



Marble Palaces Painted Barns

Are you a Marble Palace or a Painted Barn?

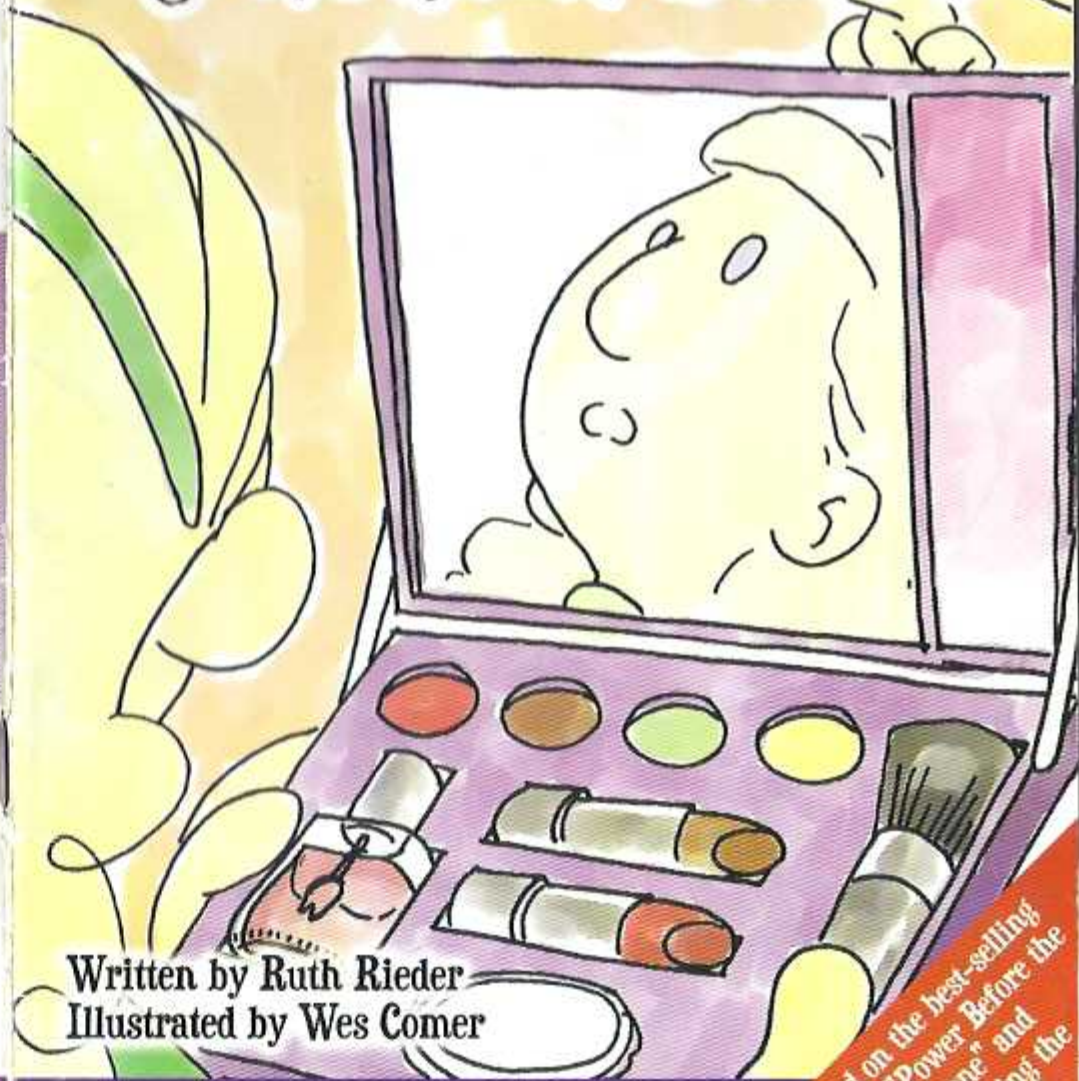
It's Miriam's birthday and she is having a party. In the middle of the celebration she receives a very unusual present. Miriam learns how God made her perfect in every way. Find out how every Kingdom Kid is God's special masterpiece!

