

DAVID

Introduction

David was a young shepherd who became the third and likely most influential king of Israel. His name is referenced more than any other in the Old Testament and second most mentioned in the New Testament. Only the name of Jesus is mentioned more. The Bible describes David this way,

“. . . (he) knows how to play a harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him” (**1 Samuel 16:18**).

David is the primary character in **1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles, and 2 Chronicles**. He is mentioned in several other books of the Bible and nearly half of the **Psalms** are attributed to him. His fame centers on his kingship, but he is best known for defeating the giant Philistine Goliath, and became a prototype of most underdogs since. Here is his story.

Shepherd Boy to King

David, youngest of the many sons of Jesse, and a shepherd, was chosen by God to replace Saul as king of Israel. God spoke to Samuel, believed to be the last judge and first prophet of Israel, and told him to invite Jesse and his family to a sacrifice to the Lord, during which Saul’s replacement would be anointed as the next king (**1 Samuel 16:1-3**). Seven of Jesse’s sons were presented; none were acceptable to the Lord. Samuel inquired whether Jesse had any other sons and discovered there was one more, the young shepherd, David. God gave David approval and had Samuel anoint him with oil (**1 Samuel 16:4-13**).

With the anointing of David, the spirit of the Lord departed from king Saul. Lacking the anointing of God, God allowed an evil spirit to torment Saul. His attendants suggested that a harpist be found who could play soothing music for his troubled soul. Saul agreed, David was found, permission to serve Saul was secured from Jesse, and David entered Saul’s service as a harpist and armor-bearer. Whenever Saul was tormented, David’s harp music brought relief to Saul. David found favor with Saul, but it was short-lived (**1 Samuel 16:14-23**).

One nation or another surrounding the people of Israel was always threatening or attacking them. When the Philistines gathered for war under king Saul, they faced down the Israelites in the valley of Elah. One of the Philistines, a giant by the name of Goliath who was 9 feet tall, challenged the Israelites to send one man to fight him. The Israelites were dismayed because Goliath was huge and powerful. David volunteered to fight Goliath. King Saul said, 'you are not able, you're only a boy.' But David shared with Saul how God was with him. Wearing Saul down, permission was given to David to fight Goliath. A single stone from a well-aimed slingshot put Goliath on the ground. Then David cut off Goliath's head. This repelled the Philistines and they fled quickly away from the Israelites **(1 Samuel 17:1-58)**.

David was greatly admired, almost worshipped, by his people. Tormented Saul took notice of this admiration and became jealous of David, eventually seeking to take David's life. Meanwhile, David had become good friends with Saul's son, Jonathan. Anytime Jonathan became aware of some mission his father was planning against David, he would inform David of the plot. Saul attempted to kill David and pursued him constantly. On multiple occasions, David could have killed Saul, but refused because Saul was still king and because David was loyal to him **(1 Samuel 24:1-22 and 1 Samuel 26:1-25)**. Saul observed David's loyalty and tried to change his attitude toward David but could not. Eventually, Saul took his own life in the heat of battle **(1 Samuel 31:1-13)**.

David mourned Saul's death, but the conflict was not over. Remnants of Saul's family and military leaders who served under Saul continued warring with David and his family. Eventually, David triumphed over all who opposed him, and he was anointed king of Israel **(2 Samuel 5:1-5)**.

King David

David was still a young teenager when he became king. He was a strong leader and mighty warrior, winning many victories for Israel with the support of God's might and power. He was God's anointed and greatly respected by his people. But he was human.

Though David had many wives, he committed adultery with a beautiful woman by the name of Bathsheba who became pregnant. Upon hearing the news, David ordered his military leaders to send Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, to the front lines, then withdraw, ensuring Uriah's demise. After a period of mourning by Bathsheba, she entered David's house and became another wife. All of this displeased the Lord **(2 Samuel 11:1-27)**.

God used Nathan, a prophet, to confront David about his sins. Nathan shared with David an analogy of an unjust act perpetrated by a rich man over a poor man. Incensed, David indicated that the rich man was worthy of death. Nathan then said the now famous words, “**You are the man**” and went on to prophesy that David and his house would face many calamities that plagued David the remainder of his life (**2 Samuel 12:1-31ff**). David repented of his sins, nonetheless. David would ultimately yield his throne to his son, Solomon (**1 Kings 1:28-2:9**). David died and was buried in the city named for him, the City of David (**1 Kings 2:10**). David reigned 42 years as king of Israel.

Closing Thoughts

Though David had many flaws, the prophet Samuel declared to Saul that his successor, David, was a man after God’s own heart (**1 Samuel 13:13-14**). David’s faith and his zeal for the Lord were the hallmarks of his life. Despite David’s weakness, God used David to do great things. God can do the same with us.

David’s psalms are some of the most beautiful in the book of Psalms. Psalm 51 was written after Nathan confronted him about his sins. It reflects repentance and a worship of God that would serve all of us well in our faith journeys. All of David’s psalms are anointed of the Lord.

David was the most famous king of Israel, one of many in the lineage from Abraham to Jesus (**Matthew 1:1-17**), the son of God who became The ruler of God’s Kingdom forever.

This is an introduction on the subject of **David**. Here are some other resources you may wish to explore:

[Who was David in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[16 Facts About King David | OverviewBible](#)

[Who Was King David in the Bible? His Life Story \(crosswalk.com\)](#)

[Spiritual Lessons from the Life of David \(biblehelpsinc.org\)](#)

[Top 7 Bible Verses About David \(whatchristianswanttoknow.com\)](#)