

The Kingdom Scrou



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The Kingdom Scroll



DAVID EDGECOMBE



Adventures in
the Bible



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Dedication

This book is dedicated to

Rachael Hannah,
Michael James,
and
Cyrus Paul

My inspiration!
The kingdom is truly alive in each of you.

Love,
Dad

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Into the Bible

As the kids finished their lunch, Dad looked at each one of them with pride. “You three have really been enjoying Paul’s new Bible, haven’t you?”

“It’s awesome!” James, always the first to get a word in, answered with a smile.

Hannah, the youngest of the three, added, “Dad, it’s the coolest thing ever. We go right into the middle of the stories—like they’re all around us!”

Dad looked at Paul. “Is this some kind of game you three have created?”

Paul shook his head slowly from side to side, chewing and swallowing the last bite of his sandwich. “No, Dad,” he answered, “Grandpa Wesley says it’s a special Bible.”

“All Bibles are special,” Dad said.

“Not this special,” James said with a laugh. “Have you ever been sucked into one of your Bibles?”

“‘Sucked in’?” Dad questioned. “Do you mean drawn into or something else? Usually, ‘sucked in’ means you’ve been tricked by someone into doing something. Surely, the Bible isn’t tricking you. What do you mean?”

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“You know when you pull the plug at the bottom of the bathtub?” James asked, biting a slice of apple in two. “The water gets sucked into the drain. That’s what happened to us!”

Dad was struggling to understand. “So you have been reading the Bible in the bathtub?”

All three of the kids laughed. James tried to say something, but he was laughing so hard he snorted instead, which caused everyone to laugh even harder.

Paul regained his composure first and said, “The special Bible Grandpa Wesley gave me for my birthday yesterday actually pulls us inside of it. We go right into the stories.”

“That’s impossible,” Dad said. “You must be imagining it!”

“It seems pretty real,” Hannah said. “I don’t think my imagination is that good.”

“And we are all imagining the same thing,” James said, “because we are all together in the same stories. Whenever we finish one story, we leave together and arrive in the next story. And we don’t even know what story it is until we’ve guessed it out.”

“‘Guessed it out?’” Dad echoed.

“Yeah,” Paul said, holding his hand up to quiet James. “*The Prophet Kids’ Bible* came with four scroll cards. They are maps that are activated by touching a red word in the Bible. Once we have fully explored one story, another one appears on the card. We all touch the card at the same time, and that sends us zipping into another story.”

“But it’s all white!” James cut in.

“White?” Dad asked.

“Yes,” James continued. “There is nothing on the page until we guess the right words. And when we say the right words, those things appear—until we know where we are and someone says the name of that story—then everything appears and the story starts!”

“But, we are only watching,” Hannah explained, “like a movie. We can’t change anything.”

Into the Bible

"Why not?" Dad asked, playing along.

"Because!" James shouted. "It's the Bible! You can't go changing the Bible! It's God's Word!"

"True," Dad said. He was enjoying this. "So, let me see if I've got this right." He lifted his hand in the air and pointed one finger to the ceiling. "You point your finger like this, then put it on the scroll card like this." Dad lowered his finger to the table. "And then, *kerpow*, you're gone. And *shazam*, you're on a blank page, ready to start exploring?"

"Yes!" all three said together.

Hannah clapped her hands with joy, "You understand now!"

"He's just being silly," James said. "Aren't you, Dad?"

"Well," Dad said thoughtfully, "I am really glad you guys are exploring the Bible. And if making a game out of it makes it more fun, then I'm all for it!"

"Yep," James said, crossing his arms. "He thinks we're making it all up!"

"Not all of it," Dad argued. "You three have definitely been deep into the Bible because the stories you have told me each time you come out of the boys' room are definitely real Bible stories. So, you are certainly exploring the Bible. And it sounds like you are having lots of fun doing it!"

"We sure are," Paul said.

"So," Dad asked, "of the stories you've explored so far, which has been your favorite?"

