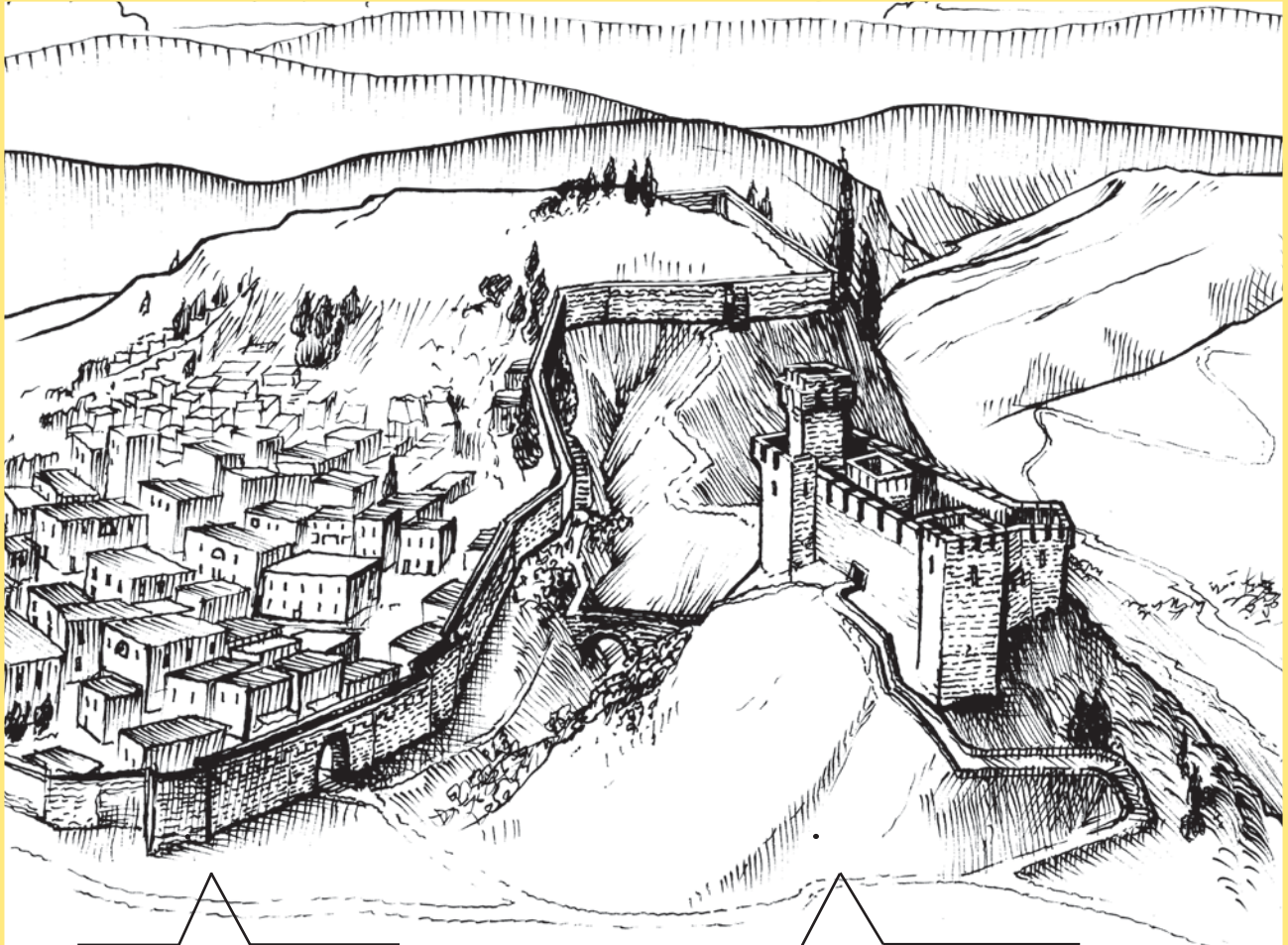


THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD®

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



JERUSALEM

CITY OF DAVID

A Man After God's Own Heart



LEVEL 5 LESSON 4

A Man After God's Own Heart

In Lesson 3, we learned about David's steadfast faith in God. He suffered and endured many trials, especially at the hand of King Saul. Yet, David depended on God to deliver him out of them all.

