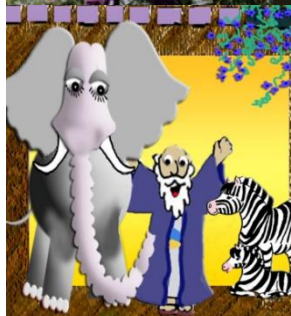
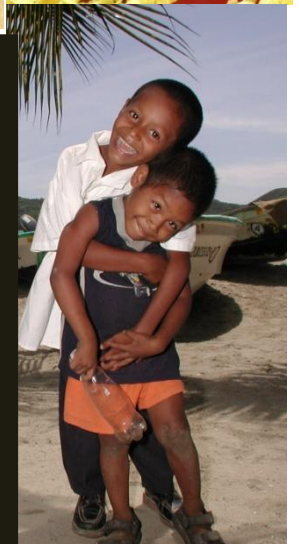




*Children's Beautiful Bible Treasures*



# **Children's Beautiful Bible Treasures**

**—Part 5—**

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(These stories and illustrations are also included in the  
*"Beautiful Bible Treasures"* Lessons 50-61: *Kings and Prophets I.*)





## David's Harp

Do you like to play music? David did, and he could play so beautifully. People all around where he lived knew he could play songs to God on his harp very skilfully. He had lots of time to practice while watching over the sheep. He used his time well, singing and talking with the Lord.

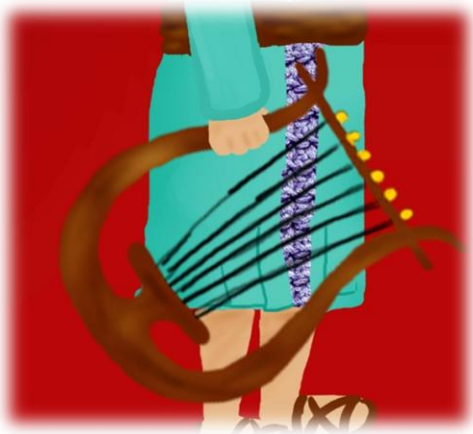
One time, when King Saul was feeling very grumpy, some people suggested that songs and music might cheer him up.

"Who could we bring to sing and play music for the king?" they wondered. God had them think of David the shepherd, who they had heard was good at playing the harp.





Now David's times of practice came in handy, as he was able to play music and sing songs to the king, and it made King Saul feel so much better. Music can really have an effect on you.



If you are listening to and playing nice songs, songs that fill your heart and mind with good thoughts and feelings, then music can be a good thing. It's a wonderful way to praise and pray and cheer people up.

David was invited to live and work with the king. David loved God and had God's spirit helping him. He was wise and acted humbly, and he obeyed what the king asked him to do.

He prayed for God to help him do what was good and right and what would be a help to others.

Jonathan, King Saul's son, was a good friend to David. They talked together and encouraged each other through difficult times.

After Saul had been the king for quite awhile, sadly he stopped doing things in God's way; and he no longer was empowered with God's spirit. King Saul was often upset and making unwise decisions, and saying things that weren't good. David was very patient and calm even when King Saul said unkind things about him.

David had faith that God would work things out. He trusted in God and was able to do a good job because he prayed and took time talking with the Lord.









## Psalms and Supply

David had many difficulties and hard times. He learned to trust in God through his problems. He wrote songs and psalms that told others—and reminded himself—of the great things God did.

The Book of Psalms has many beautiful words in it; words of praise and faith, words that tell of David's love for God and for His Word. There are many prayers written down too. It's a wonderful book to read when you are sick, or sad, or when people are causing you difficulties. There are many good verses to read for times of prayer and praise.

The words in the Book of Psalms can encourage and strengthen you, just like David's times of prayer and praise and talking with the Lord helped him.

Saul wasn't a happy king anymore and was often angry and making things difficult for

David. This made David very sad and caused him to have to move away from King Saul and away from his best friend, Jonathan. David and a team of men that wanted to help him, lived outdoors often, or in caves.

