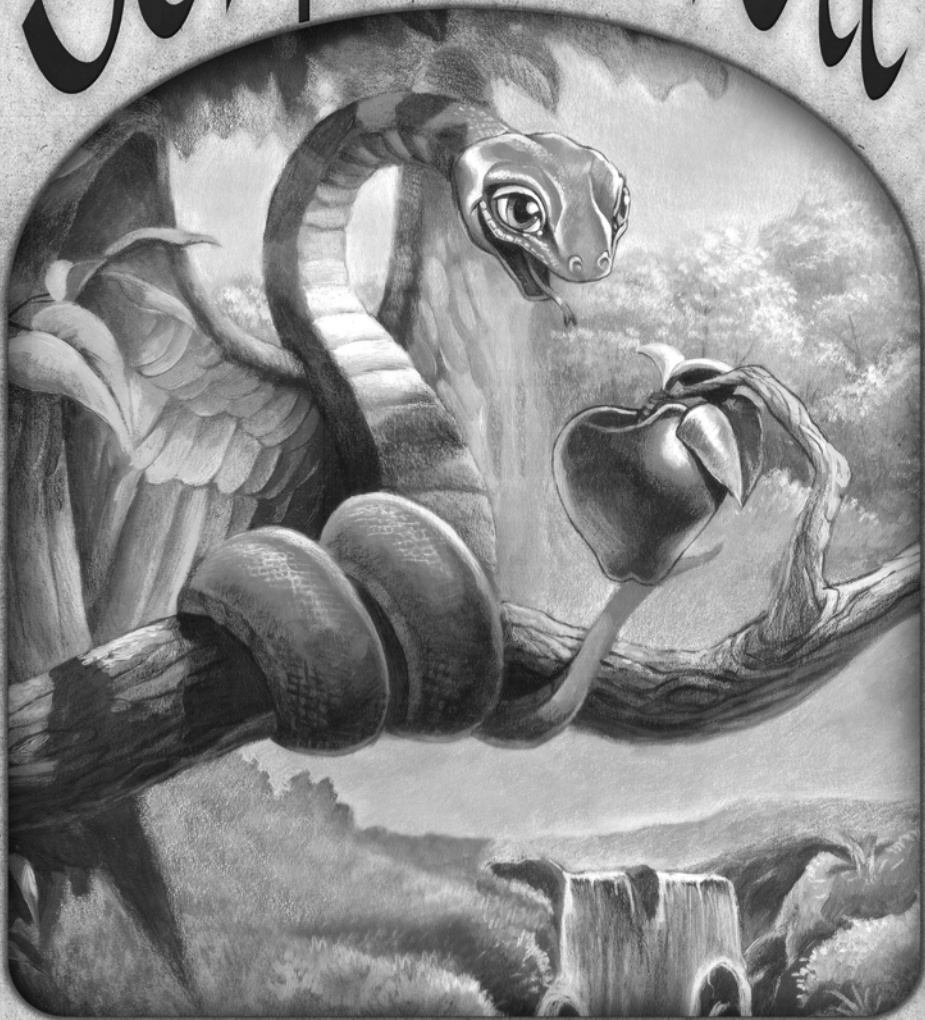
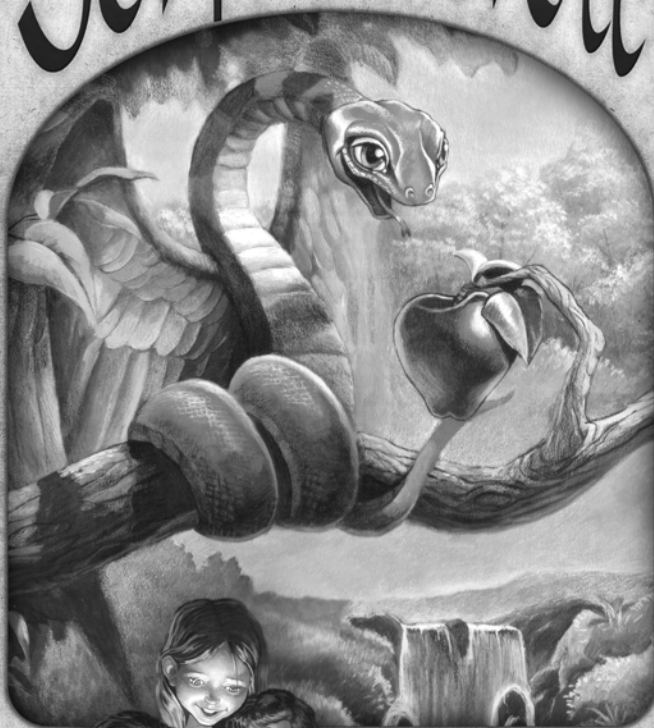


# The Serpent Scroll





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Adventures in  
the Bible



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Summary: Bible study takes on a new meaning for a Christian boy and his siblings when they find themselves in the pages of an “interactive” Bible and learn firsthand about serpents, salvation, building a relationship with God, and using a concordance.

