

PROPHET
DAVID

Ο
ΠΡΟΣ
ΔΑΥ
ΙΔ



ἀναστῆτε ὁ
θεός, καὶ διασκορ
πισθήσονται οἱ
ἐχθροὶ αὐτοῦ, καὶ
φυγέτωσαν
ἀπὸ προσώ
που αὐτοῦ οἱ
μισῶντες αὐτόν
ὡς ἐκλείπει κα
πνὸς, ἐκλείπει τω
σὴν ὡς ἔρηται
κίβητος ἀπὸ προ
σώπου πυρός.

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sunday of the Fathers of the first Council

June 8, 2008

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor;
Father John Cmur; Deacon Kenneth E. Ellis and
Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris,
Cantors

Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158

We Are A Stewardship Parish Of Time, Talent and Treasure

The mission of our parish faith community is to teach the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Orthodox Church; to enable people to reflect the image of Jesus Christ in every day activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Orthodox believers in our Freehold area.

We of St. Paul the Apostle Parish dedicate ourselves to maintaining the sanctity of worship and spiritual enlightenment in a family environment that reaches and involves all ages and unifies all people.

We believe in the spirit of ecumenism in which we share our faith by word and example and extend our spiritual insights to all people.

We accept the responsibility of Christian Stewardship that through generous giving we may all experience a faith communion with Christ as the Center of our lives.

We dedicate ourselves to insuring the well-being of all people so that we may truly experience the message of Christ's salutary gospel.

We are a beacon on a hill with the eyes of many upon us; that beacon is the inspired Light of Christ which must shine brightly in our lives.

It is not ourselves we preach but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in us 2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 8.

GLAD TIDINGS

+++ The annual Summer Bible Camp of our parish will be held the week of August 18 to 22.

+++ Today we have festal anointing on the occasion of this past week's solemn feast of the Ascension of our Lord. The customary greeting is "Christ Is Among Us!" to which we reply, "He Is And Shall Be!"

+++ All are invited to join us in prayer and praise during the Healing Services Monday evening at 7:30 PM through the intercession of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker.

+++ We express our deep gratitude to Bill and Helen Karpiak for sponsoring the bulletin this month of June in thanksgiving for many blessings received. May the gracious Lord continue to bless them with good health for Many & Blessed Years!

+++ There are still several who have not turned in their diocesan dues for this year. Last year the same occurred and the parish covered the deficit. That practice will no longer be the policy of the parish. Please submit fifty dollars for each person 18 and above in your family as soon as possible.

+++ This Saturday is the last All Souls' Saturday and the Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service will be celebrated at 9:00 AM. Please come and join us in remembering through intercessory prayer our beloved departed souls.

+++ Next Sunday is the glorious feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit popularly called Pentecost, which is the birthday of our blessed Orthodox Church. A special thanksgiving offering is taken following the gospel. Please be generous in expressing appreciation for the vehicle of salvation bequeathed to our care by the Lord. Thus we sacrifice of our earthly treasure as we believe the Holy Spirit comes among us to sanctify and save.

+++ We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received this past week-end: Tithe Offering, \$438.00; Candles, \$17.00; Food Coupons, \$200.00; Christian Fellowship, \$2.00; Pennies From Heaven, \$2.00; Camp Raffle, \$40.00; Parish Dues, \$25.00; Diocesan Dues, \$100.00; Flowers, \$116.00; June Bulletin, \$25.00; Special Gift, \$500.00; Return of Ten Wk Club Winnings, \$50.00, for a total of \$1516.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offered their God-given treasure for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls! The attendance was 38 adults and 14 children last Sunday.

+++ As faithful believers, we intercede and associate ourselves in prayer with the following who have prayed and offered seven day lights for their intentions: Pani Lucas, Father Lucas, Paul Szmaida, Chris Hembling, Debra Szmaida, Louis Pasquino, Mary Jaakobs, and Pani Buletza.

