

戰士 Warriors

翻看聖經歷史，以色列人很重視武裝力量。以色列人進迦南時，由約書亞帶領他們不斷打仗，才可以在迦南地安居。後來以色列被外敵入侵，也是由諸如底波拉、基甸這樣的強人領袖領軍驅除敵人。不過每次出戰之前，領袖都要招募戰士。

掃羅王是以色列史上第一個建立正規軍的領袖，其後的大衛王、所羅門王再擴充軍隊的規模。不過，與四鄰的大帝國相比，以色列的軍隊是小巫見大巫。

Throughout Bible history, the people of Israel needed a fighting force. War was part of Joshua's campaign to make Canaan a land that his people could settle in. Strong leaders such as Deborah and Gideon led soldiers against the tribes that threatened them. Each time, fighters had to be 'called up'.

King Saul was the first leader to set up a permanent army, and King David and King Solomon after him made it stronger. However, the Israelites never had an army to match those of the great empires.

掃羅的軍隊 SAUL'S ARMY

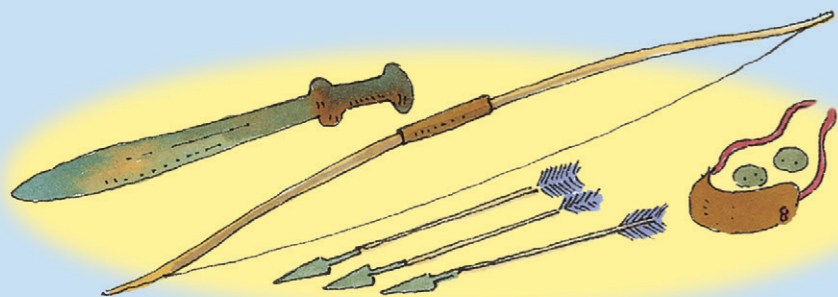
掃羅剛作王時，還須招聚戰士成軍；他要差遣使者到各支派去吹號招兵。

When he was first king, Saul had to summon an army. He sent messengers with trumpets to every community.



掃羅的軍隊只有步兵，他們的兵器可能是自備的，只有刀劍、弓箭、甩石器。

Saul's army had only foot soldiers. They probably had to bring their own weapons: swords, bows and arrows, and slings.



所羅門王的軍隊 KING SOLOMON'S ARMY

所羅門王國庫充裕，軍中有騎兵團及戰車團。
King Solomon ruled a wealthy nation. At last the army could have cavalry and chariot regiments.



甩石器不僅是牧羊人的武器，也是打仗的兵器。軍隊中設有甩石兵團。

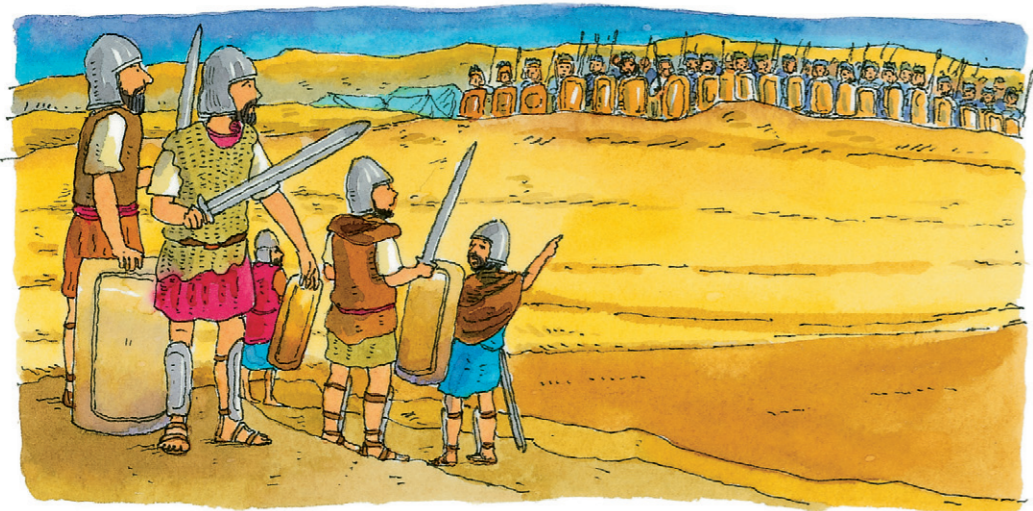
A slingshot was not just for shepherds. It was an army weapon. There were even regiments of slingers.



