

Kids' Chronicle

Zechariah tells about his visions

By Joe Sarnicola

My name is Zechariah. My name means "remembered by God." I have never considered myself very wise. I am strong from hard work, but no more so than any other man, and I am by no means a wealthy man. Yet in spite of that, God has chosen to reveal things to me that he wants me to share with his people. God has been good to me, so I do what he asks.

Once, I woke up in the middle of a dark night and I saw four horses that had been sent to see if the earth was at rest. Then I heard the Lord say, "Because I am merciful, I will build my temple in Jerusalem."

Another time I saw Joshua, the man who conquered the city of Jericho! He looked sad, and he was wearing dirty clothes. Then the Lord told him to step forward.

"Bring clean robes for this man," the Lord said to his angels. Then he said to Joshua, "As I have given you new clothes to wear, so will I wash away the sins of the people."

When the Lord gives me a vision or a message for Israel, I cannot help but feel his love for all of us. "Rejoice, Zion," he said. "Be happy, Jerusalem. You will have a king, a savior, who will be wonderful and fair. But he will ride not on chariots or great horses. He will ride on a

donkey."

You may want to laugh because the Lord said our king will ride a donkey, but there is more to the story. This king will be stronger than a soldier in armor and with swords. He will reign over the earth from one ocean to the other. And he will free prisoners of war. This will be a king like none we have ever seen.

He will be like a shield for his people. When they are in his presence, they will be safe. No enemy will be able to surprise and attack him. His power is absolute, and his compassion is strong. If Jerusalem were the crown on his head, his people would be the jewels in it.

And the Lord says this to those who will serve him: "As silver is made pure and strong with fire, you will be made finer than silver. As gold is refined to the point of glistening, you will shine for me.



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

And if you call my name, I will answer you. You are my people. I am your God."

READ MORE ABOUT:

Zechariah Q&A

1. Who did Zechariah see with God?
2. In what city will God build his temple?

Bible Accent

Certain numbers in the Bible have become associated with symbolic meanings. Here are a few of them.

One: unity. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." Ephesians 4:5.

Two: cooperation. The Lord sent appointed followers out in groups of two. Luke 10:1.

Three: completion. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Four: restitution. "I shall repay it four times over." Luke 19:8.

10: law. Ten Commandments. Exodus 20.

12: fullness, perfection of order. Twelve tribes of Israel; 12 disciples of Christ.

40: a generation, a period of time. Jesus fasted 40 days and nights. Luke 4:2.

St. Aloysius

St. Aloysius Gonzaga was born in Lombardy, Italy, in 1568, the eldest son of a Spanish marquis. His family hoped he would join the military. However, from the time St. Aloysius was very young, he wanted to pursue religious studies. His parents sent him to Florence, Italy, for his schooling.

In 1581, the family moved to Spain, where he became a page to Don Diego, Prince of Asturias. St. Aloysius wanted to join the Jesuits, but his father and most of his relatives were against the idea. Finally, however, his father relented and at age 17 St. Aloysius joined the Jesuit novitiate.

St. Aloysius often suffered from poor health. Out of concern for his health, he was sent to Rome to complete his studies. Ironically, two years later the plague came to Italy, and St. Aloysius contracted it while helping to take care of patients in a hospital the Jesuits had opened. He survived the plague, but then developed a fever and died at the age of 23.

St. Aloysius is the patron saint of Catholic youth. We honor him on June 21.

Puzzle

Match the phrases with their locations in the Bible.
Answers on page 3.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. "In the beginning" — | a) John 3:16 |
| 2. "... have ever lasting life." — | b) Matthew 28:6 |
| 3. "I am coming soon." — | c) 1 Corinthians 1:4 |
| 4. "The Lord is my shepherd." — | d) Genesis 7:12 |
| 5. "He is not here." — | e) Psalms 23:1 |
| 6. "I give thanks to my God." — | f) Genesis 1:1 |
| 7. "... heavy rain poured down." — | g) Proverbs 14:1 |
| 8. "Wisdom builds her house." — | h) Revelation 22:20 |

Bible Trivia

Between which two books of the Old Testament can the Book of Zechariah be found?

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 July 1, 1999. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Anne Hayles, a student at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School, Brockport. She correctly identified baptism and confirmation as the other sacraments of initiation in addition to the Eucharist.

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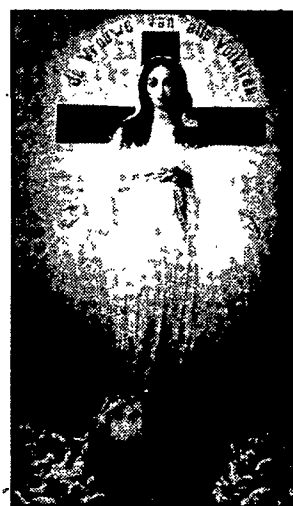
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