

# Kids' Chronicle

THURSDAY, January 27, 1994 VOLUME III, ISSUE NO. 2 BY JOE SARNICOLA

## Jonah tries to hide from God

One day the Lord said to Jonah, "Go to Ninevah and speak out against the wickedness of its people."

But Jonah did not want to listen to the Lord. Instead, he boarded a ship and sailed for Spain.

The Lord was not about to let Jonah run away from his duties so easily. He sent a wind against the ship that was so strong the sailors thought they would all drown. To lighten the ship, they threw overboard some of the cargo they were carrying. The sailors were very superstitious and began praying to their gods for safety.

The captain found Jonah asleep below the deck and became very angry with him. "How can you sleep through this storm? Get up and pray to your god that he may spare us and the ship."

The sailors drew lots to see which man was responsible for their bad luck. Jonah was chosen.

"Who are you, and what have you done to bring this foul weather?" one of the men asked.

Jonah told them he was an Israelite who was trying to hide from God.

"What can we do to stop the storm?" asked a sailor.

"Throw me overboard and good weather will return," Jonah answered. "It is my fault that all this has happened."

Jonah was tossed over the side of the ship. The wind stopped blowing and the sea became calm again. Out of the deep water came a large fish which swallowed Jonah.

Jonah prayed for the Lord to forgive

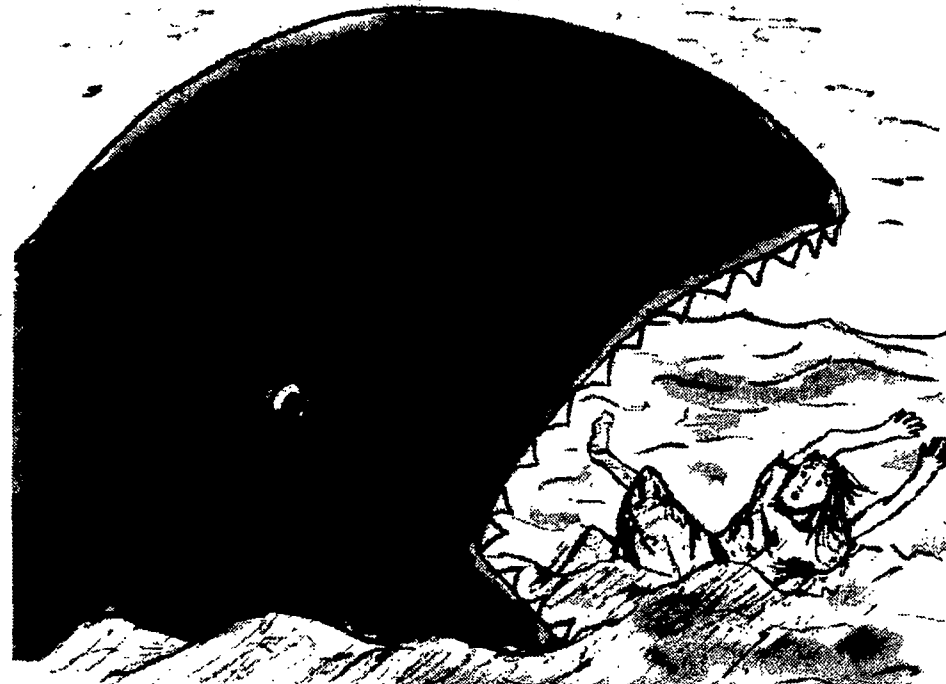


Illustration by Kathy Welsh

him and save his life. Three days later the fish spit Jonah out on the shore.

Again the Lord said to him, "Go to Ninevah and tell them I will destroy their city in forty days if they do not repent from their wickedness."

This time Jonah obeyed the Lord. Upon hearing his message, the people of Ninevah believed God, and the king proclaimed a fast. He hoped if God saw their sincerity, he would not destroy their city.

God was pleased with the people and he kept his promise. He did not destroy Ninevah. But Jonah was unhappy. The people of Ninevah were enemies of the people of Israel. He

was hoping God would destroy the city. He was so angry, he told God he would rather be dead.

"What right do you have to be angry?" asked the Lord. "There are more than 120,000 people in Ninevah, and as many animals. I have had pity on this great city."

**READ MORE ABOUT IT: The Book of Jonah.**

### Q&A

1. What did Jonah do when the Lord first called him?
2. Why did God not destroy the city of Ninevah?

## Bible Accent

### The dove

Jonah's name means, "the dove." "Yonah," the Hebrew word for dove, means "to mourn." The word also imitates the sound made by doves.

Doves are common birds in Palestine and, because of their gentle nature, are called the sheep of the bird world. They are very affectionate and loyal to their mates. In courtship, the meeting of their beaks resembles a kiss.

Doves have strong wings and can fly for miles to find food. They are also very fast and are usually successful in avoiding predators. However, they are very trusting of humans, and are easily caught in bird nets.

Noah used a dove to see if the floodwaters had receded, and the Holy Spirit landed on Jesus' shoulder in the form of a dove when he was baptized.

### 'Golden mouth'

St. John Chrysostom, whose last name means "golden mouth," was born in Antioch in the year 350. His father, a commander of the Syrian imperial army, died when John was very young. He was raised by his mother.

John was a gifted student. He studied the art of public speaking in the hope of becoming a lawyer. However, his desire to become a clergyman prompted him to enter the religious life instead. His sermons were very popular and he was appointed Bishop of Constantinople.

He tried to use his authority to correct what he felt were political injustices to the people. This caused him to make enemies of some government officials, and as a result he was banished to the highlands of Armenia. The people there loved him.

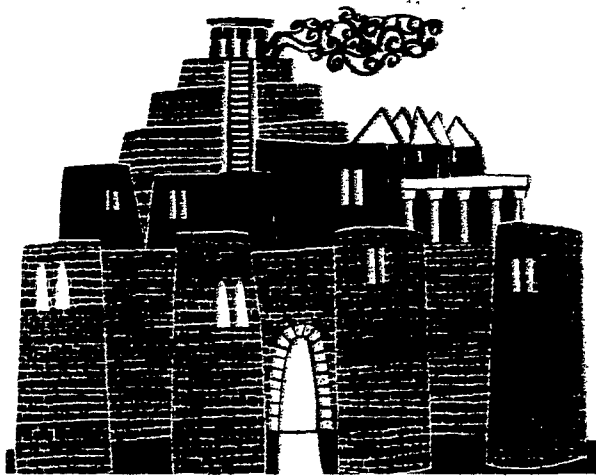
John's writings are considered some of the best produced by religious leaders of his time. We remember him on January 27.



CHRYSOSTOM

### Break the code

Break the code and learn God's message to Jonah.  
Hint: A=Z; B=Y. Answers can be found on page 2.



"TL GL MRMVEZS, GSZG TIVZG XRGB."

### Bible Trivia

About what city did Nahum prophesy?

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

All entries must be received by February 11, 1994. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner will be notified by mail and receive a gift courtesy of Trants.

Last month's winner was Alexander Nagy, of Merton Williams School in Hilton, who correctly identified a manger as a trough where animals eat.

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