Ruth Rieder is the wife of Rev. Michael Rieder and mother of two daughters, Angelica and Miriam. They currently reside in Rio Rancho, N.M., where they pioneered the Living Word UPC that is now a thriving revival church. Ruth is the National Coordinator for Daughters of Zion, and Texico District Ladies Ministries President. She is an accomplished musician, singer, writer, and speaker for Ladies Conferences.



Kingdom Kids Series: Book Three
For ages 5-9 years

Marble Palaces Painted Barns



Written by Ruth Rieder
Illustrated by Wes Comer

Kingdom Kids Series: Book Three

Based on the best-selling books, "Power Before the Throne" and "Reflecting the Glory"

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MARBLE PALACES OR PAINTED BARNs

KINGDOM KIDS SERIES

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Dedicated to all the Kingdom Kids around the world. My humble desire is that somehow these writings would establish and anchor the truth of holiness within the hearts and minds of the younger generation. **"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."** (II Timothy 3:15) In a day of non-commitment and trashing of godly values may they **"Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding."** (Proverbs 23:23)

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ISBN#: 0-9674360-8-7

First Printing March 2002
5000 copies

Illustrated by Wes Comer
Design by Comertoons, Illustration & Design

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

For information contact:
Ruth Rieder
PO Box 15252
Rio Rancho, NM 87174

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Miriam couldn't wait for the sun to come up. It had been a long night. She looked at her bedside clock and groaned, "I wish morning would hurry and get here." Finally the first rays of sunshine began to twinkle through her light green window shade. Quickly Miriam bounded out of bed and ran down the stairs.



Ashes heard her coming and began to meow very loudly from the laundry room. "I'm coming, Ashes," Miriam called out to her little black kitty. The closer she got, the louder he meowed as if to say, "Hurry up!" When she opened the door, Ashes began purring very loudly and rubbing up against her legs. Miriam scooped him up and gleefully told her kitten, "Ashes, today is my birthday and we are having a party. All my friends are coming over and it is going to be so much fun!"



Still holding her kitten, Miriam went running back up the stairs to find Mother. She told Ashes, "We have to find Mommy and see if she will let us bake the birthday cake." Miriam found Mother in her office praying and reading the Bible.



Miriam snuggled up next to her Mother and asked, "Mommy, do you remember what today is? Mother smiled down into her little girl's bright blue eyes and said, "Hmmm, it's Saturday. Is there something special about today?" Miriam wiggled with excitement as she reminded her Mother, "It's my birthday and we're having a party!" Mother hugged her close and said, "I could never forget such a wonderful day."

Giggling, Miriam asked, "Mommy, can we bake the cake right now?" Mother replied, "We'll bake the cake right after breakfast. First, let's thank Jesus for taking care of you and giving you another birthday." Together they prayed, "Thank you, Jesus for watching over Miriam another year. May we have a wonderful day as we celebrate Your goodness and Miriam's birthday. Thank you for all your blessings. In Jesus name, Amen"



Mother kissed the top of Miriam's little blonde head as they went downstairs to fix breakfast. "Can I make Swedish pancakes?" asked the little girl. "That's my favorite!" "Yes, you may," replied Mother. She set the table while Miriam mixed up the pancake batter and made a big platter full of pancakes. When everything was on the table Miriam called out, "Breakfast is ready. Come and eat."

As Dad and Angel came into the kitchen, Miriam reminded them, "Today is my birthday and we're having a party!" "This is a special day," said Dad as he picked Miriam up and twirled her around. "I remember the day you were born." He put her down and whispered in her ear, "I am so glad Jesus brought you to our house!"



