

# Kids' Chronicle

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1994

## John dreams of war in heaven

BY JOE SARNICOLA

The messenger knocked on the wooden door to the house where the priests lived. He had walked many miles in the rain, but he knew the letter he carried was extremely important, and had to be delivered quickly.

A tall, balding man opened the door. "Yes? How may I help you?"

"I have a letter from John. Are you a priest?"

"I am. You say the letter is from John? I thought he had been banished to the island of Patmos."

"May I come inside to talk?"

"Of course," answered the priest. "Forgive me. Please come in."

The priest led his guest down a narrow corridor and into a small room.

The messenger took out the letter and said, "This letter has traveled many miles through a secret network of Christian messengers. As you said, John was banished to Patmos because he preached that Christ is Lord of all."

"You are a brave man," said the priest. "What is it that I can offer that you bring this letter to me?"

"John's instructions were to deliver copies of it to the seven largest churches in Asia. You are the first priest to receive it."

The messenger then read the letter.

"To all my Christian friends in Asia:

Grace be to you from our Lord, Jesus Christ, who has promised to come again. Although I am trapped here on Patmos because the king was angry with me for preaching about Jesus, God has been with me.

I am writing you to tell you about a

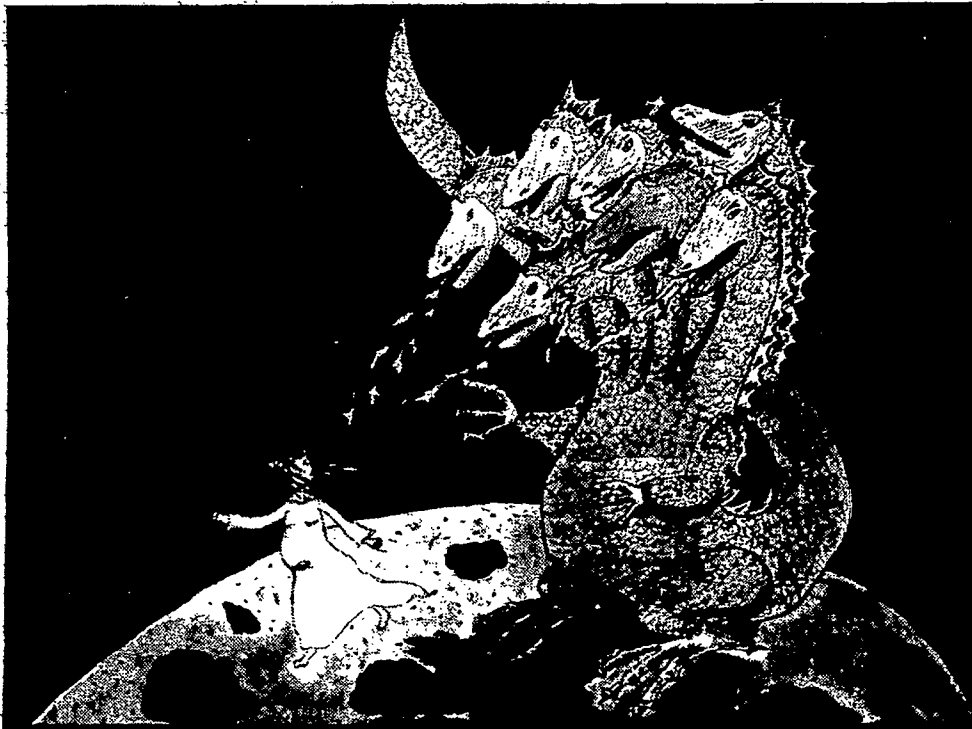


Illustration by Kathy Welsh

dream, which I believe to be a sign from God. I saw a woman standing on the moon. She was wearing a crown of stars and her face shined like the sun. She was running, but I could tell she was ready to give birth to a child.

Then I heard a roar like that of a hungry lion, and I realized the woman was being chased by a red dragon with seven heads. He was so angry, he grabbed stars out of the sky with his tail and threw them down to the earth. When the woman's son was born, the dragon tried to steal him, but angels flew from heaven and brought the baby before God's throne.

As soon as the boy was safe, Michael the archangel led an army of angels against the dragon and his soldiers. The angels defeated the dragon, who was really the devil. Furious at losing the battle in heaven, he hid in the

earth and promised to fight against anyone who serves God.

My friends, I believe God wants us to be faithful to him in everything we do. Jesus came to earth to be our savior and to serve as an example of what a life of obeying God can be like. Let us follow the Lord's command to love each other. God be with you.

Love, John"

The messenger gave the priest a copy of the letter, saying, "If your people do not understand the letter, tell them it may be explained in one word."

"What word is that?"

"Love." Then the messenger left, and the priest closed the door.

Read more about it: Revelations 12

1. Why was John in Patmos?
2. Who did John say served as an example for us?

## Bible Accent

The island of Patmos is a small, volcanic island in the Aegean Sea, between Greece and Turkey. Less than three thousand people live on an area of about thirteen square miles, but the fishermen of Patmos have earned a reputation for being some of the most skilled sailors in the world. Although the coastline is mostly rocks, further inland farmers are able to grow grapes, olives, and wheat.

According to the Book of Revelations, St. John was sent to Patmos by King Domitian because he "had proclaimed God's word and the truth that Jesus revealed." (Rev. 1:9)

While on Patmos, John had visions, such as the story of the red dragon and the war in heaven. Although some of his visions are difficult to understand, John ends his narrative with a vision of Jesus, who says, "I am coming soon."

John spoke for all Christians when he replied, "Come, Lord Jesus."



Saint Bartholomew, who was also called Nathaniel, was one of the first disciples called by Jesus. He was skeptical of the Lord at first, but changed his mind after meeting Jesus and began to seek Jesus' knowledge and compassion for himself.

Bartholomew was with several other disciples when Jesus appeared to them after his resurrection, and he was present on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit filled the room with tongues of fire. It is believed that after that Bartholomew traveled to India as a missionary and died a martyr there.

We remember him on August 24.

## Bible Trivia

According to the first chapter of John's gospel, who was "the voice of someone shouting in the desert?"

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

All entries must be received by September 8, 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 Annette Beck of St. Mary's School in Dansville. She knew that Aaron was the name of Moses' brother.

## Bible characters

Match the Bible characters to the phrase that describes them. Answers on page 14.

- |           |                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Samson | a. First woman                   |
| 2. Saul   | b. Sailed the ark                |
| 3. Jesus  | c. Strongest man                 |
| 4. Peter  | d. First martyr                  |
| 5. Eve    | e. First king of Israel          |
| 6. Steven | f. The "Rock"                    |
| 7. Noah   | g. Son of God                    |
| 8. Mary   | h. Wrote many Psalms             |
| 9. David  | i. Received the Ten Commandments |
| 10. Moses | j. Mother of Jesus               |

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