

The  
KINGDOM  
Chronicles

THE  
BOOK  
From the  
LIBRARY

by Steven G. Kennard

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The Kingdom Chronicles

Episode 3 The Book from the Library

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# Episode 3

THE

BOOK

From the

LIBRARY

FOR THE GLORY OF THE  
Kingdom of Heaven




KINGDOM  
Chronicles

## Linage of the Kings

1. Alexius
2. Derek
3. Galen (disappeared)
4. Carl
5. Gaspar (did evil)
6. Drustan
7. Eric


## INTRODUCTION

t is written that when the men of old began to multiply upon the face of the earth, God began to give His commandments to man through the word of His prophets. In time, the spoken word became the written word, and was recorded in a Holy Book called the Book of Beginnings. The book was handed down from generation to generation by the Kings and the elders of a people of God's own choosing. Its teachings were handed down from father to son and down through the generations of men. The book taught men how to live life God's way, with instructions of life and of righteous living. The teaching of the book became known simply as "The Code."

In time, man began to govern himself and ignored the word of the prophets of God. By the strength of their armies and the edge of the sword, they ruled. Those who served the evil of this world brought war, famine and death. They marched across the land taking for themselves what was not theirs to take. Many died till evil had established its foothold in almost every kingdom on earth except a very few. These few stood firm and kept to the old Code of their forefathers. These few kingdoms refused to neither bend their knee nor swear allegiance to evil.



## THE LINAGE OF THE KINGS OF ILDAR

n the days when King Alexius ruled over the Kingdom of Ildar, legend had it that he fought the great evil with divine help from the ancient Book of Beginnings. The King swore that he and his generations to come would keep to the Code. As the righteousness of the King went, so did the kingdom, and the kingdom flourished for four generations of kings.

King Alexius was followed by King Derek who established the realm of Ildar and protected it. Next was his son King Galen who fought the Great Evil for Tira whom he loved and took as his queen. Tira gave the King sons and daughters. Their first born died at birth, so the throne passed to another. The following year Queen Tira gave birth to a second son who her husband King Galen named Carl. After the disappearance of King Galen and his men one night in the dark forest, Prince Carl rose to the throne and he loved God as his father

before him did and he listened to God's messengers and enforced the Code of Yahweh as his fathers had before him.

It was in the fifth generation of the kings that King Gaspar, the son of King Carl began to do evil in the sight of God. King Gaspar turned his back on the Code and the teachings of the prophets. He sought out the pleasures of other kings and other kingdoms. The more the King turned his back on the Code the more the Kingdom of Ildar began to decline. Spies came to the kingdom and stole away the sacred Book of Beginnings from the wayward king.

After hearing the news that the sacred book had been stolen, the King began to grieve and could not be consoled. The King became deathly sick, because he had committed great wickedness in high places and forgotten the Code to which he was bound.

As it was with the King, so it was with the kingdom and the land began to wither and the crops failed. Because of the sins of one man, all the kingdom would suffer. Soon the King passed away and his son Prince Drustan ascended to the throne.

The prophets of the Most High God came to the young King to teach him the ancient ways, the ways of the Code, which is the righteousness of all Kings. Then King Drustan swore off the evils that his father had allowed and destroyed the temples of the foreign gods made with hands. The land began to heal and the crops came back and the kingdom began to flourish once again.

Now the King sent messengers and scouts throughout all the land looking for the lost Book of Beginnings so he could bring it back home. After years of searching, it could not be found. It was lost to history, its location known only to the creator Himself. So it was in the days of King Drustan.



Now Prince Erick, first born and the seventh heir to the throne over his brother Prince Jeddak, fell into a deep sleep. In his sleep he heard a shout and saw a bright blue light and within it was the image of a man. Out of the light, the image held out to him an ancient book and a goblet of wine, and he was told to eat the book. So Prince Eric did as it was requested of him and ate a small portion of the book and was made sick by it.



Then the image of the man spoke to him, “This is the bitterness of judgment for the evil that was committed against my law, which is the Code which guides and teaches. Teach this to your children and their children, and never forget. I have seen the heart of your father and the work of his hands honors me. His prayers come up to me as the sweet fragrant smell of true repentance. I see your heart, how you embrace the Code of your fathers and seek righteousness over evil.”

Then the image of the man told Prince Eric to drink the wine from the goblet. So he drank and health came back to him so that he could stand upright. Then again the image spoke to the prince, “Keep to the way of the Code and the land will again prosper and you shall drink of its fruits and live. Listen to me young prince, send your friend Adam of the clan of Kinnaird to the castle of the Anunnaki god called “Anu”. Tell him to wait for the sign of the Holy Book which I shall return unto you.

I have another servant of the lineage of the kings, he has not yet come to you, but I will send him into your midst for a season. I shall give to him that which you seek. Go now and do as I have instructed, for my Spirit will be with you.”

Then the light faded away and the prince woke up. He remembered every word told to him in his dream. How excited he got thinking that the Holy Book was finally coming back home. He did as the angel commanded him and sent his friend Adam to keep an eye on the castle of the pagan god Anu, the Mesopotamian god of the heavens. There Adam would wait for the one who had the sacred book to appear.

**THE**  
**BOOK**  
From the  
**LIBRARY**




# Part 1



# Chapter Onee



## THE BOOK FROM THE LIBRARY

 arek Johnson was twenty years old and beginning his first year of college. He had always had an interest in matters of religion and theology so he signed up for the Introduction to Religion 101 class thinking it would be a good place to start.

Marek was one of those people who always wanted to know the “Why,” of everything. Often questioning his teachers as to why they believed what they did. He had a lot of questions and the more answers he dug up, the more questions discovered.

Constantly questioning everything drove his parents and everyone else crazy. It was for this reason Marek believed he was sent off to college. Maybe someone there could answer all his questions.

The class he loved the most was Religion 101. During the first week of class the professor told everyone of a special project each of them would be assigned to work on during the semester. The professor came up to Marek and looked at him as he handed him his assignment, “For you Mr. Marek since you have so many questions you are the perfect person for this assignment.” As Marek looked down at what was written on the paper he read, “Research and be ready to give a report on the origins, history, and content of one of the following two books. They are the ancient books alluded to in scripture as the Book of the Kings, and the Book of Beginnings.”

## THE BOOK FROM THE LIBRARY

Marek would begin his assignment at his favorite place which was the Library. For Marek Johnson this is where his story begins. It all started with the book he would check out of the library.

### THE LIBRARY

That afternoon, after the last class Marek wasted no time getting over to the library where he thought he'd spend maybe an hour looking up information on the Book of Beginnings. Two hours later he was in trouble because there was nothing in the library with the name, nothing even close to it. He needed help.

Marek went up to the counter desk and for a moment just stood there in deep thought of where this book could be for, he had been all over the library.

"Hi there," came the sound of a young woman's voice. "Can I help you find something? ... Hello ... earth to M A R E K!"

Suddenly Marek woke up out of his daze, "Oh ... I'm sorry, my mind was off thinking of something else. I need some help and I was hoping you could help me? By-the-way, how did you know my name anyway, and besides that what is your name, have we met before?"

"You sure have a lot of questions," she responded very quickly now that he was paying attention, "You would know my name if you paid more attention in class. My name is Sarah and I sit right behind you in your religion class. You would know these things if you paid more attention to who sits around you."

"I'm really sorry. I never meant to ignore anyone, it's just that I am so focused on the class I probably don't know anyone in it. So now I know someone, now I know you."

"It's ok," she said. "I understand and you're here to find a copy of some old book right?"

"Well yes, but I have no idea where to even start looking. I wasn't given the authors name, just an old title and I'm not sure of it, because it sounds strange too."

“You do remember I said I’m in the class also, and I heard what he said to you. I got a project too. Do you want to know what it was about?”

Marek looked surprised, “Ah ... sure what’s it about.”

“It’s about ancient languages. I like the idea of it and was more than slightly interested.”

“Well then, I’m sure you will do good with that assignment,” said Marek. But if I’m ever going to get started on my project I need some help.”

“Okay, tell me what you know and let’s see if I can help you find this book with no author.”

“Well, I think it is called the Book of Beginnings, or Book of the Kings, and I’m sorry I wasn’t given much information other than that.”

Sarah looked at him, “Well that’s better than I thought you were going to say. Why don’t you go over there and have a seat while I do some research and find this mystery book for you?”

“Okay, oh and Sarah ... thank you for your help.”

“Now that’s nice to hear, I’m happy to help you. So go sit down and try not to get into trouble.”

Sarah was gone a while as Marek was impatiently waiting. As time went on Marek started thinking to himself “I didn’t think it would be that hard to find, it’s just a book, right? What do I know; there must have been several copies of it. I couldn’t be the first one with this particular project.” After about forty-five minutes Sarah came back holding a large book and looking a little tired out for all her work.

“You won’t believe what I went through to find this book. I think this is the only one in existence and it is very old. How it ended up here, I’ll never know? This book should be in a museum not a library.”

Sarah set the old book down on the counter so they both could see it. It was pretty old looking and dusty. She brushed off some of the dust and as the two of them looked at the book, all they saw were some symbols on the cover of

which neither of them could make out. Sarah very carefully opened the cover and turned a few pages and still no words, only some symbols.

“How am I supposed to research this? I can’t even read what it says. What language is this anyway? And another thing, where did you find it? You were gone forever.”

“Forever! I’ll have you know I had to dig through a pile of books that just came in. They were in the back storage area. I don’t know what it says either, or what the title is. Just be happy I found it for you.”

“I’m sorry, I was just getting anxious I guess, and I am thankful for your help and for doing all that work for me. How did you know this was the book I was looking for if you can’t read the title?”

Then Sarah held up a piece of paper and shook it at Marek. “Because this piece of paper was attached to it, that’s how.”

Marek took it out of her hand and looked at it. It said “Hold for Marek Johnson.”

“Wow, that’s weird. Someone reserved the book for me in advance? Maybe it was the professor?”

Sarah felt sure she knew the mystery, “This is just the professor. He just wanted to make you work for the answers. He’s making this like some deep mystery movie for you, like a puzzle, he is playing with you. He must have come in here the other day and hid the book to make it an adventure.”

“You’re probably right Sarah. Can I just go ahead and check the book out now so I can get back to the dorm? This thing is pretty dirty, I guess I’ll do the professor a favor and clean it up tonight.”

“One moment,” said Sarah. “Let me just write the name of it down ... wait we can’t read the name. Look Marek, just take it back to the dorm and be careful with it, it’s old. I know of a book that might help translate what this says. I’ll check on you later and see how you’re doing with it.”

BACK AT THE DORM ROOM

That evening Marek sat down and had a long look at the book he got from the school library. It certainly was old and dusty looking. He leaned over and blew on it, dust went all over the place. “So, a book with no name just symbols, I don’t understand. How do I even know if this is the right book or not? Someone went through a lot of work to put my name on it. How am I supposed to read it anyway?”

Marek opened the book out of curiosity and turned some of the pages looking at the symbols, but there were no words that he could recognize. “What language is this anyway, maybe tomorrow I can find someone who can tell me what this says.”

About that time there was a knock on the door, and someone called out, “Marek, are you in there? I have something that I think will help you.”

Marek jumped up and opened the door. It was Sarah from the library. “I don’t need help you know, I can read.”

“Oh yeah!” She said, “Then tell me the name of the book? Just admit it, you need help. Anyway, I brought this book with me. It helps you identify foreign languages. There are pictures of old letters and symbols. I think we can figure out what language your book is written in now. Good idea, isn’t it?”

“That was a great idea Sarah, thanks.”

The two of them were careful with the old book and started looking through Sarah’s book trying to match up the symbols on the cover to anything they could find in Sarah’s language book. Back and forth they went comparing words to the symbols, then symbols to the symbols in the book. After about thirty minutes of searching Sarah elbowed Marek. “Look at this, these markings here look like a match for the cover of the book.”

“Show me, where, what?” Marek said eagerly trying to get closer to the book so he could see.



## THE BOOK FROM THE LIBRARY

“Well don’t knock me down,” said Sarah. “Look at these markings on the cover of your book, they are the same symbols. They match these set of pictures in my book. This book says that what we thought were symbols are ancient letters. There are twenty-two characters here. So, I believe we can translate what your book says. Just one really strange thing though. If these symbols are really letters and we are on the right page to translate, then we are looking at ancient Hebrew. This is really old, Marek, several thousand years old. How did it get into our library? And look at it, we can still read the pages. This is a little on the spooky side, you know?”

Then Marek, in kind of a laughing tone said, “Again I think this is probably something the professor made up to see if we would dig for the information and how much we wanted to pass the class. It’s like a test, I’m sure.”

“Marek, I have never heard of any test like this, this is so strange. Now listen, if I’m correct the title of this book really does match the title you were given, the Book of Beginnings. The professor had to have had a hand in this. I don’t know much but I think Bible scholars believed that such a book like this was just a fable or that it had been destroyed thousands of years ago. So how did it turn up in our library with a note on it for you? This is just amazing.”

## THE CALLING FORTH

Sarah and Marek stayed up late working hard on this new mystery they had discovered. They were trying to understand what this strange book said. They had at least figured out it was the right book that Marek had been assigned to do a report on, but that was about all.

Marek turned the pages until he came to the first one and leaned towards the book to get a better look at these symbols Sarah called letters. The two of them worked on matching up letter for letter that they found. They were at it for a while and even though they could match up the letters of the book they still had no idea of what it said.

Marek had been staring at the letters of the book for some time when a strange thing began to happen. As he focused on the page and the section he thought he saw the symbols move. “My eyes must be getting tired, looks like these letters are moving.” He looked again and again they moved. “Sarah, can you see this? Are these letters really moving?”

“Well move out of the way and let me see,” said Sarah. Marek wanting to help Sarah see as he did, “You have to stare hard at them, it must be some kind of optical illusion.”

“This is cool,” said Sarah.

Sarah and Marek both had their heads down looking at the letters as they started to move and then suddenly the letters began to glow a blue light. Sarah let out a sudden gasp, and Marek’s eyes opened wide. Sarah said in a loud voice “I understand.” Marek shook his head in agreement for he was speechless over what was happening. The letters glowed even brighter, and the glow filled the room. The ancient text was now speaking to the two of them and they understood.

Then there was the sound of a different voice, and this one came from someone or something out of the book. “COME TO ME.” With that the room began to peel away and as they both looked there was a hole surrounded by clouds. It had opened from out of the wall, and it was getting larger.

“Sarah, do you see what I’m seeing?”

“I think so, but I don’t believe what I’m seeing.”

Both of them saw through the hole that was opening before them. It was a strange new place, a different land. Within the hole and now it was about to engulf the room taking them with it. Sarah yelled out to Marek through the sound of the wind “Grab the book and hold on tight.” Sarah had her own book to hold onto while Marek closed his book and held it close to his chest to protect it.

Again, they heard the same voice call out to them “Son of Adam, Daughter of Eve I have need of a reader. Come to me.”

# Chapter Twoe



## THE DARK LORDS CASTLE

### THE GARDEN OASIS

**B**y now the cloud covered hole had engulfed both of them and the dorm room had disappeared, and they found themselves in a different place standing on a cliff overlooking a great castle.

“WHAT WAS THAT?” yelled Marek. “What just happened to us Sarah, and where did the dorm room go. Where are we now? Sarah ... Sarah where are you?”

Marek turned around quickly looking for Sarah when he suddenly heard her call out as she started running in a different direction. “Look Marek there is a garden and it is so beautiful. Let’s go see it.”

Marek called out to Sarah, “Sarah stop, come back. You don’t know anything about that place. It could be a trap. You’re going to get yourself hurt some day.” Marek’s concern was that the garden was out of place for the rest of their surroundings. They stood on a large mountain cliff with a nightmarish castle down below, and He was sure whoever was in there had already seen them. Marek had no choice but to run after Sarah and warn her of what might be coming.

Sarah ran head long into the garden without any hesitation, or fear, but Marek held back. “This is strange” he thought. There was a soft blue glow coming out of the garden. It was the same color as the letters of their book, which he was still holding. Marek’s thoughts were about where Sarah had run off too. The

garden was surrounded by stone walls with vines that adorned the tops and hung down and over the entrance that Sarah so eagerly ran through. Marek could hear the sound of water running from within this beautiful place. There was a cool breeze coming out of it, welcoming him to venture into this luscious garden oasis.

“Marek, come here and see, it’s beautiful.”

“She is going to get both of us into trouble. I can tell already,” Marek mumbled to himself. Marek decided to go in and see what was so beautiful before she decided to stay. So into the garden he stepped with a certain degree of caution. The blue light seemed to permeate everything in the garden. Rays of sunshine filtered through the trees and seemed to be showing him the way to go. The sound of birds and of water from a nearby stream gave him a feeling of calm.

It didn’t take long before he found Sarah, she was just standing there taking in the beauty of this place. “Isn’t this the most beautiful place you have ever seen?” But before he could say anything, another bright light, much brighter than the garden, appeared before them. He grabbed Sarah and pulled her several steps backwards, for he didn’t know what this new light might be.

“Do not be afraid for the Spirit of the living God dwells in this place and I have been sent to you with a message.”

“Who are you?” Marek asked.

“I am Zurel, Captain of the League of Guardians, and protector of the Kingdom of Heaven.”

“Can you please tell us why we are here, and what was that hole in my dorm room that brought us here?” Sarah didn’t say a word. All her attention was fixed on this beautiful creature and for the first time since Marek had met her in the library, she was speechless.

“The tunnel which brought you here was called into being by the one who wishes to use you for his own glory and your destruction. When the book revealed itself to you. He heard you read from it, for you are a reader of the sacred words. So the evil one called you back to this moment when he wishes to rule all men.

## THE DARK LORDS CASTLE

You must not let that happen; you must not read for him. The book you hold has the words of life in it. When spoken, the unknown becomes known and the eternal becomes the present, the impossible is made possible.

Marek was amazed by this angel and listened carefully to every word of this messenger of God.

“Each of you will receive a medallion, keep it with you always. Consider them gifts of a time long ago. They are powerful and so only press the jewel in its center in times of your greatest need and we shall come. Your time is short for even now they are coming for you. A warning I give to you young prince, so hear me well. The evil one, the prince of darkness seeks to destroy you and have the book for himself. Do not allow him to deceive you into reading for him. He seeks your gift as a reader.”

With that, the guardian Zurel vanished and so did the garden. Marek looked all around but saw only the dirt and rock, but at the place where the water flowed there was a sparkle on the ground. He went over to see what it was. There on the ground were two medallions each with a blue jewel in the center that glowed with the same blue light as was in the garden. Marek picked them up and handed one to Sarah and they both put them around their necks and tucked them behind their clothes.

### ARRESTED

“Sarah, did you hear him call me a prince? What was that about?”

“Well Marek, if you believe in God and that He is the King of the Kingdom of Heaven. Then you are by rights a true prince and I am a princess. Too bad the angel didn’t know that you are also delusional and warped in your thinking.”

“Ha-ha, very funny,” Marek said. “You better hope I’m not too delusional because I see soldiers coming our way. Be calm and say as little as possible. In these times the women weren’t as vocal as you are.”

“Are you telling me that I talk too much?”

“I’m telling you to let me do the talking, starting now.”

Within a few moments an army patrol on horseback rode up to where Marek and Sarah were standing. They were dressed for battle with their swords drawn.

The captain of the men spoke up with anger in his voice, “I demand in the name of Lord Anu, god of the heavens that you tell us who you are and how you came to be in this place above our kingdom?”

“I am called Marek, and this is my ... ahh ... my travel companion Sarah. We have come a long way and seem to have gotten lost.”

“What is that you have in your hands, a book? Books are outlawed here”

“I mean no harm by this book; it is precious to me. It has been in my family for many years. I read from it when I am alone.”

“You are lying, Marek. Perhaps you want me to believe that you and this woman have dropped from out of the sky? I see no horses for your travel, no bundles, or provisions. You are not even filthy from the climb up this mountain, and we have never seen clothes such as yours. You have come to spy on us. You both are my prisoners.”

Then Sarah screamed out, “No! You are wrong, we are not spies, and we are just lost.”

“Guards, quiet this woman and bring me that book, then arrest them both.”

So the guards covered Sarah’s mouth with a cloth as she struggled in vain to get loose. They tied both Marek and Sarah behind their horses to forcibly take them back to the castle. The leader who had been questioning them went over to Marek and got in his face very close. “You are a spy I say, or a very stupid man. Books have been outlawed for over a hundred years. The god Anu forbids it. You will answer to him.”

## THE DARK LORDS CASTLE

They were led away down a trail to the bottom of the valley and across a bridge into a very dark and foreboding castle. Once they were inside Marek heard the captain yell out orders to his men.

“Take the women to the concubine chambers where she will be dealt with later and take the spy to the dungeon. The great Anu will certainly want to deal with him personally.”

## THE PRISON DUNGEON

Two guards dragged Marek through the doors that lead down into the lowest part of the castle. Every inch of it smelled of mold and oozed slim from the cracks in its walls. The flicker of lights from a few torches barely lit the way to cells overflowing with the forgotten souls of a forgotten kingdom. They finally untied Marek’s hands and then threw him into a cell. Then he heard the door slam shut and the lock turned. The cell was no more than a small cave with iron bars to keep its occupants in.

It was hard at first to even breathe down in the dungeon. The pungent odor was so bad, Marek could almost taste it. He coughed and gaged until He was close to the edge of vomiting. In time He adjusted to the stench and began to breathe normally. Now that he was alone and had a moment to think, he questioned why he was given this book to report on and looked at where it had got him. All he could feel was anger, that this was all because of that book.

Then suddenly Marek heard someone behind him in the same cell back in the dark where he could not see. From out of the dark place a voice was heard, “What is this book you talk about? Books are forbidden you know?”

“Who’s there?” Marek said. “Come out so I can see who you are. Show yourself and stop your hiding.”

Then again, the voice spoke out, “I am only a lowly servant in the house of the King. I pray you, sir, to tell me of this book you said you read from, that brought you here.”

“You wouldn’t know it. I got it out of the library, but I can’t read any of it. Sarah and I believe it is very old and of a different language, maybe ancient Hebrew. We don’t know. But as I was trying to make out the words and make an attempt to read it, the book became all crazy on me and the letters began to move and then it glowed and the whole room fell apart. There was this voice that called us and next thing I knew we are standing on the cliff above this castle. I still don’t know where I’m at. Will you please tell me where is this place?”

The stranger in the dark shadows took a moment before he answered, as he took a few steps from out of the shadows to a place where Marek could see him. “We have a tradition handed down from many generations of a book similar to what you talk about. However, the book has been lost to us for several generations now. King Galen was the last to use its power and then the book vanished. We have been told of a prophecy that the Most High would cause the book to be returned to us. Now you are here speaking of a book like ours that hasn’t been seen for over one hundred years. This is ordained by the almighty. Never in our lifetime has this ever happened, until now. Tell me Messenger of God, what is your name? Are you a Holy Man to be trusted to such a mission?”

“First, my name is Marek Johnson and I have no idea why we are here or how we got here. I am a student at the university and the professor gave me an assignment to research this book called the Book of Beginnings.” At the hearing of the name of the book the stranger gasped and stumbled back a few steps. “You mean it is our book? Jehovah be praised! He is true to His word,” so where is this book now? I assume you must have hidden it?”

“Hide it? I didn’t have time to hide anything. Some soldiers came and arrested us and took the book and Sarah. I don’t know where either of them are, and right now I’m in prison with you and I don’t even know your name, let’s start there.”

