

THROUGH THE BIBLE

2 SAMUEL



ZAC POONEN

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2 SAMUEL

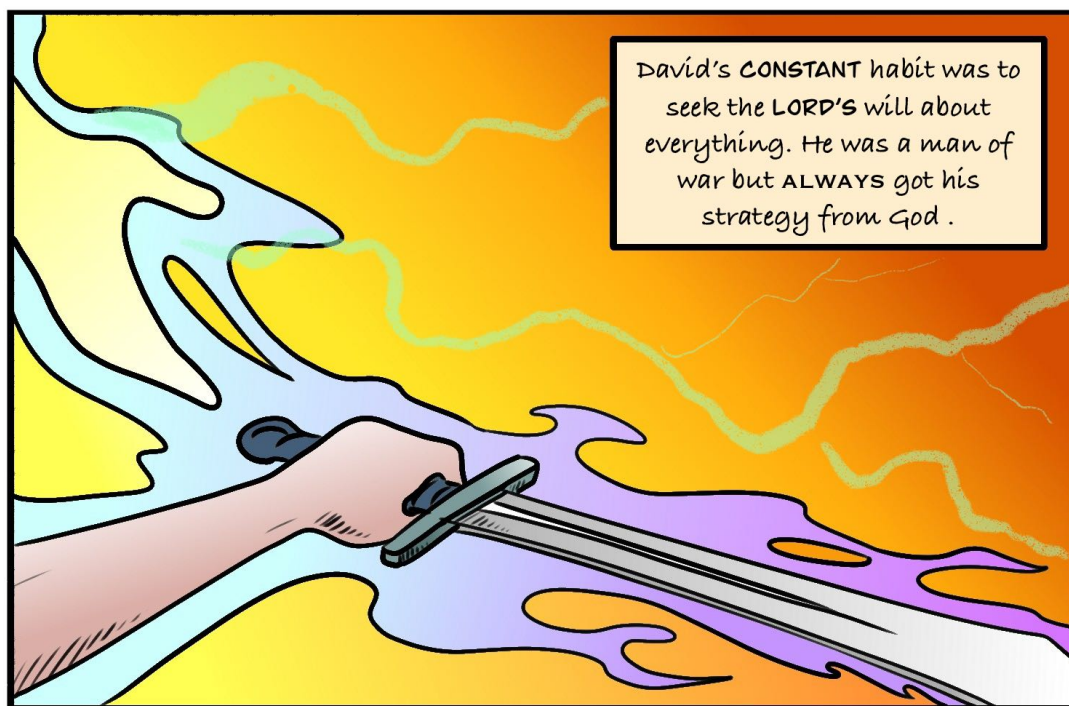


KING SAUL HAD COMMITTED **SUICIDE** BUT AN AMALEKITE MAN TOLD DAVID THAT HE HAD **KILLED SAUL** , HOPING TO WIN **FAVOUR** WITH DAVID. HE BROUGHT SAUL'S CROWN AND BRACELET . HE THOUGHT DAVID WOULD BE **DELIGHTED** ! BUT DAVID **TORE** HIS CLOTHES, **WEPT** AND **FASTED** A WHOLE DAY IN MOURNING FOR SAUL . HE ASKED THE AMALEKITE HOW HE WAS **NOT** AFRAID TO KILL THE LORD'S ANOINTED?



DAVID THEN ASKED ONE OF HIS YOUNG MEN TO KILL THE AMALEKITE.

WHAT A **PRICE** THAT MAN HAD TO PAY FOR THE **LIE** HE TOLD ! BUT SEE DAVID'S **ATTITUDE** HERE. THIS WAS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MADE HIM A MAN AFTER **GOD'S** OWN **HEART**. **JESUS** SAID " LOVE ENEMIES . BLESS THOSE WHO **PERSECUTE** YOU " DAVID **DID** THAT. HE HAD A NEW COVENANT ATTITUDE IN OLD COVENANT TIMES. SAUL HATED DAVID BUT DAVID DID NOT HATE SAUL . EVEN THOUGH SAUL HAD **LOST** THE ANOINTING , DAVID ALWAYS SAID " I WILL **NOT** TOUCH HIM " HE EVEN **APPRECIATED** THE **GOOD** IN SAUL AND LEFT HIS **JUDGEMENT** TO **GOD**

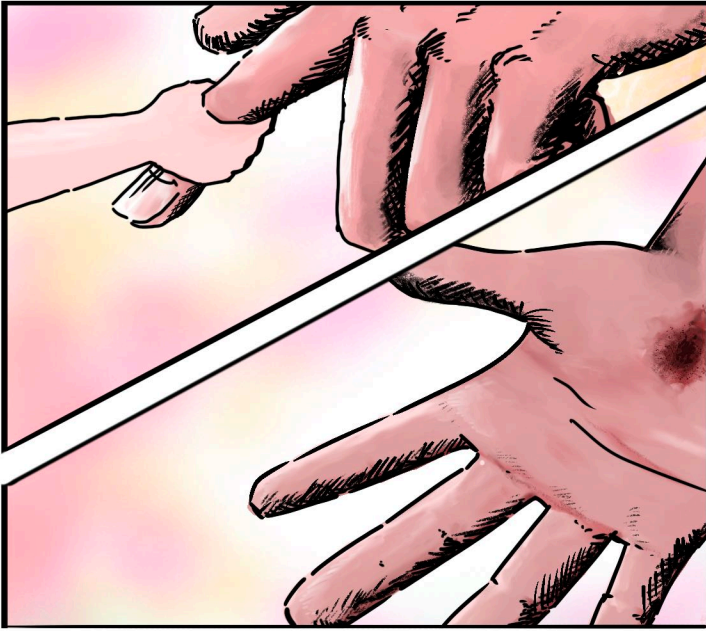


David's **CONSTANT** habit was to seek the **LORD'S** will about everything. He was a man of war but **ALWAYS** got his strategy from God .

THIS IS WHY HE **ALWAYS** WON . HE CHANGED HIS **STRATEGY** AS **GOD** SAID .

