

Kids' Chronicle

Jeremiah humbly serves as God's prophet

By JOE SARNICOLA

I have always tried to live humbly and peacefully. However, one day the Lord appeared to me, and my life became much more public after that.

"Jeremiah," he said to me, "before the day you were born I knew that you would be one of my prophets. I want you to preach to the people of many countries."

I did not know what to say to such a message from God.

"Who am I to speak for you to anyone? I am young and not very good at speaking in front of people."

"If you just say what I tell you to," the Lord said, "I will protect you."

He touched my lips and said, "I will give you the authority to speak to anyone anywhere."

Since that day, I have tried my best to do what God has asked me to do. But it has not always been easy.

There was a time when I delivered a message to Pashhur, a chief priest of the Temple.

"Because the people of this town have not obeyed the commandments of God," I told him, "God will demonstrate his anger to them."

Needless to say, this made the priest very angry.

"How dare you address an officer of the Temple in such a way?" He said. "If God wanted to speak to me, he would tell me himself. He would not use a common worker like you."

So he called for his guards, who beat me and locked me up in chains for the night. In the morning I was brought back in front of Pashhur



Illustration by Amy Sundstrom

again.

I had no choice but to deliver God's new message to him.

"God has given you a new name, the name 'Fear.' Everyone will be afraid to be seen with you. Your enemies from Babylonia will pillage your town, kill some of your people, and take many others away as slaves. You will be among them, and there you will die. This is what the Lord says to you today."

I do not like to deliver such harsh messages, even though I know they are God's words. I spoke to the Lord

about this one day when I was very discouraged.

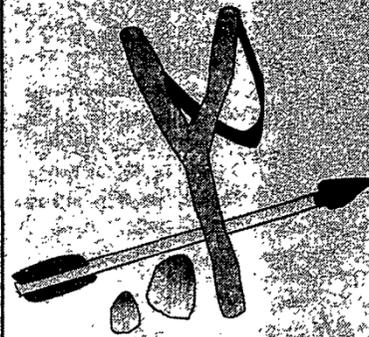
"Lord, because I serve you, people think I am a fool," I said. "Yet, even now, I feel your power burning within me, and I cannot be unfaithful to you. I know that you are always with me."

Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT: Jeremiah 20

1. When did God call Jeremiah?
2. Why was Jeremiah sometimes discouraged?

Bible Accent



Jeremiah was a skilled soldier as well as an important prophet. When David went to Ziklag to hide from Saul's anger, he became friends with soldiers from the tribe of Benjamin who "could shoot arrows and sling stones either right-handed or left-handed." (1 Chronicles 12:2) Jeremiah was listed as the fifth officer in command of these men.

Jeremiah was also a scholar and an historian. The Old Testament books of First and Second Kings are believed to have been written by him. Certain words and phrases are found in only these two books and Jeremiah's writings about his prophecies, and not in other places in the Bible. Some of Jeremiah's prophecies are referred to in other books of the Bible, such as Daniel, Ezra, and Hebrews.

St. Aidan

St. Aidan was an Irish monk of the seventh century. He was sent by King Oswald to be a missionary to the island of Lindisfarne. Twelve religious students accompanied Aidan and together they established a monastery.

This monastery developed a reputation throughout England and Ireland as an excellent school.

Many people gave donations to the monastery, and Aidan used whatever extra money he was able to raise to buy the freedom for young men and boys who were being used as slaves.

We honor St. Aidan on Aug. 31.

Trivia

Jeremiah was from the tribe of Benjamin. Who was Benjamin's father? (Genesis 35)

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 Sept. 12, 1996. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Joey Fenicchia a student at Wheatland Chili School. He correctly identified Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah as the four kings under whom Isaiah prophesied.

Puzzle

Unscramble the following names from Genesis 35. What do these men have in common? Answers can be found on page 8.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. eebnur _____ | 7. jaminneb _____ |
| 2. duhaj _____ | 8. dga _____ |
| 3. shepoj _____ | 9. vile LEVI _____ |
| 4. phlinata _____ | 10. zuluneb _____ |
| 5. smoiem _____ | 11. dna _____ |
| 6. sschriaa _____ | 12. reash _____ |

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