When King Saul was acting unkindly and in anger, David was patient and wise and gentle. Sometimes King Saul then apologized to David for acting wrongly. Kindness was the solution to the troubles.



God kept David safe and gave him strength for his job of helping to make the country a safe place—and the job of learning what he needed to, before it was his turn to be the king.

One time, a kind lady named Abigail heard that David and his men were hungry and needed food. She and her family were rich and had



plenty to spare. Others were being selfish and didn't want to give anything to David's team, even though they had plenty.

However, Abigail quickly brought all the food she could and gave it to David and his men. She shared things like raisins, bread, fig cakes, meat, and corn. It made them happy and brought peace.

Later on, David invited her to live with him, and she became his wife. She wanted to be around someone who loved and followed God.



David learned to have faith, as things weren't easy for him. But whenever he prayed and trusted God, he saw things get better. David knew God was so very close to him and would always take good care of him.





## King David and Dancing

David was at last crowned the new king, and he was a man who loved and followed the Lord. His heart was filled with God's Word, and he was often praying and praising the Lord. This helped him through the many difficult times that he had.

Sometimes he was sad, other times he was sick, and sometimes he had very hard jobs to do while helping to rule and protect the Israelites. When King David prayed and trusted in God, he was given the strength and faith to keep going and to not give up.

God blessed, protected, and healed King David when he prayed. He cared most of all about making God happy, and did what he knew God wanted him to do.

King David was a good king because he tried to set a good example to others of loving God and His Word. He would often ask the prophets to hear from God and tell him what God wanted him to do, and whatever God told him, he would do.

King David tried to do what was best, but he didn't always do everything perfectly. However, when he made mistakes or he did something that wasn't right, he talked with God about it and was sorry, and chose to change and do things better. God loved David and forgave him. He blessed King David and kept him safe.





David discovered that when he would pray and praise the Lord, this gave him the strength and courage to do what he needed to do.

One time he had a very big and joyous celebration! -It was when he could at last bring the Ark of the Covenant to where he was living. He felt that God was blessing him and was near.

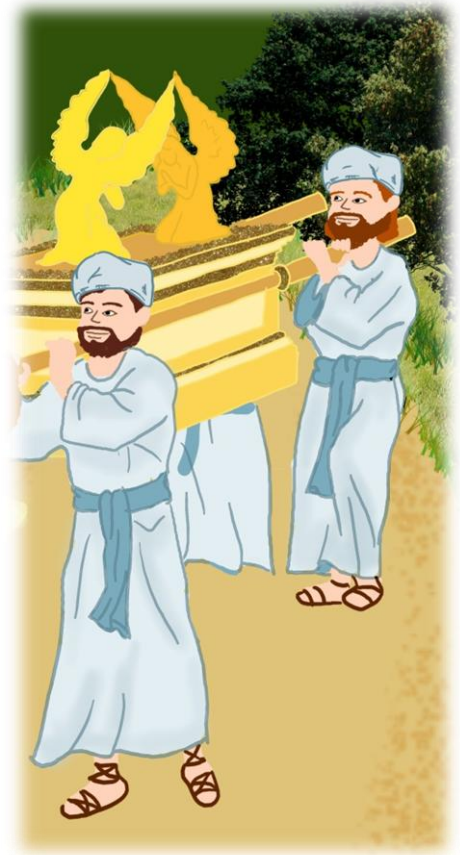
Just thinking about God's love and power and how close He was, made King David overflow with praise and songs, and he danced with all his might!

It was like a musical parade as the Ark of the Covenant was being brought to King David's place. David loved to dance and used it as a way to praise God and express his joy and gratitude and love for God.

He wanted to praise God more than just within his heart, nor only with his voice in song, or his hands raised in praise, but with his whole body in a lively dance before the Lord. He felt happier than words could tell, and this was his way to show he was overflowing with joy!

