

David the brave Shepherd Boy

Many years ago, in the land of Israel, the Philistines were at war with the Israelites. The Philistine and the Israelite armies were camped, on either side of the Valley of Elah ready for battle. Among the Israelite soldiers, were three of David's brothers.

David, the youngest brother was a shepherd boy and one day David's dad asked him to take some food to his brothers. David reached them just as a huge giant of a man, came out of the Philistine camp. The giant's name was Goliath and he was just as wicked as the rest of the Philistines. "Is there any man among you who will fight me," his voice boomed out, "if there is and that man wins we will be your servants but, " he sneered, "if I win then we will be your servants. The Israelites shook with fear at the sound of his voice. "Who is this Philistine that he should challenge the armies of the living God?" asked David, "and what shall be done for the man who kills him?" "King Saul will give him treasure and his daughter in marriage," said the soldiers. David then made his way to King Saul's tent and Saul invited him in. "I will fight Goliath and win," said David. "How can you fight Goliath," said Saul, "you are only a young, shepherd boy." "I have killed a lion and a bear, who tried to attack my sheep, because God was with me and He will be with me when I fight Goliath," replied David.

Saul made David put armour on to protect him, but David could hardly move in it, so he took it off. David then went out to fight Goliath, who was dressed in heavy armour. The giant said to David, "You miserable creature, who do you think you are to fight me." "I'm not afraid of you, because God is with me," answered David and after asking God to help him, he put a smooth pebble into his sling and aimed it at Goliath. The pebble sunk into Goliath's forehead and he fell down dead. Quickly David cut off the head of the giant with Goliath's sword.

The Israelites, including Saul cheered the brave shepherd boy who, trusting God, had won the victory over the Philistines.

MOSES THE MIRACLE BABY

Baby Moses lay in his cot, watching his mother, with wonder, as she took the basket, she had made from bulrushes and made it waterproof, what a strange thing to do, but she had a special reason for doing this..

A wicked Pharaoh (King) had come to power in Egypt and had made slaves of the Israelites who lived there. He treated them with cruelty, but in spite of this, they increased in numbers.

Pharaoh did not want them to take over his country, so he told the Israelite midwives (who helped mums give birth to their babies) to kill all the baby boys they delivered. However the midwives let the baby boys live, because they knew God did not want them to kill those precious babies.

Pharaoh was angry with the midwives and issued a decree that all Israelite baby boys must be killed.

When Moses' mum saw how beautiful her baby was she hid him for three months, but as he grew older his crying grew louder and she was afraid that people would hear him, so she decided to hide him in the basket.. Gently she laid Moses in the basket, took him down to the river Nile and after placing the basket on the water, she went home, but not before leaving Miriam, his sister to watch from a distance. There were crocodiles in the Nile, ready to make a scrumptious meal of Moses but God protected him. Very soon Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river with her maidservants and saw the basket floating in the water. "Bring that basket to me," she ordered. The princess opened the basket and gasped with pleasure, "Oh, what a beautiful baby," she said, "I must have him." Miriam, who had been watching from a distance, came up and said, "Would you like me to find a nurse to look after him for you?" "Yes please," the princess replied. So Miriam fetched her mum who was happy to look after Moses for the princess.

Moses grew up to be a handsome Prince of Egypt, but when he found out that his mother and father were really Israelites, he turned to God and refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

