

# Kids' Chronicle

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## God destroys Sodom and Gomorrah

BY JOE SARNICOLA

The Lord and two of his angels appeared to Abraham.

"I have heard terrible things about the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah," said the Lord. "I am sending my messengers to see if what I have heard is true."

The two angels immediately bowed and walked toward the two cities. The Lord remained behind with Abraham.

"Will you destroy the cities if you learn that the people have been sinful?" asked Abraham. "Suppose there are fifty faithful people living there? Would you destroy them as well? You are a fair judge, and I know you would be fair to those who serve you."

The Lord agreed. "If there are fifty faithful people in the cities, I will not destroy them."

"My Lord," Abraham continued, "I am a humble man, but if there are only forty-five faithful people, would you still destroy the cities? For the lack of five men?"

"I will not destroy the cities if I find forty-five faithful people."

"Will you destroy them if there are thirty people?"

"For thirty people, I will spare the city."

Abraham hesitated before he spoke again. "I am not trying to be disrespectful, but would you destroy the cities if only twenty innocent people live there?"

"For even twenty, I will not."

"For ten?"

"If only ten faithful people live there, I will not destroy the cities."

After those words from the Lord, Abraham found himself alone, wondering how many faithful people live in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. His own nephew, Lot, lived in Sodom, and he did



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

not want him to be destroyed along with the people who had made God angry.

By the time the two angels reached Sodom, the night sky was filled with stars, and the city was filled with men and women whose only desire was to please themselves.

Lot was waiting at the city gates for the two angels. "You must be the men the Lord told me would be coming. Please come to my house where there is fresh water, a meal, and a warm place to sleep."

The men refused Lot's offer. "We will wait here in the city square until morning."

Lot insisted that the men at least join him for supper. While everyone was still eating, the men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house. Many of them were drunk and angry.

"Send out your guests," they demanded. "We want to meet them, too."

Lot knew the men only wanted to hurt

the two men. He stepped outside and closed the door behind himself.

"Please do not bother these men," Lot said. "They are my guests, and I have offered them the protection of my house."

A few of the men grabbed Lot and pushed him aside. "You are a stranger to our city as well. What do we care about your guests?"

The men banged on Lot's door, trying to break it down.

Lot's two guests opened the door and pulled him back into the house for safety. Then they prayed and the Lord struck all of the men outside with blindness. They panicked and bumped into each other in their fear and confusion.

"Take your families and run out of the city as fast as you can," said one of the angels. "The Lord is going to destroy the city and everyone in it. And don't look back."

Lot took his wife and his two daughters and they left the city. As the sun came up, burning sulfur rained out of the sky and destroyed every trace of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Read more about it: Genesis 18 & 19.

### Q&A

1. Why did the Lord want to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah?
2. How many people escaped?



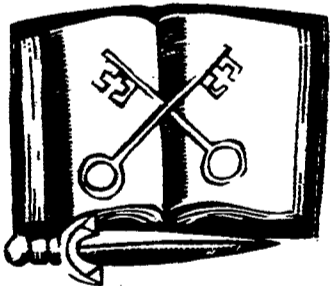
### Bible Accent

The ancient Israelites based their calendar on a seven-day week and a month of approximately thirty days. The days were referred to by number, except for the seventh day, which was called the Sabbath. Sabbath means "rest," and is in honor of the seventh day of creation, when God rested. The moon and the sun were important reference points in this calendar. Many important holidays fell on the time of the full moon, such as Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles. The spring and winter solar equinoxes were considered new year's days. As early as the time of the Babylonian empire, a year consisted of twelve months. Four of those months had names of Israelite origin, and the others were given Babylonian names. Thousands of years later, the Romans created their own calendar. It is that calendar which is the foundation of the one we use today.



### St. Martha

Martha lived in the town of Bethany during the time of Jesus, and was the sister of Mary and Lazarus. Jesus was a frequent guest in Martha's home. Martha became angry on one occasion when she believed her sister was not helping her with the household chores which were part of preparing for a visit by Jesus. Jesus reassured her that Mary's quiet way of serving him was better than being busy with duties that are not as important as people sometimes think they are. Martha witnessed a miracle when Jesus raised her brother from the dead. She is the patron saint of wives, and we honor her on July 29.



### Bible Trivia

What two sons did Abraham have in his old age? (Genesis 17)

Send Answer 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 August 11, 1995. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Joy Liberi a student at Buckman Heights Elementary School in Rochester. She correctly identified Jacob as Judah's father.

### Crossword

The twelve of Israel, named after the sons of Jacob, are hidden in the puzzle. Words may run in any direction.

Reuben	Zebulun	L B E N J A M I N
Issachar	Judah	R A H C A S S I A
Asher	Joseph	E G A D Q I R J P
Simeon	Gad	H L D A T M B O H
Dan	Levi	S E U N O E I S T
Benjamin	Naphtali	A V J S N O R E A
		I L E E N D P L
		J R E U B E N H I
		O I Z E B U L U N

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