



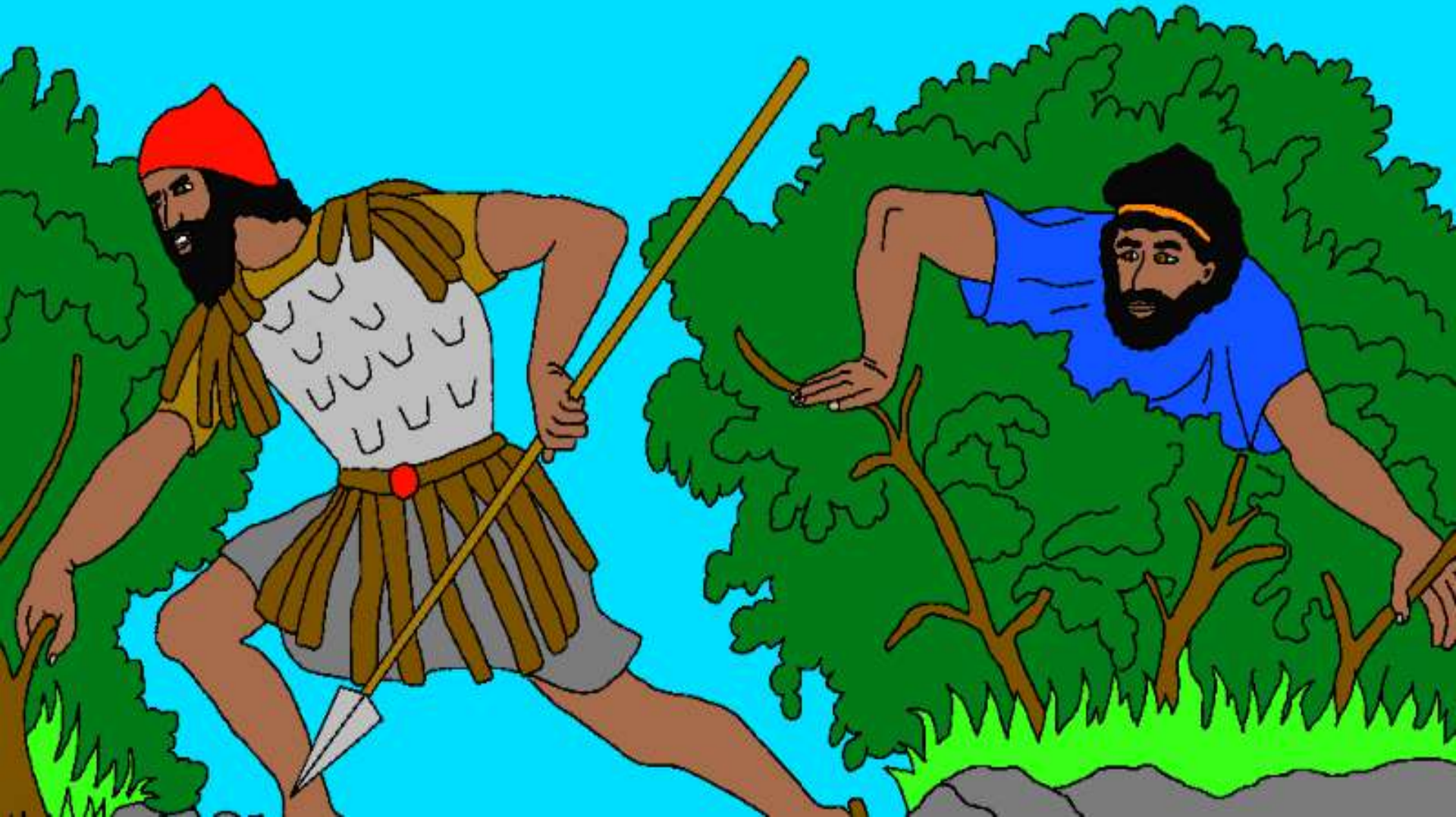
# THE KING DAVID

Young David was on the run. King Saul wanted to kill him. David lived in the wilderness, in a huge cave with four hundred followers.





Sometimes, King Saul's soldiers almost found them.  
But David kept moving.



Saul's servant, Doeg, told the king the priests had helped David escape. Saul ordered them killed. But only Doeg was willing to do it! He brutally murdered eighty-five priests and their families with his sword. It was very wicked.







One day, Saul was hunting David and walked right into the cave where David and his men were hiding. Saul was alone!

In the cave, David could easily have killed Saul. Instead, he crept close and cut off a piece of Saul's loose garment with his sharp dagger.



