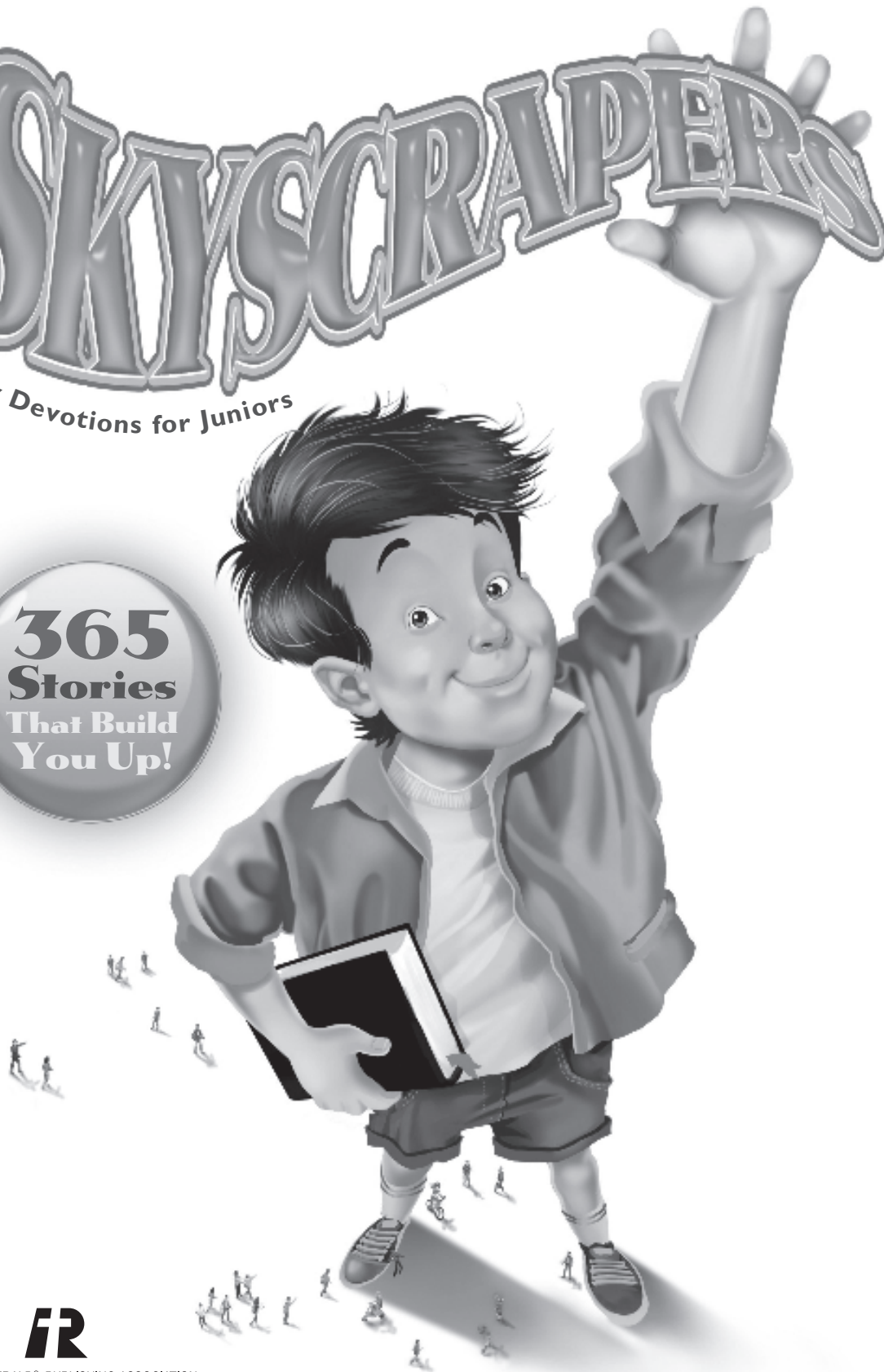


ERIC B. HARE

SKYSCRAPERS

Daily Devotions for Juniors

365
Stories
That Build
You Up!



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Hi, Friends!

In the twentieth century one of the most beloved of Adventist storytellers was Eric B. Hare. Mention his name, and thousands of Adventists, young and old, instantly recall “Clever Queen,” “The Haunted Pagoda,” “Mee Mee,” “Dr. Rabbit,” “Silver and the Snake”—all stories from Hare’s mission service in Burma (now Myanmar). He was a dramatic storyteller with a unique way of painlessly weaving a moral into each story.

Eric Hare was born in Australia in 1894. He and his wife, Agnes, spent some 20 years as missionaries in Burma. Following a few years of service in California, he was called to the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference. He retired officially from that post in 1962, but during a period of 14 years of “retirement,” he met nearly 800 appointments! He passed to his rest in 1982.

With this daily devotional book, we suggest that each day you first read the entire Bible selection noted at the top left corner of that day’s reading. This will give you the setting for the memory verse and the devotional thought.

