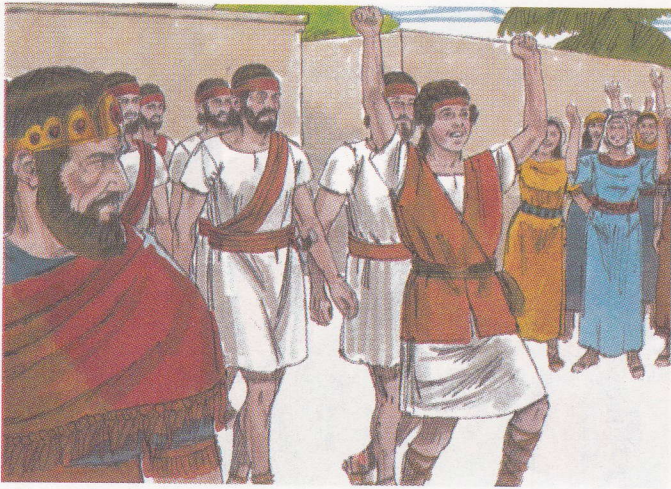


Saul Is Jealous



1 David had won a surprising victory over the Philistine giant, Goliath. As he returned home, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet him and sing his praises.



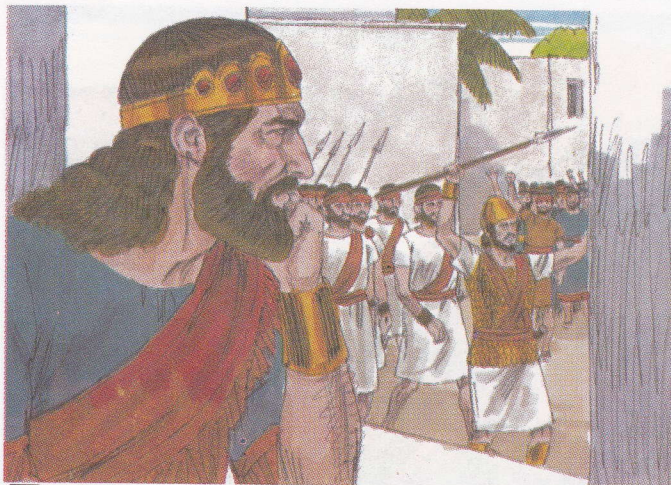
2 King Saul became angry when he heard them praising David. He thought to himself, "They are praising him more than me. Next they will want to make David a king." Saul was very jealous.



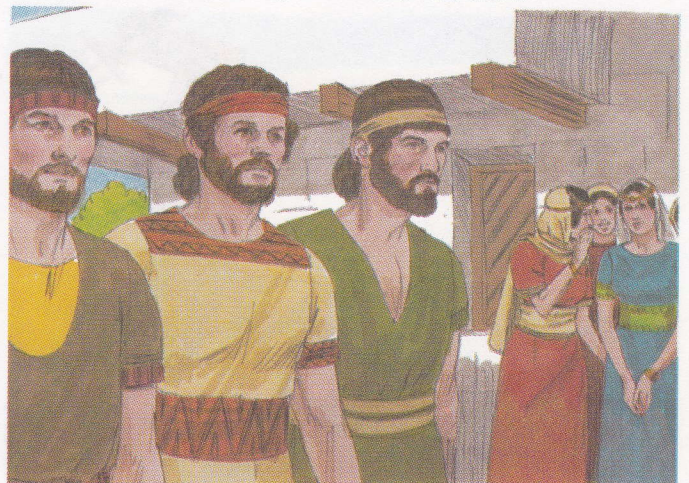
3 But Jonathan, Saul's son, loved David very much. Jonathan promised David that he would be his friend forever. He even gave David his robe and sword and other weapons.



4 One day as King Saul listened to David play his harp, an evil spirit took control of the king. He tried to kill David with his spear. However, David jumped out of the way and was not hurt.



5 Later Saul made David commander in the army, hoping he would be killed in battle. But David was a good leader, because the Lord was with him. Everyone but Saul liked David.



6 Then Michal, one of Saul's daughters, fell in love with David. Saul was glad to hear this, because he thought it would give him a chance to get rid of David.



7 Saul told David he could marry Michal if he killed 100 Philistines. He hoped David would be killed. But David succeeded in killing 200 Philistines! Saul had to let David marry Michal.



8 Saul had promised Jonathan that he would not harm David. But one day as Saul listened to David play the harp, an evil spirit again caused him to try to kill David. David got away unhurt.



9 That night Saul sent some men to watch David's house, with orders to kill him in the morning. Michal knew David was in danger, and she warned him that he must escape that very night.



10 Michal helped David climb down from the window and escape. Then she put the household gods in David's bed and covered them up so that it looked as though David were still asleep.



11 When Saul's men came for David the next morning, Michal told them her husband was sick and in bed. By the time these men discovered that they had been tricked, David had gotten away.



12 David fled to Ramah, where Samuel the prophet lived. David planned to live with Samuel for a while. But before long, Saul found out where David was and sent his men to capture him.