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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1530 ~ Sad Days for Israel.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

A world-famous missionary told the story of how his very first sermon presentation didn't go well. The little church was filled with his relatives and friends, all anxious that he would do well. He had spent three weeks preparing the sermon but a short time into its delivery, his mind went blank. The missionary apologetically said that he had forgotten his sermon and left the pulpit.

While returning to his seat, God's Spirit spoke to him: "Haven't I done anything for you? If so, couldn't you tell that?" The trainee preacher went back up and stood in front of the pulpit. He said: "Friends, I see I can't preach, but you know what God has done for my life and how He has changed me. Though I cannot preach, I shall be his witness the rest of my days."

After the service, a young man approached the speaker to ask him how he could get such a change in his life too. Even though the missionary felt he had failed, God had used that event to draw a listener to Himself. This wonderful experience changed the missionary's idea about sermons. Instead of expounding some text forcefully when speaking to others, he sought to tell them what God's grace had done in an unworthy life like his own.

One writer said it was a mistake to think that men succeed through success, because much more often they succeed through a failure of some kind. Can we learn from our mistakes and failures? Sadly, many people don't and will repeat the mistakes they have made previously or seen others make. This happened in the northern kingdom of Israel. Six or seven ungodly kings ruled northern Israel in quick succession while one godly king named Asa ruled southern Judah for 41 years. Each new king of Israel failed to see why the last king had been deposed and didn't try to rectify the situation so they could do better. Most of these kings were worse than their predecessor in their evil behaviour, making God very angry by worshipping idols and doing all kind of sinful practices.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

Two years before King Asa of Judah died, King Ahab came to the throne of Israel. He was married to Jezebel, a high priestess in the worship of the sun-god Baal. She was very strong-willed and dominated her husband. If possible, Ahab did worse in God's sight than all Israel's previous kings. He built a shrine and altar to Baal and worshipped Baal there. Soon God sent His prophet Elijah to Ahab to speak to him about his sins and failures. To reinforce what the prophet said, God stopped rain falling on the land for three long miserable years.

Have you noticed how some people go through agonizing failures or circumstances in their life before they call out to God? When they do, they thrill other believers with the story of God's intervention in their circumstances. Yet God is not glorified by accounts of people's sins. Do we need to stand beside the pig pen and the prodigal son before we come to our senses that we are harming ourselves and our loved ones? Of course we don't!

A young man in the 19th century spent seven years of his life travelling the world. Those years were spent in wasteful, sinful pleasures, bringing him to poverty. In his time of need, the man's thoughts turned to past family experiences when living in another continent.

Verses of Scriptures taught to him by his mother came to mind. The one that impressed him most came from the Bible book of Hebrews, Chapter 7: “He (that’s Jesus) is also able to totally save those who come to God through Him.”

The young man resolved to be saved. Immediately the question came to his mind: “Is the blood of Christ sufficient to save my soul?” He was sure that it was. But then he found his way of trusting blocked by three giants. Their names were Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. The giant yesterday pointed out the terrible things the young man had done could never be undone. Giant Today reminded the young man of his present wretched condition and what he could lose if he surrendered everything to Christ. Giant Tomorrow warned him that if he made a commitment to Christ, he would fail the first temptation that came along. The giants told him that his situation was hopeless and withdrew.

The poor man agreed that he himself was not able to overcome his past but Christ was and would willingly help him. The rest of the verse says: “Since [Christ] always lives to make intercession for them.” The young man gave himself to Christ and inner peace came. He lived 44 more years after that in faithful and fruitful ministry for the Lord.

In his last sermon, the man counselled the young men that listened to him to keep themselves clean from immoral behaviour. He said it three times before then falling to the platform floor, dead.

No matter how you came to Christ, do you have that joy of sins forgiven? Do you have peace of mind that the giants of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow cannot disturb? Or do your past memories of mistakes and terrible events come back to upset your mind? When the tempter comes to us in this way, we must drive him off with the verse of Scripture in James, Chapter 4: “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” In John’s Gospel, Chapter 6, the Lord Jesus says: “I will never turn away from anyone who comes to me.”

This promise can be relied upon in all times of trouble, either in the hour of temptation and trial, or if we have fallen into some kind of sin. Jesus saves completely if we trust Him to do this!

In every generation, Christ's followers are His witnesses. What does this involve? One preacher explained it this way: It means that Jesus is on trial again before the world and every one of His disciples is called upon as a defence witness. Those who refuse to say a word on His behalf join the prosecution. In fact, Jesus said in Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 12: "He who is not with Me is against Me."

Some witnesses for Jesus talk about themselves and their achievements instead of talking about Jesus. Others may mumble and apologize and contradict themselves. These witnesses let Jesus down badly. Do they really know Jesus's power, might and freedom from sin in their lives? As Christ's witnesses, we cancel the power of His cross unless we live in it ourselves and pass it onto others.

In 1871, a famous American pastor preached at his church one October Sunday in Chicago. He explained God's plan of salvation for the listeners' souls and sent them home to consider their spiritual state during the week. They were to return the next Sunday prepared to commit their all to God. During that week, the horrific great fires of Chicago broke out and 300 people were burnt to death in the blaze. The pastor realised that he could have made a terrible mistake. How many had died without giving their all to Christ? From then on when the pastor preached and presented the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour from sin, he asked the listeners to make up their minds straight away.

Have you given your all to our Great Creator God, as a living sacrifice to be used in any way He sees fit? If you haven't, you need to search with earnestness for Christ's mercy and deliverance from whatever holds you back. Jesus has made the way possible for you to become part of God's dearly loved family. God's work is to transform you into a gracious holy person, one fit for heaven.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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