GENESIS 1; 2

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1.*



I'm so glad that the Bible begins with God. "In the beginning God . . ." We are at the beginning of a new year. Before us lies an unknown path. We want this to be the happiest year of our lives, and it can be if we will put God in "the beginning" of each day of the year. You'll find that people who make God first and last and best in their lives are the happiest people in the world.

You can make God first by picking up His precious Book and reading it each day.

There's a story in the *Review and Herald* of a lone traveler who was going along a foot trail over a hillside one stormy night. He carried a lantern in his hand to help him keep on the path, but it was so cold that at last he put the lantern under his heavy coat. This kept him warm, but in the darkness, without knowing it, he lost the way. Suddenly a gust of wind blew open his coat, and as the light shone out he was horrified to see that he was almost on the brink of a deep stone quarry. A few more steps without the light surely would have taken him to his death. He quickly found his way back to the trail, and you may be certain that he kept the light outside after that and followed it every step of the way.

Job made God first in his life, and God led him safely through sorrow, disaster, and sickness. Then He gave him "twice as much as he had before" (Job 42:10). Daniel made God first in his life, and God made him "ten times better" in wisdom than the other wise men, and He led him safely through temptation and the lions' den. You can easily believe that Daniel was one of the happiest people in all of Babylon. God wants to lead you this year and make you one of the happiest people in the world. Won't you make God first, the reading of His Word first, and prayer first, every day of this year?

"God's holy, educating Spirit is in His Word. A light, a new and precious light, shines forth from every page. Truth is there revealed, and words and sentences are made bright and appropriate for the occasion, as the voice of God speaking to the soul" (*Messages to Young People*, p. 246).

We need God in this new year. We need His light every step of the way.

GENESIS 3; 4

*I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her Seed; He shall
bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.
Genesis 3:15.*

January

2

This is the first promise in the Bible. For 4,000 years it brought hope to the hearts of tired and discouraged men and women. Did you know that there are more than 3,000 promises in the Bible? Elder J. N. Loughborough, one of our Adventist pioneers, read the Old Testament through 69 times and the New Testament 71 times. His dear old Bible is kept at the General Conference. If ever you visit there, ask to see it. On one of the flyleaves you will see a list of the promises in the Bible. It is evidently his own counting, and it says:

Old Testament promises for the present, 2,253; for the future, 791.

Total Old Testament promises, 3,044.

New Testament promises for the present, 274; for the future, 253.

Total New Testament promises, 527.

Total promises in all the Bible, 3,571.

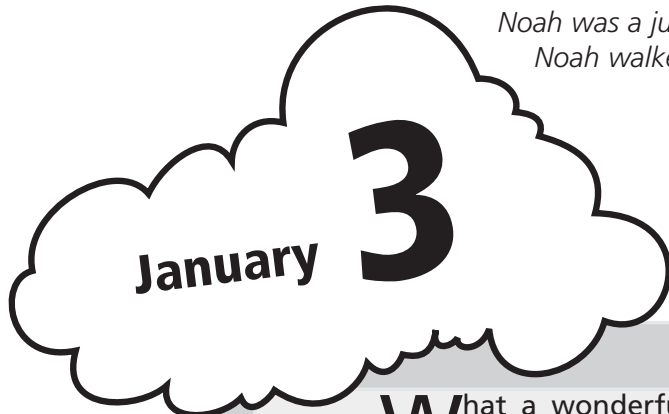
As I said above, today's text is the very first promise in the Bible. It gave hope to Adam and Eve in the hour of their great sorrow when they realized that their sin had brought death and a curse into the world. They memorized it and told it to their children and to their grandchildren. Then they, in turn, memorized it and told it to their children and grandchildren, and so on down to Moses. Moses wrote it down, and it became part of the Bible for everyone. It gave hope to all who heard it or read it, right on down to devout old Simeon, who took Baby Jesus in his arms and said, "My eyes have seen Your salvation" (Luke 2:30). But it does not end there. There is hope in that promise for you and for me, that through Christ we can overcome the devil and his temptations and bruise his head today and every day.

Solomon declared, "There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses" (1 Kings 8:56). And Peter says that these "exceedingly great and precious promises" "have been given to us" (2 Peter 1:4).

As you read through your Bible, keep your eyes open for the many precious promises. Underline them and treasure them. They were written for you.

GENESIS 6; 7

*Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations.
Noah walked with God. Genesis 6:9.*



What a wonderful feeling of security there is in walking with God! As Noah built the ark and preached for 120 years he kept his thoughts on God and talked to Him as a companion. That is the way Noah walked with God. Noah was mocked and he was abused, but God saved him and his family when millions of people who refused help were destroyed.

The three young Hebrew men walked with God in the same simple way—praying, reading the Scriptures, daily deciding to do nothing that God would not approve. The angry king threw them into the fire, but God joined them in the fire, and not a hair of their heads was even singed.