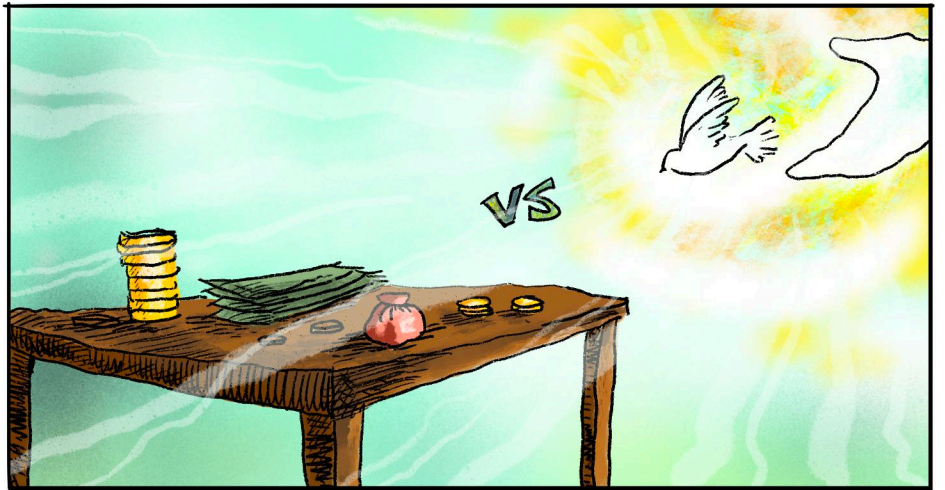
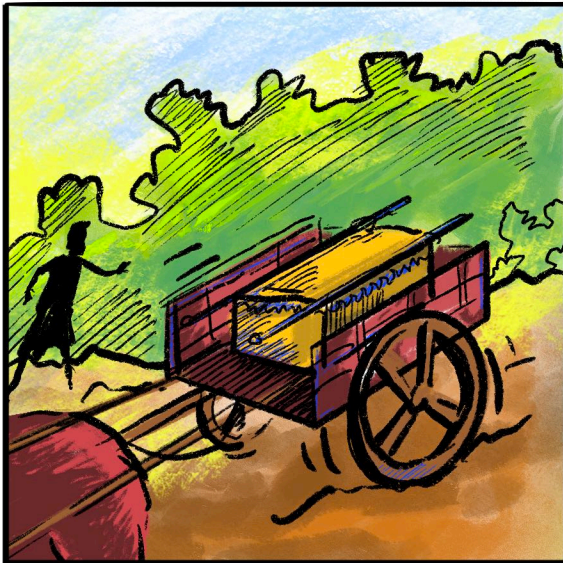


THE MEN OF JUDAH ANOINTED HIM AS KING **FIRST**. BUT HE WAS ANOINTED KING OVER **ALL ISRAEL** AFTER ANOTHER SEVEN AND A HALF YEARS OF WAITING. WE ARE CALLED TO **FOLLOW** SUCH EXAMPLES WHO THROUGH **FAITH** AND **PATIENCE** INHERITED **GOD'S PROMISES**.



IN CHAPTER 4 : 8 WE READ OF TWO MEN WHO **KILLED** ISH-BOSHETH , SAUL'S **SON** AND BROUGHT HIS HEAD TO DAVID HOPING THAT DAVID WOULD **REWARD** THEM BUT DAVID WAS SO **ANGRY** HE HAD THEM KILLED. DAVID BELIEVED THAT **VENGEANCE** BELONGS TO **GOD**. JUST AS **WORSHIP** BELONGS TO GOD. WE MUST **NEVER** DESIRE **EVIL** FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE DONE US HARM .

David **NEVER** grabbed the throne for himself. He **WAITED** for God to give it to him in his own time. Children are born into this world with closed fists. As we grow up we continue to grab position, honour and money. Jesus was different. He **NEVER** grabbed anything. Finally He opened His palms to be crucified on **CALVARY**. Let us yield, give up our rights and God will give back in abundance ! Every time we grab something , we express our lack of faith in God . **NO ONE** can marry a person or grab a **MINISTRY** that God has reserved for us . If God makes us wait , it is good to wait . Let us trust God .



DAVID HAD A **GREAT** DESIRE TO BRING THE ARK OF GOD TO JERUSALEM. WHILE THE DESIRE WAS **GOOD** , THE **WAY** HE WENT ABOUT IT WASN'T THE WAY GOD HAD **COMMANDED** IT TO BE. THE ARK WAS MEANT TO BE CARRIED BY THE KOHATHITES BUT DAVID THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE **CONVENIENT** VIA BULLOCK CART WHICH WAS HOW THE **PHILISTINES** HAD DONE IT. THE ARK BEGAN TO **SHAKE**. UZZAH TRIED TO **STEADY** IT. GOD **STRUCK** HIM DOWN.

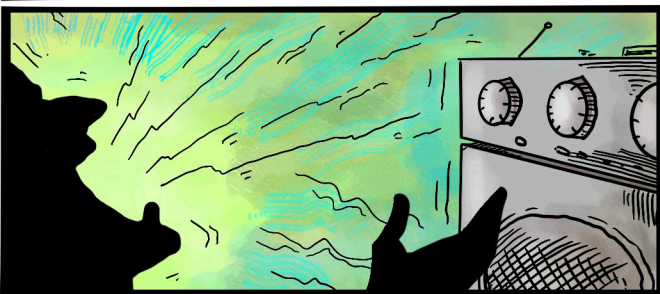
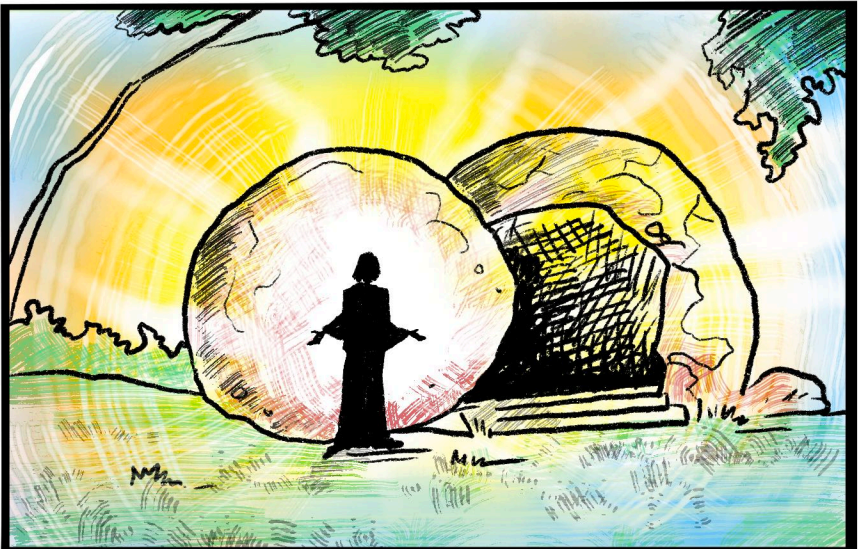
Uzzah had the right **MOTIVE** but he went against God's law . The end can **NEVER** justify the means . David saw the Philistines doing things a certain way and also went against the law of Moses. We face the question when we want to do evangelism . Do we do it in **GOD'S** way or man's way ? Shall we imitate the methods of the **MULTINATIONAL** companies when we do God's work ? Many Christians say they need **MONEY** to do evangelism. But is our **DEPENDENCE** on money or the power of the **HOLY SPIRIT** ? If we have the Holy Spirit, God's work will be done , whether we have money or not. In the Acts of the Apostles, there is **NO** mention of money in doing God's work. The methods of the world (the bullock carts) have **REPLACED** God's methods today. That is why there is **SPIRITUAL** death . Let us understand what God is trying to say