Everyone sat down at the table and held hands while Dad blessed the food. "Thank you Jesus for a beautiful day and for Miriam's birthday. Bless these delicious pancakes she has made and let us have a wonderful party. In Jesus name, Amen." Miriam served up her pancakes and the family enjoyed a pleasant morning meal. As they ate, Ashes hopped up on Miriam's lap and tried to stick his nose in her pancake syrup. "Ashes Rieder, get your nose out of my plate!" squealed Miriam. The kitty hopped down and ran to Angel. Maybe he could get some syrup off her plate. When Angel wasn't looking, he stuck his head into her pancake syrup and took a little lick. She didn't seem to notice so the kitten slurped up a little more. Suddenly, Miriam called out, "Angel, look at Ashes. He's got pancake syrup all over his whiskers." Everyone laughed at the sticky faced cat as he ran into the laundry room to lick the gooey sauce off his face.

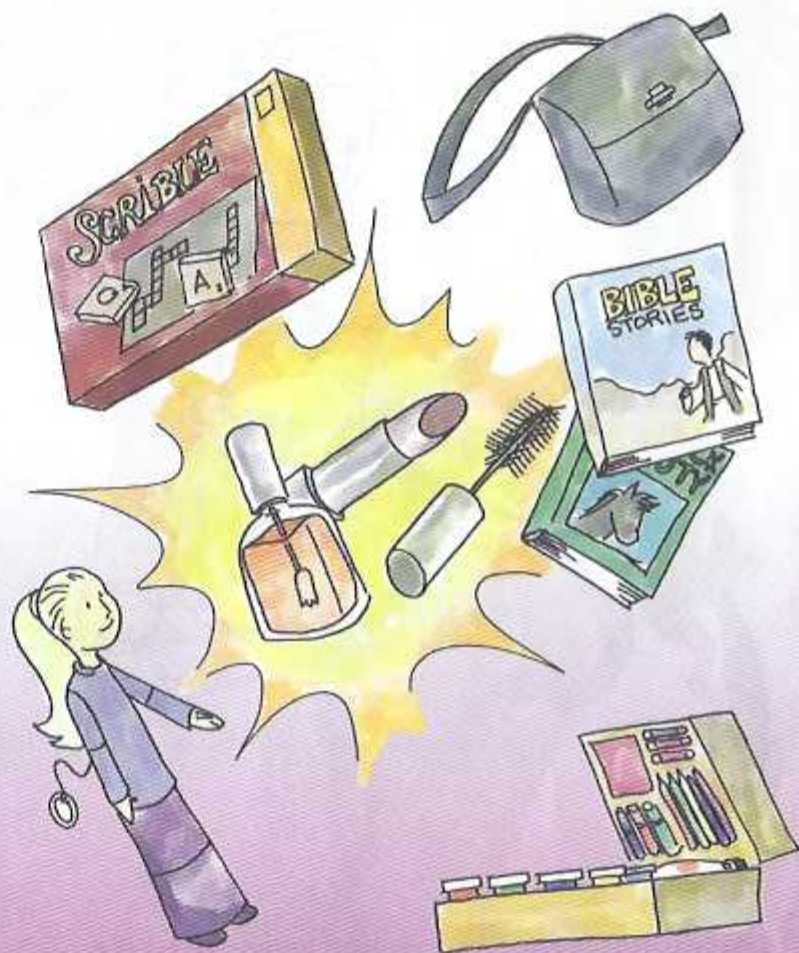
After breakfast, Mother and Miriam made the cake while Angel decorated for the party. When they finished, the cake looked just like a gumball machine filled with lots of bubble gum. "Yummy, I can't wait to eat it" said Miriam. "Can I lick the icing bowl?" "Sure you can", said Mother. "Then we need to make the sandwiches and punch."



They worked all morning and at last it was time for the party. One by one the children came until the house was full of people. All of the church kids came and even some of Miriam's school friends. Ashes didn't like big crowds and went running to hide in the closet under the stairway.



