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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1500 ~ Saul's Death.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Every four years, the best athletes from most nations in the world come together to compete in the Olympic Games. Each Olympics is held in a different country and back in 1968, it was Mexico City's turn. In the marathon for men, a man from Ethiopia finished the 26-mile distance first.

When all except one competitor had finished the course, the spectators prepared to leave. But they heard the police sirens indicating the last competitor was entering the stadium. The competitor was from Tanzania. He had fallen during the race and injured his knee and ankle. He hobbled onto the stadium track and crossed the finish line. The spectators, so taken by his efforts, rose from their seats and applauded him enthusiastically as though he was the first one to cross the line. Later a reporter asked the Tanzanian why he had continued to race when he was so badly injured. The man replied that his country had not sent him 7,000 miles to start the race, but to finish it.

Every one of us is running the race of life and it is like a marathon. Some people do well in the early stages and seem to drop back when they get older. Some start slowly and have handicaps to overcome before they can run freely and well. The Bible book of Hebrews, Chapter 12, says: "Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith."

King Saul was about seventy years of age at this time and had lived his life mostly interested in his power as the king rather than doing what God wanted him to do. Now Saul had to go to battle with the Philistines and his troops were hopelessly outnumbered. Saul tried to find some strategy for winning and had even resorted to visiting a witch in Endor to ask for help from the dead prophet Samuel, something which highly displeased God.

After hearing Samuel's prophesy of death for him the next day, the king was overcome with shock.

In his troubled mental state over the coming battle he had not eaten any food all day. The witch prepared a meal for them and after eating, the king, Abner and a servant walked back to camp under the cover of darkness. Saul no longer cared about the details of war. Knowing he was going to die the next day crushed him entirely. Saul regretted so many things but now could not change any of them.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

King Saul had spent so much time chasing after David that he was now not prepared to go into battle with other armies. The Philistines had developed new technology - bows and arrows but Saul had not trained his soldiers in their use.

Just as Samuel had so accurately foretold, three of Saul's sons were killed in battle. After receiving this news, Saul was hit by an arrow and severely wounded while out on the battlefield. Saul wanted his armour-bearer to take his sword and kill him so he wouldn't be captured alive by his enemies. But the armour-bearer refused to kill his own king. So Saul drew his own sword and fell on it.

When the armour-bearer saw Saul was dead and that he would be blamed for his death, the armour-bearer killed himself too, in the same way. Many Israelite soldiers were killed in battle that day and the people fled from their cities for their safety. The Philistines then came and lived in the Israelite cities.

King Saul's reign had started out so promisingly. He had been humble before God and careful in what he said as a young man. Yet when he had great power as the ruling king, Saul started making his own choices and doing what pleased himself. If only he had kept true to God! His half-hearted obedience to God allowed him to become proud and jealous and this caused great trouble for the people he ruled. God gave Saul many chances to repent and change his ways during his lifetime but alas, he did not. And so ends the Bible book of First Samuel with the burial of Saul and his sons.

How can we run our marathon race of life to make the greatest use of it both here on earth and later in eternity? A famous writer once said: "The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it." This means living our lives for God. There are rewards in heaven for those who live faithfully and are true to the Scriptures. One writer said: "Death is the golden key that opens the palace of eternity." And another said: "Never fear dying, beloved. Dying is the last but the least matter that a Christian has to be anxious about." There are better things ahead than any we leave behind.

Maybe you have never heard of the Lord Jesus Christ. Who is He and why is He so important? When God made the first people they were called Adam and Eve. They disobeyed God in the beginning of time. Then sin and separation entered God's beautifully created world. Each one of us since has inherited a sin character passed down from our parents, their ancestors all the way back Adam and Eve. There was no way Adam and Eve could reverse things or make themselves right with God again. Their love and fellowship with God at this time was irreparably broken and life became the struggle we all know in our lives since.

God's wonderful plan, however, is to repair sin's separation between Himself and people through His only son, Jesus Christ. God wonderfully fixed things up for everyone so that all who believe Christ's teachings may throw off the shackles of sin in their lives.

It was over 2000 years ago when God sent Jesus to earth as a pure and sinless human being to teach people about God. Jesus Himself was perfect and no sin was ever found in Him, no matter how hard the devil tried to tempt him to sin. Some people welcomed His message and became His disciples but others rejected Him and sentenced Him to death. This was, however, all part of God's good plan for us. Jesus was cruelly nailed to a cross by the Romans as a criminal. He suffered much, making the ultimate price to show all people of His Father's love for them.

Jesus' life blood was shed to pay for the sins of the world. Three days later, Jesus was raised from the dead with victorious power. He had overcome all things in heaven and on earth and especially that of sin and death. Now anyone who believes that Jesus' blood has paid the price for their sin is completely forgiven by God and given God's own Holy Spirit inside. God counts such believers as righteous and pure in His sight because of Christ's work. No one can save themselves or find peace with God any other way. As a result, those who believe and trust in Christ can talk and walk with God the Father and everyday, learn to live a life victorious from sin, death, guilt and fear.

The word 'Christian' means someone who believes, obeys and follows Christ. Many people have received this message and turned away from their sinful ways with the help of God's Holy Spirit, to live upright and joyous lives in all types of circumstances.

Some of the most unlikely people have trusted in Jesus to save them from God's future punishment for their sin. An example of this is a man who had been convicted of shooting and killing three people. He was now in prison, never to be released again in his lifetime.

While in prison, this criminal discovered he could be rid of his guilt by asking the Lord Jesus to forgive him of all his wrongdoing. He believed that Jesus had taken his punishment for his crimes when He had died on the cross for the sins of the whole world. This man asked Jesus to be his Lord and Saviour and at last, experienced a peace that he had never known before. Even though this man would never walk around in the outside world again, he now experienced a freedom found in prison that he had never known when he was outside.

Are you still in a prison of sin, struggling to get out? Your own efforts cannot get you out. Only the Lord Jesus can help you. Cry out to Him, believe He is the way to God and confess all those things that God's spirit in your conscience brings to mind. Jesus will save you. Just ask Him. He loves you so very much and you are completely worth saving in God's eyes, even if you're the worst sinner you know.

The Bible book of Psalms, Chapter 116, says: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Live your life as a saint in Christ's power. Then when it is your time to pass from this world, you won't leave with the same regrets as King Saul had.

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Paul Baloche and Ed Kerr singing "Free Indeed."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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