

Kids' Chronicle

The Battle with the Amalekites

By Joe Sarnicola

The Amalekites could be seen approaching from the distance. Their swords and banners were raised up high, and the sound of their war cries carried through the clear afternoon air. Moses stood on a high vantage point with Joshua.

"Joshua," he said, "Tomorrow we will have to fight the Amalekites. Take your best men and prepare them for battle. I will climb the top of the hill and hold the staff that the Lord has blessed."

Joshua said, "I will do as you say, because I know the Lord is with us."

Joshua immediately returned to the camp and called his soldiers out. He issued them weapons and they left to plan their strategy for defense.

The fires of the Amalekite camps burned through the night. Joshua ordered guards to be placed at lookout points at all times. As the sun chased the darkness, the Amalekites readied for battle. The Israelites prayed to God for protection. Moses was at his post at the top of the hill with Aaron and Hur.

The battle began in the morning while it was still dark. As long as Moses held his staff in the air, the Israelites were winning. When he tired and lowered his arms, the Amalekites would prevail.

Moses cried out, "My God, I cannot hold my arms any longer. Yet if I let them down, my people will die."

Aaron found a rock large enough for Moses to use as a seat. When the weary



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

Moses sat down, Aaron held up one arm and Hur held up the other.

"Do not worry," Aaron said. "The Lord is with you, and we are with you."

The day was long and hot. The battle continued into the night. Aaron, Hur, and Moses worked to keep Moses' arms and staff raised. They were exhausted, but they knew God would give them the strength they needed to defeat their enemies. Eventually the Amalekites retreated. They dragged or carried their injured or dead. They had lost all desire to battle the Israelites and their powerful God.

The Israelites rejoiced and held a victory celebration in honor of the Lord. Moses came down from the hill top and

led the prayers.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "This is a day that will always be remembered. Write down what has happened, so that all will know that I, the Lord your God, have destroyed the Amalekites before you. I kept the promise I made to you, because you were faithful to me."

As part of the celebration, Moses built an altar and named it, "The Lord is my Banner."

He called out to his people, "This altar is the banner of the Lord. Let us always hold the banner high and remember it was the Lord who brought us victory over the Amalekites."

Everyone cheered and praised God for his goodness.

READ MORE ABOUT IT: Exodus 17

Q&A

- Q: 1. What did Aaron and Hur do when Moses was tired?
 2. What did Moses name the altar he built?

Bible Accent

This month, an agreement was signed that would hopefully bring peace to the region called Palestine. Palestine is a tract of land that was the home of the ancient Israelites. It is situated along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, and possesses four distinct geographic regions.

The coastal plain is very fertile and good for agriculture, but its few natural harbors make the area essentially useless for seaports and the commerce that develops around them.

High mountain ranges run north and south. They are adorned with beautiful cedar forests. A valley separates the northern range from the southern range; this valley has been the site of several historical battles.

The Rift Valley cuts across the country from Syria in the north to the gulf of Aqaba in the south. The Dead Sea is in this region, at one point being more than 1,300 feet below sea level, the lowest spot on earth.

The last region is made up of hills and flat lands east of Jordan that taper into the deserts of Arabia.

St. Paul of the Cross

Saint Paul of the Cross was born in Italy just before the turn of the eighteenth century. His family was very poor, but they were faithful to the Lord, and Paul lived a life of devotion to Jesus.

When he was in his early twenties, he saw a vision of the Blessed Mother carrying a white cross. She instructed Paul to establish an order which would revere the Passion of Christ. After several visits to the pope in Rome over a period of a few years, Paul was granted permission to found the order. Their official name is the Barefooted Clerks of the Holy Cross and Passion, but they are most commonly referred to as "the Passionists." The order focused on helping sick people, especially if they were close to death, and they worked diligently to make active practicing Catholics out of everyone.

Paul was a dynamic speaker and very often attracted large crowds when he spoke. He is believed to have had the gifts of prophecy and healing. Paul later founded a convent for his female followers. He died of an illness as he approached the age of 80. We honor him on October 19.

Bible Trivia

How were Moses and Aaron related? (Exodus 7)
 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 Nov. 9, 1995. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Kristen Pullen, a sixth-grade student at Fairport's Martha Brown Middle School. She correctly identified tax collector as Saint Matthew's occupation.

Puzzle

Match the brothers and sisters. Answers on page 7

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|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Abel (Genesis 4) | ___ Andrew |
| 2. Jacob (Genesis 25) | ___ Esau |
| 3. Simon/Peter (Matthew 4) | ___ Cain |
| 4. James (Matthew 4) | ___ Benjamin |
| 5. Martha (John 11) | ___ Eliab |
| 6. Joseph (Genesis 35) | ___ John |
| 7. David (1 Samuel 16) | ___ Mary |

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WIN ONE YEAR OF RENTALS FROM



RULES: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MIDNIGHT, November 6, 1995. Random drawing of correct entries to be held November 13 by Catholic Courier Representatives. Entries must be returned by mail to: Catholic Courier, Movie Trivia, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, NY 14624-1899. Winner will be notified by mail. Prize is one year of Wegmans Video Rentals, membership is free and is required. Prize is not exchangeable for cash or other merchandise.

Question: What is the name of the horror movie featuring attacking tomatoes?

Answer: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Last month's winner: **Jean Wierszewski** of Henrietta correctly identified **Outbreak** as the movie starring Dustin Hoffman and Morgan Freeman that deals with the spread of a killer virus.

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