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NOAH'S ARK



The descendants of Adam and Eve grew numerous. They soon became proud and did evil things. God, regretting having created them, decided to punish them. He wanted to save Noah, however, for Noah was wise, just and honest.

God told Noah, "Build a large ark and take your wife and sons aboard. Choose a male and female from every land animal and every bird that flies in the sky and bring them into the ark so that they can one day resettle the earth. Store up an abundant supply of food. It is going to rain upon the earth for forty days and forty nights until everything is under water." Noah did all God had commanded him to do. It began to rain as God had said. Soon there was a great flood.



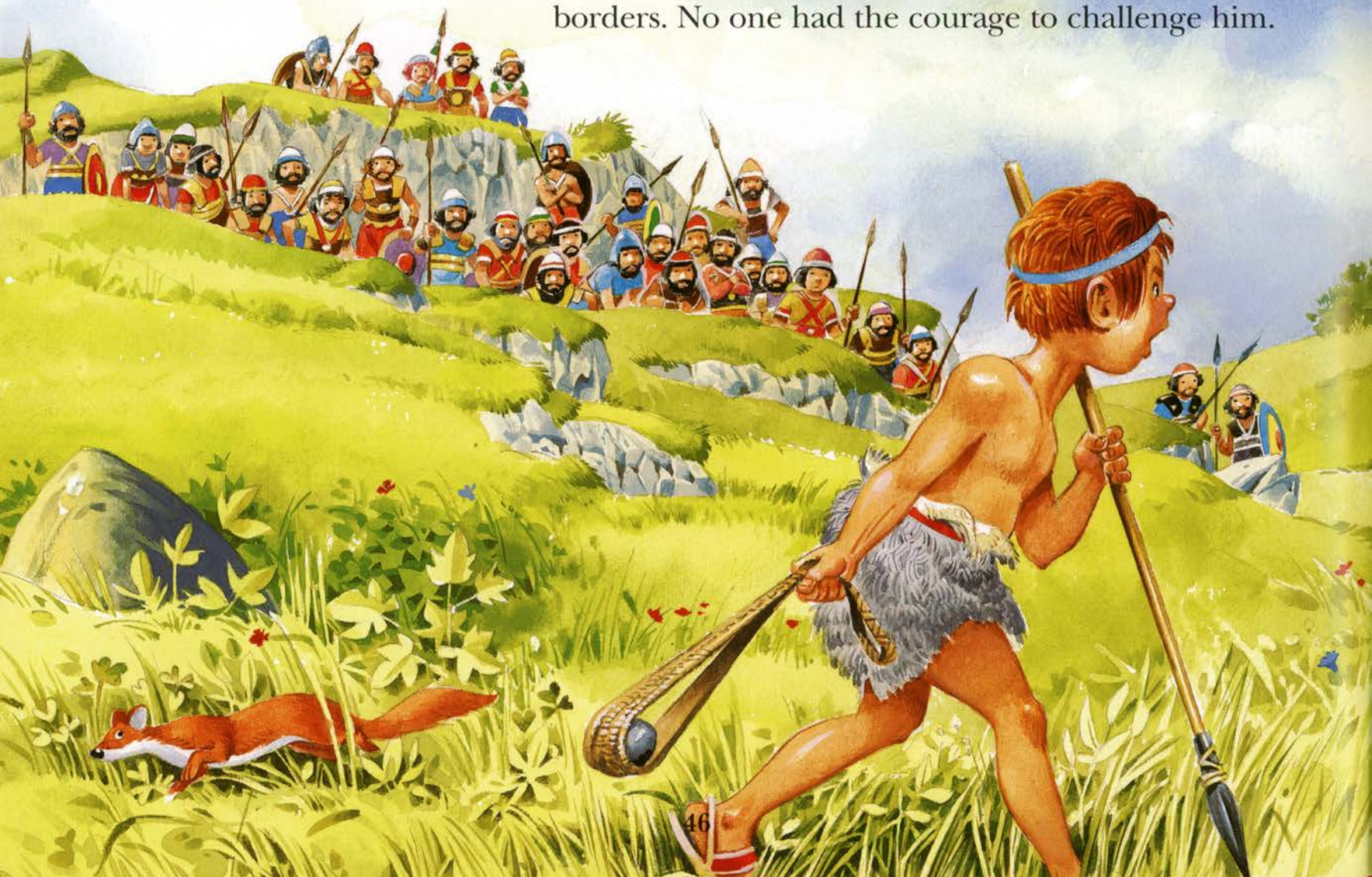
Every creature upon the earth died. The clouds then parted and a rainbow appeared in the sky.

Noah sent out a raven to see whether the water had receded, but everywhere it went it was still flooded. He then sent out a dove, but in vain. A week later, Noah sent out the dove again. This time the bird returned with an olive branch in its beak, a sign that the earth was blooming again and that God had finally made His peace with humanity.