Then David brought the ark to Jerusalem the right way. He was so full of joy, he **DANCED** before the Lord with all his might . That was one of the ways in which they expressed their praise to God in those days. They clapped their hands, shouted, used musical instruments and danced. But when his wife Michal saw David dancing, she was very upset and **DESPISED** him in her heart. She despised an anointed servant of God who was praising God in a way she did not appreciate. There maybe people who are praising God today in a way we may not **APPRECIATE**. We don't have to imitate them but we don't have to despise them either. Michal did not have to start dancing like David but she was not to despise her husband. We should never imagine that the way we praise God is the **ONLY** right way. Many Christian groups feel **THEIR** particular way is the **RIGHT** way



IN SOME CHRISTIAN GROUPS, EVERYONE SITS QUIETLY ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AS IF IT WERE A **FUNERAL SERVICE** . THAT DOES **NOT** APPEAL TO ME BECAUSE IT MUST BE A TIME OF **REJOICING**, BECAUSE WE ARE **CELEBRATING** THAT THE CROSS IS EMPTY, THAT JESUS **CONQUERED** THE GRAVE AND IS **RISEN** FROM THE DEAD. BUT LOOKING AT SUCH SERVICES , WE WOULD THINK THAT **JESUS** IS **STILL** DEAD !



THEN THERE ARE OTHER CHRISTIANS WHO GO TO THE **OPPOSITE EXTREME** . THEY FEEL THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PRESENT IN A MEETING ONLY WHEN THE **NOISE** REACHES A CERTAIN DECIBEL-LEVEL - AND SO THEY KEEP RAISING THEIR VOICES AND WORKING UP THEIR **EMOTIONS** TO " BRING THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO THEIR MIDST " . THIS IS A **DECEPTION** . THE HOLY SPIRIT IS **NOT** CONTROLLED BY THE AMPLIFIER. HE IS WITH THOSE WHO HAVE A **CLEAR CONSCIENCE**. WE DON'T **DESPISE** EITHER GROUP. WE DON'T HAVE TO IMITATE THEM EITHER. WE ARE **FREE** TO PRAISE GOD IN OUR OWN WAY. LET US GIVE OTHERS **FREEDOM**. GOD LOOKS AT THE **HEART**, AND NOT AT THE **OUTWARD** EXPRESSION.



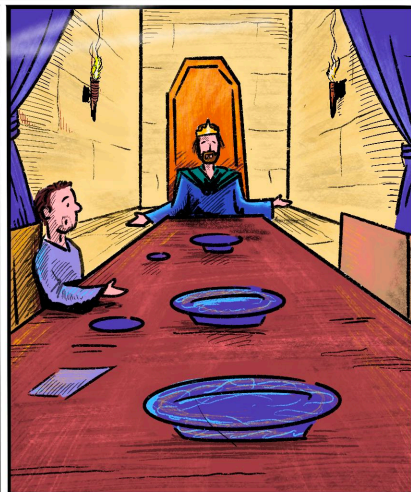
DAVID RETURNED TO **BLESS** HIS FAMILY IN CHAPTER 6:20 . AFTER DANCING FOR MILES, EXHAUSTED! I WISH HUSBANDS WOULD COME HOME AFTER A **HARD** DAY'S WORK TO **BLESS** THEIR HOUSEHOLD , INSTEAD OF BEING IN A BAD MOOD AND MAKING **DEMANDS** ON THEIR WIVES



DAVID HAD A **NAGGING** WIFE IN MICHAL BUT THAT DID **NOT** QUENCH HIS **JOY** IN THE LORD ! AS SOON AS HE ENTERED THROUGH THE DOOR , SHE STARTED **NAGGING** HIM, **YELLING** AND **CRITICISING** HIM FOR DANCING LIKE **ORDINARY** PEOPLE INSTEAD OF BEHAVING WITH **DIGNITY** LIKE A KING. BUT DAVID WOULD **NOT** BE BOTHERED BY HIS **WIFE'S** OPINION. HE SAID HE WOULD **CONTINUE** TO **DANCE** BEFORE THE LORD FOR THE **REST** OF HIS **LIFE** ! THE LORD **JUDGED** MICHAL AND SHE WAS **BARREN** ALL HER LIFE.