“I am so excited I cannot believe that the prophecy has come true, and He uses me to fulfill His promises. Please excuse my rudeness. I am called Adam



because I was the first born of my father in the house of Kinnaird. My family has served the true King for seven generations. The legend of this book you spoke of goes back to King Galen and his Queen Tira. He was a reader, and none have been since him. Now you say you read from this book, and it called you here. Then I have a warning for you sir, be mindful of the words you read from that book because if it is truly the same book then you are in danger. The evil god Anu seeks a reader, and he will stop at nothing.”

“That’s what the angel told us in the garden, he also warned us about this person Anu.”

“You have seen an angel since you have been here?”

“Yes, he showed himself to us in the garden and then gave us these medallions.” Marek pulled out the medallion he had tucked under his clothes.

“You and this woman Sarah are amazing people to receive from the Lord these things. The medallion you have around your neck once belonged to the great King Galen, and his father before him and his father before him. Whatever you do, don’t let this fall into the hands of Anu.”

“So, do you know where the Holy book is now?”

“That’s a good question. If I had to give you an answer, then I’d say that evil god person must have it by now.”

“WHAT! This cannot be,” shouted Adam.

Then the both of them became quiet at the sounds of men coming down the dark hallway towards the cell.

“Stand back scum and make way for a god, our Lord Anu who demands to speak to you.”

A tall figure turned the corner of the chamber, walked gracefully into the cell, and came to look Marek directly in the eyes.

“Hello Marek, are you comfortable? Not as comfortable as in your dorm room back home, are you? You would like to go home now, I bet? I can make that happen, right now, and all this fuss will be forgotten about. Would you like that?”

## THE DARK LORDS CASTLE

Marek was completely shocked that pagan god knew him, and that he was not from this time, claiming he could send him home. So, Marek asked “Where is Sarah, what have you done with her?”

“Oh yes, Sarah. She is fine ... for now. I was thinking what a nice addition she would make to my harem. However, I will allow both of you to go home this day if you would do me just one small favor ... guards, bring him and follow me.”

Marek could hear from back in the cell the shouts of Adam, “Don’t read for him or we are all doomed.” Then a guard hit Adam, knocked him back down, and slammed the cell doors.

### THE MEETING WITH A SUMERIAN GOD

The room had all its outside windows draped. There were many shelves lining the walls and they were all stuffed with books. Then, Sarah was brought in by a servant woman. “Sarah,” shouted Adam. “Are you ok, and why are you wearing those clothes, what’s going on?”

“Marek, they forced me to put these clothes on. I didn’t want to, but I had no choice. They said they would kill you if I didn’t cooperate with them.”

Marek turned again to the evil Lord Anu, “Ok, whoever you are what’s going on and how did we get here? I want some answers and I want them now.” Suddenly, Lord Anu raised his hand up and instantly Marek felt an unseen hand grab his throat, and he was lifted up off the floor.

“You will find that I am the only one who gives the orders around here, is that understood, boy?” Marek could barely shake his head yes. “Good, I’m so glad you understand.” Then Anu released the choke hold he had on Marek, and he dropped to the floor. Anu continued on with his tirade.

“So, you do have a bit of a temper now, don’t you? This can serve me well. Now you hold your tongue boy before both of you become a permanent fixture around here. I brought you here because I am seeking a reader to read for me. I have waited for centuries for the right time, and you gave it to me. The girl

just had the misfortune of being too close to you and came through the portal when you did. I do not need her. She is of no use to me unless you don't do what I want."

Then he went over to Sarah and looked her in the face, "I can always use another wife I guess."

Sarah just gasped at the thought but knew what he was asking of Marek was going to be impossible. Then Marek tried to get the conversation off of Sarah.

"Books, I heard these were outlawed here."

"They are, because I have them all. Men cannot obey the law, or what they call the Code. If they don't know what the Code is, how can they live by it? The books are here, and I have them all and thanks to you I now possess the most important book of them all. You don't even know what you have done, do you? It is power, it gives life, and it can make me like the Most High. I will rule this earth someday. I'm getting tired of waiting and you are going to help me. Do you understand? Whatever honor you think you may have needs to be forgotten right now. You are not as holy as you think. The Code is dead now, and it doesn't exist. Only my will exists. You obey me now and do as I tell you."

It suddenly dawned on Marek who this evil creature really was. "You are the devil pretending to be a god so these people will worship you. I already know what will happen to you and here is a news flash for you, Mr. Devil, I will never read for you. So you might as well just let us go and send us back home."

Anu began to laugh, and he changed form right in front of Sarah and Marek. Now they saw Anu for who he really was ... a hideous creature. Then he changed again into a two-headed dragon. He got down close to their faces, still laughing and shouted at both of them. "Oh, but yes you will read and soon. Otherwise, both of you will be staying here forever. You will be my pet servant and the woman will learn her place among those I collect for my amusement."

## THE DARK LORDS CASTLE

Hearing that made Sarah's eyes light up and her face got bright red. Then that dragon changed back into the evil Lord Anu. He looked and laughed some more at Sarah's anger.

"I'll never do what you want," screamed Sarah. "I'm going to ...". Then Anu flicked his fingers in her direction and suddenly Sarah was moving her mouth, but no words were coming out. She suddenly had lost her voice, but she was still telling him what she thought with all her fury. Then Anu went over to a table where the book lay and turned an hourglass upside down so that the sand began to run through it. "You have until the sand is gone to decide, then your time is up. Maybe three days in the dungeon will loosen your tongue and change your mind."

Anu shouted for the guards, and they came running into the room. They grabbed hold of Sarah and took her away kicking and screaming although there was no sound coming out. Then Anu got in Marek's face, "You have three days to change your mind boy. You will not like the consequences and neither will your girlfriend. Now I must go and raise my army up from among my other kingdoms. Guards take him back to his cell where he can think more clearly."

## BACK IN THE DUNGEON

They threw Marek back into the cell with Adam. After they left Adam came out of the shadows. "Are you alright my friend? What did he do to you? You didn't read for him, did you?"

"No, I didn't read for him, but he is really mad. He turned into a dragon and threatened us. He is gone now, but turned this hourglass over and said we had three days to read or else. Then he left to gather his army."

"I heard you speak of a woman you brought with you. We were expecting only one of you?"

"The girls name is Sarah. We are not from this time, but the future. Sarah was helping me translate this old book when all of a sudden somehow we both got

sucked back in time to this place overlooking this castle. We met this angel standing in a garden, and he gave us these medallions to use if we needed help. Then the soldiers came and we were arrested.”

“I know this place you speak of, it is a flat plateau overlooking this castle. They watch it all the time. I tell you there is no garden up there.”

“I know that, it disappeared just before we were arrested.”

“Okay, I understand, but you said this angel gave you a medallion? Can you show it to me? There is an old legend of a medallion that was given to King Galen. We only have a drawing of it, no one has actually ever seen it.”

So Marek reached down into his shirt and felt around and then pulled out the medallion the angel had given to him. “Here it is.”

Adam grabbed ahold of it and stared at it as if he was in a trance looking at every detail. “This is the same as the drawings we have. It is true ... you are the one sent to bring back the Book of Beginnings. It is here in this castle and we must get it back. We will get it back, but first we need to get home and tell the King. He will help us.”

Marek looked at him a little surprised, “And just how do you expect to get us out of here? There are guards all over.”

“I was sent here to watch the castle for any sign that you would appear, but I was captured by this demon Anu and his troops. They threw me in here to rot forever. But I am not without my tricks. I found a way out, a small hole where we can get out. I have been out several times, but I come back so they won’t be alarmed and I could watch out for you when you came. We believe everything under heaven has a purpose and had I not been here, I would not be able to help get you out.”

“Get me out? What are we waiting for let’s go now.”

“Marek, we have to wait for the cover of darkness and for when the guards are all full of cheap wine.”



## THE DARK LORDS CASTLE

A servant of the evil god Anu on bended knee asked his master “Oh great one, Lord Anu what will you do to make the reader Marek read the words that will make you king? Maybe the woman can be made to read?”

“The woman is not a reader. It is only Marek we need to concern ourselves with. He is the key to getting what we want. His presence here only serves to speed up my plans. I need to go to our allies and rally support to invade Ildar immediately. Then nothing will stand in our way. I will be back in three days, and then Marek will read or he will die.”

“Yes my Lord.”

## TIME TO ESCAPE

“Adam, you need to know that this Anu fellow only gave me three days to read for him. If I don’t I’m afraid for what he will do to Sarah.”

“Three days, this will make our task even harder,” said Adam, “but I believe we can do it. We must leave now because it is late and the guards are sleepy from the wine.”

Marek followed Adam over to the darkest place of the cell against the old dirty rock wall to a place the plants had grown in the cracks and the dirt floor. Adam bent down and pushed a large rock out of the way. To Marek’s surprise there was a rabbit hole beneath the rock. It had been dug out large enough for a man to slide down into.

“You go first said Adam, head first and then crawl to the end and you will drop into the water. We can swim from there. I will move the rock back into place then follow you. Just wait for me about a mile down the river against the bank.”

## THE DARK LORDS CASTLE

So Marek squeezed and pushed himself into and then through the rabbit hole. He low crawled through the small tunnel just barely big enough for a small man. Marek was making the tunnel larger if just by his own body size pushing against the soft dirt. The tunnel needed to be enlarged anyway. Marek soon fell through and into the water just as Adam said he would. It was an easy swim over to the edge of the river and he hid in the tall grass that grew along the banks. It was a short wait until Adam came along.

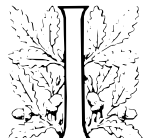
“Stay close to the bank and be quiet. We have only a short distance to go till we are safe.”

# Chapter Three



## THE RESCUE OF SARAH

### PRINCE ERICK

t would have been two days walk back to the castle of Alexius in the Kingdom of Ildar, except that they were able to catch a ride from a merchant who knew Adam and his family. It helped also that Adam offered to pay the merchant when he arrived home and told his father of his kindness.

It so happened that Adam was friends with Prince Erick and within a short time the two of them were able to meet up again. The prince was very happy that his friend was free from the evil god Anu and his prison.

“That man is evil incarnate,” said the prince. “I thought you were dead. So how did you escape?”

“You should know that no prison of Anu’s can hold me, I am a master of escape and my presence there only gave honor to the dungeon.” They both laughed and gave each other a big hug. “My prince, I want to introduce to you a very special man, his name is Marek. I believe that God has brought him to us, he is a reader of the sacred book, as we know from stories of King Galen of old.”

The prince then stepped back and took a long hard look at Marek and the strange clothes all in wonderment. He then extended his hand in friendship.



## THE RESCUE OF SARAH

“If what Adam tells me is true then you are truly special indeed. Even your dress is special; I have never seen its likeness here before. There has not been a reader now in the kingdom for at least four generations, going back to my great, great grandfather King Galen. So why are you dressed in such strange clothes like you are? Is this how a reader dresses in your kingdom?”

“It’s a long story prince, but I am not from this time or place. My friend Sarah and I were trying to read from the book when I heard an evil voice call out to us. Then I felt the hand of evil begin to pull both of us through a hole that opened up in my room. The next thing I knew both Sarah and I were standing on a cliff overlooking a castle. Shortly afterwards we were both arrested and I was thrown into prison where I met Adam.”

“This is amazing, I have never heard of such things except as a boy when my father would tell me many times of King Galen. He too was pulled from this time and stood before the evil lord who demanded that he read from the same book. If all of this is true, then this is indeed the beginning of a new day in Ildar. So, you say there was a woman with you also? Where is she now, why isn’t she with you?

“I am afraid Sarah is still there in the castle, a prisoner.”

Then Adam told the Prince, “We couldn’t get to her as we were in the dungeon, we barely got out ourselves.”

“I don’t see the book with you so am I to assume it and the girl are still in the castle? Tell me, is she a reader also?”

“I don’t know if Sara can read from the book, but if she still has her book that translates the symbols then she just might be able to. This is not good, is it? I was given three days to decide to read for him or something terrible would happen to Sarah. If he realizes she can translate the book then ... oh no ... we have to go back for her now. The end of the first day is almost over, I have to go back and get Sarah and the book.”

## THE RESCUE OF SARAH

Then the Prince looked at Adam, “Adam, I believe this is ordained of God, so we will fight alongside Marek and help him. Go back to your father, he is waiting to see you. Tell him that the God of our fathers and of King Galen of old has brought a reader to us this day. Then sound the alarm and gather our men to battle once again. I will take our new friend Marek to see my father. He will have many questions. Now go, we don’t have much time.”

### TIME TO SEE THE KING

The prince took Marek straight to see his father King Drustan. They were stopped by the guards and searched while another guard went ahead to announce them to the King. All the while Marek was getting odd looks from everyone for his clothes were not of their time.

“The King will see both of you now.”

Marek followed behind Erick and by then Marek was getting a little scared to meet a real King, this was a new experience for him.

“Father, I come to you because there is urgent news that demands your counsel.”

“What is this urgent news you have for me son and who is this stranger who hides behind you?”

“He is called Marek, I do not know of his clan or surname, but I was told that he is a reader and has brought us the sacred Book of Beginnings. He was brought to me by my friend Adam, of the Nobles called Kinnaird.”

“Yes, yes I know them well. So a reader is here in our kingdom? There hasn’t been a reader here for many generations since the time of my great grandfather King Galen. It is written in the Book of the Kings about what happened to him when he read from the holy book. So Marek, you won’t mind if I ask you to prove to me that you are a reader by reading from the holy book, would you? By the way, where is the sacred book?”

## THE RESCUE OF SARAH

Then Marek tried his best to explain, “Well your Majesty we did have the book, but we were captured by the army of that devil Anu and he took the book from me and cast me into his dungeon. He is holding my friend Sarah somewhere in the castle until I read for him.”

“You mean there are two of you here? I assume by the name this Sarah you mentioned is a woman and another reader?”

“Well Sarah is not a reader, but she did help me translate the title of the book and some of the words before we were both called into this hole that opened up in my wall at school. Before we knew it we were overlooking a castle. There was a garden behind us and in the garden there was a very large and beautiful angel who gave us both these medallions.”

The King looked over at his son for a second and then they both looked back at Marek. “You were given medallions, is that it around your neck?” The King reached out to examine the medallion.

“Yes this is it,” Marek said.

“Your story gets better and better and more amazing the more you speak, Marek. Is there more to this story, or is that everything?”

“Your Majesty, I would not read for Anu so he was very angry and gave me three days to decide; only two days are left. If I don’t read for him he said he will do something terrible to Sarah and kill me. I have to get back there and rescue Sarah and get the book back.”

The King paced the floor for a minute stroking his beard and thought deeply on what Marek just told him.

The King looked over at his son, Prince Erick. “Why is it always the hard way son, I do not know? Why can’t there ever be an easy solution to these things? It’s always the hard way. Okay Marek, I have decided to trust your words and that you are who you say you are. This is the most bizarre story I have ever heard and no one could have just made it up. Also your clothes are not like anything I have

ever seen in all of my travels. No one would ever be caught dead wearing such things, so you have to be speaking the truth.”

“What I do believe is that God has brought you here to us, if for no other reason than to bring us the book. This book is sacred to us for it teaches us what we call the “Code.” The Code is God’s laws and blessings for life and for living. Its words are life itself to us, for we believe they are alive. Think of it Marek as the living Word of God, so of course, we are going to help you. We are bound by the very law it contains. We will get your friend Sarah back and the book also. You and this woman friend of yours Sarah have been brought here for a reason. There is a purpose and a time for everything under heaven. The seasons come and go and change. The wind blows one day and not the next. Only God in heaven knows why, for He alone controls man’s destiny.”

Then the King walked around his son and came to stand in front of Marek looking him straight in the eye. “So why has the Creator of all things seen fit to bring Marek and Sarah among us now? What great and eternal plan is about to unfold? This book you say is now with Anu. I believe the book is the same one we call the Book of Beginnings. It disappeared many years ago during one of the many wars our friends in Israel fought against the Hittites. The Hittite spies came here and stole the book away from my father. He was a fool who had turned his back on his God and the kingdom suffered for it. Now you show up and say you have brought it back from a time and place far into the future. Marek, I do not know of the future, I do know who controls all our destinies. Know this Marek that in this place and in this time you do not walk alone. We will stand with you, as the Holy Book has demanded it.”

King Drustan looked back at Prince Erick.

“Gather the army quickly, we will leave in the morning and you will take back what is ours and rescue this woman called Sarah. However, before you do anything, please get this man some decent clothes; he will stand out too much in these things he is wearing.”

## THE RESCUE OF SARAH

“Yes father, I will make ready the army so we can move at first light. I will also have the servants attend to his clothes.”

### RESCUE SARAH

It was early that evening after the sun set that Marek received a message to come quickly and meet with Adam.

“Marek, I have a few trusted men who are willing to go with us tonight back to the dark castle. I believe our time is short to get the book and Sarah out of the castle alive, so we have to act quickly. I have heard through our spies that Anu has left the castle to rally support from surrounding allied kingdoms. He will convince them to join him in invading Ildar and take it for himself, but the key is that book. If we act quickly, we will have the element of surprise on our side. We must move now, and not wait till in the morning.”

Marek asked Adam, “Can we make it there and back tonight?”

“We don’t have to worry about making it back tonight. We can make it there in the early morning hours and sneak into the castle. There are many secret passages. The mindless Mindosian army is lazy and lax when Anu leaves. I tell you our time is now.”

“Okay, okay,” said Marek ... “anything to get that book back and to rescue Sarah.”

“I will send word to the Prince that if all goes well we should meet the army on the road. If we are not there ... well then we will either be in prison or we will all be dead. And frankly I have already tried prison, I didn’t like it.”

Marek didn’t like what he just heard, “Neither one of those options sounds good, so let’s go get Sarah and get back.”

After the sun set the small band of men under cover of darkness rode off as fast as the horses could carry them, including an extra horse for Sarah. Marek wasn’t sure if she could ride, but this time she would have to learn fast for her own good. Adam knew the way to the castle through the old trails that took them

through the Mindosian territories and through small villages. They carried all the supplies they needed and so they had no need to stop in the villages along the way, except for short breaks to rest the horses. Adam was more concerned about being seen by the Mindosian army patrols.

Adam leaned over to speak to Marek, “We have been fighting these Mindosians for at least five generations now. King Galen was the first and he defeated them with the help of the Guardians.”

“Who are the Guardians?” Marek asked. “We could sure use their help now. I believe they are angels. Legend has it that they sparkle like a blue star when called upon by anyone with a medallion.”

Marek suddenly remembered the garden when Sarah and he first got here. An angel who gave them a gift of a medallion. Marek reached inside his shirt and pulled out the medallion that was given to him and held it up so Adam could see it.

“Did it look like this?” he asked. All the men with them turned and looked. A gasp came from all of them, including Adam.

“Praise-be, Marek, where did you get that. It is as we have been told, the medallion of King Galen. It is as the pictures have shown us. You are a Reader as he was. God is on your side and He is with us tonight.”

The sight of the medallion gave all the men renewed enthusiasm for the late night raid, and suddenly it became a holy mission worthy of the most uncommon valor.

Adam shouted, “Mount up men. We are only an hour ride from the dark castle.” Swiftly, they were off again and at a faster pace. Adam knew all the shortcuts and places to avoid without alarming the Army of Anu. This army was all that was left of the army of Mindosia.

## THE RESCUE OF SARAH

### THE CASTLE RESCUE

It didn't take long before they found themselves hiding out behind some large rocks and bushes in sight of the Mindosian castle. Adam told Marek that since this evil lord Anu took over the castle it had taken on an evil appearance. It was indeed very dark and gloomy especially so late at night.

They watched the walls for a few minutes to discover where the guards were. In the darkness of the night they could hear the laughter and singing of the Mindosians as they partied and drank their wine. There were a handful of torches on the top of the castle walls but other than that it was dark.

Adam turned to Marek, "I believe I know where they are keeping your friend Sarah. It's also close to where the holy book would be. While Anu is away gathering more armies, the Mindosians are celebrating. They think that no one will break into the castle because they are too afraid of the evil lord. This will be easy, but you have to follow me. I will take only two other men with us and leave the rest to guard the horses and warn us if anything changes. (Which I'm sure it wouldn't.) Are you ready to now?"

Marek whispered back to Adam, "Yes, I'm as ready as I will ever be. Let's go."

Adam knew exactly where to go and how to avoid being seen by keeping in the shadows. Many of the guards weren't at their posts, but out celebrating. "They are already drunk." Adam whispered back at Marek.

Once they were against the castle wall, they felt their way to a sewer opening and ducted inside of it.

"Are you kidding me? Why the sewer? This is disgusting. Can we go a bit faster, please?"

"What's wrong Marek? You are soft. Don't they have sewers where you come from? This is the fastest and the safest way."

They had gone about fifty yards into the sewer when they came to a hole in the floor where they dumped their garbage into the sewer. It had a cover over it

so Adam only had to push a few times to get it off. One-by-one they all jumped up through the hole and out of the sewer. “Follow me,” said Adam, “And be quiet, they are all falling asleep.”

Adam seemed to know where he was going and a few doors later he motioned to Marek. In a soft whisper he said, “I believe this is where Sarah is. There are many rooms in here used by the women Anu has taken captive. He likes to dress them up and ... well never mind. Anyway you must go in and find your Sarah. Go now while it is clear and be quiet. I will go to the library room where I’m sure he has the book. I will come back for you, be quick.”

Marek opened the door to find a very large room filled with pillows and beds. It was adorned with comfortable furnishings and draping. There were several women asleep on the furniture.

“SARAH ... SARAH” he whispered as loud as he could. “Are you in here? SARAH!”

Then he heard her voice, “Marek, are you crazy? What are you doing in here and what is that awful smell? Could you not have at least taken a shower before you came to get me ... you stink! You know they will kill you if they find you here.”

“Will you be quiet for a minute? You’re lucky I don’t know how to do that thing with my fingers like Anu did, so that you can’t talk. Wow ... look at you, you almost have no clothes on. Where are your clothes at anyway, you need to cover up.”

“They took them and made me wear these things. So get your eyes back into your head. They destroyed my old clothes and this is all I have to wear. I’d like to get out of here NOW which is why I assume you are here ... right?”

“Yes that’s why we are here to rescue you and we have no time to waste. We have to go now Adam is keeping watch outside.

“Who is this Adam?”

“Just follow me, you can ask questions later.”



They quickly made their way out of the room and out into the hallway. There was no Adam waiting for them, but one of their men, the one they called Myles was there by the door watching out for them with his sword drawn.

Sarah gasped at the sight of the guard, "He has a sword."

Marek looked at Sarah with amazement, "Can you just be quiet so we can get out of here alive? He is with us. Now try to be quiet if that is possible?"

Then Myles turned to both of them and put his finger up to his mouth "Shhh! someone is coming." Then he took a second look at Sarah and the scanty way she was dressed.

"Turn your head around" Sarah whispered out to him. Seconds later Adam appeared carrying the sacred book.

Adam also took a good look at Sarah "Good, I see you got the girl, Marek. For once I see the rumors are true, she is a beautiful woman indeed. Are you sure you have the right one?"

Marek looked at Sarah; "Well now that you mentioned it ..."

"Hey," whispered Sarah, "Yes he has the right one and both of you get your eyes back into your head."

Sarah pulled on Marek's shirt so he would lean over and she could whisper to him, "Where did you find him at? He's cute."

"This is Adam, I met him in the dungeon."

"Oh great, just my luck, a cute one shows up and he is a criminal, maybe even a murderer for all we know?"