When Saul left, David called to him. "In that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand . . ."





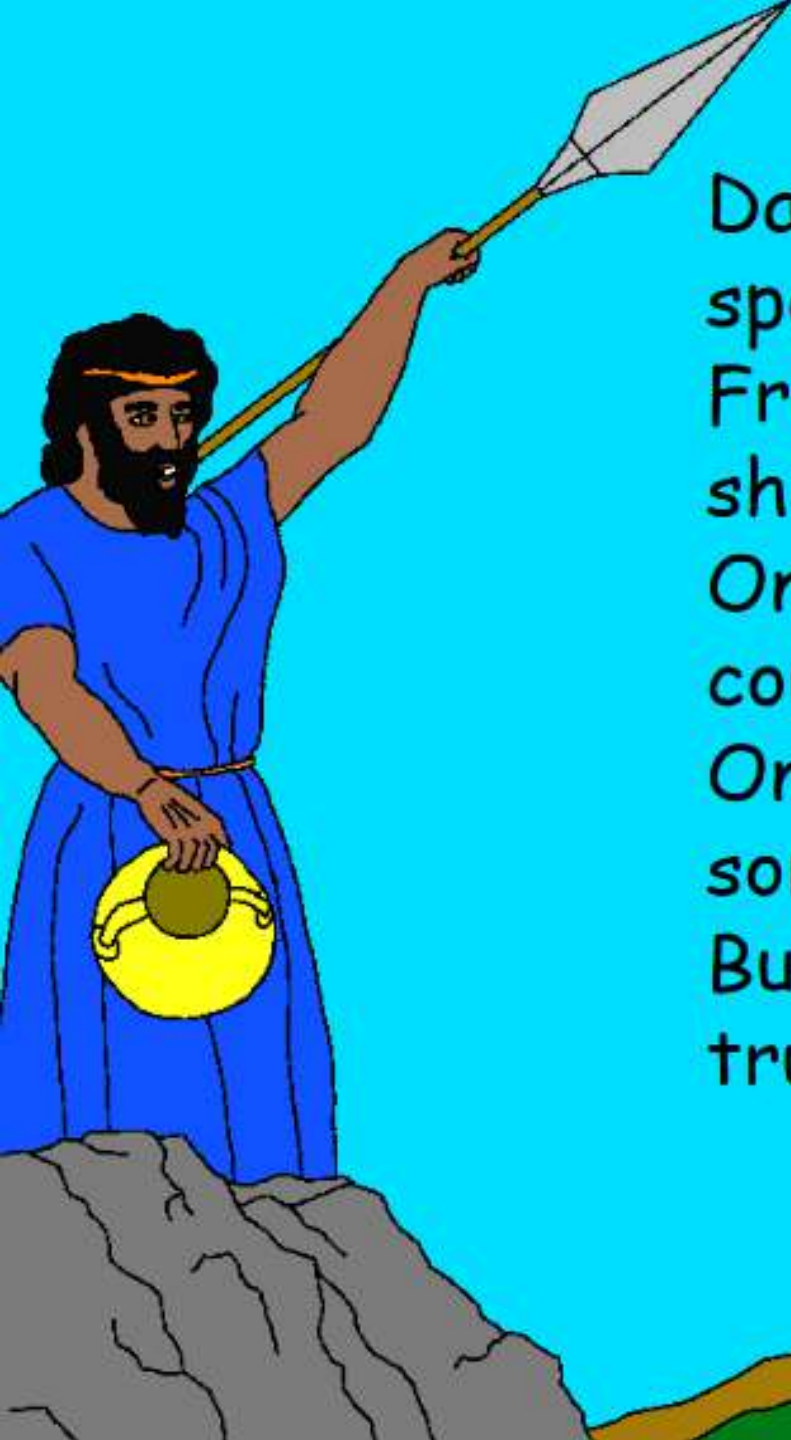
Saul said he was sorry for trying to hurt David. But soon, his old anger came back and he put together an army of three thousand men to kill David. One night, while the army slept, David and Abishai, one of his soldiers, slipped into the king's campsite to where Saul lay sleeping.





"God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day," Abishai whispered. "Please let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth: and I will not have to strike him a second time."





David refused. Taking Saul's spear and jug, he left the camp. From a hill across the way, David shouted until Saul heard him. Once more Saul saw that David could have killed him, but didn't. Once more, Saul said he was sorry for trying to hurt David. But David knew he could not trust Saul's word.



