

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Who Reveals Himself

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 9:

The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him

When we are born, our parents name us. Sometimes we are named after someone in our family or someone in the Bible. Besides our real names, many times our family or friends give us a nickname that describes something about us.

The Bible tells us that God has a real name and many nicknames, too. All His names tell us something about Him. God's real name is "Yahweh," which means "I Am Who I Am. It means that God is eternal, with no beginning or end. It means that no one else is like Him. He alone is the source and sustainer of all life. When we read the word "LORD" in the Bible that is like saying "Yahweh."

God has many nicknames, too, such as Savior; God Most High, Almighty God, the Everlasting God, the Rock and the Good Shepherd. God commanded Mary and Joseph to give His Son the name, Jesus, because it means "Yahweh saves." At the end of time when Jesus returns, the Bible tells us that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

God's name and nicknames tell us how great He is and how completely worthy of all of our love, trust, obedience and praise.

BIBLE VERSE

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Bible Truth 9 Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

"I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Nat Crusher.

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who were the Nats? Who feared them? What were they supposed to do?
2. What was the name of the Nat Crusher? Why could he crush them?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place among the Karen people in Burma in the 1830's.

Soo Thah was born in a simple village perched high upon a mountain top. His house, like the others in his village, looked sort of like a nest made of bamboo and rattan (long, straw rope) with a roof of woven grass on top. It wasn't built on the ground like our houses are, but was built on eight-foot high poles as a protection against leopards, tigers and other beasts of the jungle.

But as careful as Soo Thah's parents were to protect their family from wild animals, they worked even harder to protect themselves from nats. What are nats? They aren't the little insects we call gnats. No, nats were evil spirit that the Karen believed made bad things happen if you made them mad. So, as you can guess, the Karen tried very hard not to anger them.

The Karen made little wooden houses for the nats to live in. They made altars and placed eggs, fruit and other offerings upon them. They stayed away from places that they thought the nats didn't want them to go. They also did things they thought would protect themselves from the nats. Soo Thah's family tied scarlet strings around him and gave him a necklace made from bear's claws, tiger hair and teeth, as protection from the nats.

The Karen lived every day in fear of the nats and many other things. For hundreds of years their elders had told them that there was a God named Y'wa . He created all things and ruled over all things. He even had power over the nats. But sadly, long ago the Karen had rebelled against Him and broke fellowship with Him. Yet, even though they didn't deserve it, He made a promise to them that one day He would send a white messenger called "the Deliverer" from the West. He would come on the white "wings" of a sailing ship would bring them the Book of Y'wa's very own words and would teach them all about Y'wa. He would give them a great king who would deliver them from their misery and give them many blessings.

Then their fears would be ended—even their fears of the nats. Many years had passed and no Deliverer had come, but the Karen still hoped that Y’wa’s promises would come true.

Soo Thah grew up and began to learn the skills he would need to take care of a family one day. He learned how to use a cross bow and how to shoot poisonous darts through a hollow piece of bamboo. He went with the men out into the jungles to hunt for food. They taught him how to defend himself from tigers, bears, leopards, and most feared of all, the hamadryad—a clever, huge, twenty foot, cobra-like snake that was as swift as a horse. It actually tried to catch people for its food. Yikes!

Closer to home, Soo Thah and the other boys were given the job of protecting the precious, ripening rice fields from flocks of hungry birds and herds of wild pigs and elephants. Up they would climb up to small huts mounted on tall poles built along different parts of the fields. From here, the boys could look out over the fields and spot unwelcome “visitors” that needed to be chased away.

Many times, Soo Thah’s turn in the watchtower would come at night. Up there, all alone in the darkness and in fear of the nats and wild animals, he would think. “Are there really nats around us? Why do they hate us so much? Does Y’wa really exist? Is He really more powerful than the nats? Will He ever send His Deliverer?” he wondered. Soo Thah had so many questions, but no answers. The answers would come when the white messenger came with Y’wa’s Book, if that day would ever come.

But one day, when Soo Thah was fourteen, the day did come. Shway Dee, Soo Thah’s uncle came bursting into the village with news: “I went down to the city to trade my basket of neen seed for salt and guess what I heard,” he told the villagers. “White Foreigners—a man and a woman—have come on the white wings of a sailing ship from the West! They tell of a God named Yahweh—Y’wa, in our language. They’re coming to teach us about Him and bring us His Book,” he told everyone.

“The Deliverer is coming! We must get ready for him!” the people exclaimed. The men went out and cleared the jungle paths. Boys climbed the trees as lookouts. A large hut was built so that everyone could sit together and listen to the Deliverer read the words of Y’wa’s Book. Then the villagers got dressed in their finest most colorful clothes. They wanted to look their best when Y’wa’s messengers

came!

At last messengers came! “They’re here! the lookouts shouted, as they spotted a white-skinned man and woman coming down the path escorted by a Karen man, they called the Teacher of Hope. The villagers stared in shock at the pale skin and blue eyes of the couple. And what about the man’s red-bearded face! How strange!