We also learned about David's special friendship with the king's son, Jonathan. Both David and Jonathan set their hearts to obey God and they loved each other like brothers. But sadly, David lost his best friend to a violent death.

True Brotherly Love

After David returned from a battle with the Amalekites, a man from Saul's camp brought news of the death of Saul and Jonathan. Ironically, he was an Amalekite. David asked him how he knew that Saul and Jonathan were dead. The man lied, describing how Saul had stabbed himself, but didn't die. When King Saul saw the man, he asked him to kill him, and the Amalekite complied.

David immediately had the man put to death for killing God's anointed. Then, he and the men with him tore their clothes (a sign of great mourning), cried bitterly, and fasted until evening.

David was an extraordinary man. King Saul had tried to kill him on numerous

occasions. He was chased, forced to hide in caves, and even forced to leave his homeland. Yet, when David heard of the death of Saul, he did not celebrate. He mourned. He cried over Saul as well as Jonathan. He was even moved to dedicate a song to them. It is as if David, even after all that the king had done to him, did not consider Saul an enemy.

How many people do you know who would react that way to their enemy's death?

How about you? How would you react if you heard about the misfortune of someone who hated you? Would you laugh and celebrate? Turn to Ezekiel 25:6-7 and fill in the blanks to see how God views such actions: "For thus says the Lord GOD: 'Because you _____ your hands, _____, and _____ with all your disdain for the land of Israel, indeed, therefore, I will stretch out My hand against you, and give you as plunder to the nations; I will _____ from the peoples, and I will cause you to perish from the countries; I will _____ you, and you shall know that I am the LORD.'"

God is going to destroy an entire people because they are going to laugh and cele-

brate when Israel is punished. Therefore, it is very important to remain humble when bad things happen to other people. Notice Proverbs 24:17-18: “Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, and He turn away His wrath from him.”

David Becomes King of Judah, Then Israel

After the death of Saul, David asked the Eternal what he should do. God told him to go to Hebron. When he got there, the people of Judah anointed him to be king of Judah. However, Israel did not. Abner, the captain of Saul’s army, proclaimed Saul’s son Ishbosheth the new king of Israel. But, David did not push the issue. He trusted in the Eternal and waited for Him to deliver the rule of Israel into his hand.

One day, two of Ishbosheth’s captains slipped into his palace and killed him. Then they traveled all night to Hebron, where King David was. When they arrived, they told David that they had killed Ishbosheth and that the Eternal had avenged him of Saul’s house that day. These two thought that they had done a good deed.

However, David said to them, “...when someone told me, saying, “Look, Saul is dead,” thinking to have brought good news, I arrested him and had him executed in Ziklag—the one who thought I would give him a reward for his news. How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous person in his own house on his bed? Therefore, shall I not now require his blood

at your hand and remove you from the earth?” So David commanded his young men, and they executed them...” (II Samuel 4:10-12).

Though David wanted to be king of all Israel, he did not desire to have Saul’s son killed. Many people in this position would have rewarded these men for their evil deed. But David saw them for the murderers they were—and punished them accordingly. He then honored Ishbosheth by having him buried.

Ishbosheth’s death left Israel without a king. So the elders of Israel came to Hebron and anointed David as king. His first action was to conquer the city of Jerusalem. So, after having ruled Judah for seven years and six months, David was established by God as king over all Israel.

God’s Covenant with David

When the Philistines learned that David had been made king of Israel, they immediately tested him by raiding towns in Ephraim. Before retaliating, David asked the Eternal what he should do. God told him to attack the Philistines and that He would deliver them into his hands. David obeyed, and Israel defeated the Philistines.

The Philistines kept on attacking. But each and every time, David asked the Eternal what to do, and God told him. David obeyed, and God continued to deliver the Philistines into Israel’s hand.

David acknowledged something that Saul would not. David knew that without God, he was nothing. He understood that God had to direct his steps. Notice what Jeremiah said:



Him, and He shall
_____.”

Having defeated the Philistines, David thought that it was time to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem. He gathered some of his men and headed for the house of Abinadab, in Gibeah, where the ark of God rested. The whole nation of Israel, along with David, was singing, dancing and rejoicing before the Eternal. At one point, the cart that was carrying the ark was about to tip over. A man named Uzza, one of Abinadab’s sons,

“O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (10:23). This is something that David understood well. He did nothing without first seeking God’s counsel.