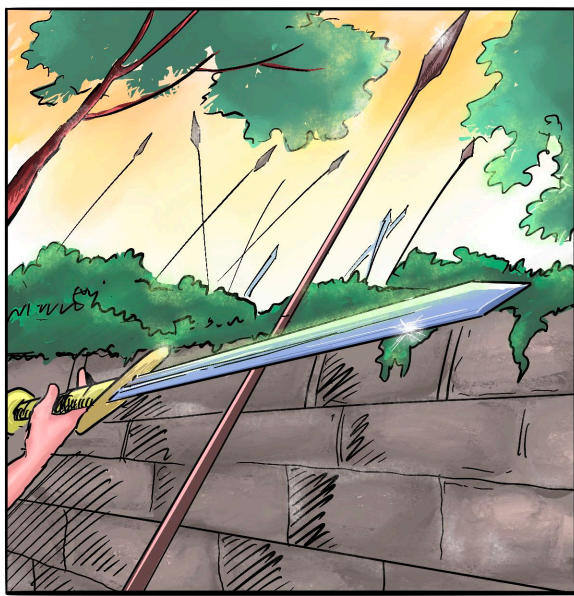
DAVID NOW WANTED TO BUILD A TEMPLE FOR THE LORD. **NOBODY** TOLD HIM TO DO IT. I WISH MORE BELIEVERS WOULD BE **CONCERNED** LIKE THIS. BUT DAVID WAS A MAN OF **WAR** SO GOD DID **NOT** PERMIT DAVID TO BUILD HIS HOUSE. WAR IS **NECESSARY** IN THE BEGINNING BUT WE MUST ENTER INTO **REST** TO BUILD GOD'S HOUSE. SO DAVID DID ALL THE **GROUND** WORK WITHOUT GETTING ANY **HONOUR** .



IN CHAPTER 9 WE SEE DAVID'S **KINDNESS** TO MEPHIBOSHETH, JONATHAN'S SON, WHO WAS A CRIPPLE. MEPHIBOSHETH CONSIDERED HIMSELF A **DEAD DOG**, DESERVING **NOTHING**. THIS IS A PICTURE OF THE **GRACE** OF GOD WHERE CHRIST LIFTS US , **DEAD DOGS** , TO SIT WITH **HIM** AT HIS **TABLE**



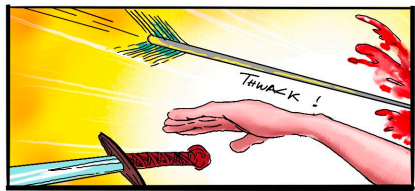
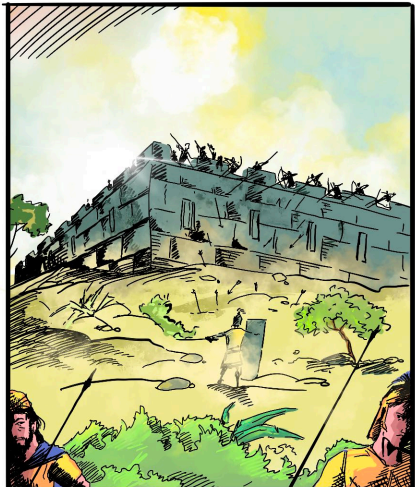
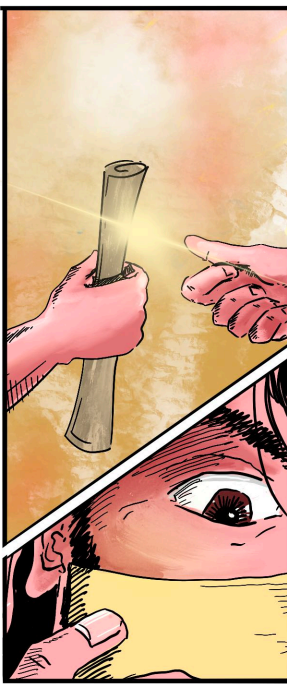
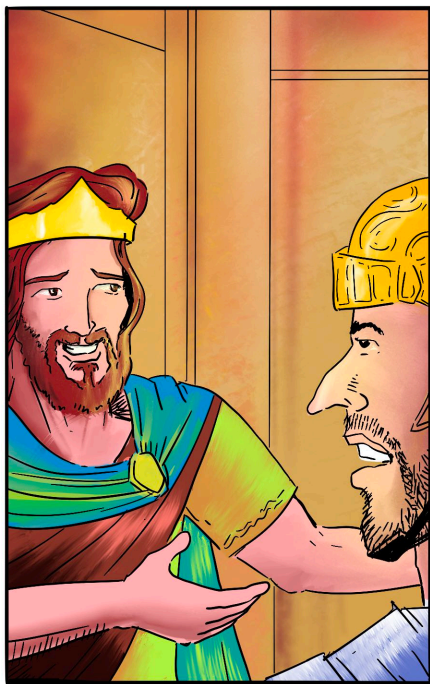
IN CHAPTER 11 WE READ OF DAVID'S GREAT FALL. INSTEAD OF BEING ON THE **BATTLEFIELD** HE WAS **SLEEPING** IN HIS PALACE. IT SAYS THAT HE WOKE UP IN THE **EVENING**! WE DON'T KNOW IF HE WAS SLEEPING WHOLE MORNING! IT IS WHEN THINGS BECOME **EASY**, WE ARE IN **DANGER** OF FALLING INTO **SIN**. WHEN WE ARE NOT WHERE **GOD** WANTS US TO BE , WE FALL INTO SIN.



DAVID SHOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE **BATTLEFIELD**. IT SAYS THAT IT WAS **SPRING**, THE TIME WHEN KINGS WENT IN TO **BATTLE**. IT IS WHEN WE STOP FIGHTING AND **RELAX** IN THE BATTLE THAT WE **SIN**. IT IS GOOD TO BE **WORKING** IN THE **FIELD**, FOR THE **LORD** ! BUT DAVID STAYED AT HOME. AT **LEAST** DAVID SHOULD HAVE BEEN **PRAYING** FOR JOAB WHO WAS OUT IN THE BATTLEFIELD FIGHTING.



