

## **"THE OLD MAN'S BIBLE"**

One summer afternoon, an old man was setting on the front porch in his favorite rocker reading his Bible. His hands were drawn and withered with age, and sometimes he found it hard to turn the page. As he looked out across the new plowed fields to the western sky, as the sun was going down. He saw a young man walking toward him from the direction of town.

As the young man approached, he said, "Good afternoon, sir. How are you?" The old man replied in a weathered, cracked voice, "I'm fine." And invited the young man to set and have a cool glass of lemonade. "But you'll have to pour it yourself," the old man went on to say. "You see these old hands of mine, why they shake so bad that well I'm likely to drown us both." As the young man poured his drink, the old man asked, "How are you this fine day, and what brings you out my way?"

The young man started off by saying, "Sir I'm from the local book company, and I have with me the most amazing book you'll ever read." The old man interrupted, "I don't know about that son. This book here is pretty amazing." As he patted the old Bible that lay across his lap.

"But sir, you don't understand," replied the young man. "This new version of the Bible takes you places you've never been." The old man stopped him again. "That's all well and good son, but let me tell you just a few of the places this old Bible has been.

You see, it started out in the most beautiful place on earth. A garden called Eden. It went through a flood with Noah and the Ark. I guess you could say this old Bible has made it's mark. It went into the wilderness with Moses. Why, it even parted a raging sea. Now that's pretty amazing, don't you agree?

It went into battle with David and helped bring a mighty giant to the ground. It went into the fiery furnace with the three Hebrew children as they walked round and round.

It went with Daniel into the lion's den only to come out to be read again. It was swallowed up with Jonah and spent three days in the belly of a whale. But, when old Jonah got out, boy you should have heard him yell."

Why, this old Bible has fought battle after battle and won many a lost soul. Now that's pretty amazing, or so I've been told. But that's not all son, let me tell you just a few more things I've learned. Why I've an education that money can't buy."

I learned of how a new born baby was laid in a manger because there was no room in the inn and as just a lad of twelve how he preached to grown men. I learned of how he made the lame to walk, the dumb to talk, and how he made the blinded eyes to see. I learned of how he was crucified, and nailed to a tree. I learned of how he was laid in a borrowed tomb only to rise again, just to pay our debt of sin. I learned of his apostles how they walked from town to town, preaching his gospel only to be stoned and beaten down.

But I've also learned of how someday he's coming back to take us in the air. To a city so bright and a land so fair. With mansions so tall and wealth untold. Why, we'll even be walking streets of pure gold. I'll praise his sweet name when I get the call. So you see son, this old book, it's pretty amazing after all.

The young man, no longer able to hold back his emotions, spoke in a tear filled voice. "Sir, I understand what you mean by making the blinded eyes to see. You know I thank I'll take another look at your amazing book."

As the young man said good-by and turned to walk away. The old man leaned back in his rocker, looked toward the eastern sky, and with a smile on his face said. "Well Lord, I guess that's another battle this old Bible has won." then slowly he lowered his head and,

***"Went to meet God..."***

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