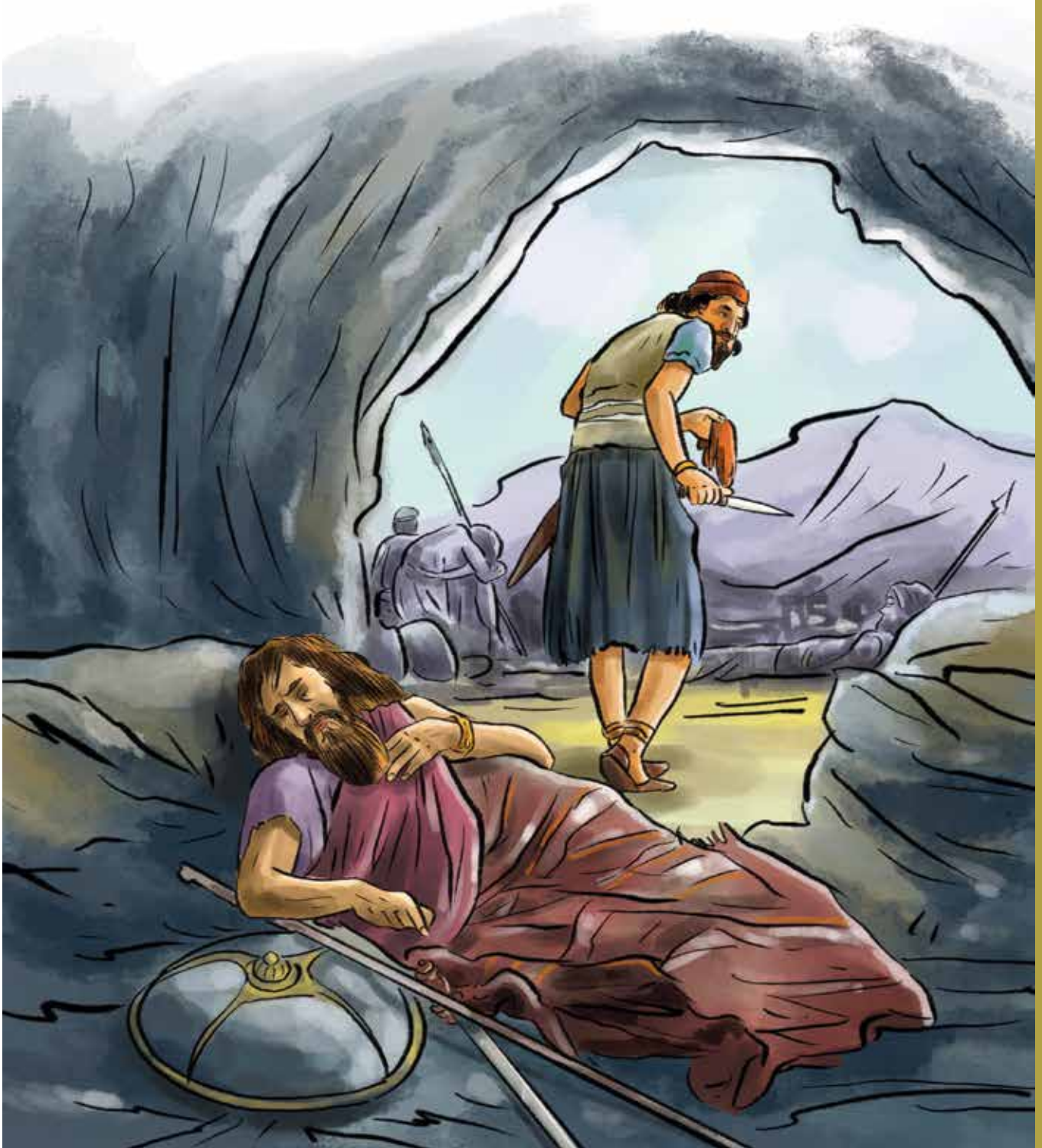


# Saul And David



David was a shepherd boy bestowed with many talents. He played the harp and also proved himself a capable warrior, winning many admirers in Saul's camp.



Saul suffered from bouts of depression as the evil spirit sent by the Lord came on him. To soothe his nerves David was often summoned to play the harp and sing in court. When the young David heard about the giant Philistine named Goliath challenging the Israelites to combat, he offered to fight him.

David refused the armour offered by Saul as he had full trust in the almighty God, and killed Goliath with a single stone from his sling. The Israelites hailed him as a hero. Even Saul's eldest son, Jonathan, became his admirer and trusted friend. This made Saul jealous and he made several attempts to get rid of David.

Jonathan warned David of his father's evil designs and the future king of Israel was forced to wander from place to place with Saul's men in hot pursuit. One night, David sneaked into Saul's army camp and took away the king's spear and water jar. He, however, did not kill Saul because he was chosen by God.

Saul apologised, but remained hostile to David compelling him to escape to Philistine but returned to lead the Israelites when the Philistines inflicted a crushing defeat on Saul's army. Saul was left wounded and his sons, including Jonathan, were killed.

Saul's reign ended when he killed himself instead of being put to the sword by the godless Philistines. His refusal to heed Samuel's advice, greed for power and jealous nature led to his downfall.



## Word of God

1 Samuel 26: 6 – 12

Then David asked Ahimelech the Hittite, and Abishai the brother of Joab (their mother was Zeruah), "Which of you two will go to Saul's camp with me?"

"I will," Abishai answered.

So that night David and Abishai entered Saul's camp and found Saul sleeping in the center of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head.

Abner and the troops were sleeping around him.

Abishai said to David, "God has put your enemy in your power tonight. Now let me plunge his own spear through him and pin him to the ground with just one blow—I won't have to strike twice!"

But David said, "You must not harm him! The Lord will certainly punish whoever harms his chosen king. By the living Lord," David continued, "I know that the Lord himself will kill Saul, either when his time comes to die a natural death or when he dies in battle. The Lord forbid that I should try to harm the one whom the Lord has made king! Let's take his spear and his water jar, and go." So David took the spear and the water jar from right beside Saul's head, and he and Abishai left. No one saw it or knew what had happened or even woke up—they were all sound asleep, because the Lord had sent a heavy sleep on them all.

## Insight

**P.A. Sangma, Speaker, Lok Sabha**

Purno Agitok Sangma (1947–2016) was the Lok Sabha Speaker from 1996 to 1998, and Chief Minister of Meghalaya from 1988 to 1990. In 1977, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Meghalaya and was re-elected multiple times. He is the first Christian to have served at one of the highest Constitutional posts in India. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan posthumously.