Have you heard of Desmond Doss? He was only a humble medic in World War II, but he too walked with God. He put God first every day of his life, by prayer and reading his Bible. At first the soldiers made fun of him and his Bible reading, and often called him a sissy and threw their boots at him. But when it came to danger, they soon changed their tune. There came the memorable battle of the precipice, when the United States armed forces were landing on Okinawa. There were 155 men who waited for Doss to say a prayer before they scaled the cliff on rope nets. After a few days only 55 came back down.

Doss was the last man. He dragged the wounded, man after man, to the cliff and lowered them down by a rope. "Come on down, Doss!" shouted the captain. "You'll only get yourself killed." But Doss replied, "Just give me a little more time. I can't leave these wounded men up here to die." And alone he lowered 75 men to safety. At last he himself was badly wounded, but he came home alive and was greatly honored. President Harry Truman personally presented to him the Congressional Medal of Honor—the highest award a grateful nation can bestow on a hero.

It pays to make God first. It pays to take God with you everywhere you go. It pays to keep away from places where God or the angels wouldn't go. Won't you decide to walk with God this year?

GENESIS 8; 9:1-17

*I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.
Genesis 9:13.*



January 4

It was after the most awful storm and destruction that Noah and his family saw their first rainbow. What a comfort it must have been to them to know that the rainbow was the sign of God's promise that the waters should no more become a flood to destroy the entire earth. Only God could make a rainbow, and only God can comfort in a time of fear and sorrow.

Often we see a second rainbow just beneath the primary rainbow. But, strangely enough, though the red is on the outside of the arc of the primary rainbow, in the second rainbow the violet is on the outside of the arc. Only God would think of that. Bright moonlight can also form a rainbow. Have you ever seen a rainbow at night? I have.

It was years ago when our little school among the devil worshippers of Burma (now Myamnar) was struggling for existence. It seemed impossible for the gospel to break down the fear and the superstition of the jungle people. I had gone down the river to Moulmein for supplies. It had rained most of the day, but when the steamer reached the end of its journey that night a full moon was playing hide-and-seek with the clouds. I was standing on the deck with a government officer watching the logs and rubbish floating down the angry river when all of a sudden, there it was—a night rainbow! The officer beside me trembled. "It looks like a bad sign to me," he said. "I've never seen a rainbow at night before."

I replied, "It looks like a good sign to me. It reminds me of God's promises. I'm sure that in spite of floods, storms, fear, and superstitions all will be well someday." And sure enough, soon our mission work was well established.

Are there clouds of trouble or sorrow all around you today? Look for a rainbow and remember God's promises.

"Satan seeks to draw our minds away from the mighty Helper. . . . When Satan thrusts his threatenings upon you, turn from them, and comfort your soul with the promises of God. The cloud may be dark in itself, but when filled with the light of heaven, it turns to the brightness of gold; for the glory of God rests upon it" (*Messages to Young People*, pp. 109, 110).

GENESIS 11:1-9; 12:1-10

There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. Genesis 12:8.



It was Abraham's custom to call upon the name of the Lord wherever he was. We can rejoice to know that God hears our prayers wherever we are. Elisha went into the house, shut the door, and prayed. Daniel opened the window and prayed. Peter went up to the housetop; Hannah went to the Temple; and Nehemiah breathed a quick prayer while he was before the king. Jonah prayed in the belly of a great fish, and Ba Twe prayed his first prayer at the top of a tall dead tree.

Ba Twe was a heathen boy who came to our mission school in Burma. During his first year he came to Sabbath school and to prayer meeting every week, but he would never take part. "Oh, no! I'm a heathen. God wouldn't listen to me," he said.

Then one day during the summer vacation, while minding his father's buffaloes, he lay down beside them as they rested in the shade and went to sleep. When he woke up, they were gone. "Oh, what will I do?" he said. "The buffaloes will wander into someone's garden and spoil it, and I'll get into plenty of trouble!" He ran down to the river and looked all around, but they were not there. He ran out to the rice fields, but they were not there. Just then he saw a tall dead tree. "I'll climb that tree and look all around," he said. From the top of the tree he saw other buffaloes with other boys driving them home, but his buffaloes were nowhere to be seen. "Oh, what will I do?" he cried.

And the little voice in his heart said, *Pray, pray, pray!*

"But God wouldn't listen to me," he argued. "I'm not a Christian."

But the little voice kept saying, *Pray, pray, pray!*

So he prayed, "O God, please, God, help me find my buffaloes." He was too frightened to say "for Jesus' sake. Amen." He almost expected God to strike him with thunder and lightning. He hurried down the tree as though to get away from God as quickly as possible. But as he jumped from the lowest limb, there were his buffaloes! "He heard me!" said Ba Twe in amazement. "Before I was a Christian, He heard me!" And right there, at that moment, Ba Twe gave his heart to Jesus.

Remember, wherever you are today, God is always near enough to hear your prayer.