This made God happy! David wanted to show his love by praising God as often as he could, and he especially liked to sing songs and play instruments while praising the Lord.

Songs helped to cheer him up and made the Lord glad! Do you like to sing and dance and use instruments to praise God too?







## Instructions and Supplies for Solomon

King David had a special son named Solomon. God loved him and said that he would be the new king after King David. God said he would be as a father to Solomon and take care of him. King David taught his son about God and told him that the most important thing to do is to respect and obey God's Words. Solomon loved God and listened to what his father told him, and wanted to follow in God's ways.

When King David was old he told everyone that Solomon was to be the new king, and he let Solomon ride on his mule and sit on his throne. Solomon was anointed with special oil to show that God was giving him a new and important job and would give Solomon His Spirit to help him do the job.

Everyone was very joyous and sang and cheered and played on musical instruments.

Solomon was given a very big and special job by his father, David. Solomon was to build a big and fancy temple. The Ark of the Covenant would be placed there, and the people who loved and served God could offer prayers and praises to God there, too.



Of course they could pray and praise God anytime and anywhere! But it was just a place to remind them that God was really there with them, and they would do well if they gave Him their respect and love. A building that could remind them that God should have a special place in their lives—just like the fancy temple for prayer had a special place in their country.





King David prayed and asked God to show him just what the temple should look like, and David drew the plans and wrote down the Lord's instructions to tell his son Solomon and others how to build it. He also began to collect wood and marble, metals and gold, and precious stones to make the temple like a beautiful palace for God, their powerful and loving King!

The people were very glad when King David told them about it, and they promised to help King Solomon build it. Old King David was very pleased to see how happy everyone was, and was thankful that his son Solomon loved and followed in God's ways and so could now be the new king.



## The Temple is Built

Jesus lives with us and is near us no matter where we are. We don't need to have a building to pray in, to be close to Him. However, that is what the Israelites needed when Solomon was the king, to help remind them that God was the most important King of all, and they needed to listen to Him and obey His words.

King Solomon followed through on his father David's plans and instructions for the temple that he was given the responsibility to have built.

Finally, after years of hard work by thousands of workmen, at last the special temple was built. The wood had been given to King Solomon by King Hiram, who loved and respected King David and wanted to then help and be a friend to David's son Solomon, when he was the new king.



Many good quality supplies were used to build the temple. Cedar and fir trees from Lebanon; gold and silver; brass and iron; precious stones and marble; large stones that were cut to just the right size; beautiful coloured cloth, and many other things.

It took seven years to complete the work. They persevered until it was finished. Many people gathered to celebrate and to see the newly-built temple for prayer and worshipping the Lord. It was a big time of prayer and praise, rejoicing and singing with musical instruments.



The Lord loves good music, happy songs, songs that tell others the wonderful things He has done. This gives everyone joy and faith, and it brings God's Spirit near to those who are praising Him.

King David previously had many musical instruments made—thousands! These were to be used for praising the Lord with songs. The large families of Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were all very clever in playing music and singing songs, and they would serve the Lord in this way, in the newly set up temple. King David previously had appointed and provided for them to do so.

Inside the new temple was a special room prepared to house the Ark of the Covenant. Two very large cherubim angels were made and set up in this room. The cherubims had two huge wings that reached from the wall on one

side of the room to the wall on the other. They faced each other, and were covered all over in gold. Between them is where the Ark of the Covenant was placed.

King Solomon offered a prayer of dedication and asking for the Lord's



blessings and forgiveness for all the people. Then God showed everyone a sign of His power and demonstrated that He was right there with them.

He sent fire from heaven down onto the altar where King Solomon was praying! The temple was also filled with God's special, thick, bright cloud—just like the cloud that had been sent to the travelling Israelites many years before. Everyone was amazed and wanted to obey and follow in God's ways.





## A Wise King

One night, after King Solomon had offered a special prayer, God talked with him in a dream. It seemed like just a dream, but it was a real and important message from God.