Hannah answered first. "I liked seeing Adam and Eve get married. That was beautiful! Did you know Adam sang Eve a song at their wedding?"

Dad raised his eyebrows. "Really?" he asked.

"It's written as a poem in the Bible," Paul explained. "But when we saw it, Adam sang it."

"Fantastic!" Dad said, "Don't tell your mother. She'll expect me to sing a song on our anniversary!"

Everyone laughed. "You can sing," Hannah said. "I've heard you!"

Dad cleared his throat loudly, "What about you, Paul; what's your favorite story so far?"

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Paul smiled. "Good save, Dad." He paused and thought about it for a second and then said, "I think when we saw Abraham and Isaac find the ram caught by its horns. They were so relieved!"

"A lot of people struggle with that story," Dad said.

"Why?" James asked.

"Because it talks about a father willing to kill his son," Dad said, leaning back in his chair. "That should make every reader concerned! Many people think we shouldn't let kids hear that story!"

"But it's just like what God did," Hannah said seriously, "when He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for us."

"Yes," Dad agreed. "But it's still a very hard lesson. To be willing to give God whatever He asks is a difficult thing when a tough challenge comes along."

"Isaac was willing," Paul added. "He didn't understand God's demand, but he wanted everything to go God's way."

"Hmmm," Dad said, lost in thought.

"Would you do it, Dad?" James asked. "If God asked you to sacrifice one of us?"

"I don't think I could," Dad said. "You are all so special to me."

"Yeah," James said, "not me for sure. Maybe Paul?"

"James!" Paul and Dad said in unison. They looked at James and saw the impish grin on his face and everyone laughed, breaking the tension in the room. James had a unique ability to use humor to help people relax.

"Wow!" Dad said, expelling all the air in his lungs. "You guys are really challenging me today! First, I'm supposed to learn to sing love songs to Mom. Now, you've got me thinking about how hard it can be to obey God."

"That's what these Bible studies have been doing to us," Paul said, "challenging us to think."

"And making us ride an emotional yo-yo!" James added.

"James, what about you?" Dad asked. "What Bible story have you enjoyed the most?"

Into the Bible

“That’s easy,” James said, spreading his arms like giant wings. “The story of the seven-headed, gigantic red dragon trying to get the Baby, heaven, the woman, and then us! That story was intense!”

“Yes, I remember you talking about that story last night,” Dad said. Then turning to Paul, he said, “May I have a look at this special Bible?”

“Sure!” Paul said excitedly. “I’ll go get it.” Paul ran to his room and came back with *The Prophet Kids’ Bible*. “Here it is, Dad.”

Dad opened it to the book of Revelation and flipped through until he found chapter 12. “Here’s the story you were just talking about,” Dad said, looking at James.

“Yeah, we read the whole thing when we got back,” James said. “It’s an awesome story. Everything is so powerful in Revelation.”

Dad looked up. “You just reminded me of a really cool quote I read about the book of Revelation,” he said. “It said that Revelation was not about the love of power, but about the power of love.”

“That is cool,” Paul said.

“Hey, what’s this?” Dad asked, pointing at the open Bible. “One of the words, in the middle of Revelation twelve, is a different color.” His finger was getting closer as he talked. The kids all got as close as they could, trying to see what Dad had found. Dad leaned forward, his finger right above the page. “It’s red!” He moved his finger as if he were going to tap the red word.

James grabbed Dad’s hand and yanked it away from the Bible. “Don’t touch it!” he nearly shouted. “Haven’t you been listening? You’ll get sucked in!”

Dad started to laugh. “You guys are too much!” He looked down at the page. “It’s the word *kingdom*,” Dad said. “Does that mean all the stories in your next study will be about kingdoms?”

“Yes,” Paul said. “It sure does!”

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Thought Questions: Chapter 1

1. What is your favorite way to use your imagination?
2. How is your imagination used when you read the Bible?
3. What do you think *The Kingdom Scroll* is going to be about?