

God promises to save his sheep

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

I am Ezekiel. My name means "one who is strengthened by God." God has been good to me. I remember when he said to me, "I have appointed you watchman for the house of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, you shall warn them for me." I have tried to do whatever God asks. He has given me many messages for his people. Sometimes they do not listen. Once I had to give a message to Israel for the shepherds, but I think God was really talking to all of us.

"Shepherds, hear the word of God," he told me to say. "My sheep have been given over to pillage, and have become food for every wild beast for lack of a shepherd. Because my shepherds did not look after my sheep, I will claim my sheep from them and put a stop to their shepherding my sheep. I will save my sheep."

God has told me many times how much he loves us and will always take care of us. I hope the people of Israel have heard that message. God has been very patient, even when we have disappointed him.

God said, "As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my



Linda Jeanne Rivers/Catholic Courier

sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. In good pastures I will pasture them, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing ground."

I wanted to rejoice but God was not through talking to me. He said he was concerned about our health and our safety.

"I will pasture my sheep. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, shepherding them rightly. I will save my sheep so that they may no longer be despoiled, and I will judge between one sheep and another. I will make a covenant of peace with them, and rid the country of ravenous beasts that they may dwell securely in the desert and sleep in the forests."

I hope the people of Israel will listen to this message from God.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Ezekiel 34

Q&A

1. What did God want Ezekiel to be for Israel?
2. What were some of the things God wanted to do for his sheep?

Puzzle

Match the kings with the statements they might have made. Bible references have been given as hints. *Answers on page 13.*

a. Nebuchadnezzar b. Herod c. Hezekiah
d. Solomon e. David f. Cyrus g. Saul

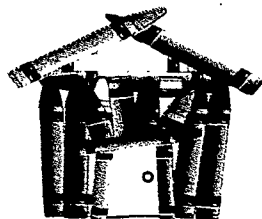
1. I was the first king of Israel. (1 Samuel 10) _____
2. I fought a giant when I was a boy. (1 Samuel 17) _____
3. I asked God for an understanding heart. (1 Kings 3) _____
4. Isaiah said God would heal me. (2 Kings 20) _____
5. I built a house for God in Jerusalem. (Ezra 1) _____
6. I threw Daniel into a furnace. (Daniel 3) _____
7. I was king when Jesus was born. (Matthew 2) _____

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Last month's winner was Mary Hallahan, a sixth-grader at Honeoye Falls-Lima Middle School. In response to **If you had to write a prayer for peace ... , what would you say?** she wrote, "Dear God, I would like to live in a world where there is no hunger, where money isn't wasted on weapons but for helping poor and hurt people, where there are no wars, where people wouldn't lose family members, where differences of opinion and the way people lived wouldn't matter. Please change the hearts of the people in the world to be more peaceful and kind. Amen."

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Kids' Chronicle

Bible Accent

Jesus told us the greatest commandment is to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. God wants us to respect each other because he made every one of us. We should pray that everyone has a safe place to live, enough to eat and that they remain in good health. We can help by donating to food pantries or by visiting or sending cards to people who are sick or lonely. When we meet or learn about people of other cultures or races, we should strive to recognize how we are similar in order to build bonds of friendship and cooperation. We please God when we share what we have with those who are not as fortunate as we are. And if there are people who have hurt us, God wants us to be forgiving, just as he has forgiven us.

St. Philippine

Rose Philippine Duchesne, born into a wealthy family in Grenoble, France, in the late 18th century, received an excellent education. When she was 17, she joined the Visitation Order at Sainte-Marie-d'en-Haut. Because of antagonism in France toward religious leaders, she and other nuns were forced out of their convent. She continued helping the sick and those in prison due to the religious persecution.

Eventually, conditions improved. Philippine joined the Society of the Sacred Heart. She became superior of a small group of nuns sent on a missionary journey to the American city of St. Louis, and started the first free school west of the Mississippi River in St. Charles, Mo. She later contracted yellow fever and was unable to work. She died in 1852. We honor her on Nov. 17.

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