To be the king was a very big and new job, and Solomon was humble and knew that he needed God's help. In the dream God asked Solomon, "What would you like Me to give you?"

King Solomon responded that he needed help. He was the king, but to be a good king he needed to be wise and to have an understanding heart. He wanted to recognise what was good and what was bad, so he could make the right choices, and help all the people do so, too.



King Solomon wanted to know what was the best thing to do, in any situation. It was a good choice to ask God for wisdom and the knowledge that he needed to be a good king.

Everyone saw how wise King Solomon was after God had granted his request. He spoke thousands of proverbs and wise sayings, he wrote many songs, and many things he said are written down in the Bible. He also knew lots of facts and interesting things about plants and trees, fish and birds and other animals.

The Lord instructed him in these things, and he remembered them and told these things to others.

The Queen of Sheba travelled From a far away land to talk with Solomon. She had heard that he was a very wise king, and had many questions to ask him. She brought abundant gifts of gold and spices and precious stones.



The queen was able to talk with King Solomon and asked him all her hardest questions. God gave King Solomon the wisdom to know what to say to her.

The queen was amazed to hear all that King Solomon wisely told her. Receiving the



answers to her questions made her heart feel happy.

Do you like getting answers to your questions? It feels nice, doesn't it? Not always do people know the answers to other's questions, but God always does.

He knows everything, and He knows what you need to understand. No matter who you are, or where you are, you can pray and ask God for wisdom, and He will give it to you.





## A King's Proclamation

After Solomon was the king, there were other kings who ruled. Some followed in God's ways, and some didn't.

King Asa was a good king who wanted to follow God's Word, and knew that it would make their country nicer and more peaceful if they did. God would bless them for obeying him.

He proclaimed that everyone in the country, all people of all ages—old and young—and even those who were from other lands who were living with them, should do things God's way.





It was the best decision the king could make, as it would help the country the most. The people listened to what King Asa said, and everyone promised with all their hearts to follow and serve God.

They blew trumpets and shouted loudly saying that they would do what God's Word said. God blessed the country and made things peaceful for everyone. They were then able to work on building their cities strong, and things went well for them.

King Asa listened to the laws and instructions that were written down by Moses for them all, and he also wanted to hear what God had to say to him right then as well. He called prophets to pray and hear God's Words and tell him what God had to say to him. He wanted to be fully obedient.

In messages given to him by prophets, God encouraged King Asa that he was doing a good job and making wise decisions—choosing to follow in God's ways.



As long as he kept doing that, things would go well. God also said that it was good to pray and ask for His help, and not to just trust in people to protect and help them.

The prophet said that God is eager to do things that seem impossible and to work miracles to save, protect and help those that love and respect Him.







## God Cares for Elijah

The Lord can do some amazing things to take care of those who love Him. One time there was a famine in the country and no rain fell, as a result of a bad king and queen's ungodly ways. The people in the land weren't obeying God's Words either. It was a difficult consequence of their bad behaviour.

Prophet Elijah told the king that the rain wouldn't fall to water the crops until God knew it was the right time and people were ready to change and do the right thing. It was to be three and a half years until it rained again.

Prophet Elijah had food and water and all that he needed during that time of famine, because he obeyed the Lord. The Lord told him to go and live beside the brook Cherith for awhile, where he had water to drink.

The Lord then told some ravens to fly and bring him meat and bread twice each day.



When at last the water of the brook dried up, Elijah was told where to go and what to do next.

Elijah obeyed and went to a place called Zarephath, as the Lord wanted a woman there to feed and care for him. Prophet Elijah asked her for food and water and she gave him all that she could.

The food she shared with him was to be her last bit of bread, but because she gave it to God's prophet, God did a miracle for her. The woman's barrel of flour and her jar of oil never ran empty—for years!

Every day she baked bread for her son and herself and for Prophet Elijah, and there was always enough in the containers for them to use.



