

Kids' Chronicle

God speaks to Moses on Mount Sinai

BY JOE SARNICOLA

The journey out of Egypt was difficult and tiring for the people of Israel. The children and the older men and women were always complaining. Too hot, too cold, too far, too long. The herds of animals had to be fed and watered. And there were so many people. So many people. Everyone wondered if the food supply would last until they could find a permanent settlement.

The third day after they left Egypt, the Israelites stopped at a field at the foot of a mountain called Sinai or Horeb. While the people set up camp, God called Moses to meet with him at the summit. Moses obeyed God and made the difficult climb up the mountain, even though he, too, was exhausted from traveling.

Moses sat on a large flat rock and said, "My God, I have reached the top of this great mountain. What is it you wish to tell me?"

"Moses! Moses!"

"I am here, Lord."

"I brought my people out of Egypt and I showed them what my power can do. I cared for you as an eagle carries her babies safely on her wings. If you obey me I will always care for you. I created the earth, and everything in it belongs to me. But more than that, I want you to be my people. I will make you a nation of priests."

"No one else has heard your voice," Moses said. "How will I be able to convince them to believe that what I tell them is what you have said?"

"I will appear as a thick cloud. When I speak, everyone will hear my voice. They will believe you then. Now go and tell the



Illustration by Amy Sundstrom

people to wash themselves and their clothes. In two days I will reveal myself to them."

Moses found the silence after God had left as inspiring as had been being in his presence. He had been with God. Now he would share God's message with the people. Everyone spent the next two days preparing for the visit from God.

On the morning of the promised day, fierce thunder and lightning filled the sky. The mountain was engulfed in thick smoke and a dense, swirling cloud

emerged from the top. A trumpet blared, so loud it could be heard over the noise of the storm.

"Speak to us, Lord!" Moses cried. And the thunder answered.

Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT: Exodus 19.

Q: 1. What happened to Moses at the mountain top?

2. What did the Israelites have to do before God's visit?



Bible Accent

Mount Sinai is in Arabia, according to Paul's letter to the Galatians. Although the exact location of Mount Sinai is unknown, biblical scholars believe it to have been between the northern branches of the Red Sea.

Mount Sinai's peak was so high, the Israelites could see it from their distant camp. The fields at its foot were so vast, the people, numbering in the hundreds of thousands, were all able to gather there to hear Moses deliver God's messages. God would call Moses to the top of the mountain, then Moses would return to let his people know what God wanted them to do.

It was at Mount Sinai that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

St. Robert

Robert of Newminster was born in the year 1100. He was a Benedictine monk in the English city of York. He was commissioned to join several other monks to establish a new monastery in a different part of the country. This became known as the Fountains Abbey, because of the abundant flowing water within the territory.

It is difficult to separate legend from fact about St. Robert. One story says after he had fasted for several days, he gave his own supper to a hungry visitor to the abbey. The monks later found their cupboards full of food, and they believed the visitor had been an angel testing their generosity. Robert also told of visions and prophecies God had given him. We remember him on June 7.

Puzzle

In Hebrews, chapter 11, we can read about the effects of faith in the lives of some of the people in the Bible. Match their identities with their actions. *Answers can be found on page 4.*

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Abel | a. Built a big ship. |
| 2. Enoch | b. Conquered the city of Jericho. |
| 3. Noah | c. Became a father in his old age. |
| 4. Abraham | d. Offered a better sacrifice. |
| 5. Moses | e. Was taken up by God. |
| 6. Joshua | f. Led his people out of Egypt. |



Kids' Club

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

God spoke to Moses on the mountain top. Where does God speak to us today?

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to **Catholic Courier, PO Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624**. Deadline for entries is June 27, 1996. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail.

Last month's winner was **Christopher DeWinde**, a third-grade student at Holy Cross School, Rochester. In response to the question **What are some of the ways we can fight prejudice and create friendship between people of different colors, faiths, and nationalities?** he wrote:

One way to fight prejudice is for parents to teach their children early that all people are the same. We should not pick on people just because they are different from us. We all have different faiths and should respect their choices in following their faith. Where a person comes from does not matter because we all are human beings created by God.



Happy Father's Day, Andy Arnold!

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