"He is no murderer! I can't believe you assume such things. Adam was the one who broke me out of the dungeon and got me safely back home to see the King."

"Is he a Prince?" asked Sarah.

"No, will you just listen. He is the one who came to me and said, 'Let's go get Sarah.' when he had never even met you. He is a good man and he risked his

life for this. If he thinks you're beautiful, then be happy, personally I think he is delusional."

"He is not delusional; he just has better eye sight than you do. Why does he smell like you, in fact you all smell like a sewer? My poor nose, it will never be the same again."

Then Adam turned back and looked at the two of them, "Both of you ... quiet. You sound like an old married couple." Sarah's mouth dropped open.

"Okay," said Adam, "I believe it is clear, let's go. Stay close behind me, Myles will follow us out and guard our escape."

So back down the same halls they went. No one wanted to go the faster way which was back through the sewer, especially Sarah. Marek knew that Adam was thinking more about Sarah.

"This is not good" said Adam, "We can be discovered at any time. Marek you carry the book and don't let it out of your sight. There is a smaller gate that I know of and should have only one guard. I will take out the guard. Now is a good time to start running. Follow me ... and run."

Sarah and Marek followed Adam and they all ran as fast as they could. They came upon one guard who was startled by their sudden appearance. He took one look at them and went for his sword, but Adam hit him hard and knocked him out cold. They quickly went down a short flight of stairs to a door leading out and sure enough no one was guarding it. They stopped at the door for a moment to catch their breath.

"These Mindosians are weak and were easy prey for that devil Anu to conquer. They are even easier to defeat in battle. When I open the door you both run as fast as you can back to the dirt trail and into the bushes. Then we will join the others who are with the horses, but we must be quick. I have no doubt they will try to follow and catch us."

Adam suddenly opened the door wide and the group ran out into the darkness. After everyone was out Adam picked up an old tree log and jammed it

against the door to prevent it from being opened from inside. Suddenly they heard shouting and a trumpet blowing.

“We have been discovered,” shouted Adam, “keep running.” Now the men in the castle were hurrying to their posts atop the wall. A few fire arrows shot out into the night to light the road. The guards tried desperately to see where the group was running to.

Everyone had made it out of the castle and into the bushes where they stopped for a minute hidden from the guard’s sight. Just then their friends showed up with the horses as one of them shouted to the group “Jump on quickly, they are firing on us.” They all got on the horses as fast as they could and rode off. Just then a volley of arrows came over their heads, but only one found a mark.

“Ahhhh ... I’m hit” Adam cried out. Myles went back for him and grabbed his horse by the reigns. He took off with Adam in tow into the night to find a safe place to regroup.

The group did not have to go very far down the road before they finally found a safe place to stop and reassess their situation. Adam was in a great deal of pain and in the light of some near-by torches the Captain could see an arrow sticking out of his lower back. Sarah ran over to him and pushed the other men aside to see the wound.

“You brave man; you’re hurt because you came to rescue me. Let me see ... the arrow is close to your spine. Adam, can you move your legs?”

“It’s too painful, but right now, no.”

“We have to get him some help. We have to get him back home. How far is home from here?” Sarah shouted at the Captain.

“My lady it is several hours even at a fast pace.”

“Then take him to the nearest village until we can get him help.”

The Captain quickly assessed their situation then told Sarah “I’ll send one of the men ahead with the book to be given to the King. He will tell them that

## THE RESCUE OF SARAH

Adam needs help. The rest of us will stay with Adam to hide him from the Mindosian army. I'm sure they are in a hurry to come after us."

Then one of the men stepped up and had a suggestion,

"My Captain, let me take a few men and we will lead the Mindosians off in the wrong direction, away from Adam. It will give you time to get him back home. I can leave Myles and his friend Snubs with you. They will make a litter for Adam so you can carry him home."

So, the guards took off into the night making as much noise as they could so that the Mindosians would follow them and not the small group they left behind. Myles and Snubs knew exactly what to do and made a litter. They attached it to the saddle on the horse and managed to get Adam onto it. Sarah stayed back where Adam could see her and she could talk to him. She knew he was in a lot of pain and might not ever walk again. Now she felt responsible. Having someone to talk to seemed to help Adam get his mind off the pain.

## HELP IS ON THE WAY

They had been on the trail for several hours and everyone was very tired. Their pace had slowed down considerably because Adam was losing a lot of blood. Marek called over to Sarah, "The sun will be coming up soon and we have gone a long way. Maybe we can stop and rest a bit."

Sarah was still feeling guilty for Adam's injury, believing it to be her fault.

"No, we can rest later Adam needs a doctor, so we have to get him some help."

Then the one guard, Myles, turned towards them. "Everyone, quiet for a minute. Someone is coming, get off the road and take cover."

It was the sound of hundreds of horses, enough to make the ground shake beneath their feet.

## THE RESCUE OF SARAH

“Sarah, listen ... I think there is an army coming from up ahead. I bet you they are on our side. The runner must have made it back and the King has sent help.”

Within minutes from around the wooded bend came at least a hundred men all dressed for battle and headed in their direction. The captain shouted out. “In the Kings name show yourselves.”

Then Myles and Snubs came out of the bushes and identified themselves and who they were. “Adam has been hurt, did you bring a physician?”

One of the Captains of the Kings army shouted back “Yes, we always take him with us.” Then they called the physician over to Adam and suddenly he was surrounded by the doctor and many other men. “We will take care of him from here the best we can. We will get him home quickly. You must be Lady Sarah?”

“Yes, that’s me ... Lady Sarah.”

“The King has commanded for both of you to go to him right away. You leave immediately with an escort of my men back to the castle. It is a short ride.”

Sarah spoke up, “But I want to stay with Adam.”

“No, the physician is with him, we take care of our own. You and the Lord Marek are going back to see the King and I insist you go now.”

Sarah turned to look at Marek, “The Lord who?” Marek said nothing turning his head as he pretended to look up into the night.

The Captain had one last word for Sarah, “I can only tell you this and it is my only advice to you my Lady. Change your clothes, your attire is not fitting to go before the King, but I’m sure my men are enjoying it very much.”

Sarah was not happy thinking that she was now entertainment to all the men. “Well Captain please tell them to turn their heads and not look, and that includes you too.”

The Captain let out a big sigh and turned towards all his men and shouted, “Lady Sarah wishes for you to turn your heads and not look at her until she can

find more suitable clothing.” Sarah looked around only to discover that none of the men, not even one man turned his head but now everyone was looking at her.

“Captain, they are not doing it .... You tell them to not look at me ...” The captain just gave her a small grin and walked back towards the men.

Sarah had daggers in her eyes when she turned to look at Marek. “Since you seem to have become so important here my LORD MAREK, you go say something to him. Don’t let him tell me what to do and get me a cape or something to cover myself with.”

“Oh yeah, like what do you want me to say? You heard him. He was just repeating an order from the King. And by-the-way, personally, I kind of like your new outfit as do all the other men, they appreciate it also.”

“You get your eyes off me, engage your brain, and go say something. Go do it now!”

Marek waved his hand and fingers at Sarah, like Anu did back in the castle, when He caused her not to be able to talk ... It didn’t work, darn it.

“Ok, Ok I’m going.” said Marek. Then he rode over to where the Captain was, “Captain, I want to thank you for your help. I know Adam is in good hands. I’ll take Sarah and follow the escort to go see the King now.”

“What!” Shouted Sarah. “What kind of ... you thanked him? I am so mad at you right now and where is the cape? You forgot didn’t you?”

“Oh Sarah you’ll be just fine as you are. After all you made it this far. Anyway, I’m sure no one remembered to bring a cape just in case they found an underdressed woman who needed to be covered up. If you don’t like it, I could give you back to Anu, but I’m sure even he would get ...”

“Get what? I’d be quiet if I were you. You are so mean. I can’t believe I’m stuck here with you. All this time I was thinking you were this pretty nice guy. Well you’re not. Your mean, selfish and self-centered. Do you hear me ... Marek, do you hear me ... Marek.

## THE RESCUE OF SARAH

### AN AUDIENCE WITH KING DRUSTAN

Marek and Sarah were given some time to rest after their all night adventure. Sarah was quickly given clothes to put on that better suited her status in the kingdom. Then Prince Erick came to greet them again and to meet Sarah. Her concerns for Adam were evident and so Erick answered her questions and gave her the bad news. “The arrow hit Adam in the lower back and he had lost the use of his legs. The army made it back with him just a little bit ago. I looked in on him and talked to the physician. All I can say is that he is resting and being attended to.” As much as Sarah wanted to go be with him, she could not because the King was waiting to meet her and Marek.

“If you both are ready, then I will take you to my father for he has some important issues to discuss with you. Please follow me.”

It was a short walk to the throne room and as they waited at the doors, to be announced to the King, both Sarah and Marek looked at each other wondering what could possibly be this important? After all they had only been in this kingdom a few days. Erick turned to them both.

“When you meet my father, Marek, you should bow before him, and Sarah you should curtsy. If he is pleased he will offer out his hand, then you kiss his ring. That’s all you have to do.”

Then the large doors opened, guards stood on each side of them, and Prince Erick led Marek and Sarah into the presence of his father the King.

“Greetings again to you Marek and congratulations on your midnight rescue of your friend.”

Marek bowed to the King, and then he reached and took the King’s out stretched hand and kissed his ring.

“Thank you your Majesty.”

“And this must be the very beautiful reason for all the acts of heroism. A beautiful maiden indeed, I am honored to meet you Lady Sarah.” Then he took Sarah’s hand and she curtsied to him and kissed his ring also. “I see the women of

your time do not lack in beauty. They rival any that can be found in this or any other kingdom.”

Sarah blushed a little; “Thank you your majesty for your kind words.”

“Now I believe you wonder why I have called both of you here? All is not right in the kingdom. I know the evil lord Anu has his spies lurking within our land. We have even caught two of them. They are now visiting our dungeon and their stay there will be a long one. We owe both of you a great debt. The Holy *Book of Beginnings* you brought back to us is now home where it belongs. It was lost to us for too long. I have ordered it put back into the box that was made for it by the first King, King Alexius, for which this castle was named. The book in its box is now next to the throne draped in its royal covering. We have you to thank for that. Because of its long absence, none of us had ever seen the book. Earlier today was the first time I was able to see what was only known to us in legends and old stories. When I finally got the book in my hand it began to glow. I feel there is a message the book wants us to know and I need you to read from it. You see we have no “Reader” since there was nothing to read from, but now everything has changed. Marek, can you read from the book?”

“You’re Majesty, this I do know. That you are in the line of Kings and the book is to be read from by the King. If you focus on the symbols I have found that the Spirit of the book will show you the meaning, and you will understand.”

“You are a good man Marek. Thank you for telling me that, but you have read from it and you will continue. Maybe the book favors you, because I did look at it, but nothing happened. So you get to do the honors.”

“Your Majesty, I just found the book myself, it’s written in a language I don’t know, and then the symbols. I don’t know ...”

The King interrupted Marek, “Marek, I am asking you to at least try”

Sarah looked at Marek like “What is wrong with you?”

Frankly Marek was scared right about then. The King opened the box and to Marek’s surprise the box appeared to be empty.



“Where is the book?” asked Marek.

“Believe me,” said the King, “it is there. It is protected by the Zephaniah Stones that are in the box. King Galen got them from his uncle who discovered them while digging in a mine. They are a gift from God to help conceal his Holy Book.”

Then the King reached in and grabbed the Book of Beginnings. The glow of a blue light came from its pages, and then the King set it on a table close by and turned to look at Marek.

“This is a holy book Marek please tell us what it wants us to know.”

Marek just stood there looking at it for a minute totally in shock at what the king wanted and thinking to himself, “I can’t read this.”

Then Marek felt the soft touch of Sarah’s hand on his shoulder. She leaned over and whispered to him, “You can do this Marek, I know you can do this, just like you did back in your dorm room.” Marek swallowed hard for a moment.

Only a few moments later a voice spoke to everyone, it came from the book “Put off your shoes from off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”<sup>1</sup>

Everyone looked at each other then back at the glowing book. No one, not even the king wasted a second taking off their shoes. Without a word being said they all fell to the ground in a posture of worship before Yahweh whose Spirit now filled the room in a soft blue light. Marek didn’t know how he understood, but without any effort on anyone’s part they all had the same revelation and knowledge imparted to them. A spirit of peace came over everyone even the King felt it because when God shows up things change. The light grew even brighter and soon they were all engulfed in its light. Suddenly there appeared in the light the form of a man, his details were hidden by the brightness of the light.

“I am He who is. I am the light that shines in the darkness. Blessed are you my servants for I have seen your faith and I know the hope that is within you. I have heard the prayers of your hearts for they have come up to me as a sweet

## THE RESCUE OF SARAH

smelling odor and fill my nostrils. Beware; there is an evil coming to overtake you and to take what is not his. You have but a little time left. Go to my people in the land of Israel there you will find my prophet and he shall guide you to the “Key” that will heal your land and break evil’s grip. But know this, you will be tested along the way. The evil one seeks to sift you like sand. Stay to the Code to which you have sworn.”

Then the light faded away and disappeared back into the book. The King was in shock as was everyone. The King was looking straight at Marek. “Marek, you and Sarah will go to this prophet in the land of Israel. Seek him out and tell him of what was told here. I’m afraid that evil will overcome us all if we don’t find a way to stop it now. I will send with you a small contingent of twelve of my best guards for your safety.”

Then Prince Erick spoke up, “Father if it pleases you I desire to also go. I will speak for you to this prophet. I will hear his words with my own ears.”

“I am pleased with your decision my son, so it will be as you say. Marek, you and Sarah go with my son who will speak for me to this prophet. I want you to take the sacred book and the box with you. As much as we want it here with us, I believe it will be safe with you. When Anu comes here looking for it, it will be gone. You should leave in the morning. I suggest you go now and make preparations for the journey.”

### SARAH CHECKS ON ADAM

“Erick, I’m excited to be going on this trip with you, but my heart is on Adam for now. Please take me to him so I can see him again before we leave.”

“I will help you Sarah, but you won’t have much time. There is a lot to gather for the trip and you need to rest. It is a hard trip for anyone and especially a woman.”

“You let me worry about the trip, I can handle it. If Marek can then I can.”

## THE RESCUE OF SARAH

“Your confidence is good, you will need it. Come, follow me and I will take you to Adam.”

\* \* \* \* \*

As soon as Sarah saw Adam lying on his bed, she ran over to him.

“Oh Adam, I’m so sorry you were injured.”

There were others around him including the physician, all watching him, trying to think of some way they could make him more comfortable.

Adam looked up at Sarah and then reached out to take her hand, “I never got a chance to actually meet you while we were busy escaping from the castle. Let me see in the light she who I lay here for. Ah ... the darkness of the night hid your beauty from my eyes, but it was truly worth it all. You are a very beautiful women.”

“Oh Adam, I will be here for you. I will be by your side I swear. You are my hero, the prince who came for me. Thank you so much for rescuing me.”

Adam just smiled and lay back trying to find a more comfortable position. Sarah looked over to the physician “How bad is the wound? I need to know how bad he is hurt.”

“His wound is deep. I managed to get the entire arrow out, but I believe it cut through his lower spine. He has lost the use of his legs forever I fear. There is no hope for him other than to be cared for, for the rest of his life.”

“Then I will do it, I will be here for him.”

“Excuse me my Lady, but aren’t you going in the morning with Marek and Prince Erick?”

“Oh, how could I have forgotten? I will come back to you Adam, I swear.”

“You have a quest to go on Sarah. Be brave and come back to me. Remember my thoughts will be for you all the time you are gone.”

“I’m not afraid any more Adam. You risked everything for me. No one has ever done that, especially for me. I saw in your one act of bravery everything I

## THE RESCUE OF SARAH

ever hoped for. I have truly found the man my heart has longed for. I hate to leave you but believe me I will be back.”



# Part 2

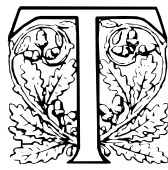


# Chapter Four



## THE JOURNEY

### WAITING ON SARAH

he next morning came sooner than everyone was hoping for, especially Sarah who had wanted to sleep in. Finally, after enough servants had been in to wake her, she made it up. The last report was that she would be coming down to join the rest of the group.

When Sarah finally made it out into the court yard where everyone had gathered, all the men broke out in a big applause.

Marek was holding her horse so he thought he would welcome her also. “We welcome you, Lady Sarah, and hope that you are well rested and ready for the journey. We even packed some food for you in the travel bag on your horse. Now if you are ready, the King is waiting to say a few words to us.” Everyone was looking at Sarah and watching as she got on her horse and then leaned back over at Marek. “You seem to excel in opening your mouth only to get yourself in more trouble. You have no idea of what I’m capable of. Don’t say another word to me the rest of the day or you are a dead man.”

Then Erick turned towards Marek and said in a softer voice.

“Well Marek you have sufficiently embarrassed her now.”

The other twelve men who were waiting on all of them all grumbled a little loudly under their breath saying to each other, “He’ll be sorry ... she’ll get even ... I’d watch my back if I was him.” Marek turned back around to look at them and suddenly there was instant quiet.

“Well, at least she won’t be late anymore,” Marek said.

Then a final whisper from the soldier called Myles. “Don’t count on it.”

With Sarah now on her horse and ready to go they all turned their horses around and went over to the area where the King was waiting.

### A LAST WORD FROM THE KING

“To the men of Ildar and to my son and our two visitors, I need not tell you of the crisis we find ourselves in at this time. Our fate now rests in the hands of you who are before me. Let history record that in extraordinary times the great God of heaven raised up extraordinary people.”

“To Marek and to Sarah, God chose you to bring back the Holy Book of Beginnings to us. God chose you, Marek, to be its “Reader” and to now go to the prophet in the land of Israel taking him the Holy book. I will send its container by a courier as soon as it is safe. The quest you begin today is a holy one, with a holy purpose for the

Kingdom of Ildar. The same purpose that the Creator gave to my father six generations ago. Now I send you off with my blessings and wish you God's speed and for a safe journey. I will be expecting messengers telling me of what you find along the way. Be quick now and be gone for time is of the essence. Even now the evil Lord Anu is finding out of all that has happened and will seek his revenge. Goodbye my friends, and God's speed to you all."

Marek rode up towards the King and took off his medallion and handed it up to him. "Your Majesty this was given to me by the angel. Sarah has one too so she can press the jewel for us if we have need to do that. You keep this one as the angel said to us, to only press the jewel button in your darkness hour."

Then Marek rode back to where he was and with that Prince Erick turned his horse towards the gates of the castle and motioned for everyone to follow him. Marek had the sacred book in his saddle bag where it would be safe.



## LORD ANU RETURNS

The false and evil god Anu had the Captain of his Army lifted up off the ground by his throat. "I want to know who is responsible for this insult to me. After centuries of waiting for the book you have let it and my two readers escape. You and your incompetent army will pay for this, I promise you. Let's start with you shall we?" Then the



evil lord threw the captain up against the wall, where he fell to the ground and died.

“This Mindosian army is failing me, I want that book back,” he yelled out so loud that everyone could hear. “I want it back and that lying Marek at my feet like a dog.” Then his servants brought before him the lieutenant who served under the Captain of the Army. With his knees shaking and scared for his life he looked over and saw the former Captain lying dead slumped against the wall.

“You see what happens to those who fail me?”

“Yes my great lord and king.”

“I am not a king,” Anu shouted at the lieutenant, “I am a god you worthless dog you. I suggest you don’t fail me like the former Captain did. You are now the Captain on the Army.”

“Yes my lord god, Anu, I will not fail you.”

“I once was in command of countless numbers of mighty angels, but that was taken from me. I will take back what was taken from me and more for I will sit on the Holy Mountain where I should be. Things are about to change soon”

“Now CAPTAIN, I was away gathering an army and making alliances with other kingdoms that hate Ildar like I do. They are sending their armies here as we speak. I will soon have the largest army ever gathered and we will march on Ildar and I will take back what is mine. I will force Marek to read for me or his woman friend will surely die before his eyes. Then I will be King and god of all this world and every man shall bow down to me.”

“I want you to go and gather this sorry excuse for an army you have and make camp north of here. Wait there for the others to join us. When the time has come we will march. Do you think you can do that or should I look for another?” The lord Anu reached his hand out to the new captain of the army and motioned with his hand and the man started choking and then was lifted up off the ground.

“Yes, yes I can do it, I won’t fail you.” Then the evil lord dropped the man back down on the ground.

“Now tell me captain, has there been any word from our two spies I sent to Ildar. I need to know what is happening there.”

“No my lord, we haven’t heard from those spies for a long time. What do you wish I should do?”

“Send more spies you idiot fool. Keep sending them until I hear something, I must know what they are doing.”



## THE SAND STORM

As the group left the castle headed for Jerusalem with their most precious treasure, Prince Erick kept them on the main road for the rest of the day. The main road was not the shortest way, but the safest way to Israel, according to the Prince. Then, if all went well at the pace he set for them, they would reach Israel in four days.

As fate would have it, nothing ever seems to go according to the plan. Marek slowed down and started looking around at the land.

Something was wrong, he could feel it, but everything looked okay. Erick turned to see what Marek was doing then rode over to him, “My friend, what is the matter? Why do you stop?”

“I’m not sure, Erick, I have felt strange for a while. I feel something is not right. It’s like I feel the presence of evil.”

Erick tried to make light of it in hopes of not alarming everyone. “Maybe our food does not agree with you Marek.”

All the men laughed, “Yeah, the food is terrible ... my dog refuses to eat it.

Myles was laughing and shouted out, “My mama likes my rat stew, she does.”

Erick turned his head, “Quiet Myles, no one wants to hear about your rat stew.” Erick looked back at the men and suddenly it was completely quiet.

“Erick, let’s get moving and try to pick up the pace. I don’t like this feeling.”

Then it was Sarah who noticed a problem. “Marek, look at the bag which holds the book.” Everyone turned to look and the saddle bag and saw the book glowing through the bag. “Look at my medallion, look, it’s glowing also.”

Erick shouted at Marek, “What does this mean.”

“Erick, I think it means we better get out of here and find a place to take cover fast.”

Then Erick yelled out to everyone, “Follow me quickly.” He turned everyone off the main road and began to run the horses at a full

stride towards a group of trees. With the twelve guards following closely behind them, they were going as fast as the horses could carry them. Marek didn't have time to question where they were headed or why. Everyone was doing their best to follow Erick.

Then suddenly the group heard Sarah scream. Marek looked over at her and she was looking behind them, her eyes were wide open.

"Marek, look behind us. Look, what is that?"

Then everyone came to a stop and turned to look. As far as the eye could see to their left and to their right there was a huge dust storm and it was as black as it could be.

"Erick, what is this? It's coming right for us. I think it's the source of the evil. This is not good."

As they all looked at this huge black storm everyone suddenly saw the image of a face in the storm. Erick yelled out, "It's that devil Anu, he comes for the book. Let's get out of here fast."

Again they took off as fast as the horses could take them.

As they got closer to the cluster of trees they could see a small house hidden in the middle of the trees. It was exactly what they needed to escape the storm. Just as they got to the house the black sand storm reached them. The small rock house shook badly in the wind and it became as black as night outside with sand whirling around their heads and blowing in our faces.

The guards took charge of the horses and made them lay down and covered their heads to shelter them from the blowing sand. This calmed the horses down so they would make it through the storm.

The house was big enough that all of them could fit inside it. It had two small shutters covering the windows. Myles was the last one in and he leaned up against the door to keep it shut against the blowing wind.