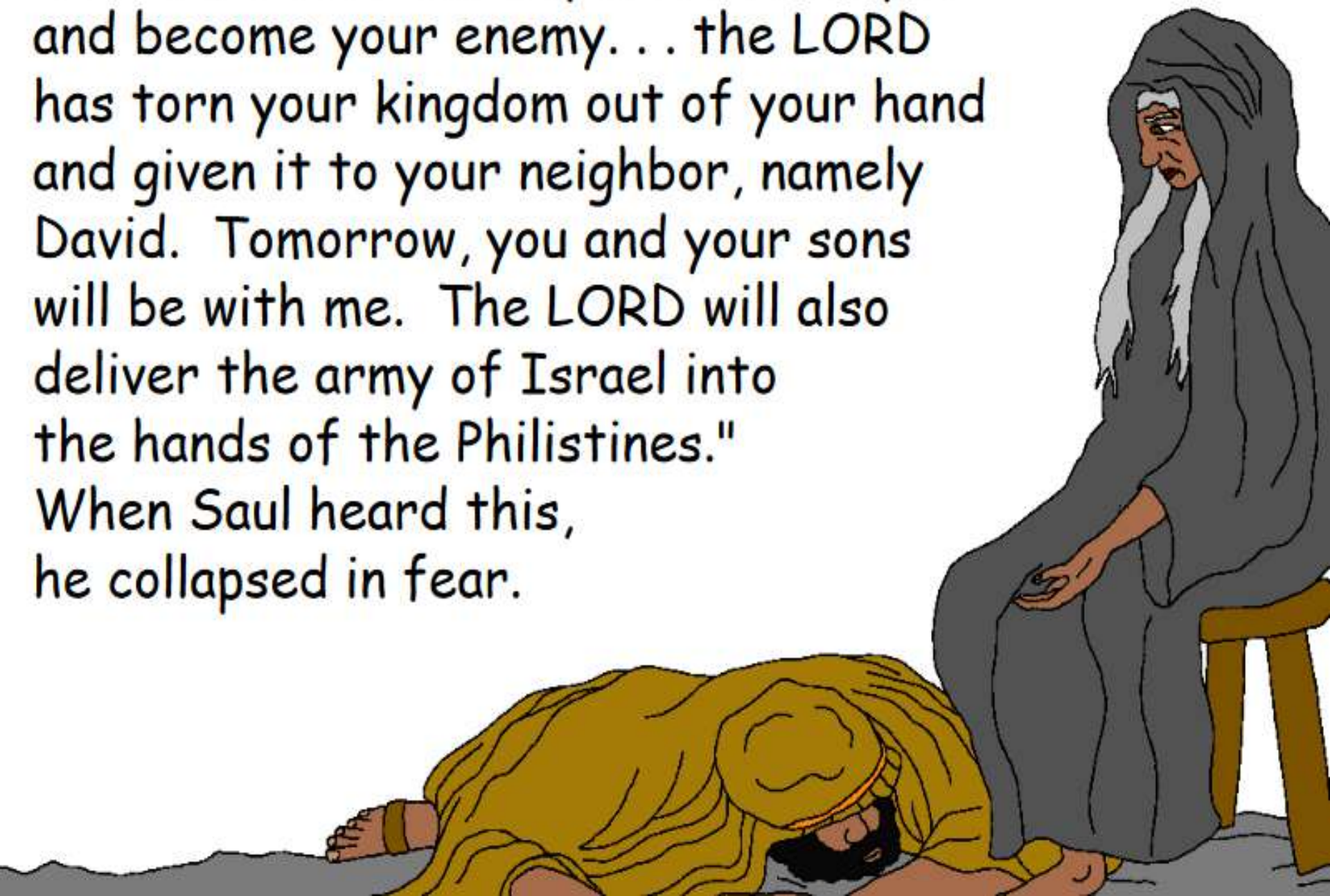
By this time Samuel had died. He was the prophet whom God had told to anoint first Saul, then David as king of Israel. When the Philistines attacked Israel, Saul did something terrible, something God forbids.



He commanded a woman to call up Samuel from the place of the dead. That night, Saul got a message.



"... The LORD has departed from you and become your enemy... the LORD has torn your kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, namely David. Tomorrow, you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also deliver the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines."  
When Saul heard this, he collapsed in fear.





The Philistines fought against Israel, and the men of Israel fled. The Philistines killed Saul's sons, including Jonathan, David's good friend.



Saul was severely wounded by the archers. And he said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword and thrust me through with it, lest these wicked men come and thrust me through and abuse me." But his armour-bearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. So, Saul took a sword and fell on it.