+++ We make a PENNIES FROM HEAVEN Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of \$1322.00 from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals \$93,405.00. As we thank the Lord for inspiring generosity in the hearts of our faithful, we also thank the donors for accepting the challenge of the Lord in building up His Body. We cordially invite and look forward to receiving additional and increased pledges from all our devoted parishioners.

+++ Please check the Sign-Up-Sheet for the weekly Christian Fellowship for the coming weeks. Simple foods without need for preparation are the best. Marilyn Korba coordinates this vital apostolate. Please assist her in making it a success by bringing your donation early so that all are present at the worship of our God.

+++ Please be certain to see **Helen Karpiak** or a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using **Shop Rite Food Coupons** available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite **ALL** to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized \$4250.00 on this project to date!

+++ **The next Pirohi Sale, the last of the current season, will be held this Saturday, June 14. On Thursday at 9:00 AM, we will be preparing the fillings. Please come and join us to properly prepare for the sale. In addition, we need orders as this will be the last Sale until September. The order sheet is in the kitchen.**

+++ We remind our faithful to be prepared to light seven day candles next Sunday in memory of our beloved departed fathers and in intercessory prayer for our living fathers.

+++ Today, June 8, the offering for flowers for the coming feast of Pentecost was to be taken after the homily. Inadvertently, it was announced last Sunday. If you did not make your offering then, please bring it in as soon as possible. We anticipate everyone's generosity that our parish church is beautified for the birthday of the Body of Christ as well as Fathers' Day which is also celebrated on that day!

+++ **Please see Marilyn Korba to sign up for the Alaskan Cruise next August, 2009.**

+++ **We have some remaining rolls and pirohi available from the recent sales. Please see the woman in the kitchen to secure yours if you had no order.**

+++ May all glory, adoration and worship be accorded our God in the Holy Trinity by all the faithful of our parish with one mind, one soul and one heart each day of the week!

Be exalted above the heavens,

O Lord

and let your glory be over all the earth.



Eternal Life

Bodily exercise is all right, but spiritual exercise is much more important and is a tonic for all you do. So exercise yourself spiritually and practice being a better Christian because that will help you not only now in this life, but in the next life too 1 Timothy 4: 8.

Fight on for God. Hold tightly to the eternal life which God has given you. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven. It is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well 1 Timothy 6: 12, 19.

It was he who saved us and chose us for his holy work, not because we deserved it but because that was his plan long before the world began, to show us his love and kindness through Christ. And now he has made all of this plain to us by the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ who broke the power of death and showed us the way of everlasting life through trusting in him 2 Timothy 1: 9, 10.

I have been sent to bring faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know God's truth, the kind of truth that changes lives so that they can have eternal life, which God promised them before the world began and he cannot lie Titus 1: 2.

So that he could declare us good in God's eyes, all because of his great kindness, and now we can share in the wealth of the eternal life he gives us, and we are eagerly looking forward to receiving it Titus 3: 7.

Christ came with this new agreement so that all who are invited may come and have forever all the wonders God has promised them. For Christ died to rescue from the penalty of the sins they committed while still under the old system Hebrews 9: 15.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

Angelic powers descended to your grave, and the guards fell down and appeared dead. Mary came to the grave seeking your most pure body. You conquered and despoiled the Abyss without being touched by it. You, the Giver of Life, met the Virgin, O Lord, risen from the dead; glory to You! Troparion, Sunday of the Fathers of the First Council.

You ascended in glory, O Christ, our God, and delighted the disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through this blessing, they were assured that you are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world Troparion, Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

O Christ, God, You are above all praise, for you established our fathers O Christ our God. You delighted the disciples as lights to all on earth. You led us all to true faith through them. O most bountiful Lord, glory to you! Troparion, Sunday of the Fathers of the First Council.

The preaching of the apostles and the decisions of the fathers have established the true faith of the Church which she wears as the garment of truth fashioned from the theology from on high; she justly governs and glorifies the great mystery of worship Kontakion, Sunday of the Fathers of the First Council.

