

Kids' Chronicle

THURSDAY, July 14, 1994 VOLUME III, ISSUE NO. 13 BY JOE SARNICOLA

The prophecies of Amos

Eight hundred years before Christ was born, a man named Amos lived in the country of Judah. He lived in a time when many rich men lived in beautiful cities and religious leaders build elaborate temples.

But God was unhappy with the hypocrisy he saw.

Amos was a shepherd who lived peacefully on his land. But he was also a man of faith, and that is why God chose him to be his spokesman.

"Amos, I want you to give this message to the people of Israel," said the Lord. "Tell them because they continue to sin, I will smash their city gates and burn their fortresses. They have been cruel to the poor and they have mocked me."

Amos answered, "I will do as you say and go to the cities of Israel."

Amos left the following morning. He did not know how long he would be gone, but he knew God would take care of him.

Amos shared the word of God wherever he went. Some people welcomed him into their homes while others made fun of him. Not everyone wanted to hear that God was angry because of their sins.

One day, when Amos was preaching in the streets of a city, he said, "People of Israel, hear the words of our God. He sent famine, draught, strong winds, and plagues, yet you still did not turn to him for help. Remember that God made the mountains and the winds and he holds the power of both creation and destruction."

Amos gave this same message to the people in all the cities he visited. The

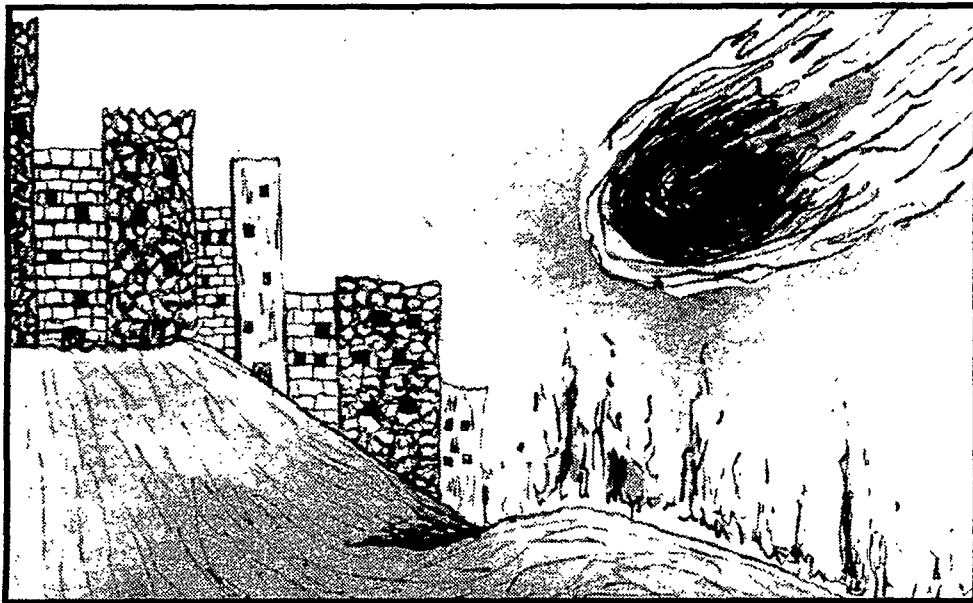


Illustration by Kathy Welsh

Lord also gave him visions which he was to describe to the Israelites.

Amos saw wagons of hay being delivered to the king from the fields. New grass was also starting to grow. Then a swarm of locusts appeared like a storm cloud and devoured every plant and all the grass and hay.

"Lord, if you do this, the people will starve and die," Amos protested.

"Very well," answered the Lord. "Because you have prayed, I will not send the locusts."

Then fire came out of the sky. The heat was so intense that the oceans boiled dry.

Again Amos cried out to the Lord "O mighty God, how can you do such a thing? The people are weak and would not be able to survive the flames."

The second time the Lord said, "I will not let this happen."

