

Kids' Chronicle

Moses delivers God's message

BY JOE SARNICOLA

After the Israelites had been traveling a long time, Moses gave them a message he had received from God. "Observe all of God's commandments, so that you may live and enter in and possess the land which the Lord promised." Moses paused to be sure everyone was listening. Then he continued speaking.

"For 40 years now the Lord, your God, has directed all your journeying in the desert, so as to test you by affliction and find out whether or not it was your intention to keep his commandments. He let you be afflicted with hunger and then fed you with manna, in order to show you not by bread alone does man live, but by every word of the Lord."

Moses folded his hands behind his back, and took a deep breath. He had both good news and strong warnings from the Lord. He had never been comfortable speaking in front of people, but God always gave him the words to speak and the courage to speak them — no matter what those words happened to be.

"You must realize the Lord disciplines you even as a man disciplines his son. Therefore, keep the commandments of the Lord by walking in his ways and fearing him. God is bringing you into a good country with springs and fountains, vines and fig trees, and where you will lack

nothing. But when you have eaten your fill you must bless the Lord for the good country he has given you."

There was some noise in the crowd when Moses made his last statement, because over the past 40 years of wandering, many things had happened.

The Israelites had been hungry many times. They had disobeyed God. And sometimes the people had forgotten to thank God for delivering them from Egypt, for sending manna so they could eat and for keeping them safe.

"Be careful not to forget the Lord by neglecting his commandments and decrees, lest you become haughty of heart and unmindful of the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, who guided you through the vast and terrible desert, and fed you in the desert. If you forget the Lord and follow other gods, serving them and worshipping them, you will perish utterly."

Then Moses said one more thing to his people. "Hear O Israel! You are now about to cross the Jordan to enter in and dispos-



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

sess nations greater and stronger than yourselves."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Deuteronomy 8-9

Q&A

1. How long had the Israelites been traveling?
2. Where was Moses leading the Israelites?

Bible Trivia

Moses obeyed God and led his people to the Promised Land. What qualities do you think a good leader should have?

Send answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Please include your name, address, school and grade. All entries must be received by May 30, 2002. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

The winner to the last trivia question was Elizabeth Dinella, a kindergartner at William C. Munn School in Spencerport. She completed the statement "During Mass, lectors read from the Old and New Testaments, and a priest or deacon will read from one of the four Gospels."

Bible Accent

The Book of Deuteronomy is the last of the five books of law called the Pentateuch. It was written after the death of Moses, but the text was put together as if it was a letter from Moses to the people of Israel. The book takes its name from two Greek words that mean "second law." It is not so much a new, second law, but rather a restating of the laws already established. A main focus of Deuteronomy is to remind the Israelites that God watches over them, and he expects them to obey his commandments. Like a loving father, God promises to reward the people who do what he asks them to, but he will punish those who don't. The most important promise he gave them was that they would possess a country of their own, the Promised Land. One of the most beautiful commandments written in the Bible can be found in Chapter 6: "You shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might."

St. Isidore

Isidore the Farmer was born into a poor Spanish family in the 17th century. While still a young boy, he became a laborer on the farm of a rich man in Madrid. After Isidore married, he and his wife promised to dedicate their lives to serving the Lord. Isidore would rise early to go to church, he would pray while he was working and he shared whatever he had with people who were in need. He also cared deeply for animals. One legend that is told about Isidore says that when he saw a small flock of birds looking for food on a cold day, he gave them half the contents of the bag of corn he was carrying. When Isidore sealed the bag back up, it was still full. After his death, many people claimed that the intercession of Isidore produced a number of miracles. King Alphonsus of Castile believed that Isidore appeared to him and showed him a route to use to defeat the attacking Moors. Isidore is the patron saint of Madrid. We honor him on May 15.

Puzzle

Moses delivered the Ten Commandments to the Israelites. Using Exodus 20 as a guide, number the commandments in their proper order. Answers on page 12.

1. ____ Do not bear false witness against your neighbor.
2. ____ Honor your mother and father.
3. ____ Do not covet your neighbor's wife.
4. ____ Do not take the name of the Lord in vain.
5. ____ Do not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.
6. ____ Keep the Sabbath day holy.
7. ____ Do not steal.
8. ____ Do not commit adultery.
9. ____ Have no other gods before me.
10. ____ Do not kill.

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