When you fulfilled the plan of salvation for us and united all things on earth to those in heaven, Christ our God, you ascended in glory, never leaving us, but remaining ever-present. For you proclaimed to those who love you: 'I am with you, and no one else has power over you' Kontakion, Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

Blessed are you, and praiseworthy, O Lord, God of our fathers; glorious forever is your name! Prokimenon, Sunday of the Fathers of the First Council.

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the highest. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Communion Hymn, Sunday of the Fathers of the First Council.

One In Essence

Traditionally, a gathering of 318 bishops which corresponds to Abraham's "318 retainers" Genesis 14: 14, the Council of Nicea, is not a school boy's catalog of facts about Jesus, but instead, an exuberant cry of faith. This man, Jesus, the bishops profess, has come into our world and has transformed our lives by giving up his own life. He is our Lord and our God.

And so, finally, in order to say this clearly and without any misunderstanding, these Fathers and apostles of faith used a translated word not found in the original inspired Scriptures, but, instead, one that all those living in the Greek culture of the time would understand. It is much the same as for us to use English in our prayer and worship, though we know that Jesus spoke in Aramaic and the Apostles wrote in Greek. The Council Fathers proclaimed that Jesus is *homoousios* with the Father. Though not found in Scripture, this word is not contrary to the spirit and meaning of the gospels. The Evangelists attempted to express in words how the community of faith experienced the salvation of Jesus. It was the presence of God among us, as St. Mathew witnessed, "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emanuel (citing Isaiah 7: 14), which means 'God is with us'" Matthew 1: 23.

The expression of this perception of Jesus as God would have differed for the Aramaic-speaking Apostles, and in Greek by which the recorded the event. For the Jews, the name of

God was not to be pronounced, so they had to find ways of speaking around it. Only St. John puts the words "I am" on the lips of the Lord, appropriating the divine name. The people standing around obviously knew this, and "...they picked up stones to throw at him," John 8: 59, considering it blasphemy.

The Greeks, however, had a word for God, *theos*. The Greek word for god, as seen in Aristotle's philosophy, could be much more impersonal than the Hebrew "I am," usually rendered as Yahweh, the name which could be written but not said, seen, but not heard. By the time of the Council of Nicea, the Christian faith was predominantly expressed in Greek culture, so that the same experience of Jesus as "God" or Jesus as "Yahweh" could be expressed in the words, the Son is *homoousios*, or of *one substance with the Father*. This reality was recognized, then, by the Fathers gathered in Council and would be reaffirmed in our worship. It serves as the summation of the Creed, when we sing, "The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one in essence and undivided" Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

This word is found frequently in church hymns for the various feasts, and in doxologies of the Holy Trinity. It is also translated as "consubstantial," which literally means, "in substance with..." the Father. The word "essence" however could be preferred to "substance" because essence means, loosely

"that which makes something to be what it is." If the Son is "one in essence," it means that He is, in fact, that which God is. He is "one" because God is only "one." In him there is no division or separation or distinction. There is only one God and one divine essence. In God there is only one *ousia*, one divine nature, though this one divinity – and this is the only way to say it – is three persons.

The word "substance" can mean the same thing. For example, we might say, "the substance of the teacher's lecture is..." and then we could retell the important points that made her remarks to be what they were. However, we also use the word "substance" in a different way to refer to a mass of concretely existing stuff. So we might say, "My sink was clogged up with a foreign substance." This second meaning has no connection with the Greek word *ousia*. Therefore, we avoid it to prevent misunderstanding. The word *homoousios* is very important for understanding God. Because Jesus is God and we experience him as God, He is "one in essence" with the Father. Ultimately, the mystery of God's essence is beyond our comprehension and we know of it only because the Word of God, Jesus Christ, has told us. To grasp the essence of God, would be to become God by nature. We are deified but we become God, not by nature (*ousia*) but by adoption as children of God.