You should strive to do the same. You should ask God to direct every aspect of your life. God is very concerned about you. You can ask Him to help you with your school work. Ask Him to help you understand His Word. If you ask Him, He will happily direct you. Turn to Proverbs 3:5-6 and fill in the blanks: “Trust in the LORD with _____, and _____ on your own understanding; in _____ acknowledge

reached out and touched the ark in order to keep it from falling. God was angry with Uzza and instantly struck him. Uzza died on the spot.

The ark of God was not supposed to be carried in a cart. The priests were supposed to transport it. However, because Israel did not pay attention to God’s detailed instructions, a man died.

After this incident, David was afraid to bring the ark to Jerusalem, because he did not want to die like Uzza. However, after some time, he did bring the ark to Jerusalem. And he had it carried according to the instructions that God had laid out centuries earlier.

Upon entering Jerusalem with the ark of God, David was singing and dancing in front of all the people. But his wife Michal, Saul's daughter, thought that David was not behaving like a great king. From her quarters, she looked down upon David with great disgust. She later told David that she thought he looked foolish dancing in front of the people. But David told her that he did not care. He was going to show the Eternal his appreciation through song and dance regardless of what she, or anyone else, thought.

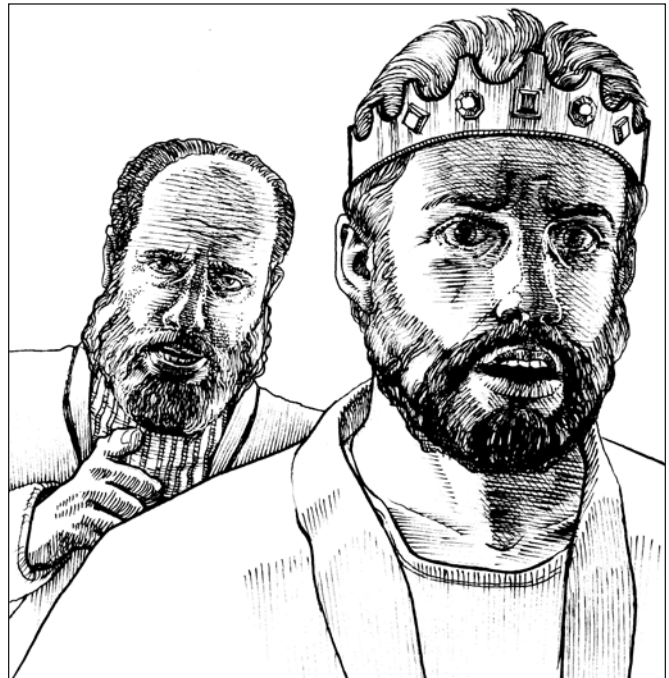
The Bible reveals that Michal never bore any children for David. Possibly, God had punished her for being proud and disrespectful toward His anointed leader. If so, this punishment prevented her from providing a successor to David's throne from the family of Saul (II Samuel 6:1-23).

Afterwards, the Eternal gave Israel rest from all of their enemies. David was very thankful and wanted to show his appreciation. He told the prophet Nathan that he wanted to build a temple for the ark of God. Nathan told David to do what was in his heart since God was with him.

However, that night, God commanded Nathan to give David a message concerning his plans. Because David had killed many men in battle, he was not permitted to build God's temple. Yet, God *did* make a covenant with David. Notice what God said concerning David: "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for-

ever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever" (II Samuel 7:12-16).

David was very happy and grateful that God was going to establish his throne forever. Turn to II Samuel 7:18-22 to see how David expressed his heartfelt gratitude: "Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: 'Who am I, O Lord GOD? And _____, that You have brought me this far? And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord GOD; and _____ of Your servant's house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD? Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your ser-



vant. For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, _____ all these great things, to make Your servant know them. Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD. For there is _____ like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.'"

Once again, we see that David acknowledged that he was nothing and that God is everything. He knew that it was the Eternal who established his kingdom. Unlike Saul, David loved his Creator with all of his being and set his heart to obey Him.