It was a miracle! She had to obey and have faith at first to share the only food she had, but because God asked her to, she did it. And not just on that first day, but she shared her miracle food with Elijah every day, for three years; and because she did, she and her son never lacked the food they needed.

One day the woman's child got very sick. It seemed like his life had ended. The mother took her son to Prophet Elijah to pray for him. After the prophet prayed desperately for the boy's healing, the boy opened his eyes and was alive and well. Everyone was so happy!





## Fire and Water

The crops hadn't grown for years, and the people didn't have enough food, since it hadn't rained. Finally, it was time for God to send the rain. There was something that needed to happen first, however. People needed to start doing things God's way, and needed to love, respect, and believe in Him.

Prophet Elijah did as God instructed and called the king and the people of the country to meet together on Mount Carmel. There they would get to see God's power.

When everyone was ready, Elijah set up an altar of prayer and had lots and lots of water poured on it. God wanted to demonstrate to all the people there how close and real He was.



He wanted to send down fire to light the wood on the altar, even if it was real wet, without Elijah doing anything but praying. That would take a miracle!

There were others on the mountain that didn't know and love God and who just did their own thing. The king and queen were not godly and instead of praying to the Lord and telling the people to do the same, they let ungodly and bad people just keep doing whatever they wanted to do. None of them worshipped God and obeyed His word. They believed in things that weren't true or good, and it made God very unhappy.

These ungodly people yelled and called for fire to come down onto their own type of altar, but nothing happened, as they weren't praying to the true God. Elijah laughed as it was very silly to try to make something amazing happen without God's help.



Then Elijah prayed, and right away God sent a powerful fire from Heaven, and it burned up everything on his altar in a flash! -The wood, stones, dirt and water too!

Everyone was amazed and knew that God was real and powerful and that they better stay close to Him and obey His Word!

Prophet Elijah then prayed earnestly for the rain to finally come.

He prayed seven times! Then the clouds began to form and soon it was pouring down rain. The crops could grow again and everyone knew that God was going to take care of them, as they chose to love and respect Him.





## Heavenly Food and Encouragement

When Elijah was tired and feeling down he needed a quiet place to rest. Under a juniper tree he took a nap. He didn't have any food and didn't know where to go next.

Prophet Elijah had done a good job and obeyed what God said to do, and God wanted to encourage him and give Elijah what he needed.

Elijah felt someone waking him up. He looked and saw it was an angel! This angel gave him water to drink and had baked him some fresh bread right there, over the coals of a little fire.





Elijah felt so much better after eating the food from heaven that the angel brought, and drinking the water. He then went back to sleep for a while.

The angel woke him one more time and gave him more Heavenly bread and water, because Elijah was about to go on a long trip and he'd need to have the strength to make it all the way.



Something amazing happened! Elijah travelled for 40 days and didn't even need any food during that trip. God's special miracle bread from heaven had given him all the nourishment that he needed for that journey.

When Elijah arrived at Mount Horeb, he found a cave to stay in for awhile. He talked with God and heard His Words.

God encouraged him that he was doing a good job and that there were new things for him to do.

Elijah felt renewed faith and courage to continue on with telling people God's Words and helping them to follow in His ways.





## The Boys Who Were Kings

There were many kings who ruled over the Israelites, but many of them did not obey God's Words and this made things sad and difficult.

Some of the few good kings were actually crowned as kings when they were still children. Isn't that amazing? One seven-year-old child was made king, and his name was Joash.

A good priest called Jehoiada loved and obeyed God and helped to teach Joash God's Word when he was real young. When young Joash was the king, priest Jehoiada helped to give him good advice and instruct him.

King Joash wanted to fix up the temple that was in need of repairs, and thought of a plan to collect money for the project. A wooden chest was brought and put at the door of the temple, and a hole was made in it.