大衛與歌利亞

David and Goliath

《撒母耳記上》1 Samuel 17-31章；《撒母耳記下》2 Samuel 1-5章；《詩篇》Psalm 23篇



掃羅王的軍隊排在這邊山上，預備應戰。

那邊山上是敵軍，他們是非利士人，有鐵製的兵器，在陽光中閃閃生輝。

以色列人面面相覷。“只有王和他兒子有可以抵擋他們的兵器啊！”他們悄聲說。

兩軍對峙的時候，突然敵陣中走出兩個人來，一個是巨人，

King Saul's army lined up on the hillside, ready for battle.

On the hillside across the valley was the enemy army: the Philistines, whose strong iron weapons glinted in the sunshine.

The Israelite soldiers looked at one another. 'Only the king and his son have swords that are as strong as those,' they whispered.

As they waited, two men came striding out of the enemy camp. One wore

穿着銅鎧甲，頭戴銅盔。另一個較矮小，拿着盾牌。

“那個巨人身上軍裝的銅，比我們刀劍的銅還要多！”以色列兵低聲說，“但願不會在戰場上遇見他！”

巨人大聲叫陣，他的聲音又粗壯又輕佻。

“你們誰敢跟我對陣？”他咆哮道，“我是歌利亞，非利士第一勇士。你們有誰打贏我，就等於贏了我軍！若輸了，就作我們的奴僕吧！”

他說完就掄着大矛。以色列人嚇呆了，沒有人敢開口。

歌利亞天天叫陣，足足叫了四十天。他大聲說話，仰天大笑！以色列人愈聽愈害怕。

heavy bronze armour and a bronze helmet. The other was smaller, a boy perhaps, carrying the shield.

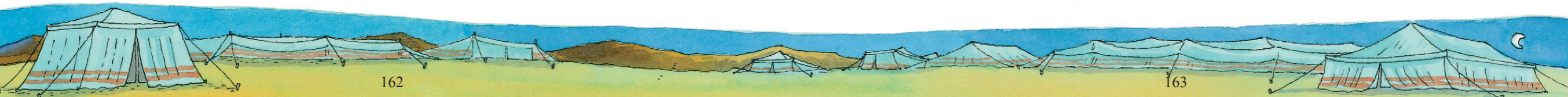
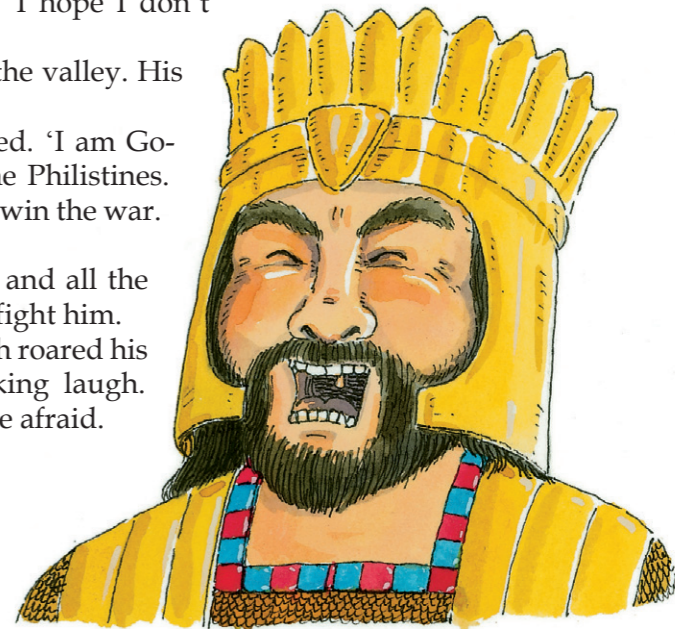
'The tall one's wearing more metal than we've got in our weapons,' muttered an Israelite. 'I hope I don't meet him in battle.'

The taller man shouted across the valley. His voice was harsh and mocking.

'Who dares fight me?' he roared. 'I am Goliath, the champion warrior of the Philistines. Beat me in single combat and you win the war. Lose, and you'll be our slaves!'