Test Your Memory:

1) How did David react when he found out that Saul had been killed? _____

2) Is it okay to celebrate when others have misfortune? _____

Explain: _____

3) Who did God say would build His temple? _____

David Remembers His Covenant with Jonathan

With his kingdom firmly established, and having been assured by God that his family would always sit on the throne, David remembered the covenant that he had with his friend Jonathan (I Samuel 20:14-16, 42). He inquired about any who were left of

Saul's family and was told about Ziba, one of Saul's chief servants. David called for him to appear before the throne.

When Ziba arrived, David asked him if there were any left from Saul's family. Ziba told him about Jonathan's son Mephibosheth. He had been in hiding for fear that if discovered, David would have him killed.

David sent for him. When Mephibosheth was brought before the king, he feared for his life.

But, David assured him that he meant him no harm. Notice: "So David said to him, 'Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore

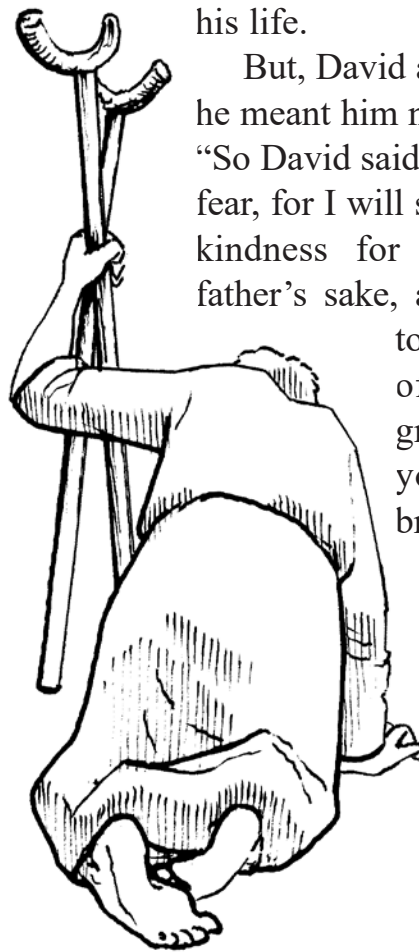
to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually'"

(II Samuel 9:7).

As king, David could have kept the land for himself. Instead, he chose to keep his word

to Jonathan. That is extraordinary. Though Jonathan was dead, David decided to keep his vow to him. Only a man of great character would do such a thing.

How about you? Would you have remembered to keep a promise like that



after so many years? David showed that his word could be counted on. You should strive to do the same. There was an old saying, “A man is only as good as his word.” Is your word any good? Can people count on you to do what you say you are going to do?

Strive to keep your word. By keeping your promise, you will make a good name for yourself. Notice what God’s Word says: “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold” (Proverbs 22:1).

Wandering Eyes Lead to Sin

One evening, after rising from a nap, David walked on the roof of his palace. As he took in the view, he noticed a beautiful young woman bathing herself. Instead of gazing at the woman, David should have immediately turned away. But he didn’t. He allowed his mind to entertain lustful thoughts, which led to acting on them.

David asked one of his servants to find out who she was. The servant told the king that she was Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite. David sent messengers to bring Bathsheba back to his palace. Then he and Bathsheba broke the Seventh Commandment: “You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14). Afterwards, she went back to her home.

Some time later, Bathsheba sent a message to David telling him that she was with child, and that the unborn child was his. When the king found out about this, he knew that his sin would be known throughout Israel. David should have repented for

breaking God’s Law. Instead, he set out to cover up his sin.

David sent a message to Joab, commanding him to send Uriah home. Once Uriah arrived, David asked him about how the war was going. After Uriah answered David’s question, the king told him to go home to his wife. David’s plan was to deceive Uriah into thinking that the baby Bathsheba was carrying was his.

However, Uriah would not go home. When the king asked why, Uriah said, “How can I go home to my wife and sleep in a warm, comfortable bed while my fellow soldiers are camping out in tents? I could not do such a thing.”

Yet, David was determined to get Uriah to go home one way or another. He even got Uriah to drink so much that he got drunk. Then David tried to send Uriah home, but he still would not go.

David must have reasoned within himself, “I cannot get Uriah to go home to be with his wife. So the only other way to cover up this offense is to have Uriah killed.” Therefore, the king sent a letter to Joab (by the hand of Uriah) telling him to put Uriah in the area where the most intense fighting would be taking place so that he would die.

