

Kids' Chronicle

Moses declares, 'The Lord is our God'

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Moses watched as the Israelites gathered in front of him. Parents, grandparents, children, single men and women, everyone who could walk or be carried was coming. The announcements he had were so important he wanted all of his people to be there. Then he found a spot high enough where he could be seen and heard and he spoke.

"Hear, O Israel, the statutes and decrees which I proclaim in your hearing this day, that you may learn them and take care to observe them. The Lord made a covenant with us who are alive here this day." Then Moses reminded the people that, because they were afraid of the fire they saw on the mountain, Moses went up for them and received the word of God to bring back to them.

"Hear and observe, that you may grow and prosper the more, in keeping with the promise of the Lord, the God of your fathers, to give you a land flowing with milk and honey." The Israelites remembered or had heard the stories of their slavery under the Pharaoh of Egypt. The promise that God made to them was very important to them: a land that would be their own, a paradise.

"The Lord is our God," Moses declared. He raised his arms to emphasize his words. "The Lord alone. Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. And the Lord will bring you into the

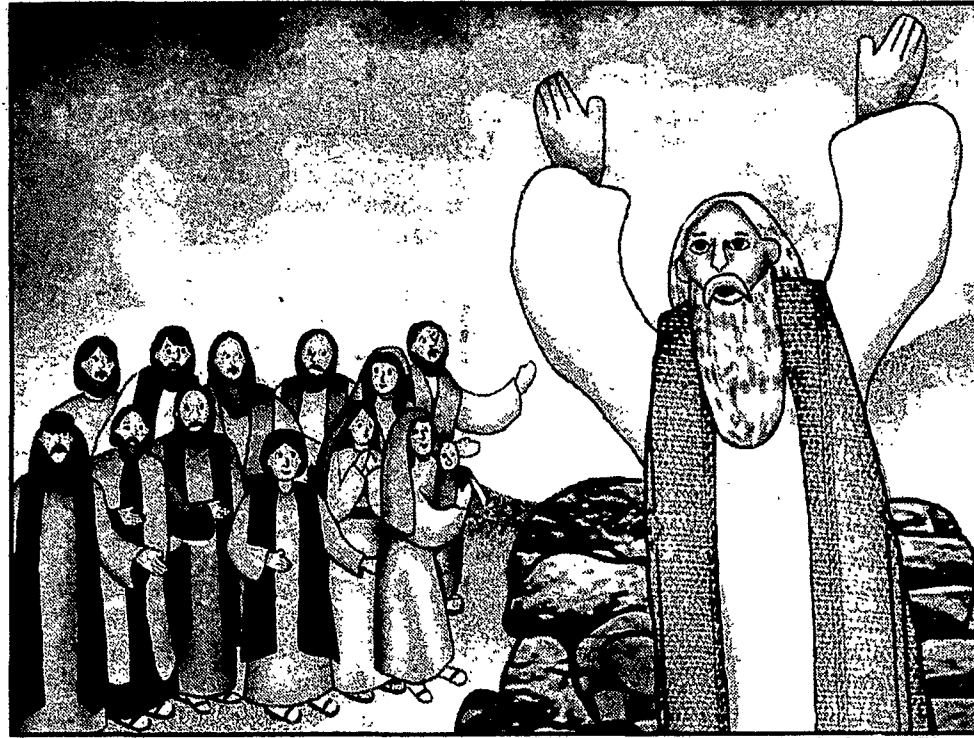


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

land which he swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

Moses wanted the people to know that their God was the only true God, and they were not in any way to serve idols like some of the other nations did. If they obeyed God and followed his commandments, the land of promise would be theirs. They would have fine houses full of everything they would need, there would be vineyards, olive groves and water. Enough for everyone who was

hungry or thirsty.

And Moses told the people what to say in the future, when their children and grandchildren asked them the laws meant. "The Lord brought us out of Egypt with his strong hand and wrought before our eyes signs and wonders, great and dire, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and his whole house. He commanded us to observe all these statutes that we may always have as prosperous life as we have now."

READ MORE ABOUT IT
Deuteronomy 6

Q&A

1. Why did Moses call the people together?
2. What did God promise if the Israelites obeyed his commands?

Bible Accent

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the laws in the Old Testament were given by God to humanity so that we would know what God expects of us. Most important are that we are created in God's image, and we should love God and our neighbors. These laws are summarized in the Ten Commandments. The church sometimes uses another word for referring to the Ten Commandments, Decalogue ("deca" means "ten," and "logue" means "words" or "ideas"). The laws were also prophecies of the miracle Jesus would perform when he freed us from our sins. In the New Testament, Jesus fulfilled the law. He told us, "I will establish a New Covenant with the house of Israel." The new laws are summarized in the Sermon on the Mount.

St. John of Capistrano

St. John of Capistrano (1386-1456) demonstrated an academic ability at an early age. At the age of 26, he became governor of Perugia and married the daughter of one of the city's most prominent citizens. However, within the next four years, he ended up in prison after a conflict between Perugia and the Malatestas and his marriage ended. After being released from prison, he entered the order of the Friars Minor as a novice. By the year 1420, John had become a priest. He studied theology with great enthusiasm, and he also discovered he had a talent as a speaker. When Emperor Frederick III requested help from the pope in fighting religious heresy, John was sent to serve as commissary and inquisitor general. In 1456, John led a garrison of soldiers against an invasion by the Turks. The defense was a success, but John died from an infection a month later. We honor him on Oct. 23.

Puzzle

Unscramble the word to find some of the things or places that would have been familiar to Moses. Answers on Page 11.

1. redle
2. tepgy
3. aharpoh
4. vessa
5. facesiric
6. showpir
7. stripe
8. slaw

Bible Trivia

What is the word used by the church to describe the first five books of the Bible?

Send Answers to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is Nov. 2, 2000. The winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. There was no winner of last month's question. What did God do on the seventh day of creation?

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