He brandished his huge spear, and all the Israelites covered. No one dared fight him.

Every day for forty days, Goliath roared his challenge and laughed his mocking laugh. The Israelites grew more and more afraid.



有一天，牧羊小子大衛來到以色列軍營中。他的哥哥都參了軍，他來，是從家中帶食物來給哥哥們。

大衛聽到歌利亞的叫陣。

他又聽到打敗歌利亞的重賞。

“我要試試看！”他對眾人說。

掃羅王聽聞有人自告奮勇去迎戰歌利亞，就召見了大衛。

大衛被領去見掃羅，掃羅急不及待要見。可是一見大衛，掃羅頹然坐下，說：“哎喲！你只是個小伙子！不是歌利亞的對手！人家半輩子是軍人啊！”

“陛下，”大衛說，“我是牧羊人，遇過獅子和熊要來啣我的羊，我都把牠們殺了。這個非利士人，我也可以把他殺死！神怎樣救我脫離野獸的爪，也必救我脫離這非利士人的手！”

One day, the shepherd boy named David arrived at the Israelite camp. His elder brothers were in Saul's army and he had brought food from home to give them.

He heard the challenge.

He heard about the big reward that was on offer for anyone who beat Goliath.

'I'd love to try!' he told everyone.

King Saul heard the news that someone had volunteered to try to win the war. He demanded to see whoever it was.

As the young man was led towards him, Saul stood up eagerly. Then he sank back down. 'Oh no!' he said. 'You're a boy - you'd never last against Goliath. He's been a soldier all his life.'

'Your Majesty,' replied David. 'I'm a shepherd boy. I've killed lions and bears who tried to steal the lambs. I can do the same to this Philistine. God has kept me safe from wild animals; God will keep me safe from this Philistine.'



掃羅給大衛氣壞。“嘿！好吧，既然只有你敢上陣，你就去吧！”掃羅沒好氣地說，“你穿戴我的鎧甲吧。”

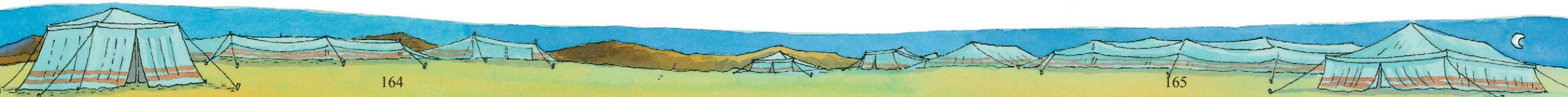
大衛興奮莫名地去試穿，還拿了掃羅的寶劍。但他動彈不得，更別說上陣打仗了。

“我還是穿我向來穿的衣服好了，”大衛輕鬆地說。

Saul glowered at him. 'Well, you're the only one to offer,' he said sulkily. 'But give yourself a chance: at least take my armour.'

David was eager to try it on and to hold the precious iron sword; but he could hardly move, let alone fight.

'I'll just go with what I'm used to,' he said cheerfully.



大衛拿着他的杖和甩石器，向山谷走去。他在溪邊檢了五塊光滑的石子，走到歌利亞面前。

“好大的膽子！”歌利亞怒道，“你的杖只能打狗！嘿！我要將你碎屍萬段，丟給野獸吃！”

“你有的是劍、矛、標槍，”大衛說，“但我倚靠的是我全能上帝的名！”

歌利亞向大衛踏步，不料大衛跑上去迎戰。大衛把一塊石子放在甩石器中，用力向歌利亞甩去。

大衛正中目標！歌利亞俯身向前跌下，他還未及站起來，大衛已經趕到，抽出歌利亞的大劍，把歌利亞殺了。

非利士人嚇得四散奔逃。大衛成為以色列的英雄。

David set off across the valley with just his shepherd's stick and a slingshot. He stopped by the brook to pick five smooth stones. Then he went to face Goliath.