The people led the couple to the village and into the meeting hut, eager to hear what he had to say. Quietly they listened as the Teacher of Hope translated the good news of Jesus into their language. “For years you’ve been waiting for the Deliverer. Now you know He’s Jesus Christ, Y’wa’s Son. Turn from your sins and know fellowship with God! You’ve been waiting for Y’wa’s Book. Here it is! Let us teach you how to read it,” the man offered. Many Karen believed in Jesus right then, but not Soo Thah. It wasn’t until a tiger attacked someone sleeping next to him that the reality of death and his need for a Savior sank into Soo Thah’s heart. Then he, like the others, turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. With the others, Soo Thah praised the Lord for His almighty power over sin, death and the dreaded nats!

It didn’t take Soo Thah long to know that he wanted to tell others about Yahweh and His Son, Jesus Christ more than anything else. Soo Thah studied hard at school, learning all he could about the Bible as well as all the other subjects. He wanted to be the best missionary and pastor he could be for Yahweh.

Some time after he finished school, Soo Thah and other Karen pastors and missionaries met together in a giant hut. They praised Yahweh and they talked which peoples still needed to hear about Jesus.

“The Breccs still haven’t heard,” someone said.

“They are vicious people. We sent Saw Aw to them, but he never came back. Whoever else we send will die, too,” someone else warned.

Soo Thah disagreed. “Who is Yahweh is the Supreme God and Creator of all things. He sent a messenger to tell us the good news of salvation. He gave us the Book of Yahweh. He’s ended our fears of the nats. Shouldn’t we tell the Breccs how they can know Him, too? I will trust Yahweh to take care of me. I will go,” he offered.

With only a Bible and a hymnal, Soo Thah traveled until he reached the Breccs. The women and children ran for safety in their huts when they saw him. The men seized

their spears and surrounded him. "Kill him!" they shouted. "He's an enemy!"

"No. I come in peace," Soo Thah told them. He held up the Bible and the hymnal and said, "I have no weapons. I've come to tell you about Yahweh, the Supreme God. This is a book of songs about Him," he told them, showing them the hymnal. "And this is the book of Yahweh's words," he said, showing them the Bible. "I have come to sing to you about Him and to read His words to you."

Soo Thah opened the hymnal and sang to them about Yahweh. And as he sang, the Holy Spirit began to work in the hearts of the Brechs. As soon as one song finished, the men asked for another and then another, until Soo Thah had hardly any voice.

"This can't be a bad man," the men said to each other. "No bad man acts this way." Putting down their swords, they said to Soo Thah, "Stay and tell us more about Yahweh and His Book. We want to hear what He has to say." So Soo Thah did stay. He told them all about their sin and Yahweh's love, mercy, and forgiveness that they could each know through believing in Jesus, Yahweh's Son.

At last, many of the Brechs, came to believe-- even Ho-Wee the chief and most wicked of those fierce men. Ho-Wee came to Soo Thah and said, "Soo Thah, we are weary of worshiping the nats. We want Yahweh to be our King and God, for He loves and takes care of His people. But please, will you destroy the nat houses and get rid of the nat offerings of eggs and fruit? We are still scared of them."

Nothing could have pleased Soo Thah more than to break down and burn all the nat altars, charms, houses and offerings in a giant bonfire. He would show these new Brec believers of the name of Yahweh—the Name above all names—even above all of the nats.

When it was finally time for Soo Thah to return home, a little church of over forty Brec Christians had already been started, with many more Brechs eager to hear about Yahweh and His Book.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him

