

Kids' Chronicle

THURSDAY, August 26, 1993

VOLUME II, ISSUE NO. 16

BY JOE SARNICOLA

God cares for the animals

Bethney always looked forward to Grampa's visits. He knows so many stories from the Bible, and after supper, he usually tells one to the whole family. She sat next to him on the couch so she could hear every word, and asked, "Grampa, what happened to the animals after they left Noah's ark?"

Grampa told this story:

A long time ago, there was a wicked king of Israel named Ahab. He openly disobeyed God and encouraged his people to worship Baal, a pagan god of harvest. He built a temple in honor of Baal and erected a statue of the goddess Asherah. This made God very angry, so God told his prophet, Elijah, to warn King Ahab.

"King Ahab," Elijah said. "Jehovah, the one true God of Israel, is angered by your worship of Baal. If you do not repent, there will be no rain for three years, which will cause a great famine."

The king laughed and motioned for his guards and the other people in the palace to laugh with him.

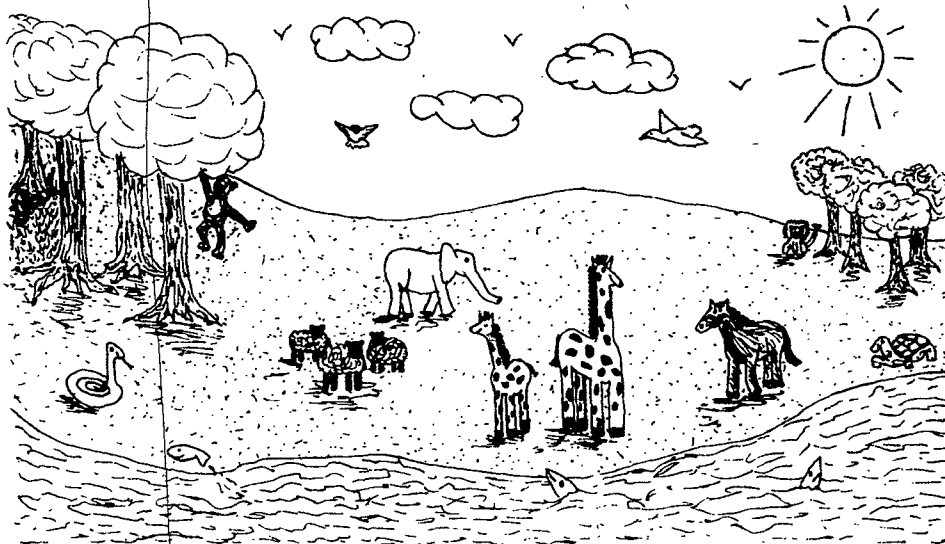
"Dear prophet," Ahab said. "Baal, the god of harvest, has promised me a life full of happiness and a belly full of good food and wine."

Elijah quietly replied, "You have heard the words of the Lord God."

King Ahab became very angry. "Get out of my sight, before I have you locked in chains."

Elijah left the palace and found shelter in a cave near the Jordan river. The Lord appeared to him there.

"Elijah, my faithful servant, you have done well. Even though the country will endure three years of



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

famine and drought, you will never hunger or thirst. I have commanded the ravens to care for you."

After that, every morning and every night, the ravens brought bread and meat to Elijah.

Bethney looked up at Grampa and said, "The ravens really fed Elijah? But who took care of the ravens and the other animals?"

Grampa laughed and said, "God loves all of his children and all of his animal friends. Listen to what David said.

"The Lord sends the rivers into the valleys to quench the thirst of the wild animals and to water the plants and trees so that the animals will have a place to live. He created nighttime so the animals will have a time to find the food that God provides for them. God made the oceans and filled them with life. The glory of the Lord endures for ever, and God rejoices in what he has made."

"I didn't know animals were so important to God," Bethney said.

"Jesus said the most important commandment is for us to love God and to love each other," Grandpa said. "I believe that means all the animals, too. After all, he created them first, then he made man to be in charge of them."

As soon as Grampa said this, Jendog, Bethney's golden retriever, put her head on Bethney's lap. Bethney gave the dog a hug. "Do you think God loves Jendog as much as I do?"

"I'm sure he does," Grampa answered. "I'm sure he does."

Read More About it: 1 Kings 17:1-7; Psalms 104; Genesis 1:20-26.

