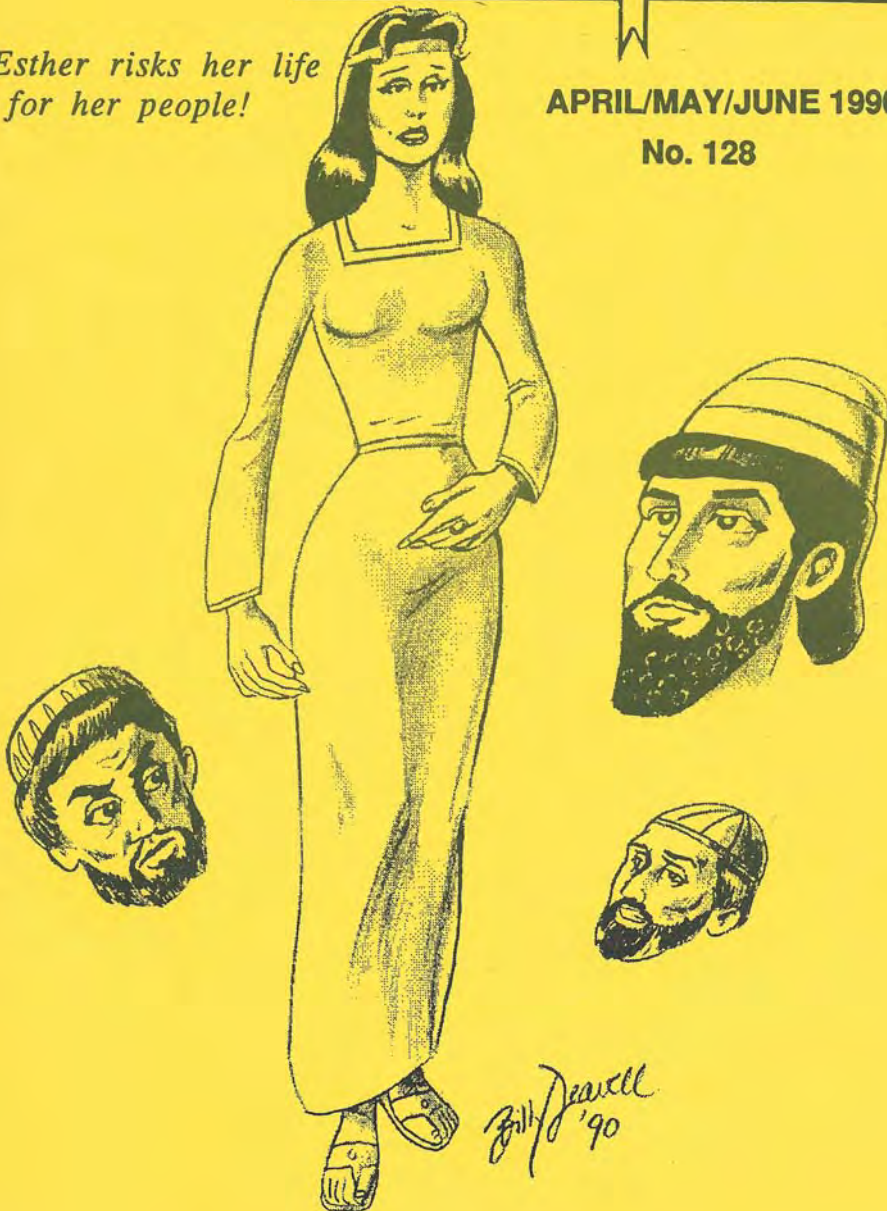




*Esther risks her life
for her people!*

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 1990

No. 128



*Billy Jewell
'90*

Personally from Billy



This may have been a busy summer for you. For us it most certainly was! But now in your hands you hold a special issue. In this issue and the next we are running the story of Esther. And to make this issue even more special, we have had Mrs. Emma Farmer ink over your editor's pencils. This collaboration between Mrs. Farmer and Billy Leavell on our Bible comic strips was done several times in the late 60s and 70s. This collaboration has declined in recent years, but now in the early 90s we have had both producing material for our pages again.

But what is most interesting is that Mrs. Emma Farmer is now 80! But she still has her skills and is willing to do more work for us. We will most certainly use her as long as the Lord permits her to remain on the earth. Meanwhile, enjoy the story in this issue and the next... and why not look it up in your own Bible when you finish?

