

David desires a house for the Lord

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

God had been good to David. He had once been a shepherd, the youngest of his father's sons, and now he was the king of Israel. God had also given David victory over all of his enemies. And though David often spent the night sleeping out under the stars when watching over his father's sheep, he now lived in a beautiful palace. David summoned Nathan, the prophet.

"Here I am," David said to Nathan, "living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent." The ark was a sacred box which contained the tablets that God had given to Moses with the Ten Commandments on them. The ark was carried wherever the Israelites had traveled over the years. They believed the ark was the presence of God with them.

"Go, do whatever you have in mind," Nathan replied, "for the Lord is with you."

That night, God gave Nathan a message. "Go tell my servant David, 'Should you build me a house to dwell in? In all my wandering everywhere



Linda Jeanne Rivers/Catholic Courier

among the Israelites, did I ever utter a word to any one of the judges whom I charged to tend my people Israel to ask: Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

Nathan went to speak with David. David told Nathan to tell him everything the Lord had said. If the Lord was not happy with what he might do with the ark, David wanted to know.

Nathan delivered God's message. "I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all of your enemies before you. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. I will raise up your heir after you, and I will make his kingdom firm. It is he who shall build a house for my name. And I will make his royal throne firm for-

ever. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

David was so moved by God's love for him and all of the people of Israel that he said a prayer. "Great are you, Lord God. You have established for yourself your people Israel as yours forever. Bless the house of your servant."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
2 Samuel 7

Q&A

1. What did David say about the ark?
2. What did God say about David's kingdom?

Puzzle

The names of seven books of the Old Testament and three books of the New Testament can be spelled by using the letters of the phrase,

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Can you find them all? Answers on page 8.

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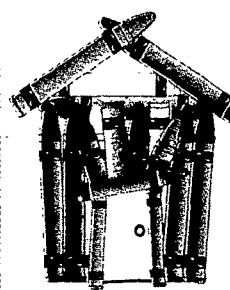
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Last month's winner was Mike Sedor, a sixth-grader at Christ the King School in Irondequoit. In response to **As we honor Christ as our King this month, what do you think he expects from us as his followers?** he wrote, **We can show honor for Christ by being like him. You can be like Christ by helping other people and praying to God. Some other ways would be to obey your parents, be friendly or kind, be respectful to all living things. You can also be respectful to all religions even though you may not believe or think that is it right, and respect others' opinions. If you do this, you are showing your appreciation for others and that you're honoring Christ and being a follower of Jesus.**

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