

# Kids' Chronicle

## The Prophet Isaiah speaks to Israel

BY JOE SARNICOLA

**M**y name is Isaiah. Shortly after King Uzziah died, the Lord appeared to me in a vision. He was sitting on a beautiful throne, surrounded by flaming beings with wings. They sang beautiful praises to God. As they sang, the temple filled with colored smoke.

I was so terrified, I knelt down and said, "I am a poor sinner. I have seen God, and I deserve to be punished."

One of the winged beings heard me and flew over to me. He held a burning piece of coal before my lips and said, "The Lord has forgiven your sins. Now who will be his messenger?"

I stood up and said, "I will be God's messenger. What do you want me to do?"

Since that wonderful and mysterious day, I have travelled throughout Judah and Jerusalem telling the people what God has told me.

I tell people that the Lord has water for those who thirst. It is fresh and satisfying, cooler than a drink from the finest well. For



Illustration by Amy Sundstrom

those who are hungry, he offers free wine and milk. Unlike food and drink bought in the marketplace, one taste of God's offerings, and there will be no more hunger, no more thirst.

But best of all, he offers eternal life. He wants to give us the blessings he promised our ancestors while they were still in Egypt, and the greatness he promised to King David. All that he asks of us is that we turn from our sinful ways and honor him. God will forgive all those who ask him with a pure heart to do so.

His words are pure, like the snow and the rain. They water us like a fertile field about to yield a rich harvest of grain.

What God says he will do, he will do. His words are powerful and comforting. We will leave the city rejoicing. We will sing in the mountains, with a voice that will sound

as if the mountains themselves join in our celebration.

God asks only that we obey his commands, that we love him and serve him. If we do, he will clear the path so that we will find him easily. He will give us an everlasting life with him. He will remove our fears, our doubts and our pain. He will look on us and say that we are a people who know how to pray and fast. We will keep his Sabbath day holy. As we honor him he will protect and save us.

### Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT: Isaiah 55

1. What did Isaiah say when God needed a messenger?
2. What are some of the things God offers us?



### Bible Accent

Isaiah, whose name means "the salvation of God," is one of the most important prophets of the Old Testament. He was also a nephew of Amaziah, one of the kings of ancient Judah.

Scholars believe Isaiah had three sons, whom he named after prophecies the Lord had given to him: Maher Shalal-hash-baz ("quick loot, fast plunder"), Shearjashub ("a remnant shall return") and Immanuel ("God is with us").

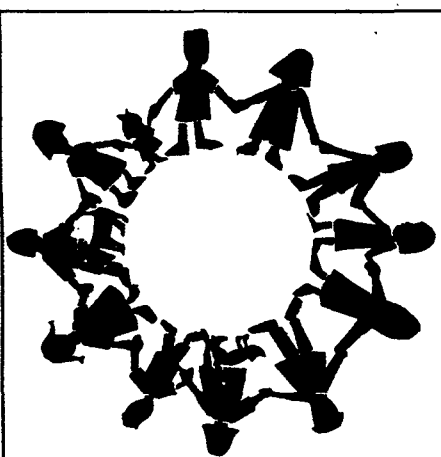
Isaiah's book of prophecies is divided into three sections. The first section is about messages for Judah and Jerusalem; the second is about the visitation of God; and the third is about the restoration of Jerusalem.

### St. Laurence

Laurence of Rome was born in Spain in the middle of the third century. He became an advisor to Pope Sixtus II.

After the death of the pope, Laurence sold many of the church's treasures and gave the money to the poor people of Rome as a protest against the greed and jealousy of some of the church leaders. He then invited one of his supervisors to see the new treasure he had acquired for the church.

When the bishop arrived, he found the church full of poor people. Laurence explained they were the real treasure of the church. The bishop sentenced Laurence to death by fire because of what he had done. We remember him on August 10.



### Bible Trivia

According to chapter 1 of his book, Isaiah prophesied under four kings. Who were they? Send Answer to: *Catholic Courier Bible Trivia*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by Aug. 8, 1996. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Sara Missell, a student at Our Mother of Sorrows School in Greece. She correctly identified Elijah as the prophet who gave his cloak to Elisha.

### Puzzle

Match the words with their correct meanings. Answers can be found on page 5.

- |             |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1. aloes    | ___ a. promise           |
| 2. covenant | ___ b. student           |
| 3. disciple | ___ c. medicinal plant   |
| 4. fast     | ___ d. not a Jew         |
| 5. Gentile  | ___ e. story             |
| 6. parable  | ___ f. go without eating |

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