Finding the bodies of Saul and his sons, the Philistines fastened the bodies to the wall of a captured Israeli city. Some brave Israelites rescued the bodies, took them home and burned them before burying the remains in Israel.



When David heard the terrible news, he mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul, for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, because they had fallen by the sword.



Even though Saul had tried to kill David, David honored Saul as God's anointed one until the end. Now God honored David, making him the king in Saul's place.



David was king of Judah,  
in southern Israel. But  
the rest of Israel took  
Ishbosheth, Son  
of Saul, as king.  
Civil war raged  
for seven years.  
But David  
grew  
stronger  
and stronger.





Finally King Ishbosheth was killed by two of his own soldiers.



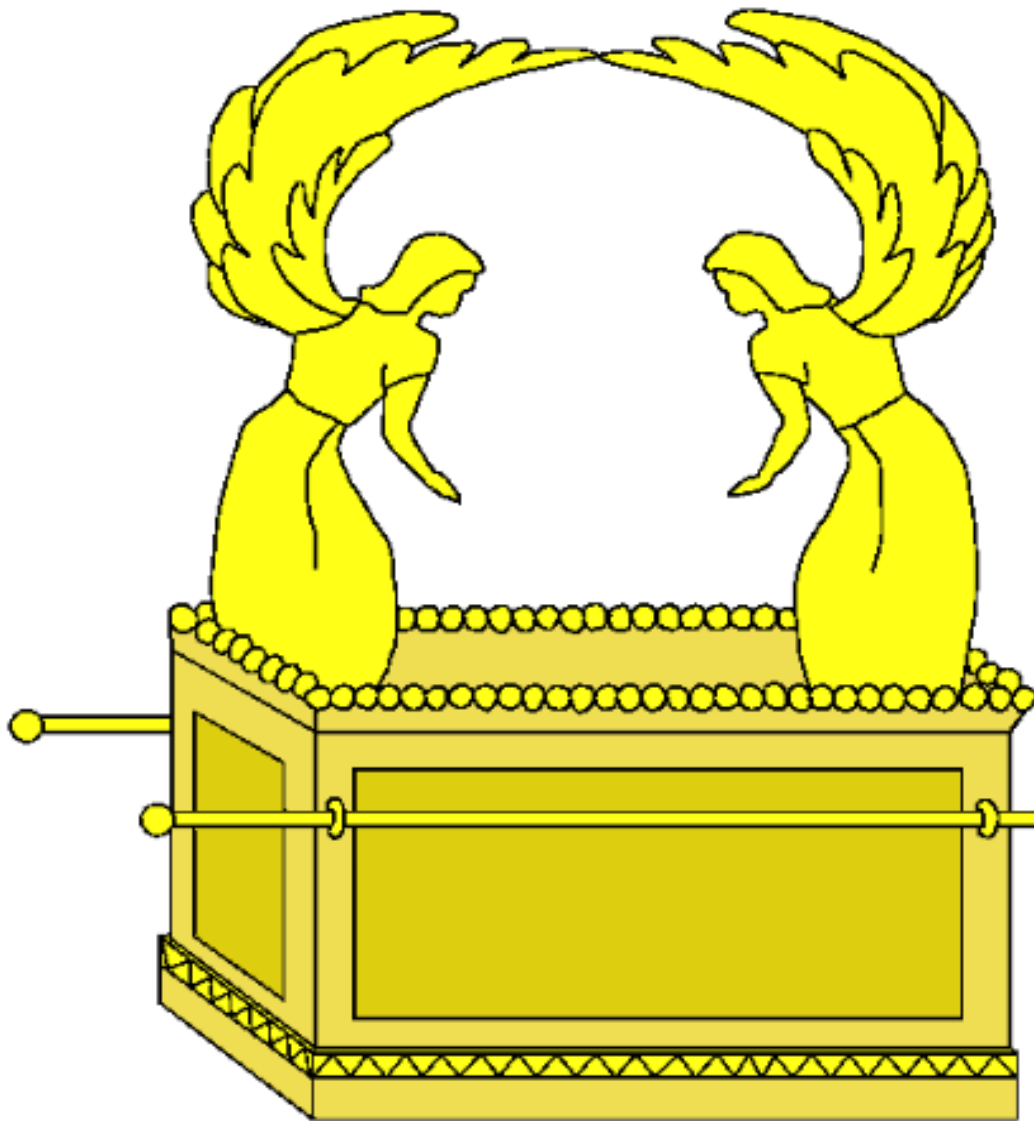
Then all the tribes of Israel came to David and anointed him king over Israel. At long last, David was king over all the nation.





