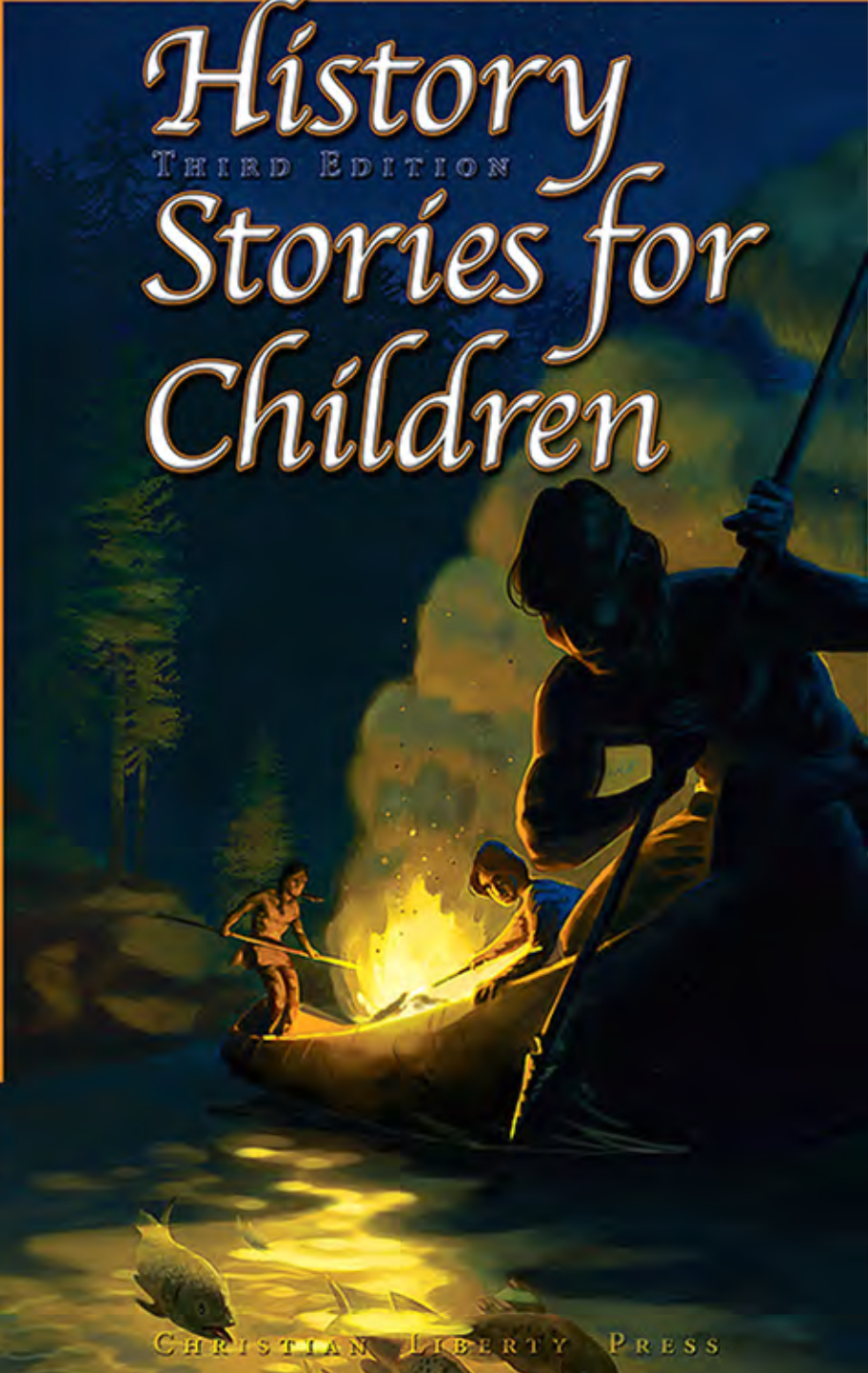


Christian Liberty Reader

# History

THIRD EDITION

# Stories for Children



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# History Stories for Children

THIRD EDITION



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*John W. Wayland*

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502 West Euclid Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004

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## Third Edition

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# Preface

The pedagogical value of the story has always been recognized but is now being utilized more fully, perhaps, than ever before. At the same time, the need for a suitable variety of story materials and story forms is growing apace. This is especially true in the child's field of history. The need for real history stories, simple enough for little children, is keenly felt every day by teachers in the schools and by parents in the homes.

