

Kids' Chronicle

Elijah summons fire from heaven

Elijah was a prophet during the reign of King Ahab. He spoke out against the pagan god, Baal.

God told Elijah to go to King Ahab and deliver a message. "King Ahab, the Lord has told me that there will be no rain for the next three years."

As Elijah promised, no rain fell. Crops failed and there was a famine.

After three years, God told Elijah to go again before King Ahab. This time Elijah said, "Bring all of the people and all of your prophets of Baal and meet me at Mount Carmel."

When all of the people arrived, Elijah said, "If Baal is the true god, worship him, but if my Lord is the true God, then worship him instead."

The people remained silent, waiting to see what Elijah would do.

Elijah continued. "Prepare two altars and two bulls to sacrifice, but do not light any fires. Then pray to your god, Baal, and ask him to send fire to burn the sacrifice. Then I will pray to my God to do the same."

The followers of Baal prayed until noon, but no fire came. Elijah laughed. "Maybe Baal is taking a nap."

As the sun started setting, Elijah told King Ahab's servants to dig a trench around his altar and to pour water over his sacrifice. They poured so much water the trench overflowed with it.

Then Elijah prayed. "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, show these unbelievers that you are the one true God, and that you want them to stop worshipping Baal and believe in you."

Immediately fire came down from the sky. It burned the sacrifice, scorched the wood on the altar, and dried up all the water in the trench.

The people were amazed. "Elijah's God is the one true God. Let us worship him."

After all this happened, Elijah learned of a plot to kill him. He ran into the wilderness to escape. There, he fell asleep under a tree.



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

An angel appeared and touched him. "Wake up and eat something."

Elijah ate some bread and water, then fell back to sleep.

The angel returned and woke up Elijah again. "Get up and eat some more. You will need the food to make the long journey ahead of you."

Elijah ate and walked to Mount Sinai.

The Lord was waiting for Elijah. "Elijah what are you doing here? You should be with my people in Israel."

"My Lord, I have served you well, but your people have been unfaithful, and now they want to kill me."

The Lord answered, "Go back to Damascus. I will spare all those people who were loyal to me and did not worship Baal."

When Elijah's time on earth was over, God sent a chariot of fire

pulled by a team of fiery horses to bring him up into heaven in a whirlwind.

Read more about it: 1 Kings 19 & 20.

1. What was Elijah's first message to King Ahab?

2. Who brought food and water to Elijah in the wilderness?

Kids' Club

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

Angels are God's messengers, but what messages from God can we deliver to our friends and families, based on what the Bible tells us?

Send your essay - including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade - to Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is AUG. 25, 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 Sarah Kiley, an eighth-grade student at St. Mary's School in Wayland. In response to the question "Who is your favorite saint, and why?" she wrote:

My favorite saint is St. Francis De Sales. He is the patron saint of all writers. I am a writer myself, and often find it difficult to begin a new story after finishing an old one, and getting my stories published. Many times I have prayed to Saint Francis De Sales in hopes that he will inspire me and help me become an accomplished writer. So far, he has inspired me to write several stories, and publish a short poem.

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Angels are God's messengers. They bring his words to the people. Sometimes they are also given the authority to destroy wickedness, such as at Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19), or they can protect Christians from danger (Daniel 6).

Angels made several appearances just before the birth of Jesus. It was an angel who told Joseph that Mary's child had been conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1), and an angel warned him about Herod and told him to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt. Another angel told Joseph when it was safe to return to Israel.

When the shepherds were standing night watch over their sheep, "a great army of angels appeared in the sky praising God." (Luke 2)

Probably the greatest message ever delivered by an angel was when Mary and Mary Magdalene went to visit the tomb of Jesus on Easter morning. The angel said, "He is not here, he has been raised." (Luke 16)

Who Said That?

Match the quotes with the Bible characters who said them. Answers on page 2.

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| 1. I have seen God face to face. (Gn 32:30) | Jesus |
| 2. Sovereign Lord, please remember me. (Jgs 16:28) | John the Baptist |
| 3. The kingdom of heaven is near. (Mt 3:2) | Bartimaeus |
| 4. Save me, Lord. (Mt 14:30) | Herod |
| 5. Follow me. (Mark 2:14) | Samson |
| 6. Have mercy of me. (Mark 10:46) | Jacob |
| 7. Who is this man? (Luke 9:9) | Nicodemus |
| 8. How can a grown man be born again? (Jn 3:4) | Peter |

Saint Dominic lived from 1170 to 1221 in Calarvega, Spain. After studying at the University of Palencia, he went on to become an important religious leader. He founded a society of priests, nuns, and lay people officially called The Order of Preachers, commonly known as the Dominican Order. The difference between the religious and lay members of the order is that the lay members have not taken religious vows. Otherwise they follow the same teachings.

The order was originally divided into three sections: priests, nuns, lay people. In 1968 the three sections were combined to form The Dominican Family.

Saint Dominic founded the order to fight heresy, teachings that contradicted those of the church. Within fifty years of their first organization, Dominican members were teaching at many of Europe's best schools and university.

Dominic is honored on August 4.



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