Joab did as he was commanded, and Uriah was killed. Joab sent word back to David. When Bathsheba was told that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After her mourning period was over, David married her.

God was not happy with what David did. He sent Nathan the prophet to tell David what he had done. First, Nathan told David a

story. Notice: “There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him” (II Samuel 12:1-4).

When David heard this, he was very angry. He wanted to know who the man was so that he could put him to death. However, he was not ready for the answer. Unknowingly, David had condemned himself!

Nathan told David that he was that man. Notice what God said to David in II Samuel 12:7-12: “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and _____ from the hand of Saul. I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives...and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! Why have you _____ of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have _____ Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have _____ to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house,

because _____, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife...Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor...For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.’”

David knew that he had sinned against God, and when he repented God forgave him. However, because of the evil that David had done, the child that he had with Bathsheba was going to die. David fasted and prayed for God to change His mind, but the child died. Afterwards, God blessed David and Bathsheba with another son, Solomon.

This is an example that even the greatest of God’s servants can slip and fall if they let their guard down. Satan is always waiting and ready to pounce on you when he gets the chance (I Peter 5:8). David broke three of God’s Ten Commandments (the sixth, seventh and the tenth), which resulted in the death of two people—Uriah and the baby. But in reality, he broke *all* of God’s commandments (James 2:8-11).

All of this could have been avoided had David not entertained lustful thoughts. Sin begins in the mind. If you entertain sinful thoughts, eventually, you will act on them. Christ warns of this in Matthew 5:27-28: “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Therefore, it is very important to keep sinful thoughts out of your mind. When

they do enter, put them out immediately! Guard your mind at all costs. Notice Proverbs 4:23-27: “Keep _____ with all diligence, for out of it spring _____.”

“Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you. Let your eyes _____, and your eyelids look _____.”

“Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil.”

Test Your Memory:

1) Why was David so kind to Mephibosheth?

2) Who was Uriah the Hittite? _____

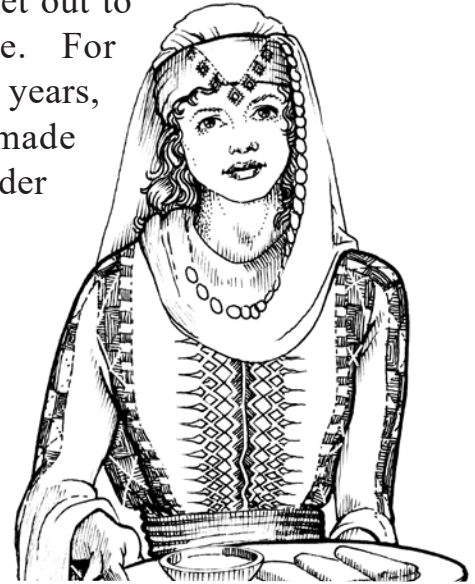
3) Which commandments did David break?

Trouble in David's Household

One day, Amnon, David's firstborn son, terribly hurt his half-sister Tamar. When King David heard about what had happened, he was very upset. However, he did not punish Amnon.

But Absalom, Tamar's full brother, hated Amnon for what he had done to

Tamar and set out to get revenge. For two whole years, Absalom made plans to murder Amnon. He came up with a plan to host a party and kill his brother there—a plan that he perfectly executed.



After the murder, Absalom escaped to the kingdom of Geshur, where he stayed for three years with his grandfather, King Talmai. Having overcome his grief over the death of his son Amnon, David longed to reconcile with Absalom.

David eventually forgave Absalom for killing his brother and allowed him to come back to Jerusalem. Absalom was excited to finally reconcile with his father—but was hurt when he learned that David had given orders for him to be kept from the king's presence. David didn't want to send the message that the king's family was above the law. However, after two years had passed, David allowed Absalom to visit him.

As the years went by, Absalom developed a lust for power. He routinely rode around in his royal chariot pulled by a team of horses, and had fifty men run before him. The people of Jerusalem quickly took notice of Absalom's impressive display of royalty, power and influence.



He even beguiled the people by making them think that he would be a better king than his father David.

One day, he asked his father's permission to go to Hebron. Once there, Absalom sent a message to Ahithophel, David's advisor, to join him. He also sent spies throughout all the northern tribes of Israel, who told everyone to shout, "Absalom now rules as king in Hebron" once they heard the sound of the trumpets.