To meet this need, in some measure, the stories in this little book have been prepared. They are intended primarily for the use of the teacher and the parent in oral instruction, but they may also be read in due time by the child himself. Accordingly, the writer has aimed to adapt them to the uses contemplated, not only in subject matter but also in diction, style, and length.

The subjects have been chosen mainly from the history of our own country, but a few Old World stories have been included. The characters are few and distinct: they are women as well as men, girls as well as boys. Industrial and social conditions are portrayed along with those hitherto more conventional.

Easy references to geography and literature are incorporated; and, as far as possible, simple yet attractive titles have been applied.

A studious effort has been made to simplify and unify these stories by leaving out those details and circumstances that would only distract the child, and to make them vital and vivid by enlarging such details as serve the main purpose. The morals are not pointed, as a rule, but they are obvious enough in most cases, it is believed, to be seen.

One of the secrets of interest in teaching children is to be found in seizing the time and the occasion. Therefore, a large number of these little stories have been especially adapted for use in connection with the various holidays and anniversaries that fall within the school year, and may be used in an order following the annual calendar rather than in the order in which they appear in the book.

*John W. Wayland, Ph.D.*

*Taken from the original 1919 Edition*

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

**D**r. John W. Wayland was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, and lived from 1872 to 1962. He was a long-time educator and author. He received a B.S. degree from Bridgewater College in Virginia and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Virginia in 1907. He taught in the local public schools and later at institutions of higher learning, including the University of Virginia and Madison College in Virginia (now known as James Madison University). He retired in 1931 to devote more time to writing and research.

Dr. Wayland wrote over forty books and hundreds of articles during his life. His writings include *How to Teach American History* (1914), *History Stories for Primary Grades* (1919), and numerous works about the history of Virginia, with an emphasis on the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.



# Foreword

Christian Liberty Press is proud to offer a third edition of *History Stories for Children*, which is largely based on Dr. John W. Wayland's classic *History Stories for Primary Grades*. We share Dr. Wayland's interest in providing students with sound history lessons through stories that are both interesting and morally uplifting. We have included most of Dr. Wayland's original stories, along with some other selections.

In republishing Dr. Wayland's stories, we have sought to maintain the flavor of his original work. We have, however, made modest revisions to the text to remove obvious anachronisms that would be unknown to today's young readers and to update the stories when necessary. In order to help parents and teachers evaluate their students' reading comprehension, we have also added a number of questions to each of the stories in the book. We have also included vocabulary word definitions at the conclusion of selected stories to aid students with unfamiliar terms.

Also, we offer a separate teacher's manual that includes answers to all of the comprehension questions in the book and notes to the teacher for most of the selections. We have built upon Dr. Wayland's original supplementary notes that were initially included in the book. As Dr. Wayland put it in the preface to his original work: "These are intended to supply additional information at convenient places and to embody certain specific suggestions, in an effort to provide practical guidance." We have expanded and updated the notes, putting them in the teacher's manual, so as not to distract students as they read the stories.

*History Stories for Children* can have a variety of uses. It mostly will be used as an enjoyable reader for children. Yet, the stories will provide the instructor with a wide variety of occasions to branch off into other areas of study. The teacher's notes will provide some direction in building on such opportunities, but be alert for additional possibilities. In addition, we offer extension activities in our *Student Exercises* booklet for you to expand on some of these ideas. We also encourage you to use the stories in this book in connection with various holidays and important dates throughout the year.

It is our prayer that Almighty God would bless all those who read this storybook.

*The Staff of Christian Liberty Press  
Arlington Heights, Illinois*

# Unit 1

## From the Bible

# The Boy Who Dreamed

Once there was a boy named Joseph who was always dreaming. He dreamed that he saw a sheaf of wheat standing up straight, and that he then saw eleven other sheaves standing around it and bowing down to it. He dreamed that he saw the sun and the moon and the stars all bowing down to him.

He told one of his dreams to his father. His father Jacob thought it was all very foolish and told him not to be dreaming so much. When he told his dreams to his brothers, they became angry. You see, there were eleven of them, and when



Joseph told about the eleven sheaves, his brothers thought he was dreaming about them. They were the kind of brothers who often become jealous of other family members. Their jealousy became even worse after their father gave Joseph a special coat of many colors.

