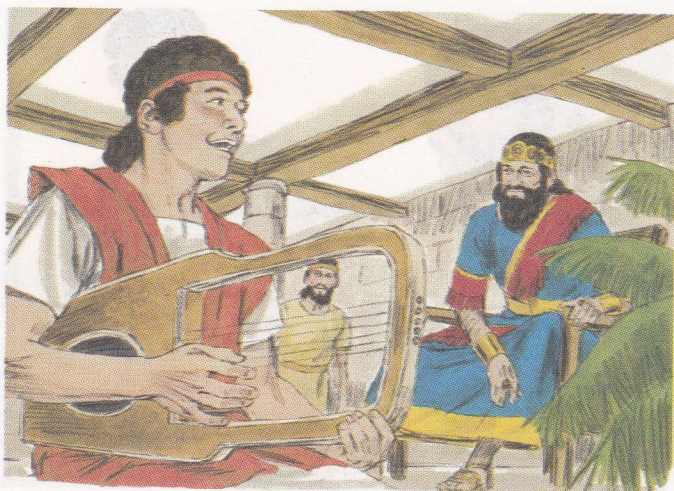


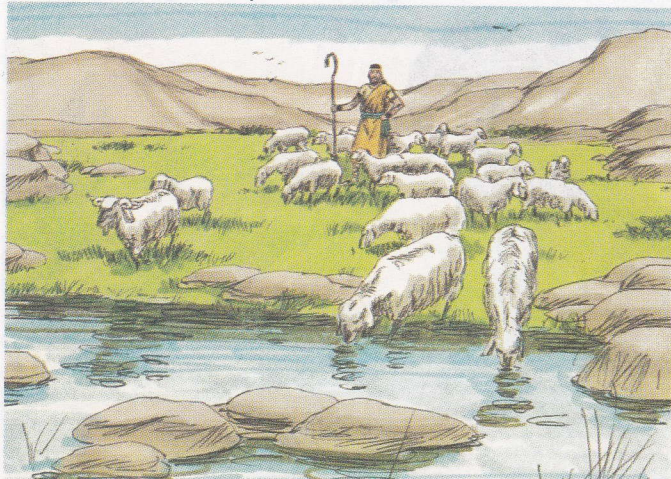
# The Songs of David



**1** David, the king of Israel, had played the harp from the time he was just a boy. He was skilled at writing songs of praise, called "psalms." These were poems which were put to music.



**2** In his songs, David spoke of God's greatness: *Your greatness is seen in all the world! Your praise reaches up to the heavens; it is sung by children and babies.*



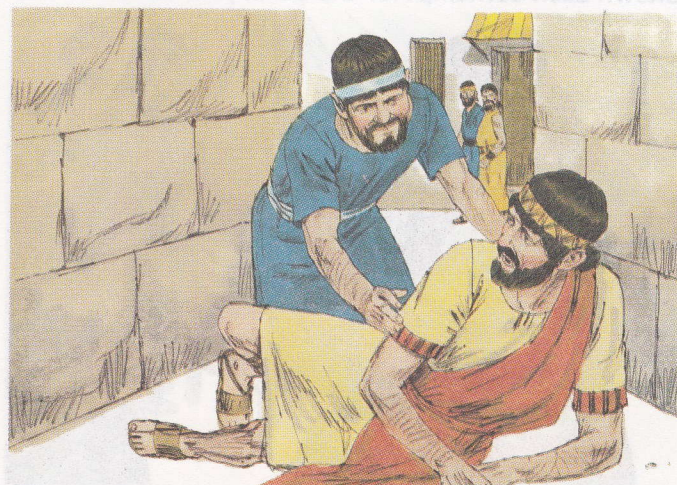
**3** When he was young, David had cared for sheep. He knew that God would care for him that way: *The Lord is my shepherd: I have everything I need.*



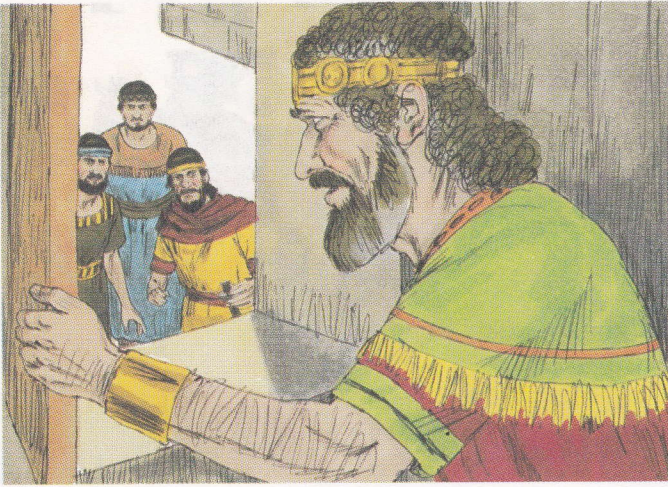
**4** *Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me. Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me.*



**5** Some psalms are prayers for forgiveness: *Be merciful, O God, because of your love. Because of your great mercy wipe away my sins! Wash away all my evil and make me clean from my sin!*

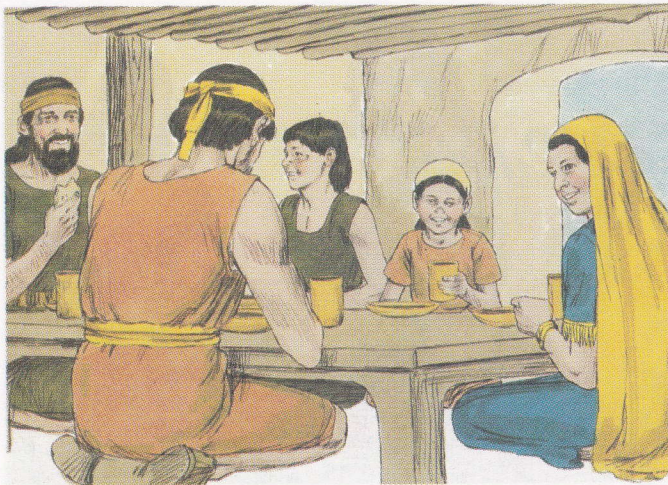


**6** *Create a pure heart in me, O God . . . Give me again the joy that comes from your salvation . . . Then I will teach sinners your commands, and they will turn back to you.*



**7** Other psalms are prayers for aid or rescue: *I am weak and helpless; come to me quickly, O God. You are my savior and my Lord!*

**8** David often sang of his gratitude to God: *I praise the Lord, because he guides me, and in the night my conscience warns me. I am always aware of the Lord's presence.*



**9** *You, Lord, are all I have, and you give me all I need; my future is in your hands. How wonderful are your gifts to me!*

**10** He sang of the joy that comes from obeying God: *Happy are those whose lives are faultless, who live according to the Law of the Lord. Happy are those who follow his commands.*



**11** *I delight in following your commands more than in having great wealth. I take pleasure in your laws; your commands I will not forget.*

**12** David's songs expressed great love for God: *I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the wonderful things you have done. I will sing with joy because of you.*