

## BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

*We're in... Unit 1: The God Who Reveals Himself*

**Unit 1 Big Question and Answer:**  
**How Can I Know What God Is Like?**  
*He Shows Me What He's Like!*

PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4

**Unit 1 Bible Verse: Amos 4:13, ESV**

"For behold, He who formed the mountains, creates the winds, and declares to man what is His thought. The LORD, the God of hosts, is His name."

PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5

## BIBLE TRUTH

*We're learning... Bible Truth 3:*  
**God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago**

Before Jesus came, God often spoke to His people through prophets. Prophets were godly people who spoke God's words to people, especially God's people. God would speak to the prophets, then the prophets would tell the people exactly what God said. Sometimes false prophets came who pretended to speak God's words. The difference between the false prophets and God's true prophets was that the words of God's prophets always came true.

Sometimes God used His prophets to warn the people to stop sinning against Him. He urged them to turn away from their sins and receive His forgiveness. If they did not turn back, God used the prophets to tell His people how He would discipline them. After God disciplined His people, He used the prophets to give the people His words of comfort and hope.

The Bible is God's Word. Much of it, God first spoke to His people through the prophets. They wrote it down for God's people to know and obey. The Bible calls Jesus the Word of God, the greatest prophet of all. That's because Jesus is God. He always spoke God's Word.

## BIBLE VERSE

*How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!*

**Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse:**  
**Deuteronomy 18:18-19, HCSB**

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."

## CASE STORY

Adapted from *Religious Stories for Young and Old, vol. IV,*  
compiled by Joel Beeke

**Our story is called:**

**The Case of the Doctor and the Drummer Boy.**

**As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. How did the Doctor and the Drummer Boy meet?
  2. Who did the Drummer Boy want the Doctor to know?
- How did the prophets help the Doctor meet Him?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1860's during the American Civil War.

Max Rosvally, dressed in white shirt, black pants, vest and yarmulke, sat excitedly in the Jewish congregation. At the rabbi's nod, Max rose from his seat and stood before the silent but eager congregation. The white tassels dangling from his prayer shawl seemed to quiver with excitement. This was a most important day in this thirteen-year-old boy's life!

The rabbi in his long ceremonial robes turned to Max, handing him a large scroll written in Hebrew. Carefully Max opened it up and read the passage of the Bible in Hebrew, then handed it back to the rabbi. After a few moments the ceremony was over, Max was surrounded with the handshakes and hugs of the synagogue congregation. Max Rosvally had just completed his bar-mitzvah: the special Jewish ceremony which recognized him as no longer a boy. Now Max was a man.

Max Rosvally, like his fathers before him, was an orthodox Jew. For as long as he could remember, he had been taught to love the Law of Moses and the prophets. Each day he strapped one phylactery to his arm and another to his forehead, then prayed the Shema--words that Moses spoke to Israel thousands of years before: "Hear, O Israel, the LORD is God, the LORD is One. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength." (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, NIV). Every Sabbath, (Saturday), his family would rest from their work and go to the synagogue to hear the rabbi speak from the Law of Moses or from the Writings of the Prophets (what we call our Old Testament). "Love the LORD, love the Law, love the Prophets, do good to others," Max was told.

"But there is someone you should not love," Max's teachers cautioned him. "His name is Jesus. Christians say he was the Jewish Messiah, come to save sinners who break the Law of Moses. They say that he was the greatest

prophet of all, who didn't just speak God's Word like the other prophets, but was God, Himself. They are wrong. Don't believe in Jesus," they said.

Max never forgot those words. He tried to love the LORD, love the Law, love the Prophets, do good to others...and he would NOT believe in Jesus.

When Max grew up, he became a doctor in the army during the American Civil War. What a terrible war it was! Many men were hurt. Many others died. After each battle, the wounded would be carefully carried to the nurses and doctors in the medical tents. Many times, very little could be done. Doctors hadn't learned how to heal bodies like they do now, but they did what they could.

One day while Max--Dr. Rosvally--was on duty, a wounded young man named Charley Coulson was brought in to him. He was a drummer boy, whose beat kept the soldiers marching together as they went into battle. Dr. Rosvally looked down at Charley's hurt body. How bad his wounds were! He would have to operate quickly if there was even a chance to save his life.

"Prepare this young man for surgery immediately!" ordered Dr. Rosvally. As the nurses prepared Charley for the operation, the doctor noticed something different about him. Charley was about to have a very painful operation. He might very well die. Most men would be panicking with fear. Yet, he had such a complete calm. Max was amazed!

Charley laid his hand on the doctor's, looked him in the face, and explained why: "Doctor, one Sunday afternoon, when I was just nine and a half years old, I gave my heart to Christ. I learned to trust Him then, and I've been trusting Him ever since. I know I can trust Him now. He is my strength. He will support me even while you operate on me."

Dr. Rosvally was amazed at the peace Charley had, but he bristled at what he said about Jesus. No! Jesus was not the Messiah! This young man was wrong!