The first thing King David did was capture Jerusalem. It became known as the City of David. He rebuilt it as a stronghold against enemies. From Jerusalem, David's army went out to conquer the Philistines and other enemies of Israel.





Next, King David brought the Ark of God to Jerusalem. The Ark of God contained copies of the ten commandments and other laws given to Moses by God. The Ark reminded the Israelites of God's holiness and their need to obey Him.



David had to fight many battles in the early years of his reign. He was a wise soldier and a humble man who prayed for God's guidance.





It bothered David that he had a nice house to live in while the ark of God remained in a tent. David decided to build a temple. Nathan, God's prophet, told him to go ahead.





That night,  
God sent a  
message to  
David: "My  
servant  
David, the  
LORD will  
make you a

house. When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your child as king after you. He shall build a house for My name and will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."

David wanted to help any survivors of Saul's family. He found only Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, who was crippled. "He shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons," David said. David was kind to Mephibosheth because Jonathan had been his best friend.

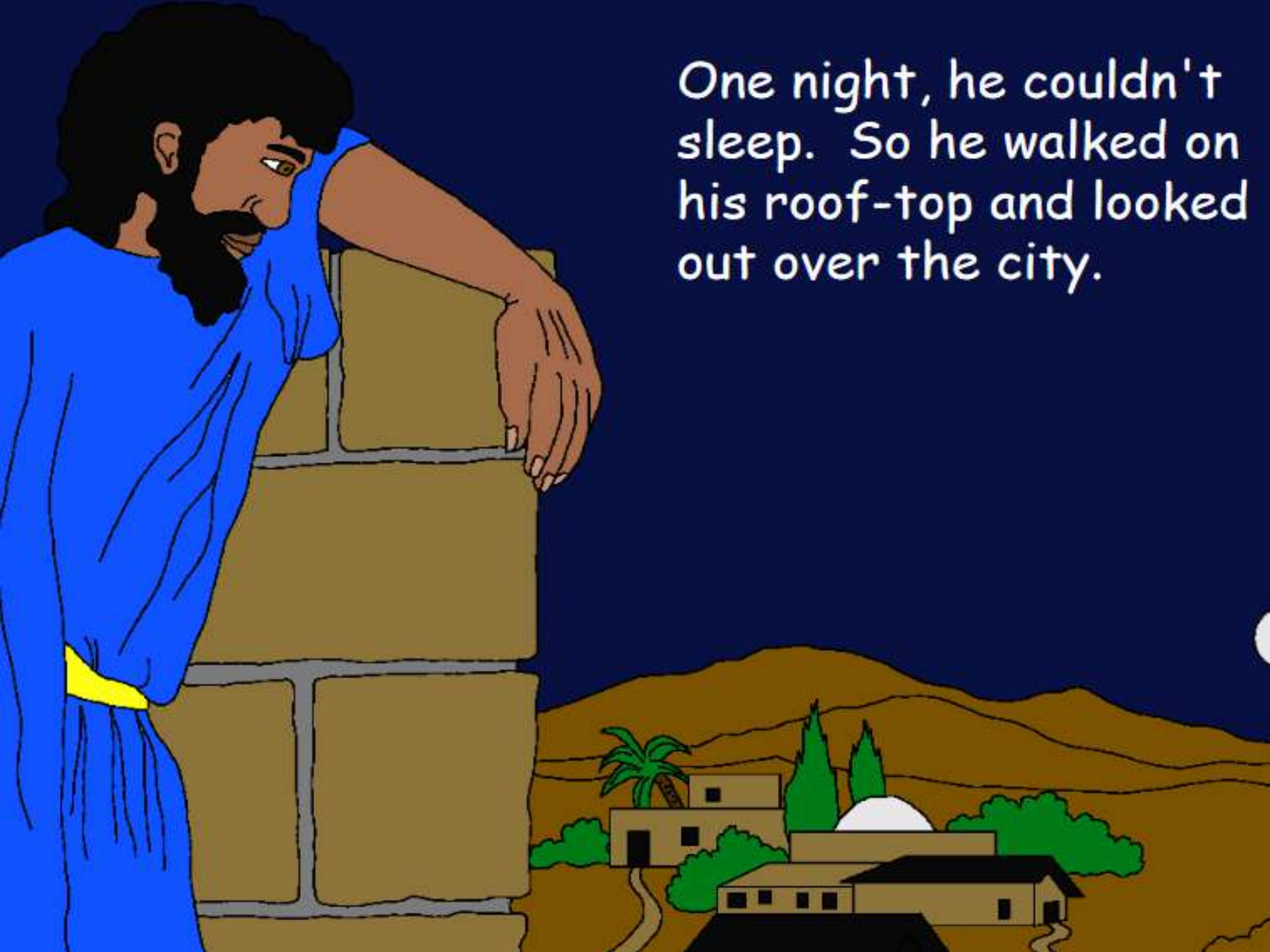






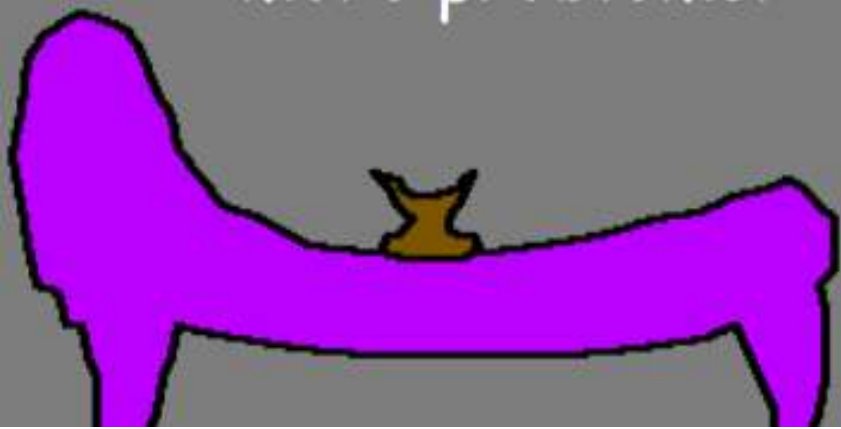
As long as David trusted God and obeyed Him, God helped David to prosper. But one day, a terrible shadow fell on David's life. He sent his army out to fight, while he stayed in Jerusalem.

One night, he couldn't sleep. So he walked on his roof-top and looked out over the city.





David saw a beautiful woman bathing. Her name was Bathsheba. David sinned with Bathsheba even though her husband, Uriah, was one of David's brave soldiers. When Bathsheba later told David she was going to have his child, David knew his sin was creating more problems.





Instead of confessing to God, David tried to cover his sin. That never works! He called Uriah home from the battle field, hoping that Uriah would think the coming baby was his. But Uriah would not live at home while his fellow soldiers were at war. Uriah slept at the door of the king's house.



So David did an even more wicked thing. He sent Uriah back to the battlefield with a letter. The letter told the general to make sure Uriah died in battle. When Uriah was killed, David took Bathsheba to be his wife.