Our faith in Jesus as *homoousios* with the Father was extended in another Ecumenical Council 125 years later. This council explained why it is so important for our salvation that the

Father and the Son are "one in essence." In the year 451, the Council of Chalcedon proclaimed, "We all with one voice teach the confession of one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in divinity and perfect in humanity, the same truly God and truly man, of a rational soul and body; consubstantial, (that is "one in essence") with the Father as regards his divinity, and the same consubstantial with us as regards his humanity; like us in all respects except sin."

The Son of God became a human being that we humans might become one in God. There is a difference in divine and created essence. God is beyond our understanding, to be identified with his essence; there is only one God and there is no other god. While we, as humans "have" a human nature, we are not the human nature, which is shared by many diverse subjects. What our faith tells us is that we cannot be "saved" by being human, for we remain limited, incomplete and unfulfilled. We can be "saved" only through our destiny with and in God, who has become one of us so that, in him, we might find unity once again with our heavenly Father. Here we see Jesus' final prayer for us answered: "I pray ...for those who will believe in me – so that all may be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you...I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one..." John 17: 20 - 23. Our faith as expressed in the Creed, then, is a proclamation of "God with us," in whom we find our perfection, and in whom we become what we were meant to be when God created us.

Earthen Vessels

Our Lord calls and invites each baptized person to a particular important and valuable role in the salvation of souls within His Body, the Church. Many times, individuals like to excuse themselves from living up to the challenges of their vocation in life. They panic with fear they will fail and fall, offend the loving God and cause scandal to fellow believers and shame for holy Mother Church.

All believers, particularly priests, are conscious we carry a very precious treasure of divine grace in our “earthen vessels” 2 Corinthians 4: 7, in our frail human bodies. Relying exclusively on our own strength, upon our courage or firmness, we will most surely fall into grievous sin, because it is over and above our human capabilities. Even St. Peter, the chief of the apostles, the rock of faith as so described by Christ himself fell in the face of danger, and denied Christ. “At that he began cursing and swearing, ‘I do not even know the man!’” Matthew 26: 74.

Even the great Apostle of the nations, St. Paul, admitted, “Even though I want to do what is right, a law that leads to wrongdoing is always ready at hand. My inner self agrees with the law of God, but I see in my body’s members another law at war with the law of my mind; this makes me the prisoner of the law of sin in my members. What a wretched man am I! Who can free me from this body under the power of death? All praise to God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord” Romans 7: 21 – 25.

Without the particular aid of our heavenly Father, no one can live in the state of grace, so vital for salvation. No one could withstand the invasion of temptation. We would all continually and uninterruptedly sin because Jesus Christ said to His apostle and to us as well, “Apart from me, you can do nothing” John 15: 5. In order to receive the needed help from heaven we must pray daily, we must implore the Father in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour for continuing strength to persevere in faith commitment without fail.

We must be in constant prayer union with Christ. He so often assured us, “Ask, and you will receive. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you” Matthew 7: 7. These very important words of our Lord may be better understood, “If you will not ask, you will not receive; if you will not seek, you will not find. If you will not knock, it will not be opened to you.” So it is clear we must rise above being contented with simply being abject earthen vessels, isolated from the source of our

creation and heavenly power. Then, when we do receive God's help to carry the heavenly treasure in our earthly vessels, it then "...is clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us" 2 Corinthians 4: 7.

Prayer therefore becomes the best friend, the constant helper of the faithful believer as it exhibits dependence on God's grace. Even as fish cannot live out of their natural environment, water; as humans cannot survive without life-giving oxygen in order to be able to breathe, so without prayer the human soul, bereft of its absolute necessity, soon flounders, writhes in abject pain and isolation and inevitably becomes spiritually desiccated and dies. Even much more is prayer needed for the soul to live the life of Christ, the life of grace.

