



King David

by: Marianne Abdou

St. Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church, Pompano Beach, FL

King David is the youngest of eight brothers, and his father's name is Jesse. His job at his father's house was keeping watch for the sheep. David was described, "...ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking..." (1 Samuel 16:12).

Samuel the prophet anointed young David a King as stated in the Holy Bible (1 Samuel and chapter 16). From the moment he was anointed King, the Spirit of the Lord came down upon him. At that time there was a King over Israel whose name was Saul (first king over Israel), but the Lord rejected him, therefore, David was anointed to take his place. When King Saul became angry, David would start playing the lyre and sing to calm the king.



David and Goliath

As we all know the Israelites went to war with the Philistines, and David defeated them all, including Goliath the Giant. "Then David said to the Philistine, 'you came to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I came to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, whom you have defied.'" (1 Sam 17:45) This verse shows us that David put all his strength and trust in the Lord. From that day on, Saul used to send David to fulfill tasks, and he was very successful. Also, Saul gave him command over all his men of war.

Later, King Saul sought to kill David because God made him successful in all his ways, and that made King Saul very jealous of him. King Saul told David, that he would give him his daughter Michal to marry if he defeated the Philistines, but David said, "Does it seem to you a light thing to be a king's son-in-law, seeing I am a poor and lightly esteemed man?" (1 Sam 18:23) This verse shows us how humble David was.

There was a great friendship between David and Jonathan, Saul's son, and they cared for each other as if they were brothers. They were very close, to the point that whenever King Saul wanted or planned to kill David, Jonathan would inform him so he would flee or run away. Even though King Saul didn't like David and always sought to kill him, David never wanted to do any harm to the king when he had the chance more than once because King Saul was God's anointed one. This shows us that we shouldn't speak evil of any of the church leaders. Also, we shouldn't do evil for evil, just as David did with King Saul. When David heard about King Saul's and Jonathan's death, he was very sad even though Saul was his enemy!

Another story that shows David's love towards King Saul's family is that when two of the king's men went to kill Saul's other son, Ishbosheth, and went to tell David thinking they were bringing him good news, he told them, I will kill you like the man I killed because he killed King Saul, God's anointed one. David always looked and searched for any of King Saul's relatives that were still alive so he could take them and care for them because of his great love to Jonathan. David found one of Jonathan's sons, Mephibosheth, who was lame in his feet. David brought him to his palace and took good care of him, and allowed him to eat with him on his table every day.

David fought many wars throughout his life, and before he went to war he would always ask God if it was o.k. to go and fight the war. This we should apply to our life. Before we attempt to do anything we should first ask God and ask for His help and guidance.

After King David reigned on the throne and God had



saved him from all his enemies, he thought about building a House for the Lord. So King David said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the Ark of God dwells inside tent curtains." (2 Sam 7:2) This shows how much King David loved God, which we all should do; love God from all of our hearts. God told King David that a descendent will build the House instead of him because he was a man of war. After David heard what God told him, he started preparing the supplies that his son, Solomon, will use in building the House of God.

We all know that everybody is a sinner, even if they do a lot of good deeds. As it is written, "For she has cast down many wounded, and all who were slain by her were strong men." (Proverbs 7:26) This happened to King David, whom we all know was a great King. He sinned by committing adultery, and he never realized he did it until Nathan told him. David felt bad and repented right away, and that's what we should all do, confess our sins and repent so God would forgive us like he forgave King David.

All of these things are just glimpses into the life of King David, which taught us all many lessons. Some of these benefits we can take and apply in our lives. We learned that he always loved God, prayed and never forgot to do so even though he was a King, meaning, a very busy man. He was a King, had a family to take care of and battled in many wars. Another thing we all know is that God wrote about 70 out of the 150 psalms, in all/most of them, David always started by asking God to help him and at the end he always thanked Him for the help He was provided.

May the blessing of this great Prophet and King be with us all.

Glory is to God forever and ever. Amen.

An Important Lesson

During my second month of nursing school, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions, until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?" Surely, this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but **how would** I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. "Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say 'hello'. I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

Another Important Lesson Giving when it counts

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes, I'll do it if it will save her." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?" Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor. He thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her. You see, after all, understanding and attitude are everything.