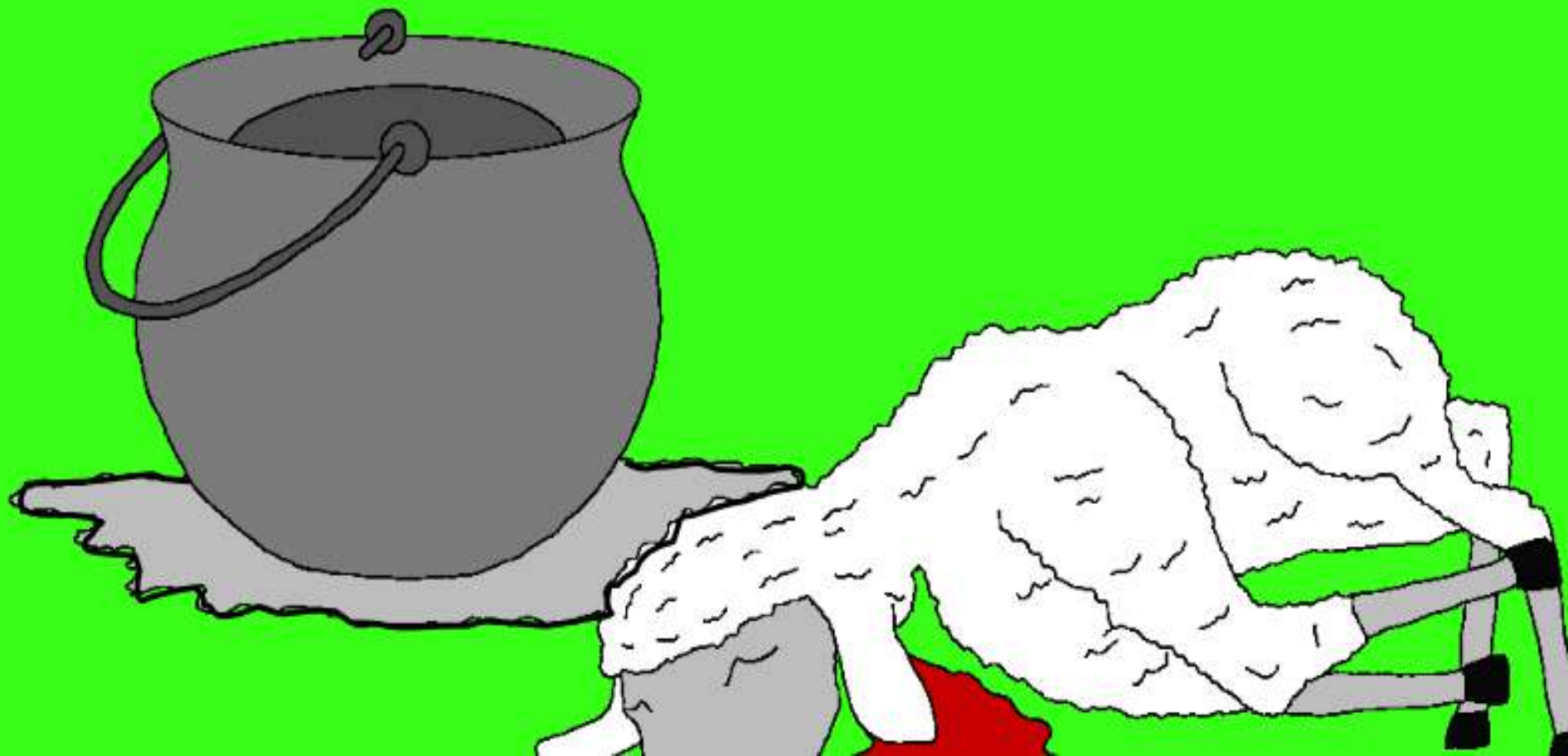




God sent His servant, Nathan, to show David his sin. Nathan told David a story about a rich man and a very poor man. The rich man had hundreds of sheep. But the poor man had only one little lamb, which he treasured like a daughter.



When a traveler came to the rich man, the rich man did not kill one of his sheep to feed him. Instead, he took and killed the poor man's lamb.