Charley made it through the operation and through the night, but his body wasn't healing. He was in a lot of pain and was very weak; yet to the doctor's amazement, Charley found the strength to sing a hymn, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul."

Five days later a nurse came rushing to Dr. Rosvally with news, "Doctor, come quickly! Charley is calling for you. He is about to die."

Max rushed to the room where Charley lay dying. "What

is it, Charley?," he asked.

"Doctor, my time has come; I do not expect to see another sunrise, but thank God I am ready to go. Before I die, I want to thank you with all my heart for your kindness to me. Doctor, I love you because you are a Jew. The best friend I have found in this world was a Jew--Jesus Christ. Five days ago, while you operated on me, I prayed to the Lord Jesus Christ and asked Him to make His love known to you. Promise me that you will never forget this," Charley said.

"I promise," Dr. Rosvally replied.

Only a few minutes later, Charley died.

Ten, long years past and the memory of Charley Coulson the drummer boy faded to the back of Dr. Rosvally's memory. But God had not forgotten Charley's prayer for the Jewish doctor. He would answer that prayer with a "yes!"

One day when the doctor went to get his haircut, the Lord, in His kindness, gave him a barber who loved Jesus and loved to tell others about Him. As the barber set to work on Dr. Rosvally's hair with his scissors, the Holy Spirit used his words to work in Dr. Rosvally's heart. As the barber spoke about Jesus, the doctor began to remember Charley Coulson and his love for Jesus, too. "The rabbis told me to never believe that Jesus is the Messiah, but I'm beginning to wonder. Here is yet another man who loves Him and knows Him, just like Charley did. Maybe I need to look in God's Word and see for myself what it says about Jesus," he decided.

Doctor Rosvally went home and shut himself in his room, all the time thinking about Jesus. He tied his phylacteries to his arm and forehead and put his prayer shawl over his head, just like the old days; and he began to pray and pray.

"Please God show me if Jesus is the Messiah, Your Son."

Immediately the Holy Spirit brought to mind words about Jesus that God spoke through the prophets long ago that were written down in the Bible. "I see! I see!" the doctor exclaimed. "The prophets did speak about Jesus! It is not a lie. Jesus really is the Messiah! I believe in Jesus! I love Jesus!"

At last the doctor's heart was filled with faith and joy; and Charley Coulson's prayers were answered. God had used the words spoken a dying young man, a barber and His very own Words spoken by the prophets long ago to bring this doctor to believe in Him.

**Our Bible Truth is: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago Long Ago**

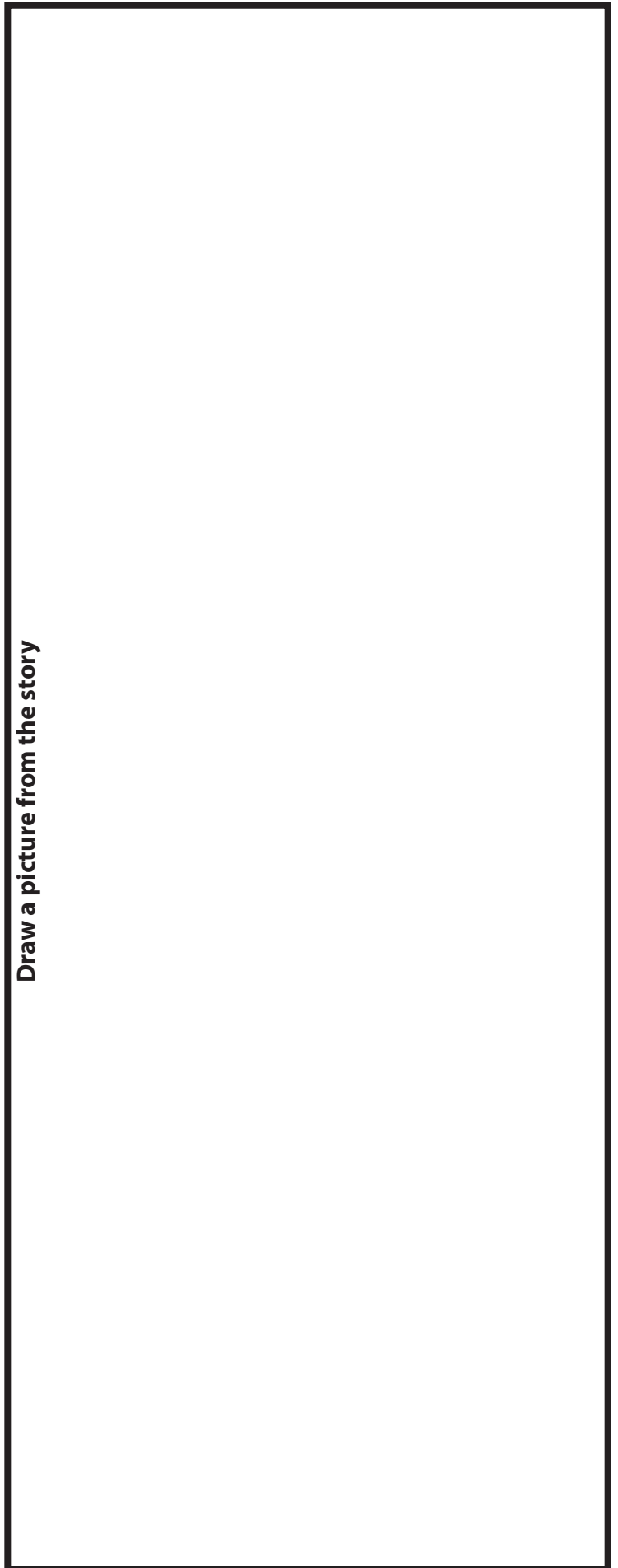
**Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 18:18-19**

