

# Children's Corner

A magazine for Children published by the  
Evangelical Lutheran Congregations of the Reformation



Vol. TWENTY-SIX No. Three June—July 2014

## WHAT IS GOD'S NAME?

*"Hallowed by Thy name," Luke 11:2*

Does your name tell me anything about you? Pretend you told me your name was Peter. Does that tell me anything about your personality, what you like to do? It does not tell me how old you are, what job you have.

Yet, in the Bible names are important. Names were given to people to tell us something about them. Think of the name Jesus. Jesus means "Saviour, Redeemer, Helper." This name tells us about Jesus, that He is our Saviour and Helper from sin.

God's Name therefore tells us about Him. What is God's Name? In fact, in the Bible God has many Names (for example):

LORD God, Jehovah- (I am that I am, the eternal One);  
Jesus- (Saviour);  
God- (The Source and Dispenser of all good).

These names all tell us something about God. But if we want to know much more about God, we need to look further. Where do we go to find out more about God? His Word, the Bible. Therefore, the expression "Name of God" refers to

everything by which God makes Himself known to us. God makes Himself know to us through His Word, His works, His attributes, His qualities.

The BIBLE reveals all we know of God; it is our best revelation of Him. NATURE also to some extent reveals His power and wisdom. Our CONSCIENCE reveals His wrath against sin. But it is only in the Word of God, the Bible, that we are told about our Saviour from sin, Jesus.

So what do we mean when we pray: "Hallowed be Thy Name"? There are two words here which we must carefully look at—the word "HALLOWED" and the word "NAME". The word "hallowed" means "to keep holy." Therefore, we are to keep God's Name, His Word, holy. How do we do this?

In the Catechism, Martin Luther explains this. We are praying that our Heavenly Father would keep His Word holy among us. This is done when God's Word is taught purely, without any lies or errors. But when God's Word is taught truthfully we, by faith and out of love for Jesus, should also believe it and lead a holy life according to It.

Notice that this is the first thing that we ask for in the Lord's Prayer. This is why

*(Continued on page 2)*

it is called “The First Petition”. A petition is a request, something that we ask for. So we pray here that:

God’s Word may be taught purely;  
We, as God’s children, may also lead  
a holy life according to it.

To keep God’s Name holy, we see that two things are required. It is very important that we abide by the Word of God. John 8:31, 32: **“If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”**

We are also to obey God’s Word, and lived very carefully according to it. Matthew 6:33: **“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”**

This, then, is our prayer. May our Father in heaven preserve us from false teaching and a wicked life. We need to be serious when we pray thus.

Luther adds this warning. If anyone lives in a way that is against God’s Word, he “profanes”, or insults, God’s Name. Remember the Second Commandment. **“THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN.”**

If we pray thus from our heart we shall watch carefully over our faith and life. If we did not care whether we taught the Word of God rightly or lived truly Christian lives, we should be hypocrites.

But doesn’t the Bible say that we are all sinners? Do we not all sin daily? Did not Jesus say (Matthew 5:48), “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect?” How can we possibly live before God righteously, perfectly?

It is true that we daily sin much. It is true that we deserve nothing but  
**2** God’s punishment. Proverbs 28:13

tells us: “V. 13. **He that covereth (hides) his sin shall not prosper.**” But this text continues: **“but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them (their sins), shall have mercy.”** God is glad to accept in love him who is humbly penitent, alone for the sake of Jesus.

On the cross, Jesus proclaimed, “It is finished!” Everything that was necessary to save us from our sins had been accomplished. May we always trust that our sins have been paid for. Even now Jesus pleads with the Father to be merciful to those who in true faith repent of their sins and believe in Him.

In Romans 8:34 we read, **“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”** No one can condemn those who believe on Jesus. He died for them, He rose again from the dead for them. Even now, having ascended into heaven for them, He continually makes intercession for them.