Warmly yours in Him,

Billy Leavell
Editor



USPS (087-210)

2285 Frayser Boulevard
Memphis, TN 38127

Second Class Postage
Paid at Memphis, Tennessee

Published quarterly
by East Frayser Church of Christ
2285 Frayser Boulevard
Memphis, Tennessee.
Second class postage
paid at Memphis, Tennessee.

Postmaster: send address
changes to:

Light for the Deaf
2285 Frayser Boulevard
Memphis, TN 38127

Subscription is free to all,
though donations are
welcome.

Billy Leavell, Editor

The Story of Esther



ART BY LEAVELL AND FARMER



AHASUERUS WAS TIPSY FROM THE WINE HE DRANK...

UMF! MY SEVEN EUNUCH SERVANTS!

YES?



BRING IN VASHTI THE QUEEN SO SHE CAN SHOW THE PEOPLE AND PRINCES HER BEAUTY!

THE SEVEN EUNUCH SERVANTS CAME AND TOLD VASHTI WHAT THE KING WANTED, BUT...



NO! I WON'T DO IT! NOT BEFORE DRUNKS!



THE KING AND PRINCES WERE SHOCKED! NEVER BEFORE HAD A QUEEN REFUSED TO OBEY HER KING!

AHASUERUS CALLED HIS ADVISERS...



WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY WE MUST DO TO THE QUEEN VASHTI? SHE HAS NOT OBEYED HER KING!

MEMUCAN, ONE OF THE ADVISERS, ANSWERED...



VASHTI HAS NOT ONLY DONE WRONG TO THE KING, BUT ALSO TO ALL THE PRINCES AND ALL THE PEOPLE IN ALL THE PROVINCES.

WHAT VASHTI DID WILL BECOME KNOWN TO ALL THE WOMEN. THEN THE WOMEN WILL LOOK DOWN AT THEIR HUSBANDS.



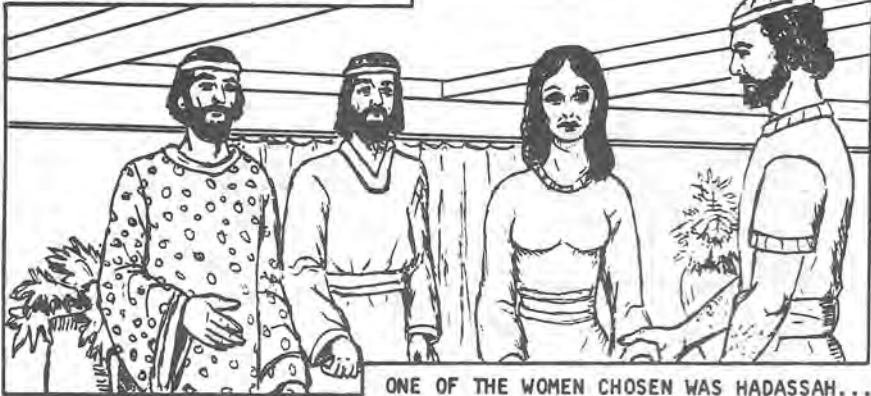
IF IT PLEASURES THE KING, LET HIM MAKE A ROYAL COMMANDMENT THAT VASHTI MUST NEVER AGAIN COME BEFORE KING AHASUERUS.

AND LET THE KING MAKE ANOTHER WOMAN QUEEN, SOMEONE BETTER THAN VASHTI.



THIS PLEASED THE KING! HE DID AS HIS ADVISER MEMUCAN SAID.

OFFICERS CHOSE WOMEN FROM THE EMPIRE TO FIND A
NEW QUEEN FOR KING AHASUERUS...



ONE OF THE WOMEN CHOSEN WAS HADASSAH...

REMEMBER, USE YOUR
PERSIAN NAME **ESTHER**.
DON'T TELL ANYONE
YOU'RE A JEW.

YES, MORDECAI, I'LL
REMEMBER. YOU'VE
BEEN LIKE A FATHER
TO ME.

AND YOU LIKE A
DAUGHTER TO ME.

SINCE MY UNCLE
ABIHAIL-- YOUR
FATHER-- DIED,
I HAVE TAKEN
YOU IN AND
RAISED YOU.

I'LL COME BY THE
PALACE EVERY DAY
TO CHECK ON YOU.

NEVER DID I
DREAM YOU WOULD
GROW TO BE AS
BEAUTIFUL AS
YOU ARE NOW!

I MUST GO,
MORDECAI.
I-- I'LL MISS
YOU...

HADASSAH, OR ESTHER AS SHE WAS NOW KNOWN AS, WAS GATHERED WITH OTHER LADIES FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE EMPIRE BEFORE HEGAI, THE KING'S SERVANT WHO TOOK CARE OF THE WOMEN.

