



Tobit and the Angel

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Tobit was from the tribe and city of Naphtali. His wife's name was Henna. They bore a child and named him Tobias. They raised him in the fear of God.

The father helped the poor and buried the dead. Once there was a poor man named Ghabilios. Tobit gave him 10 measures of silver to help him, and Ghabilios gave him a paper to prove it. One day while Tobit the father was sleeping, something fell on his eye and it made him blind.

He did not blame God for what had happened to him. Due to the injury, the father was not able to work, so his wife would work instead of him. Gradually, they became poor. Tobit always prayed to God to heal him.

At the same time there was a lady named Sarah. Sarah was always made fun of by her father's servants because she had married seven men and they all died. Every time she married a man, he died. Sarah was also praying to God so that he would help her by taking away this ill fate from her.

One day Tobit called his son and told him to go to Ghabilios to get the money loaned to him and to give him back his

paper. When Tobias the son went out of the house on his way to Ghabilios, he met a young man that was very handsome. They welcomed each other and started talking together. Tobias didn't know that this man was the Angel of God.

While they were talking, Tobias found out that this man once visited Ghabilios, so he asked if he could go with him there because he had to get his father's money back. The young man told him that he would go with him and would bring him back to his father. They made ready for the trip and went together.

The first night they slept by a river. While Tobias was sitting by the river, a huge fish came out of the water to attack him. Tobias became scared and screamed for help. The young man told him to pull the fish from its gills and bring it out to land. Then he told him to cut the fish open and to take out the heart, gall bladder, and the liver and to keep them. He told him to keep these organs because they have many benefits.

When you put the heart on fire, the smoke that comes out can cast out devils from any man or woman and would never enter them again. The gall bladder can cure the eye. They took the rest of the fish, cooked it and





took it as food for the rest of the trip.

One day on their trip, the young man told Tobias that in this village there is a man from your relatives that has a daughter named Sarah, and you must take her as your wife. Tobias told him that seven men married her and they all died because the devil killed them. The young man told him that nothing would happen to him because he was close to God. They went to her house and told her dad that Tobias was their relative.

The man started preparing food for them. Tobias told him they wouldn't eat anything unless he allows him marry Sarah. Her dad was worried, but the young man told him that nothing bad would happen, so they were married. Tobias burned the liver and all the devils were cast out. Tobias and Sarah got up and started praying to God. The next day Sarah's dad found out that Tobias was still alive, so he thanked God and so did his wife.

Then Tobias told the young man to go to Ghabilios, give him the paper, and to bring back the money. He also told him to invite Ghabilios to his wedding. The young man took four additional men from Sarah's dad and went to Ghabilios and came back and they spent time together.

After that Tobias asked Sarah's dad if he could go back to his parents because he knew that they would get worried about him. Sarah's dad told him that he could go back with Sarah and he gave him cattle, silver, and servants. They started on the trip back. The young man and Tobias got there before everyone else and he told his parents about all the things that happened.

Then Tobias rubbed his dad's eyes with the gall bladder of the fish and his dad was able to see again and they all rejoiced. Then after seven days his wife Sarah and everyone else arrived and they had a great celebration for seven days. After that Tobias called the young man

and told him to take what he desired for what he did for them.

He told them I would tell you the truth. I am Rafael, the Angel, sent by God. I came to help you for all the good things that you did, and God was very pleased with you. Then the angel disappeared. They all thanked God and bowed to Him for three hours. After his parents died, Tobias went back to live with Sarah's parents. He lived in the fear of God with his children. Then he departed in peace. Some benefits that we should learn are to always pray to God for help. We should also always help the poor and give to the needy and we will be rewarded in Heaven. Another thing is the God sends his angels to help us when we do good things. May his blessings be with us all. Amen.

Another Important Lesson - The Obstacle in Our Path

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand. Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.