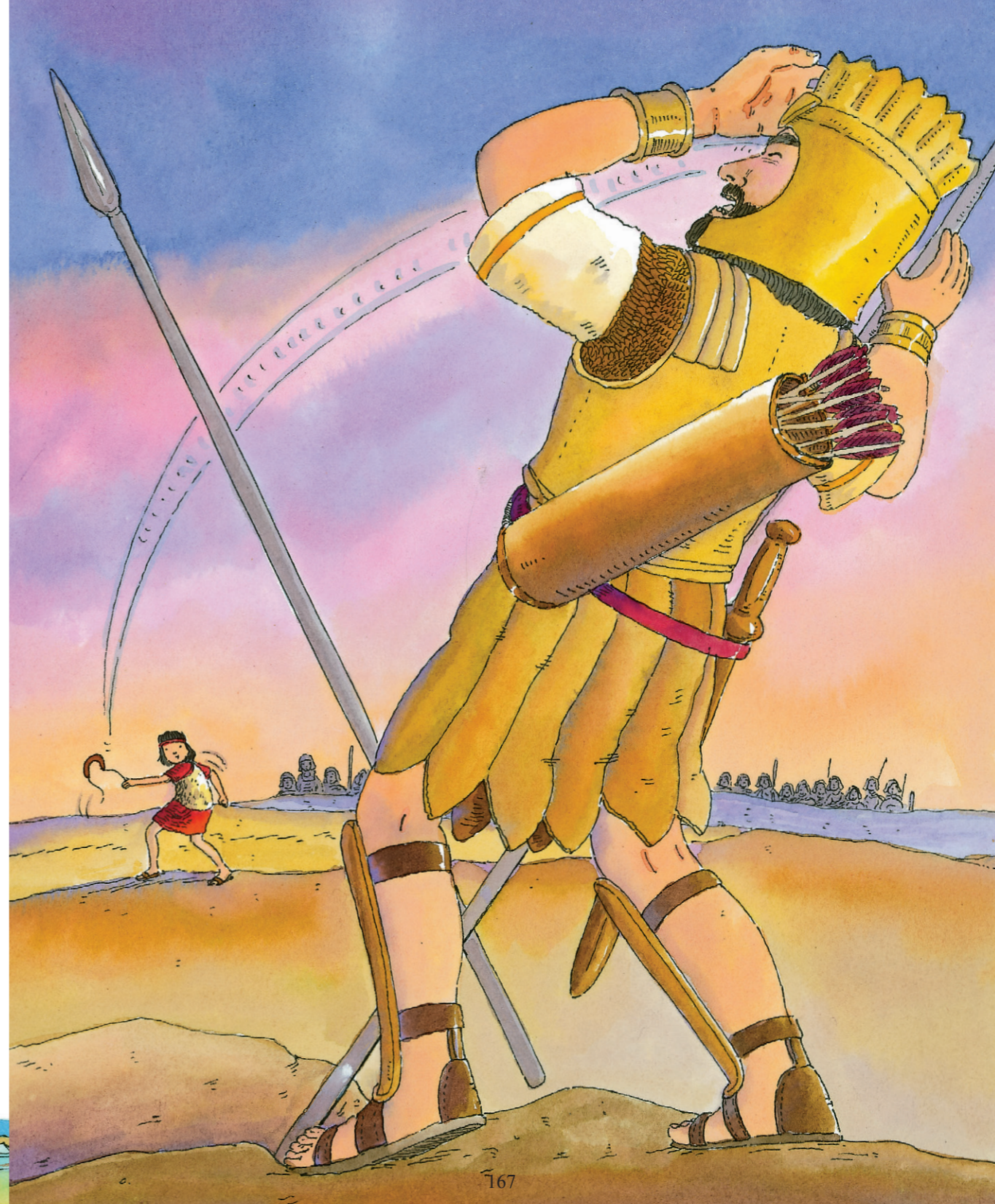
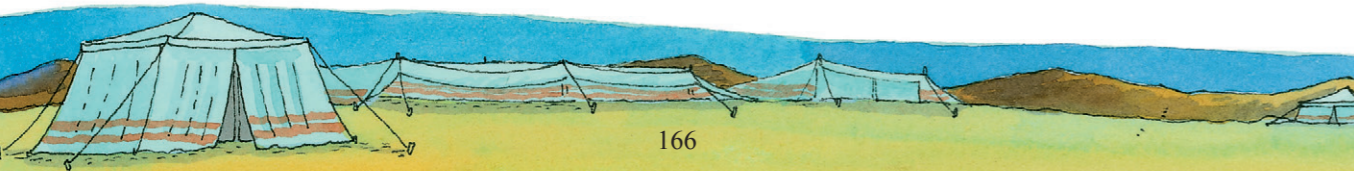
'How dare you!' shouted Goliath. 'A stick's only good to beat a dog. And you're only fit for the wild animals to eat.'