The word “intercession” means that Christ constantly speaks on our behalf with the Father. He without rest beseeches the Father to show mercy. Believing that Jesus is our Saviour from sin, let us therefore place our trust in His promise, John 16:23: **“Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you.”** Let us trust, that when God calls us to holy living, He will also give us the strength to live holy lives.

It is indeed a great mercy that God permits us to call Him “Father”. We should therefore love and trust Him as our Father and through obedience to His Word hallow His Name.

Holy living means that we humbly accept what the Bible teaches us. It means that we should confess the teachings of that Word. It means that we should live

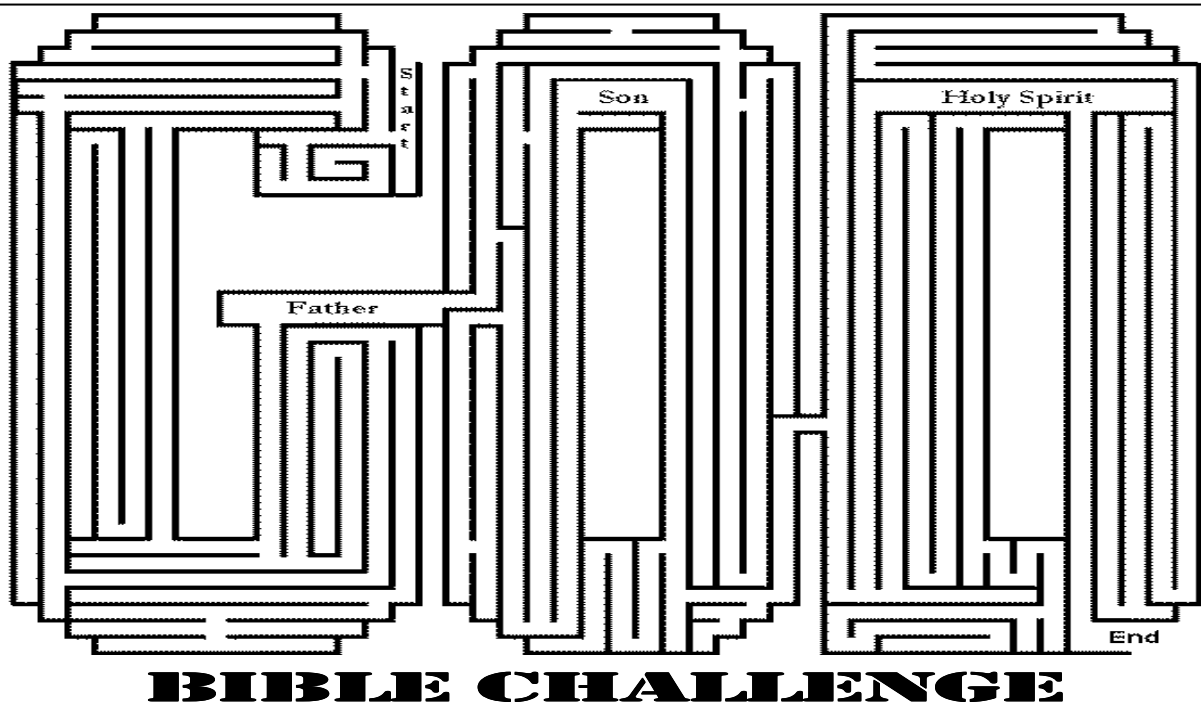
*(Continued on page 3)*

according to it. Let us also pray that the Lord will continue to give us faithful pastors and teachers.

The Bible teaches that we will be blessed if we follow the Word of God. In this way God's Name will shine forth in our lives and others will be willing to accept our testimony concerning that Word and will join us in praising God's Name. This is the will of our Saviour: **"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven,"** (Matt 5:16).

