

# Kids' Chronicle

## God speaks to Habakkuk

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Habakkuk paced back and forth. Then he wiped sweat from his forehead. Finally he clasped his hands together and said, "How long, O Lord? I cry for help but you do not listen! Destruction and violence are before me." The birds were quiet. There were no sounds from the workers in the field. But Habakkuk thought he heard the wind call his name. Then there was a voice. It filled Habakkuk's ears.

"Look over the nations and see," it said. "Be utterly amazed!" Habakkuk knelt on the ground. He knew it was the voice of God, who had heard his prayer. The Lord spoke again. "A work is being done in your days that you would not have believed, were it told. For see, I am raising up Chaldea, that bitter and unruly people, that marches the breadth of the land to take dwellings not its own."

"Chaldea?" thought Habakkuk. He knew that the Chaldeans wanted to control all of Israel and the surrounding countries.

"Terrible and dreadful is Chaldea," the Lord continued. "His horsemen come from afar. Their combined onset is that of a stormwind that heaps up captives like sand. He scoffs at kings, he laughs at any fortress."

Habakkuk began to shiver with fright. He rubbed his fingers back through his hair. He must appeal to God not to deliver his wrath upon his people. "Are you not from eternity, O Lord,



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

my holy God, immortal? Too pure are your eyes to look upon evil, and the sight of misery you cannot endure."

Habakkuk hoped the Lord would answer him, but he did not hear the voice of God. He stood up and tried not to be afraid. Someone must warn and protect the people if Chaldea should attack. Perhaps Habakkuk had to be the person to do so.

"I will stand at my guard post," he said out loud. "And keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what answer he will give to my complaint."

And perhaps God was waiting for Habakkuk to take a stand of faith and

courage. Because he said, "Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets, so that one can read it readily. For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late."

**READ MORE ABOUT IT:**  
Habakkuk 1 and 2

## Q & A

1. Why was Habakkuk upset?
2. What did God tell Habakkuk to do?

## Puzzle

Circle "Old" if the book is from the Old Testament, and "New" if it is from the New Testament. Answers on page 17.

- |            |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Genesis | Old | New |
| 2. Matthew | Old | New |
| 3. Psalms  | Old | New |
| 4. Isaiah  | Old | New |
| 5. Acts    | Old | New |
| 6. Romans  | Old | New |
| 7. Malachi | Old | New |
| 8. Jude    | Old | New |

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## Bible Accent

People who lived in and around Israel during the times of the Old and New Testaments were not able to go to the grocery store for their food, and they did not have ingredients or nutritional information printed on their food packages. They didn't even have food packages. Yet the food they ate provided everything that a nutritionist of today would consider necessary for a healthy, balanced diet.

In Genesis, God declared that he had made plants and fruits for people to eat. A diet that includes fruits and vegetables provides fiber, vitamins, minerals and nutrients. Most families could not afford meat very often. An excessive amount of meat products, which contain saturated fat, can cause heart disease, as well as creating other health problems. The New Testament tells us that God wants us to be in good health.

## St. Vincent De Paul


Vincent De Paul grew up on a small farm with his three brothers and two sisters. Hoping to create an opportunity for his son to succeed, Vincent's father placed him in the care of the Franciscan Recollects. Vincent was able to study at the University of Toulouse and, in 1600, he was ordained a priest. He was 20 years old at the time.

When Vincent went to Paris he made friends with a priest who recommended that Vincent become the tutor of the children of the Count of Joigny. After hearing the confession of a man who was dying, Vincent was inspired to preach to the people of that man's community about repentance and the forgiveness of sins. The response was so positive that Vincent had to ask the Jesuits of Amiens to help him. Vincent later became a spiritual minister to King Louis XIII and Anne of Austria. He died in 1660 of poor health. He is the patron saint of charitable societies, and we remember him on Sept. 27.

## Bible Trivia


Which book of the Bible is a large collection of songs and prayers?

Send answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Please include your name, address and school name. All entries must be received by Oct. 4, 2001. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. There was no winner to the last trivia question, "What does one of the Ten Commandments tell us to do about the Sabbath day?" The answer: "Remember to keep it holy," from Exodus 20.



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