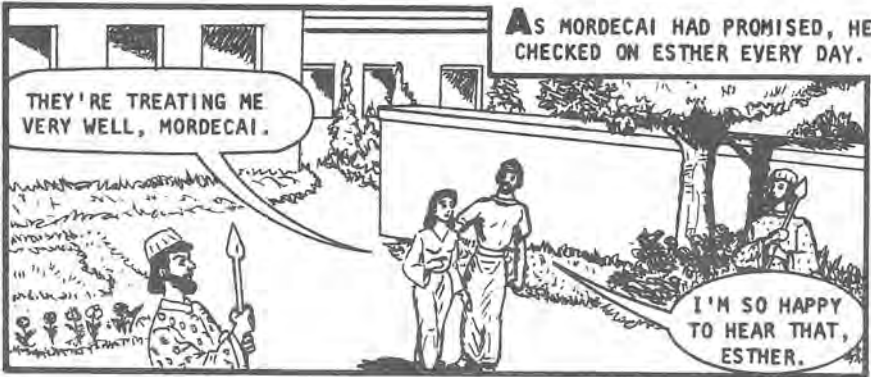


HM, YOU'RE A BEAUTIFUL ONE.

I'M GIVING YOU SEVEN SERVANTS AND OUR BEST BEAUTY TREATMENTS.



AND YOU'LL HAVE THE BEST ROOM IN THIS HOUSE.

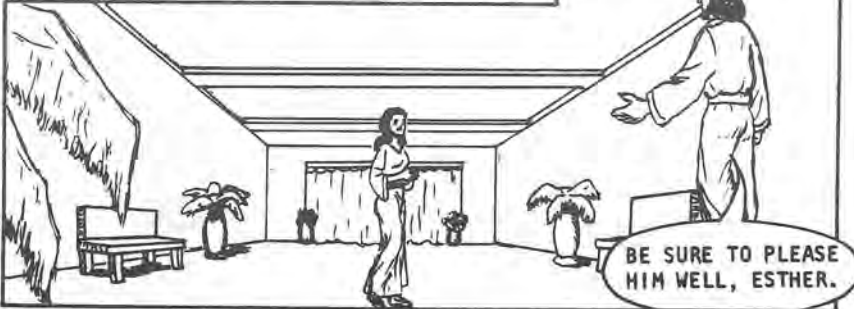


THEY'RE TREATING ME VERY WELL, MORDECAI.

AS MORDECAI HAD PROMISED, HE CHECKED ON ESTHER EVERY DAY.

I'M SO HAPPY TO HEAR THAT, ESTHER.

AFTER A YEAR OF BEAUTY TREATMENTS, ESTHER WAS CALLED TO GO BEFORE KING AHASUERUS...



BE SURE TO PLEASE HIM WELL, ESTHER.



YOUR NAME IS ESTHER, EH?



THAT MEANS **STAR**. INDEED, YOU SHINE FROM BEAUTY...



MORE THAN THE OTHERS.

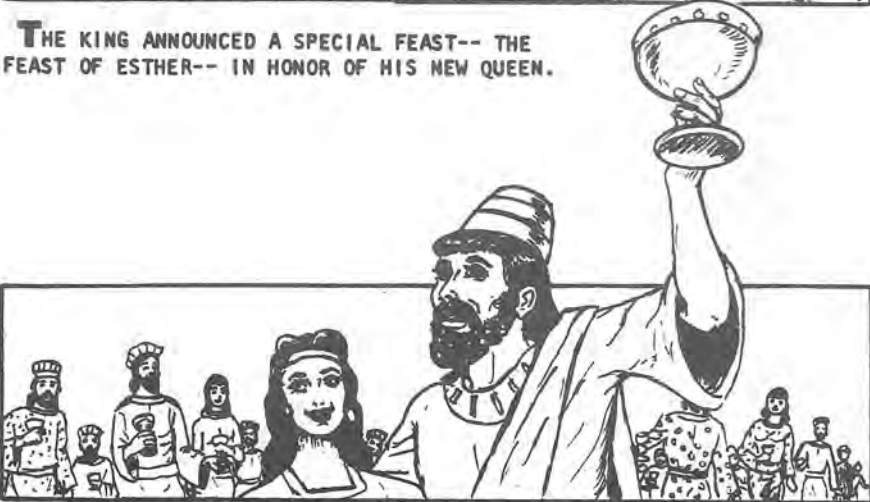


ESTHER... YOU WILL BE MY STAR...

