

Kids' Chronicle

THURSDAY, May 26, 1994 VOLUME III, ISSUE NO. 10 BY JOE SARNICOLA

Moses instructs the Israelites

Moses stood in front of the Israelites in the land of Moab. Everyone was tired from traveling, yet relieved. Their many years of wandering were over and they were preparing to cross the Jordan river into Canaan, the land promised to them by God.

"My people," said Moses. "The Lord is angry with me because of your disobedience. I can see the beautiful and fertile country on the other side of the river. I see the mountains rising toward God in heaven. I see the promise that God has kept. But I will never be able to enter Canaan. Because you did not have faith in God and keep all of his commandments, God has forbidden me from crossing the river."

The crowd immediately began to murmur among themselves at Moses' announcement.

"Who will lead us?" someone asked. "We have followed you for forty years, ever since we left the slavery of Egypt."

Moses held his arms up to silence the people and said, "Joshua, the son of Nun, will be your new leader."

Joshua stood up next to Moses. Then Moses put his hand on the young man's shoulder and said, "God has chosen him to be my successor. Follow him as if his words were those of the Lord, because they are."

After Joshua returned to his place in the crowd, Moses resumed.

"Remember how God destroyed the worshipers of Baal. Only those of us who remained faithful to God were saved. Let that be a lesson to you as you live in Canaan. You may be tempted in many ways, but do not sin. As we

have wandered throughout the desert, God has led us with the pillar of fire. Follow Joshua as you have followed the fire. Tell your children and grandchildren of the many things God has done for us. Let no one forget who has brought us into our freedom."

An old man stood up and asked, "I have seen many miracles since God brought the plagues on Pharaoh. What does he want us to do in Canaan?"

Moses answered, "God wants you to possess the lands of Canaan, and he wants you to keep his commandments and teach them to your families. If you do these things, God will bless you for generations."

A younger man with his wife and children asked, "Many of us were born after you escaped from Egypt. There may not be enough land for all of us to live in the same place. What will we do then?"

"Many of you will live in all parts of Canaan and into the territories beyond. But God expects the same thing from all of you. Do not worship any god but him. Never forget that God loves us. If you call to him, he will answer. When you pray to him in times of trouble, he



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

will guide you. Be sure to do what he tells you. Then you will be able to live in peace. No other god can do what our God has done for us. When you meet people who want you to worship false Gods, do not do so. Tell them what God has done for the people of Israel. Tell them God set you free from slavery and gave you the paradise that is Canaan."

The crowd returned to their homes thinking about what Moses had said.

Read more about it: Deuteronomy 4

Q&A

1. Why couldn't Moses enter Canaan?
2. Who was to be the new leader of the Israelites?

Bible Accent

The Exodus

The escape of the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt began with the birth of Moses.

The king of Egypt was afraid there would be so many Israelites in Egypt that they would start a revolution, so he ordered all newborn Israelite boys thrown in the Nile river and drowned.

Moses' mother, in an attempt to save her son, placed him in a reed basket and hid him in a marsh. He was found by the king's own daughter, who adopted him. However, Moses knew he was really an Israelite, and could not bear the cruelty inflicted on his people by the Egyptians.

God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and chose him to be the champion of his people. Moses went before the king and begged for the freedom of the Israelites. At first the king refused, but after God punished Egypt with seven plagues, he changed his mind.

After wandering in the desert for forty years, the Israelites arrived at the Jordan River and crossed it into the promised land of Canaan.

St. Bede the Venerable

Born in 672 AD, St. Bede the Venerable, became recognized as one of the most scholarly men of his time. He was educated in England by monks and eventually became a monk himself.

St. Bede wrote more than thirty religious and historical books, yet modestly did not consider himself a writer, only a man who had devoted himself to the study of scripture.

At the age of 63, St. Bede finished a translation of the Gospel of John. After translating the last line, he put his head down on the table and died. We remember St. Bede on May 27.



Bible Trivia

What was the name of the fortified city conquered by Joshua and the Israelites? Joshua 6.

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 June 9, 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.

Last month's winner was Union Springs' Josh DiLallo of A.J. Smith School who identified Gentiles as the Jewish term for people who are not Jewish.

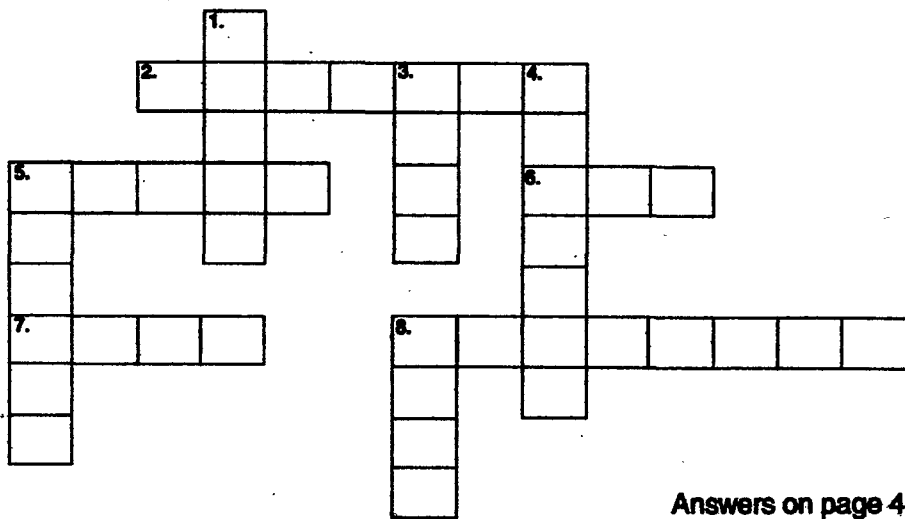
Crossword

ACROSS

2. royal son of David (1 Kings 1)
5. nicknamed "the rock" (Matthew 16)
6. Joshua's father (Joshua 1)
7. the first man (Genesis 3)
8. the good _____ (Luke 10)

DOWN

1. led the exodus (Exodus 3)
3. the mother of Jesus (Matthew 1)
4. wicked city (Nahum 1)
5. washed his hands of Jesus (Matthew 27)
8. Israel's first king (1 Samuel 10)



Answers on page 4.

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