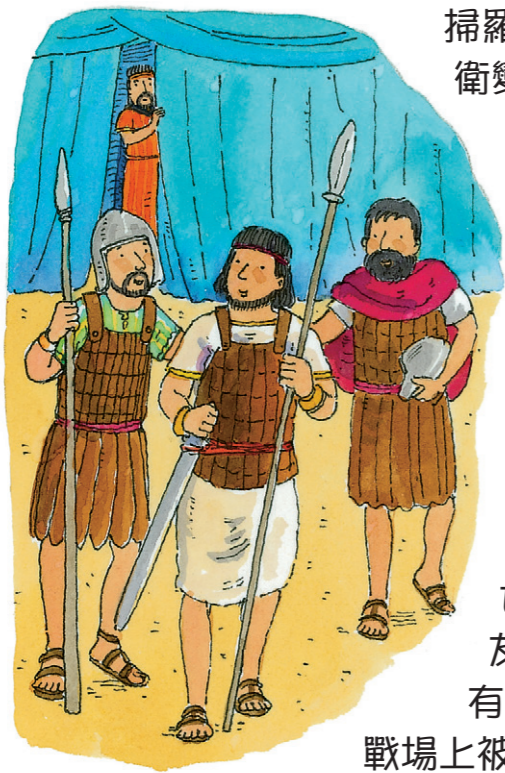
'You've got a sword, a spear and a javelin,' said David. 'I'm fighting in the name of my powerful God.'

Goliath strode towards David, but David ran to meet him. He took a stone, whirled it in his slingshot, and sent it spinning towards the warrior.

It hit right on target. Goliath fell forward. Before he could stand up, David had taken his sword and killed him.

The Philistines fled in terror. David became the Israelites' hero.





掃羅王很高興打了勝仗，卻不高興大衛變得那麼受歡迎。

大衛努力討掃羅的喜悅，一次又一次證明他是個勇敢又忠心的戰士。

可惜大衛愈是成功，掃羅愈是嫉妒。最後大衛不得不離開掃羅，亡命天涯。掃羅不斷追殺大衛，只是尋他不着。

很多以色列人把大衛看為大英雄，願意成為他的手下。這班亡命之徒浪跡天涯，有時遇見朋友，有時遇見仇敵。

有一天消息傳來：掃羅死了，是在戰場上被非利士人殺死的。

King Saul was delighted to have won the war, but he was not so pleased about how popular David was.

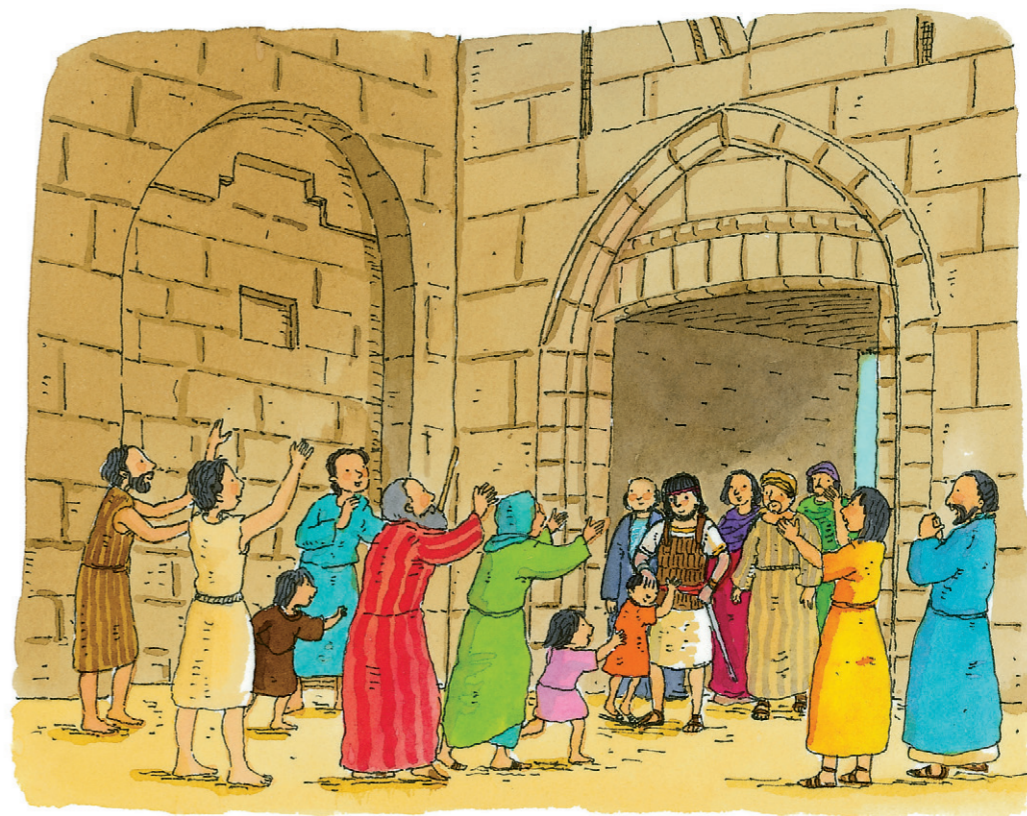
David always tried to please him. Time and again he showed that he was a brave and loyal fighter.