Suddenly the dirt and sand blew open the shutters. The other men leaned on Myles at the door in hopes of keeping it closed. The sand began to make its way into the house, but not as a blowing wind, but as a reaching hand formed out of the sand. It went straight for the bag with the book inside.

Erick yelled out, “The book, Marek, protect the book.” Sarah ran and closed the shutters in the windows and the sand then just dropped to the floor.

With her back against the window Sarah looked at all the men and said, “Well, I guess with fourteen men here it still takes a woman to simply just close the shutters, to save the day.”

Then they all heard the sounds of the blowing wind turn to words, “Give me what is mine, or you all shall surely die.” Marek was so focused on the crises at hand that Sarah was the only one to remember what was told to them in the garden ... “In your darkest hour press the jewel and we will come.” As afraid as she was, she found the strength to reach up and grasped her medallion, the jewel was now glowing its beautiful blue light.

Erick shouted to Marek over the sound of the wind, “Marek you can’t give him the book. He will only win and take you and Sarah back. You will forever be his slaves.”

Sarah was still standing with her back to the shutters she just closed when they suddenly flew open throwing her into the arms of one of the guards across the room. Sarah was clinging onto her medallion as the guard helped her up to her feet. Sarah had a firm grip on the medallion her thumb pressing hard on the jewel in its center.

It was a struggle for everyone as the evil outside now began to make the entire house shake. Then the door flew open with such force that all the guards holding it simply flew backward into the other guards knocking them and Sarah to the floor. It was an all-out struggle now with the hand of evil about to totally destroy the small house and take what it wanted.

Suddenly everything stopped and there was silence. The wind stopped blowing and everyone was silent, trying to hear what would happen next. A few minutes had gone by and a ray of sunlight could be seen again coming through the shutters. B-o-o-m! Something hit the roof. B-o-o-m! again, and a third, and fourth time it happened. Marek pointed up to the ceiling.

“Something or someone is on the roof,” Marek said, “Something very big.” One of the guards asked why it didn’t break through the top and land in the middle of them. The light from outside turned the same blue as the medallions.

“What’s happening?” Marek shouted. He turned to Sarah to see she had a death grip on that medallion holding it close to her.

“What did you do Sarah?”

“Nothing, I did nothing.”

“Sarah, what did you do?”

“Ahh ... I ... I pushed the jewel like the angel said to do when we were in trouble.”

About that time four very large creatures came off the roof and landed on the ground just outside the house. The blue light came through the small window. The black sand cloud was nowhere to be found and the wind had stopped.

“Come out of the house citizens of Ildar.” One of the creatures shouted out. Sarah ran out first and was instantly awe-struck at the sight of them.

She fell down at their feet shouting, “You are real ... you are real ... I believe, I believe.” she said over and over again. “It was I who pushed the jewel in the medallion, they didn’t believe, but I did.”

Then one of them looked down at Sarah lying on the ground, “Rise up woman for your faith in the Guardians stands as an eternal testament to you. In the Kingdom of Heaven faith is rewarded. Your faith shall be held up as an example among men. As it is in heaven so it is on earth. I give you a gift, the crown of faith. It is unseen for now, but will glow like the heavens when you have faith. In this you will be an example to all men as you have been today.”

Sarah was so happy she could not contain herself and all of the men just stood back and watched. Sarah looked back at Marek, “I told you, you would be sorry. Now I have a crown.”

“Yeah, I heard, but then no one can see it either.” As much as Marek liked to joke with Sarah, the truth was that Sarah was happy and that was important to him.

Then the Guardian Angel looked to the rest of them. “Know this, men of Ildar, the prophet in Israel even now waits for you. We come also with a warning so you may prepare yourself. Beware on your journey for all is not as it seems. Satan seeks to draw you away from your quest and to make the Kingdom of Ildar his own.” Then they began to fade away but not without a last word, “Guard the book, in it is the words of life.”

#### MYLES’S STEW

It had been a long day and so Erick decided this would be a good place to make camp for the night. “Myles, what do you have for us to eat tonight?”

The captain and a few other guards quickly got a fire started, so Myles could cook some food and everyone could stay warm for the night.

Myles reached into a bag and pulled out a large size dead animal. “Ahh! Dinner, me favorite.” He stuck a stick through it and started to hold it over the fire.



“MYLES!” Yelled Erick, “You’re not really going to eat that are you.”

“Well ... It’s just me dinner I call it ‘rat-ka-bob.’ Snubs and I share it. Don’t worry its fresh just this morning. I was going to cook it first and then add it to the stew. We are short on vegetables, but I do have two potatoes. So it will be good eating tonight.”

It looked like Erick was getting sick, “Myles, put that away, and forget the meat tonight, PLEASE.”

“Well if you insist, but my momma likes me rat stew so I was going to share it with everyone.”

The captain of the guard looked at Myles, “No she doesn’t, you’re making that up like everything else.”

Sarah was smiling and felt sorry for Myles, “What else did your momma like Myles?”

“Momma likes me she does. She said I was her favorite because I was the pretty one.”

“And she was right too,” said Sarah. “You are a handsome man Myles.”

Everyone looked over at Myles in amazement and then at Sarah with even more amazement.

“Don’t encourage him,” Marek told Sarah.

## THE EXCEPTIONAL MR. MYLES

Myles was an exceptionally large person who towered over the rest of the men. A big man with broad shoulders who the others

usually got behind, not in front of, least Myles would run them over. With a head full of curly hair and a somewhat trimmed beard he was, from time to time, quite the “Ladies man,” according to Myles. He was rough looking for all the battles he had been through and for a man in the army he still had a few teeth in his mouth to chew with. He was proud of his teeth for they were proof that he won more fights than he lost.

The captain looked over at Myles, “I always heard that you were the ugly one in the family.”

“Hey, watch who you call ugly,” said Myles. “Momma says I take after me great grandfather Murk, who served with King Galen and disappeared one night with the King. He liked to cook and it was said he had a great recipe for rat stew which momma gave to me.”

Then Prince Erick hearing that Myles was the descendant of the famous Murk, Captain of the Guard under their beloved and very famous King Galen stood to his feast and offered up a toast to Myles and his family. “Myles I offer this toast to you and your family and to the memory of your great grandfather, the famous Murk.” Then all the men in honor of Murk and now of his great grandson Myles lifted their drinks high in the sky and shouted “Hear, hear to Myles and his great grandfather Murk.” Erick added to their toast by saying “and Myles may you possess the same skills of Murk also, so we take this moment to honor you and remember Murk wherever he and King Galen may be. May I add ... please never make a rat stew for us ... ever again.” All the men let out a hardy “Hear, hear.”

“So Myles, now tell us why your momma thinks you are so pretty.”

“There is a reason I was momma’s favorite. My brother was the ugly one. A bear bit off part of his nose and an ear, but I’d say it didn’t hurt his looks any. I think it made him look better. I got all the looks in the family, but like I said before, momma said I was the pretty one.”

Everyone was looking at Myles and really enjoying his story even if they thought it was all only in his head. “Hey Myles, didn’t you tell me your woman ran away with your dog because he was better looking than you?”

“She didn’t run off with no dog, because I ate that dog because the dog ate my rat stew. Momma was upset at me for that. So speaking about me stew, I think you’re missing out on a treat tonight. I’ll just save it for tomorrow. Maybe it will taste better for breakfast.”

Then Prince Erick spoke up, “Everyone leave Myles alone, let him get on with the food. I would like to eventually eat.”

Eventually, Myles got enough in the stew (minus the rat) that everyone who was hungry ate it. That night after all was finished and they sat down around the fire, Erick began to talk to them about his father and of his family.

#### ERICK’S HISTORY LESSON

“As far back as there are stories to tell, my family has ruled over the Kingdom of Ildar. The first was King Alexius; who saw the

miracle of the castle happen before his eyes. It was at this time the Guardian Angel, Zurel Chief Captain of the League of Guardians appeared to him and gave him the sacred book and the medallions that Marek and Lady Sarah have brought to us. This is why the castle bears his name. Then there was King Derek and King Galen who were readers of the Holy Book of Beginnings. The next was King Carl who made peace with our neighbors and the Kingdom grew twice as large as it had been. Then it was his son King Gaspar who sinned before the Almighty. He began to worship other gods made of hands as was the custom of other Kings in Kingdoms who did not know the Creator. He built temples to these false gods and led the people into idolatry. So God cursed the land because the people followed the example of their King. They gave praise and worship to the idol gods of the pagan nations. Remember your sins will always find you out.

It angered God and so the land was cursed for the sins of the King, so God did not bless the King with a long life. This allowed my Father, King Drustan, to ascend to the throne at an early age. It was he who led the people to repent and to turn back to the one God. After many years of prayer for the land, it began to once again bring forth crops and the people were blessed.

I was to be the next in line for the throne and that would be the seven Kings spoken of in the prophecy to King Galen the night before he was to be married to Queen Tira.

I know now that I will not ascend to the throne. The Great God in Heaven has a plan for me and it shall come to pass. I am His

humble servant, so I will step aside and my brother Prince Jeddak will ascend to the throne in time. Know this that it is God who directs the paths of all men and rises up kings and takes them down in His own pleasure.”

Erick spoke very boldly as one who had authority, but then again he was the son of the King. Erick began teaching as he expounded on the wisdom that he said came from his father. He never mentioned about the events of that day, just like it had never happened.

Marek and Sarah believed Erick to be well educated even for their own time. It could be said that he had wisdom beyond his years and his time. Soon they all turned in, the next day would be a busy one. They all hoped it would not be like the one they just had.

#### THE TOWN OF JASPER

The sand storm of the previous day had gotten everyone all turned around and unfortunately lost. Erick felt he knew the way back to the main road, but after a few hours it was confirmed before all that they were hopelessly lost. Erick decided to send out the twelve guards to find out where they were and be back with them in one hours' time.

Myles and Snubs left together and found a rather tall rocky hill to climb and felt it would be worth the effort. So with all the strength they had they started to climb the rocky hill. As they got to the top and looked around they suddenly saw something out a distance away. Myles declared to his friend Snubs “I think we found what we have

been looking for, a real town where we can get some supplies. Let's go tell the others."

After the hour was up and all the guards returned it was only Myles and Snubs who had anything to report. "Prince we have seen a town in the distance, I believe it is the town of Jasper, its name means jewel. Let's hope for our sake the jewels of food and water are there."

"Then that is where we are going, we will start for the town of Jasper and pray we are warmly welcomed there." Prince Erick was hoping they could get supplies and a way back onto the main road. However the closer the group got to Jasper the more they began to notice things didn't look normal. Erick looked around for a few minutes, "Looks like the town is deserted, where is everyone? Something is not right here. How can everyone be gone? The animals are still there, and it looks like they just got up and walked off, or just disappeared?"

The twelve guards spread out and began looking through all the buildings, but found no one. Then Sarah spoke out, "Listen ... everyone be quiet and listen. The sound of people, it's coming from the large building in the middle of the town."

Erick looked at her and said, "I don't hear anything ... what sounds are you hearing?"

#### THE TEMPTATION OF MAREK

As they got closer to the building, it was only Marek and Sarah who could hear the sounds coming from the building. Everyone else

just thought the desert had finally gotten to them, but they would play along for a while. The building had only one door with no windows. It was Marek that heard the sounds of many people coming from within the structure. This time Sarah heard nothing. “Sounds like loud music and laughing, like someone’s having a party in there. No wonder the town is empty they’re all in there partying.”

Then Erick shouted out to Marek, “You are either a mad man or this sand has made you delusional. I hear no sound, I hear no laughing. Be careful Marek, what if it’s a trick?”

“Erick, I can handle this, sounds like a college frat party to me. Just wait out here and if I don’t come out in a few minutes then you can come get me. Everyone just wait outside. Erick, you hold onto the bag with the book in it for safe keeping. Let no one take it out of the bag, no one.”

So Marek bravely went up the few steps to the door and walked in. He couldn’t have been more shocked if he had tried. The noise was exactly what it sounded like. It was a party like back at college. There were college kids drinking and partying. Two girls came over to Marek as soon as he walked through the door.

“Hey it’s Marek. Hi Marek, come in and have some fun with the rest of us. Loosen up some, come on.” Marek was a little apprehensive at first, but they all seemed to be having fun. They pulled him over to where their group was. It was so easy to forget about his troubles and just indulge for the moment.

For a moment he thought to himself, “I’m not hurting anyone if I just take a small break from my troubles and enjoy myself. After all I deserve it.” By then he had forgotten all the warnings, right then it was all about Marek. For a moment it was like being at school again.

“Do I even know you guys? I don’t think I have seen you around school.”

“Sure you know us, we’re in all your classes with you.” Everyone looked like they were having a great time. There was a television hanging on a wall with a football game on and everyone seemed to be tuned into it.

Then the girls started to become very friendly towards Marek. “Marek, we heard you are very good at reading, we would love it if you could read us a story from your book. All of us would be very grateful to you, wouldn’t we girls ... yes I would ... me too.”

“Sorry girls I don’t have it with me right now and how did you know I even had a book?”

“Why everyone knows you have a book and like to read from it. If you do this for us we would be very, very grateful ... yes, v-e-r-y grateful.”

Marek looked around the room and became a little nervous. There were two kids in the corner smoking what looked a cigarette but from the smell of it he knew it wasn’t. One of them looked over towards Marek and held whatever he was smoking up high and offered it to him, “Come on Marek have a little puff on this, it won’t



hurt you, what are you so scared of anyway? Look at us, were smoking and were fine. Yeah, like ... were good, were always good.”

One of the girls reached over and picked up a cookie to hand it to Marek. “At least try one of our cookies, I made them myself. You don’t want to hurt my feelings now, do you?” So not wanting to hurt the girl’s feelings Marek took one of the cookies and ate it.

It didn’t take long and soon even Marek was thinking like the rest. “What was so important anyway? I mean if I can’t make myself happy then something is wrong. Hey girls pass me some more of those cookies and some of that drink whatever it is.” Marek had forgotten all about his troubles, his friends outside and the quest he was on. Nothing mattered, but Marek and how to get what he thought he wanted. At just that moment, the world was no bigger than that one room and the only time that mattered was now.

“This could be fun,” Marek thought. “A great break from ...” Then suddenly he couldn’t remember what was before this. What he was doing before he entered the room. He just wanted to have fun.

A large drink was set down in front of him, “Now will you loosen up and enjoy the party?”

“I don’t drink guys, how about just a Coke?” Marek noticed someone at the drink counter beginning to pour and mix and shake something into a glass then it was brought over to him.

“One coke for Marek,” said one of the girls.

She reached out to hand it to Marek and as he reached out to take it he suddenly heard a voice deep in his conscience thought, that

never happened before, “Marek, there is beer in the Coke. You need to wake up. The food and drinks dull the senses. Remember the code you swore to live by.”

Marek turned to see who had told him this, but no one was there who would tell him this. They all just wanted to see him drink and be part of the group. He was surrounded by several girls all handing him more of their special cookies and cokes mixed with all sorts of liquor. He had long ago sworn he would never drink any liquor. It was his promise to God and he wasn’t about to break that promise now and certainly not for these girls. “Sorry, girls I’m not too thirsty or hungry right now,” Marek set the drinks and the cookies down on the table next to him.

Then the girls began a new strategy. “But Erick what about reading for us, we want you to. P-l-e-a-s-e, go get your book.” Marek closed his eyes for a moment and all he could hear was “Get your book, get the book and read for us.”

#### THE TEMPTATION OF SARAH

Although Marek said for everyone to wait for him outside, Sarah decided not to. As soon as the door closed behind Marek, Sarah looked at Erick and said, “I hear him, he is calling for me. Can’t you hear him? Everyone is calling for me to come in, he needs me.”

“Sarah, who is calling you, Marek just went in a second ago. So who is calling you, we hear no one?”

“It is Adam, he is here, and he is in the building calling for me. He needs my help.” And with that she ran up the steps and entered the same door Marek had entered a few minutes earlier.

In her belief that Adam was in the building calling out to her for help, she rushed in forgetting all about Marek. Sarah found the room was filled with servants all standing along the bedside of Adam, or who she thought was Adam. “Sarah, come to me and please don’t ever leave me again, stay here with me.”

All the servants spoke up all at once, “Yes, he has done nothing else, but call out for you ever since you left him. His health became worse the instant you left him. Only now he speaks out and it is only to call for you.”

Sarah rushed over to his side, sat down on the edge of his bed and took his hand. “I’m sorry Adam, you were so brave for me and I ran off and left you. I will never leave you again, I promise.”

Sarah stayed with Adam for what seemed to her as several days, taking care of his wounds and seeing to his every need. They talked for long periods of time. Sarah now totally trusting Adam opened up and told him personal things about herself that should have been kept to herself. Slowly she became willing to do whatever he asked of her. She had all but forgotten about the others waiting outside for her. All her effort was now for Adam.

“Sarah, can you do me one small favor?”

“Yes my love, what can I do for you? All you have to do is ask.”

“I have never heard the words of the book, which we rescued from Lord Anu’s castle. Can you read to me. I believe you can do this, if it is possible can you get that book and read just a little to me. Its words are so calming and I believe I will be made whole once again.”

“Why... I ... I can read the book” she thought to herself. “Why shouldn’t I be able to read it? Marek is always the one everyone wants to read. I can read too.”

“Do you have the book my love?”

“No, but I can get it. Then I can read it to you as long as you want.”

“That would please me very much,” said Adam.

\* \* \* \* \*

The events taking place in the building were unknown to Erick and the guards waiting patiently outside. They had been waiting for only about fifteen minutes. As they sat there Myles shouted to Erick, “How long does it take to check out one room?”

That was the spark that made Erick decide, “Their time is too long in this place of evil. I will go in and drag them out. I’m afraid they are two easy targets for the prince of evil.”

Erick got down from his horse and went up the stairs to the door. He tried to open it, but it would not come open. He tugged and beat the door but it would not open. He went back to his horse and pulled out an axe. “I think this will open the door,” he said. “Men, our

friends seem to be trapped in this place, draw your swords and help me break this door down. We will destroy this place if we have to.”

The men all began to chop at the door, but it was like trying to cut into a rock. They tried even harder because their friends were trapped in there and needed them. “Harder men, harder” they chopped and beat on the door.

Myles by this time had become very angry. “My friends are trapped in there; I’ll crush this door to get them out.” Myles picked up a large rock and ran towards the door and smash it with all his might and suddenly a crack appeared. Then everyone focused on the crack and chopped at the crack in the door.

“This door must be possessed by evil to be still standing. We must not fail. Our friends are inside and we have to get them out.” The countless blows of the axe and the swords began to take its toll on the door, cracks now began to appear. Seeing the door begin to crack gave them the courage to continue on even though each man was getting too tired to lift his sword one more time.

Then Erick finally had enough and with all his strength lifted his ax and cried out to heaven. “Great God in heaven, guide this blade, and give me the strength to vanquish the evil with this blow.” Then he struck the door one last time with all his strength right in one of the biggest cracks. Suddenly, thunder sounded and a lightning bolt shot down from a clear sky striking the door causing it to explode, shattering it into many small pieces. All the men were thrown backwards from the impact of the lightning bolt.

Getting back up all the men ran in with swords drawn ready for anything. All they found in the building was Marek and Sarah in the large room that made up the building. They both seemed to be busy doing some kind of activity like they were in a trance. There was no one else in the room and both Sarah and Marek seemed to not be aware of the other ones presence.

“It is the evil. It has them both. Quickly grab them and take them outside. Get them out of here.”

Then Marek seemed to wake up, “Where did you come from? How long was I in there anyway, it seems like days?”

Sarah would not come out so willingly. She kicked and screamed at the men trying to get her to follow them out. “I can’t ... I won’t leave Adam again. Leave me alone you hear me?” Finally Myles just grabbed her and like a sack of potatoes threw her over his shoulders. He looked at Erick and said, “It’s just easier this way.”

It wasn’t until they had Sarah outside away from the building that she seemed to snap out of it. “Wow, how long was I in there anyway? What happened to Adam? He was there I know it.”

Erick looked at the two of them, “Both of you were tricked by the great evil of Anu. You were made captives in that place. If we had not come in after you, you may not have ever come out and forever trapped by the evil within.”

“They wanted me to read from the book,” said Marek.

“Me too,” said Sarah, “He just wanted me to read to him from the book. It all seemed so real to me. I would have stayed forever. My

heart did not want to leave. I believed a lie didn't I? Adam was never here."

Erick tried to console Sarah, "There wasn't anyone in there with you Sarah. It was the evil that tricked you into thinking it was Adam so you would read to him. Anu knew your weakness and he played a cruel trick on you hoping you would do what he wanted."

Then as they stood there having vanquished the evil one, the building began to fade away and suddenly there was no building. Just as suddenly the town was full of people. All the people were going about their business like nothing was the different.

"I suggest we get our supplies and water the horses, then get back to the quest. We have lost much time. I believe we are still three days out from the northern borders of Israel and then we still have to find this prophet."

# Chapter Five



## THE BATTLE FOR ILDAR

### EVIL PLANS

**T**he evil Lord Anu had been waiting long enough. Finally the promised troops to reinforce the Mindosian army had arrived. His army was now four times what it had been and he felt secure in a total victory over the Kingdom of Ildar. Then he would finally take what was his. The Book of Beginnings would be in his possession. He would keep the reader called Marek forever and the woman would just be added to his collection.

The evil lord called together all his captains of the four different armies he now commanded. “I have called you here to tell you personally that I will accept no excuses, no failures. I will conquer Ildar and sit on the throne of its King.” The four generals banged their fists on the table in approval.

“We will strike fear in the hearts of the people by destroying every living thing in all the villages. Nothing is to be left alive. Do you hear me? Scorch the earth, nothing escapes.” Again the generals beat their fists on the table in approval. “Everything must die. Do you hear me? Nothing will survive. Everything is to be burnt to the ground. Now I want you to go and put the fear of failure into this army. Pick out one man from every company of men and hang him in clear site of everyone to see. This will be the warning to the rest. You fail me and this is what will happen to you. Now go and make ready, prepare your troops. We march at dawn’s first light.”



### THE HASHASHIN

“Commander Kane you stay behind with me, I want to talk to you some more.” The meeting was over and everyone had cleared the room except for Commander Kane who commanded the largest group of assassin’s the world had ever seen. They called themselves the “Hashashin.”

“Commander, I joined forces with you for only one reason. I need you to do a special job which only a butcher can do. Do I have the right man for this job?”

“Anything you desire we will do. What do you require of us Lord Anu?”

“The Mindosian army has failed me for the last time. Because of their weak and pathetic efforts I no longer have the book or its reader. When the fighting starts, as you see Ildar about to fall, I want you to turn your men towards the Mindosians. Kill every last one of them. No one is to live to tell the others. Do this for me and I will reward you handsomely for it.”

“This would be a pleasure for us to do. The Mindosians are dirt to us, and we will trample them under our feet. Consider this already done my lord.”

When he was finally alone, the evil lord Anu screamed out an evil scream of gladness, for his long awaited plans were now coming together. The evil scream could be heard all through-out the castle and everyone shuttered at the overwhelming feeling of the presence of evil. His continence changed and he took the hideous twisted dark form of the evil creature that he really was.

Suddenly the smell of sulfur came out of the room and filled the castle. Those who walked down the hall outside the room became sickened by the stench of the sulfur. One of the guards, believing the room was on fire rushed into the room. His eyes beheld for only a moment its last sight, that of a horribly grotesque creature blackened from the very fires of hell which still ignited on his body. The soldier gasped at the sight of such evil. Seconds later he became ashes on the floor, which were blown away by the wind from the hallway.