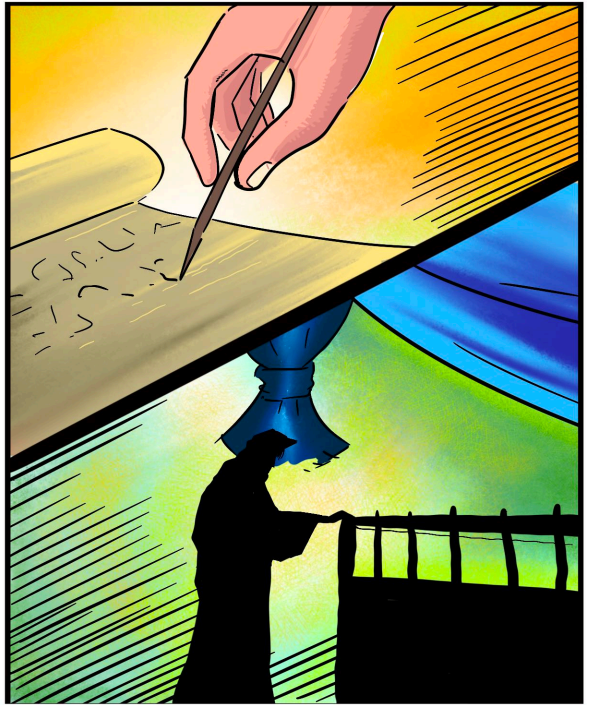
NOW DAVID GOT UP FROM HIS BED , AND INSTEAD OF **PRAYING** FIRST, HE WALKED ON THE ROOF OF HIS PALACE. THAT'S WHEN HE **SAW** BATHSHEBA AND WAS **TEMPTED**. IF HE HAD NIPPED THE TEMPTATION IN THE BUD, RIGHT THEN, AND **STOPPED** IT AT THE FIRST STAGE, HE WOULD NEVER HAVE REACHED THE **FINAL** STAGE. HE COULD HAVE TURNED **AWAY** AND **PRAYED**. THEN, WHEN HE ENQUIRED AND DISCOVERED THAT SHE WAS **SOMEONE ELSE'S WIFE**, HE COULD HAVE STOPPED HIMSELF AT LEAST THEN. BUT IN THE MOMENT HE **FORGOT** ALL ABOUT **GOD** WHO MADE HIM KING. HE WAS NOW A POWERFUL MONARCH WHO COULD HAVE **ANYONE** HE WANTED. SO HE COMMITTED **ADULTERY** WITH HER. LET US NOT CRITICISE DAVID. WE MIGHT NOT BE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO **GRAB** ANOTHER'S WIFE BUT **ADMIRING** AND LUSTING AFTER HER BEAUTY IS THE SAME!



WHEN BATHSHEBA BECAME PREGNANT DAVID WAS IN A **FIX**. HE HAD TO **COVER** UP HIS SIN NOW. HE CALLED URIAH AND ASKED HIM TO GO HOME TO HIS WIFE THAT NIGHT. BUT URIAH HAD SUCH A SENSE OF **RESPONSIBILITY**, HE DID NOT. HE WAS A MUCH **BETTER** MAN THAN DAVID AT THAT TIME. NOW DAVID BEGAN TO SCHEME. ONCE WE SIN, WE ARE TEMPTED TO **COVER** UP THE **FIRST** SIN BY COMMITTING **MORE** SINS! HE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO URIAH IN ALL **HONESTY** AND ASKED FOR HIS **FORGIVENESS**. INSTEAD, TO PROTECT HIS **REPUTATION**, HE SENT URIAH BACK AND TOLD GENERAL JOAB TO PUT HIM RIGHT IN THE FRONT WHERE THE BATTLE WAS **THICKEST** SO URIAH WOULD BE **KILLED**. WHAT AN **EVIL** THING! I THANK GOD THAT SCRIPTURE IS ABSOLUTELY **HONEST** AND DOES **NOT** COVER UP THE FAILURES OF ITS **GREATEST** HEROES. AS WE LOOK INTO THE **CORRUPTION** IN OUR OWN **FLESH**, WE DISCOVER THAT WE ARE **NO BETTER** THAN DAVID. WE ALL HAVE THE **SAME** FLESH AND CAPABLE OF THE SAME SIN. MAY **GOD** PRESERVE US.



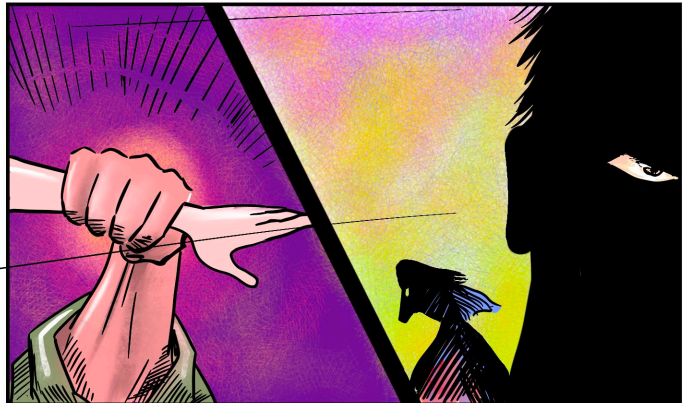
THANK GOD THERE WAS ONE **BRAVE** PROPHET THERE.. NATHAN. IT WAS A VERY **DANGEROUS** THING IN DAYS TO CONFRONT A **KING** AND TELL HIM THAT HE WAS A **SINNER**. EVEN TODAY 99% OF PASTORS WOULD NEVER DARE TO A CHURCH MEMBER WHO IS **RICH**, AND POINT OUT HIS SIN TO HIM. BUT NATHAN WAS DIFFERENT. HE TOLD DAVID A STORY OF A **RICH** MAN, WHO HAD **MANY** SHEEP AND A **POOR** MAN WHO HAD ONLY **ONE** LAMB . THE **RICH** MAN TOOK THE **POOR** MAN'S **LAMB** TO PROVIDE A MEAL TO A VISITOR TO THE **RICH** MAN. DAVID'S ANGER **BURNED** GREATLY. IT IS **EASY** TO GET ANGRY AT THE SINS OF **OTHERS**. BUT HE DID NOT SEE HIS **GREATER** SIN UNTIL NATHAN SAID " **YOU ARE THE MAN** " !!



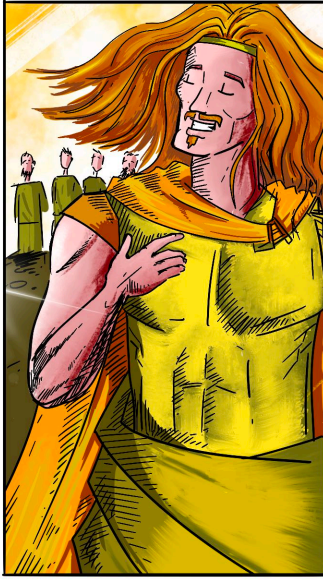
DAVID SUDDENLY REALISED THE **TRUTH** AND WE SEE THE MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART COMING INTO HIS OWN AGAIN. DAVID HAD SAID EARLIER " THE RICH MAN MUST MAKE RESTITUTION 4 TIMES " . THIS WAS THE PRICE DAVID HAD TO PAY. 4 OF HIS SONS **DIED** - THE BABY BORN TO BATHSHEBA, AMNON, ABSALOM AND ADONIJAH. WE **REAP** WHAT WE **SOW**. **JESUS** SAID WE WOULD BE **JUDGED** WITH THE SAME JUDGEMENT WITH WHICH WE JUDGE OTHERS. SO LET US BE **MERCIFUL**. DAVID WROTE PSALM 51 SAYING " LORD, I HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU. PLEASE DON'T TAKE YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FROM ME " . HE DIDN'T TRY TO **COVER** HIS SIN LIKE SAUL. BUT GOD **STILL** STRUCK BATHSHEBA'S CHILD, **DESPITE** DAVID'S **REPENTANCE**. GOD FORGIVES US BUT ALSO DEALS WITH US IN **DISCIPLINE**.