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# Dedication

“What kind of story do you want tonight?” I asked my three children as they prepared for bed.

“A Bible story!” exclaimed the middle child, Mikey.

“Not a Bible story,” disagreed eight-year-old big brother, Cyrus. “The Bible is boring!”

This was the first time I had ever heard one of my children refer to the Bible as boring. But I can certainly remember making the same comment when I was a kid! I didn’t know how to combat the statement, so I answered, “What kind of story would you like, Cyrus?”

“A cool story,” he replied, “about dragons or swords, or something like that.”

An idea began to form in my mind and I smiled internally. “Hmmm,” I said, “so if there was a Bible story with a dragon or sword, then the Bible would be cool?”

“Sure,” came his confident reply. “But there isn’t one, because the Bible is true and dragons aren’t real.”

That night was the first time I told “The Dragon Story.” This book is yet another telling. And it won’t be the last!

So, *The Serpent Scroll* is dedicated to the boy brave enough to demand more of his father and the Bible. This book is for you, Cyrus! Thank you for the challenge. You are worth every word, every paragraph, and every moment of effort this book required. Also, thank you for reading the manuscript as it developed to give it the “kid’s eye critique.” This book would not exist without you!

Love,  
Dad



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# Birthday Boy

Paul scanned his stack of gifts. He had carefully moved them one by one onto the desk in his bedroom after the party finished. Now he was preparing to study each one of them carefully. He liked to take his time with things. Why rush through life when you could enjoy everything bit by bit?

Paul was eleven. How many times had he answered that question today? “How old are you now, Paul?” Eleven. *I’m eleven*, he thought to himself, *and look at all my presents!*

James, his curly haired younger brother, came into the bedroom they shared, hopping on one foot. “Can I play with the Legos you got?” James asked hopefully, as he balanced on one foot and spun in a little circle.

“Yeah, go ahead.” Paul was in a generous mood—he hadn’t even counted them yet. “Just be careful, and don’t lose any of the pieces!”

“I won’t,” James promised, as he picked up the little Lego box, sat on the floor in the middle of the room, and began to open the package.

Paul watched James for a moment to make sure he was being careful. When he was sure James wasn’t going to let the pieces fly across the room once the box popped open, Paul turned back to his gifts. There was a board game, a PlayStation game, a couple new books, some clothes, and a Bible from Grandpa Wesley. The Bible was in a box that said *The Prophet Kids’*

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*Bible* on the cover. Paul decided to open that one last. It looked like something to read at bedtime.

Paul glanced down at James, who was now lying on the floor with the Legos lined up like school kids after lunch waiting to go into class. "How's it going?" he asked.

"I'm ready to start," James said as he unfolded the instructions. James was nine, but he was really good at putting stuff together. Dad said James had a brain full of maps and a mouth full of nonsense. James was really funny—he was energetic and loud and seemed to live on a planet somewhere far away!

Paul, on the other hand, was sensible. He liked thick books and serious people. But he liked James. He just didn't understand him. How anyone could actually want to hop through every room, laugh when he got hurt, and talk when no one was listening—well, it just wasn't normal. But that was James.

Paul turned back to his presents and decided to open the PlayStation game. He wouldn't be allowed to play it until "PlayStation Day"—that's what they called Sunday, for the obvious reason. But he could look at the game case and read the booklet.

As he began to turn the pages of the booklet, Hannah walked into the room. "Paul, I'm gonna read one of your books," she said as she reached out to take one of the new books from the stack of presents, "because I *can* read, you know!"

"You think you can read," Paul said to his seven-year-old sister, "but really, you just look at the pictures and make up the story. You won't be able to read my books. They don't have pictures."

Hannah was not at all pleased by Paul's response. "I can too read real words!" she shouted as she began to grab one of the books. Paul let her take it. "Just be careful," he mumbled.

If there was anything Paul knew about his sister, it was this: don't argue with Hannah! Mom often shook her head and said, "She's got a will of iron, that girl!" Paul liked to think Mom said that because Hannah was so hot

## Birthday Boy

tempered that she could remove wrinkles like a hot iron. But Mom told him iron was a very strong metal and was difficult to bend. In either case, Hannah was like iron—strong willed and quick to get fired up.

Paul's stack was now missing one book, one Lego set, and one PlayStation game. He put the booklet back in the case and put the game on his bookshelf. Hannah was sitting on the floor near James, "reading" the book by turning the pages and wiggling her head back and forth. James was onto stage five of the Lego instructions.

Paul sat down at his desk and studied the remaining presents. The golden box that had *The Prophet Kids' Bible* written in red lettering across the front was on top now. *Maybe I will have a quick look at that one*, Paul thought. *Grandpa Wesley usually gives really cool presents.*

Paul reached for *The Prophet Kids' Bible*. He pulled it toward himself and slowly lifted off the cover.

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### Thought Questions: Chapter 1

1. What kind of big brother do you think Paul is?
2. Based on the way Paul acted, do you think he liked *The Prophet Kids' Bible*? Why?
3. What is the best birthday present you ever received? Why?