There is a proverb of inestimable value among Slavic people that in rough translation teaches us we should depend totally upon God, but do all that we ourselves can do that our prayer is realistically brought to full and total fruition. One, therefore, should pray, but should also fulfill God's will to avoid sin and every occasion to sin. One should avoid persons who could tempt us to sin. And this is most difficult because it is those whom we love so many times who become our worst enemies as they attempt to seduce us to pursuing their will for our lives instead of following the narrow path laid out for us by the Lord.

The believer must be determined to oppose such temptation, even as our Lord said, "If your hand is your difficulty, cut it off! Better for you to enter life maimed than to keep both hands and go to hell with its unquenchable fire" Mark 9: 43. We, therefore, should use determined means to oppose temptation. We should separate ourselves, even from our dearest persons if they are an occasion of sin for us.

In order to be more successful in our efforts to avoid sin and the occasion of sin, we ought ask the Holy Mother of God to be our personal advocate and intercessor to that she may bring our prayers to her Son and our God, to implore Him to help our soul. Jesus will never ignore the pleas of His Mother. The Mother of God loves the faithful prayer of a devoted believer, so we must always be aware of the eternal truth in the prayer, "Remember most loving Virgin Mary, never was it heard that anyone who turned to you for help was left unaided..."

Earthen vessels can be strengthened if they embrace the divine purpose, for we become a strengthened majority if our purpose is identified with the purpose of God!

On his own, man is weak and fearful. With God's grace, he becomes a new creation. It is the sacramental Mysteries, coupled with the recipient's responsive faith which bring this about. All are encounters with the invisible God, made visible in the effects they produce in the believer's life. Every believing soul knows to use them wisely and reap the benefits of salutary grace!

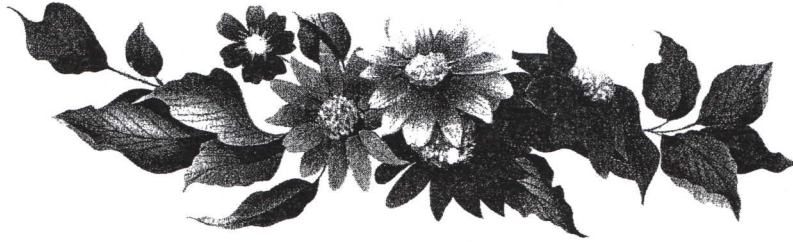
Just as He calmed the sea storm, so He stabilizes us in our pilgrimage toward the security of heaven!

The Sacramental Mysteries

Baptism	Matthew 28:19
Chrismation	Acts of the Apostles 8: 17
Holy Eucharist	Matthew 26: 26
Reconciliation or Confession	John 20: 23
Holy Anointing	James 5: 14
Holy Orders	Luke 22: 19
Matrimony	Matthew 19: 6

Did You Know That ...

- ...all speech is a dead language until it finds a ready and willing soul prepared to hear it?
- ...great men are they, indeed, who see the spiritual is stronger than any material force?
- ...we deny the existence of the spirit and then are helpless before its raw power?
- ...achieving the salvation of our souls is the only thing that is important in this life?
- ...the strength of man is finding out the way God goes and walking in His footsteps?
- ...success has ruined many people?
- ...there is only one right in the world and that right is God's love for us?
- ...strength without gentleness can become tyranny?
- ...sorrow and silence are strength and patient endurance is Godlike?
- ...before undergoing a surgical procedure, rearrange your worldly affairs, because it is likely you may survive?
- ...it is only when you lie among wolves that you have to act like a wolf?
- ...in faith, we can survive everything that befalls us, even death?
- ...man has enough strength even to endure the misfortunes of others?
- ...if our hearts are pure, we have the strength of more than ourselves?
- ...for some, success is not enough, they desire others fail?
- ...because he is both the marble and the sculptor, man cannot remake himself without suffering?
- ...one can endure misfortunes, and they are accidents, but to suffer for one's own faults, there is the sting of life?



