

Kids' Chronicle

Zechariah tells about his visions

BY JOE SARNICOLA

My name is Zechariah. My father's name was Berechiah, and his father's name was Iddo.

God sent his angels and messengers to me with visions. God told me he would no longer be angry with the people of Jerusalem and that he would show his mercy to them. In fact, he promised to build his own house there and he would bring prosperity to all of his cities. The Lord told me that I was to tell Zerubbabel, the governor, that true victory would not be won by an army, and not by physical strength, but by the spirit of God.

I saw four chariots pulled by powerful horses. One had red horses, another black ones, a third had white ones, and the last had spotted ones. An angel told me these were the four winds of heaven. The one with spotted horses flew south, while the others flew north. The Lord said he would find rest for his spirit in the north direction.

The Lord spoke about fasting. He wants all of us to be kind to each other, to care for the poor and to help those who are in need. But the Lord also knows that sometimes we do not listen to what he says. We like to do what we feel like doing instead. That makes him angry. But because he loves us, he will for-



give us and he will come to live with us.

God said that one day Jerusalem will be surrounded by enemies who will try to attack the city. But they will not be successful. Everyone who tries to harm God's great city will not be able to triumph, but will have to acknowledge that Jerusalem is protected by the power of God. Even the old, the young, or the weak who are in the city will be like David in the eyes of God.

There will be a fountain in Jerusalem

that will cleanse people from their sins, and if there are any idols in the land, they will be gone. God's people will be made pure as gold is made pure by fire, they will be refined as if they were silver, and God will say of them, "These are my people, and I am their God."

Living water will flow from the city. Half of the water will flow to the east, the other half will flow to the west. The sun will never set, and winter will be no different than summer. And the Lord will be king of the earth.

Bible Accent

Bible scholars have divided the Book of Zechariah into two parts.

The first section includes chapters 1-8. In these chapters, he describes visions that he had. Some of the images that appeared to Zechariah were four horsemen who found the earth at peace, a man who measured Jerusalem, Joshua and a flying scroll.

The second section of the book prophesies about a savior who will rescue Jerusalem. Zechariah's description of this savior riding a colt was quoted in the Gospels of Matthew and John when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on what we now call Palm Sunday. Zechariah's message is that God will hear the voice of his people who call on him, and he will be their God.

St. Barnabas

St. Barnabas sold everything he owned and gave the money to the early Christians in Jerusalem. He had been a friend of St. Paul even before St. Paul had converted to Christianity, and was instrumental in convincing the Christians that St. Paul was no longer a persecutor, but a brother.

St. Barnabas later accompanied St. Paul on some of his missionary journeys. Scholars believe that St. Barnabas eventually died a martyr. There are several writings called the Epistle of Barnabas, the Gospel of Barnabas and the Acts of Barnabas, which were initially thought to have been written by St. Barnabas, but have now been attributed to other writers. St. Barnabas is the patron saint of Cyprus. We remember him on June 11.



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

In Bible times there were prophets who told us about God's word. Today we have priests who minister to us. Who is one of your favorite priests and why?

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is June 18, 1998. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was Megan Lawler, an eighth-grade student at Dansville Middle School. In response to the question What are some ways we can show the world we are Christians? she wrote:

I believe that there is one major way to show the world that we are Christians. It is through one of Jesus' commandments. He said, "to love each other as I have loved you." He said that, "people will know you are my followers through your love."

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Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Zechariah 12

1. What did the chariots do?
2. What would God do for the city of Jerusalem?

Puzzle

Some Bible characters had dreams or visions from God. Match the people below with the visions they had. Answers on page 2.

- a) Laban b) Joseph c) Jacob d) Solomon e) Nebuchadnezzar
f) Peter

1. I dreamed about angels climbing a ladder. (Gn 28) _____
2. God offered me anything I wanted. I chose wisdom. (1 Kgs 3) _____
3. I dreamed the sun and moon bowed down to me. (Gn 37) _____
4. God warned me not to harm my daughter's husband. (Gn 31) _____
5. I dreamed God offered me reptiles to eat. (Acts 10) _____
6. My dreams were interpreted by Daniel. (Dn 4) _____



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