

BIBLE STORY BOOK;

FOR A

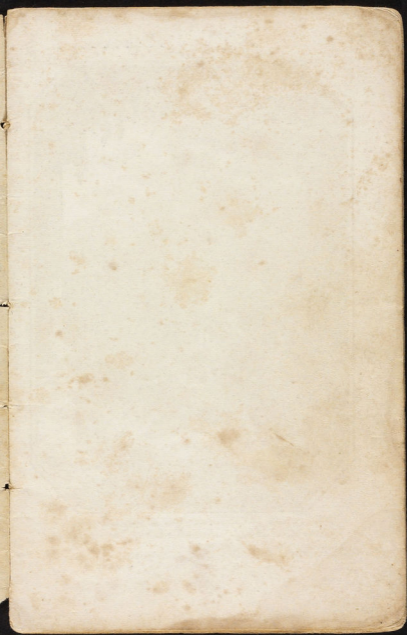
GOOD LITTLE BOY.



SIDNEY'S PRESS.  
NEW HAVEN—S. BABCOCK.

1832.

Lawyer of Strong's  
at present Book





What a strange picture this is! Why do those men want to kill innocent babes? I don't understand it exactly. Come, let us read about it.

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### THE WICKED KING WHO KILLED THE LITTLE CHILDREN.

When the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world, there was a wicked king whose name was Herod, who sought to kill him.

He did so, because he foolishly supposed that the Savior would take away his crown and riches. But the kingdom that Christ came to establish, was not of this world. He did not seek after its honors or its fine things. O no. He had not any crown on earth, but one of thorns. But king Herod could not kill the Lord Jesus, though he very much wished to do it. I will tell you what he did do.

When he heard that the Savior was born in a little town called Bethlehem, he sent his soldiers and bade them kill all the little children which were in the town, and all those also, which they could find any where near it. And they were so cruel as to do as they were bid.

And so Herod thought that he had cut off the infant Savior. But he had not. For the great God, who knows what every one intends to do, told those who had the care of him, to go from Bethlehem into Egypt, that Herod might not hurt him.

The great God knows how to save us from danger and to bless us at any time, and in any place; and we should always hope in him.

But what a dreadful thing it was, to kill so many dear little children. Indeed it was. And their mothers wept for them very much; and no one could comfort them, because they could not find their pretty babes. But why could they not find them? Why, they were on earth no more. But their happy spirits were taken to heaven by him who gathers the lambs in his arms, and who lays them in his kind bosom.

But what a hard and cruel heart Herod must have had! O yes, he must. He was a very wicked man; and God did not permit him to go unpunished. Soon afterwards he died; and he died very miserably. It will be sure to go ill with the wicked, for God has said so. There can be no solid peace to them, either in this world, or in that which is to come. Therefore strive to be good. Remember that the eyes of the Lord are always upon you. He beholds all the evil and the good that you do.

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### THE PROPHET WHO WAS SAVED ALIVE BY A FISH.

I will tell you about Jonah, who was a prophet of the Lord.

God sent a message to him to bid him go and

cry against a very great city, which was called Nineveh.

But you will ask why he was to cry against this city? Because its wickedness had come up before God, and called down his displeasure.

But he did not pour down the fire of his wrath and consume it immediately. No; he desireth not the death of a sinner; but rather that he should turn and live. And he never punishes a sinner without warning him. He warned the world before the flood by his servant Noah; he warned the cities of the plain by Lot; he himself came and warned Jerusalem; and he sent Jonah to warn Nineveh.

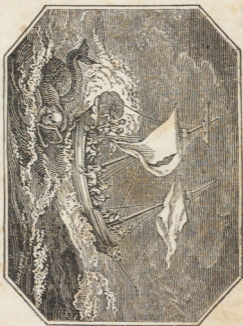
If God were to punish us, we could not say, that we had never been warned. God has warned us, and that too, many times, by our parents, and teachers, and ministers, and by his word, and by conscience, that unless we repent of them, our sins will be sure to find us out, and prove our ruin.

But Jonah was so obstinate that he would not obey the word of the Lord, at that time. Indeed, he thought that he would run away from the service of the Lord altogether, and from his holy presence; and so, as there was a ship going just in a contrary way to Nineveh, he took a place in it. This was very wicked and very foolish in him.

But have not we too often done the very opposite of that which God has bid us do? Has not God bid us honor and obey our parents?



JONAH THROWN INTO THE SEA.



And have we not too often disobeyed them? Has he not bid us mind what our teachers say? And yet we have forgot many of the lessons which they have given us. Has he not told us to keep holy the sabbath day? And yet our thoughts have been employed on trifles, if even we have come to a place of worship. Has he not charged us to seek after the salvation of our souls? And yet, perhaps, we have not begun to pray. Jonah was very bad; but are we any better than this disobedient prophet?