*Prayer:* Oh Lord, we thank You for what we have now learnt from Your Word. Help us to believe it with our whole heart and to serve You in true obedience unto our life's end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Thy Name be hallowed. Help us,  
Lord,  
In purity to keep Thy Word,  
That to the glory of Thy Name  
We walk before Thee free from blame.  
Let no false doctrine us pervert;  
All poor, deluded souls convert.*



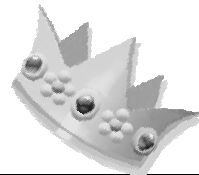
1. Who was forced to carry the cross of Jesus?
2. Of what country was Shalmanesser king?
3. What should the Christian use to protect himself from Satan's flaming arrows?
4. Who was raised from the dead in answer to Peter's prayer?
5. What was Abel's occupation?
6. Who followed Solomon as King?
7. Who said, 'I appeal to Caesar'?
8. What miracle did Jesus do during Passover in Jerusalem at the pool of Bethesda?
9. In which book of the New Testament is Enoch's prophecy found?
10. By what other name is the Mediterranean Sea called in the Bible?
11. Who said, 'He must increase, and I must decrease'?

## **GOLDEN TEXT:**                      **GENESIS 50:20**

Ye thought evil against me, but  
God meant it unto good, to bring  
to pass as it is this day, to save  
much people alive.

**Dear Children.**— Our story for to-day takes us back a little to the time (485-465 B.C.), when Xerxes, whom the Jews called Ahasuerus, ruled over the Persian Empire. He was the Father of Darius, who later dethroned Belshazzar and founded the Medo-Persian Empire. The story shows us how God watched over His people, the Jews, even in the days of their captivity, and did not permit their enemies to triumph over them

## **QUEEN ESTHER**



**Esther Chosen Queen.**— Ahasuerus was a great king. His empire extended from India even to Ethiopia in Africa. In the third year of his reign he gave a great feast to all his princes and servants in the royal parks connected with his palace at Shushan, and for many days they celebrated and enjoyed their sovereign's hospitality.

On the last day the king commanded his wife, Queen Vashti, of whose beauty he was very proud, to come and attend his festivity. But the proud queen flatly refused to obey him. This stubbornness made the king very angry, and after consultation with his counsellors, he decided to put away his disobedient spouse. After due time his counsellors admonished the king to marry again, and advised him to make a selection from among all the most beautiful virgins of his realm.

Now they lived at that time near the palace in Shushan a Jew, whose name was Mordecai. He had in his keeping

4

a very beautiful Jewish maiden, his

uncle's daughter, named Esther, whom he had adopted after her parents had died. This beautiful young woman was also taken to the king's palace, and when the king saw her, she pleased him more than any of the other maidens, so that he chose her to be his wife. At her foster-father's instructions, however, Esther did not tell the king that she was a Jewess.

During those days two chamberlains in the king's palace formed a plot to kill the king. Somehow Mordecai got to hear of it, and told Queen Esther, who reported it to the king in Mordecai's name. When the affair was investigated, the two men were found guilty and both were hanged on a tree. The whole affair was, moreover, duly recorded in the book of the royal chronicles (history).

**Haman Seeks the Jews Destruction.**— As time went on, a man by the name of Haman managed to gain the king's favour to such an extent that the king appointed him his prime minister. Now all the king's subjects paid this Haman great honour.

