

Kids' Chronicle

THURSDAY, March 10, 1994

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BY JOE SARNICOLA

The Ten Commandments

After the people of Israel camped at the foot of Mount Sinai, Moses climbed to the top of the mountain to speak with God. The mountain became engulfed in smoke, thunder roared in the sky, and loud trumpets blared from the clouds. The Israelites shivered with fear.

When Moses came down from the mountain, he gave this message from God to the people, as he read from two stone tablets which God had engraved.

"Obey me and keep my commandments, and you will be my chosen people," Moses read. "Worship me only, and do not bow down to any idols of your own making. Do not misuse my name, and keep the Sabbath holy, for that is a day of rest which I have blessed. Respect your parents, do not kill, do not lust, do not steal. Do not lie about your neighbor or desire any of his possessions."

The people of Israel were still afraid of the thunder on the mountain. One man said to Moses, "We are afraid that if God speaks to us we will die."

"There is nothing to fear," answered Moses. "God is only testing your faith. He wants us to obey him."

"We will surely die if we hear God's voice," said another man. "We want you to go back to the mountain and hear God's word, and bring it back to us."

So Moses went back to the mountain and told God what the people had said.

"I wish the people of Israel would always obey my commandments and worship me," said the Lord. "If they



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

do, they will prosper and so will their children. Teach them my laws, Moses, and I will keep them safe."

Moses returned to the Israelites and said, "If you and your families obey all the laws of the Lord, our nation will become great and we will live in a rich and fertile land that God has prepared for us."

An older man spoke, "People of Israel, Moses has brought the word of God to us. He has shown that a man who hears the voice of the Lord may live to tell about it."

Moses continued, "Listen to what the Lord says. If we love him with all our hearts, all our strength, and all our soul, he will always be near us. Teach this to your children, and never forget it."

Moses taught the elders the Lord's commandments, and they in turn taught them to the people. Parents studied them with their children and the scribes wrote them down. Moses also talked often of the Promised Land, a beautiful place God said the people of Israel would possess.

"How do we know there are not fearful enemies who try to attack us? If we obey the Lord, he will give us the promised land."

Read more about it: Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 7.

Q&A

1. Why were the Israelites afraid of God's voice?
2. What did Moses say God would do to the enemies of Israel?

Bible Accent

The Ark of the Covenant was a sacred box made according to instructions given by God. It was built of acacia wood and covered with gold, inside and out. A wreath design was carved around the top edge as a border, and the lid was made of solid gold. On the lid were two gold angels facing each other with their knees bent and their wings spread.

The handles were two poles made of acacia and covered with gold. The poles were placed through gold loops on the ark. The stone tablets on which were carved the Ten Commandments were placed in the ark and the lid was sealed. The ark was placed in a tabernacle that had been built. Whenever the Israelites traveled the ark was carried at the front of the processions and was covered by blue cloths to prevent the people from looking at it while it was not in the tabernacle.

The Ark of the Covenant represented the presence of God that was with the children of Israel wherever they were.

Saint Patrick

Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in fourth century England. At the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by pirates and sold as a slave to an Irish landowner. He worked as a shepherd for six years until he escaped and returned to England. His Christian faith had helped to keep him from giving up while he was a slave.

Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the people there to Christianity. His friendly nature won him the respect of many Irish leaders and many of them and their people became Christians. Other clergymen followed to help Patrick establish new churches.

Legends say that Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland and used a shamrock to illustrate the trinity, which is why the shamrock is such an important Irish symbol. We honor Patrick on March 17.

Special Thanks!

Mrs. Mahoney's seventh-grade religious education class at St. Mary's Church, Auburn, contributed ideas for this week's Kids' Chronicle.

WORD SEARCH

Find the words from the list in the puzzle box. Words may run in any direction. Answers found on page 17.

Word list

Bible	disciple	Moses	sin
Lord	Christian	psalm	lent
fast			

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B U R T S A F Z A
I M O G H T U L B
B M O S E S E O P
L R L A Q W N R S
E L P I C S I D A
O C D N A I B R L
L E N T S N A F M
C H R I S T I A N
C R S I N H I T A
    
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Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) that answers this question:

Why is it so important to honor your father and mother?

Send your essay - including your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade - to Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is March 24, 1994. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of Kids' Chronicle.

Last month's winner was Margaret Giovannetti, a fifth-grade student at St. Patrick's School in Seneca Falls. In response to the question, "Why is fasting so important during lent?" she wrote:

Fasting during Lent is so important because it can help a Catholic learn to control themselves and to concentrate on prayer. It teaches you to give up certain special things you enjoy. We fast for forty days to remind us of Jesus' forty days in the desert and the forty years in the wilderness the Israelites spent before reaching the promised land. Fasting helps you become closer with Jesus Christ because you are sacrificing like He did on the cross. That is why fasting during Lent is so important.



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