

Kids' Chronicle

God sends manna from heaven

BY JOE SARNICOLA

After leaving the shade and fresh-water springs of Elim, Moses led the Israelites through the desert. The desert was brutally hot during the day and cold at night. Food and water were scarce and the people were unhappy.

After setting up camp for the night, the people went to see Moses and Aaron. "Why have you brought us to this place?" they cried. "Death in Egypt would have been better."

"At least in Egypt we had food and shelter," one angry man shouted. "We'll die here, hungry and dry."

Moses could see the people needed an answer they could count on.

"I will bring your concerns before the Lord," he said. "We will do what he says. Let us meet again in the morning."

The people grumbled as they left and went to their tents.

While the Israelites were sleeping, Moses found a quiet place to speak with the Lord.

"My God," he cried out. "Your people are unhappy, hungry and thirsty. They need food to get through this desert. We will perish if there is not enough food."

Moses was surrounded by a bright light in a cloud. Then the Lord spoke to Moses and gave him the words to tell the people.

In the morning, the people gathered before Moses again.

"What has the Lord told you?" they demanded. "We need food and water."

Moses raised his hands to quiet the people before they became angry.

"God is going to send us food that will come from heaven," he said. "But we must obey him completely. Gather only enough rations for one day. Each day will bring new food. On the sixth day, gather and prepare enough for two days. This is how you will know our God is the one true God."

Later that same evening, a flock of

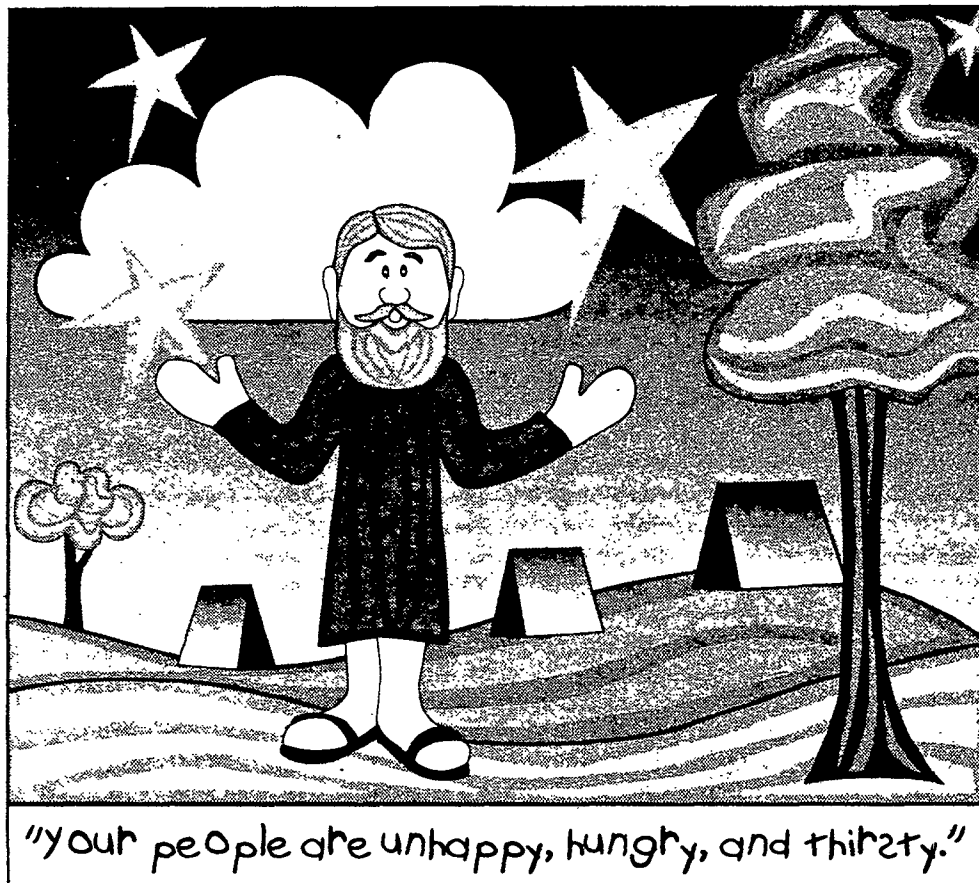


Illustration by Zoe Maves

quails landed in the camp. Everyone took only enough birds to serve as meals for the next day. In the morning a heavy dew had formed and dried into a delicate flaky substance. Moses held some of it in his hands and said, "This is the bread the Lord has provided for us. We will call it manna. Again, gather only what you will eat. Do not try to hoard and save it."

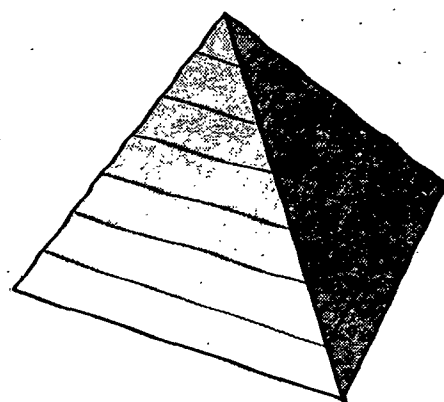
Some of the people did not listen and gathered more than they needed. The flakes quickly rotted with a foul smell and became infested with worms. After

that they only took what they would eat in a day.

Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Exodus 16

1. Why were the Israelites angry?
2. How did God show his love for his people?



Bible Accent

The Egypt out of which Moses led his people was a land of idolatry and superstition. In addition to the major deities such as Osiris, Isis and Horus, most towns in the country had one deity that was the god of their city. The Egyptians believed Pharaoh was the son of their god, Amon-Ra. There were also a number of gods that were animals or part animal.

For the God of the enslaved Israelites to deliver his people by sending plagues to Egypt and by performing miracles such as the parting of the Red Sea must have been humbling indeed for Pharaoh.

The Israelites still had much to learn about their own humility, which is why they wandered in the desert for 40 years after leaving Egypt.

St. Justin de Jacobis

St. Justin de Jacobis was born in the year 1800 near Naples, Italy. Even as a boy his friends and family recognized him as a person who placed the needs of others before his own. He joined the Vincentian order and eventually became a missionary to Africa.

In spite of the difficult living conditions, threats and even religious persecution that landed him in jail, Justin never lost faith in God. He established several mission churches and trained some of the local people to serve as ministers.

Almost 20 years after his first trip to Africa, St. Justin died at the age of 60. We remember him on July 31.

Puzzle

Answers on page 9.

Arrange the following books in the order in which they appear in the Old Testament.

- Joshua
- Daniel
- Esther
- Genesis
- Proverbs
- Isaiah
- Exodus
- Jonah
- Malachi
- Psalms

Bible Trivia

According to Exodus 15, who was Miriam?

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. 14, 1997. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was **James Hallahan**, a student at Manor Elementary School, Honeoye Falls. He correctly identified Buzi as Ezekiel's father.



A. Because life isn't always... Our adult shirt features the Courier's slogan and a reprint of a one page article (not shown).

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 Lipomi.*

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