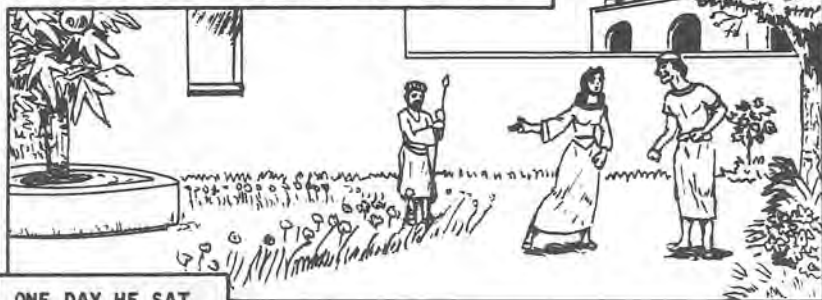


YOU WILL BE MY QUEEN.

THE KING ANNOUNCED A SPECIAL FEAST-- THE FEAST OF ESTHER-- IN HONOR OF HIS NEW QUEEN.



MORDECAI WAS HAPPY FOR HIS FOSTER DAUGHTER!
AS USUAL HE CONTINUED TO CHECK ON ESTHER.



ONE DAY HE SAT
INSIDE THE KING'S
GATE, WHEN HE
HEARD...



I'M MAD AT THE
KING, BIGTHAN!

ME TOO, TERESHI!



WHY DON'T WE MAKE
PLANS TO GET RID
OF HIM?

HEY, TERESH,
YOU GOT A
GOOD IDEA!



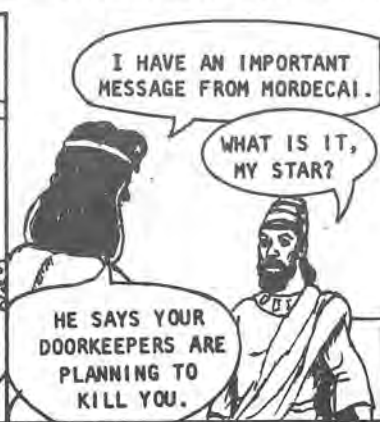
LISTEN, BIGTHAN,
HERE'S HOW WE'LL
DO IT...

MORDECAI LEFT QUIETLY...



YES, MY LOVE. THE
DOORKEEPERS, BIGTHAN
AND TERESH ARE PLANNING
TO KILL THE KING.

THANK YOU, MORDECAI.
I'LL LET THE KING
KNOW.



I HAVE AN IMPORTANT
MESSAGE FROM MORDECAI.

WHAT IS IT,
MY STAR?

HE SAYS YOUR
DOORKEEPERS ARE
PLANNING TO
KILL YOU.

KING AHASUERUS' OFFICERS CHECKED INTO IT AND FOUND IT WAS TRUE.



THE TWO DOORKEEPERS WHO HAD PLANNED TO KILL THE KING WERE HANGED ON A GALLOWS.

BUT SOMEHOW HE FORGOT TO REWARD MORDECAI!



SOMETIME LATER, KING AHASUERUS PROMOTED ONE OF HIS OFFICIALS...



HAMAN, THE SON OF HAMMEDATHA, YOU ARE ABOVE ALL THE LEADERS WHO ARE WITH YOU.

HAMAN WAS EXCITED AND PROUD!



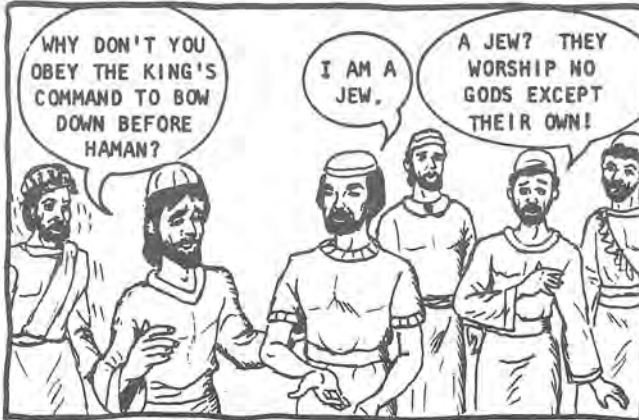
THE MEN BOWED TO HIM!



BUT NOT ALL--

MORDECAI CONTINUED TO STAND!

HAMAN WAS ANGRY THAT MORDECAI
WOULD NOT BOW TO HIM!



WHY DON'T YOU
OBEY THE KING'S
COMMAND TO BOW
DOWN BEFORE
HAMAN?

I AM A
JEW.