And what a foolish thing it was for him to suppose, that he could flee from the presence of the Lord! because "the eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good:" and "the darkness and the light are both alike to him."

But the Lord sent a messenger after him to arrest him, and to bring him back again to the path of duty. This messenger was a great wind; for every wind that blows does as the Lord bids it. So there was a mighty tempest in the sea; and the vessel seemed as if it would be dashed to pieces. All the storms and troubles which have ever afflicted our guilty world, have been brought on by sin.

And the poor sailors were very much afraid. They did not know what to do. So they cried to their gods. But their gods were stupid idols, the work of men's hands; and though they had ears, they could not even hear; and much less could they bid the dreadful billows, which now arose to heaven, become calm. Their prayers

and cries, therefore, were of no use. And then they threw all the goods which were in the ship into the sea. Gold and silver, yea mountains of them, are of no worth, compared with life. Of how much value then, must that life be, which shall never end?

But where was Jonah whilst the storm raged? Was he preaching to the sailors, and telling them of the living and true God? O no; he was gone down to the lower part of ship; and, strange as it was, he was gone down to sleep, and not to pray. Alas! there are very many prayerless, Christless people all around us, who still sleep, whilst there is but a step between them and eternal death.

But the ship-master went down to him, and said, "What meanest thou, O sleeper? Arise! call upon thy God; if so be, that he will think upon us, that we perish not."

And the poor mariners thought that they had fallen into these dreadful circumstances, on account of the sin of some on board of the vessel,—and, indeed, there would have been no trouble in the world, if there had been no sin,—and so they cast lots, to see who it was that had sinned against God. And God so ordered it, that the lot fell upon Jonah. God can find out the sinner, and bring him to the light, wherever he may hide himself!

And they asked Jonah, what he was, whence he had come, and whither he was going? And Jonah said, I am an Hebrew,—and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea

and the dry land.—And he told them how wicked he had been, to disobey God's plain command, and to try to flee from his presence. And he said, he knew the storm had come on them on his account, and that it would not cease till they had cast him into the sea.

And they tried hard to bring the ship to land, but they could not. Indeed, the sea grew more and more tempestuous; so, that they might not all perish, they were obliged, though they were very loth, to cast Jonah into the mighty deep. And immediately the sea became a calm.

And the Lord bade a great fish follow the vessel; and it did so, till Jonah was thrown overboard, and then he swallowed him up.

All this is very wonderful; and we should not read this history, without thinking of the Lord Jesus. He himself has told us, that Jonah was a type or figure of him. The case is this. Poor sinners, considered in themselves, are lost. They deserve to be cast into the sea of God's wrath. But the Lord Jesus took their place,—the sea of God's wrath overwhelmed him, and not them. And so they are freed from death, and from ruin,—and shall live with God for ever and for ever.

And will every poor sinner be saved from God's wrath which he deserves? Yes, if he believe on the Lord Jesus, and love and serve him; or else he will not. We cannot escape the divine displeasure, if we neglect this great salvation.

## THE QUEEN OF SHEBA.

Solomon was a very great king, and a very wise man.

And he built a temple for the worship of God, which was so large, and so richly adorned with gold, and silver, and precious stones, and all manner of beautiful things, that the sun has never shone on any building which was so fine as this.

Indeed, there was no king, any where in the world, like unto Solomon for riches or wisdom. He had a fine throne of ivory, on which he sat; it was covered over with the finest gold. All his drinking vessels, and all the vessels which were in his palace in the forest of Lebanon, were all of pure gold. So he reigned in the land of Judea; and every one praised and loved him very much. And God blessed him in such a manner, that there never was any king so great who lived before him. Those whom God blesses, they are indeed blessed.

Every one who went out of the land into into their own contry, told of the wisdom and of the glory of Solomon.

And there was a land which was a great way off, which was called Sheba. A queen was the ruler of it. And when she heard of the glory of Solomon, she took a long journey, on purpose to see, and to talk with him. And she came to Jerusalem, the city in which Solomon lived, with a very great train of servants,



THE QUEEN OF SHEBA BEFORE KING SOLOMON.

and of camels burdened with spices, very much gold, and precious stones. And, that she might know whether he was so wise as had been said, she asked him a great many hard questions ; and he answered them all.

And she paid particular attention to every thing which she saw. She was very much struck with the number of his attendants, and the splendor of their garments—and especially with the beautiful temple which he had built for the worship of God—and the fine flight of steps, which was at the entrance of it. And her mind was full of admiration.

