
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 8, Bible Truth 1

The Case of the Costly Children *Exodus 24, Jeremiah 25, Isaiah 9,42,43,49, Ezekiel 37, Daniel 9, Zechariah 8-14*

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. At Mt. Sinai, the LORD spoke to the people of Israel. "I want to be your God and you to be My people," He told them. "Let's make big "Do or Die" promises to each other: promises sealed in blood and must be kept ---a covenant. I promise to take care of you. You promise to keep My laws."
2. "Yes! We want to make these promises with You," the people said. They gave big worship gifts to the LORD. Then, Moses read the LORD's laws and promises. He sprinkled the people with blood from the gifts, then the people promised: "We will keep the covenant... we will do or die."
3. The LORD kept His covenant with the people --every one of His big, "Do or Die" promises. But sadly, the people of Israel had sinful hearts, just like we do. They broke all of their covenant promises to the LORD. What would happen? The people did not "Do." Would they have to "Die"?
4. The people no longer deserved to be God's people, but the LORD was patient. He sent Jeremiah to urge them to turn back and worship Him. But the people didn't listen, so the LORD sent His punishments. Their land was destroyed, and they were carried off to work for their enemies.
5. How sad were the people of Israel in this faraway land! They knew they deserved the LORD's punishments for breaking their "Do or Die" promises to Him. Now, they wanted to turn back and worship Him. But had the LORD stopped loving His people? Was it too late?
6. No, it wasn't! The LORD sent Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah to encourage them: "I have punished you so you would turn back to Me. On just the right day, your punishment will be over. I'll free you from your enemies. You will go home and make a new start," the LORD promised.
7. "But I have even better plans for you," the LORD told them. "I'm sending you a Messiah, a Savior," He promised. "He will take the punishment My people deserve for disobeying Me. His blood will take away their sins and make a new "Do or Die" covenant, so they can always be My people."
8. "I'll give My people new hearts filled with My Holy Spirit. He'll help them love Me and obey Me, until the day they come live with Me in heaven," the LORD promised. "This covenant will last FOREVER." The people of Israel were so happy! They looked forward to what the LORD would do.
9. The people waited, and at last, the day came when they were freed. They went back to their land to build homes and a new place to worship the LORD. Then, they waited and waited for the day when the Savior would come. And, at last, He came. Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
10. Jesus lived a perfect life, then on the cross, He gave it as full payment for God's people's sins. Jesus' blood sealed God's new covenant with His people. This covenant could NEVER be broken because Jesus was making it with His perfect life. Oh, what a wonderful, costly gift Jesus gave!
11. Jesus died on the cross that day, but on Day Three, He rose from the dead. He had beaten sin and death for God's people. And with His victory, God gave His people a new name: His adopted children. Jesus' life paid the costly price for them to be in God's heavenly family forever.
12. God's love for His people is amazing! Though they don't love or obey Him as they should, God sent Jesus to save them. They can know God in their hearts now; and one day, go live with Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.