With each success, Saul grew more and more jealous.

In the end, David had to run away and live as an outlaw. Saul tried to hunt him down, but David was too clever for him.

Many people in Israel still thought of David as a hero. Soon he had his own band of fighting men. They lived dangerously, never knowing who was truly a friend and who was an enemy.

The day came when Saul was killed in a battle against the Philistines.



“時候到了，”大衛對手下說，“我要作王了，你們繼續跟隨我吧，有一天我會成為全以色列的王。”

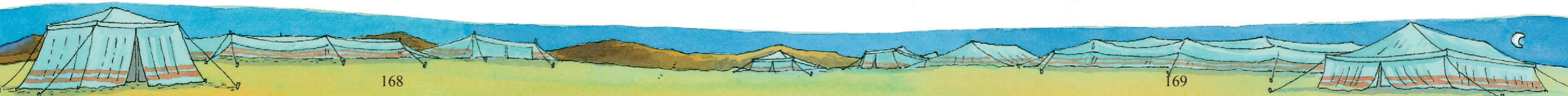
要得到所有人信任，需要很多年日，可是大衛有信心可以做到。

他終於成功了。

‘Now is the time,’ said David to his supporters. ‘I will be your king. With your help, I will one day be king over all the people of Israel.’

It took a long time to win everyone’s trust, but David was confident.

At last he triumphed.



大衛在一座山上造了王城，名為耶路撒冷。

他渴望在城中建一座宏偉的聖殿，讓全以色列的百姓可以聚集敬拜神。他先作好一切預備：先是效法摩西時代的樣式造一個美麗的會幕，然後籌備一切，熱熱鬧鬧地迎接約櫃到來。

大衛又擊退所有的仇敵。回顧一生，他知道神一直保守看顧他，從他看羊的時候開始。

他熱愛唱歌彈琴，又是個詩人，寫下不少佳作：

David built himself a royal city on a hilltop: the city of Jerusalem.

He longed to build a splendid temple there, where all the people of Israel could come to worship. To get ready for that day, he set up a beautiful tent like the one that had been made in the time of Moses. He arranged for the covenant box to be brought there in a noisy and joyful parade.

In time, he defeated all his enemies. As he looked back over everything that had happened, he knew for sure that God had been taking care of him, as he had been when he was a shepherd boy.

He had always enjoyed singing and playing the harp. Now he was able to write beautiful songs.



主上帝是我的牧者，
我是上帝的羊；

祂領我到青草地上，
有溪水清又深。

當有仇敵進犯，
恐懼漫過我身，

主上帝必保護我，
因我站在聖地上。

上帝為我設宴，
在眾人的面前，

必有恩惠慈愛
伴我一生一世。

The Lord God is my shepherd,
and I am God's own sheep;
God takes me to green pastures
and water clear and deep.
When enemies come near me,
and fear is all around,
The Lord God will defend me:
I stand on holy ground.
God spreads a feast before me
and everyone can see
The goodness and the kindness
the Lord God shows to me.

