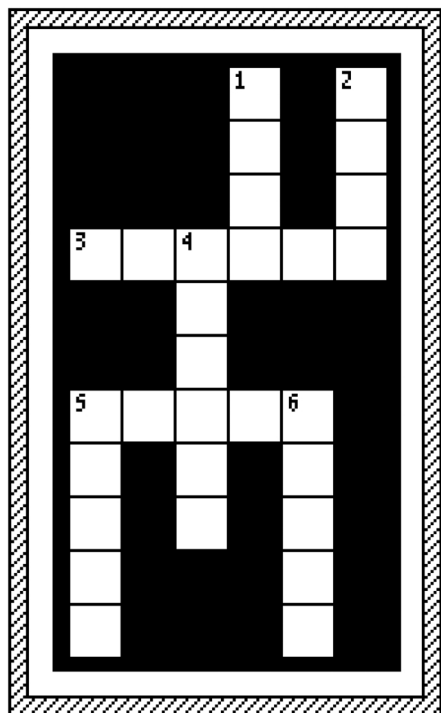
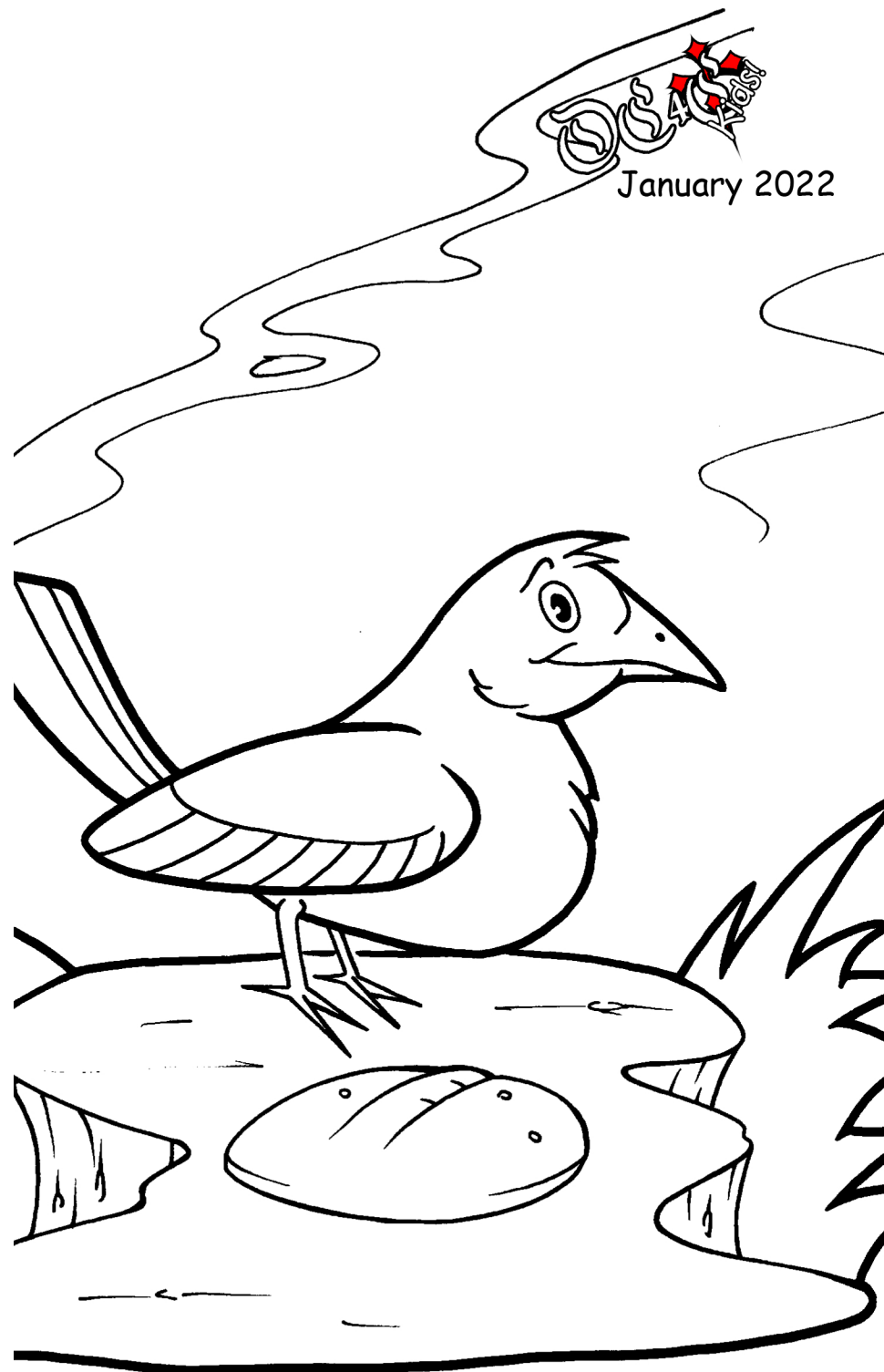