A JEW? THEY
WORSHIP NO
GODS EXCEPT
THEIR OWN!



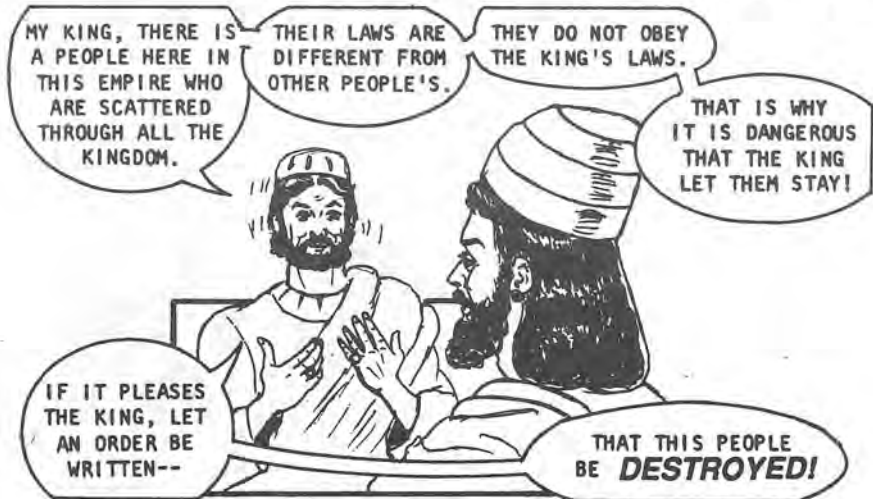
SO HE IS
A JEW?

I'LL NOT ONLY
GET RID OF HIM,
BUT ALSO **ALL**
HIS PEOPLE!

HAMAN HAD A VERY EVIL PLAN IN MIND!



HE CAME TO KING AHASUERUS...



MY KING, THERE IS
A PEOPLE HERE IN
THIS EMPIRE WHO
ARE SCATTERED
THROUGH ALL THE
KINGDOM.

THEIR LAWS ARE
DIFFERENT FROM
OTHER PEOPLE'S.

THEY DO NOT OBEY
THE KING'S LAWS.

THAT IS WHY
IT IS DANGEROUS
THAT THE KING
LET THEM STAY!

IF IT PLEASES
THE KING, LET
AN ORDER BE
WRITTEN--

THAT THIS PEOPLE
BE **DESTROYED!**

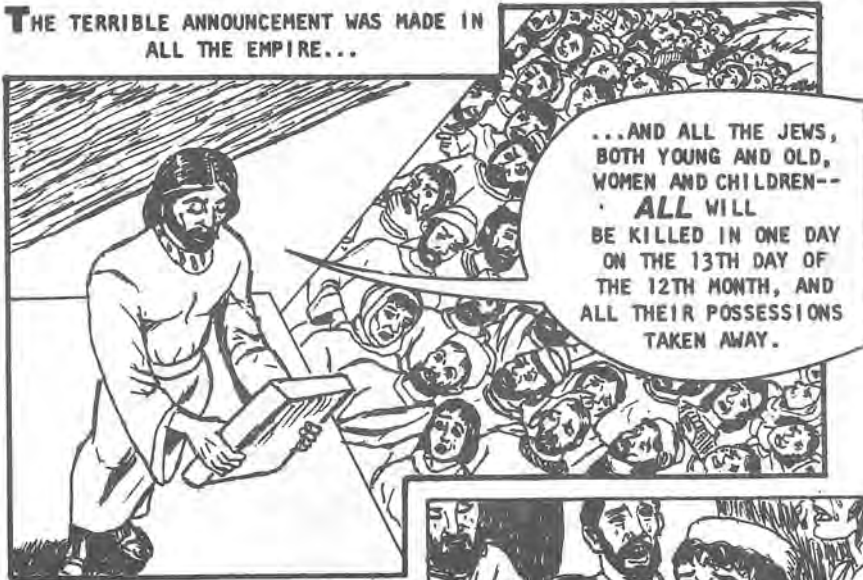
THE KING TOOK THE RING FROM HIS FINGER AND LET HAMAN USE IT TO PUT THE KING'S SEAL ON THE TERRIBLE ORDER TO KILL ALL THE JEWS.



BUT KING AHASUERUS DID NOT REALIZE THAT HIS OWN QUEEN-- ESTHER-- WAS A JEW!



THE TERRIBLE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE IN ALL THE EMPIRE...

