, "Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days," (**John 11:39**). Once again Jesus was not defeated even by the time of the death of Lazarus. Four hours, or four days, made no difference to the Lord. He didn't say that it was too late, but he said, "Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?" (**John 11:40**). He called for Lazarus to come out of the tomb and he came out. Martha, Mary, and all of the people who were there saw the glory of God. Faith brought a miracle because they believed in Jesus as the Lord, the Son of God.

Other people trusted in God and had faith in Jesus as the Christ of God. They were told to put their faith in him and to trust, not fearing, but believing in the power of God. Those who were willing to believe in spite of the priests and other Jewish leaders saw blessings come to them. Only those who dared to trust in the Lord received the blessing. None that doubted that Jesus was, and is, the Lord were blessed.

Jesus not only talked about the future and the blessing of the world to come, but he talked about help in this

life. Trusting in him as savior and obeying him brings forgiveness for sins and help here and now. God makes a way for his people and guides us as we go through this life. Many could, and should, tell of prayers answered, and blessings given throughout life. The Lord promises peace and help with the cares of life. That is not to say that everything will go smooth and easy in our lives. It means that we don't have to face the trials and problems alone.

If a person can only say that he believes when everything is going alright then what kind of faith does he have? To believe God is just that - to believe in God even when we don't see how it will work out. When we can't understand and see the answer that is when we should trust in Jesus and be glad that we know the answer - Jesus. He knows what we need and as long as we know him and keep the faith it will work out for us. It may not be like we thought it would be, but it will be the right way. I still think that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said it best in **Daniel 3:17-18** when they said, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." That is trust and faith that brings miracles.

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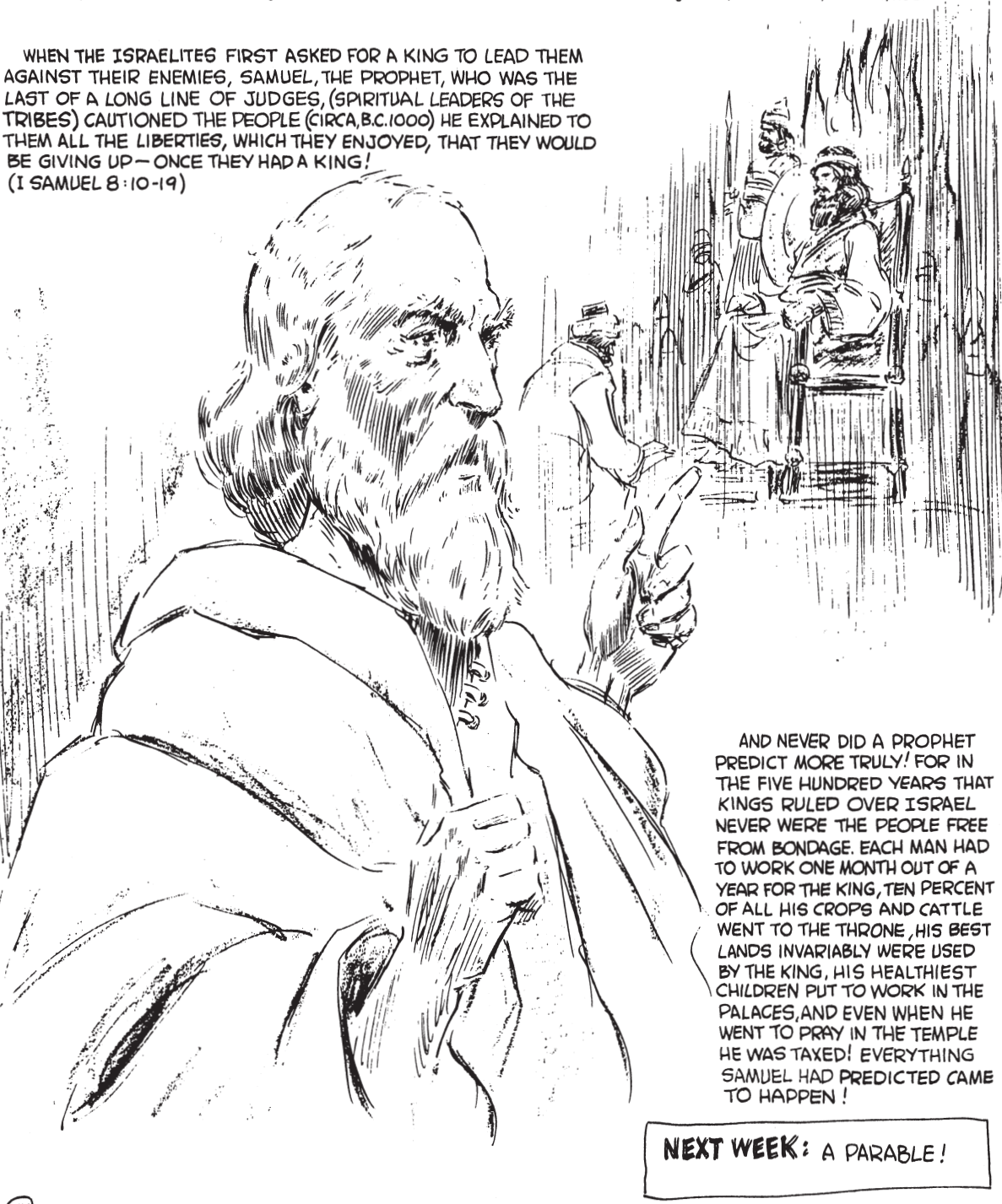
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WHEN THE ISRAELITES FIRST ASKED FOR A KING TO LEAD THEM AGAINST THEIR ENEMIES, SAMUEL, THE PROPHET, WHO WAS THE LAST OF A LONG LINE OF JUDGES, (SPIRITUAL LEADERS OF THE TRIBES) CAUTIONED THE PEOPLE (CIRCA B.C. 1000) HE EXPLAINED TO THEM ALL THE LIBERTIES, WHICH THEY ENJOYED, THAT THEY WOULD BE GIVING UP - ONCE THEY HAD A KING!
(1 SAMUEL 8:10-19)



AND NEVER DID A PROPHET PREDICT MORE TRULY! FOR IN THE FIVE HUNDRED YEARS THAT KINGS RULED OVER ISRAEL NEVER WERE THE PEOPLE FREE FROM BONDAGE. EACH MAN HAD TO WORK ONE MONTH OUT OF A YEAR FOR THE KING, TEN PERCENT OF ALL HIS CROPS AND CATTLE WENT TO THE THRONE, HIS BEST LANDS INvariably WERE USED BY THE KING, HIS HEALTHIEST CHILDREN PUT TO WORK IN THE PALACES, AND EVEN WHEN HE WENT TO PRAY IN THE TEMPLE HE WAS TAXED! EVERYTHING SAMUEL HAD PREDICTED CAME TO HAPPEN!

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