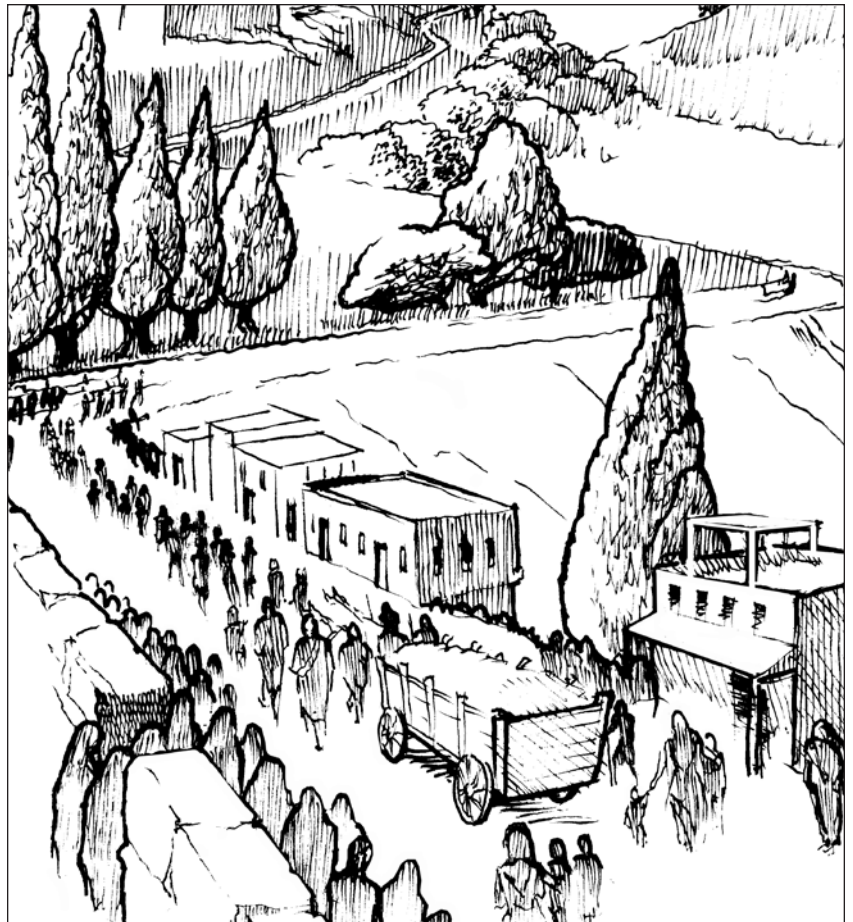
When David heard the news of what Absalom had done, he and his servants quickly fled Jerusalem. He knew that Absalom would soon attack the city in order to seize the throne. The king wanted to preserve Jerusalem, which he feared would suffer much destruction if he decided to fend off Absalom's invading army.

When Absalom got to Jerusalem, he took over the

king's palace. Ahithophel advised Absalom to go and take his father's concubines as his own in the sight of the people, which would solidify his position as Israel's new king.

The words of the Eternal were coming to pass. Remember, God told David that He was going to punish him for what he did with Bathsheba. God always does what He says He is going to do. Notice Isaiah 55:11: "So shall My word be that goes forth _____; it shall not return to Me void, but it _____ what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

David escaped so that he could fight at another time. He had his servant Hushai go



to Jerusalem and act as a spy. Hushai became one of Absalom's advisors. On the advice of Hushai, Absalom decided to strengthen his army before attacking his father. This gave David the time that he needed to build up his forces.

Absalom decided to mount an attack. With his cousin Amasa in charge of his army, Absalom and his soldiers crossed the Jordan River in pursuit of the king.

