



In the days of Jesus,
even the poorest family
had an ox.

Do you know what the oxen looks like?

An ox is a large animal.

It has a thick body with short legs and neck.

The ox has a split hoof.

The ox chews a cud.

The ox is very strong. For this reason, the ox was valuable in the days of Jesus. If a man owned many oxen he was rich.

Abraham owned some oxen as well as some sheep. (We read about this in Genesis 12:16 and 21 and 27) The children of Israel had oxen even when they were slaves in Egypt.

(Exodus 9:34 tells us of this) Job had 2000 oxen. (Job 42:12)

Do you remember that the great prophet, Elisha, was plowing with 12 pair of oxen when Elijah called him to be a prophet?

Elisha did leave his oxen and go to be with Elijah.

(I Kings 19:19 tells us about this)

TURN CARD OVER

Maybe you think an oxen is very clumsy. But in Bible times men thought an ox was very dignified, handsome and important. When Solomon built the temple, he wanted the great shallow bowl that held water in the courtyard to be very beautiful. Each priest washed here before he did any work for God in the temple. Solomon made this great bowl of brass. Then he placed it so it would be resting on the backs of 12 oxen. These oxen were also made of brass. (I Kings 7:25 tells us about this)

In the Bible the name ox means a number of things. It means a bull, cow, heifer or even a calf.