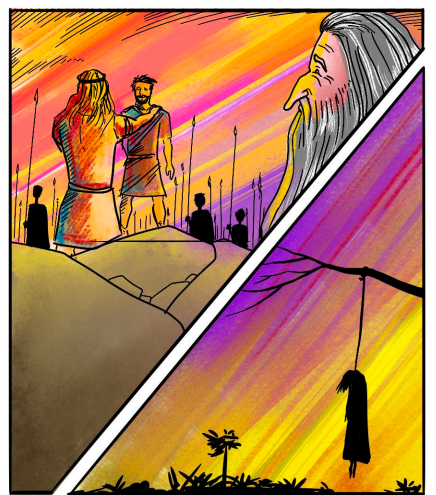
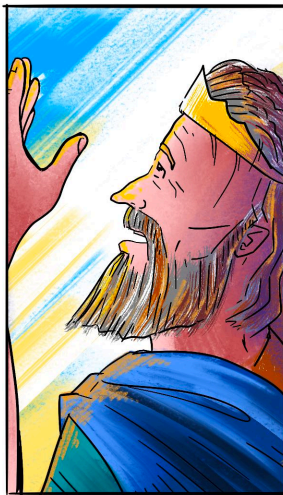
FOR INSTANCE, CONSIDER A MAN WHO HAS FILLED HIS MIND WITH **PORNOGRAPHY** FOR MANY YEARS. HE THEN **REPENTS** AND GOD FORGIVES HIM. GOD FORGIVES HIM IMMEDIATELY. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST **CLEANSSES** HIM. **YET**, HE WILL STILL BE **PLAGUED** BY DIRTY IMAGES FROM HIS MEMORY FOR MANY YEARS. GOD HAS MADE IT THIS WAY SO SIN **ISN'T** TAKEN **LIGHTLY**. IF HE NOW **RESISTS** SUCH THOUGHTS AND FILLS HIS **MIND** WITH THE BIBLE , THESE IMAGES SINK TO THE **BOTTOM** OF MEMORY



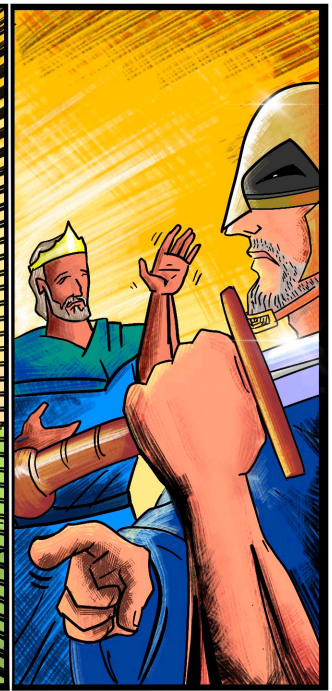
IN CHAPTER 13 WE READ OF AMNON " FALLING IN LOVE " WITH HIS HALF SISTER TAMAR AND THEN FORCIBLY MOLESTING HER. ONCE HIS LUST HAS BEEN SATISFIED, HE **HATED** HER. **HOW** DID HIS " **GREAT LOVE** " TURN INTO HATRED? HIS " LOVE " WAS ACTUALLY **LUST**. HERE IS A LESSON FOR ALL **YOUNG** PEOPLE. MANY A YOUNG MAN CLAIMS TO FALL IN " LOVE " WITH SOME YOUNG GIRL. WHAT **BOTH** OF THEM DON'T REALISE IS THAT IN ALMOST **ALL** CASES, THE YOUNG MAN'S SO CALLED " LOVE " IS ACTUALLY ONLY LUST. **GIRLS** MUST **ESPECIALLY** RECOGNISE THIS AND **BEWARE** , LEST THEY BE **EXPLOITED**. HUMAN LOVE ITS OWN GAIN.



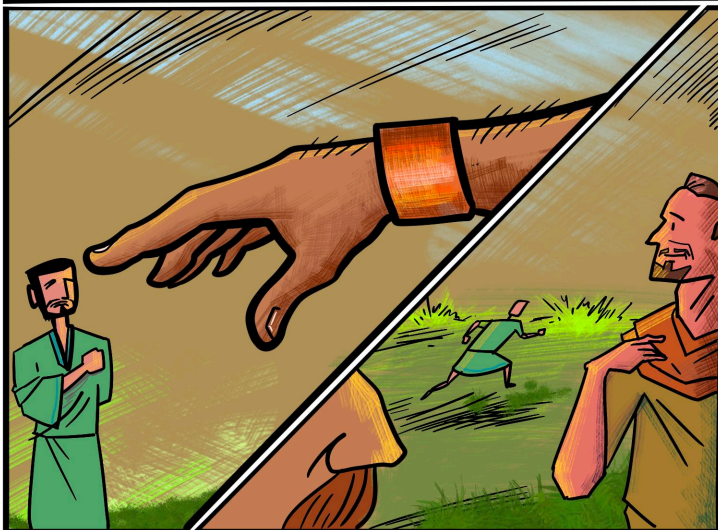
DAVID NOW BEGINS TO **REAP** WHAT HE SOWED WITH BATHSHEBA AND UURIAH - ADULTERY AND MURDER. ABSALOM AVENGES HIS SISTER TAMAR BY KILLING AMNON. **SOONER OR LATER** WE REAP WHAT WE SOW. IN CHAPTER 15 WE SEE ABSALOM STARTING A CONSPIRACY BECAUSE HE WANTED TO BE KING. HE WOULD STAND AT THE CITY GATES AND ASK THOSE WHO CAME IN WHAT THEIR PROBLEMS WERE. HE THEN WOULD SAY **IF ONLY HE** WAS THE RULER, HE COULD HAVE HELPED. WE SEE THIS IS **CHRISTENDOM** AS WELL. PAUL SAID TO THE ELDERS AT EPHESUS " I KNOW THAT AFTER MY DEPARTURE SOME OF YOU WILL **DRAW** DISCIPLES AFTER **YOURSELVES** " (ACTS 20 : 29, 30). IT **NEVER** GOES WELL WITH THOSE WHO FOLLOW ABSALOM. NOW DAVID HAD TO LEAVE HIS THRONE AND FLEE FOR HIS LIFE. BUT GOD BROUGHT SOMETHING **GOOD** OUT OF THAT. DAVID WROTE SOME WONDERFUL **PSALMS** (55, 61 AND 63) . THESE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN THE BIBLE IF ABSALOM HAD NOT **CHASED** DAVID OUT OF JERUSALEM. CONSIDER PSALM 55 : 22 " CAST YOUR **BURDEN** ON THE LORD AND HE WILL **SUSTAIN** YOU " DAVID LEARNT THIS WHILE HE WAS ON THE **RUN** , NOT WHEN HE WAS IN THE PALACE. GOD GIVES US A **MINISTRY** THROUGH THE **TRIALS** HE TAKES US **THROUGH** .



