

Kids' Chronicle

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Isaiah predicts the coming of Jesus

By JOE SARNICOLA

Isaiah, whose name means "God's salvation," was a prophet from the city of Jerusalem. God gave him many messages to give to the people and showed him many visions. In the year that King Uzziah died, Isaiah had such a vision. Isaiah saw the Lord sitting on a beautiful throne, wearing a long, luxurious robe.

Fiery beings with six wings surrounded the throne of the Lord. One pair of wings covered their bodies, and the third pair was used for flying. They sang praises to God with voices so loud the temple shook. The room filled with smoke from an altar in front of the throne.

Isaiah knelt down and prayed, "There is nothing that can be done for me. I am a sinful man who lives among sinful men and women. Yet I see before me the one true God."

As soon as Isaiah had finished praying, one of the fiery beings plucked a burning coal from the altar fire with a pair of tongs. It then flew down and touched Isaiah's lips with the coal. The being said, "The fire of the Lord has cleansed your lips, you are free from guilt, and are forgiven of your sins."

Then, as he looked across the heavens from his throne, God called out, "Who will I send as our messenger?"

Eagerly, Isaiah stood up and answered, "I will go! Send me!"

One message that Isaiah was instructed to deliver was for Ahaz, the grandson of Uzziah and the reigning king. "The Lord wants you to ask him to send a sign from beyond the grave or from the heavens."

King Ahaz answered, "I will not test



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

the Lord by asking for a sign."

"Whether or not you ask him for a sign, God is going to send one," said Isaiah. "A young woman will bear a son. His name will be Immanuel."

God warned Isaiah not to do as the people were doing, but to follow God instead. "Do not be afraid of the things the people fear. You need only fear me. Even though my people, Israel, are as plentiful as the sands of the sea, only a few will survive my wrath."

Isaiah obeyed the Lord and God gave him a message for those who had remained faithful. "The Lord will send us a new king. He will be wise and he will

guide us according to will of God. He will judge us with fairness and he will destroy all evil in the land. His kingdom will be one of peace. Even wolves and sheep will live together in harmony."

One of Isaiah's last messages was this. "God will create a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem. It will be a place of joy, and there will be nothing dangerous or evil there."

Read more about it: **Isaiah 6 and selected prophecies of Isaiah.**

Q&A

1. What does the name, Isaiah, mean?
2. What city will be made over again?



Bible Accent

Isaiah had many visions, and there are other instances of visions in the Bible as well. God appeared to Moses in a burning bush (Exodus 3). Daniel had visions of beasts and animals (Daniel 7 and 8). Jesus called Paul in a vision (Acts 9). Ezekiel saw wheels with eyes and creatures with four faces (Ezekiel 1). The book of Revelations describes some of John's visions. While we may not understand some of the visions in the Bible, let us think about Isaiah's vision of a new earth. There will be no war, no hunger, no poverty, no jealousy. We will all live in peace with each other, regardless of our color or heritage. If we all strive to follow the example set by Jesus with Isaiah's willingness to please God, this is a vision that could come true in our lifetime.

St. Jerome

Jerome Emiliani was born in Venice, Italy, in 1481. As a young soldier, he did not actively practice his Christianity, but after being captured during a battle, he prayed to the Virgin Mother. He escaped his prison and promised to dedicate his life to God's service. He studied and was ordained at the age of 37. He cared for people who had been afflicted by the plague. He contracted the plague himself, but later recovered from it.

He sold his property and used the money to build orphanages and a hospital. He was assisted by other religious men who established themselves as the Clerks Regular of Somascha, the name of a small Italian village where one of the orphanages was built. Jerome taught the children the catechism and continued to aid the poor and the sick. He eventually died of an incurable illness.

Jerome is the patron saint of abandoned children. We honor him on February 8.



Jesus' Ancestors

Find the five men who are not ancestors of Jesus, as listed in Matthew 1. Answers can be found on page 13.

Abraham	Noah	Judah
Shemp	Jesse	David
Jeffo	Ahaz	Shealtiel
Michael	Achim	Peter
Eleazar	Joseph	



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

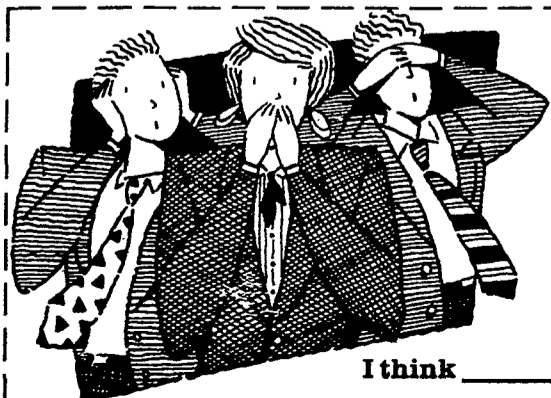
We talk to God by praying. How can we show God we listen to him as well?

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 February 23, 1995. 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 Dorothy Morehouse, a sixth-grade student at St. Rita's School in Webster. In response to the question **What New Year's resolutions have you made towards becoming a better Christian?**, she wrote:

I will try to be kind to people that I really don't like. I also won't make fun of people just because my friends are. I will talk to God before I make my choices. This will help me be a better Christian.

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