Everyone had a wonderful time as they played games and ate party food. Then it was time to blow out the candles and eat the cake. Miriam closed her eyes, made a wish and blew out all the candles. Mother cut the cake and dished up the ice cream. Miriam danced around with excitement as she told her friends, "Hurry up so I can open my presents."



The children gathered around the pile of brightly wrapped packages. Miriam opened them one by one. There was a game, some stickers, two books, a purse, and a doll. Next Miriam opened a gift from one of her school friends. It was a toy make-up set complete with fingernail polish and lipstick. She quickly set it with the other gifts and opened the last one from Mother and Dad. It was a big art set filled with markers, colored pencils and paints. Miriam hugged Mom and Dad and thanked everyone for the presents.



After everyone left, Miriam took the gifts upstairs to her room. Ashes came out of his hiding place and jumped into the middle of the wrapping paper. He loved to play with gift wrap. Miriam teased him with a piece of bright ribbon and the kitten chased it all around the kitchen. Just then Mother came in the kitchen and asked, "Did you enjoy your party?" "Oh yes!", said the little girl. "It was so much fun!"



"Let's go see your presents again," said Mother. Together they went up to Miriam's room to look at all the gifts while Ashes followed close behind. Mother sat on the side of the bed while Miriam showed her all the neat birthday presents. Ashes jumped on top of the gifts and tried to knock them on the floor. Mother and Miriam laughed at the funny little cat until he stopped and stared at them as if to say, "Are you laughing at me?"



Then Miriam picked up the make-up set and said, "I don't think I'll be able to use this present." Mother looked into the face of her beautiful little girl and said, "You don't need that make-up set because God made you perfect in every way. Before you were ever born, He chose the color of your hair, eyes, skin, and mouth. Psalm 119:73 says **'Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.'** God created you and that makes you so special. You are His masterpiece!"



"What is a 'masterpiece'?" asked Miriam. "It is a marvelous work of art," answered Mother. "We bought you the art set because you love to paint beautiful pictures. How would you feel if I drew all over the pictures you paint for me?" "It would hurt my feelings and make me think you didn't like them," replied Miriam. "That is how God feels when we paint our bodies," said Mother.



Ashes jumped on Miriam's lap and started playing with her blonde hair. "Look at your darling little kitten," continued Mother. "Would you change the way God made Ashes by covering him with paint from your art set?" "No! I wouldn't think of painting him!" said Miriam. "I love his golden-green eyes, shiny black fur, little white bow tie and the three tiny white spots on his tummy."

"We don't paint our pets or any other animals," said



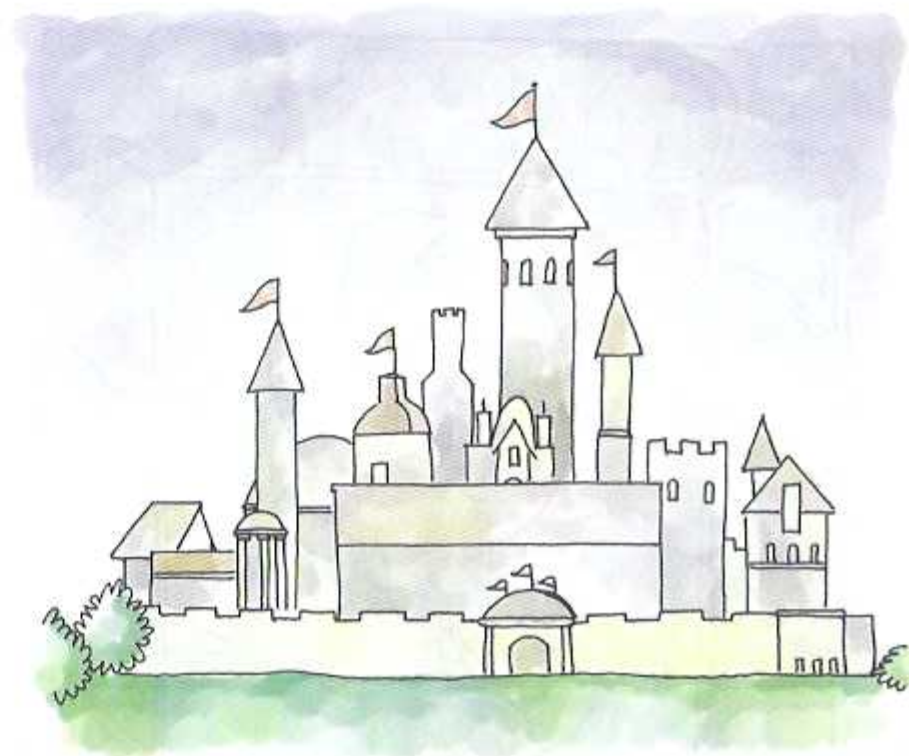
Mother. "Have you ever been to the zoo and seen the zookeeper painting the elephants with pink and purple polka dots?" Miriam shook her head and giggled as she thought about pink and purple polka dotted elephants.