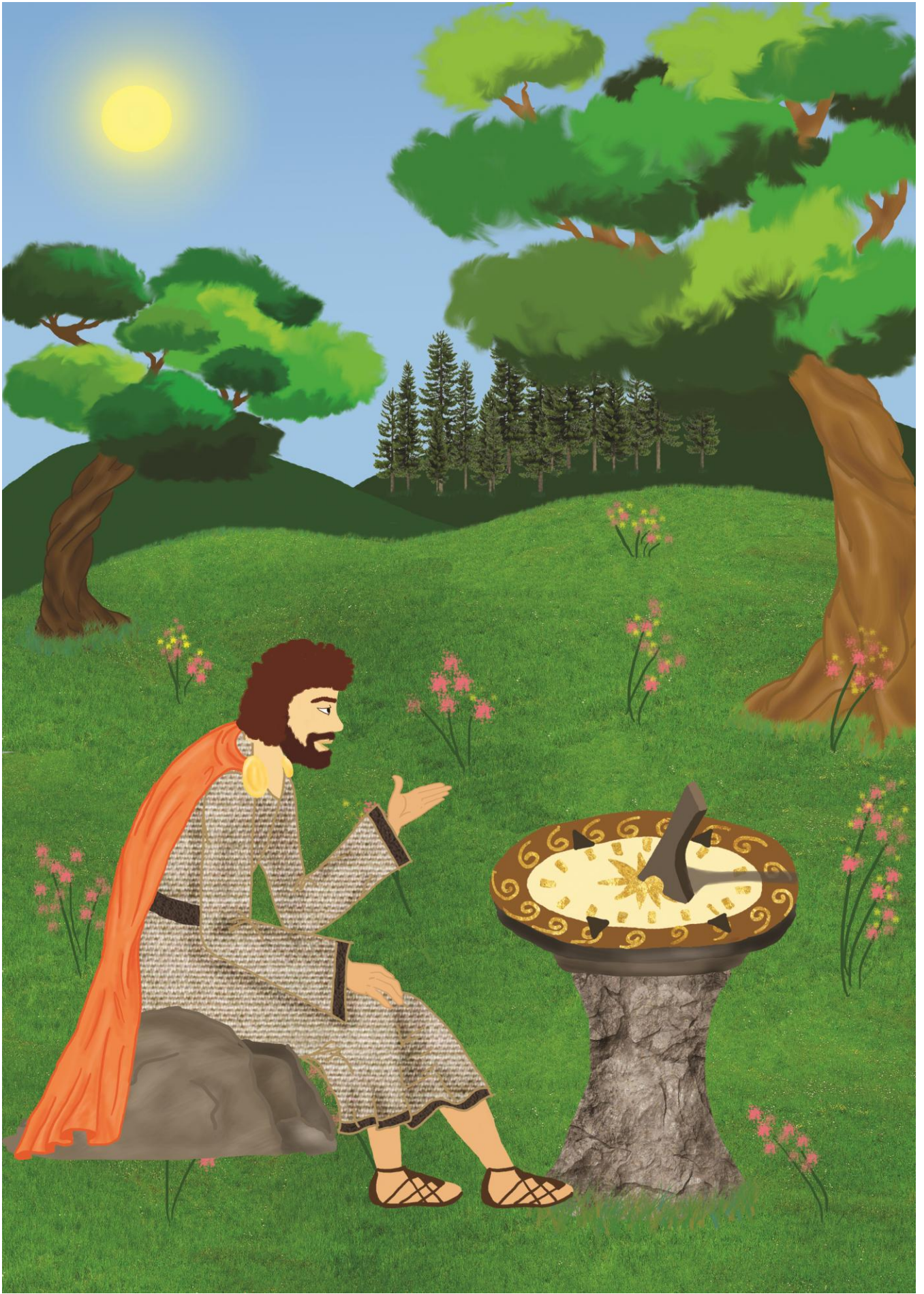
People that wanted to help came and dropped coins in it. Soon there was enough money to do the job.