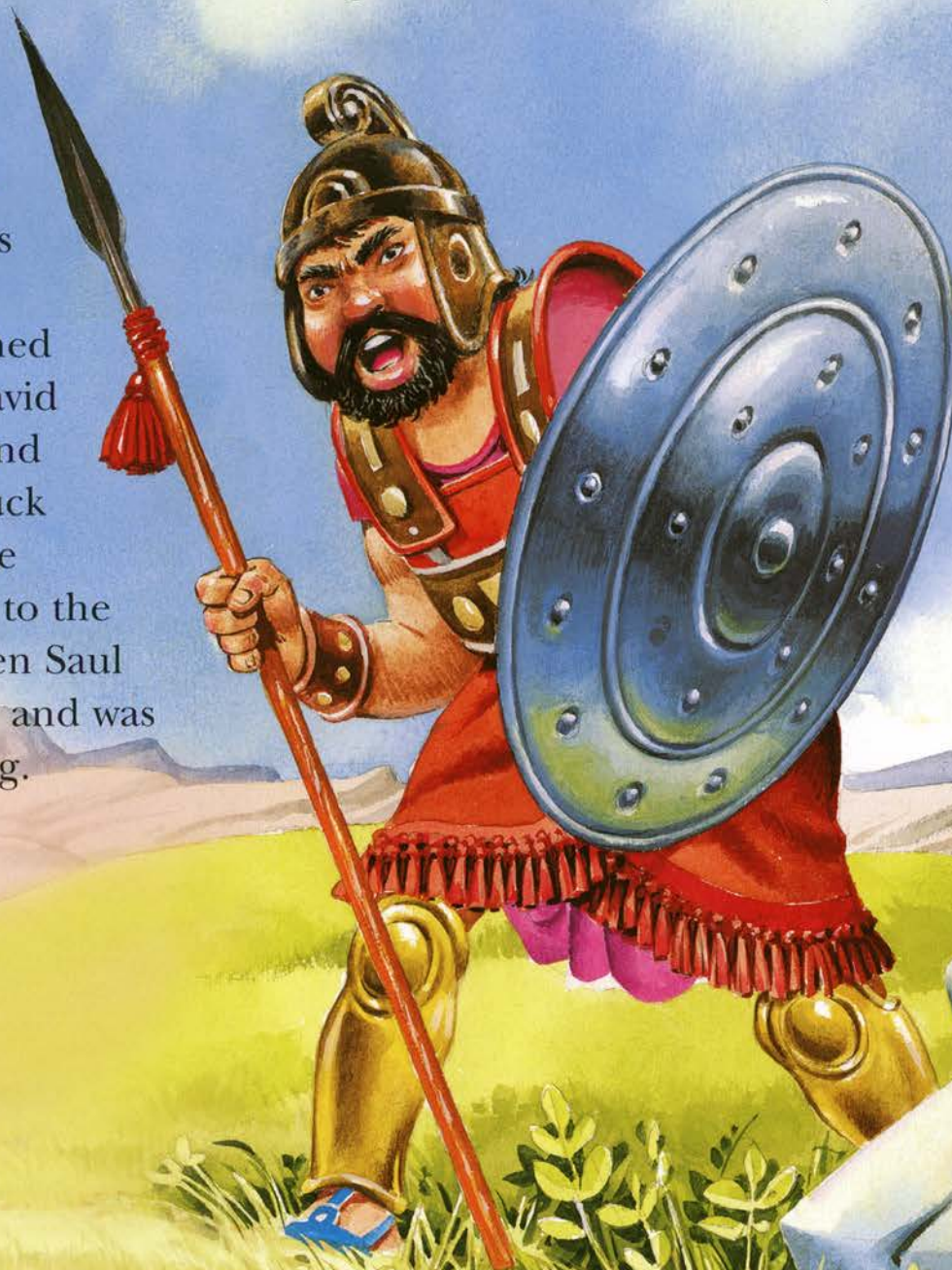
DAVID AND GOLIATH

As the years passed by, Saul became more moody and arrogant. He often fought with Samuel who scolded him for not obeying the Lord. Samuel decided to search for a new king for Israel. One day he saw a handsome young shepherd in Bethlehem: David. The Lord told him, "Get up, Samuel. Anoint this boy with holy oil. He will be the next king of My people." David came to the king's court to play the harp, and Saul loved him. He would always be comforted when depressed if David were around. But there always seemed to be another fight. The Philistines, led by a giant warrior named Goliath, were threatening their borders. No one had the courage to challenge him.



One day David said, "I cannot put up with the fact that this Philistine keeps insulting the people of Israel. I will go fight with him." Saul laughed while he answered, "But you are only a boy!" David answered confidently, "A boy? You'll see!" Without wearing armor, he took a sling and six stones and boldly set out for the Philistine camp.

"What do you want, boy?" asked a shocked Goliath when he saw the boy approaching. Fearless David answered, "Fight me!" The giant approached him, carrying a lance. David simply twirled his sling and let loose a stone that struck Goliath right between the eyes. The giant dropped to the ground like a stone. When Saul died, David became king and was wise, religious, and strong.



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