



David was a courageous and successful monarch, but he was human too and made mistakes. But he repented for his sins and cried for God's mercy.

David trusted and loved God but at times resorted to undesirable ways. Though he promised God that he would keep His Law and obey it with all his heart, he committed awful sins when he got Uriah killed and committed adultery with his wife Bathsheba.



David confessed, after Prophet Nathan made him aware of his sins, and sought pardon from God as recorded in the Psalm of Penitence, also called Miserere (which in Latin means 'Have mercy').

David faced many difficulties with his wives and their children. He was filled with sorrow when his son Absalom arranged to murder his half-brother Amnon for violating their sister Tamar. Absalom also plotted to overthrow David and forced him to flee Jerusalem in disguise. But when Absalom was killed by his general, David was overcome with grief as he returned to his beloved capital in triumph. David pardoned all those who had revolted against him.

He faced many challenging situations during his reign, and even allowed the non-Jews to practice their religions in order to ensure prosperity and safety of his kingdom.

But David firmly believed himself to be the servant of God and faithfully observed the social and religious traditions of the Israelites. His human side, confession of sins and repentance, confirmed his position as the divinely appointed leader who was powerful, yet humble and honest. David established his dynasty as promised by God and grew old thanking Him for a united and strong Israeli nation.



The spirit of the Lord speaks through me; his message is on my lips. The God of Israel has spoken; the protector of Israel said to me: "The king who rules with justice, who rules in obedience to God, is like the sun shining on a cloudless dawn, the sun that makes the grass sparkle after rain." And that is how God will bless my descendants, because he has made an eternal covenant with me, an agreement that will not be broken, a promise that will not be changed. That is all I desire; that will be my victory, and God will surely bring it about.

## Insight



## Don Bosco, Educator

John Melchior Bosco or Don Bosco (1815 –1888) was an Italian priest who founded the Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB) congregation for education and welfare of poor children. He also founded a congregation for women: Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, also called Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco, and a Lay Association of Salesian Cooperators, Don Bosco is considered by the Church as the Father and Friend of the young. The Salesians of Don Bosco run several educational institutions in many countries in the world. India alone has over 2,500 Salesians spread in 11 provinces.

