

Kids' Chronicle

Jerusalem is captured

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jehoiachin was the king of Judah. But he sinned against the Lord, so King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took him away as a prisoner and appointed Zedekiah as king instead. Zedekiah was only 21 years old at the time. His palace was in the city of Jerusalem and he had servants and advisers to wait on him and give him counsel.

One of his advisors was the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah always advised the king to obey the words of the Lord and to ensure that the people did the same. But Zedekiah did not want to listen. He made fun of Jeremiah and his God.

One day, Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "Your majesty, remember what God said to Moses. If you do not remain faithful to him, he will take away your homeland."

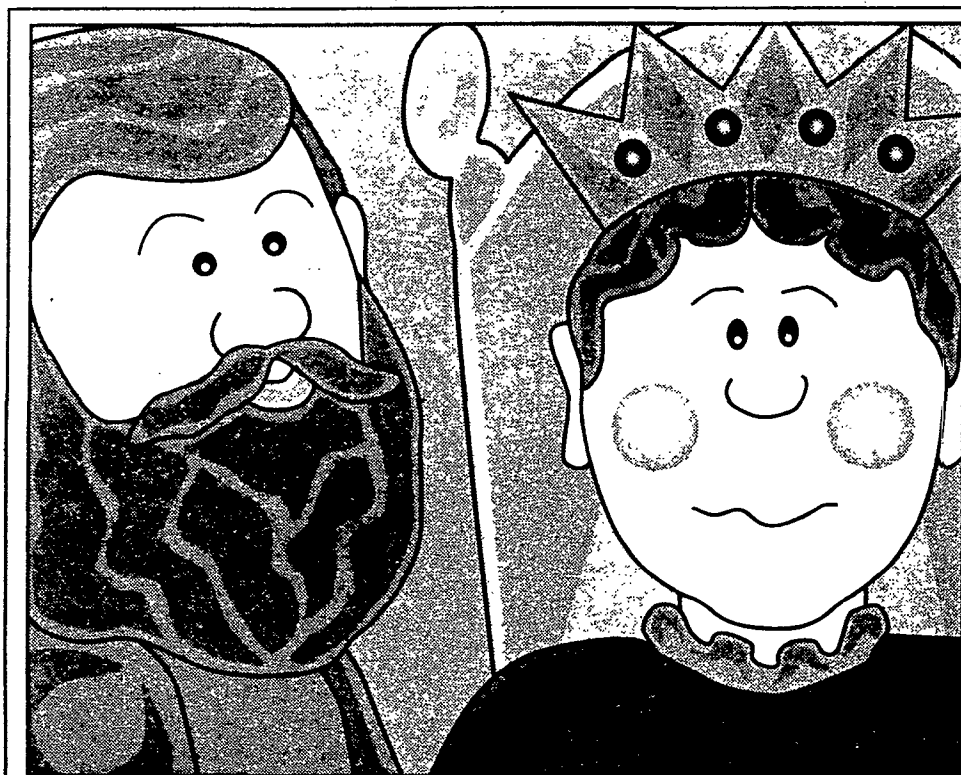
Zedekiah only laughed and said, "I have never seen this God you talk about. I am the king of this country."

Jeremiah shook his head and left the throne room.

Under Zedekiah's rule, the people of Judah began to forget about the Lord and they became rebellious and sinful — until the army of Nebuchadnezzar surrounded Jerusalem.

The soldiers camped outside Jerusalem until the people inside had used up all of their food supplies and were on the brink of starvation. Some of the Jewish soldiers tried to escape during the night with King Zedekiah, but they were chased by the Babylonian army and the king was captured.

The Babylonian soldiers who were not involved in the chase invaded the



"If you do not remain faithful to him, he will take away your homeland."

Illustration by Zoe Woodruff

city, tore down the government buildings, the palace and the outer walls of the city itself. Then they captured all of the people and led them away into slavery.

