

Kids' Chronicle

Bible Accent

The books of Samuel in the Old Testament are really collections of stories from different sources. The three main characters in these stories are Samuel, the prophet; Saul, the first king of Israel; and David, who became king after Saul.

Among the stories in these books are David battling Goliath, Saul trying to kill David, David's friendship with Jonathan, David becoming king and David bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.

The books also include the promise that David's dynasty would last forever and that a great king would rise from it. Christians understand this prophesy to refer to Jesus, who is of the line of David.

St. Scholastica

Born in 480, St. Scholastica was the twin sister of St. Benedict. From the time she was a young girl, she knew her life would be spent serving God. She became the abbess of a convent near the monastery of Monte Cassino, where her brother lived.

Because St. Benedict was also in charge of the convent where his sister was the abbess, St. Scholastica is considered the first Benedictine nun. She only saw her brother once or twice a year. Since women were not allowed in the monastery, St. Scholastica would meet her brother in the house of a neighbor.

After the death of St. Scholastica, legend says that St. Benedict saw her spirit ascend into heaven as a dove. She is the patron saint of Benedictine nuns. We honor her on Feb. 10.

David shows mercy to King Saul

BY JOE SARNICOLA

King Saul was angry at David and wanted to kill him. When his spies reported that David was camped on Mount Hachilah, Saul assembled an army of 3,000 of his best soldiers and set out after David.

David had spies of his own who told him that Saul was after him. David called some of his officers together and asked, "Who will come with me to Saul's camp?"

Abishai replied, "I will, sir."

Later that night, under the cover of darkness, David and Abishai sneaked into Saul's camp and found him sleeping in his tent. His spear was stuck into the ground next to him.

Abishai whispered into David's ear, "God has given your enemy into your hands. Let me pin him to the ground with his own spear and victory will be yours."

"No," David ordered. "He is still the anointed king of Israel. God will take vengeance on anyone who brings harm to him. Whether he lives or dies is up to God only. We will take his spear and his water jug and we will leave."

Abishai looked at David with wonder, but obeyed. The two men grabbed the spear and water jug and left as silently as they had come. No one heard or saw anything because God had put Saul and his entire army into a deep sleep.

When David and Abishai were safely out of the camp on top of a hill across the valley, David cupped his hands around his mouth and shouted to Saul's chief officer.

"Abner!"
"Who is there?" Abner called back.
"Who dares to make such noise in the middle of the night?"

David laughed.
"Why just this night," he said, "someone could have killed the king while he slept. You have failed to protect him."

"What is this you charge?" Abner demanded.

"See for yourself," David replied.
"Where is the king's spear? Where is his

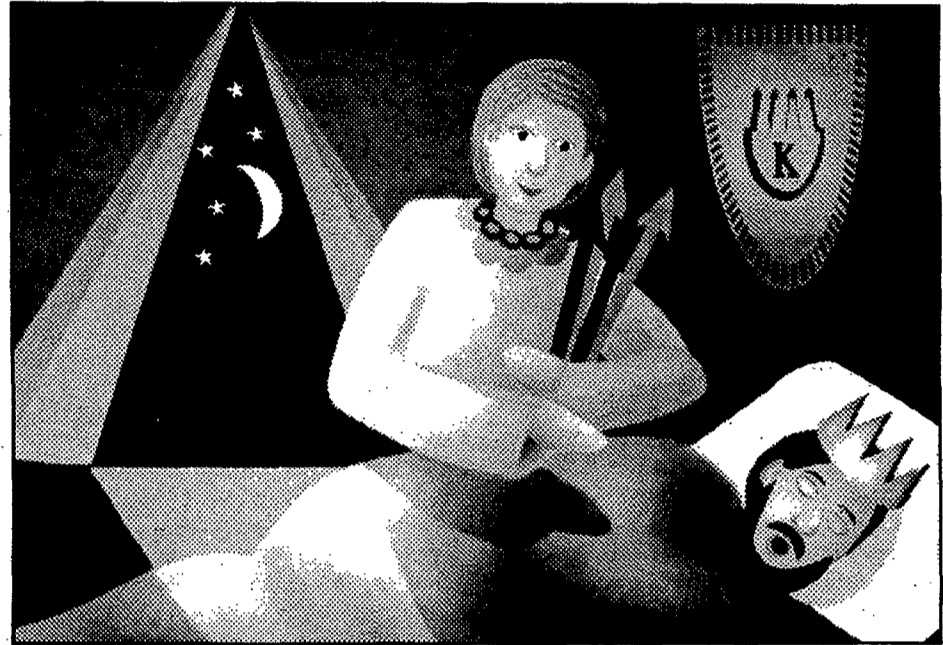


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

water jug?"

David held up the spear while Abishai held up the jug of water.

King Saul came out of his tent to find out what was going on.

"David. Is that you?" he asked.

"Yes, your majesty. Why do you hunt me? Why are you trying to kill me? I have done you no harm or committed no crime. Do not let me die in foreign soil where false gods are worshiped."

Saul wiped tears from his eyes and called back to David, "I have been a fool, my son. You had the opportunity to kill me but did not. Neither will I try to kill you."

"Send one of your men to retrieve your spear and your water jug," David said.

"God bless you in all you do," Saul declared.

And both men parted in peace to their homes.

Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
I Samuel 26

1. What did Saul want to do to David?
2. What did David do when Saul was sleeping?

Puzzle

The Bible contains many books written by many writers. Using the clues, can you identify some of these writers? (The answers are on Page 5.)

1. Who said "My tongue is ready with a poem?" (Psalm 45:1)
2. Who was told, "Write down what you see?" (Revelation 1:11)
3. Who composed 3,000 proverbs? (1 Kings 4:32)
4. Who wrote about the duties of a king? (1 Samuel 10:25)
5. Who wrote to the Romans and other Christians? (Romans 1:1)

Essay

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question:

Why was David such an important Biblical figure?

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester,

N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is Feb. 19, 1998. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of Kids' Chronicle.

Last month's winner was Ashley Weiss, a sixth-grade student at Mother of Sorrows School, Greece. In response to the question Why do you think this first miracle (changing water to wine) performed by Jesus was so important? she wrote:

I think that this first miracle performed by Jesus was so important because he did not want the bride and groom to be embarrassed that they ran out of wine. In the Eucharist, the wine is changed to the blood of Christ, almost like Jesus did when he changed the water into wine at the wedding. Jesus saved the party. Today he saves us through the Eucharist.

This miracle was so important also because it showed that Jesus obeyed his mother. The bride and groom were very fortunate to have Jesus there. We, too, are fortunate to have Jesus with us today.

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