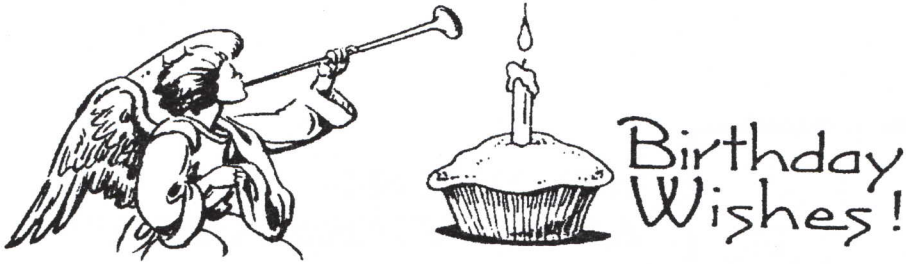
God Bless You Always

May God bless you always, forever I pray,
Protect you while sleeping, and all through the day.
May He stand beside you, come sunset or dawn,
And His be the strength, you're depending upon.

May God bless you always, wherever you go,
Calming your fears, and helping you grow.
Soothing your heartaches, sharing your smiles,
And just being near, to lighten the miles.

May God bless you always, through sunlight and rain.
Always forgiving, again and again.
Teaching you patience, when things turn out wrong,
The value of hope, and the joy of a song.

May He be the friend, you never need doubt,
As He helps you discover what life's all about.
May He walk beside you, the rest of your days,
And I earnestly pray that God bless you always!



We are pleased to greet those of our faithful communicants who celebrate their birthday this month. Our Lord has offered these souls yet another year of blessed life. The most obvious way He blesses us and participates in our life is by sharing His divine life with us in the Eucharist at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Thus we can gather together and offer thanks to Him for yet another year of life blessed by His most gracious hands. Today, we prayerfully remember in the Divine Liturgy the following souls who celebrate their birthday during the month of June.

June 3 Alexander L. Choti
June 5 Mary D. Demyan
June 5 Nicholas M. Sorochnka
June 15 Miguel A. Garcia
June 18 Sophia R. Choti
June 22 Kyle Pasquino
June 26 Nadya A. Choti
June 29 Angeliki Tsokris

With a prayerful heart and grateful soul, our parish faith community asks the Lord to continue to bless these birthday celebrants with good spiritual and physical health for the coming year. We invite all to add their intercessory prayers so that with one voice and one heart we may also participate in the grace and joy of their celebration. As we wish them a happy and blessed celebration of their birthday, our ardent prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless them for

Many and Blessed Years!

THE OLD TESTAMENT: STORIES AND STYLES

The Orthodox Church can rightly be called the CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. Great emphasis is placed by our Church upon the Gospels, which present the life and teachings of our Lord. We are truly aware that “. . . the law was given through Moses, but GRACE and TRUTH came through Jesus Christ.” (Jn 1:17)



We cannot, however, neglect the spiritual insights provided to us by the Old Testament. It is essential that we understand our Saviour as the “Link” between the Old and New Testament, for He is, indeed, the FULFILLMENT of the law and the prophets.

The Old Testament also offers us some fascinating reading! Here we find stories about the creation of the world and the fall of man. Within the pages of this important part of the Scriptures we find Moses leading the Israelites on their 40 year journey from Egypt to the “promised land.” We trace the “peaks and valleys” of the Hebrew people as they struggle to keep their identity and preserve their nation.

Do you enjoy poetry? Read the Psalms! Are you searching for words of wisdom and advice? Read the book of Proverbs! Are you seeking proof that Christ is the Messiah for Whom the world waited? Study the writings of the Prophets! Pictured today is an icon of the PROPHET DAVID. In the year 1085 B.C., he was born in Bethlehem, which is still called the City of David. He descended from the tribe of Judah and was the son of Jesse. David rose to become King of the Israelites. His name means “beloved.” He is but one of the colorful figures to learn about in the Old Testament.