

# Kids' Chronicle

## Princes try to punish Jeremiah

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jeremiah stood in front of all of the people and said, "Thus says the Lord: He who remains in this city shall die by sword or famine or pestilence; but he who goes out to the Chaldeans shall live. This city shall certainly be handed over to the army of the king of Babylon; he shall capture it."

In the crowd listening to Jeremiah were some of the princes, Shephatiah, Gedaliah and Pashnur. They were angry at what Jeremiah had said, and they immediately went back and spoke to Zedekiah, the king.

"This man ought to be put to death," they said. "He demoralizes the soldiers who are left in the city, and all the people, by speaking such things to them; he is not interested in the welfare of our people, but in their ruin."

The king thought for a moment before he answered the princes. He knew they would not change their opinion of Jeremiah, no matter what he said to them. So he said, "Jeremiah is in your power."

The princes nodded silently to the king and they left him. But when they



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

were outside they laughed and patted each other on the back. They had a wicked punishment prepared for Jeremiah. They sent soldiers to find him, tie him with strong ropes and bring him to the cistern of Prince Malchiah. This was in the quarters where the guards

lived, so there was no way Jeremiah would be able to escape.

There was no water in the cistern, but the mud at the bottom was thick and deep. The guards lowered Jeremiah into the cistern by using ropes. Jeremiah sank into the mud until he could hardly move. The walls were slippery, so he would not be able to climb out.

Ebed-melech, a courtier in the king's palace, heard what the princes had done to Jeremiah. He knew the king was at the Gate of Benjamin, so he left the palace and went to speak to the king. "My lord, king," he said, "these men have been at fault in all they have done to the prophet Jeremiah, casting him into the cistern. He will die of famine." The king gave Ebed permission to pull Jeremiah out of the cistern. Ebed took three soldiers with him to the cistern. The soldiers lowered ropes that Jeremiah put under his arms, and slowly they pulled Jeremiah out to safety.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Jeremiah 38

## Q&A

1. What did the princes do after they heard Jeremiah speak?
2. How did Jeremiah get out of the cistern?

### Bible Accent

Jeremiah, whose name means "the Lord raises up," was a priest from a family of priests. He was born almost 700 years before the birth of Christ. When Jeremiah received his call from God to be a prophet, the Lord told him, "before you were born, I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah protested that he was too young to do what God wanted him to. God told him not to be afraid. He would deliver Jeremiah from any difficulty and he would put his own words in Jeremiah's mouth to speak. Many of the prophecies of Jeremiah are written in the Bible as if they were poems. One of the important messages of the Book of Jeremiah is that God loves us. Even when Jeremiah was angry, afraid or unhappy, God watched over him.

### St. Clare

Very little information can be verified about the youth of St. Clare. When she was 18, she heard St. Francis preach in the nearby town of Assisi, Italy. She talked with him in private after his sermon. He encouraged her to follow Christ above everything else. On Palm Sunday in the year 1212, Clare again met St. Francis. He cut her hair, gave her his own penitential habit, and brought her to the Benedictine convent of St. Paul. Clare followed the example of St. Francis by taking a vow of poverty. She, and later her followers as well, never wore shoes or any other covering for their feet. She also spoke only when necessary. Clare eventually rose to the position of governess of the convent of San Damiano. The rule under her charge became known as the Poor Clares. We honor her on Aug. 11.

## Puzzle

The names of eight prophets are given for you to find: Ezekiel, Isaiah, Joel, Jonah, Amos, Micah, Obadiah, Nahum. There are nine names hidden in the puzzle. Can you find them all? Hint: each one has a book in the Old Testament named after him.

Answer on page 8

A	N	A	H	U	M	B	I
J	E	H	A	C	I	M	D
O	R	Z	D	P	E	Q	A
N	O	J	E	C	H	M	N
A	F	N	U	K	O	M	I
H	A	I	A	S	I	G	E
T	K	L	S	J	O	E	L
O	B	A	D	I	A	H	L

## German Fest

August 10-11-12

Friday 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm, Saturday 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm  
Sunday Noon - 9:00 pm

Three day festival with German food & beverages. Entertainment includes music dancing, soccer game, children's games, cultural booths & prizes.

Soccer Game  
SUNDAY  
German-American  
Sports Club  
vs.  
Irish American  
Kickers

- Entertainment is continuous
- Featuring musical guests direct from Germany: Die Alpenwind with special appearances of the Barramer Schalmeien Hufingen
- German-American history displays
- Kindergarten area with face painting & pony rides
- Mass on Sunday at 2 pm



Admission: \$5.00, Includes FREE parking - handicap parking available  
Children 11 & under FREE (when accompanied by an adult)

German Cultural Center Grounds  
Gates Memorial Park, 150 Spencerport Road (Route 31)



## 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 ways we can tell other people about God's love?**

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 Aug. 16, 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 essay winner was Rose Donohue, a fifth-grader at Livonia Intermediate School. In response to "What can we do to demonstrate kindness to others?" she wrote, "There are many ways we can demonstrate kindness to others. If you have to pick a partner in school, and you know a boy/girl who never gets picked you could pick that person. Also, maybe you know a lady who loves kids but never gets to see them, you could visit her and give her a bouquet of flowers. Another way is if you have a little brother or sister, after the Mass you could explain the 1st and 2nd readings to them. These are some of the many ways you could demonstrate kindness."

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