### THE EVIL ARMY

Early the next morning the combined armies had managed to assemble together. Their combined numbers stretched as far as the eye could see.

“Commander Kane, tell me what I want to hear.”

“The entire army is together and ready for you to command my lord.”

As the evil lord looked out at his vast army he was pleased to see that out in front of the armies all lined up in a row were poles with the dead corpses of the men chosen randomly to be hung by the neck as examples to the others. The armies would be forced to march past the rows of their fellow dead friends, a grim reminder of the price of cowardice and weakness in battle.

“I see you did as I ordered Commander. Would you say the men are properly motivated now?”

“Yes my lord, I believe they are ready to prove their worth to you. We are assured of victory.”

The Lord Anu rode out to the front of all the armies so all the men could see him.

In a loud voice, that all the armies heard, he cried out, “This day we march to reclaim what is ours by right. The Kingdom of Ildar will fall to me by tomorrow at this time and I shall take what was stolen from me. Then I will rule as I was meant to rule and the world will bow down to me as it should.”

Then all the armies let out their cheers and banged their swords against their shields in approval. “Let there be no cowards found among you this day or any day, or your fate will be worse than those you see hanging in front of you. Start the march towards Alexius. I will meet you there.” Then Anu disappeared right in front of all the armies in a black mist that rose up to the trees and then it was gone.

Fear suddenly struck all the men as they watched Anu vanish before their eyes. The commanders called out the orders and the march began. Four armies of men were now headed towards the Kingdom of Ildar and the Castle Alexius. In the path were many small villages that would be laid waste in a horrible campaign of total destruction. Evil was coming and many would die in the next few days unless something happened.



THE KINGS SPIES

“A good king never seeks out war, but is always ready for it. This is wisdom that was passed down from father to son for many generations of my family,” said King Drustan to his youngest son **Prince Jeddak**.

“Today as I was in prayer heaviness came over me like none I have ever felt before. My heart is still heavy.” As the King was talking to his son he heard the shouting of the servants.

“Your Majesty ... your Majesty, our spies are waiting to speak to you. They have urgent news for your ears only.”

“Yes I know. Tell them I am coming.” The King turned back to his son, “You see son. A wise King must always be a step ahead as much as he can. Come with me” The King and his son went quickly to meet with his three spies. “Tell me the news of what is happening.”

“The evil lord Anu has mobilized armies from far away to add to the Mindosian army. They march this morning for Alexius and were told to burn and destroy, and to scorch the earth soaking the ground with the blood of our people. They are strong and intend to take the kingdom from you and have it under his evil influence.”

The King was not surprised at this news, but thanked the spies for their loyalty and promised they would be rewarded for their efforts. Then the King called for his servants, “Take these men and see to it they are given food, drink, and rest until they have recovered.”

“Yes my Lord.” The three spies left, and now the King had been warned.

“Guards ... guards,” shouted the King.

Three of them ran into the presence of the King, “Yes you’re Majesty.”

The King pointed to the first guard, “You send a messenger immediately to catch my son Erick and those who travel with him. Tell them the Kingdom is about to be attacked by Anu. His army is now four times its normal size. Do not come home till all is clear but if possible send help. Go now and send the messenger.”

“Yes my lord, he shall leave within the hour on our fastest horse.”

Then he pointed to the second guard, “You run and get the general of my army. Tell him I want him now.”

“Yes my lord.”

Then he pointed to the last guard. “I want you to go to the holy place where you will find a royal box draped in royal colors, bring it to me. You may need to get some help. Do it now, I want it quickly.”

The King turned to his son, “I still remember the teachings of our fathers even though my own father sinned in the eyes of God. I shall not.”

### A REPENTIVE HEART

After a little wait the guards brought the King the holy box with the royal draping's. They set it down and then left the room. “Father, isn't the book that should be in the box now on its way to Jerusalem with my brother Erick?”

“Yes it is, but this is still a holy relic to us, because it also contains a few other objects.” The King pulled back the draping's and then took off the lid. Then reaching down inside of the box he pulled out the medallion with a blue stone in its center, the one Marek had given to him when he left. “This is what I was looking for. Now quiet son while I call on God.”

As the young prince watched he also wished to join his father so he mimicked his father's actions. He was quiet and listened to the words of his father.

“Oh Lord in the heavens above, Creator of all that is, I come to you on bended knees with a humble heart. I ask that you hold not the sins of my father to my charge. I ask that you hear my prayer and forgive me your servant, and if I have sinned in your sight that you strike me and not the land or the people.”

The King prayed long and hard for the salvation of the kingdom that it might be spared from the wrath of the evil to come. As the King lay there face down on the floor before God, he suddenly felt the presence of holiness and looked up and before him stood a glorious angel. The King could not help but notice the angel wore the same medallion as he held in his hand.

“I am Zurel Chief Captain of the League of Guardians. The Lord has heard your prayers and seen your heart, that you have humbled yourself before him and taught your son to do the same. Therefore the kingdom shall be spared and what was to be torn from you will be turned back.

You have in your hand what was given to Prince Galen before he was King. Now it has passed to you. Remember the lesson of King Galen and arm

yourself with the sword of the Kings. So that all will know that it was by faith that you have been delivered, I tell you to divide your army into two including the archers. Send half of them to the fields east of Gaston where they will wait in secret. Place the other half of the archers on the inner wall. When the enemy comes even to the city walls then you shall press the medallion. In your time of greatest need the host of heaven will fight for you. Not one righteous man shall fall during the battle. This is heaven's promise to you" With that the angel was gone and all was back to normal.

### SENDING THE ARMY AWAY

Within the hour a guard ran back to announce that the general was on his way to meet the King as he was instructed. Before the general arrived the King turned to his son to ask a favor, "Son, do you remember the sword the angel spoke of. It has the same jewel in it as this medallion."

"Yes father I think I do. It is in the temple where the Holy box is kept."

"I want you to go get that sword and do not stop for anything and bring it back to me immediately."

"Yes father I will run all the way."

Within minutes the general came in to the room where the King was. "Your Majesty you called for me? The guard told me it was urgent."

"Yes general we are about to have a crises on our hands and we will be tested as we never have been before. This time it will be about our faith rather than our strength."

The evil lord Anu marches on Alexius in one maybe two days. He has managed to join with four other armies against us. However, I have been given new insight from a very special messenger. I want half our army taken away from the city and go to Gaston."

"But your Majesty that will leave us defenseless, the city will ..."

"Calm down general. I understand your concern, but there are others factors also. Have some faith general. Now send half the archers to the inner wall and maintain their positions there. Then send the other half of the army and archers to Gaston to wait."

"But your Majesty ..."

“General, be calm. Listen to me. I have been given a promise that all will be safe. We are to be tested it seems.”

“May I request that I stay behind to see such a miracle and if need be protect my King? I will send my lieutenants with the army.”

“Your request is granted and appreciated old friend. There is yet another concern.”

“Yes my Lord.”

“I have been told that Anu tends to scorch the land with fire and fill the ground with the blood of innocent people in the out laying villages. Send one of your commanders and about fifty men with him to every village and evacuate everyone by force if you have to. Bring them back here and inside these walls by tonight. See to this now, and then come back to me. I only hope there is time to get them into the castle. I’m afraid for some of the villages are too far out and will be lost.”



## EVIL ON THE MARCH

One of the problems with a very large army is that they tend to move slower than expected and equipment break downs can be all to frequent. For the armies of the darkness seemed to be having more than their share of bad luck, with obstacles in the way, and fallen trees that stop the march needing to be cut and cleared off the road. If the truth could be seen, it would show the League of Guardians keeping busy slowing down the army.

“My Lord Anu, we have been marching all day and we are still several miles from our goal of the first village. We have too many obstacles to deal with and then the men grow tired and hungry. What would you have me to do?”

“You are a weak fool for a general. You are lucky that I don’t kill you here and now for incompetence. The people of Ildar can wait till tomorrow to die. Have the men make camp for the night. Tell them to fill their bellies for tomorrow they will fight against Ildar or they can fight me and die. Once they have eaten then send out several small patrols to clear the roads. There will be no excuses tomorrow.”



### THE VILLAGES ARE EVACUATED

Meanwhile ... half of the Kings army headed to the fields east of Gaston to wait. Several commanders where set aside and each picked about fifty men to ride with them. To each was given the task of evacuating a village that very night; getting the people back inside the castle walls. Within the hour ten commanders and their men were off with a new sense of urgency and the news of pending doom for the villages.

One by one the commanders reached the villages. "People gather around and hear me, in the name of the King of Ildar. The forces of evil are on their way here to kill all of you and burn your village to the ground. I have been sent to take you out of here even by force if you resist. We will take you back to the castle where you will find safety within its walls. I tell you to stop everything and focus on gathering up only what you can carry. If you want to live, go now and waste no time. We will leave in one hour for the castle, by order of King Drustan."

Like always there were those who didn't believe such a story and refused to leave. They yelled at the others to stay in their homes that this was just a trick by the King to take their land and homes.

The commander got down off his horse and went to the few people who wanted to stay and risk everyone's lives.

"I have orders from the King himself. You can pack a few things quickly and go with us or I will bind you like an animal and drag you behind my horse. It's up to you. My orders are to evacuate this village, NOW MOVE!"

In all of the villages of the kingdom of Ildar hundreds of people quickly packed a few belongings and were ready to leave. With only the light of the moon to see by, they hurried as fast as they could to the safety of the castle. There was not enough time to bring their livestock with them and so they were left knowing the army of Anu would kill them for food. By day break all the villages had been warned and had made the long trip back to the castle. The country side had been evacuated.



Morning was just beginning to break over the horizon and the armies of Anu were ready and on the march. A few miles down the road to Alexius they

## THE BATTLE FOR ILDAR

came to the first village. About one hundred men ran down into the village expecting a fight and people were running all around trying to escape, but they encountered no one. They collected up whatever food could be found for themselves and then set fire to the houses and anything else that would burn. Then Anu came to see the carnage.

“My lord the village is empty. All that is left is the livestock,” said the captain. “They must have had warning during the night.”

Then the evil lord raised his hands in the air and let out a scream of frustration. “They will pay, I promise this. They will pay dearly. Burn everything down and lay waste to the land and the crops, Take the cattle and give it to the men for meat tonight. Leave nothing else alive, nothing standing.”

“Yes my lord.”

They marched from one village to another and in every case it was the same. Each village had been evacuated the night before. “Burn it all,” yelled the evil lord Anu. “Burn it all down till there is nothing to come back to.”

Finally, after a two-day march to Alexius they came to the foothills that encircled two-thirds of the castle. Their goal lay just in front of them. Moving an army the size that the evil Anu wanted always took time. By the end of the day the number of the men in the armies of Anu covered the out-lying hills of Alexius like grasshoppers. Their presence did not go unnoticed by King Drustan.

“My lord god Anu, the men are exhausted from the all night march. They need some rest” said the Captain.

“Very well. Tell the men to use this time well, and prepare for in the morning. We will attack and lay waste to this relic they cherish so much. It does not matter how much Alexius prepares, their castle and everyone in it is about to die first thing in the morning.”

## THE BATTLE FOR ALEXIUS

(The Next Morning)

King Drustan had a hard time sleeping the night before so he was up early pacing the floor and crying out to the Lord for His guidance. There was much to pray about and much on his mind. He knew that as soon as the sun peaked over the horizon the war would start. Suddenly there was a pounding on his door, it was the general.



“Your Majesty the armies of Anu now surround us on three sides in the foothills. We do have a small advantage in that our archers are trained to make that distance and therefore we can make the first strike. **The sun is almost down so let us take the advantage while we can. I’m sure their army will attack when the sun has fully risen.**”

The King asked, “Are the archers positioned on the inner walls as I have commanded?”

“Yes your Majesty they are. All of them are positioned and ready.”

“So we are ready then ...” The King remembered his conversation with the angel, that no person of Ildar would be hurt. He understood that as a promise. “I will not start this war. As my grandfather told me many times before he passed away, ‘A good King does not seek out war, but is always ready for it.’ So ... we are about as ready as we will ever be. Tell the archers to hold their arrows until they see the enemy begin to move towards us. I will consider that an act of aggression against us. Then send as many arrows as we have and start thinning out their numbers. This should slow them down before they reach the outer walls.”

“Yes my lord. I will go immediately and tell the captain of the archers.”

The King turned to one of the guards guarding his door, “Guard, have all the people moved from the courtyards back behind the inner wall, then seal up the inner wall gates tightly. We can trap whoever makes it past the outer walls there.



Another hour went by and the general asked lord Anu if he should give the order to attack.

“This is the moment I have been waiting for. Soon I will take that book and it shall be mine. General, first send in the Mindosians. They failed me too many times, now they will get their reward.”

The sun had risen above the horizon and the evil army was poised for the attack. The General turned to his left and then his right. “Mindosians, you are the first wave of attack, now is your time. **ATTACK** the castle and kill them all”

The evil lord turned to Commander Kane of the Assassins called the Hashashin. “Have your men ready. After enough of them have fallen from the arrows, your men are to take care of the rest. I don’t want any of them to survive. Do away with those incompetent fools.”

Then the sounds of yelling and shouting could be heard throughout the early morning to the farthest parts of the castle. The Mindosians hadn’t run even fifty yards down the hills leading to the castle when the sky was suddenly full with the first wave of Ildar’s arrows. The Mindosians were not prepared to repel the arrows and many fell to the ground dead or dying. Then as suddenly as the first wave of arrows came, there was a second and it took down just as many. Their numbers were decreasing quickly.

The evil lord Anu turned to his general, “Now the Mindosians have been paid back for their incompetence and for failing me too many times. Send in your men Commander Kane.”

The Hashashin were dressed in black and stood out from the average Mindosian soldier. After the first two volleys of arrows had hit their targets the Hashashin went in after the few Mindosians that were left. Soon they all were lying dead on the ground. The ones who were not struck by the arrows were killed at the hands of the assassins.

Then King Drustan’s general stood up on the first wall with a hand full of archers and saw what was happening. “They are killing their own men ... so let us help them out. Tell my archers to fire on anything moving on the ground.”

Within a few minutes fifty of the Kings archers rained down their arrows onto everyone in front of the castle walls. Little did they know they had just killed almost all of the Hashashin assassins. Those they didn’t kill ran off into tall grass for cover.

Realizing his men now lay dead on the ground; Commander Kane screamed out, “They have killed my men. All my men are dead.” He cursed the army of the King and the evil lord Anu was just as mad, but his evil heart only cared for the battle and not for the men.

“We can play that game too. General, have our archers return their fire. I want those archers on the wall all dead.” The General quickly moved his archers to the front lines and in range to hit the castle walls with their arrows. The general gave the order to shoot, aiming for the Kings archers on the outer wall. These were the archers who had killed his men. As the generals archers were about to

return fire onto the castle, there suddenly came another wave of arrows from the castle archers, raining down on the army of Anu. In the **early hours of the morning the arrows** found a new mark and almost all of the archers of Anu's army fell dead onto the ground. The few that remained released their arrows, but the distance was still too great and their arrows fell against the outer walls of the castle. Not one of the King's men had fallen.

"General you have failed me also," yelled out lord Anu. Then the evil Anu reached out to the general and grabbed him by his throat and with one hand strangled the general until he fell to the ground dead.

"I will take charge of this myself," said Anu. He gathered his captains together for a quick conference. "I do not expect failure from any of you, you saw what happened to your general. Now I want you to take half of your troops and send them down against the castle. Beat down the gates, charge the entrance and make me a way to enter. Do this at all cost. I want it done, now."

All the captains agreed they could be counted on to do what was ordered of them. "Consider it already done my lord." Many of them swore this oath.

"A single fire arrow will be shot into the air. That will be your signal to attack and take the castle. No one is to remain alive. I will deal with the King and he will give me the book," said Anu.

Half an hour later all the captains were back with their men and the orders were issued. Then in the morning sky a single flaming arrow was shot so that all could see.

The sounds of a loud roar grew in the foothills and men yelled and banged their swords against their shields. This was done to strike fear in those in the castle. Now half of the combined armies charged down from off the foothills and headed toward the castle walls. The archers of Alexius continued to shoot their arrows and many of the charging army fell by the side, but not enough to stop the attack.

It looked like the army of Anu had the upper hand and the battle was going their way. It quickly became apparent to King Drustan and the others that were in the tower that they would be over-run if something wasn't done.

Then the King remembered what the angel told him. "Press the jewel in the medallion in your darkest hour."

The King turned to those with him in the tower. “Men of Ildar, I believe we are in our darkest hour and unless we receive help from the heavens above then our cause is lost and in vain.”

Then the King pressed the jewel in the medallion and it began to glow and the glow grew until all in the tower was engulfed by it. The light in the tower could be seen from the battle field and was taken as a good omen for the armies attacking, so they ran even harder, yelling and working themselves into a frenzy.

The King in the tower overlooking the battle fell to his knees and asked for mercy from God in this their darkest hour. One of the guards yelled out to the King and those gathered there with him.

“LOOK, in the heavens above, what evil is this?” The King looked up and gasped, “NO, it is not evil, but it is our redemption from the heavens.”

As far as they could see, flashes of blue lights danced in and out of the clouds. There were more lights than stars in the heavens. As they all looked on in amazement one of the blue lights came towards them with incredible speed. Before they could even speak there standing before them one of the mighty beings with the same medallion that the King was wearing.

“I am Zurel Chief Captain of the League of Guardians and we have come to fight the evil that is at your gates. You believed and had faith. Faith is a mighty weapon in the Kingdom of Heaven. Your faith, oh King, has been seen and is rewarded to you this hour. Behold I will open your eyes and those with you to the real battle.”

Zurel vanished from before them and suddenly the King and those with him could see another battle that was now raging. Zurel had opened their eyes into the world not of flesh, but of demons and angels. They could see the thousands and thousands of demons riding on the shoulders of the invading army, whispering in their ears, stirring up their anger into a frenzy and passion for blood. The evil even surrounded lord Anu. There were many demons encamped around him. Though he was a man, he was being manipulated by the evil of Satan himself.

The King in his anger yelled out to the demons, “Who are you to bring this great evil to us.”

Then a demon, who was mighty in stature and full of authority over other demons, stood up and pointed to the King in the tower. “I am called LEGION, for I am many and I lead the host of darkness against you, oh King. This day we shall

stand in your tower and feast from your bones.” Then a loud demonic cheer was heard coming from hell itself. The King was taken back by his words.

One of the guards shouted to the King, “Your Majesty look in the sky above, see how the lights move.” The lights of the Guardians began to form together over the castle and then like lightning bolts they shot down onto the battle field. Suddenly the demons were fighting the Guardians and were too busy to insight the armies to fight to the death. Thousands of Guardians fought off the demons and began to push them back away from the castle.

The King looked over the edge of the tower and yelled to the archers below, “Let them have more of your arrows men.” The Armies had begun to use their ladders to scale the outer wall, but all the archers and the general had already fallen back to the inner wall.

Then another guard yelled out to the King, “Your Majesty, it is the Guardian Zurel, he fights for us.” Everyone in the tower let out a cheer in support of Zurel.

While the other Guardians fought off the demons and evil spirits, only Zurel stood within the castle gate to slay the enemy who tried to enter into the castle. Like a farmer cutting down the wheat, the army of evil was falling.

“Remember this day well,” said the King. When heaven came down and fought the evil that sought to destroy us.”

With the demons occupied fighting the Guardians, the army still attacked the castle, but with less fierceness in their purpose and so they became easy pickings for the archers. Zurel left his position at the main gate and began his march around the castle and with a mighty swing of his sword many men fell and were slain. So great was the slaughter that the blood of the dead began to pool together and flow. In a short time the attack had ended and the fields of Ildar were waist-high with the dead. Through it all not one man of Ildar had been wounded or killed. As the angel had spoken it, not one man who stood for righteousness fell that day.

The King turned to his guards, “Send a messenger to my son and those who ride with him. Tell them of what has happened and how God has saved Ildar from the evil. I believe it is safe, but they should be cautious.”

ANDRES THE WARRIOR

Back on the foothills that surrounded the castle the evil lord's anger increased at what he had just seen, though he could not see the guardian warriors. He raised his fist and stomped his feet till all those around him moved back far away from him. So great was his anger that a small burst of fire suddenly appeared on him, but he was not consumed by the fire.

Anu called over one of his personal guards, "I want you to find one of the Captains of the men, one who is looked up to, and that the men will listen to. Bring him to me."

"Yes my lord."

Later that evening the guard arrived back bringing with him a tall man, big in stature and by reason of his reputation, fierce in battle. "I am called Andres the Warrior. I was told you wanted to see me my lord."

Anu walked up to Andres looking him in the eyes, "I need a man who can command men and lead them into battle, is that you?"

"My lord I have lead men and I have killed many. I crush my enemies and use their bones for tooth picks."

A small smile came to the face of Anu, "Good because you are my new General. Now you take command of what is left of the army and take them two Miles south of here and make camp. I will catch up with you later. I have unfinished business before I leave here."

"Yes my Lord Anu."

LORD ANU AND THE KING

As the attack on the castle had stopped and almost half of his army now lay dead on all sides of the castle, Anu had an idea which just might give him what he came for. Several hours passed by and it was late at night, his army had left the area as he had commanded.

Suddenly Anu slowly transformed himself into a dark mist and began to move towards the castle, over all the dead from the battle and over the first and then the second wall. Because it was late at night none of the guards noticed a dark mist moving over their heads. Then the mist traveled in through a window and down a hallway, under a closed door and into the private room of the King.

At first the King didn't notice anything different, but then he noticed the mist as it began to draw itself into one spot and then grew vertically and took on the form of a man. In a few moments the face of the evil lord Anu was looking the King in the eyes.

The King spoke harshly to the evil Anu, "I should have known the black mist was you. Only you could do this evil thing."

Anu reached out and with just a gesture of his hand began to choke the King, and then lifted him up off the ground.

"I came for what was stolen from me. I want the book. Give it to me now and I might let you live."

"I ... I ahh." Anu dropped the king so he could speak. After a moment the King spoke, "What you seek is not here. The book spoke out to us and sent the two visitors and my son to the prophet in the land of Israel. It is too late. They left days ago and this war you waged against us was all in vain. There is no book to take from here. I don't have it. If you don't leave now I will be forced to ..."

Again Anu grabbed the King by the throat and lifted him off the ground, "You will be forced to do what?"

The King could not speak the words but mouthed them "Press the jewel." The King was still wearing the medallion that Zurel had given him and with that he reached up and pushed the jewel again. Within moments of pushing the jewel suddenly there was a burst of light and a large Guardian now stood in the same room as the King.

Anu turned his head to see what the flash of light was. Before he could blink again a different angel appeared this time, the mighty Archangel Gabriel.

"I stand for the King," said Gabriel. Gabriel grabbed hold of Anu by his throat and separated him from the King. Gabriel lifted him off the ground and cast him out of the castle with such strength and force that Anu flew right through the castle walls and through the air several miles. He eventually landed at the same place his troops marched to earlier that night.

The King was surprised that the medallion had worked so quickly. "Thank you, thank you for coming to my rescue. I thought I was about to die there for a second. What is your name if I may ask?"

"I am Gabriel, messenger of the great I AM. I bring the word of the Lord to you, oh King. This day have I turned back the evil one from your door. It shall

be for you and your people a day of thanksgiving and prayer. A time to remember how in your darkest hour the Lord of Hosts fought for you and you were saved. I am faithful and true and give life to those who keep the Code which I have given to your fathers. Keep to the Code and teach others to do also and I shall extend your rule through your son Jeddak.”

