

# God answers Moses in the desert

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

The Israelites had endured many hardships since the Lord delivered them out of the slavery of Egypt. They complained frequently to Moses. After they had been wandering for more than a month, they entered a desert between the mountains of Elim and Sinai. The name of the desert was Sin. Under blazing heat with no shade, with parched throats, empty stomachs, sunburned skin and blistered feet, the Israelites complained to Moses and Aaron with the last of the energy they could pull from within themselves.

"Would that we had died at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, as we sat by our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread! But you had to lead us into this desert to make the whole community die of famine."

Moses was very upset. He could understand the resentment his people were feeling, but he did not want them to be angry with God. God, may in turn, become angry with them because of their ungratefulness. God had set them free, but they thought their slavery was better than what they were experiencing now. So Moses did what he always

did when he was troubled. He found a place where he could be alone and he prayed.

God heard the prayer of Moses and answered it. "I will now rain down bread from heaven for you. Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion."

Moses was delighted at God's response, but God was not through talking to Moses. "I will test my people, whether they follow my instructions or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, let it be twice as much as they gather on other days."

Moses went back in front of the Israelites and said, "At evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt; and in the morning you will see the



Linda Jeanne Rivers/Catholic Courier

glory of the Lord."

Then Aaron announced, "Present yourselves before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling!" The people looked out into the vastness of the desert and the glory of the Lord appeared to them in a cloud. "In the evening you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread, so that you will know that the Lord is your God."

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## Q&A

1. Why were the Israelites unhappy?
2. How did God take care of the Israelites?

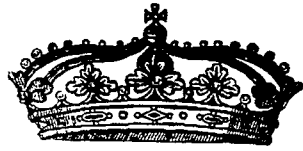
## Puzzle

Rearrange the following books of the Old Testament so they are listed in the order in which they appear in the Bible. *Answers on page 14.*

1&2 Samuel, Leviticus, Ruth, Deuteronomy, 1&2 Kings, Genesis, Joshua, Exodus, Numbers, Judges

## Bible Trivia

What was the title of the leader of Egypt when the Israelites escaped? Send answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, PO Box 2477, Rochester, NY 14624. Include your name, address, phone number, school and grade. All entries must be received by July 31. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. There were no correct responses received to the last trivia question: How many books of the New Testament do not contain the names of people or places in their titles? What are they?



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