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."

Does God still use the words He spoke through the prophets today? Yes, He does—in the Bible, the Word of God. And what do the prophets tell us? That God loved sinners so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save from their sins all who will repent and believe in Him.

This is the message that we all need to hear and believe! Let's praise this God who spoke through the prophets long ago and still uses the words He gave them--written down in the Bible—to bring people to know Him today. Let's ask God to work in our hearts, helping us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And let's ask Him to make us people He can use to tell others about salvation through His Son, Jesus.

Draw a picture from the story



**SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU**

**1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:**  
 The prophets only spoke whatever he thought God might want him to say to the people.  
 Answer: False. The prophets only spoke the words that God gave them to tell the people.

**2. Crack the Case Questions:**  
**a. Who was the Doctor and the Drummer Boy? How did they meet?**  
 Answer: Max Rosvally was the doctor. Charley was the drummer boy. In a hospital during the American Civil War, when Charley was injured in battle.

**b. Who did the Drummer Boy want the Doctor to know? How did the prophets help the Doctor meet Him?**  
 Answer: Jesus. Max Rosvally read the prophets and realized that they all pointed to Jesus as the Messiah.

**3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 18:18-19**  
 "I will \_\_\_ for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them \_\_\_ I command him. I will hold \_\_\_ whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."  
 Answers: raise up; everything; accountable.

**BIBLE TRUTH HYMN**

**The God of Abraham Praise**  
*PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 18*

**Verse 2**  
 His Spirit floweth free, High surging where it will:  
 In prophet's word He spoke of old, He speaketh still.  
 Established is His law, And changeless it shall stand,  
 Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea or land.  
 Words: Daniel ben Judah Dayyan, Translated by Newton Mann  
 Music: Meyer Lyon

God's Holy Spirit works powerfully, doing everything God wants Him to do. Long ago, in the days of the prophets, God's Spirit spoke His words to them, and then they spoke God's Words to the people. The prophets didn't just speak God's words. They also wrote them down in the Bible. God spoke different kinds of things to His people through the prophets. Sometimes God's words were laws He wanted His people to keep. Sometimes they were words of comfort or warning. Other times, they were words about the future. God's Holy Spirit helped the prophets say God's words just right...and He helped them write them down just right. Even now, we can read God's words that the prophets wrote down when we read the Bible. God can use them to "write" His truth deep upon our hearts. That is, He can use them to teach us His ways and how He wants us to live. He can use them to help us to know Him and obey Him.

**AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY**

*A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication*

**A** God, we praise You for being a God who speaks to us. We can know what You are like because You have spoken through the prophets' words, written down in the Bible.

**C** God, we confess that we are sinners, like Max Rosvally. Too often we choose to not believe in You. And, many times when we are in scary situations, like Charley Coulson, we do not trust You to take care of us. We need the Savior Jesus!

**T** God, we thank You for loving sinners so much that You pursue them even when they are not interested in You, just as You did with Max Rosvally.

**S** God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And, like Charley, help us to boldly tell others about Jesus.

**BIBLE VERSE SONG**

**I Will Raise Up**  
*PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 19*

I will raise up, I will raise up,  
 I will raise up for them a prophet like you.  
 I will raise up, I will raise up,  
 I will raise up for them a prophet like you.  
 He will come from among their brothers,  
 I will put my words in his mouth,  
 And he will tell them everything I command him.  
 And whoever does not listen,  
 I will hold him accountable.  
 I will raise up, I will raise up,  
 I will raise up for them a prophet like you.  
 I will raise up, I will raise up,  
 I will raise up for them a prophet like you.  
 Deuteronomy Eighteen, eighteen and nineteen.  
 Words: Deuteronomy 18:18-19, HCSB Music: Constance Dever ©2012

God tells us in His Word that He would raise up prophets to instruct the people. He used them to instruct the people in how they could be saved by trusting in Him. He used them to warn the people to turn back to Him when they kept on sinning against Him and to offer them forgiveness for their sins. The people were to obey the prophet's words because they were His words. God's people still read the words of the prophet's written in the Bible today. There are things that God wants them to still obey that He commanded through them, long ago.