Then the King replied, “But my Lord, my son Erick is the oldest and it is his place to rule after me.”

“Rest assured King he will rule yet, for he has been chosen for another place and another time.” There was silence as the King, who was now lying prostrate on the floor before the angel, said not a word. The light faded away and the King got up from the floor.

“Guards ... guards,” yelled the King.

Suddenly two guards ran in with their swords drawn expecting danger, but found just the King alone. “You called for us your majesty?”

“I had two visitors here in my chambers and ...”

“But your majesty we have been outside your door for more than an hour and no one has entered in past us.”

“Now, now I do not blame you, but I did find out why we were attacked. I need to get a message to my son who has gone to Jerusalem to find the prophet of God. Send the fastest rider with this message, Lord Anu knows you have the book and he is coming for it. Find refuge in Jerusalem. They will help you.



# Chapter Six



## LAND OF THE HITTITES

### THE LAND OF THE HITTITES

**E**rick found the way back onto the main road leading south towards the northern borders of Israel where they hoped to find the prophet of the Lord. However, even though they were within a day's ride to the border there was a huge problem. They still had to cross through a small portion of the land of the Hittites and the children of **Heth**.

Erick turned to Sarah and Marek saying, "This is the land of the Hittites who also serve **Moloch**, a god made with hands. It is idolatry at its worst. Their sin is a grievous one for they cause their sons and daughters to pass through the fire<sup>2</sup> and do all manner of evil in the sight of God. We would be blessed indeed to pass through quickly unnoticed, for I fear for all our safety if we are found out. My father is not liked here because we do not serve their god."

As they began to make their way south into the land of the Hittites they came upon abandoned places of ritualistic sacrifice. All that was left were ruins and scattered bones too small to be those of an

adult. No one said a word as we thought of the cruelty and the horror of what had happened there. They kept moving on in silence.

### PRISONERS OF THE HITTITES

About an hour after they crossed over the border Eric noticed a few men standing high up on a ridge that overlooked the place where they were crossing. “I think were being watched, try to pick up the pace some and don’t make it look obvious.” Then Erick rode up to Sarah, “Women are possessions here, try to keep yourself covered as much as you can.”

Another fifteen minutes later as they came around a rocky ledge there stood out in front of them a small army of Hittites. They had been found out.

“Why do you cross our land without even asking us for our permission first? Do you not know we have the power to kill you all right here?”

Erick spoke up, “Men of the nation of the Hittites, we are on a Holy Mission given to us by Gabriel, messenger of the “One God” that we serve. We seek the advice of the prophet who is no more than a day’s journey from here. We can pay you for the access through your country if you wish, but we beg of you to allow us to continue on.”

Then the Captain of the Hittites looked at the guards that were with Erick and shouted, “These men are armed. What Holy Mission sends armed guards also. You are spies I say.”

Sarah couldn't stand it any longer. She threw off the covering from her head and shouted back at the Hittite Captain. "We are not spies. We just need to get to Jerusalem, please."

All of a sudden the Hittite patrol drew out their weapons.

"You have a woman with you. How dare she speak to me. The woman is the only one who speaks with the truth. You have lied to us for you go to our enemy Israel to fight with them against us. You are spies. You are all our prisoners." With that the Hittite patrol surrounded all of them and took all their weapons and took them to their camp where they sat and waited. The royal box for the book they had been carrying with them was taken and set in one of the tents as a treasure they intended to keep for themselves.

There were all tied into three groups and left next to some tents with only one Hittite guard to watch them. He wasn't paying much attention to the new prisoners as the rest of the Hittite men were busy drinking and celebrating the taking of prisoners. Erick was listening to what they were saying because he and the guards all knew their language, but they did not tell anyone.

"They are saying they don't know what to do with us. They want to give the royal box to their King as a gift because of its ornate royal coverings. They believe it is very valuable. The fools do not know what they have. It still has the Zephaniah Stones in the bottom. They have sent a messenger to report that they have captured us and what they think is a treasure box. They are now waiting on orders on what to do. They should start to celebrate capturing us tonight and

let's hope they all will get drunk. I believe we can escape then. Try to loosen the ropes, but not all the way, just loosen them."

After it was dark the Hittites began drinking and celebrating like Erick said they would. Erick whispered to everyone, "Try to loosen your ropes and when you're done nod your head like you're falling asleep." Within a minute or so everyone looked like they were nodding off to sleep. In the dark Erick got out of his ropes and jumped to his feet. He was about to help one his guards to his feet when a Hittite guard came around the corner with his sword drawn. Erick jumped back and made a dash for the stack of weapons that had been taken away from them. He grabbed his own sword and turned just in time to see the Hittite guard charging him. Erick was fast and ran his sword through the guard and he fell over dead.

Erick ran back to his friends and quickly cut them free and they gathered their weapons back. Erick told them, "Quickly get to the horses everyone, we need to make a run for the coast. We can go by the sea to Jerusalem. There is a port only a few hours from here. I know people who will do anything for anyone for money. Be quiet and let's get out of here before they realize we're gone. Drunk or not I don't want to fight even a drunken Hittite."

Then Marek said to Erick, "What about the box? We just can't leave it here."

"Were not," replied Erick. "Six of the guards and I are going to stay behind and get the box and bring it with us, even if we have to

kill all of them, I will get the box. Wait for me one mile down the road. We will be there as quick as we can.”

## SELEUCIA

Marek and Sarah and half of the guards waited for Erick about a mile down the same road they were captured on. As promised, it only took another twenty minutes and sure enough Erick proved to be a man of his word, when he and the other guards showed up with the box in tow. “Now we can continue our quest to get this box to Jerusalem. Follow me,” said Erick.

They all rode hard for the next two hours before they saw the lights of the seaport village of Seleucia. Erick had been to this seaport before so he became the leader and everyone followed him. “Everyone, listen to me,” said Erick. “Speak to no one while I try to find us a boat and a captain who is willing to take us into Israel. The two countries are not exactly friendly to each other so we need to be careful.” With that Erick disappeared into the dark shadows of the back streets.

Sarah looked around to see where we were and by the look on her face she was not too happy, “Marek, look at this place its almost evil. Can’t you feel it? It gives me the creeps.”

Marek was busy looking around, “Well it’s not too inviting if you ask me. Some of these people look like their just looking for something or maybe someone to rob or kill.”

MOMA SAID

“Easy now Lord Marek,” said the captain of the guards. “We are here and no one is going to harm anyone. Not as long as we have Myles with us. Why he is so ugly he could scare off anyone all by himself and empty this town of every bad guy for miles around.”

“Hey, there you go again calling mama’s only son ugly,” said Myles.

The captain looked at Myles, “What do you mean only son? Why just two days ago you said you had a brother that was attacked by a bear.”

Myles looked surprised, “I said that? You must have been listening with only one ear open. Mama says, when you get it wrong it’s because you’re listening with only one ear. So which ear were you listening with anyway?”

“My right one, why?”

“Yep, Mama says it’s the right one that usually goes bad first.”

Everyone turned to look at Myles for a minute before one of the guards said in a loud whisper, “She didn’t say anything like that, and it’s you who has it all wrong and totally messed up. I think you have been hit too many times on that big fat head of yours and you’re not right. Does your wife know that?”

Myles looked a little sad, “I don’t have me wife anymore. She ran off with some fellow who owned a herd of pigs. Said she never wanted to see me rat stew again. That really hurt ole Myles.”

Now Sarah was feeling sorry for Myles, “Myles, you’re a good man and it’s your wife’s loss. You don’t listen to these guys, they’re mean and hurtful.”

Myles looked around at all the other men with a big smile on his face.

“That Myles always gets away with everything.”

“Well at least she is not scared anymore.”

Sarah looked back at the two, “Will you two be quiet?”

“I don’t think she wants to hear about Myles anymore.”

“Shut up, I said.”

The two guards looked at each other and just shrugged their shoulders.

## ERICK FINDS A BOAT

It didn’t take too long before Erick found a boat to take them to Israel.

“Listen up, I have secured us a boat with a captain. It isn’t much but it will hold all of us. We need to hurry to meet the captain, but first cover yourselves. We must not stand out here or we are all dead.”

All the guards hid their swords under their robes.

There was an old saying that the night has a thousand eyes and so it was that the group was being watched the entire time. Erick led them through a few dark alleys and out behind the shops to the docks where all the boats were tied up. Marek noticed that they were being

followed by a few evil looking men whose numbers seemed to increase the closer to the dock they got.

“Erick we are being followed.”

They were met at the docks by several more men and the captain that Erick hired lay dead on the ground.

Their leader spoke directly to Erick, “So you thought you would come into our city and steal anything you want and then sneak out with one of our boats. You are wrong my rich little friends.”

There must have been at least ten men surrounding Erick and Marek and the others and at their feet the captain of the boat lay dead.

“Give us your money and that bag the boy is carrying or you are all dead right here.”

Erick turned back to the guards and signaled for them to hold back and do nothing yet. Then one of the thieves came from behind Marek and shoved him to the ground and with a dagger to his throat he pulled the bag with the Book of Beginnings in it away from him.

“I have a feeling that what’s in this bag will fetch us a goodly amount to the right bidder. Now give us all your money and we just might let you live.” The thieves pulled out knives pointing them at the guards and Erick. One of them grabbed Sarah not knowing she was a woman.

“You get your filthy hands off of me right now,” screamed Sarah. The leader looked surprised when he realized this captive was a woman.



With his knife at Sarah's throat, the men all moved backwards telling everyone to keep back or she was dead. "This little pretty will fetch us a handsome price at the slave auctions, she will."

Then everyone noticed that the bag containing the Holy Book in it suddenly began to glow an ominous red glow. The bag now had everyone's attention. The thief who carried the bag threw it down on the ground, but the glow continued and then came a red mist out of the bag.

"This bag is cursed, there is a devil in it," one thief yelled.

Then the mist crept along the ground till it had encompassed the entire area where the thieves were. In just moments all of them including Sarah were standing in the middle of the red mist.

To everyone's amazement the mist began to rise up and soon it covered the entire band of thieves and Sarah. Just a few seconds later you could hear the sounds of bodies falling to the ground. The mist slowly faded away and then vanished. Sarah was the only one still standing.

Marek shouted to Sarah, "Are you okay?"

"Yes I'm ok, but I was scared to death until I saw the mist come out of the bag. I knew these guys are in big trouble. Are they going to be okay?"

"No Sarah, they're all dead. Now just get in the boat."

"Those poor men," she said.

“Sarah, did you not hear them say you were going to be sold on the auction block? That means your future was going to be as a slave. Believe me they got what they deserved, now can we go?”

Then Erick looked back and told everyone, “Again we have been saved by the Word of the Lord this night. We might not have a captain, but we still have a boat. Everyone get on the boat quickly before all these bodies are discovered.”

Everyone ran to the boat and Marek grabbed the bag with the book in it and got in the boat with the others.

### CAST OFF FROM SELEUCIA

Once everyone was on board Erick cut the ropes that held the boat to the dock and then guards took over. They acted like they knew what to do and started rowing the boat. In the early morning hours they headed to Israel to find this prophet of the Lord and to give him the book.

Sarah and Marek decided to find a comfortable place in the boat to get some sleep. Erick and the guards all took turns getting some sleep and rowing. The next thing Marek knew it was several hours later and the sun was high in the sky.

Erick reached over and kicked Marek with his boot, “Hey Marek you should wake up now or the guards will eat all the food and you will get none.”

“Wow, where are we anyway?” Marek asked. Looking around he saw that Sarah was already awake and eating. The problem with

having no captain is that Marek had no idea which way they were headed. At least the sail was up and they were moving.

Erick looked at Marek saying to him, as if he knew his thoughts, “I believe we are headed south following the coast line. Soon we should be seeing the coast of Israel. I think we are doing a good job for never being at sea in small boat like this. What do you think?”

Marek gave it some thought, “Hum, I think you’re trying to tell me that no one knows how to steer the boat and how do you know if we’re even going south?”

“Well Marek that is why I hired a captain. It’s not my fault that he’s dead and that we’re on our own.”

“I think the fact that we are still alive is a miracle in itself, but at least we’re moving now, so that’s good. Even the breakfast was decent to eat today. What was that anyway Myles?”

Myles just smiled, “It’s me secret.”

Everyone looked at each other, suddenly thinking the worst.

## THE STORM

As the day went on the wind that was blowing against the sail began to get stronger. Erick told everyone, “I think there is a storm blowing in and it might get rough for a bit. I’ll try to keep us on course. As long as we can see the land I think we will be ok.”

One of the guards grabbed the helm and took over the steering while Sarah and Marek just stayed out of the way. The sky darkened with storm clouds that were moving in quickly.

The boat was big enough to walk around in with plenty of things to hold onto when the sea got rough and began to toss everyone around. Marek yelled over to Erick, “How long do you think this storm will last Erick?”

“These storms come in fast and don’t last too long, but can sure be bad, so just hang on, both of you.”

Sarah looked at Marek and everyone could tell she was beginning to get frightened by the wind and now the rain. The sea was rough and the waves were splashing over the side of the boat. She was wet from head to toe.

“Hang on Sarah. You will be okay just as soon as this thing passes over us.”

It was as black as night out and impossible to steer the boat any more. They lost sight of the coast line soon after the storm struck. Erick ordered the men to take down the sail before it ripped off. As two of them tried to get the sail down, it did just what Erick was trying to prevent. The only sail they had ripped off and flew out to sea and disappeared from view. The ship was tossed around and no one knew where they were headed.

Erick shouted out as loud as he could over the sound of the wind and blowing rain.

“Everyone hold on tight. I have no idea where this storm is taking us. We are in God’s hands now.”

The storm lasted about two hours but it was enough to tear off the sail and throw them off course so that they had no idea where they were. Sarah was the first to see it and shouted out to the others, “Look over there. I see some land over there.”

Sure enough she was right; they could see the outline of some mountains in the distance and a golden glow at the top of them.

Erick yelled out to the guards who were now at the oars once again, “Take us in the direction of the land.” Two more hours passed before the boat came to rest on the sand of a beautiful beach.



# Part 3



# Chapter Seven



## THE LOST ISLAND

**E**veryone climbed out of the boat and collapsed onto the sandy beach of this unknown island. Everybody gave thanks to the Lord who had somehow brought them all to this place and not to the bottom of the ocean.

Still lying on the sand Marek called out so Erick could hear him, “I never want to be in a boat again ... I don’t think this is the spot you had in mind for us Erick. Where do you think we are?”

“Marek, I don’t know. Who will volunteer to go find out where we are?”

Myles quickly spoke up, “Captain I volunteer to go find out where we are. Everyone stay put and let ole Myles find out where we are. I’m going to take me best buddy Snubs here with me. Together we can find anything.”

“Who is Snubs?”

“Captain you know **Thatch**? We are good buddies who go back a long ways we do. Before we both got our shoes he was always

‘Snubbing’ his toes on the rocks so I nicknamed him Snubs. We are best pals now captain. I will watch out for him I promise.”

“Well now that ought to be something indeed,” said the captain. “Go on and see what you can find, but don’t start any trouble. That’s the last thing we need.” The two men weren’t gone two minutes when again the Captain hollered out to two more guards, “Lucius, Andreus, both of you follow Myles and his friend. Keep your distance and try not to be seen, but keep those two from causing any trouble. They both love to fight. If there is a problem, one of you run back here and get us.” Off ran the second set of guards. They followed the first set that didn’t seem to have the confidence of their captain.

### MYLES AND SNUBS

The two guards Myles and his friend he called Snubs soon came upon a small dirt road and after following it for about a mile they came upon a small village. Some of the local people were out and about and so Myles decided to try and find out something about where they had landed and maybe find some food in the process.

Myles saw a woman over at a well so he went over to her hoping she would tell him something, “Hello ma’am, there are a group of us that landed on the beach not far from here after a bad storm marooned us here. Could you please tell us the name of this place and where we might find some food?”



The woman was a little taken back at the sight of Myles and became frightened after she noticed his sword. Without saying a word she turned and ran off disappearing behind some small buildings.

“Well there you go again Myles,” said Snubs. “You done scared off another one.”

“What did I say? I thought I was very nice and somewhat polite? I was polite weren’t I? ... Ah, how do you know anyway. You wouldn’t know polite if it came and hit you in the head.”

“Myles, it’s these foreign women I’m telling ya; they just aren’t as cultured as we are.”

Again Myles looked around and this time saw a man busy cutting some wood, so he thought he would have a better chance at getting some information from him.

“Howdy mister, we are lost and need some help.”

The man dropped his ax and ran off inside his house and closed the door. “Snubs, you think it’s me breath, or was he not very cultured either? I get the impression we are not exactly welcomed here.”

“Maybe you are scaring them with your charm,” said Snubs.

“Maybe your right,” said Myles “My charm is powerful.”

Before the two of them could decide on what to do next two women appeared and came over to talk to the men.

“Okay Myles two women are actually coming in our direction, time to turn on the charm, but not too much, remember their not as cultured as we are.”

The two women stopped right in front of Myles and Snubs. The oldest of the women spoke first, “You are strangers to our village and you carry swords and are dressed as fighting men, this is why people run from you. What do you need, maybe I can help you?”

Myles spoke up, “We were in a bad storm at sea and got washed up on your beach with some of our friends. Now we are lost. We are on our way to Israel on a holy mission, but now we are looking for some food and information. Can you please tell us where we are first?”

One of the women looked at Myles very closely. “You do not look like an evil man so I will tell you what you wish. First, you are on the Island of Sitia in the Archipelago of the doomed. On this Island there is a place called the Valley of Lights. People here are scared for there is evil about and we have heard many stories of strange things. There has not been a storm at sea here for many months which is why no one believes you, but I do. Evil has brought you here to enslave you in its army. Now you have only one chance to get off the island if you can avoid the evil King and his army.”

About that time Snubs heard the noise of the others coming after him, trying to catch up.

“Myles ... Snubs glad we caught up with you.” It was Erick and the rest of the group. “The water rose quickly and the boat sank, so we decided to come find you two. Have you found out anything yet?”

“This very nice lady here was just starting to tell us how we can get off the island.” The woman smiled a small smile when Myles

called her nice, but then she saw Sarah and was more at ease and willing to talk.

“My name is Anna and this is my sister Lucia. Our family has lived here all our lives so we know this land well. All of you must know is there is an evil here that is all throughout the land. It came when we were small girls and many people disappeared. Even more people were changed and became like the evil around us. Do not give into the evil or you will never leave this place.

You have only one chance of ever leaving here. You must find the ‘Lions Gate’ and go through it. Be warned it is a Holy Gate made of gold from the heavens and it shines like the sun. You must pass through the water purification to be worthy to pass through the gate and not be destroyed. Only a pure heart can safely pass through to the other side. If you make it through the gate you will go to the place you are thinking about. So clear your mind and focus on your destination first and then walk through the gate.”

Sarah reached out to the woman, “Kind lady can you please tell us where this Lions Gate is?”

The woman put Sarah’s hand in hers, “Your hands are so smooth child and you are so young. Because you are so kind I will tell you what you ask. The Lions Gate is not far from here. It is good for you that the journey is short, but there is danger also. The gate that you seek is on top of Mount Suco in the Valley of the Lights. It is said the mountain is guarded by the evil gods who live in the lights. You must pass through this valley before you climb the mountain. Many

have tried and we have never seen any of them again. I fear for you, but I also have hope for you. I can feel a spirit with all of you. It is greater than the evil gods of the lights.”

Marek noticed the woman staring at the bag with the holy book in it, so he looked at the bag himself. To his surprise it was aglow with the blue light of the book. He knew then this old woman was telling them the truth.

### THE VALLEY OF THE LIGHTS

Anna helped them with food and a few supplies for their journey then she and her sister Lucia went with them showing them the way to the Valley of the Lights.

“I cannot go with you any further,” Anna told Erick. “Be careful from this point on. The evil is strong and it wants you and your men to serve it. Hold onto whatever is in that bag. I can feel power coming from what is in the bag. You will need this power. If you make it to **Mount Suco** then follow the path to the top and you shall find the Lions Gate. Pass through the water to be worthy to enter through the gate; then focus on your destination before you pass through. I must go. I have already said too much.”

With that Anna and her sister returned home to their village and everyone else looked out onto the valley. True to its name the valley did have several light beams shining down into it. They were moving slowly all around the valley. From their vantage point they could see a path through the valley leading to the mountain. The Lions Gate

which was at the top of the mountain was hidden by low lying clouds, but there was a golden glow in the center of the clouds.

Sarah looked back at Marek saying, “The lights look innocent enough, they don’t look evil.”

“Never trust anything here; like Anna said, it is evil and that’s all I needed to hear,” said Marek.

Everyone was up on a small hill overlooking the valley so Erick had everyone go down the hill and out onto a clearing to what looked like the beginning of the path through the valley of lights. Erick got out in the front of the group, “Men ... and you too Sarah, get behind me and do nothing to draw a response from these lights, just in case Anna’s story is correct.”

Erick started out onto the valley floor and so the rest of the group followed him. Sarah and Marek were directly behind Erick, then came the Captain of the guard and Myles and his pal Snubs and the other ten guards.

They had only gone out about one hundred yards when Erick suddenly stopped walking and motioned everyone not to move. One of the lights began moving in their direction and as it did it began to change its form. Suddenly a dark and sinister looking dragon woman stood before them.

“My name is **Tiamat**, the great mother of the gods of Babylon.<sup>3</sup> My children and I stand watch over this valley. We know who you are young prince and why you have come here. You seek the Lions Gate

to take the book that does not belong to you to Jerusalem. We will not allow for that to happen.”

Erick shouted back at dragon woman, “You are servants of the evil god Anu.”

The woman quickly answered back, “We are of the great god Anu and his sister Ki.<sup>4</sup> He will rule this world and we will rule with him. We are the Anunnaki. We will now take what belongs to us.” She turned to look straight at Marek, “And you Marek, will read the words this day or your friends will all die.”

Myles started to walk up to where Marek was and he was very upset with what he had just heard, he shouted at Tiamat, “You and what army?”

Then with the sleight of her hand, Tiamat waved over the valley. Suddenly Marek could see before them thousands of soldiers, the army of the King of this island. They were unwilling participants and servants of this dark and evil force. Then the Captain of the guard shouted out, “Myles.”

Myles looked back at the other guards. He raised his sword over his head and all the guards ran and formed a circle around the rest of the group. The twelve guards were all wearing the original golden armor that was given to the twelve guards who went with King Galen to Ellendale. That armor had been held in a secure place within the castle Alexius for such a time as this and the guards were wearing it. “We will protect you,” said Myles.

Then Tiamat answered Myles's challenge, "I would like for you to meet the rest of my family, and see if you can fight them." Then she made a gesture with her hand and suddenly the other lights transformed as she had. They all appeared as giants towering over everyone and as they did they shouted out their names. "I am **Marduk**, god of judgment and magic." Suddenly ten thousand more troops and creatures appeared before Marek and the group. Myles looked at all the enemy and swallowed hard at the sight of them. Then just as sudden they disappeared ... by magic. "I am **Baal**, god of storms." He raised his hands into the air and the sky darkened, and the wind blew hard against the group moving them out of the place from where they stood. "I am **Saja**, god of messengers." As Marek looked on there went out several demonic messengers from the body of Saja, and out as far as they could see. Marek knew the evil messengers were sent out to get help for the battle. "I am **Dagon**, god of wind and air." Like the god before him the wind picked up and began to swirl in many places in the valley like tornadoes. They sucked up many of the enemy soldiers then disappeared. "I am **Ningal**, god of metal." As he spoke his body became like metal so that nothing could penetrate or hurt him. "I am **Nergal**, god of death and pestilence." As he said his words many of the king's soldiers near him fell over either dead or deathly sick.

