

Kids' Chronicle

Volume III, No. 16
THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1995

Jeremiah suffers for doing God's will

By JOE SARNICOLA

My name is Jeremiah. Although I am a quiet man by nature, there are times when the Lord gives me messages to deliver to the people of my beloved country, Israel. I cannot help but obey the Lord. I tell whoever will listen, and I tell many who I know are not listening.

On one such occasion, I said, "Leave the city at once, and turn yourselves over to the armies of Babylon. If you do not, you will be killed in battle or you will die of hunger or sickness. The Babylonians will starve you out and they will have no mercy on you if you resist. Surrender now, because God is going to let the city, and anyone who remains in it, fall into their hands. They will not harm anyone who gives up before they attack."

There were men in the crowd who heard what I was saying who were not honest, and they did not obey the Lord. Instead they ran to king Zedekiah and told him I was spreading fear in the city and that because of me the soldiers were ready to desert their stations. This did not hurt me as much as when I learned they said I did not have the best interests of the people in my heart, but that I was trying to trick the people into surrendering without a fight so that the Babylonians could win the city easier.

When God gives me a message it is always because of his love for his people. I share this love. My people are my family. I would be willing to give my own life to spare any of them. And that is what the men asked of the king. They wanted me killed for doing what I did. The king gave them permission to kill me and they came after me with ropes and clubs.



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

They grabbed me, tied my hands and feet, and lowered me into the well in the courtyard of Prince Malchiah. There was no water in the well, only mud. I sank into it and was almost completely covered. If I struggled, I sank deeper. My mouth was tied, so I could not call for help. Not that anyone would have heard me. The only faces I saw were those of my captors. They were laughing at me as they abandoned me.

I prayed to God to deliver me. Not for myself, but I did not know if the people of the city were surrendering to the Babylonians. I did not want all of them to die because of the wickedness these men had done to me.

God must have heard my prayer be-

cause before the light of morning had come I heard men calling me, and I could see the lights of their torches. My friend, Ebedmelech, was with them. He looked down into the well.

"Jeremiah," he said, "I heard what was done to you and I pleaded to the king for your life. He has sent me to get you out of your slimy prison."

The men pulled me out with their ropes and I was given a safe place to stay.

Read more about it: Jeremiah 38.

Q&A

1. What was Jeremiah's message to the people of the city?
2. What was Jeremiah thinking when he was in the well?

Bible Accent

Wells were important sources of water in the desert climate of ancient Israel. There was usually a celebration after a well had been dug. Most large towns had wells near their entrance gates. These spots would serve as meeting places for people coming to draw water, much as we do in our grocery stores. The woman usually drew the water for her family in the time of Jeremiah. Sometimes they were assisted by their children. When David was homesick, he remembered the well of his home town when he said, "How I wish someone would bring me a drink of water from the well by the gate of Bethlehem." (2 Samuel 23:15)

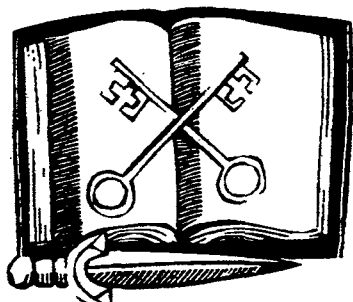


St. Aedan

Aedan was an Irish monk who assisted King Oswald in spreading Christianity to parts of the British Isles in the first half of the seventh century. Missionaries before Aedan were impatient and harsh, and therefore had not been very successful in converting the British to Christianity.

Aedan was able to establish a scholastic monastery in northern England, and earned a reputation as a kind and educated man. He preached and practiced the kind treatment of children and slaves, and he was generous to the poor. He received financial support from the king of Ireland and often used the money to buy the freedom of English slaves.

Aedan died in England in 651. It is claimed his prayers could calm strong winds during storms or summer rain to put out fires. He is often portrayed in paintings doing one of these acts. We remember him on August 31.



Bible Trivia

Who was Jeremiah's father? (Jeremiah 1)

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 September 14, 1995. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Peter Lepere, a student at Elmira's Holy Family Junior High. He correctly identified Ishmael and Isaac as Abraham's two sons.

Books in Order

Place the books of the prophets in the order that they appear in the Bible. Number them from 1 to 16. The solution can be found on page 4.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| a. Micah | _____ | i. Jeremiah | _____ |
| b. Jonah | _____ | j. Zephaniah | _____ |
| c. Isaiah | 1 | k. Amos | _____ |
| d. Haggai | _____ | l. Joel | _____ |
| e. Ezekiel | _____ | m. Zechariah | _____ |
| f. Nahum | _____ | n. Hosea | _____ |
| g. Daniel | _____ | o. Obadiah | _____ |
| h. Habakkuk | _____ | p. Malachi | _____ |



JENNIFER BANFIELD
School of Dance
REGISTER NOW
FALL CLASSES

Ballet • Tap • Jazz • Hula •
Acrobatics • Lyrical
Member, DMA, Certified by Test to Teach

61 N. Main St. (Honeoye Falls)
624-9481
1318 Culver Rd. (Rochester)
288-7047

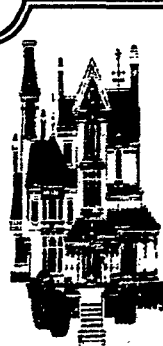
The Treasure Hunters

1434 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624
716-235-5441 • (800)213-2542

Open Mon. through Sat. 10-6
Thurs. & Fri. til 8

BUYING & SELLING

- Coins • Stamps
- Sports Cards
- Gold & Silver Jewelry
- Antiques & Collectibles



Diane Carroll's
The Federal House
Bed & Breakfast

2 miles from Cayuga Lake
175 Ludlowville Rd.
Lansing, NY 14882

Call for Fall reservations
800-533-7362
AAA approved
Mid-week Discounts

BRIAN C. BUETTNER
Attorney at Law

Wide range of legal services including:

- Criminal
- DWI
- Family Law
- Personal bankruptcy
- Wills/Probate