

Kids' Chronicle

Moses teaches "There is one God"

BY JOE SARNICOLA

My people, my children, my friends. Come and be seated on the ground. The grass is soft and the breeze is cool. I have so much to tell you. Words God has given to me. He wants us to remember the many good things he has done for us. Imagine the time of creation, when God made the first man. What must Eden have been like? Look into the sky, let your eyes take in everything from the east to the west. This is the world our God has made for us. Can you think of anything more marvelous?

When we escaped out of the slavery that was Egypt, God was with us. He spoke to us out of a fire. Think of it. We heard the voice of God and we did not die. We lived! God called us as a nation out of a nation to be his people. What did we see by God's hand when we were captives? Signs, wonders, plagues on our enemies, great things which will be talked about forever. And God did these things for us.

There is a lesson for us out of all that has happened. For us and for those who come after us. It is that there is one God, our Lord. There is no other. And all that God did, he did because of his love for us. So let us never make false gods out of wood or metal or stone. Let us always



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

seek the God who has guided us. For even when we have failed him in our weakness, God has been merciful to us.

When armies confronted us, God made us victorious. When their weapons were more powerful than ours, God rendered them useless. And

again we triumphed. Not because of our strength, but because of the Lord who went before us. And now a land that was not ours has been given to us by God.

God has given us rules to live by. The most important thing for us to do is to love him, and to keep his commandments. He has been faithful to us, he wants us to be faithful to him. And if we do what God has asked of us, he will reward us. We will be prosperous as men and women, as families, as a nation chosen by God. Our children will be blessed. And this land will be our home forever.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Deuteronomy 4

Q&A

1. What lesson did Moses say God had for the Israelites?
2. What will be God's reward to the people?

Bible Accent

The first five books of the Old Testament make up the Pentateuch, from the Greek phrase which meant literally "five books." The Hebrew word for these same books is Torah, which means "the law," because they contain the first laws which God gave through Moses in order to govern his people. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the law of the Old Testament is "a preparation for the Gospel" and "a prophecy of things to come." We learn of a new law in the life of Christ and his teaching, as well as the work of the Holy Spirit through him. Jesus outlined the new law in his Sermon on the Mount, and he summarized its most important message when he said, "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets." (Matthew 7:12)

St. Barnabas

Barnabas never met Jesus personally, but he became as devoted to him as the other apostles were, and his missionary journeys are told in the Book of Acts. His opinions were respected by the other early Christians. After Paul's conversion, the other Christians were very suspicious of him because he had persecuted Christians in the past. But when Barnabas said that Paul had truly converted, he was accepted into the community without any other question. Paul and Barnabas later went to Antioch together to help the new Christians there. Unfortunately, a disagreement developed between Paul and Barnabas, so Paul traveled with Silas, while Barnabas teamed up with John Mark. Paul invited John Mark to join him after the death of Barnabas. We remember Barnabas on June 11.

Puzzle

Unscramble the names of the books of the Old Testament.

Answers on page 9.

1. sgiesne _____
2. usoxed _____
3. shouja _____
4. thru _____
5. smalps _____
6. haiais _____
7. achimal _____
8. honja _____
9. slumēa _____
10. desjug _____

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Kids' Club

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

Why do you think Moses had to remind the Israelites about the blessings God had given to them?

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 15, 2000. 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 Jamie DiGirolamo, a third-grader at Holy Cross School, Rochester. In answer to the question, What is one of the things that Paul did or wrote that can inspire us to be better Christians and why do you think so? Jamie wrote: Paul tried very hard to bring the word of God to all the people. He spread the word of God no matter what they did to him. He thought that all people were children of God, and that's the way I think, too.

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