Myles looked out at the giant gods of evil, and then looked back at everyone else, "I do not fear men, but how do I fight a god?"

Then Merck noticed the bag he was carrying begin to glow and the jewel in Sarah's medallion glowed also. He knew that all he had to do now was to press the jewel and help would be here.

"Myles," said Marek. "These are no gods that you need fear, for the God of Ildar, who is the one true God of Israel, stands with us."

### THE BATTLE

Tiamat heard Marek speak of the one true God of Israel and she became insanely angry yelling out to everyone, "You will die, all of you." She suddenly grew many times her size and ran back to the safety of the other gods. Next she yelled out to the king's soldiers, "Kill them all, but save me the one who has the book. Bring him to me."

The army of the king all drew their swords waving them in the air and they began to scream "Death to all." Then they started to run towards Marek and the rest of the group. Amazingly, the very ground under our feet trembled because of the number of soldiers running towards them.

Myles actually seemed glad to be going to work, "Now this we can do ... right Snubs?"

"Yah, Myles old friend, now the fun starts." All the other guards agreed with Snubs.

Myles and the eleven other guards now in a battle stance ready for what was coming. Myles yelled out to everyone, "Protect the Prince and the Sacred Book at all cost."



## GUARDIANS ARRIVE

Over all the noise from the guards and all the yelling of the enemy Merck suddenly heard words whispered his ears. “Press the jewel it releases the guardians.” Merck looked over to Sarah and shouted to her, “SARAH press the jewel in the medallion now.” Sarah didn’t need to be told twice. She moved as fast as she had ever moved and pressed the jewel in her medallion.

It was only seconds, but Sarah was the first to see it as she shouted to everyone. “Look up, look up in the clouds. There they are, LOOK! They’re coming to save us.” At the same time everyone suddenly noticed the armor of the guards. The golden armor began to glow like bright lights and the glare of the golden color began to blind the enemy that was now charging at them full force. Then like lightning bolts the blue lights came out of the clouds and hit the ground from out of the heavens and everyone cheered for them as they landed all around the guards about fifty yards in front of everyone and straight in the path of the charging army.

The enemy army unleashed a volley of arrows straight towards the group who had very little defenses. They all ducked down hoping not to be hit, and trying to cover themselves. The twelve guards lifted up their shields and then backed up towards Marek and Sarah and Erick. Their hope was that the shields would protect everyone from the thousands of arrows that were almost upon them. As the arrows came within feet of hitting them they began falling to the ground. The

arrows were hitting something that could not be seen causing them to fall to the ground. Without any warning everyone could now see what just seconds before they could not. Suddenly everyone saw the face of Zurel, Chief Captain of the League of Guardians. He had spread out his wings as a covering for everyone and nothing was getting through. Then the group heard Zurel say out loud for all to hear, “As it is written, ‘He will cover you with His feathers, under His wings you will find refuge.’”<sup>1</sup>

The enemy was now almost upon the soldiers and Marek, Sarah and Erick. The twelve guards had become very serious and focused on the fight that was about to begin. Then one of the angel guardians who had a mighty sword lifted it high into the air and struck the ground with it, opening up cracks that quickly spread out opening wide chasms in the ground. Many of the soldiers could not stop running because they were being pushed by the men behind them who could not see the earth open up and so into the chasms many of the army of the false gods went.

More of the evil King’s soldiers came charging at the group and at the angels from the direction of the mountain. The evil soldiers seemed to have no natural fear of the angels of God, nor of the twelve guards who wore the golden armor that shined so brightly. As quickly as they came; the army of the king began to fly through the air as the guardians just swept them away with the brush of their hands.

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 91:4

Zurel turned his head towards Marek and Sarah and all the others saying to them, “Run to the mountain, you will be safe there. Go now ... quickly and we will make a path for you.” More guardians came like lightning bolts and formed a line on either side of group of men and Sarah, giving them a way to safely make it to the mountain.

As they were about half way to the mountain Erick heard a scream from one of his men. He turned to look behind him in time to see Snubs fall to the ground in pain reaching for his foot. “Myles,” shouted Erick. “It’s Snubs, what happened?” Suddenly the entire group stopped to see what happened to Snubs. They saw Snubs holding onto his foot which seemed to be the problem. But to everyone’s surprise Snubs began to rise into the air as if by himself still nursing his hurt foot. Then as everyone looked on there appeared a guardian who was holding Snubs in his arms.

“Run,” shouted the guardian, “I’ve got Snubs,” Off again they all ran.

As the evil god Tiamat looked on she saw her army falling all around her, and turned to her demonic children. “This is your reason for being here, now attack them all, and stop them from reaching the mountain.”

The evil gods laughed and grew in stature and strength. Together as a group, they were about to bring their wrath down on Marek and his friends and then a wonderful and glorious thing happened. As Marek’s group was running towards the mountain pass, Marek saw six of the guardians suddenly grow themselves to the same

size and stature as the demonic gods. The six giant guardians leaped into the air and landed upon the demons. A fierce battle pursued between them, but Marek's group were too busy running to the mountain to watch the outcome.

Zurel turned to all of them again, "Keep going you're almost to the mountain. Run." Then Marek saw Zurel pull out his sword once again as did the guardians that had lined up to make a path to the mountain. We soon found out why, for it looked like all hell had come to the Valley of Lights. There appeared countless thousands of demons and evil spirits all coming to stop Marek and take the book for themselves.

Zurel raised his sword again into the sky and more guardians came like lightning bolts and landed in the valley ready for battle. Zurel and the other guardians struck the demons and they flew off and then back they came for more.

Over all of the noise of battle and the clashing of swords the leader Tiamat shouted to the demons "Our master is here." Then all the demonic spirits and evil gods stopped for a moment and bowed down to the ground. A light began to appear in the valley and the presence of a greater evil suddenly could be felt.

While this was happening Marek and the others and even Snubs had made it to the mountain pass. The angel set Snubs down on the ground then he reached down and touched Snubs foot for only a moment and for a second his foot glowed and the angel disappeared. Snubs quickly shouted "It's healed ... I'm healed." Marek then looked

to the heavens and said in a loud voice, “You watch over those who serve you. Thank you Father.”

Marek and the group had finally made it to the beginning of the mountain pass that would take them up the mountain and to the Lions Gate. The guardian that had carried Snubs stayed with the group for a little while and then vanished.

All the evil demonic spirits lay prostrate before this one light. The guardians had reassembled around Zurel waiting for their next move. Just as the other lights had done earlier, this one mighty yet evil light began to materialize and formed a shape.

“I am Anu. I have come to claim what is mine. I who walked in the midst of the stones of fire before the Almighty,<sup>5</sup> demand the book now.”

Zurel stood before all the host of heaven assembled there and gave an answer to Anu, “You are of ages past, before time existed, you were the light bearer, but sin was found in you and the light was taken from you. Now you have fallen and were cast out as a profane thing upon the earth.<sup>6</sup> You have no more claims to that which is holy. Now leave this place and take your hordes back to hell with you.” Then Zurel raised his sword as if to make it happen. There was no more talking. Suddenly another lightning bolt came flashing into the valley. This time it was an even mightier angel, the Archangel Michael.

## THE LOST ISLAND

All the demonic forces shrieked and gasped. They looked to their leader Anu; while the guardians cheered at the sight of Michael. All eyes were now on Michael.

“Greetings, guardians in the name of the Almighty. I bring a message from the throne. This battle is over and the book is to be delivered to Jerusalem as it has been foreseen by the prophet in Israel. I am here to put a stop to the fighting and make sure the book is delivered. Evil has no more claim to the Holy Book.” The evil lord Anu, father and leader of all the Anunnaki, said nothing as he knew it was useless. Then the evil ones in all forms and shapes and even their kings army slowly vanished and was gone.

Zurel put his sword away and came to where Marek was. “Follow the path now, you will be safe and you will accomplish that which you were brought here to do.” With that Zurel and all the other guardians including the Archangel Michael vanished. If there was any further actions taken in the spiritual realm Marek and his group were not allowed to see it.

Now that all the danger was past, Marek told Erick and Sarah and the rest, “I think it’s time to find this gate and go home.”

## THE LIONS GATE

It was a big mountain and a long hike to the top but all they had to do was to stay on the path. There was evidence that others in the past had also walked this path, but it must have been a long time ago because the path was grown over by the vegetation and other bushes

trying to hide it. Erick felt they needed a plan to get through the vegetation just so they could begin. Then he finally thought of what to do.

“Myles, come up here. I have a job that is suited just for you.”

“Here I am, what can ole Myles do for you?”

“This will require your sword Myles, so I knew you would love it. Go before us and chop these vines and bushes away from the path so we can get to the gate. Use however many men you need.”

Myles waved at the other guards and soon all of them were chopping and cutting away the overgrowth that covered the path. Eventually there was clearance enough that they could move forward. This went on for about an hour. Their progress was slow for all the chopping away of the thick vegetation. It had become clear to everyone the reason the path was a hard thing to find, for as soon as the vegetation and the vines were cut they began to grow back and covered the path once again. Fortunately they had time to move forward before the vines grew back, but at the same time they all realized they couldn't go back even if they wanted to.

After a four hour climb up the mountain with twelve very tired soldiers, they finally made it to the top and walked out into a clearing. The path they had been clearing once again became completely covered with new growth.

At this height on the mountain they found themselves engulfed by a fog bank and low lying clouds. This is the place they had seen earlier in the day from across the valley. They found some rock steps

that turned as they went up. Erick told everyone to hold back and that he would go up first and see it was safe. He pulled out his sword and started up the steps and around the turn and out of sight of all the others. Suddenly everyone heard Erick shouting at them, “Come up here everyone, come up here.” Half the guards ran up first and then Myles sensing no harm would come to them. He motioned for Marek and the Lady Sarah to go next.

As everyone got to the top of the rock stairs the clouds and the fog were gone. It wasn't hard to find the source of the golden light, for there before them stood the golden gate that they had to pass through to get to Jerusalem. There was a pool of water between them and the gate and there was no way to get to the gate except through the water up three steps which led to the very face of the gate.

The gate was oval shape and very ornate in appearance. The oval shape was framed in a square and offset so you walked through the oval at the bottom of the frame. The framework was very elaborate and very beautiful. The inside of the oval shaped gate was a strange liquid not like water and not running like a stream. It moved just enough so that you knew it was liquid and not solid.

To the side of the gate was a statue of a lion sitting on the ground that seemed positioned to protect the gate.

Marek looked at Erick, “Do you remember what that kind woman Anna told us to do when we got to this point?”



All the men sat down on the ground while they all waited for Erick to respond. “To tell you the truth, after all the excitement of the day, I really don’t remember what that woman told us,” said Erick.

Sarah was tired of the waiting and shouted at everyone. “If I have to wait for you men to remember things we would all grow old and die right here. The only woman here will tell all you big strong men what Anna said. She told us we had to pass through the water to be worthy to enter the gate. Then if your heart is right you focus your thoughts on where you want to go and then step through the gate.” Sarah said nothing for a minute, but was in deep thought. Then suddenly, “I understand now, Anna was saying the water you pass through is like a baptism that gives you a righteous heart. That is the key that unlocks the gate for you. The righteous heart has faith to pass through the gate. Without it you will die.” Sarah went around to the side of the gate to see what was behind it. There is nothing behind the gate but a sheer drop off down to the cliffs below.

After listening to the men talk among themselves, fearful that stepping through the gate they would fall to the cliffs below. Sarah had heard enough of it all. “You men are supposed to be brave. I will show you brave. I will be first to pass through the gate.”

Then as everyone watched, Sarah stepped into the water which only came to her waist. For a moment she stopped in the center of the water, having her head bowed in silence. Then a true miracle happened before everyone’s eyes. Sarah began to glow in the water and her countenance changed before all who saw her. Then she took a

few steps towards the Lions Gate and up the three steps to the face and with no words said ... she stepped through the liquid wall and was gone.

All the men marveled, and Marek ran around the back side believing Sarah had fallen to the cliffs below, but that was not the case. "It's true, she is gone," declared Marek.

"Snubs and I will follow Sarah, we can use a good bath about now anyway," said Myles.

Snubs was quick to look at Myles, then in a state of complete surprise he said, "I will?"

Myles answered him back, "Yes, you can do this. You believe as I do. I will watch out for you my friend. Come and let's go together." Snubs stood up and swallowed hard. Then both men walked into the water and Snubs said to himself in a soft voice, "I believe" as they paused for a moment. The two men stepped forward and up the three steps into the gate and they both were gone.

Erick then motioned for the rest of the men to follow as they had seen Myles and Snubs do. One by one they all repeated the actions they had seen Myles do and soon they were all gone except Erick and Marek. "Erick, you go next and make sure everyone is accounted for and I will be there right behind you. I will bring the book through." Erick agreed and then like the others he went into the water and paused for a minute, then when he, like the others he began to shine he took his final steps up to the liquid face and stepped through the gate, and was gone like all the others.

Marek was the only one left. He was the keeper of the book and the book was safe in the bag. He knew what he needed to do and that the others must be waiting on him on the other side. Marek held the book high so it wouldn't be ruin by the water and stepped into the pool and stopped half way in. Then unlike the others as he waited there the book began to glow its blue color and the glow went out over the entire area. The glow was so bright that the two women in the village that had helped Marek and Sarah and the others saw the blue light of the book. Anna turned to her sister saying, "I do believe those nice people made it to the gate. I am happy for them." Then the two sisters were transformed into their real identities of Teraphim angels and they vanished from the village.


Meanwhile the glow faded away and Marek stepped towards the Lions Gate but this time the head of the Lion was bowed in honor to the person of the book. Marek stepped through the oval gate and his foot felt solid ground and the next thing he knew every one of the group padded him on the back with congratulations.

# Chapter Eight



## JERUSALEM

(Approx. 625 BCE)

s Marek stepped through the Lions Gate portal he stepped out into the city of Jerusalem, the city of King David.<sup>7</sup> There everyone was waiting for him to catch up with them.

“Now all we have to do is find this prophet and give him the book right?”

Erick looked at Marek, “I don’t think it’s going to be that easy, but yes we need find the prophet. I think if we stay bunched up like this we’re going to call attention to ourselves. We need to find a place to rest and make a plan to find this prophet.”

They had come through the portal and stepped out onto a street in Jerusalem. Right across the street there was a great place to satisfy all they needs.

They walked into what looked like an ancient restaurant.<sup>8</sup>

## THE THERMOPOLIUM

“Oh thank God we can get some real food” said Sarah.

Myles looked at her, “Hey now, you’re still alive aren’t you. Me food is good for anyone.”

“Yah if you like rats,” said another guard. Then one of them pulled open Myles’s bag and was surprised to find the rat was gone.

“What happen to your rat Myles?”

Myles said nothing, but gave everyone one of his big smiles. “Like I said you’re all still alive aren’t you and none the worse either I’d say.” Everyone quickly put in an order of soup and lamb which was almost all the cook had to offer for the day, but it sounded wonderful to them.

Myles’s surprise announcement suddenly took away Marek’s appetite, so while the others ate Marek took a moment to look around and saw that everyone had their eyes on them and especially the guards wearing the golden armor. Afraid to say anything they kept to themselves. Since there was almost complete silence in the room Marek thought he’d ask around about the prophet of the Lord. So with great boldness he asked in a loud voice, “I hear there is a prophet of the Lord here in Jerusalem, does anyone know where I can find him?”

With that everyone there let out a laugh, “A prophet ... here in Jerusalem?” Then another “We serve many gods which one do you speak of? Maybe I am his prophet?” Many laughed and mocked the idea. Then one man wearing a robe with a hood over his head got up and left, he offered no help to us.

One man, who was doing a lot of the laughing and certainly full of the cheap wine suddenly found some boldness that he would not normally have had. “I am the prophet and if you’re looking for me it will cost you ten Shekels boy.”

Both he and his friend got up and walked over towards Marek. “Ten shekels and that fancy medallion around your woman’s neck too. Only a rich man could have a woman like her and wearing fancy jewelry.”

As he reached over to grab the medallion from Sarah, Myles suddenly had his sword up to the man’s throat. “I think you need to go sit down friend before you get more than you were looking for.” The man’s eyes were now opened wide and he was stopped, almost frozen in place with the feeling of Myles’s sword against his throat.

The second man shouted out, “They are soldiers, I knew it and here in Jerusalem?” People suddenly ran out into the street and away from the newcomers as fast as they could.

“Now what do we do?” Marek said.

Myles looked at Marek, “We do nothing and we wait like you said. At least we have food here and we’re off the street.”

Everyone had run off, even the servers, so they ate till everyone had enough. About half an hour later the man who had his head covered and left came back. He approached Marek and pulled his head covering back and said, “If you seek the true prophet of the Lord then follow me. I have brought robes for everyone. Use them to cover

the golden armor your guards wear. The prophet knows you are here. Come with me quickly.”

### FOLLOW ME TO THE PROPHET

As everyone now followed the stranger. It wasn't long before the stranger turned to the group and introduced himself. “I am called Iram, it means ‘Watchful.’ I am the servant of the true prophet of the Lord. We are going to see him now, but only a few can enter into the house. It is too small for everyone. The soldiers will have to wait outside. They can help our men with our security. We must be discrete, you know, for we live in perilous times.”

“Iram, my name is Sarah. I'm wondering why you call him the “true” prophet of the Lord, is there another?”

“Because our people practice idolatry and the gods made of wood and clay have their prophets who lead the people astray. Many have died because of it. So I distinguish between the prophets of idolatry and a ‘true’ prophet of the Lord.” A few minutes later ... “We are at the house now, only you three come in. The rest of you stay outside and guard this door. Try to blend in if you can”

By now the sun had gone down and the torches were lit on every street. On this back street Myles put out the torch in the dirt and now the dark hid their presence. Erick, Sarah and Marek all stepped through the door, and Iram closed it behind them.

## THE PROPHET OF THE LORD

The room was dimly lit and Iram led the three visitors to a back room where the figure of a man turned to greet them. “I am honored to receive all of you in the name of the Lord God of Israel. I am his humble servant and prophet, I am Jeremiah.”

Erick fell down on his knees and reached out to kiss his hand, but the prophet stopped him. “I am just a man like you, please stand up and tell me your names. Who has Jehovah sent to me this day?”

“I am Prince Erick of the Kingdom of Ildar, my father King Drustan asked me to bring to you Marek, Sarah, and the Holy Book of Beginnings which has been entrusted to my family for seven generations. My grandfather turned his back on Jehovah and sinned. The Holy Book became lost to us. God had mercy and sent the book back to us by his two servants from the future. At the request of my father the King they risked all to bring this Holy Book to you.”

The prophet walked over to Sarah and held out his hand to her, “And this young maiden must be Sarah who left her home and risked so much in the service of Jehovah?”

Sarah was almost speechless, as tears began to run down her cheeks. “I am Sarah. I was only trying to help Marek translate the writing on the book, it is his project. I am so honored to meet someone I have read about in the Bible. This is amazing.”

Jeremiah smiled at Sarah’s statement. “I love your youthful innocence. I can feel the Spirit of God is with you ... a true servant of



the Lord, a daughter of Jehovah. I must admit child I do not know of this Bible you speak of, but I'm sure it is of Jehovah."

Then Jeremiah turned to Marek and without any words being spoken he reached up and embraced Marek like an old friend that had returned home. "You, I know. Jehovah has spoken to me about you. It is you who is honored to be the keeper of the Holy Book. You are the 'Reader' that I have heard about. You certainly have stirred up the kingdom of darkness. Satan, that devil, wants you very badly. I say to you, well done. Now Marek Johnson, reader of this Holy Book, please tell me how did you come to be entrusted with such a book. Then I would like to see it."

"As Erick said, we are from the future. There I am in school and was given an assignment to research this book. We didn't even think it existed until Sarah mysteriously found it in the school library. As we were trying to translate the symbols on it, I saw the symbols begin to move and then glow. I suddenly began to understand what I was seeing on the page. Then we both heard a voice calling us back through a hole in time, to this time, to a dark castle.

It was the evil god Anu who called us here, but first we met an angel in a garden who gave us medallions. Sarah still has hers, show him Sarah." So Sarah pulled the medallion from out of her clothes and showed the prophet.

The prophet Jeremiah held the medallion close to his face and looked at it very intently. "This is the medallion of the Lord forged in

heaven to be used in times of great need. It summons the League of Guardians when it is pressed.”

“We were captured right after meeting the angel, but managed to escape thanks to Erick and his friends. Then his father the King commanded us to bring the book here to be kept safe in Jerusalem.”

The prophet paced around the room for a minute stroking his beard. He turned and reached out and looked at Sarah’s medallion again. “I believe this is of Jehovah, He is in this and His hand is moving on you young Marek, and on you young lady. You have done all you can as Jehovah has instructed. Now, may I please see this book that is at the center of all the excitement?”

### THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

The bag that Marek usually kept tucked up under his arm for safe keeping, he now set on the table and pulled the Holy Book out for Jeremiah to see. The prophet looked at it in amazement and ran his hands over its cover. “This is indeed a Holy Book. The writing is ancient Hebraic. They may look like symbols, but they are so much more, they are life indeed. The cover of the book says, as you have called it, ‘Book of Beginnings.’ Let me ask you something now that I’m reminded of it. Are you missing a royal looking box that this book would be part of?”

“Why yes,” said Erick. “We brought the royal box with us on this journey, and it was lost to us when we were captured by the

Hittites. We managed to escape with only our lives, but the box which protects the book was lost to the Hittites, why do you ask?”

“I ask because the Hittites just a few days ago brought to our borders a box, which we had never seen before. They were scared to death of it. The box was empty as it still is. They claimed that whatever they put in the box disappeared. They thought the box belonged to us so they brought it here. They thought it would make them all disappear if they didn’t bring it back. Frankly, I have seen inside of it and there is nothing there. So I’m not sure what they became scared of. The box was brought to me and I have had it here thinking Jehovah would show me what to do with it.”

Erick knew the answer, “It is the Zephaniah Stones that are at the bottom. They somehow have the power to make things around them invisible. The items are still there, but they can’t be seen.”

So the prophet of the Lord dragged the box out from under a table and Erick took off the lid. “Let’s see what the Hittites threw in the box for us to find.” Erick reached in and felt around for a bit then pulled out a small piece of old gold and put it on the table. Then he reached in again and pulled out two handfuls of gold coins and many rubies and placed all them on the table. “These now belong to the prophet of the Lord. The Kingdom of Ildar thanks you for helping to recover this sacred box for us.”

“I thank you Prince Erick for your gifts to the people of Jehovah. It will be used wisely I assure you. Now, back to the book.”

Jeremiah opened the cover of the book and began to read “Beresheeth bara Elohim ha shamayim v-etha-aretz. This says that in the very beginning before time existed that the great Creator brought out of nothing the heavens and the earth. This is exactly as our Torah says. I think I know what this book is. I can solve this mystery of the Book of Beginnings for you, but before I tell you what I think, let me share with you something else.

There is a legend that has been kept secret from our own people for at least a hundred years. A long time ago when Israel was taken captive by the Assyrians<sup>9</sup> we feared for our own safety and that of the Torah scrolls. A few trusted rabbis were given the task of making a copy of the scrolls which are the five books of Moses. This copy was then smuggled out of Judah and sent north to a Kingdom of Jehovah’s choosing to be kept safe. It is my belief now that Jehovah sent the book to Ildar because of the faithfulness of the King there. Your fathers have kept it safe and protected it. This is the proof of your love for God. Your fathers have made a royal box to hold the book and Jehovah has given you a special stone to conceal it.”

