

# Kids' Chronicle

## Habakkuk Talks to God

By Joe Sarnicola

"Oh, Lord," prayed Habakkuk, "how many times must I cry out to you before you stop the violence of the world? Everywhere I look people are arguing, and it is impossible to obtain justice through the law. It seems as though the evil man succeeds while the righteous man fails."

The Lord looked down from his throne in heaven and said to Habakkuk, "My faithful servant, hear the words of your God. For a time I am going to let the ferocious Babylonians conquer many of your neighboring countries. The same Babylonians who have no regard for authority and who laugh in the faces of kings. They will bring a reign of fear and will take many captives. Their only god will be their desire to rule."

Habakkuk wiped a tear from his eye as he knelt on the ground.

"My God," he said. "You are the God who created the heavens and you will live forever. If it is your wish that you punish us for our sins by having the Babylonians capture us, let it be so. But how can such a holy God look on the evil that they do? How could you not speak on our behalf when they are cruel to good men and women? They treat us like toys to be broken and tossed away."

Determined not to give up until the Lord had answered his prayer, Habakkuk climbed to the top of one of the watchtowers and waited. He did not have to wait very long.

The Lord told him to write this message on tablets so that everyone who wished to could see it: "Those who are faithful to God will live; those who are



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

evil will not."

Habakkuk was inspired by the Lord's answer. He continued to preach the message God had given him.

"Beware you who are rich, you who have taken from the poor," Habakkuk said. "Your lust for possessions will never be satisfied. You who enslaved others will be enslaved by your own greed. You are doomed by your own actions. There is nowhere you can hide from God's justice. Your idols are useless. They will not protect you. But the Lord reigns in his holy kingdom."

And, as always, Habakkuk remained a man of prayer. He knew his God was more powerful than his enemies and

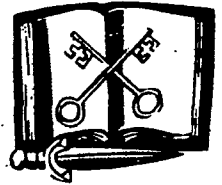
would not abandon him, no matter how hard his life seemed.

"I hear of your great works, my God," he prayed. "I cannot praise you enough for your majesty. When you are angry when I sin, show mercy to me. I am but a humble man. Your earth is filled with the light of your glory. Your hand moves and your will is done. You have the power to shake the earth and shatter mountains. I have seen brave men tremble at the thought of your wrath. Your arrows fly like bolts of lightning, your spear glistens like the sun. I wait quietly for the righteous judgment of my God. I will rejoice because my savior, my God loves me and will keep me safe."

**READ MORE ABOUT IT:** The book of Habakkuk

### Q&A

- Q: 1. What did Habakkuk want the Lord to do?
- 2. What was the message God gave to Habakkuk?



### Bible Accent

October 24, 1995, will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations.

In order to prevent a global catastrophe like World War II from ever again occurring, representatives from fifty countries met in San Francisco in April, 1945. By June, the Charter of the United Nations was drawn up and signed. The conditions of the charter were to take effect on October 24, a day which is annually celebrated as United Nations Day.

The two main goals of the UN, as it is commonly called, are world peace and human dignity.

The General Assembly, the only major committee of the UN, has representatives from each member nation. It voted in 1946 to establish UN headquarters in the United States. Using a multimillion dollar grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, a donation of land from the City of New York and an interest free loan from the the United States Congress, construction of the headquarters building was completed by 1952 along the East River.

The United Nations have worked to maintain world peace in major military conflicts throughout the world. For more information, contact the Visitors Service, Room 6A-56 United Nations, New York, NY 10017.

### St. Francis of Assisi

Francis Bernadone was born in 1182. From the time he was a young boy, he was more interested in studying the virtues of charity, compassion, and generosity than he was in learning the family business or accumulating wealth. Francis dedicated his life to caring for the sick, the poor, and anyone else in need. He also loved and was kind to animals because he knew they were also created by God.

Francis saw a vision of a church near the Italian village of Assisi. He heard a voice say, "Come and rebuild me."

Francis thought he was to buy materials to repair the church, so he sold some of his father's property. The priest at the church refused to take the money and Francis' father was furious at what had happened. The bishop of Assisi told Francis to return his father's money and to pray that God would explain the meaning of the vision. He later learned from God that he was to help rebuild the whole Catholic Church.

Francis lived a life of poverty and devotion to God. He attracted followers who eventually became the order known as the Franciscans. We honor him on October 4.



### Puzzle

Ephesians 6 talks about the armor that a soldier of God should wear. Match the equipment with its spiritual purpose. (Answers on page 17)

- 1. belt \_\_\_\_\_ readiness to preach the good news
- 2. breastplate \_\_\_\_\_ to stand against the devil's tricks
- 3. shoes \_\_\_\_\_ word of God
- 4. shield \_\_\_\_\_ salvation
- 5. helmet \_\_\_\_\_ faith
- 6. sword \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness
- 7. armor \_\_\_\_\_ truth



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**If you were invited to speak to the United Nations about God's will for peace on Earth, what would you tell them?**

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 August 31, 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 Stace Barco, a third-grade student at Rochester's Holy Cross School. In response to the question, **Jesus died to set us free from sin. What does that mean to you?** she wrote:

It means to me that Jesus died so we can live eternal life with Him in heaven. Jesus died to show His love for us. Jesus showed us the greatest act of love by dying on the cross so our sins could be forgiven.

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