

Kids' Chronicle

God speaks from a burning bush

BY JOE SARNICOLA

On a quiet afternoon, Moses was watching over the sheep of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. As he guided the sheep across the desert, he reached Horeb, which was often called the mountain of God. Moses stopped because he saw something that did not seem to make any sense. A bush was on fire, flames and smoke were rising into the sky, but the bush was not damaged in any way by the fire. Even more, he thought he saw the figure of a person in the fire.

So he thought, "I must go over to this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned."

Moses stepped closer to the bush. As he approached it, a voice called to him from within the bush. "Moses! Moses!"

Moses stopped immediately. The bush was burning but was not consumed, and now it was speaking to him. "Here I am," Moses answered, not sure who was calling him.

The voice spoke again. "Come no nearer. Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Moses covered his face with his hands and looked away from the



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

bush. He was afraid that if he were to look at God, he would die.

God spoke again. "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their complaint. I have come to rescue them, and lead them in-

to a land flowing with milk and honey. I will send you to Pharaoh to lead my people out of Egypt."

Moses slowly removed his sandals and carefully looked toward the burning bush. "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt?"

And God answered, "I will be with you."

Moses was still afraid and so he asked, "When I go to the Israelites, if they ask me what your name is, what am I to tell them?"

"This is what you shall tell the Israelites," God answered. "I AM sent me to you. This is my name forever, this is my title for all generations. Tell them the Lord has decided to lead you up out of the misery of Egypt into a land flowing with milk and honey. Thus they will heed your message."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Exodus 3

Q&A

1. Why did Moses stop to inspect the bush?
2. What did God say his name was?

Bible Accent

The word "exodus" comes from the Latin form of the Greek word that means to leave or depart (we have a similar word: "exit"). The departure was by the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt. Because there were so many Israelites, the Egyptian Pharaoh was afraid they would try to take over his country, so he forced them to work as slaves.

But God was watching over his people. He chose Moses, who was raised by Pharaoh's own daughter, to lead the Israelites into a land of milk and honey. But Pharaoh did not give up his slaves easily. God sent 10 plagues on Egypt until Pharaoh told Moses to take his people and go. Even then, Pharaoh sent his army to follow and kill the Israelites. God parted the Red Sea and after his people had crossed safely, the waters closed up again and swallowed the Egyptian army. The Israelites wandered for 40 years until they reached the promised land of Canaan.

St. Colette

When St. Colette was 18, both of her parents died, so she lived after that under the care of an abbot. The small inheritance Colette received she shared with the poor people of her small town in France, and she lived in a hermitage that was next to the church. She cultivated such an austere and prayerful lifestyle, that she quickly gained a reputation as a holy person. She also had visions, one in which St. Francis appeared to her and told her to restore the order of St. Clare to its more severe origins.

Colette hesitated and was struck blind for three days, and dumb for three days after that. After this Colette sought an audience with the French Pope Benedict XIII. He appointed her as superior of all convents and authorized her to found or reform any convent she chose. At first she received resistance from the convents, but eventually she won their support. She reformed many convents and founded 17 new ones. We honor her on March 6.

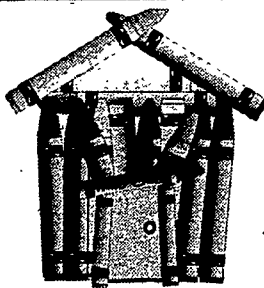
Puzzle

Answer the questions that start with the letters of Moses' name based on the Book of Exodus. The chapter number has been provided as a hint.

Answers on page 9

- M Moses hid in this place. [2] _____
- O This was used in the lamps. [27] _____
- S Moses' staff turned into this. [7] _____
- E The Israelites were slaves in this country. [1] _____
- S Moses climbed this mountain. [19] _____

Kids' Club



You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question: **What are some of the things that God was able to do because of the faith of Moses? Refer to the Book of Exodus for help.**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to *Catholic Courier*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline

for entries is March 15, 2001. 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 Tommy Simmons, a third-grader at Laurelton-Pardee Intermediate School, Irondequoit. In answer to, Solomon asked God to make him a wise king. What makes a king wise?he wrote, Solomon asked God to make him a wise king. I think a king is wise if he knows and does what is best for his people. An example is if a person came to him and said there is a wolf eating his livestock. Finding this a problem, he might fix it by putting up a fence around the person's farm. A wise king would know what is best for his people. This might be what God told Solomon.

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