“These markings on the box are of a King and denote royalty. You honor the true King in heaven that His Word would be in such a box. I believe that this is that book created from the original scrolls, it has come home. Thank you Marek and to you Sarah for being the ones Jehovah would trust to bring His word back to His people.”

“Wait a minute,” said Marek. “What about the original Torah, what happened to it?”

“A good question indeed Marek. It was placed in the Ark of the Covenant for safe keeping.<sup>10</sup> Then for safety sake the Ark also was hidden. Now you see this gives us a copy we can touch and we can read from. For all of my people I say thank you.”

Then as the prophet was speaking, the book, as it has done so many times before, began to glow blue and so did Sarah’s medallion. Than the next thing they all knew the room was a glow in the light coming from the book. Not one word was spoken as everyone was now focused on what Marek had always called; the Spirit of the Book.

“I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and I am He who has brought you out of your place to Jerusalem. Now hear the words of my prophet for he speaks my words.”

Then the light slowly went back into the book. Marek looked at the prophet, “This happens a lot to us with this book and the medallions. What does it mean?”

“It means the Lord God is with you, He has brought you here with this book. I know where this book must go now. I have been shown in a vision as Jehovah was speaking to us. Listen to my words now and know that your actions have triggered events in the spirit world and evil will come as it always has. I tell you this night that judgment is coming to my people and to Judah. The people have turned to idolatry and no longer listen to the words of Gods prophets.”

“Many years ago after hearing the prophet’s words of warning to turn from their wicked ways, King Joash ordered the priests to kill the prophet.<sup>11</sup> The priests feared the King more than Jehovah. They

did as the King commanded and killed God's prophet Zechariah while he was in the temple. So the Lord removed His Spirit from that place. It is said that the prophet's blood still covers the floor<sup>12</sup> there and refuses to be covered. This was to remind the priests of what they had done and how they rejected their God.

Therefore, because of their sin which they refused to turn away from, the Lord God has rejected His people and will cast them out from this land. They shall be carried away into captivity for seventy years."<sup>13</sup>

"But what about the book," Marek said. "What will happen to it if it is discovered?"

"Just believe that all things are ordered of God, but I will tell you this. There will come another and he will protect the book for the word of the Lord will not fail, it is written in the heavens. Now let's get this Holy Book hidden while we have the cover of night still with us."

## BEN-DAVID

Marek placed the book back into the box for the first time in many days and suddenly the book was gone, made invisible by the Zephaniah Stones. Sarah took off her medallion and placed it in the box also saying she thought there would be no more need for it now that they had the book in Jerusalem.

Jeremiah and his servant Iram paused for a moment to discuss another man they felt could help them hide the box. Soon with no

words Iram was out the door and gone down the street. We waited for about fifteen minutes when suddenly Iram came through the door. He was followed by a second man whom they called Ben-David. He was a respected and well known man in the city and one who loved Jehovah with all his heart. Jeremiah embraced him and greeted him and asked of his family. Ben-David answered, "My wife is well, she has delivered my second son just two days ago. I call him Ben-Aaron because the Lord is gracious to me, and he will serve Jehovah."

"This is a good thing," said Jeremiah. "Indeed He will serve Jehovah as you do my friend. This night Jehovah has given back to us through his servants our ancient Torah scrolls."

"Oh praise God for this miracle," said Ben-David. "How can I help?"

"You know the caves better than anyone in Jerusalem. Jehovah has shown me a place to hide this box and in it is the Holy Book. It is called the Book of Beginnings. I need you to lead us in the caves."

"I am honored to do this glorious thing for you. Can I see the book, if it is permitted?"

Marek reached over and lifted the lid so Ben-David could look in.

"There is nothing in the box, I see nothing," He said.

Marek bent over the box, while Ben-David and Jeremiah watched. Marek felt around for a minute and then lifted out the book so Ben-David could see it and know that it was real. Ben-David reached out and touched the book. He wanted to feel the books

bindings to know of what it was made. As he did, the book began to glow again, Ben-David was amazed and excited at the same time not knowing what to expect next. Then the glow went away, and Ben-David's face seemed to glow for a moment also. He had been touched by Jehovah, "This is an amazing book, it is alive and I felt Him. He showed me. I know where to go now. We must hide this box and the book it conceals."

Marek put the book back in the box and Erick called for Myles and Snubs to come in and carry the box for them. Then Iram the servant of the prophet told everyone, "You must keep quiet as it is night time and everyone is either asleep or almost asleep. Stay close to me and the prophet and say nothing. Keep your swords hidden. Now we will follow Ben-David for he knows the way."

### THE HIDDING PLACE

Ben-David knew exactly where to go and how to get there in the dark and not be seen by anyone. Myles and Snubs carried the royal box which contained the book. Everyone still believed the book to be sacred even if it was a copy of the original. The Spirit of the Lord was in it and that was all that mattered.

Jerusalem was a big city, but still it was not long before they came to a dead end at a wall covered up by old weeds and some large plants. No one would ever guess this was an entrance to anything. Ben-David lit two torches and handed one back to the guards and he kept one to lead the way. One by one **we all** stepped through a few



bushes and then behind a large rock and ducked into a hole leading into a massive cave system.

“You need to stay close to me,” said Ben-David. Everyone gathered in closer to each other. The initial tunnel seemed to be getting smaller and then they came to a large round rock. Ben-David and Jeremiah rolled the stone away and exposed another opening. “Go through the opening everyone, do it now.”

Myles and Snubs were first, followed by Sarah and the Prophet and Marek. Soon everyone was through and the stone rolled back all by itself. Everyone looked at each other, “Is it supposed to do that?” I asked.

Jeremiah reached out and touched Marek’s arm, “Son, do not be afraid, everything is of God. We will be fine.” That word from the prophet was enough to reassure Marek, that they would be okay.

### A WORD FROM THE LORD

They had not gone too far when they came to a spot that Ben-David said was directly under the Temple. There was a ledge big enough that Myles and Snubs could set the box down on it with room to spare. As everyone sat for a minute to rest, the box began to glow. Everyone took several steps backwards. A blue mist light came out from under the lid of the box and down the sides and out onto the floor where **we** were all standing. “Everyone on your knees before the Lord Jehovah,” said Jeremiah. As they did a voice could be heard from out of the light.

“You have heard my voice and by faith you have obeyed it. You shall be blessed in your life for I have found faith in you. Sarah, you are a true daughter, in whom I am well pleased. I decree it unto you that you shall find the one your heart longs for and you will remember this promise I have made with you this day.

The Kingdom of Ildar shall go the way of all earthly kingdoms. After the death of the seventh King the people shall rebel and forget my law which they call the Code. Know that My Spirit shall not always dwell with men.<sup>14</sup> I will cast them off and drive them out of the land. Like Abraham my servant, you, Prince Erick, will be called out to another place and another time.”

Then the mist moved and covered the guards for a moment engulfing them all, and then it moved away. Snubs looked at Myles and jumped back a bit, “Why Myles, you’re all clean again and you have teeth now too.”

“I do? I feel clean too. I’m going to be better now, I’m a new Myles. Now I have me second bath in two days and I got all me teeth too. I’m sure I will find me a wife now.” Everyone smiled for Myles. Sarah smiled the biggest. By now she saw Myles as a big brother who was there to protect her and everyone else too.

There was one last word from the Lord, “Hear the words of my prophet.”

With that the mist faded away and there was just the light from the torches. Then Ben-David and a few guards pushed a stone over to cover the ledge and the box. Erick proclaimed to everyone, “With that

I believe we have accomplished the job and the mission given to us by the Spirit of the Book, for His glory.”

The prophet Jeremiah turned to look at Erick, “Blessed are you, Prince Erick, and you men of Ildar. It is time to go home and please tell your father the King of all that has happened and how Jehovah has blessed us because of his faithfulness.”

Then Jeremiah pointed his staff at a wall and a light shot out of it onto the wall of the cave. Suddenly an opening appeared, a large hole through which you could see Ildar and the castle Alexius.

“You and your men can go home through this passage that the Lord makes for you. Just step through and you will be home.” Then several of the guards ran through the hole and sure enough they stood in Ildar and could be seen by the others still in the cave.

Sarah was afraid Erick would go next so she called out, “Wait Erick ... please tell Adam that I am sorry I could not make it back. Tell him that I love him and maybe somehow someday I will see him again.” Then she began to cry for what her heart wanted she could not have.

Erick looked at Sarah, “I shall tell him this very day of your bravery and of your love for him. Never give up hope. God might not be finished with you yet.” Then Prince Erick stepped through the hole and was instantly in Ildar. His father the King was there and gave Erick a hug for he had come home.

Myles and Snubs were the last ones standing there. Myles had a tear in his eye, for he was going to miss Sarah the most. “I never have

missed anyone as much as I will miss you Miss Sarah.” A few more tears ran down his face. “I’m sorry I just can’t stop myself” and as he was talking Sarah ran over to him and gave him the biggest hug Myles had ever had. Even Sarah had tears flowing down her face. “I will miss you Myles, you saved my life and made me laugh at the same time. You are a very special man and any woman should be honored to have you.”

“You think so Miss Sarah?”

“Yes I do.”

“Then I better get going and find out who she is. She might be waiting for me now and I’m already late. Goodbye Miss Sarah, bye Marek, you take care of Sarah now. Bye.” With that Myles ran through the hole and Snubs was right behind him.

Sarah and Marek were the only ones left that needed to go home. The Prophet lowered his staff and the hole closed up. “Sarah and Marek, the Lord thanks you for your faith in him and in all you have been through. You never wavered. You kept to the Code of the book that is written on your heart. The Lord will renew himself in your life and the Code of the book shall always live as long as there is a man who loves the Lord.” Then the prophet turned again to the same wall and pointed his staff at it. Again a light went out and a hole opened up. Through the hole Marek could see his dorm room. He knew it was time for them to go home.

“I swear I shall always keep to the Code, though it is of old. It is like new in my heart every day. I will stand for the Lord.”

Sarah told the prophet, “I have learned so much, and I have learned to love the Lord with all my heart. I will serve God and this Code will always be the Code I live by. Thank you so much.” Then Sarah and Marek turned towards the hole in the wall and with only a few steps they were back in Marek’s dorm room where their great adventure had begun. They both quickly looked back behind them hoping to see the prophet standing there, but there was nothing, just the door to the room.

Sarah and Marek looked at each other and to their surprise they were back in the normal clothes they were wearing when this adventure started. Marek looked at his clock on the desk and it was the same time in the evening as when they had been taken. They had come back at the same moment that they left. So for them, they hadn’t missed anything or any classes. “Well Sarah, I believe we have been used by the Lord for a specific reason. I don’t know what I’m going to write in my paper, but I think I’m going to wait till tomorrow to get started on it. What do I do now that the book is gone? What will I do my report on?”

Sarah just smiled a little, “It will be okay Marek. By the way I’m glad I came over to help you translate the book. I would gladly do it all over again if I could. Thank you for letting me share this with you. I’m going to run back to my apartment now, you get some sleep. We have had a long day for sure.”

# Chapter Nine



## HOME AT LAST

### BACK IN THE KINGDOM OF ILDAR

**B**ack in Ildar the entire group had stepped into the courtyard in the middle of the castle. The King saw several of the guards just appear from out of nowhere, so he had hurried out to the courtyard to see if his son was among them. The King got to the courtyard just in time to see Prince Erick appear. “My son, my son I am so thankful you are okay. All of you have returned safely and there is so much to tell you of what has happened in your absence. This calls for a celebration for my son has returned.”

By order of King Drustan the largest feast and celebration the kingdom had ever seen was held in the main courtyard. The courtyard was decorated with bright banners and flowers adorned the walkways and balconies everywhere around the courtyard. The women who were skilled in dance all came out to dance for the King and the brave soldiers.

### THE KINGS TABLE

At the King's table were his two sons Prince Erick and his younger brother Prince Jeddak who would be the next King. Next to Erick was his friend Adam, who with great help, was able to come and to sit at the Kings table. Next sat the Captain of the guard, Myles and his friend Snubs, and the other guards who had all shown such great bravery to accomplish the quest of returning the Book of Beginnings to Jerusalem.

Then King Drustan stood to his feet to speak. "On behalf of all the Kingdom of Ildar I offer to you who sit at my table our most humble thanks. You faced down evil and were not consumed by it. You stayed your course and overcame the hardships that came after you. Though you were in a strange land you kept to the Code and brought honor to your King and the Kingdom of Ildar. To show my gratitude I have I ordered a gift of remembrance be made for each of you."

### PRINCE ERICK

The King walked over to a short stairway leading up to a balcony and turned around facing the courtyard. "Prince Erick," He shouted, "Come forward." Then Erick his son came to the steps and stood in front of the King and then knelt down before his father. A servant came forward holding his reward. The King took a simple golden olive wreath and placed on his son's head. "This is your reward for how you served your father the King in a strange land

against all the odds.” Prince Erick kissed his father’s hand out of respect for him, “Thank you your Majesty. You honor me.” Then Erick went back to his place at the banquet table. The Captain came forward and received the same and did likewise.

### MYLES

Then came Myles turn and like the others before him he knelt before the King. “Myles,” said the King. “I hear you have a gift for cooking?” The other men started coughing loudly in pretend choking.

“Well your majesty I did me best with what I had, but we never went hungry.”

“That is what I hear and with some very creative ingredients to say the least. That is why I have arranged for you to spend the next seven days in the royal kitchen where the ladies there will help you learn more. There is one in particular I hear who is very excited to help you. I was told she loves a man who knows his way around in the kitchen.” Then the King winked at Myles and smiled.

As the King placed the same simple golden olive wreath on Myles’s head, he noticed a few tears running down Myles’s face.

“What is this I see running down the face of the Kingdoms bravest warrior?”

“I can’t help it your majesty, I get all choked up sometimes.”

“It’s okay, Myles, it shows you have a heart indeed, Katie will love that.”

“Who is Katie,” Myles asked.



“Remember the girl I said was waiting to help you in the kitchen ... that’s Katie.”

“I would love to visit the kitchen your Majesty.”

“Wisely spoken Myles, I thought you might.”

“Maybe I can show them me famous rat stew.”

Even the Kings face wrinkled up at that thought. “Some things Myles are better off staying a family secret. My advice to you is to not talk about your stew the first day you meet Katie. Some things you will want to share with her slowly over a lot of time.”

So Myles’s tears of joy gave way to thoughts of a girl named Katie who now he could hardly wait to meet. After all the men had received their rewards, the King walked over to Adam and pulled out his sword.

“Adam, of the house of Kinnaird, who has been faithful and loyal to the Kingdom of Ildar. You have paid a heavy price for your service to your King. Your courage is rewarded this day as I King Drustan knight you, Sir Adam, defender of the Code and the Kingdom of the realm of Ildar.” As the King said his words, he tapped Adam on each shoulder with his sword. The King was not finished for there was still another honor to bestow. A quick wave of his hand and another servant came with another golden wreath. However, the golden leaves on the wreath were red. “Adam because of your sacrifice to rescue the Lady Sarah from certain death, I give you this very special wreath.” Since Adam could not stand the King bent over and placed it on his head.

Then all of the people who were there including; Prince Erick, Prince Jeddak, and the other men who had received a reward that day, stood and gave Adam the applause he deserved for the sacrifice he made. The King raised his hands in the air to quiet the crowd, for there was yet one last thing.

“I understand that not only did you lose the use of your legs, but you lost the love you found. As King there are times when great sacrifice demands greater reward. For the first time in our history I can only call on a higher power to reward such sacrifice.”

The King pulled out from under his vest the blue medallion that Marek had given him just before they left on their quest. The King pushed the jewel in the middle and it began to glow blue. The light became brighter and the crowd backed away from the light in awe of such things. Suddenly in the midst of all the people stood the mighty angel Zurel, Chief Captain of the League of Guardians. The people gasped and moved back even more now, but the King remembered Zurel as his friend and protector.

“Zurel,” said the King. “I have a favor that can only come from you. This man, Adam, sits at the Kings table forever injured in the service of his King to rescue a maiden, the Lady Sarah from the evil lord. She has gone back to her place and time, but I have learned they shared a love for one another. I ask you, Oh mighty servant of the Most High God, if this love can be joined back together.”

Zurel looked over at Adam sitting in a special chair made only for him “Because of your love of the Kingdom and faithfulness I will

take your request before the Most High. He honors those who honor Him.”

Then as fast as he came, he was gone and the blue light vanished. The King raised his hands in the air and spoke loud so all could hear him, “Lets us all give thanks for the blessings of Jehovah and for those among us whom He uses.” All the people raised their hands as well and all gave their thanks to Jehovah that day.

A little boy standing with his father pulled on his father clothes and his father bent over to see what his son wanted. “Father one day I want to be like him.”

### BACK AT SCHOOL

A week had gone by and Sarah and Marek were back into their daily routines. Sarah was back at the library on her days off from classes. Marek found himself making regular trips to the library researching additional material for his report. Every time Sarah saw Marek she would go over to see what new thing he was researching and see if she could help.

One day Marek was sitting at one of the library tables with Sarah who was looking over his shoulder reading through the books with him. Marek happened to look up in time to see a new person come through the door. This person whoever he was sat in a wheelchair being pushed by another new person. Marek looked again at the new guy and thought he looked a little familiar like he had seen him before, but couldn't place him.

Marek said to Sarah “Look up for a minute at that guy in the wheelchair, does he look familiar to you?”

“Yes ... loser, they are all losers. A lot of guys remind me of him.”

“Well maybe so but you can’t ignore every guy just because he isn’t ... Adam.”

“Okay, I’ll go over and see if I can help him like I do everyone. You sit here and try to be good.”

Sarah went over to the man in the wheelchair and the man pushing the chair and introduced herself, asking if she could be of any help to them. “I’m glad to meet you,” the man said. “I’m Jonathon. The school allowed me to enroll this late, if the professor would let me into his class. He’s a pretty nice guy. He agreed I could if I really got after this project and got caught up with everyone. So I need some help finding a history book on ancient kingdoms which is my project for the class.”

Sarah looked at him again, “And your name is Jonathon right?”

“Yes ma’am”

“And who is your friend pushing your chair all over the campus, you know it takes a special friend to do that.” The young man pushing the chair smiled at her, but said nothing.

“And what is your name?” Sarah asked the young man behind the chair.

“My name is ... well let me say when I was a little one I didn’t like people. My mama said I was the prettiest baby she had ever seen

and no matter what anyone said I was her favorite. She gave me this nic-name of Snubs, but my real name is Snubbles Tooth. You can just call me Snubs like everyone else if that's okay with you. You know the longer I talk to you the more I think I may know you from somewhere." Sarah just stood there with a shocked look on her face.

Jonathon looked up at Sarah who was standing there with a weird trance look on her face. "You have to forgive him he tends to talk too much."

Then Sarah seemed to wake up and looking down at him, "Okay Jonathon, you will need to fill out a library card so we know something about you. Please fill in your last name first, your first name last, and any middle name you have. Then we can get started."

Jonathon just looked at Sarah kind of funny and asked her if she could say that again a little slower, which she did.

So Jonathon filled out his card and handed back to Sarah who quickly looked at the name section, "Kinnaird, Jonathon Adam." For a few seconds Sarah could only stare at the name on the card and all kinds of thoughts ran through her head and with it her mouth was about to drop in amazement.

"You're ... your Adam?"

"Well Jonathon is sort of formal so my friends call me Adam. I answer to either. Tradition has it that my family name came from Scotland and that at one time a long time ago the family fought beside a great King. Well anyway that's the story I hear mostly from my dad. So do you think you can help me find some of the books I need?"

“Is it okay if I call you Adam ... I hope so. I’d be happy to help you because that’s what I do, but I have a feeling you might need me to help you a lot. Your friend Snubs can hang around too.”

Marek was watching this unfold before his eyes. He then saw Sarah walk away with the man in the wheelchair and his friend pushing as Sarah walked beside him talking, they disappeared into a book aisle and Sarah was smiling.

Yep it seems everything was ending as it should. Marek felt something suddenly heavy on his chest. He looked down and opened his shirt to see one of the medallions was around his neck. It started to glow blue and a small blue fog came out from it. The fog moved towards Sarah and turned down the aisle she had gone down trying to help her new friend in the wheelchair. No one in the library noticed the blue mist including Sarah. Marek was the only one who could see it and soon it faded away.

Marek remembered what the Lord had promised Sarah, that she would get her heart’s desire. Marek smiled when he remembered the promise. The smile was for Sarah and under his breath he mouthed the words, “Thank you Lord for your promise to Sarah.” Marek gathered up his books and slowly walked back to his dorm room.

### MAREK’S REPORT

Marek had worked long and hard and no matter what he wrote it just didn’t express the feeling he had inside. He struggled with the content of his report for several weeks because nothing seemed right.

The greatest adventure he ever had was not about a report, but about a book. In the book he found God in a way he had never known Him before.

While thinking back on the past events he thought about how much he had learned to trust in God. He thought about what had happened to him in the castle and in prison. How God had heard his plea and provided a way. He remembered the village and the building where he thought he was back at school and everyone wanted him to do what he knew was wrong. But God had again provided a way. Finally, he thought about the island and the battle with the evil lights that were really demons, and how God showed up and a miracle happened. He learned that when God shows up things change. The battle is already won, the evil flees and the tide is turned in your favor. God makes the difference.

Then he thought, “How do I explain the medallion I was given?” No sooner had he thought this when an answer was given. “Every time you pressed the jewel you were in fact calling out to God.” He knew that he didn’t need the medallion now to call out to God, but when he does call, he knew that whatsoever he asks, that God will hear him.”<sup>15</sup>

This adventure had all been a test of Faith and of Hope, but more importantly it showed the degree to which he had learned to love. It is said that, “The love you practice shows those around you how much of the Code<sup>16</sup> is alive in you.”

When the time came for Marek to give his report on the Book of Beginnings, he told of its origins and how the Spirit of the book had given direction to the King and to his servants. He talked about the three great secrets of the book, those of Faith, Hope, and Love.

Then in closing Marek closed his report and said, “What I have learned is what everyone who seeks the Lord learns.” Then he lifted his eyes towards heaven and declared, “Lord, teach me to love, teach me to be like you, for this is the secret of the book.”

The End





# FOR THE GLORY OF THE Kingdom of Heaven



## KINGDOM Chronicles

## Linage of the Kings

1. Alexius
2. Derek
3. Galen (disappeared)
4. Carl
5. Gaspar (did evil)
6. Drustan
7. Eric

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<sup>1</sup> Exodus 3:5; Acts 7:33

<sup>2</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moloch>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.gatewaystobabylon.com/gods/ladies/ladytiamat.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anunnaki>

<sup>5</sup> Ezek. 28:14-15

<sup>6</sup> Isa. 14:16

<sup>7</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem>

<sup>8</sup> A “Thermopolium”

<sup>9</sup> II Kings 18:9-11

<sup>10</sup> Deut. 31:24-26

<sup>11</sup> II Chronicles 24:20–22

<sup>12</sup> Talmud, Gittin 57b; Ta'anit 29b; <http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/bb/bb32.htm>;

<sup>13</sup> Jer. 29:1-14

<sup>14</sup> Gen.6:3

<sup>15</sup> 1 Jn.5:15

<sup>16</sup> The Moral law called the Ten Commandments