*(Continued on page 5)*

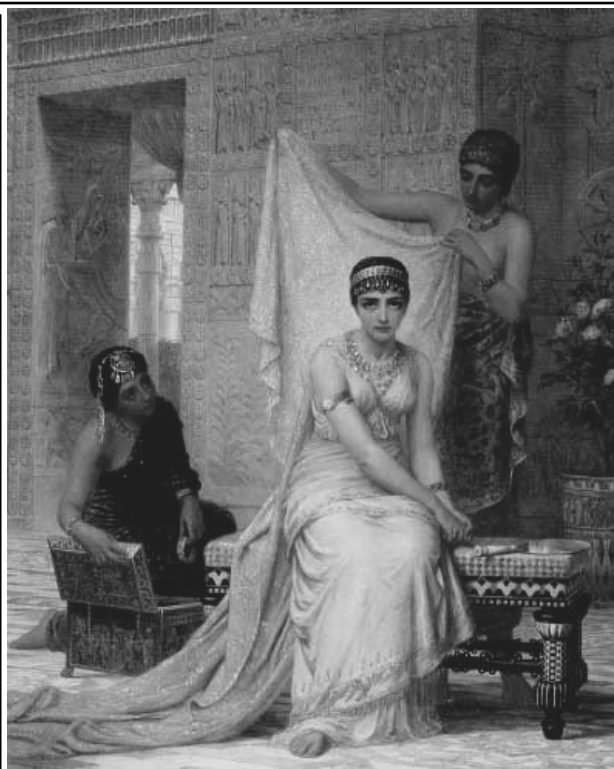


Wherever he showed himself they bowed before him and revered him like a divine person. This greatly flattered his vanity and ambition. All the more, however, it vexed him when he noticed that Mordecai, the Jew, refused to pay such idolatrous homage to him. Therefore, he decided to destroy all the Jews.

So he went to the king and said, "There is a people scattered throughout the realm who threatened to become a menace some day, because they refuse to obey thy laws. If it please the king, let it be written, that they be destroyed." The king, scarcely knowing what that implied and blindly trusting his favourite, answered, "Do with them as it seemeth good to thee." Immediately the wicked man had letters written and sent to all the officers throughout the land that on a stated day all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, were to be killed without mercy.

When this cruel edict was published, there arose a great mourning among the Jews. Everywhere they began to fast and to pray that somehow they might be delivered from this dreadful doom. Mordecai at once sent word to Esther that she should go to the king and intercede for the Jews, without, however, revealing her nationality. Esther informed him of her difficulty, saying, "Whosoever cometh unto the king who is not called, the law is to put him to death, except the king hold out the sceptre that he may live." But heroically she added, "But I will go in; and if I perish, I perish."

**Esther Before the King .—** At once she put on her royal garment and went into the court of the king's house. And when the king saw her, she found favour, and he held out to her the golden sceptre. So she drew near and touched the top of the sceptre. Then said the king, "What is thy request? It shall be given thee, and if it were the half of the kingdom." Esther answered, "If it seem good unto the King, let the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him."



So the king and Haman came to the banquet. While they were eating, the king again asked Esther what she desired of him. But Esther only said, "Let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them to-morrow."

Haman left the palace with a glad heart, but when he saw Mordecai at the gate not rising up before him, he became very angry. At home he related how he had been honoured by the queen, but also how he had been slighted by Mordecai, the Jew. Then said his wife and his friends to him, "Let a gallows be made fifty cubits high (one cubit equals one and a half feet), and to-morrow ask the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon." That pleased Haman and at once he had such a gallows erected in his yard.

**The King Honours Mordecai.—** In that night the king could not go to sleep. So he asked his servant to read to him from the book of the chronicles. Now it so came to pass that the record of the two chamberlains, who had attempted to take the king's life but had been hindered by Mordecai, was read to him. The king asked how Mordecai had

(Continued on page 6)

been rewarded for his service. His servants informed him that nothing had been done for him.

When Haman came early the next morning, the king asked him, "What shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honour?" Now, Haman thought, "Whom can the king desire to honour, but me?" So he quickly answered, "Let the man be clothed in the king's own garments, and let the crown royal be set on his head, and then place him on the horse on which the king himself rides and take him through the city with heralds proclaiming, Thus shall be done to the man whom the king wishes to honour."

Then the king commanded, "Make haste and do even so to Mordecai, the Jew!" We may imagine how the wicked man must have felt when, instead of hanging Mordecai, he had to do him such a great honour. No wonder that, as soon as he could, he went home and hid his face in shame and anger.

**Haman's Punishment.**— But soon the king's chamberlains came and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet that Esther had prepared. While they were eating, the king again said, "What is thy petition, Queen Esther?" Then Esther said, "King, let my life be given me at my petition, and that of my people at my request; for we are sold to be slain and to perish." Then the king answered in surprise, "Who is it that dare to presume in his heart to do such a thing?" And Esther answered, "The enemy is this wicked Haman!" When the king heard this, he arose from the banquet in great wrath and went out to think the matter over. And one of the chamberlains told the king about the gallows which Haman had erected for Mordecai. At once the king commanded, "Hang him thereon!" So they hanged Haman on the gallows which he had built for Mordecai. Mordecai, however, was highly honoured, for the king took the ring which he had formerly bestowed upon Haman, and gave it to Mordecai, thus appointing him as his chief

counsellor.

