

# Kids' Chronicle

## Moses helps Joshua win a war

BY JOE SARNICOLA

After being led out of slavery in Egypt and traveling across the desert of Sin, the Israelites camped at Rephidim, according to the commandments of the Lord. There was not enough water at the campsite for everyone to drink. The people were angry and they complained to Moses. Moses brought their petition to the Lord. The Lord told Moses to strike a rock and enough water would flow from it to quench the thirst of every person. The place became known as Massah and Meribah, from the Hebrew words for testing and quarreling.

Then the camp was attacked by the Amalekites, a warring tribe from southern Palestine. First thirst, now attacking armies. Moses called for Joshua. "Pick out certain men," Moses said, "and tomorrow go out and engage Amalek in battle. I will be standing on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand."

The next morning, Joshua followed the orders Moses had given him. He rose early and chose his best soldiers. They gathered their weapons and followed Joshua to the spot Moses had told them about. When Joshua could see that Moses was at the top of the hill, he attacked the Amalekites.

As Moses watched, he kept his arms raised in the air. As long as he could hold his arms up, Joshua and his soldiers would win the battle. When Moses tired, and had to lower his arms to rest, the Amalekites drove back Joshua's army.

Aaron, Moses' brother, and Hur were with Moses. They saw what was happening. They knew that they had to find a solution so that Moses would be able to hold his arms up long enough for Joshua and his men to defeat the Amalekites.

Aaron and Hur found a large rock nearby. They dislodged it and rolled it over near Moses. Moses sat down on it. At least now he would not be tired from standing. But his arms were tired, and he could not hold them up any longer. And the Amalekites again pushed back Joshua and his men. Aaron grabbed one of his brother's arms and Hur grabbed the other. They lifted them up over Moses' head.

Aaron and Hur held Moses' arms until the sun went down. Joshua completely defeated the Amalekite army. And the



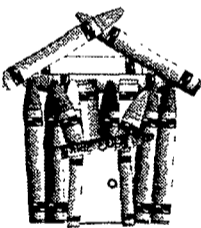
Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

Lord told Moses, "Write this down in a document as something to be remembered, and recite it in the ears of Joshua. I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under the heavens."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:  
Exodus 17

## Q&A

1. What trials did the Israelites face in Rephidim?
2. How was Moses able to hold his arms up all day?



## Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question: Which saint has been an inspiration to you or your family, and why?

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 Oct. 18, 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*.

The winner to the last essay question was **Chris Martin**, a fifth-grader at St. Michael School, Newark. In response to "How can we show God we are trustworthy with the blessings given us?" Chris wrote, "I can show God that I am trustworthy with His blessings by thanking Him everyday for his generosity. I can use God's gifts. God has given me the gift of a good school. I will study hard and try my best in classes in order to be faithful to God. I can help people who are in need. I will give part of my allowance to the Mission Can. I can be kind to everyone even if they aren't polite to me. I can be respectful to everyone. I will try my hardest to live my life, like Jesus did."

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## Bible Accent

One of the most important themes in the Bible is the story of Israel. Israel, which means "one who contends with God" is the name Jacob used after he had wrestled with an angel. Israel is also the name of the Jewish people God chose to lead out of slavery in Egypt to freedom in a promised land of "milk and honey."

The 12 tribes of Israel that developed later were named after the sons of Jacob. In the New Testament, the Gospels use the name Israel to mean the people of God. In his Letter to the Galatians, Paul suggests that the "Israel of God" includes all Christians. The Book of Revelation tells of the restoration of the 12 tribes of Israel. When Jesus was speaking to his Twelve Apostles, he told them they would sit on thrones and rule over the tribes of Israel. Let us rejoice that we have a place in the great nation of Israel, the people of God.

## St. Teresa of Lisieux

Teresa of Lisieux was born in 1873. Her father was a French watchmaker and her grandfather had been an officer in Napoleon's army. After Teresa's mother died in 1877, her father sold his business and moved so the family could live close to one of their mother's sisters. Teresa's older sisters, Mary and Pauline, helped raise the children and taught them their religious studies. When Teresa was 14, she wanted to join the Carmelite order, but the bishop said she was too young. A year later, the bishop gave his permission and Teresa joined the Carmelites. Eventually three of Teresa's sisters would also become Carmelites.

Teresa prayed every day, with a special emphasis on supporting the work of the priests. By the time she was 20, Teresa was an assistant to the order's mistress of novices. Teresa died at the age of 24 from complications of a blood disorder. She is the patroness of foreign missions. We honor her on Oct. 1.

## Puzzle

Moses and Aaron were brothers. Can you match these other sets of brothers from the Bible?  
Answers on page 12.

1. Cain — a. Andrew (*Matthew 4*)
2. Jacob — b. Esau (*Genesis 25*)
3. Judah — c. Abel (*Genesis 4*)
4. Peter — d. Simeon (*Judges 1*)
5. James — e. John (*Mark 1*)

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