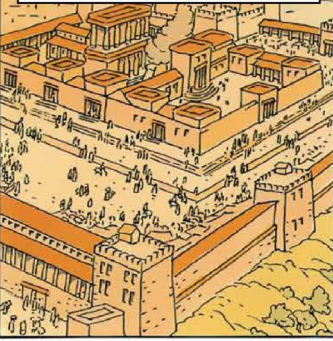


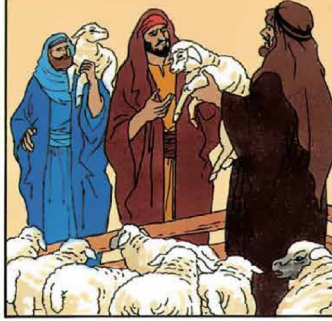
BIG CLEANSING

READ FOR YOURSELF: Luke 19:45-48

The temple in the capital is the centre of the Jewish religion...



During the Passover, lambs are slaughtered...



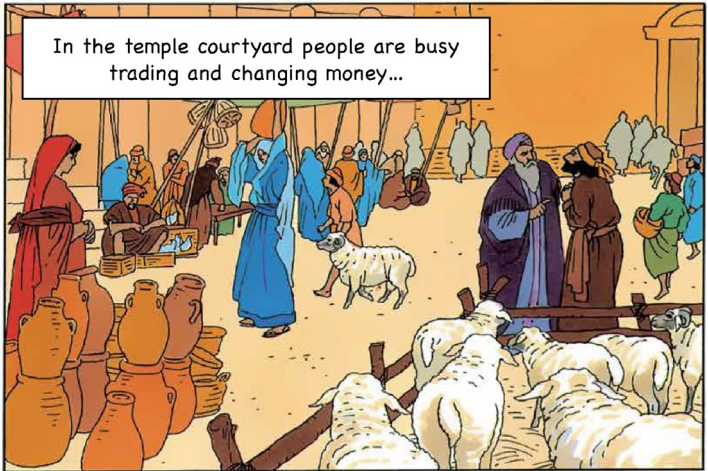
They are sacrificed in the temple so people get rid of their sin...



But what sacrificial lamb can really free people from guilt, shame and fear of judgment?

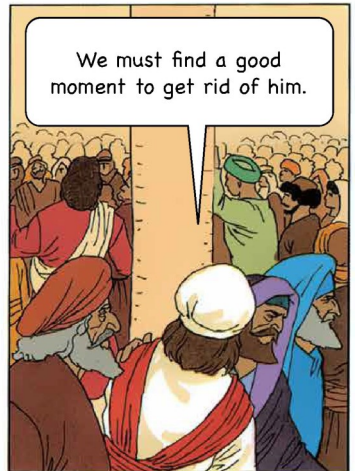
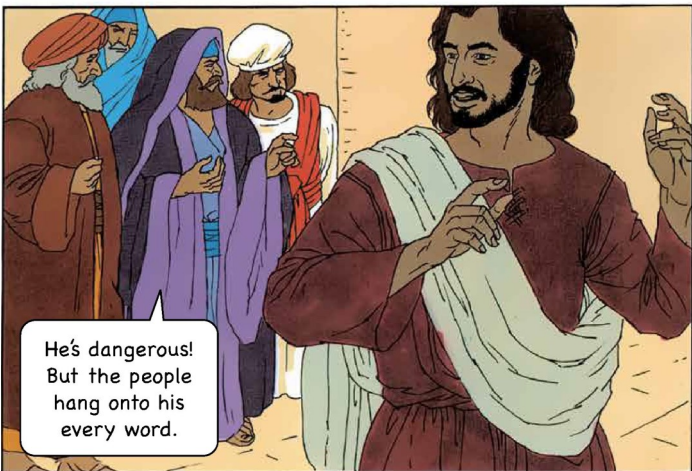
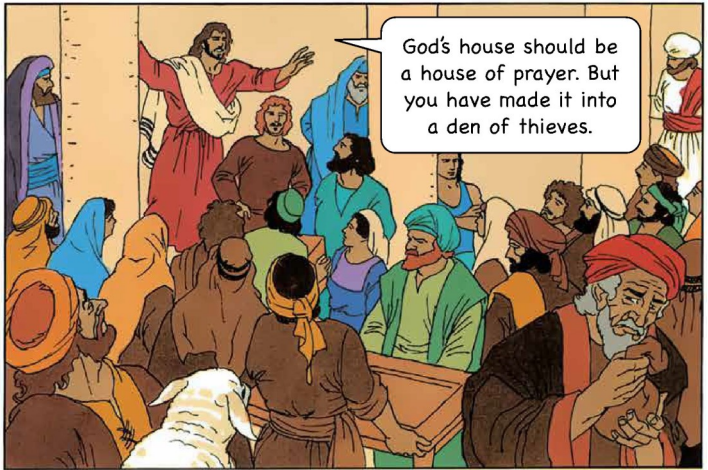
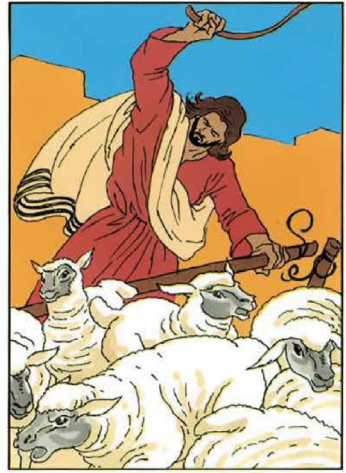
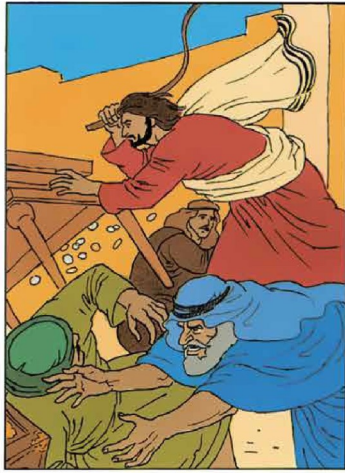