One day Joseph's brothers did a very wicked thing. They sold him to some strangers and told their father Jacob that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. The strangers were merchants, and they carried Joseph into a country called Egypt. In that country, Joseph was kept many, many years. All this time Joseph's father thought he was dead.

At first, Joseph had a hard time in Egypt. He was a slave and was sometimes mistreated. Once he was put into prison and kept there for more than two years. During his time in prison, Joseph explained the dreams of other inmates. Joseph continued to receive the ability from God to understand dreams even while in prison.

Later Joseph became a great man after he explained two troubling dreams to the **Pharaoh** of Egypt. Pharaoh saw in his first dream seven fat cows and then seven skinny cows that ate the fat cows. In the second dream, he saw seven fat ears of grain followed by seven thin ears of grain that swallowed the fat ears. The Pharaoh and his advisors had no idea what these dreams meant. When Pharaoh was told about Joseph's ability to explain dreams, he ordered Joseph to be brought to him from the prison. Pharaoh wanted Joseph to tell him the meaning of his dreams.

God revealed to Joseph the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams. Egypt would have seven good years of crops and then seven bad years. Joseph also told Pharaoh that he should prepare for the bad years by saving food from the good years. Pharaoh thought that Joseph had a good idea and put him in charge of preparing for the bad years. He also gave Joseph a wife and a fine place to live in his palace.

After Joseph had become a great man in Egypt, his brothers at home began to have a hard time. Their crops did not grow, and their cattle did not thrive. They had very little to eat. One year, there was a **famine**; the next year, there was another famine; and so on for seven years.

Now in Egypt there was plenty to eat, in spite of the hard times. Joseph had managed things so well that the people in Egypt had enough to eat and some to spare. In fact, the

Egyptians sold a great deal of food to the people of other countries.

And now, what do you think? Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy food! They had to buy it from Joseph, for he had charge of the king's storehouse.

Joseph had changed so much that his brothers did not know him; but he knew them. He could have put them in jail, but he did not do it. He sold them food; and, after a long time, he told them who he was. They were very surprised and were terribly frightened, but Joseph did not hurt them. He believed in doing good in turn for doing something bad. Joseph understood that while his brothers meant to do evil, God meant it all for good, to save the lives of many during the famine.

After this, Joseph's father and all his brothers went to live in Egypt. Joseph and Pharaoh picked out for them good farmland and rich pastures near a very large river called the Nile. If it had not been for Joseph, there is no telling what would have become of his father, brothers, and the rest of their families. The boy who was a great dreamer turned out to be a kind and godly man who was a great leader.

Now, in closing this story, let me tell you a secret about Joseph's dreams and his ability to explain dreams. Joseph kept his eyes open and could see what ought to be done. He sought God's will on things; then he went to work to do things. This is the reason his dreams and explanations always counted for so much. As the Holy Bible says in Isaiah 26:3, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."

## Vocabulary Words

**sheaf:** a bundle in which cereal plants, as wheat, rye, etc., are tied together (plural: **sheaves**)

**inmates:** people who are in prison

**Pharaoh:** the king of ancient Egypt

**famine:** a time when people do not have enough food to eat; food becomes hard to find

## Comprehension Questions

1. What were Joseph's two dreams?
2. What did Joseph's brothers do to him?
3. What did Pharaoh's dreams mean?
4. Why did Joseph help his family?

## Extension Activity

**Research:** Do you know where to find Egypt on a map of the world? Many stories of the Bible take place in or near Egypt and around the Nile River. Use an encyclopedia, Internet, or other source to find Africa and the country of Egypt (in the northeastern corner of the continent).

Then look for the Nile River. Where does it begin? (Hint: The headwaters of the Nile is Africa's largest lake.) Into what body of water does the end of the Nile River flow?

# The Girl Who Gathered Barley

**A** long, long time ago, a young woman left her own country and went to live in a strange land. She did this because she did not want to leave an older woman, who was her mother-in-law. The older woman's name was Naomi; the young woman's name was Ruth.

Ruth's old home was in the ancient land of **Moab**. Naomi's old home was on the other side of the Jordan River, in Judah, near the town of Bethlehem. Naomi had lived in Ruth's country about ten years; then Naomi returned to Bethlehem after her husband and two sons had died in Moab, and Ruth went with her. In returning to Bethlehem, Naomi was going back home; but for Ruth, the country around Bethlehem was new and strange.