As the people were marched away from their home, they looked back at Jerusalem only to see flames, smoke and rubble. Some cried out to God to save them. Others said that because they had abandoned God, now God had abandoned them. The journey to their new life of hard labor and captivity was long and difficult.

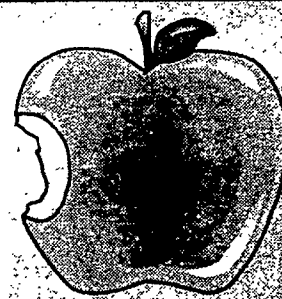
After Zedekiah was captured, he was brought before King Nebuchad-

nezzar, who found him guilty of treason. For his sentence, Zedekiah had to watch the execution of his own sons. Then he was blinded and thrown into prison.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
2 Chronicles 36
(also see 2 Kings 25)

Q&A

1. Why was Jehoiachin taken prisoner?
2. Who was one of Zedekiah's advisers?



Bible Accent

To "exile" people is to banish or send them away, by a king's order, or the order of someone else in a position of authority.

There are several instances of this recorded in the Bible. Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden of Eden by God for their disobedience. Cain was forced to be a wanderer after murdering his brother. God warned the Israelites that he would banish them from their homeland if they strayed from following his commands or served false gods. They sometimes failed to follow his commands, and so the ancient Jewish people were exiled on separate occasions by the Assyrians, the Babylonians and the Romans.

St. Oswald

St. Oswald of Worcester lived in 10th-century England and received his religious education from the archbishop of Canterbury.

St. Oswald became a monk of the Order of Saint Benedict and eventually an ordained priest. He worked diligently with the other religious leaders of his community to set an example of Christian living and to offer religious education for his parishioners.

St. Oswald earned the respect and admiration of the people for his work on their behalf. He dedicated himself to caring for them all of his life. He died during Lent in the year 992. We remember him on Feb. 28.

Bible Trivia

What was the name of the great city that was destroyed in Revelation 18?

Send Answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

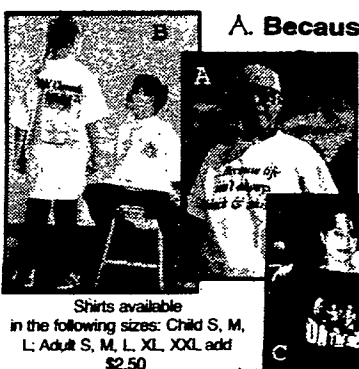
All entries must be received by March 13, 1997. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Lyndsay O'Hara, a student at Siena Catholic Academy, Rochester. She correctly responded that there are three chapters in the Letter to Titus.

Puzzle

Unscramble the following words using the clues. In the unscrambled words, use the circled letters to find the secret word. *Answers on page 11.*

1. treep	The disciple called "the rock." (Mt. 16) ---○---
2. doseux	Second book of the Old Testament. ---○---
3. caisa	He had twin sons. (Genesis 25) ○-----
4. moonsol	He was David's wise son. (2 Chronicles 1) ---○---
5. klue	The third Gospel. ---○---



A. Because life isn't always... Our adult shirt features the Courier's slogan and a reprint of a page one article. modeled by Father Heisel

B. I'm a Courier Kid... Our children's shirt design features Kids Chronicle, along with a puzzle for kids to complete. modeled by Kelsey and Patrick

C. On the Move... A shirt designed for teens, by teens. modeled by Andrea Liponi

Shirts available in the following sizes: Child S, M, L; Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL; add \$2.50

Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. 100% 30-day money back guarantee.

Catholic Courier Shirts ...

Tee Shirts for \$10⁰⁰ • Sweat Shirts for \$20⁰⁰ (includes tax, shipping and handling)

Mail with check or money order (payable to Catholic Courier) to:
Catholic Courier • PO Box 24379 • Rochester, NY 14624-0379

Style _____ Size _____ Style _____ Size _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number (____) _____