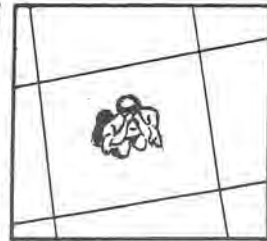


...AND ALL THE JEWS, BOTH YOUNG AND OLD, WOMEN AND CHILDREN-- ALL WILL BE KILLED IN ONE DAY ON THE 13TH DAY OF THE 12TH MONTH, AND ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS TAKEN AWAY.



THE JEWS WERE UPSET WHEN THEY HEARD THE TERRIBLE NEWS!

MORDECAI TORE HIS CLOTHES TO SHOW HE WAS VERY UPSET.



HE PUT ON SACKCLOTH AND ASHES AND WENT OUT INTO THE TOWN SQUARE, CRYING BITTERLY...



MORDECAI IS CLOTHED IN SACKCLOTH AND HAS ASHES ON HIS HEAD.



WHAT! LISTEN, BRING FRESH CLOTHES TO HIM!



BUT MORDECAI REFUSED THE FRESH CLOTHES THAT ESTHER'S SERVANTS BROUGHT HIM...



HATHACH, YOU ARE A MOST FAITHFUL SERVANT. PLEASE GO TO MORDECAI AND FIND WHY HE IS SO UPSET.

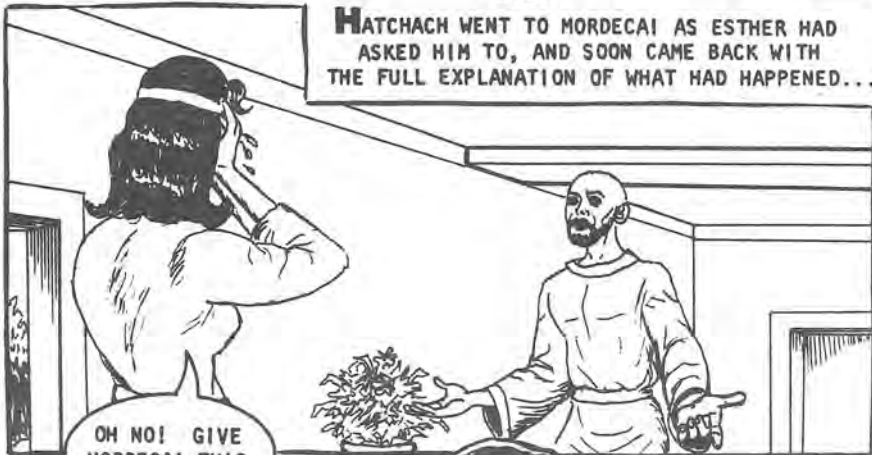


YES, ESTHER.

HATHACH GAVE MORDECAI ESTHER'S MESSAGE...



HATHACH WENT TO MORDECAI AS ESTHER HAD ASKED HIM TO, AND SOON CAME BACK WITH THE FULL EXPLANATION OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED...



OH NO! GIVE MORDECAI THIS MESSAGE...

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT ANY MAN OR WOMAN WHO GOES INTO THE INSIDE COURT TO SEE THE KING WITHOUT BEING CALLED WILL BE PUT TO **DEATH**-

EXCEPT THE ONE TO WHOM THE KING HOLDS OUT HIS GOLDEN SCEPTER!

BUT FOR THIRTY DAYS I HAVE NOT BEEN CALLED TO GO SEE THE KING.



SO I CAN'T TALK WITH HIM TO STOP THIS TERRIBLE LAW!



THANK YOU, HATHACH. NOW GIVE ESTHER MY MESSAGE...

DON'T THINK THAT YOU WILL ESCAPE IN THE KING'S PALACE ANY MORE THAN THE OTHER JEWS.

FOR IF YOU KEEP SILENCE COMPLETELY, RELIEF... AND SALVATION... WILL COME TO THE JEWS FROM ANOTHER PLACE.



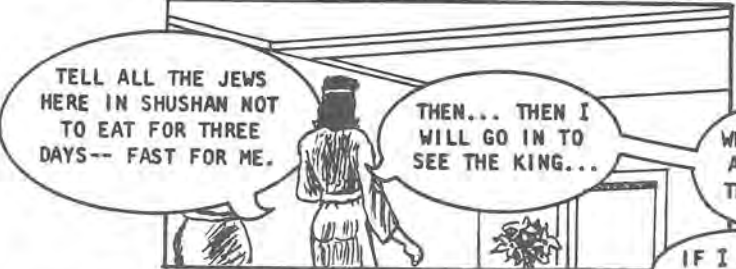
WITH THESE WORDS MORDECAI WAS SHOWING HIS FAITH IN THE GOD WHO CONTROLS ALL!