MANY PEOPLE SWITCHED SIDES AS SOON AS **SOON** AS ABSALOM BEGAN TO RULE. **AHITHOPEL**, BATHSHEBA'S GRANDFATHER, WAS DAVID'S TRUSTED COUNSELLOR. HE NOW HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO **AVENGE** THE EVIL THAT DAVID HAD DONE TO HIS GRAND DAUGHTER. HE BEGAN TO ADVISE ABSALOM HOW TO **KILL** DAVID. BUT DAVID HAD ALREADY ASKED GOD IN A **ONE SENTENCE PRAYER** TO " **MAKE AHITHOPEL'S ADVICE FOOLISHNESS** " GOD ANSWERED IT - AND ABSALOM REJECTED AHITHOPEL'S ADVICE AND TOOK THE **OPPOSITE** ADVICE GIVEN BY SOMEONE ELSE. THIS DAVID **ESCAPED** BEING KILLED. SO LET US **NEVER STOP** PRAYING **ONE-SENTENCE PRAYERS!** AHITHOPEL, HOWEVER, WAS A **PROUD** MAN AND HE WAS SO **OFFENDED** THAT HIS ADVICE WAS **REJECTED** THAT HE WENT OUT AND COMMITTED **SUICIDE** (CHAPTER 17 : 23)



WHEN DAVID WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM ABSALOM, A MAN CALLED **SHIMEI** CAME OUT THROWING STONES AND **CURSING** DAVID REPEATEDLY. HE WAS A RELATIVE OF **SAUL** AND WAS NURSING A **GRUDGE** AGAINST DAVID FOR A **LONG** TIME. SHIMEI COULD **NOT** DO ANYTHING AS LONG AS DAVID WAS ON THE THRONE. HE NOW **FALSELY** ACCUSED DAVID OF **MURDERING** KING SAUL AND **STEALING** HIS THRONE (VERSE 8) HOW **LITTLE** SHIMEI ONE OF THE REAL TRUTH. EVEN SO IT IS WITH THOSE WHO ACCUSE **GOD'S** SERVANTS TODAY OF MANY THINGS. ONE OF DAVID'S SOLDIERS SAID " LET ME GO AND **CHOP** OFF HIS HEAD " BUT DAVID SAID " NO. IF THE LORD HAS **PERMITTED** HIM TO CURSE ME, WHY SHOULD I FIGHT AGAINST THE **LORD**? " IT IS **WONDERFUL** TO SEE DAVID'S UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S **ABSOLUTE** SOVEREIGNTY. WE CAN COME TO **REST** IN OUR LIVES IF WE UNDERSTAND THIS TRUTH.



DAVID WANTED JOAB TO DEAL **GENTLY** WITH ABSALOM. BUT ABSALOM WAS KILLED AND THE BATTLE WAS WON. IN 18 : 19 - 32 , WE READ OF A YOUNG MAN **AHIMAAZ** WHO WANTED TO BE THE **FIRST** ONE TO GIVE THE NEWS OF THE **VICTORY** TO DAVID. BUT JOAB SENT A **CUSHITE** INSTEAD TO TAKE THE NEWS. BUT **AHIMAAZ** WAS PERSISTENT AND FINALLY JOAB PERMITTED HIM TO GO. HE OUTRAN THE CUSHITE BUT WHEN DAVID ASKED IF ABSALOM WAS ALIVE , AHIMAAZ DID NOT KNOW. SO HE HAD TO STEP **ASIDE** AND **WAIT** FOR THE CUSHITE. THIS IS A PICTURE OF TWO TYPES OF PREACHERS - ONE WHO IS EAGER TO GO AND PREACH, BUT NOT **SENT** BY GOD HIMSELF. ONLY THE ONE SENT BY GOD WILL HAVE THE **FULL** MESSAGE - THE **FULL GOSPEL** , EVEN IF HE COMES **LATER** AND IS NOT HUMANLY GIFTED . WE MUST JUDGE EVERY PROPHECY SINCE THERE ARE **MANY** TODAY, NOT SENT BY GOD.