Mother continued, "Would you paint the big yellow



roses or the apple trees in the backyard?" "No," said Miriam. "Why not?", questioned Mother. "Because they are pretty just the way God made them." "That's right! Did you know Isaiah 61:3 calls us 'trees of righteousness' and Psalm 144:12 says our sons are like plants? You wouldn't paint the apple trees in our backyard and you shouldn't paint God's plants and trees either," said Mother. "We do not paint living things like animals, trees, plants, or boys and girls."

Mother opened one of Miriam's new books and



pointed to the picture of a beautiful palace as she asked. "Did you know Psalm 144:12 also says you are like a beautiful marble palace? If a king built a lovely palace out of the finest marble, would he cover its beauty with a coat of cheap red paint?" Miriam laughed and said, "That would be silly. Paint would hide the pretty marble" "You are right," agreed Mother "And when we use fingernail polish and lipstick, we cover God's beauty with ugly paint." "Instead of painting ourselves, we should praise God for the way He made us. King David said, **"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."** (Psalm 139:14)

"Always remember God created you in a marvelous



manner. You are His masterpiece, a special work of art. He made you like a beautiful marble palace; not like an old barn that always needs another coat of red paint." When Mother went downstairs, Miriam picked up Ashes and whispered in his ear, "Ashes, you and I are special. We don't have to paint ourselves because we are God's masterpieces. He made us like marble palaces, not painted barns!"

the end



” That our sons may
be as plants grown
up in their youth;
that our daughters
may be as corner
stones, polished
after the similitude
of a palace ”

(Psalm 144:12)

Kingdom Kids Quiz

1. Who made each of us perfect?
2. "You are God's _____."
3. How does God feel when we paint our bodies?
4. Would you change the way God made your pet by covering him with a coat of paint?
5. Do we paint pets or any other elephants?
6. Have you ever seen a pink and purple polka dotted elephant at the zoo?
7. Would you paint the flowers and trees in your yard?
8. What does Isaiah 61:3 call us?
9. Psalm 144:12 says our sons are like _____.
10. Do we paint living things such as animals, trees, plants, or boys and girls?
11. What does Psalm 144:12 say you are like?
12. Would a king cover his marble palace with a coat of cheap red paint?
13. Why not?
14. What are we doing when we use fingernail polish and lipstick?
15. Instead of _____ ourselves, we need to start _____ God.
16. According to Psalm 139:14, why should we praise God?
17. God created you in a _____.
18. What is a masterpiece?
19. Are you an old barn that always needs another coat of red paint?
20. What are you?

Kingdom Kids Bible Memorization: Find the following Bible verses in the book and memorize them.

Psalm 119:73

Psalm 139:14

Psalm 144:12

Proverbs 23:23

II Timothy 3:15

Advanced Kingdom Kids Bible Memorization:

Isaiah 61:3

Other Titles Available from Ruth Rieder

Kingdom Kids Series	Qty	Price	Ext.
Book #1: Angels Watching Over Me		\$6.00	
Book #2: Kingdom Clothing		\$6.00	
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