

The Life of David

©2022 Mike Whyte – this document may be used freely for personal study, preaching, and teaching. No part of it may be used under any circumstances for commercial purposes or to attain personal gain or advantage.

If David is 18 at the Battle of Elah, the Early Period is about 12 years	Philistine Period: 16 months 1Sm27:7	King in Hebron 7 years 6 months 2Sm2:11,5:5	King in Jerusalem 33 years 2Sm2:11,5:5
---	---	---	---

<p>The Battle of Elah ~1023BC David kills Goliath of Gath 1Sm17:41-54</p> <p>1041BC David ben Jesse born in Bethlehem</p> <p>David distinguishes himself in battles with the Philistines 1Sm18:30,19:8</p> <p>David flees from Saul to Samuel at Ramah / Naoth 1Sm19:18-19</p> <p>David is anointed king by Samuel 1Sm16:12-13</p>	<p>Saul acknowledges his awareness of David's anointing as king 1Sm20:30-31</p> <p>Saul has Doeg kill all the priests and families at Nob - only Abiathar escapes to David with an "ephod" and presumably also "urim and thummim" 1Sm22:2-22, 23:6</p>	<p>Apparently lacking faith, David commits himself and his men as mercenaries of King Achish of Gath, he is given Ziklag as a base 1Sm27:1-7</p> <p>The Philistine commanders do not allow "these Hebrews" to accompany Achish 1Sm29:1-4</p> <p>1011BC David, age 30, is made King of Judah in Hebron</p>	<p>Abner goes over to David 2Sm3:17-21</p> <p>Joab and his brother Abishi kill Abner 2Sm3:26-30</p> <p>Eshbaal is killed 2Sm5:1-3, 1Chr12:23-40</p> <p>1004BC David, age 37, is made King of all Israel in Hebron</p>	<p>David desires to build a temple, but YHWH through Nathan the Prophet informs him that he cannot build the temple; instead YHWH gives him the Promise of Messianic Descent 2Sm7:1-29, 1Chr17:1-26</p>	<p>Absalom's Rebellion 2Sm15:16,17,18:</p> <p>Bathsheba / Uriah incident 2Sm11:1-27, 12:1-23</p> <p>Birth of Solomon 2Sm12:24-25</p>	<p>971BC Death of David 1Kg2:10-11, 1Chr29:26-28</p> <p>David's census 2Sm24:1-17, 1Chr21:1-17</p> <p>Purchase of the Temple site 2Sm24:18-25, 1Chr21:18-27,22:1</p>
---	---	---	--	---	--	---

<p>David in Saul's Service:</p> <p>David spent his youth as a shepherd developing a relationship with YHWH 1Sm16:11, 17:14,33-37</p> <p>David and Jonathan make a covenant of friendship 1Sm18:1b,3-4</p> <p>David marries Michal, Saul's daughter 1Sm18:20-28</p> <p>David is aware of the significance of marriage into the royal family 1Sm18:23,26</p>	<p>David makes one final attempt at reconciliation with Saul through Jonathan 1Sm20:1-42</p> <p>David flees from Saul</p>	<p>Saul goes after David's family 1Sm22:1b,3-4</p> <p>Through subterfuge, David gains the trust of Achish who desires David and his men as a body-guard in the impending battle with Israel 1Sm27:8-12,28:1-2, 1Chr12:19-22</p> <p>David attracts a force of 600 fighting men, 1Sm23:13, 1Chr12:1-18, and their families and lives in the wilderness south of Hebron - this was likely a period of several years</p>	<p>Abner ben Ner is in control of North Israel - after five years he makes a son of Saul, Eshbaal, king 2Sm2:8-10</p> <p>There is intermittent war between David and Abner 2Sm2:12-17</p> <p>David's early success:</p> <p>Jebus (Jerusalem) is captured 2Sm5:6-10, 1Chr11:4-9</p> <p>David establishes commercial relations with Hiram of Tyre 2Sm5:11-12, 1Chr14:1-2</p> <p>Philistines defeated 2Sm5:17-25, 1Chr14:8-17</p> <p>The Ark is brought to Jerusalem 2Sm6:1-19, 1Chr13:1-14,15:1-29,16:1-7,37-42</p>	<p>David participates in the final sack of Rabbah 2Sm12:26-31, 2Chr20:1-3</p> <p>David's Victories: over the Philistines, Moab, Zobah, Arameans of Damascus, Edom, and Amalek 2Sm8:1-14, 1Chr18:1-13</p> <p>David shows <i>hesed</i> to Merib-baal, son of Jonathan 2Sm9:1-13</p> <p>David shows <i>hesed</i> to Hanun, King of Ammon, but he does not return it 2Sm10:1-19, 1Chr19:1-19</p>	<p>David is manipulated by Ammon & Jonadeb 2Sm13:1-7</p> <p>by Absalom 2Sm13:22-27</p> <p>by Joab 2Sm14:1-33</p> <p>Rebellion of Sheba 2Sm20:1-22</p> <p>Execution of seven descendants of Saul to appease Gibeonites 2Sm21:1-14</p> <p>War with Philistines 2Sm21:15-22, 1Chr20:4-8</p>	<p>David's last actions: appoints Solomon King 1Kg1:28-40,47b-48, 1Chr23:1</p> <p>Charge to Solomon 1Kg2:1-9, 1Chr28:9-10,20</p>
---	--	--	--	---	---	---