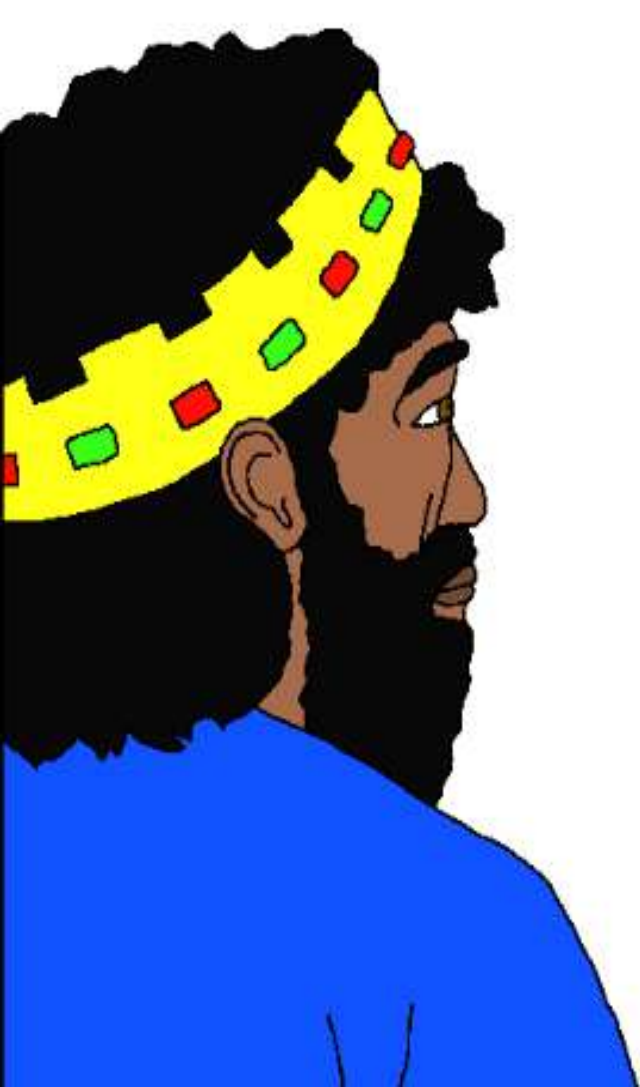


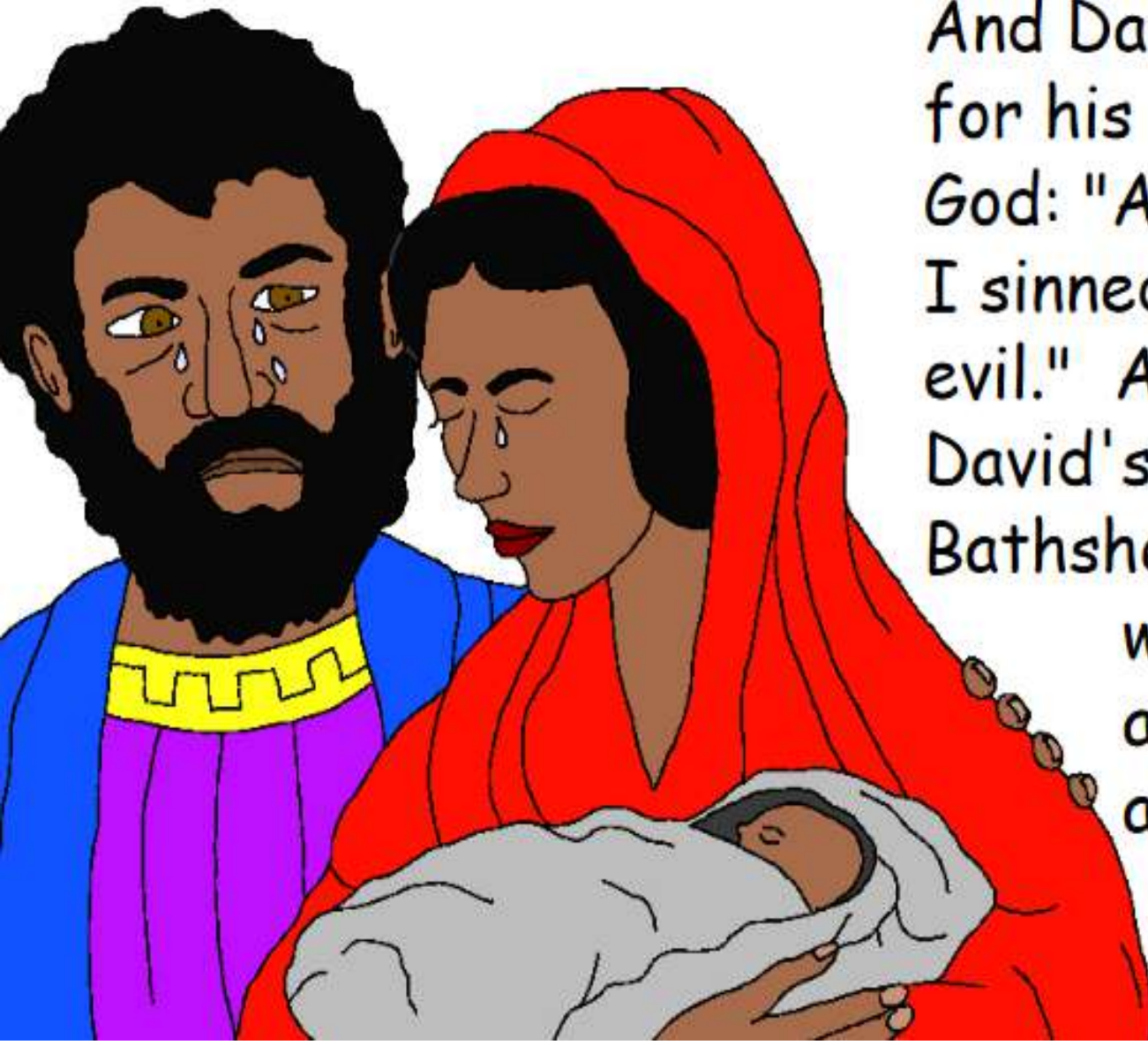
David was angry at the rich man's selfishness. He cried, "The man who has done this shall surely die."





"You are the man!" brave Nathan told David. What David had done was much worse than what the rich man did in the story.





God showed David how wicked he had been. And David was sorry for his sin. He told God: "Against You have I sinned and done this evil." And God forgave David's sin. But Bathsheba's baby was very sick, and died soon after birth.



God forgave David for his terrible sin. Then Bathsheba had another child, Solomon, who was to become a great king after David. But King David had many other children, some of whom brought him great sorrow.