BUT YOU... AND YOUR FATHER'S FAMILY... WILL DIE.

WHO KNOWS? MAYBE YOU BECAME A QUEEN FOR A TIME LIKE THIS!



MORDECAI'S RIGHT. GIVE HIM THIS MESSAGE FOR ME...



TELL ALL THE JEWS HERE IN SHUSHAN NOT TO EAT FOR THREE DAYS-- FAST FOR ME.

THEN... THEN I WILL GO IN TO SEE THE KING...

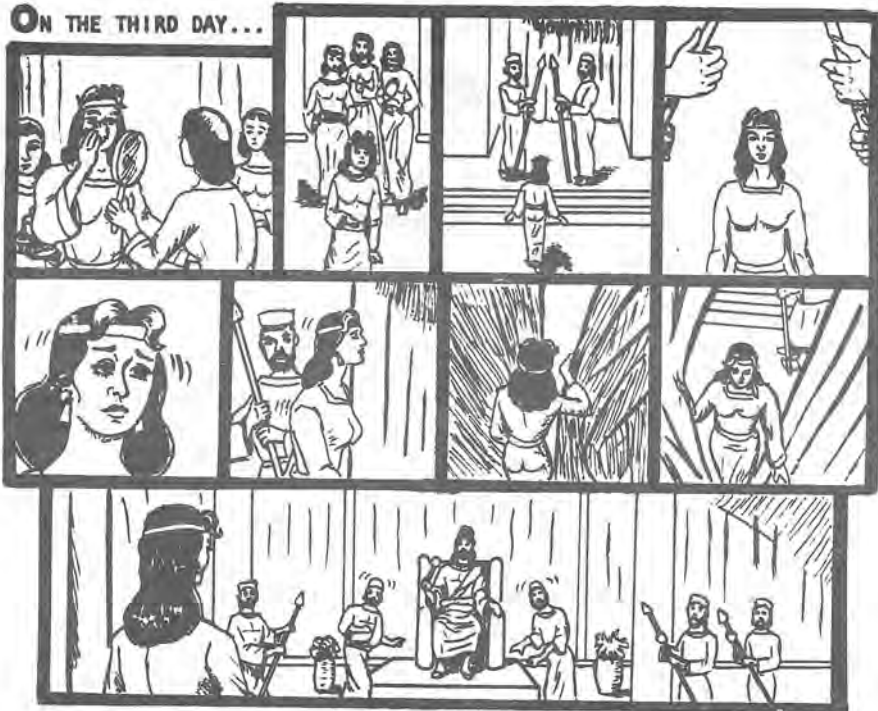
WHICH IS AGAINST THE LAW.

IF I DIE, THEN I DIE!



THE JEWS PRAYED AND FASTED FOR THREE DAYS AS ESTHER HAD ASKED THEM TO DO.

ON THE THIRD DAY...



TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

PROPER APPLICATION

by James Floyd

Following a lesson on the parable of the Good Samaritan, the teacher asked the class the meaning of the parable. A little boy responded, "It means that if I get in trouble, someone is supposed to help me."

You can't completely disagree with him, but he did miss the main point of the parable. He saw opportunities for someone to help him, but overlooked the fact that he is to help others.

How often do we reverse the application of Christian principles? The command to visit comes to mind that when I'm sick, others ought to visit me.

The command to forgive obligates others to forgive me when I offend them. Gratitude means others being thankful for what I do for them. Cooperation means that others carry out the plans I have made. Sympathy means that others ought to have more feeling toward my problems.

The above applications are not so much incorrect as they are incomplete. They make me the recipient of all the blessings of Christian principles, but overlook the opportunities for me to fulfill them toward others.

WHO SAID BAPTISM WAS NECESSARY?



by Steve Richard

You may have been told, "Baptism has nothing to do with salvation."

But *Jesus said*, "Any person who believes and is baptized will be saved. . . But the person who does not believe will be judged guilty" (Mark 16:16, EVD). Also, *Peter said*, "That water is like baptism that now saves you. Baptism is not the washing of dirt from the body. Baptism is asking God for a pure heart. It saves you because Jesus Christ was raised from death" (1 Peter 3:21, EVD).

You may have been told, "One can please God without ever being baptized. But *Luke said*, "The Pharisees and teachers of the law refused to accept God's plan for themselves; they did not let John baptize them" (Luke 7:30, EVD).

Likewise, today many refuse to consider God by refusing the baptism Jesus teaches.