In the temple courtyard people are busy trading and changing money...



Suddenly, Jesus is there...





BIG CLEANSING

During the Passover festival the Jews travel to the temple to offer a sacrifice there. Every time again, that sacrifice makes things right between them and God. In the forecourt of the temple everyone buys an animal for sacrificing, a lamb or a pair of doves. These cannot be bought with ordinary money. You first need to change your money into temple currency.

And so, there is much activity in the temple courtyard when the Lord Jesus arrives. Because of all the trading, it looks more like a market place. It does not look like a Holy place of prayer, as it was meant to be and also not like a place to meet with the Lord God. Because all the trading, the people do not realize anymore God's grace, His free goodness and His undeserved favour. That is why Jesus is angry. He chases out the traders. Many people are glad that Jesus does this. They think, see, He is a hero after all. But the leaders are indignant. That's the end of their money making.

MEMORY VERSE

"Surely you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you!" (1 Corinthians 3:16)

WHO IS JESUS?

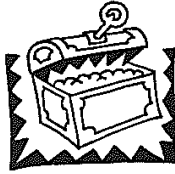
Great High Priest

"Let us, then, hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we have a great High Priest who has gone into the very presence of God — Jesus, the Son of God." (Hebrews 4:14).

This means that Jesus, the Son of God, is our great High Priest, who has gone to heaven in order to help us. And so we should not for a moment doubt Him.

The High Priest served in the temple every year. He offered blood for the sins of the people. But first he had to make a sacrifice for his own sins. Only in that way was he allowed to appear before God each year in the "Most Holy Place".

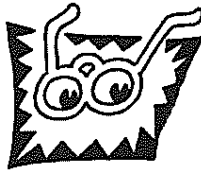
The Lord Jesus is the perfect High Priest. He is without sin. And He has offered his own blood for our sins. He did that once and for all time (Hebrews 10:10). And so our body can be a temple of God, in which He lives. Thanks to Jesus God's Spirit stays in us all the time (John 14:15-16).



OLD TREASURES

In the Old Testament king David receives the promise that one of his descendants will build a temple for the Lord God. This is not referring to his son Solomon (who actually did build the first temple), but to a king who will sit on the throne forever: the Messiah. He makes you into a temple and lives in it forever.

*“He will be the one to build a temple for me, and I will make sure that his dynasty continues forever.”
(1 Chronicles 17:12).*



EXTRA INFORMATION

The temple

Temple is another word for ‘holy place’ or ‘house of the Lord’. As many as three times the temple of the Israelites was destroyed.

The temple was in three parts: the fore-court, the Holy place, and the Holy of Holies.

- a. The fore-court open for all Jewish men and women (segregated) to enter. Here they gave their offerings to the priests, who sacrificed them in the Holy place on the altar.
- b. The Holy place was forbidden for the people; only the priests served here to perform special rituals. The priests were from the tribe of Levi.
- c. The Holy of Holies was the place of meeting with God. Here only the High Priest was allowed to enter once a year. On the Great Day of Atonement he had to cleanse the nation. That was done with the blood of a specially chosen animal that was sacrificed.

Though the Lord God was present invisibly in the Holy of Holies, it was already stated in the Old Testament that He does not live in a house made by human hands. His desire is to live in people.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Which three leaders of Israel built a temple?

2. Name the three parts of the temple.

3. On which day is the High Priest allowed to enter the Holy of Holies?

4. With what does the High Priest cleanse the nation from sin?

5. Why is there no more temple service needed?

- a) Because Jesus has swept the temple clean.
- b) Because there is no temple anymore.
- c) Because Jesus desires to make us into a temple.

6. Jesus is the perfect High Priest?

- a) Because He Himself is without sin, has brought a lamb as sacrifice and lives eternally with God to defend us.
- b) Because He Himself is without sin, has brought Himself as a sacrifice and lives eternally with God in order to defend us.
- c) Because He Himself is with sin, has brought a lamb as sacrifice and serves in the temple.

7. In which temple does God desire to live?

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BIBLE READING

Sun	Luke 19:45-48
Mon	John 2:13-22
Tue	1 Chronicles 17:7-15
Wed	Malachi 3:1-4
Thu	Hebrews 7:18-28
Fri	Hebrews 2:10-18
Sat	1 Corinthians 3:9-17



ACTION POINT!

Jesus has made it possible for you to be a temple of God.

You can meet with Him any time, because no one is closer to you. Jesus has made everything alright between you and God. Thank Him, talk with Him and sing for Him!