

DAVID SUCCEEDS SAUL AS KING

II Samuel 2: 1-7; 5: 1-5

David dared not go back to his own home because he knew the kind of man that King Saul had become, so he went into another country and lived there. But one day

messengers brought word that in a terrible battle with the Philistines, Saul and Jonathan had been killed.

This meant that now David could go home in safety, and that instead of being a poor, hunted, homeless wanderer, he could be a loved and honored king.

But David, that loving, true friend, would not rejoice at the sad death of Saul. He and all his followers mourned for Saul and for Jonathan and showed

them every mark of love and respect. Then quietly, without any pomp or show, David went back to Judah again—not to his own town of Bethlehem, but to the larger city of Hebron, to which God told him to go. Israel, you remember, was made up of twelve tribes, or families, a little bit as the United States is made up of different states, and Judah was one of the twelve.

Saul had another son who wanted to keep on ruling over Israel, so when the people of Judah gathered at Hebron and