January 2022



- 2 DOWN "Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, 'As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor ____ these years, except at my word.'" 1 KINGS 17:1
- 3 ACROSS "Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the ____.'" 1 KINGS 17:2-3
- 4 DOWN "It will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ____ to feed you there." 1 KINGS 17:4
- 1 DOWN "So he went and did according to the word of the ____, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan." 1 KINGS 17:5
- 5 ACROSS "The ravens brought him ____ and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening." 1 KINGS 17:6
- 5 DOWN "And he drank from the ____." 1 KINGS 17:6
- 6 DOWN "And it happened after a while that the brook ____ up, because there had been no rain in the land." 1 KINGS 17:7





By Paul Dallgas-Frey

... continued

When Elijah came to the town gate, he found a widow there. She was gathering up a few dry, dusty sticks.

Elijah said to her, "Please, would you bring me some water in a jar to drink?" As she was going to get some water for this complete stranger, Elijah called out to her, "And please, bring me some bread!"

Well, that did it! This guy must be crazy! Didn't he know it hadn't rained for months?! There was barely any water, and hardly a scrap of food left.

"Sir," the woman said to Elijah, "As sure as the Lord your God lives, I don't have any bread!" At least the poor widow seemed to know there WAS a God in heaven, she just wasn't sure who he was, or why he was making life so difficult.

The widow said, "All I have left in this world is a handful of flour and a little jar of oil. I am gathering up these sticks so that I can make one last meal for my son and me. And then we will die."

Things looked pretty bad.

But, no matter how bad things might have seemed, God was still there.

Elijah said to the widow, "Do not worry. Go home and do just what you planned to do. But before you do, make a small loaf of bread for me. And then, from what you have left, make a loaf of

bread for you and your son. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel has promised, "The flour will not be used up and the jar of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land."

What a simple plan for life!

Don't worry. Make your plans, do what you think is best - but give to God first, and God will take care of the rest.

And so, that is exactly what the widow did.

And day after day there was water to drink and food to eat. The flour was not used up, and the jar of oil did not run dry - just as God had promised!

One day at a time, God provided for Elijah and the widow.

Now, the thing is, God didn't deliver 20 giant stone jars of oil to the widow's door the next morning. She couldn't open her pantry, and find it filled with jars of oil.

Elijah and the widow couldn't see where the oil was going to come from. They just had to trust that each day somehow there would be enough.

They didn't put their trust in what they could see - that would be easy! Instead they learned to put their trust in what they couldn't see.

And they learned a wonderful thing - trust in God, and God will provide!

They didn't say, "Everything will be okay because, look! we have lots of oil and bread!" Instead they learned to say, "Everything will be okay - because God will take care of us!"

They didn't put their trust in their own riches, like King Ahab had, because, no matter how much they had - even if they had great store houses full of oil and bread - one day it would come to an end.

But there is no end to God and his love for us.

And that is worth more than all the treasures in the world.