

DAVID: SHEPHERD to KING

Week 14: United Kingdom: David—From Shepherd to King (1 Samuel; Psalms)

David means *beloved* in Hebrew and he is one of the best known people of the Bible (mentioned 975 times). He was born around 1040BC, the youngest son of Jesse of Bethlehem. David was a shepherd who defended his flocks from the likes of lions and bears. In quieter times, he developed his musical skills with the flute and harp.

After it became clear that Saul would lose the kingdom due to his disobedience, Samuel went to Bethlehem to anoint David (15 years old at the time) as the successor (16). The transition would be gradual though. David returned to his sheep, but “the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward,” and “the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul.” David served King Saul periodically as a musician and armor bearer.

Then came the story of David and Goliath (17)! David’s defeat of Goliath put the Philistines to flight and resulted in a great victory for Israel. The heroic act made David a favorite of the people, much to the jealousy of Saul (18). From then on, Saul wanted David killed, and personally made a number of attempts (18-30).

When Saul first attempted to kill David, David fled to Samuel where he was given refuge for a time (19). When Saul discovered David’s whereabouts, he fled again, this time to Nob (21), and then to Gath among the Philistines. The Philistine king refused him, so David continued over to Adullam where 400 men accepted him as their leader.

In the mean time, Saul had 85 priests and their families murdered for having innocently given refuge to David. The news of the massacre reached David by the sole survivor, Abiathar, son of the high priest Ahimelech (22).

For a while, David found himself fighting Saul’s enemies while also fleeing Saul. David and his men drove the Philistines out (23) and then moved to the hills of Judah to escape Saul. While there, David met with Jonathan, Saul’s son, who had been, and always remained, a covenant friend. Saul would readily have killed David, but David refused to lift his sword against Saul. David even saved Saul’s life on occasions during this time (24). David remained a fugitive until Saul was killed in battle against the Philistines near Mt. Gilboa (31)

Upon Saul’s death, David went to Hebron and was anointed king of Judah, at age 30 (2 Sam. 2). A 7.5-year civil war ensued between David and Ishbosheth, Saul’s only surviving son, for the kingship of all Israel. The political situation grew steadily in favor of David, and when Ishbosheth was assassinated, David was anointed king over all Israel (2 Sam. 4-5). David then moved his capital from Hebron to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 5).