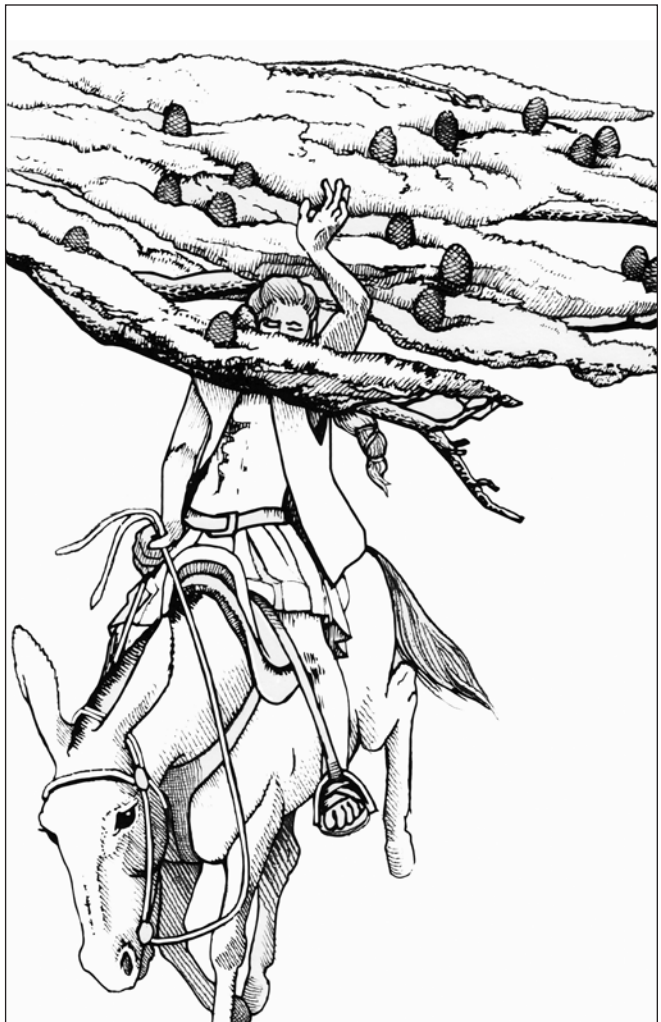
David sent his men to fight. But before they left, the king turned to his three commanders, Joab, Abishai and Ittai, and said loud enough for everyone to hear, "Make sure that you deal gently with Absalom, for my sake. I want my son to be taken alive."

Some of the men, especially Joab, did not understand why David would want Absalom unharmed. Despite all the grief, trouble and shame that Absalom had caused David, the king still loved his son. He wanted so much to reconcile with him.

David's men crushed Absalom's army, and had them on the run. Even the young prince himself ran for his life. But his mad race to escape capture came to a sudden end—Absalom found himself hanging in midair, his head and long hair caught in the branches of a tree.

One of David's soldiers discovered Absalom hanging in the tree, struggling to get free. The man rushed to tell Joab, who replied, "You just saw him! And why did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have given you ten shekels of silver and a belt" (II Samuel 18:11).

So Joab went back and found Absalom. Then, against the king's orders, he killed Absalom. David was greatly distressed



over the death of his son, but he was very grateful that God was with him and had restored him to the throne.

In Lesson 5, we will learn about how David's son Solomon will rule a unified Israel.

Test Your Memory:

1) Who was Absalom's sister? _____

2) Which one of David's advisors betrayed him? _____

3) Did God keep His promise to punish David for his sin with Bathsheba? _____

BIBLE MEMORY: II Samuel 6:14-15, 20-21

PRAISE FOR GOD’S DELIVERANCE

David was very thankful for the protection, mercy and all of the many blessings that the Eternal bestowed upon him. Below, read a part of David's song of thanksgiving to God in II Samuel 22:32-51 and fill in the blanks.

“For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a _____, except our God? God is my _____ and _____, and He makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on my high places. He teaches my hands to make war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your gentleness has made me great. You enlarged my path under me; so my feet did not slip. I have _____ my enemies and _____ them; neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed. And I have destroyed them and wounded them, so that they _____; they have fallen under my feet. For You have armed me with _____ for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose against me. You have also given me the necks of my enemies, so that I destroyed those who hated me. They looked, but there was none to save; even to the LORD, but He did not answer them. Then I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth; I trod them like dirt in the streets, and I spread them out. You have also _____ from the strivings of my people; You have kept me as the head of the nations. A people I have not known shall serve me. The foreigners submit to me; as soon as they hear, they obey me. The foreigners fade away, and come frightened from their hideouts. The LORD lives! Blessed be my _____! Let God be exalted, the Rock of my salvation! It is _____ who _____ me, and _____ the peoples under me; He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man. Therefore I will _____ to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name. He is the _____ of salvation to His king, and shows _____ to His anointed, to David and his descendants forevermore.”