And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in my own land, of thy sayings, and of thy wisdom. But I did not believe till I came, and saw things as they really are—and behold, the half was not told me. Thy wisdom and prosperity, are far above any thing which I had heard.

Happy, said she, are thy subjects ! and happy are these thy servants, who stand continually before thee, and hear thy wisdom.

And she praised the great God, for his goodness both to him and to his people. Blessed, said she, be the Lord thy God which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel ; because the Lord loved Israel forever ; therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice.

And she made the king a large present of gold, and of a very great store of spices, and of precious stones. The king also gave costly

gifts to her. And then she went back to her own land and people.

It would be a great thing, to be as fine, and wise, and rich, and glorious, as Solomon; would it not?

Indeed it would. Yet we might have all these fine things, and not be happy. Fine clothes, and fine things, cannot make the mind of any one happy. Solomon found that this was the case. We must have the favor of God, and love and serve him, or we shall never gain what we are seeking after.

Solomon died, and left his crown, and his fine throne, and royal robes, and his cups of gold, and all the rest of his treasures behind him. He could not take any of them with him, into the world beyond the grave.

I, too, must soon die. But I will ask God to bless me with his favor, through Jesus Christ. Then I shall not be afraid to leave the world. Then I shall be richer than king Solomon was, when on his throne, and in all his glory. Then I shall be rich, and great, and happy forever.

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### MORE ABOUT JONAH; OR, WHAT HE DID IN THE FISH'S BELLY.

More about Jonah! This is very surprising. One would think that when the fish had swallowed him up, there would have been



an end of him. But no,—this was not the case. He was alive, though he was in the fish's belly. But how could he be kept alive there? I cannot tell you, except indeed it was by the mighty power of God. He can keep us any where ; and we could not live a moment in any place, without him.

But though Jonah was alive, yet he was in very great trouble. He did not know what God was about to do with him. And he was much distressed on account of his sins. The Lord had put him into a dreadful prison ; and he could not any more even try to go away from his presence. And there he was, in the fish's belly, for three days and three nights. It must have seemed a very long while to him. But he saw God's hand in his affliction.—“Thou,” said he, “hast cast me into the deep! All thy waves and thy billows passed over me!” It especially grieved him, that God had withdrawn his holy presence from him. But when his soul fainted within him, he remembered the Lord, how good and how gracious he was, and he said, “I will look again towards thy holy temple!”

And so he did. God may permit his servants to be brought low on account of their sins, but he will never leave any of them without hope. And so Jonah's prayer came up from out of the depths of the sea, into heaven. And God answered it. Wherever the sinner prays, God is present to hear his prayer ; and no one ever did or shall call upon him in vain.



JONAH CAST UPON DRY LAND.

And God spake to the fish, and he went to the shore, and he threw out Jonah safely upon it.

We are not told to what coast the fish brought the prophet. Perhaps he brought him back to the very land from which he went away, when he went from the presence of the Lord. And what did he say, when he again saw the light? He said he knew that those who disobey God's holy commands, forsake their own mercies, and follow after lying vanities. I, too, will recollect, that there is nothing but misery gained by sin.

He said he was convinced that all deliverance was from God. No one could have saved him from the depths of the ocean but God. I, too, will put my trust in him; in every trouble I will look up to him, and ask him to stretch out his arm, and save me.

He said that he would praise God for his great goodness, and that he would serve him, as he had vowed, all the days of his life. I, too, will say, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!" And I will pray for grace, that I may love and serve him whilst I have any breath, and whilst I have any being.

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## THE WISE MEN WHO CAME A GREAT WAY TO SEEK CHRIST.

At the time when the Savior came into the world, there were some wise men who lived in

the East, who were looking for his coming. And one evening, as they were looking up into the heavens, they saw a large and bright star, which was unlike all the others. And God told them that this bright light should go before them, and guide them to the place where the Savior was. And so it did. For though they lost sight of it, for a little while, it appeared again and went before them, till it stood over the place where the young child was. And they were so very glad, when they saw that the star had led them to the Savior, that they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And so they went into the house, and when they beheld the infant Savior, they fell down and worshipped him. And they presented to him "gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."

Let us now think of these wise men, and what they did.

They came a great way to seek after the Lord Jesus. They did not think any thing of the greatness of the journey. Christ is a treasure worth seeking after. He is the Pearl worth more than all other pearls. To have the Savior for our friend, is to be richer than if we had all the gold and silver in the world ; it is to be forever rich ! And if we seek this great blessing by humble and fervent prayer, we shall be sure to find it. No one ever sought after it in vain. God will guide us, if we desire it, by his Holy Spirit, as certainly as he led the wise men, by the beautiful star, to the house where the Savior was.