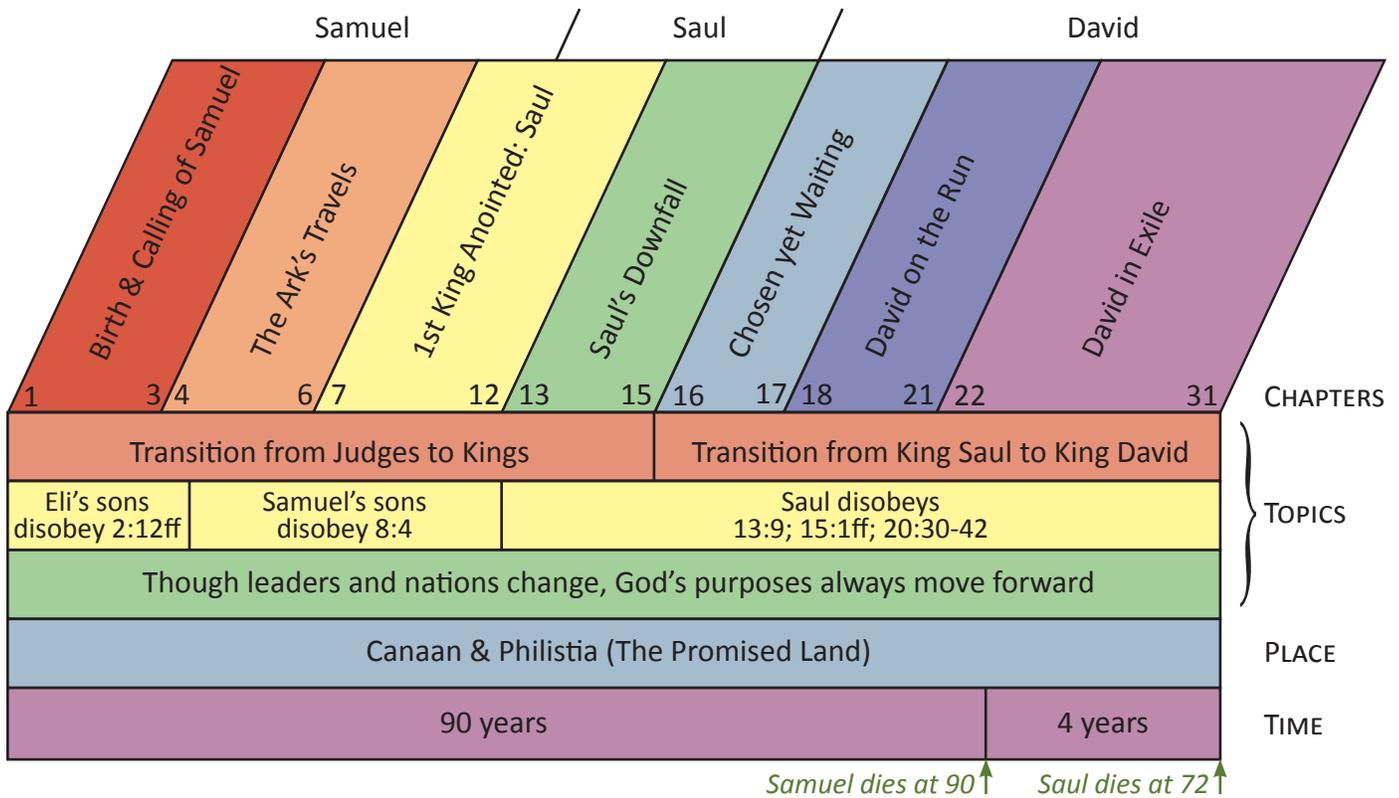
David then brought the Ark of the Covenant to the new capital city of Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6) where it was placed in a new tabernacle that he set up for it. It had been about seventy years since the Ark had been in the original Tabernacle in the Wilderness. David’s rise to greatness was characterized by great territorial gains for Israel (2 Sam. 8). He ruled from the Nile River in Egypt to the Euphrates River in Western Asia (2 Sam. 8:3-13).

David’s success seems to have gone to his head though. His committing of adultery with Bathsheba, and the murder of her husband Uriah in an attempt to cover it up was perhaps the darkest event of his life (2 Sam. 11). David truly repented of it, and God did forgive him (Psalm 51). David’s troubles were far from over however. One of David’s sons, Amnon, assaulted his step sister Tamar, for which the girl’s brother Absalom killed him. Absalom later attempted to take over the kingdom from his father David which triggered a civil war.

Despite his human faults, David was a dedicated and repentant man who served a key purpose on the stage of *God’s Story*. After a reign of forty years and six months David died at the age of seventy, and was buried in the city of David.

Week Fourteen Reading Plan

1 Sam. 16:1-23	Samuel Anoints David
1 Sam. 17:1-58	David and Goliath
1 Sam. 19:1-24	Saul tries to Kill David
Psalms 59:1-17	A Cry for Deliverance
1 Sam. 18:1-4; 20:1-42	David and Jonathan’s Friendship
1 Sam. 24:1-22	David Spares Saul’s Life
2 Sam. 5:1-25; 7:8-16	David Becomes King Over Israel



1-4 TESTS: KING OF JUDAH

Beginnings at Hebron

- 1 - Saul's Death:
a test of character
- 2 - David Crowned:
a test of loyalty
- 3 - Abner's Defection:
a test of diplomacy
- 4 - Ishbosheth's Death:
a test of justice

5-10 TRIUMPHS: KING OF ISRAEL

Centralized at Jerusalem

- 5 - The capture of Zion
- 6 - Return of the Ark
- 7 - Covenant with David
- 8 - Kingdom established
- 9 - Kindness to Mephibosheth
- 10 - The Ammonite War

11-21 TROUBLES: KINGDOM CHAOS

In Decline & in Exile

- 11-12 - David's sin and confession
- 13-14 - Amnon & Absalom
- 15-18 - Absalom's revolt & David's flight
- 19 - David's return
- 20 - Sheba's revolt
- 21 - Gibeonite & Philistine problems

22-24 LEGACY: KINGDOM RESTORED

Back to Jerusalem

- 22 - A great prophetic Psalm
- 23 - David's last words and mighty men
- 24 - A story of judgment, and the place where judgment and mercy meet

7.5 years

33 years