If Ruth had not been a true-hearted girl, and if she had not loved Naomi, she would have stayed in the land of Moab. Ruth had married one of Naomi's sons in Moab, and even though Ruth's husband had died, Ruth still cared for Naomi so much that she insisted in going with Naomi instead of staying in her homeland of Moab.

When Ruth and Naomi came to Bethlehem, it was the beginning of the barley harvest, which came in March or April. Barley was a grain used for food; it was grown there more than wheat.

Ruth and Naomi had no harvest of their own; they were poor. However, as they watched the men and women going to the barley fields with their sharp sickles, Naomi remem-

bered her husband's rich relative Boaz. Boaz had large barley fields, and he had many reapers at work in his fields.

One morning, Ruth said to Naomi, "Let me go to the barley fields. Perhaps some kind-hearted farmer will allow me to pick up the heads of barley that the reapers drop."

Naomi consented, and Ruth went to the fields.

Now it happened that Ruth walked into a field that belonged to the rich man Boaz. It was early in the day, and Boaz was still in the town; however, his overseer told Ruth that she might follow the reapers and pick what barley she could find.

After a while, Boaz came out into the field and saw Ruth. He said to the overseer, "Whose young woman is this?"

The overseer answered, "It is the young Moabite woman who came with Naomi from the country of Moab. She asked, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."

Perhaps Ruth heard what Boaz and the overseer said about her, and I imagine that she was somewhat frightened. She did not know what Boaz would say next. Perhaps she thought that he might order her to get out of his field.

Boaz came close to Ruth and spoke kindly to her. He told her, "Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women." You may be sure that Ruth was glad that Boaz was so kind.

At midday, Boaz gave Ruth part of his meal. After lunch, when the reapers were taking their sickles to cut

barley again, he quietly said to them, so Ruth could not hear, "Let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her."

So Ruth gleaned in the field of Boaz until evening. Then she beat out the heads she had gathered and found that she had nearly a bushel of barley.

When Naomi saw how much barley Ruth had gathered, and learned how kind Boaz had been to her, she was very pleased.

The next day, Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz again. She continued her gleaning there until the barley harvest ended; and a month or two later, when the wheat harvest came, she returned again to glean in the fields of the rich man Boaz.

Most likely, Boaz must have been pleased with Ruth to show her so much kindness. He was indeed pleased with her; and you need not be surprised when I tell you that Boaz, after a while, married Ruth.

Thus the girl who gathered barley became the wife of the rich man who owned the field. Her good habits and her faithfulness to Naomi proved to Boaz that she was a woman worth having.

If Ruth had not been so true to Naomi, she might have lived and died in the land of Moab, and history would not even know her name. As it is, the world loves her. She became great and famous. Many of the persons named in the Bible were related to her. King David was her great-grandson, and the Lord Jesus Christ was her greatest descendant.

When Ruth started to leave Moab and go to Bethlehem, Naomi was afraid Ruth would get homesick, and advised



her to remain in Moab; but Ruth held on to Naomi and went with her. Also, what she said to Naomi is worth remembering. These are her beautiful words from Ruth 1:16–17:

Entreat me not to leave you,  
Or to turn back from following after you;  
For wherever you go, I will go;  
And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;  
Your people *shall be* my people,  
And your God, my God.

Where you die, I will die,  
And there will I be buried.  
The LORD do so to me, and more also,  
If *anything but* death parts you and me.

## Vocabulary Words

**Moab:** a country mentioned in the Bible east of the Dead Sea, near modern-day Israel; now part of the nation of Jordan

**sickle:** tool for cutting grain with a curved, hook-like blade

**reapers:** those who gather a crop or harvest

**glean:** to gather the useful remnants of a crop from the field after harvesting

**descendant:** a person related to one who lived in the past

**entreat:** to ask or beg

## Comprehension Questions

1. Where did Ruth originally live?
2. Why did Ruth go to Bethlehem with Naomi?
3. What work did Ruth do after arriving in Bethlehem?
4. Why did Boaz think that Ruth was worth having as his wife?

## Extension Activity

**Color and Learn:** Using the *Student Exercises* book, color the picture of Ruth gleaning in the barley field of Boaz. The barley field is a setting in the story; the *setting* of the story is where a story takes place. There can be more than one setting in a story. Complete this activity in the *Student Exercises* booklet and learn some facts about barley.