

KING DAVID



As we have already learned, Moses succeeded in getting the Israelites out of Egypt and led them through the desert for forty years. After his death and with the help of God, the Israelites lived in their ancestral land, Canaan, which God had promised to Abraham and his descendants.

In the beginning, the Israelites did not have a king; the people were governed by men, called “Judges”, who were appointed by God. Later, however, the people decided to have their own king who would rule them and protect the country from all enemies. God heard their plea and chose a man named Saul to become their king.

God commanded Prophet Samuel to anoint Saul’s head with the holy oil and appoint him as king of Israel. Samuel fulfilled God’s command and Saul became the first king of Israel.

At first, Saul seemed a worthy choice. He often acted according to God’s will while God rewarded him with numerous victories. Later, however, Saul drifted away from God and began to act wickedly. So God abandoned Saul and decided to anoint as king a young man named David, who was very kind, caring and humble.

And one day, David came to the palace and began to play the harp and sing a beautiful song. Saul was very pleased and decided to keep young David in the palace. At first, Saul treated David very graciously; after a while, however, he turned vicious. And when David defeated the giant Goliath, king Saul became so jealous and corrupt that he decided to kill David. That is when David felt compelled to stay away from the royal palace and lived in faraway places. He often received help from Saul’s son, Jonathan, who was David’s best friend and who often warned David every time his father planned to harm David. After some time, both king Saul and Jonathan were killed in a battle. Following their death, David became the new king of Israel.

King David was very much liked by his people. Whenever his people were in trouble, he always helped them in every way he could. And whenever the country was attacked, he always defended Israel bravely, defeating the enemies with the help of God.

David named Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, where he transported, ceremoniously, the tabernacle that Moses and the Israelites had built for God.

King David was also well-known for the Psalms he wrote, which are poems and spiritual songs dedicated to God.

He recited Psalms when he felt the need of God's forgiveness or when he wanted to express his gratitude for all the gifts that God gave him. David has also written Psalms about children, where he says: "Children are God's legacy."

David's Psalms are found in the Holy Bible. We should all read the Psalms in order to easily communicate with God through beautiful prayers.

David reigned for forty years. During his reign, the state of Israel became powerful and could defeat all its enemies. David knew that God was the only reason he came out victorious; thus, he often tried to live a God-pleasing life. And when he committed a sin, he would immediately repent and wholeheartedly ask for God's forgiveness.

Just like King David, we too, should realize that this life is God's most generous gift to us and to our friends. Therefore, we should always be thankful to God for all the gifts He has bestowed on us and ask Him to keep us from all troubles.

QUESTIONS AND PROPOSALS

- 1) Who was Saul and what happened to him?
- 2) Why did God choose David to replace Saul?
- 3) What kind of a King did David turn out to be?
- 4) Where was the Tabernacle transported to?
- 5) What are the poems written by King David called?
- 6) What lesson can we draw from King David?

TO LEARN BY HEART

"To You, O Lord I lift up my soul
O My God, in you I trust
Let me not be put to shame
Let not my enemies exult over me"