THE WISE MEN BEFORE THE INFANT SAVIOR.

And I too, shall feel a joy so great, that I shall not know how to tell it to any one. And shall I not worship him too? O yes, I will. Every knee should bend before him. And though all the angels, and the happy spirits of the just made perfect, in heaven worship him, he will not disdain to hear a little child sing of his glory. I will think, then, of heaven; I will lift up my voice and my heart, and I will say, as they do, who stand continually before him there, "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power, and wisdom, and riches, and honor, and glory, and blessing."

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### THE DYING THIEF.

The Lord Jesus Christ was crucified between two thieves.

Both of them were very wicked men,—and even when they were hung up on the cross, they reproached the Savior.

One of them, however, became very sorry for his sins,—and his heart, and his conduct were altogether changed. I will tell you all about him.

He acknowledged that he was suffering justly for his sins.

Though he saw the Savior despised and rejected of men,—cast out by his countrymen,—covered with his blood,—expiring on a cross, and surrounded with no glory,—yet he believed on him as the almighty Savior.



THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST WITH THE THIEVES.

And he loved him. He could not bear to hear him reproached by the other thief.—“This man,” said he, “hath done nothing amiss.”

And he prayed to him. What! did he pray to one who was dying on a cross! Yes, the Holy Spirit had shown to him the true character of the Lord Jesus. So he addressed him as the Lord of the unseen world,—and what did he say—Lord! bring me to heaven,—give me a mansion at thy right hand,—O no. He knew his great unworthiness, and he only said, “Lord, remember me, when thou comest into thy kingdom!”

And did Christ take any notice of such a poor miserable sinner as this? Yes, he did. He came to seek and to save the lost. And he died to save those who had no helper, and who could not save themselves.

And what could he say to him? I will tell you. “Verily,” said he, “I say unto thee, to-day shalt thou be with me in paradise!”

Why, one should have thought, that he would have told him, that there was no mercy for such a wretch as he was,—and indeed, that it was too late for him to seek it now.

O how true it is, that he came into the world to save sinners, even the chief of them.

And did the Lord Jesus take the poor thief to heaven on that very day? Yes, he did. Surely, then, no one need ever despair of his mercy.

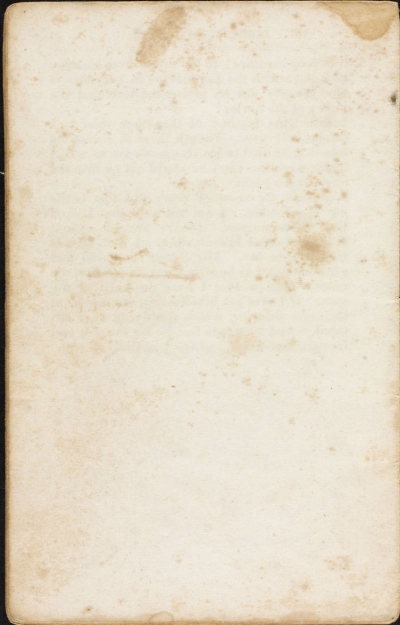
But what a change this must have been to

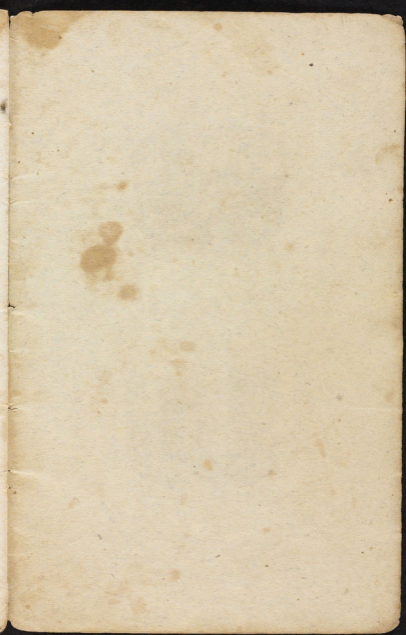


this poor creature! to be taken from a cross, to a place with the Lord Jesus in heaven. O how heartily did he praise the love and the mercy of the Savior!

But what became of the other thief? I cannot tell you. Though there is reason to fear that he died in his sins;—we are sure that if this were the case, he could not go into the Savior's kingdom.

This is the accepted time, and this is the day of salvation. I am not sure that I shall live till to-morrow. I have sinned against God, and need his salvation. I will seek it therefore to-day. The Savior is as kind and gracious now, as he was when he died on the cross. I know that I have no merit of my own. If I ever get into heaven, it must be at the same door by which the dying thief entered. And what was that? By the rich and free grace and mercy of God, in Christ Jesus.







The Enraged Boy.



The Turnip Thief caught.