David enters Saul's service: there are **two accounts of David's entry into Saul's service**. After killing Goliath, Saul interviews David and retains him in his service (1Sm17:55-58, 18:2,5). In 1Sm16:14-23 it is recounted that Saul was demented and that David was identified as a skillful lyre player to sooth him, and on this basis, David entered Saul's service (1Sm16:21). If these accounts are **taken as complimentary**, they describe the complete circumstances of David's retention.

David's anointing as King: is described in 1Sm16:1-13, but **there is no indication when it happened**. At the Battle of Elah, three of David's older brothers were in the army. David is sent from his shepherding duties to bring food to his brothers. When David expresses his contempt for the Philistine, his older brother, Eliab, severely castigates him (1Sm17:13-18,26,28). These circumstances make it clear that David had NOT yet been anointed king. The most likely situation is that **David's initial entry into Saul's service was not fulltime**, so he went back to Bethlehem, was anointed king by Samuel, then entered Saul's service fulltime.

Saul's Jealousy of David: prior to the Battle of Elah, Saul had been rejected by YHWH (1Sm15:23b). The Holy Spirit had been removed from Saul and he was tormented by a "harmful spirit" (1Sm16:14). In Saul's service **David was eminently successful** (1Sm18:6-7,12-16). It is not stated when **Saul became aware of David's anointing** by Samuel, but no doubt that was also a contributing factor. Saul makes several attempts on David's life during the service years (1Sm18:8-11, 19:9-17)

The Wandering Years: David's flight from Saul began with a visit to Nob where the Tabernacle was likely set up. The Priest **Ahimelech** gives David the Bread of the Presence to feed his men, but Doeg, an agent of Saul, observes the transaction (1Sm21:1-7). David makes an initial contact with the **Philistine king Achish of Gath** (1Sm21:10-15). Then at the advice of **the Prophet Gad**, he departs into the wilderness to the east of the southern end of the Dead Sea (1Sm22:1a,5, 23:14). Saul makes many attempts to capture David (1Sm23:7-13,15-29, 24:1-7, 26:1-5) but David, with God's help, always escapes. During this period David protected the people living in the area (1Sm23:1-5, 25:2-42).

David and Absalom: Absalom was David's third son (1Chr3:2). Absalom's rebellion occurred because David did NOT see through a nefarious palace intrigue (2Sm13:1-7). A battle is fought, David's forces prevail, and Joab personally kills Absalom (2Sm18:1-18). Unwisely, David is overly grieved for the death of Absalom (2Sm18:32-33).

The Bathsheba / Uriah incident: The details of this incident are well known (see 2Sm11:1-27). The real significance of the Bathsheba / Uriah incident is **David's reaction when confronted by the prophet, Nathan**. Nathan uses a cleaver storey of a "rich man" and a poor man to convict David, and David correctly recognizes the injustice of the "rich man" (2Sm12:1-7). When identified as the "rich man" by Nathan, **David's repentance is swift and deep** (2Sm12:7-9,13, Ps51:1-19). YHWH accepted David's repentance, but there were consequences: the child died and the **"sword shall never depart your house"** (2Sm12:10-12). David spent the next dozen years dealing with this curse.

David's provisions for the Temple: Second Samuel ends with David's identification and purchase of the future temple site (2Sm24:18-25). First Kings commences with the political machinations surrounding Solomon's accession (1Kg1:1-53,2:1-9). Prior to David's death, the Chronicler records the **preparations David made for the temple:** construction workers and materials (1Chr22:2-5,29:2-9), Levites (1Chr23:2-32), Priests (1Chr24:1-31), musicians (1Chr25:1-31), and Temple personnel (1Chr26:1-32). **These preparations no doubt began immediately after David was told that he could NOT build the Temple.**

David and Joab: David trusted Joab too much. David had a sister, Zeruihah, who was the mother of Joab (1Chr2:15-16). If Zeruihah was significantly older than David, Joab could easily have been about the same age as David – perhaps they developed a strong friendship in their youth. Joab first appears in the Battle of Gibeon (2Sm2:12-28) where he is commander of David's forces. Joab's propensity to do things his own way first comes out in the murder of Abner (2Sm3:26-30). David censures Joab but he continues unconstrained in his position as head of the army (2Sm3:31-39,8:16). Joab was instrumental in allowing Absalom to stage his rebellion. David had banished Absalom from Jerusalem, but through a subterfuge, Joab convinced David to allow Absalom back into Jerusalem (2Sm14:1-24), but David refused to give Absalom an audience until Joab again intervened (2Sm14:28-33).