

David

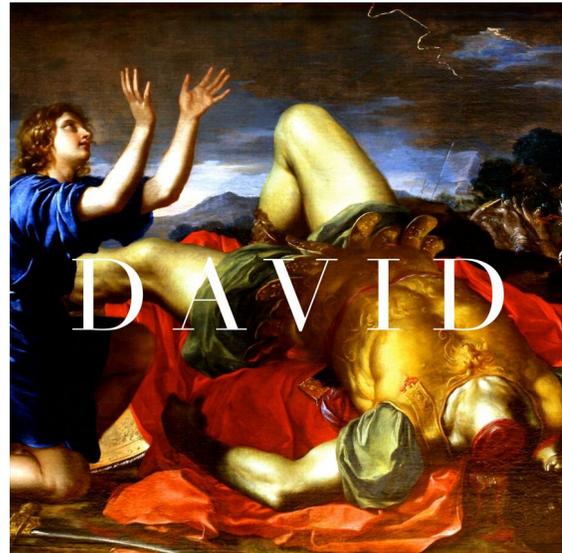
Scripture: 1 Samuel 16-31, 2 Samuel 1-24, 1 Kings 1-2

Time Period: After Judges, during the rule of King Saul

The story of David

Like Jesus, David the son of Jesse, was from Bethlehem. He grew up as a shepherd boy who defended his flock from lions and bears yet he was also skillful in music and song. When David was young, Samuel secretly anointed him as king. God openly showed Israel that David was chosen for greatness when David the young shepherd boy singlehandedly slayed the giant, Goliath of Gath.

The story of David and Goliath happened during one of King Saul's battles with the Philistines. Goliath was the Philistine's great warrior giant, in fact he was 9 feet 9 inches tall. Goliath shouted at the Israelites, "Why are you lined up, ready for battle? Send me your best man, and we'll fight one-on-one." But none of the Israelites wanted to fight Goliath. They were afraid of him. Jesse's three oldest sons were part of the Israelite army camped on a hill. Jesse sent David to check on his brothers and to give them something to eat. David saw Goliath and watched the Israelites run away in fear. David heard that Saul had offered a great reward to the man who killed Goliath, and David volunteered to fight. "You don't stand a chance against Goliath," Saul argued. "I have killed wild animals," David explained. "God will keep me safe." Saul allowed David to fight Goliath. He offered his armor to David, but David could hardly move. He took off the armor and chose five smooth stones from a nearby stream. David was armed only with the stones and a slingshot. Goliath saw David and made fun of him because he was just a boy. "You come to fight with a spear and sword," David replied, "but I come to fight in the name of God! You have insulted Him, and God always wins His battles!" David ran toward Goliath. He slung a rock at Goliath, and the rock hit Goliath in the forehead. Goliath fell facedown, and David took Goliath's sword and cut off his head.



King Saul honored David and put him in charge of his army and David was a great warrior leader. But David's growing fame caused Saul to grow to hate David. David had served at Saul's court, had been married to his younger daughter, and had gone to battle numerous times at Saul's command, but Saul began to hope that David would die in battle. When Saul openly tried to murder David, he took to the hills to run for his life.

For some 20 years David hid in the wilderness from Saul where he gathered an army from the outcasts of Israel. David wrote most of the Psalms at this time and God called him, *"a man after My own heart."* Finally, seven years after Saul died, the tribes crowned David king at Hebron (about 1000 BC). He brought the Ark of the Covenant (gold box containing the ten commandments and symbolizing the throne of God) to Jerusalem, which he established as the capital of Israel.

David was Israel's greatest king who brought great peace and prosperity to the land. He was a great warrior and a man who loved God and God's Spirit was with him. God spoke through his prophet Nathan to David and made a covenant with David saying...

'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."

(2 Samuel 7: 8-9, 12-17)

Then David the king went in and sat before the LORD, and he said,

"Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that You have brought me this far? For You know Your servant, O Lord GOD! For the sake of Your word, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness to let Your servant know. For this reason You are great, O Lord GOD; for there is none like You, and there is no God besides You...(2 Sam 7:18-24)

David's relationship with God was amazing, but David also had his weaknesses. He took many wives, like other kings, and this was forbidden by God. He even arranged the murder of one of his soldiers so that he could marry the man's wife, Bathsheba, whom he had already seduced and had slept with. David was a great sinner, but he was also very remorseful and repentant. David wrote Psalm 51 after his sin with Bathsheba, "Have mercy on me O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Do not cast me away from your presence or take your spirit from me. God, please create in me a clean heart."

Yet David would sin again in other ways, like the time David took a census (headcount) of his army, showing a lack of trust in God. God was faithful to his covenant with David but He also punished David and Israel for David's sins.

Now these are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse;

"The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.

The God of Israel has spoken;

When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth" (2 Sam 23:1-2)

Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. And the time that David ruled over Israel was 40 years.