6

**Dear Children.** — This story dear children, teaches us how the Lord watches over his children and breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will of their enemies to do them harm. Therefore let us trust Him and walk in His ways.

*Leave all to His direction./ In wisdom He doth reign;  
And in a way most wondrous / He will His course maintain.  
Soon He, His promise keeping, / With wonder-working skill  
Shall put away the sorrows / That now thy spirit fill.*

(Taken from "Our Sunday School Paper" Nov 22, 1936. Used by permission.)

### QUESTIONS

1. Of which king did we hear in to-day's story?
2. Over which empire did Ahasuerus, or Xerxes, reign?
3. In what manner did this king at one time entertain his princes?
4. Whom did he wish to present to them on the last day of the feast?
5. How did Queen Vashti treat his wish?
6. What was the final result of the queen's stubborn refusal?
7. What advice did his counsellors give as to a new marriage?
8. Which Jew at that time lived near the king's palace?
9. Whom did Mordecai have in his keeping?
10. Where was also Esther taken?
11. What favour did she find in the king's sight?
12. What, however, did Esther not reveal to her royal husband?
13. What great service was Mordecai able to render to the king in those days?
14. Where was this incident recorded?
15. Which man managed to gain the king's favour after that?
16. How did the king honour Haman?
17. What respect did the people thereupon show Haman?
18. But who refused to pay him such homage?
19. What did Haman then decide to do?
20. How did he gain the king's consent?
21. What decree was published?
22. What did Mordecai request Esther to do?
23. What difficulty stood in her way of approaching the king?
24. What favour did she find in the sight of the king?
25. What invitation did Esther make?
26. By what did Haman again feel slighted on leaving the palace?
27. What preparation for revenge did he at once make?
28. Relate how it came that the king desired to reward Mordecai for a service rendered years ago?
29. Relate how it came that Haman had to do honour to the man whom he hated most?
30. What was Haman's tragic punishment?  
In what way was Mordecai honoured by the king?
31. What does the story of Queen Esther teach us?
32. To what should the knowledge of God's protecting care induce us?



**Hints to the questions on page 3:**

1. Matt 27:32

2. 2 Kings 17:3

3. Eph 6:16

4. Acts 9:36-41

5. Gen 4:2

6. 1 Kings 11:42-43

7. Acts 25:11

8. Jn 5:2-10

9. Jude 14-15

10. Num 34:6

11. Jn 3:30



# PUZZLES



W G Q A O R I G L R G Y J W J  
S E K L P F A L C E O W X L R  
C J K I A L Q A M H M X Z X C  
L H Q P L N A O O T D J L R T  
R B R O H T O G R S Q K V A U  
L B W O E Y Q Z D E H N N T G  
D S H O N O U R E L X A F D I  
R O I Z O I Y L C B D X R E O  
N E D C T H C N A H S U H S E  
Z G T H V S A L I H M M Z C E  
X J S P E O H Y E J A G O P L  
C A J V E L J K F S O M D Z A  
V X E C Y C Q R G N J N A U Y  
C K W E B H S N C R G L C N N  
Q T S X F I M P T G H O Y W O

CHRONICLES  
HAMAN  
MORDECAI  
VASHTI

ESTHER  
HONOUR  
SCEPTER

GALLOWS  
JEWS  
SHUSHAN

Editor: Pastor Timothy Winter,  
7 Graham Street,  
Kingaroy, Q. 4610.  
email: ratspo\_mit@yahoo.com.au

Co-ordinator: Mr. Marcus Jeffers  
529 Blackall Range Road  
Woombye, Q. 4559.  
email: karkus\_m@hotmail.com