WHEN DAVID HEARD THAT **ABSALOM** HAD DIED
 " HE WEPT SAYING " OH, MY SON ABSALOM. I
 WISH I HAD **DIED** IN YOUR PLACE "

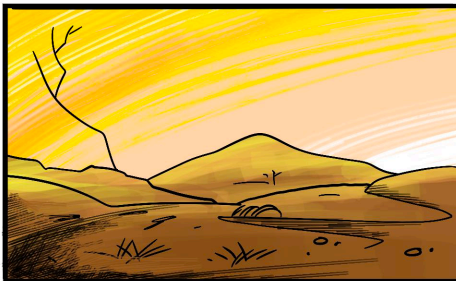


ABSALOM WAS KILLED AND DAVID WAS
 BROUGHT BACK TO THE THRONE. GOD HAD
 TESTED DAVID WHEN HE WAS A YOUNG MAN,
 TO SEE IF HE WOULD GRAB THE THRONE FROM
 SAUL. NOW HE TESTED HIM AGAIN TO SEE IF
 HE WOULD GRAB THE THRONE FROM
 ABSALOM. IN BOTH CASES , HE WAITED FOR
 GOD AND DID NOT GRAB THE THRONE



GOD WILL TEST US WHEN WE ARE
 YOUNG AND HE WILL TEST US WHEN WE
 ARE OLD - EVEN AFTER WE HAVE
 FOLLOWED HIM FOR 50 YEARS. THE
 FIRST TIME, DAVID HAD TO BE ON THE
 RUN FOR OVER 10 YEARS. BUT THE
 SECOND TIME, HE HAD TO RUN FOR HIS
 LIFE ONLY FOR A FEW DAYS. GOD
 DETERMINES HOW LONG EACH TRIAL
 SHOULD BE AND WILL NEVER ALLOW US
 TO BE TESTED BEYOND OUR ABILITY

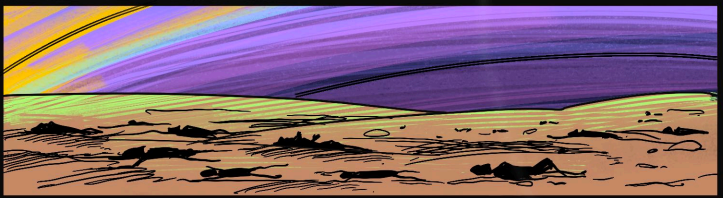
HERE WE SEE THE SPIRIT OF **CHRIST** IN DAVID ,
 FOR HE WISHED THAT HE HAD **DIED** IN PLACE OF
 THOSE WHO **REBELLED** AGAINST HIM. HE DID NOT
HATE EVEN THOSE WHO PLANNED TO **KILL** HIM.
 HE HAD TRACES OF THE NEW COVENANT SPIRIT



IN CHAPTER 21 , WE READ OF A **FAMINE** IN ISRAEL THAT CONTINUED YEARS AFTER YEAR. FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS, DAVID ASSUMED THAT THIS WAS JUST A **NATURAL** CALAMITY. BUT WHEN IT CONTINUED INTO THE **THIRD** YEAR DAVID BEGAN TO SEEK THE **LORD** TO FIND OUT THE **REASON** FOR THIS. WHEN WE GO THROUGH DIFFICULTIES THAT NEVER SEEM TO END, OR WHEN WE FIND THE **LACK** OF THE **BLESSING** OF GOD UPON OUR LIVES CONTINUOUSLY, IT IS **GOOD** FOR US TO SEEK GOD'S FACE AND FIND THE **REASON** FOR IT. THERE WILL **ALWAYS** BE A REASON. IN THIS CASE IT WAS BECAUSE **SAUL** HAD **KILLED** THE GIBEONITES MANY YEARS EARLIER. THE GIBEONITES WERE **CANAANITES** WHOM GOD HIMSELF HAD COMMANDED JOSHUA TO KILL. BUT JOSHUA HAD BEEN **DECEIVED** BY THE GIBEONITES, AND HAD MADE A **COVENANT** WITH THEM THAT THE ISRAELITES WOULD **NEVER** KILL ANY OF THEM OR THEIR DESCENDANTS. SAUL **VIOLATED** THIS COVENANT. GOD TAKES IT VERY **SERIOUSLY** WHEN WE BREAK OUR WORD - EVEN TO AN **ENEMY!** ONCE THE MATTER WAS SET **RIGHT**, GOD BLESSED THE LAND WITH CROPS **AGAIN**.



DAVID WAS A GREAT **LEADER** AND HE WROTE DOWN A FEW QUALITIES OF A SPIRITUAL LEADER - **ANointed** BY THE **HOLY SPIRIT**, HAVING **GOD'S WORD** ON HIS TONGUE ALWAYS. HE MUST LEAD **RIGHTEOUSLY** IN THE **FEAR OF GOD**. HIS LIFE MUST BE A **SHINING LIGHT** AND HIS TESTIMONY LIKE CLOUDLESS MORNING. BUT DAVID DID NOT WORK ALONE .HE GATHERED MANY OTHER **BRAVE** " MIGHTY " MEN TOO. EVEN TODAY GOD NEEDS **FEARLESS LEADERS** IN THE **CHURCH** WHO WILL TAKE THEIR STAND, FIGHT SATAN AND THROUGH WHOM THE LORD CAN BRING **MANY VICTORIES**



IN CHAPTER 24 WE READ OF THE **SECOND** SERIOUS SIN THAT DAVID COMMITTED. HE DECIDED TO **COUNT** THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ISRAEL - EITHER TO FIND OUT OVER HOW MANY PEOPLE HE WAS KING OR TO SEE HOW **STRONG** HIS ARMY WOULD BE . HIS GENERAL JOAB (WHO KNEW THE LORD LESS THAN DAVID) URGED HIM **NOT** TO DO IT. BUT DAVID WAS **STUBBORN** AND HE DID IT ANYWAY. THE LORD PUNISHED DAVID FOR IT AND **70000** PEOPLE IN ISRAEL WERE **KILLED** THROUGH SICKNESS. GOD WAS TELLING DAVID HIS CENSUS WAS **NO** USE, BECAUSE GOD COULD **REDUCE** THE POPULATION IN PAY BY **70000** PEOPLE



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DAVID **REPENTED** AND WANTED TO MAKE AN OFFERING TO GOD AT THE THRESHING FLOOR OF **ARAUNAH**, WHICH WAS ON MOUNT MORIAH , WHERE **ABRAHAM** HAD OFFERED UP ISAAC TO GOD. ARAUNAH OFFERED THE KING THE BULLOCKS AND WOOD FOR SACRIFICE **FREE** OF CHARGE BUT DAVID SAID " **I WILL NEVER OFFER TO THE LORD THAT WHICH COSTS ME NOTHING** " THIS IS A GOOD **MOTTO** FOR US TO HAVE ALL THROUGH OUR LIVES. GOD COMMANDED THE **TEMPLE** TO BE BUILT AT THIS SITE. THE SAME IS TRUE TODAY - **GOD'S TRUE HOUSE - THE CHURCH - IS BUILT BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE . GOD LOOKS FOR THIS TODAY...**