

THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

(15) It's Good to Be King?

[adapted by Deacon Roy Goetz, from [The Dialogues, Book II](#) by [St. Gregory the Great](#)]



Following his failed attempt to test Benedict's powers of prophecy, [King Totila](#) went to the monastery in person to ask for the holy man's blessing. The king fell prostrate some distance from Benedict and refused to rise despite the saint's invitations to come closer. Finally, Benedict walked to him and helped the contrite king to his feet. He then rebuked the king for his crimes and foretold everything that would happen to him: "You are the cause of many evils. Put an end now to your wickedness. You will enter Rome and cross the sea. You have nine more years to rule, and in the tenth you will die." Terrified by these words the king asked for Benedict's blessing and went away. From that time on he was less cruel. King Totila went to Rome and crossed over to Sicily and in the tenth year of his reign he lost his kingdom and his life.