It does matter *who* is speaking and *whose* word we accept. Let us accept only what comes from the Bible. We must obey Him who is our example.

Let us trust in God our Savior!

Behold, God, is my salvation;
I will trust and not be afraid,
for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song;
He also is become my salvation!

Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the
waters of salvation.

And in that day shall ye say,
"Praise the Lord,
call upon His name,
declare His doings among the people,
make mention that His name is exalted!"

Sing unto the Lord,
for He hath done excellent things;
this is known in all the earth!

--Isaiah 12:2-5

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The answers given to the questions below are the responsibility of the Editor. You may direct all queries to LIGHT FOR THE DEAF, 2285 Frayser Boulevard, Memphis, TN 38128.

Q

Suppose a Christian says, "I don't have to read the Bible because I learn from what the preacher says in worship services." Does this mean the Christian sins?

A

Most of the time, the Christian who says this is either a weak or immature babe in Christ who does not realize how important God's Word is. God wants all of

us to read His Bible and learn what He wants in our lives. If we always depend on the preacher to do our studying for us, then we are in danger because preachers are like other human beings, they make mistakes and can give us the wrong interpretation of God's teaching. Does the Christian who thinks it is enough to learn from the preacher sin? If he knows better, but is just too lazy to study, then yes, he sins (James 4:17). But God will probably be patient with the Christian who does not yet realize how important it is to study God's Word for himself.

WHAT IS MISSING?

by Roy Price

What have you missed in life? This is a good question. I recall a few weeks ago Robin and I went to Tannehill Park to eat breakfast on a sunny Saturday morning. After we finished eating, we went outside and walked across a bridge with a small waterfall. Robin said, "It's so interesting to hear the sound of the waterfall. It makes a person feel relaxed to hear a new sound."

I can see what and how much a deaf person like myself has missed.

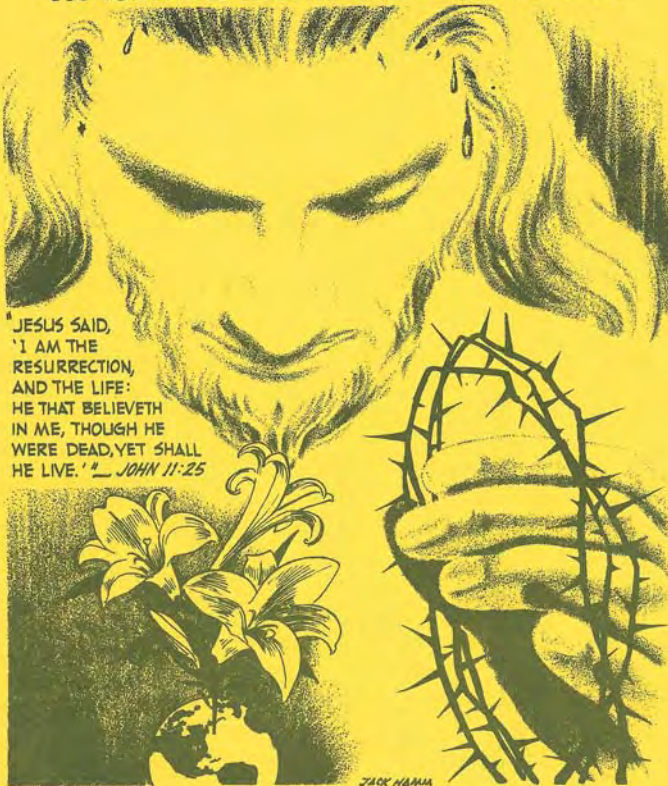
Speaking of the word "miss", we need to seriously think of what we have missed in the spiritual life. What I mean is that if one misses worship for no better reason than a serious illness, he/she would miss hearing a wonderful sermon from God's Word. It could lead to consequences just like the falling down of dominoes. After-

ward he/she would miss the experience of spiritual maturity. Also he/she would miss the chance of serving Christ.

There is a long list of missing precious things to do in this Christian life until the Lord comes the second time. Listen to what He could say: "Your name is not listed in the Book of Life." Then your name would be on the list of missing persons in the Heavenly Bureau of Souls. Yes, this may be true because of the wilful sin of missing the worship and not doing God's will. To miss eternal life in heaven would be much worse than what we have missed in this earthly life. Personally I do not mind missing my normal hearing, but I do not want to lose my soul.

Let us attend worship regularly and develop the habit of not missing anything important to our souls.

He Took the Thorns and Left a Garden



Second Class Postage
Paid at Memphis, Tennessee

2285 Frayser Boulevard
Memphis, Tennessee 38127