

King David is favored by the Lord

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

Representatives from all 12 of the tribes of Israel went looking for David, and they found him in Hebron. They wanted to tell him of a decision they had made with the Lord's blessing. A spokesperson said to him, "In days past, when Saul was our king, it was you who led the Israelites out and brought them back. And the Lord said to you, 'You shall shepherd my people Israel and shall be commander of Israel.'"

Some of the elders of the tribes, wearing stately yet colorful robes, came forward. One was holding a golden jar filled with oil, another held out a towel made of fine linen. David bowed his head and the elder with the jar anointed him with the oil.

When the Philistines, who had been enemies of Israel for years, learned that David was the new king of Israel, they sent their army out to capture or kill him. When David heard what they were doing, he prayed to the Lord for guidance.

"Shall I attack the Philistines — will you deliver them into my grip?"

And the Lord gave an answer to David. "Attack, for I will surely deliver the Philistines into your grip."

So David gathered his own army and attacked the Philistines before they could attack him. The Lord kept his promise, and the Philistine army was beaten in the battle of Baal-perazim. But the Philistine army regrouped and attempted an assault



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

Kids' Chronicle

from the valley of Rephaim. Again, after hearing a report of this, David prayed. And the Lord gave David victory over his enemies.

Then David wanted to honor the ark of God, which was a beautifully fashioned box adorned with cherubim. It was the presence of God to his people, and no holier object existed on earth. He ordered a festival with music and dancing in the Lord's honor. He prayed for a blessing from

God on all the people of Israel, then he began a great feast. Everyone was given a loaf of bread, a portion of meat and a raisin cake.

But Saul's daughter, Michal, was very jealous of David. Her father, who had been king before David, had never received such a blessing from God.

She said to David, "How the king has honored himself ... as a commoner might do."

David answered, "I was dancing before the Lord ... who preferred me to your father ... when he appointed me commander of the Lord's people, Israel."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

2 Samuel 5 & 6

Q&A

1. What did David do before every battle?
2. Why was Michal angry with David?

Bible Accent

We know from the Scriptures that Jesus, who is our king, rules us with love and peace. He told us the greatest commandment was for us to love one another. One of the most beautiful examples of the way Jesus wants us to live is the beatitudes in Matthew 5.

For every act of charity Jesus teaches us, he offers a promise. The poor in spirit will be given the kingdom of God. The meek will inherit the earth. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled. Those who show mercy will receive mercy. The pure in heart will see God. The peacemakers will be called children of God.

Now with wars and acts of terrorism in all parts of the world, let us pray for peace and let us strive to be peacemakers who only want God's righteousness for everyone.

St. Odo

When Odo was 19 years old, he was very active in St. Martin's Church in Tours, France. He went to Paris to study religion and music, but became disappointed for not serving God with devotion and enthusiasm. He applied for admission to a monastery and eventually was appointed an abbot.

Pope Leo VII summoned Odo to Rome, hoping Odo would negotiate peace between Hugh of Provence, who considered himself King of Italy, and Alberic, the Patrician of the Romans. Odo arranged for Alberic's daughter to marry Hugh, which brought a temporary truce. He was called two more times to bring peace between these men.

Odo helped monasteries in France and Italy establish codes of conduct and discipline based on "faith, piety and love of truth."

He died in 942. We honor him on Nov. 18.

Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) in response to **Jesus is our king and our God. What can we do to show we are faithful to his commandments?**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school & grade — to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is

Nov. 17. The winner, whose essay will be published in an upcoming issue of Kids' Chronicle, will be notified by phone.

Last month's winner was Tyler Piraino, a fifth-grader at Dalton Elementary School in Dalton. In response to **Why do you think Jesus lived as a humble man on Earth, rather than as a mighty king?** he wrote, "I think Jesus lived as a humble man because he wanted people to follow his example. He wanted to show people that nobody was better than anybody else. He wanted people to help others first. Jesus also wanted people to think of others' needs before themselves. If Jesus were a king, people would not be able to relate to what he said because he could have everything he wanted. If Jesus had lived as a mighty king, people would not understand how to follow God. People must follow God by showing kindness, selflessness, and faith in God."

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Puzzle

Using the words from the list, fill in the blanks with the correct words. Answers on page B17. Hint: Not all of the words will be used.

CHARIOT SAUL ABSOLOM GOLIATH DAVID
SOLOMON GALLERY TEMPLE DOVES
RAVENS FIGS OIL JEREMIAH

1. _____ was the first king of Israel. 1 Samuel 10
2. David killed _____, the giant. 1 Samuel 17
3. David's son, _____, became the next king. 1 Kings 1
4. Solomon built a beautiful _____. 1 Kings 8
5. Elijah was given meat by _____. 1 Kings 17
6. Elijah rode in a flaming _____. 2 Kings 2
7. Elisha multiplied the widow's _____. 2 Kings 4