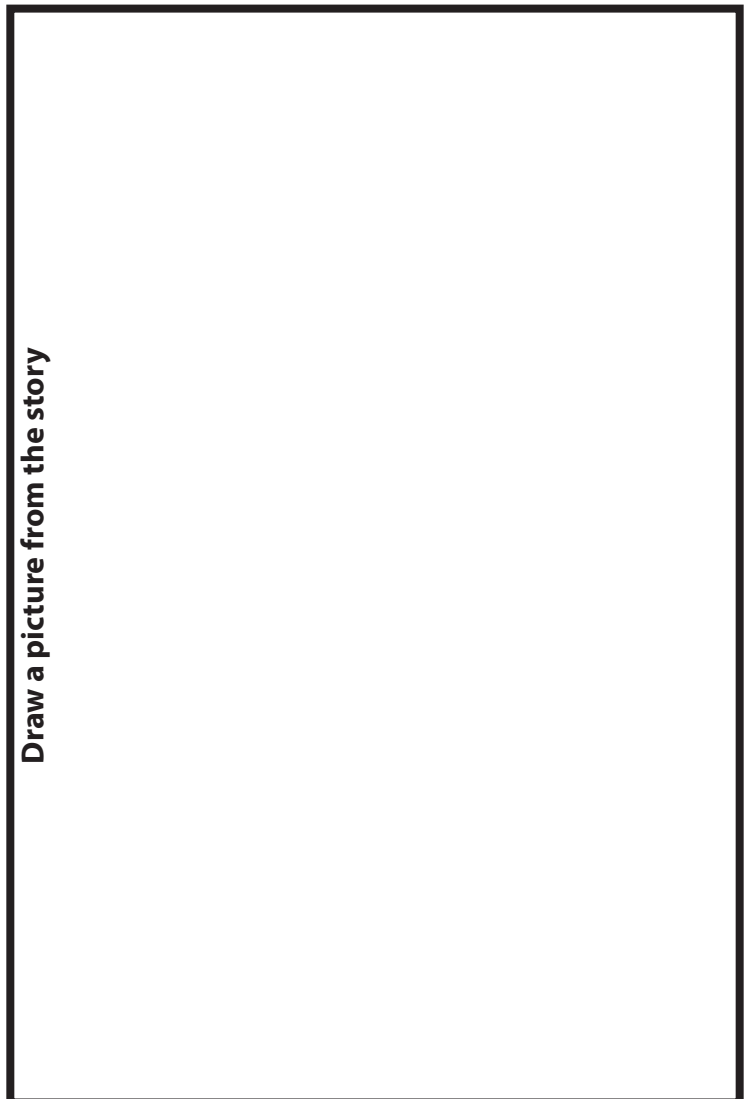
Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

"I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

Karen people to receive the good news of Jesus, even hundreds of years before any missionary would set foot on Burmese soil! How could this be? Only because Yahweh truly is the Name Above All Names. He is the Supreme God. He is eternal and good. From before the beginning of time He planned to show mercy to undeserving, rebellious people.

But what about you and me? Like Soo Thah, we have heard about Yahweh. We have read His Book, the Bible. We know about Jesus Christ, the Deliverer and Savior. Do we believe in Him? Have we come to Him, turning away from disobeying Him and trusting Him as our own Savior? God promises to forgive all who truly repent of their sins and trust in Jesus!

And if we have done this, then like Soo Thah, do we think about how we can tell others about Him? Let's praise Yahweh, the Name Above All Names. Let's ask Him to help us to confess our sins to Him and trust Him to forgive us. Let's ask Him to help us to boldly tell others about Him, just like Soo Thah.



Draw a picture from the story

What an amazing story of how God had prepared the

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: Mary and Joseph decided to name God’s Son Jesus because Joseph had an uncle by that name and they wanted to name the baby after him. Answer: False! God commanded them to name Him that because it means, “Yahweh saves.” That’s what Jesus had come to do.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who were the Nats? Who feared them? What were they supposed to do? Answer: The Nats were the Karen people’s name for the evil spirits they believed in. The Karen people feared them. They believed the Nats were able to hurt them if they were not kept happy.</p> <p>b. What was the name of the Nat-Crusher? Why could he crush them? The Lord. He rules over all of heaven and earth. Answer: Nothing is more powerful than Him. Through Jesus, He crushed the power of the devil, sin and death for God’s people. He always keeps them safely in His perfect will.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 32:3-4 “I will proclaim the ___ of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are ___, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no ___, upright and just is he.” Answers: name; perfect; wrong.</p>	<p>Oh, How I Love Jesus <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 25</i></p> <p>Verse 1 There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing it’s worth; It sounds like music in my ear, The sweetest name on earth. Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, Because He first loved me.</p> <p>Words: Frederick Whitfield Music: Traditional American Melody</p> <p>Jesus’ name means ‘Yahweh Saves.’ It tells us that Jesus is God. He came to save us from our sins. When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, it is the best thing that will ever happen to us. That’s why God’s people think that name of Jesus is the sweetest name of earth. It reminds them of how God loved them before they loved Him. It reminds them of how He showed this love by coming to earth to live and to die for them, that they might be saved. That is a name worth a lot! That is a name worth most of all!</p>
AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY	BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being the greatest of all gods!</p> <p>C God, we confess that sometimes we are afraid, acting like there are things in this world more powerful and more important than You.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for sending people to tell us the good news of Jesus.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Please send more of Your people out to places that have not heard about You. Please help us to live boldly for You, knowing that You are the Name above ever name--greater than anything or anyone we might ever face.</p>	<p>I Will Proclaim <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 26</i></p> <p>I will proclaim the name of the LORD, Oh, praise the greatness of our God! I will proclaim the name of the LORD, Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock! (He’s the rock!) His works are perfect! (His works are perfect!) His ways are just! (His ways are just!) A faithful God who does no wrong. A faithful God who does no wrong. Upright and just is He. Upright and just is He. Deuteronomy Thirty-two, three and four.</p> <p>Words: Deuteronomy 32:3-4 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>Each day the LORD displays His wonderful ways and perfect care of His people. He is the LORD—the I Am Who I Am, who is eternal, like no one else, and the source and sustainer of life. He is like a Rock they can always depend on. They have nothing but praise for His name.</p>