Another boy was eight years old, and he became the king many years later. His name was Josiah. He also wanted the temple to be fixed up and have repairs made on it. One day a man found a book hidden with important instructions from God written by Moses in it.



The book was read to King Josiah. As soon as he heard it, he wanted to obey everything that God had said in that book. He told everyone to follow God and serve Him too, and stopped those who were doing the wrong things. Josiah was wholehearted and eager to do whatever God said to do.







## Hezekiah's Healing

King Hezekiah called the people of his country together for a time of prayer and praise. Everyone who gathered for this special time felt glad when they remembered God's love and care. They were sorry for their wrongdoing. They prayed for forgiveness and for God to help them.

King Hezekiah talked with them and told them what God's Word said to do. He instructed them in God's ways. People sang songs and psalms and praises to the Lord with instruments and had a very happy time together.

When it was time to go home, everyone wanted to stay there for several more days. So they did, and they continued meeting together and worshipping the Lord.

When they finally did leave, they were so filled with God's Spirit that they wanted to change the way things were in the whole country!

The people travelled all over the place telling everyone about God's Words and ways and getting others to follow and obey Him, too.

Then they returned to their homes. Things went well in the country while people made the right choices and respected God and loved Him.

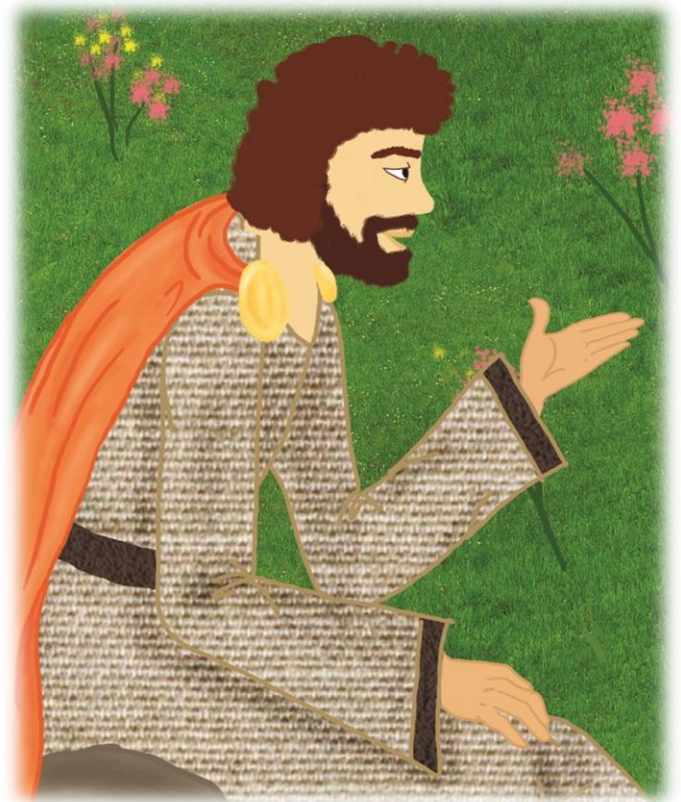
One time, King Hezekiah got sick and was told he was going to die soon, and he had a sore that seemed would not heal.



King Hezekiah prayed with all his heart to God for healing and for his life to continue. God told the prophet Isaiah to tell the king that He had heard his prayer and seen his tears and would heal him.

God also showed Isaiah what natural remedy to give to the king to help his sore get healed: a lump of figs placed on it. And it worked!

King Hezekiah wanted a sign from the Lord to encourage him and prove to him that he would get completely healed and continue living for a long time.





God did something amazing and seemingly impossible to show His love and to demonstrate that this indeed would happen.

God made the shadow on the sundial go backwards by 10 degrees—it moved to the place it had already been at earlier in the day. It was like he'd gone back in time a bit. That was a very big miracle that only our God who is in charge of the Earth and sun, the universe and time, can do.

King Hezekiah was glad for this sign of encouragement. God's promise came true and he lived for another 15 years.