Q & A

1. Why was God angry at King Ahab?
2. What is one reason God created rivers?

Bible Trivia

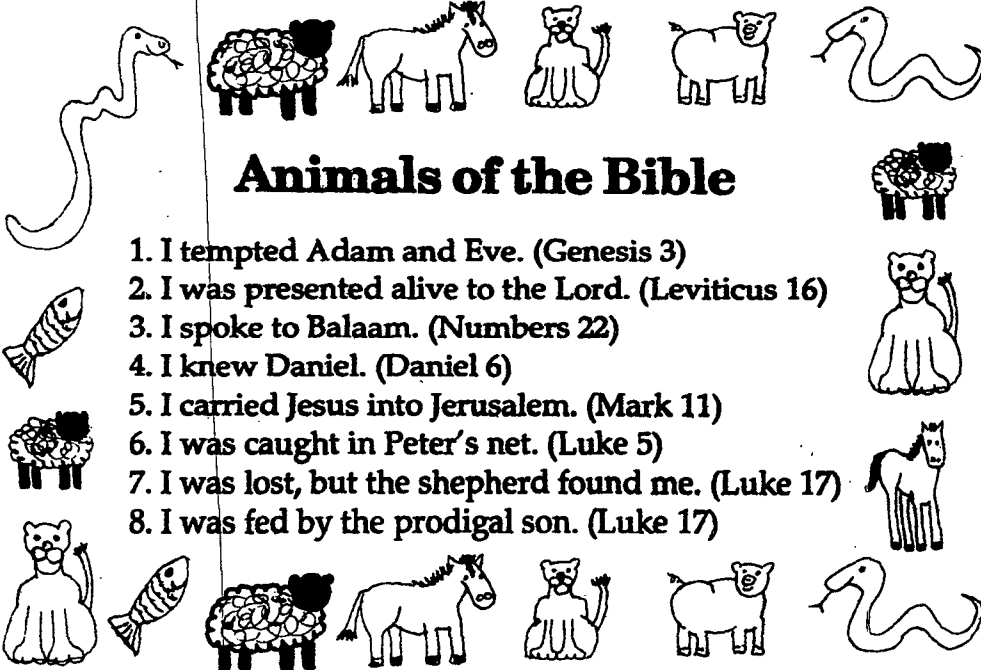
Noah sent two kinds of birds out of the ark. What were they? (Genesis 8:6-12.)

Send answers to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name with your entry.

All entries must be received by Sept. 9, 1993. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner will be notified by mail and receive a gift.

Last month's winner was Brian T. Coller of Holcomb, who correctly identified the Red Sea as the body of water that God parted for Moses.

Animals of the Bible



1. I tempted Adam and Eve. (Genesis 3)
2. I was presented alive to the Lord. (Leviticus 16)
3. I spoke to Balaam. (Numbers 22)
4. I knew Daniel. (Daniel 6)
5. I carried Jesus into Jerusalem. (Mark 11)
6. I was caught in Peter's net. (Luke 5)
7. I was lost, but the shepherd found me. (Luke 17)
8. I was fed by the prodigal son. (Luke 17)

Bible Accent

San Francisco 1992 — Barney is an Irish Wolfhound. Along with some of his cat and dog friends and the staff of the San Francisco SPCA, he's doing his part to help sick people at hospitals and nursing homes to feel better. A nurse once said, "Barney may not be a doctor, but he's the best medicine my patients have ever had."

Across the United States, animals like Barney are being used in health care centers of all kinds in what is called Pet Assisted Therapy, or PAT. Doctors have said just petting a dog or cat can lower blood pressure and help the person to relax. This speeds up the healing process.

Many of the animals that are involved in PAT came from animal shelters. Their contribution to the program shows how important these animals are. If it were not for PAT, these cats and dogs may have had a hard time finding a good home.

Frank Burnett, director of the PAT program at the San Francisco SPCA says, "There's a benefit in being accepted for who you are, no matter what condition you're in. All animals ask from people is to be loved."

(Source: Parade Magazine, March 22, 1992)

Talking to God

Lord,
Teach me respect for all life.
Help me to show compassion for those in need, as you care for my needs.

"Lord, you made so many things! How wisely you made them all. The earth is filled with your creatures."
Psalms 104:24

King Solomon's Wisdom



"I appeal to you, mankind; I call to everyone on earth. Are you immature? Learn to be mature. Are you foolish? Learn to have sense."

Proverbs 8:4 & 5

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