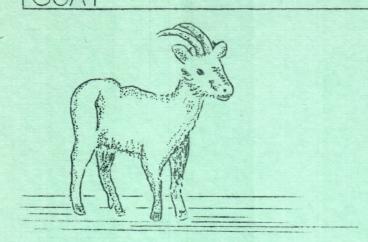
WHAT DID THE GOAT DO FOR THE FAMILY?



Every family in Israel had at least one goat. It did not matter how poor the family was. One goat was kept near the house and other goats were sent to pasture with the sheep.

Why did every family have a goat? There are many reasons. A goat did many things for a family.

Most important the goat gave milk to the family. Goat's milk is delicious when you are used to it. Goat's milk helped to build strong bodies and good health. One goat gave a family 3 quarts of milk a day. This is why one goat was kept near the house and the family. The goat was milked each day. The milk that is mentioned in the Bible is nearly always goat's milk.

There was no way to keep this milk cool. That is why it soon got sour. But the people liked to drink this milk even when it was thick and soured. Then it was something like our yogurt. The people made butter from the goat's milk. But it was not very good butter. The people also made cheese from the goat's milk. This was very delicious cheese. The goats were sheared in the late spring. The hair of the goat was washed and spun into thread. Then it was woven into cloth. Goat's cloth is rough and coarse. But it is very strong. The people used goat's cloth for tent cloth. Sometimes this goat cloth was made into clothing that was worn next to the skin. It was called sackcloth. It scratched the skin because it was rough. People wore this sackcloth when they felt very sad. They wore sackcloth when someone they loved had died. They wore sackcloth too when they felt sorry for some wrong they had done.

Read more about what the goat did for the family on the Research Card - OTHER GIFTS OF THE GOAT