Word of Amos' prophecies reached the king, who feared Amos was trying to start a revolution. He ordered the prophet to appear before him. The king was very angry, and said, "I want you to leave my country and take your visions somewhere else."

Amos answered, "I cannot disobey the Lord. He told me your family will be killed, your lands will be divided up and given to foreigners, and you will die in a country not your own."

The king had Amos escorted with a guard out of the palace.

Amos had a final vision in which the Lord appeared and said, "I will repair the damage done to my kingdom and I will bring my people back to their own land."

Word Search

In the puzzle square are the names of ten Old Testament prophets. Names may run in any direction, but letters must be in adjacent boxes. Amos has been done to show how the other names might be. Answers on page 12.

Amos Daniel Ezekiel Hosea
Isaiah Job Joel
Micah Nahum Jonah

A R I S A I A H
G M C Q T N O D
G B H J E Z E J
E S O E L W K L
A B D H R I J S
A I T A N T E L
M O C X H E Y D
O N N A A U M S

Kids' Club

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

Who is your favorite saint, and why?

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 **Nathan Gutt**, a fifth grader at Mendon Center Elementary School. In response to the question, "Jesus told parables using objects for the everyday life of the people to get his message across. If Jesus were here today, what examples from our everyday life would he use, and what might the lesson be?" he wrote:

A computer's ability to network with countless people and other computers at one time is similar to the way God and people can communicate at any time. The tiny wires and circuits of a computer can keep an immense amount of data. Countless people through prayers to God can find an infinite measure of his wisdom, guidance, concern and love for each one of us. Remember always the power prayer can be in your life.

Bible Accent

A saint is a man or woman recognized by the church as having made a significant contribution to the faith, for leading a holy or selfless life, or for performing miracles. Many saints died rather than deny their religious beliefs. The first canonized saints, meaning those whose names are written in an official church record, were honored on the anniversaries of their deaths. This has become the tradition for most saints since then, as well.

Before being considered as a saint, the life of the candidate is reviewed by a church committee. If there is enough documentation, the person is declared beatified, or blessed. If there is proof of miracles or extreme religious devotion, the person is named as a saint by the pope.

Catholics usually adopt a saint at the time of confirmation, many churches call themselves by the names of saints, and hundreds of cities around the world are named after saints. A saint who is seen as having special influence over a certain topic or area is referred to as the patron saint of it.

Saint Bonaventure Fidanza

Saint Bonaventure Fidanza lived from 1221-1274 in Italy and was one of the most influential religious leaders and scholars of his time. He became a high ranking Franciscan priest before he was forty years old, and made it a priority to maintain harmony and cooperation among the other priests of the order.

Although he accepted the Franciscan vows of poverty, he believed owning books and building schools were essential to the advancement of education. He encouraged the priests to teach in the universities and devote their free time to their own studies. Bonaventure himself wrote several important religious books, including a biography of Francis of Assisi.

Saint Bonaventure was appointed cardinal bishop of Albano one year before his death and was declared a saint in 1482. We remember him on July 15.

Our Kids' Chronicle is sponsored in part by the following Catholic High Schools

THE AQUINAS INSTITUTE
A Tradition of Excellence
(716) 254-2020
1127 Dewey Ave., Rochester 14613

BISHOP KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL
"An Education For Life."
342-4000
125 Kings Hwy. S., Rochester, 14617

DeSales Regional High School
Over 80 years of educating young adults in the Finger Lakes Region
315-788-5111
90 Putnam St., Geneva, 14456

MCQUAD JESUIT
Designated as a "Secondary School" by the U.S. Dept. of Education
1800 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester 14618
(716) 473-1130

Mercy
Educating Today's Young Women for Tomorrow's World
Our Lady of Mercy H.S.
1436 Blossom Rd., Roch. 14610
288-7120

NAZARETH SCHOOLS
The Hall - The Academy
A Tradition You Can Trust
458-9503
458-3786