

ADAH

Jepthah's daughter was not named in the Bible. Adah was the name given to her by our founder, Dr. Robert Morris.

Her tragedy came to pass because her tribe had forgotten God. As a result of the sins of Isreal they were delivered into the hands of their enemies. Jepthah to his great surprise, became the leader of his nation. He realized that he would need a great deal more than his own power and strength to defeat his enemies. And then came his memorable vow. When he returned victorious he set an unforgettable example of fidelity to his word, for his daughter was his joy.

However, she asked for two months, to bewail her virginity and many do not understand the significance of this. She had been reared in a religion that watched for the Messiah, believing that He would be born of her people. Every pure girl must have dreamed that perhaps she would be the mother and though her would come the blessing of the world. Certainly, she knew that when she gave up her life to preserve her fathers honor that grand hope was also renounced.

Adah became a symbol of noble self-sacrifice and courageous resignation. Her name means ornament and it seems most appropriate for her spirit and character were beautiful and truly an ornament of her for this life.

Dear Adah, this blue star so lovely,
Was refreshing to violets so blue,
And as it was so faithful to duty,
I caught it, and brought it to you.

RUTH

One of the most appealing scenes in all Biblical literature was enacted when Ruth said, "Entreat me not to leave thee and to return from following after thee". She turned her back on a life of ease and remained true to her newly found God, and to the mother-in-law she had come to love.

Ruth always seemed to be able to do the right thing at the right time and never gave herself to grieve or indulge in self-pity. She served in all ways, steadfast and in humility.

Ruth proved that love and womanly virtues combined, can shed a ray, like golden sunshine. She proves that womanly ways of goodness can win great rewards in life.

We must always remain true to our convictions, and in love, know that no service is too humble to earn great rewards. Sincerity added radiance to all that Ruth did. Her name means friend. Her friendship with Naomi has become one of the world's greatest examples of the true meaning of real friendship.

Dear Ruth, this star was so golden,
As it hung in the rays of the sun,
And as it was so constantly twinkling,
I knew this for you, was the one.

ESTHER

The Book of Esther is more historical than Scriptural. The name of God does not appear once in the book.

Esther at age fifteen rose from humble origin to a position as Queen. She dedicated her life to the welfare of the people instead of basking in the luxury of the court.

When Esther learned of the terrible danger confronting her people she did not hesitate. She had a choice: banishment with the other Jews or confronting the king with possible death for herself.

She represents the Ideal Wife because she not only succeeded in fulfilling her duty to her husband but also maintained her high standards and preformed her duty to God and her nation.

She was strong, brave, patriotic, gentle and honorable and was not changed by the luxury and temptations of her new surrounding. Her courage and tact in the face of peril are a memorable lesson.

Her name means "Star" in Persian. It was her second name.

Dear Esther, this star like a diamond,
Was caught in the beam of a light,
And as it was so true in its setting,
I brought it for your use tonight.

MARTHA

The story of Martha and Mary is a story of contrasts between the idealistic Mary and the practical Martha. When the founders of the Eastern Star outlined the ritualistic work they understood that the greater number of members would not be dreamers and poets, but would be the Marthas, the homemakers, the women who face the everyday tasks, so they chose Martha for the important fourth point of the star.

It was to Martha that Jesus spoke the ringing words that have comforted those in grief to this day "I am the resurrection; and the life: he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live; And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

Her joy in the return of her brother, Lazarus, was matched only by her love of the Lord. Martha was a friend of Jesus and he often visited with her family.

Martha's faith and trust makes her memorable throughout time, but the passages telling the story not only dignified the talents of homemakers and honor those who serve, but her growing tolerance and understanding are also recognized. Jesus impressed upon the sisters that it is a good thing to take time to live, to listen and to take time for friends.

Martha's life shows us that faith is our key to rebirth and helps us through those hours of suffering and trial.

Martha means "Fortitude", "Abiding" and "Instructed by Christ". She had the fortitude to maintain her faith, even when her brother died, by abiding in the Word of God as she had been instructed by Christ. She represents the winter season because she represents the knowledge of the winter of mortal life, or death, comes to all.

Dear Martha, the dew on the fern leaves,
Were lovelier than any I've seen,
And the stars were shining like emeralds;
So perfect in bright shades of green.

ELECTA

The story of Electa tells of the courage of women. It did much to raise the standard of womanhood at a time when those standards were very low.

The Elect Lady was truly one of the elect of God. She was pre-eminent in charity and raised her children in Christian truth and love. Her heart was dedicated to the service of her fellow man. She was an influential woman in her community and spent her life caring for the poor and sick. She professed her faith to the entire world even though it meant the loss of everything--her good name, wealth of her husband, of her children and of life itself. Love of Christ and the Christian religion are her teachings.

Her loyalty to her Christian faith makes her one of the most respected women in the Bible and the warm shade of courageous red, the glow of setting suns brings powerful mothers love to our minds.

Electa kept a spark of hospitality alive, and a warm welcome, like a river, should ever flow from this point toward the members and the stranger in the Chapter.

Electa means "Honorable", "Lady", and "called of God". She represents the autumn of the year or period of full maturity in the lifetime of the individual.

Dear Electa the star I am bringin,
Shines out especially for you,
And it's red rays are now overflowing,
With charity, and with love so true.