

Key Events, Map, Charts, and Time Line

Life of David



THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

- Just as Saul was tested, David needed to be tested as well.
- Saul's life was filled with fear and depression.
- When the Philistines challenged Israel, the king of Israel had to lead God's armies to victory.
- However, when the mighty Philistine hero, Goliath, challenged the Israelites to fight him, all cowered in terror (1 Sam. 17:11).
- Saul failed again to lead Israel's armies.
- During this battle, Jesse, David's father, sent David to check on his older brothers at the field of battle (1 Sam. 17:17–19).
- As he arrived and heard the commotion in the camp, David was surprised with the Philistine's defiance of God's army.
- With great courage and faith, David accepted the challenge and stepped forward to fight the Philistine.

Contrasting Warriors

The Bible's description of Goliath is important. It stands in contrast to David.

Opponent	Goliath	David
Description	Terrifying, giant warrior	Shepherd boy
Height	Nearly nine feet tall	Unknown and unimpressive
Weapons	Sword, spear, and javelin of bronze and iron; armor weighing about 125 pounds	Shepherd's staff and sling, five pebbles; a heart of faith and complete trust in the Lord

Ancient armies often allowed a fight between champions to decide the fate of the battle. However, behind the military practice was the understanding that it was not only champions fighting. Rather, the gods themselves fought on behalf of each army. At stake was more than just a battle: the name (or fame) of the Lord himself was on the line.

“Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”(17:26).

David's answer showed his utter confidence in his God: “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied” (17:45). The battle ended before it had even started. Like many other parts of the Bible show, no one and nothing can stand against the Lord of creation (see Ex. 15:1–18).

FRIENDS TO THE END

Among the many events that make David's life unique, his friendship with Jonathan, King Saul's son, stands out:

- ◆ The two became friends after David's triumph over Goliath. The Scripture says, "Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself" (1 Sam. 18:1).
- ◆ The friendship was costly to Jonathan. At his own risk, Jonathan protected David on more than one occasion. Although King Saul was out to kill David, Jonathan remained true to his bond. Jonathan protected David by giving him advanced knowledge of his Saul's plans.
- ◆ Before fleeing from Saul's court, David promised to be kind to Jonathan's descendants. They parted as friends with many tears.
- ◆ Jonathan died in battle against the Philistines along with his father. David expressed his deep sorrow and love for Jonathan in a poem called "The Lament of the Bow" (2 Sam. 1:17–27). The words, "Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women," reflect this deep friendship of precious and rare value.



Jonathan's Token to David by Leighton

ATTITUDES OF THE HEART

Saul's Attitude Toward David		David's Attitude Toward Saul	
Saul was jealous	1 Sam. 18:9	David remained respectful	1 Sam. 18:8
Saul attempted to make David fail	18:11	David obeyed Saul's command	18:5
Saul tried to kill David	19:1–24	David refused to kill Saul	24:6; 26:9–12
"I have treated you badly"	1 Sam. 24:17	"You have treated me well"	1 Sam. 24:17

DAVID'S VICTORIES

Because of his focus on the Northern territories and his obsession to capture David, King Saul never conquered Jerusalem. Since the times of Joshua, the Israelites had been unable to conquer the city (see Josh. 15:63). The city belonged to a Jebusite tribe (2 Sam. 5:6–15). The leaders of Jerusalem were very confident in the strength of the city. They bragged that even blind people could repel David's attack (2 Sam. 5:6). However, with a brilliant military move, David conquered the city and made it his own.

Conquering Jerusalem was David's first action as king of Israel. Jerusalem was important because:

1. Jerusalem was important for David as the new king of all Israel. Hebron was a traditional seat of power for the Southern Tribes. David had to unify the North and the South.
2. Jerusalem became a symbol of the unity of the kingdom of Israel. Eventually, Jerusalem, David's city (2 Sam. 5:7), became God's city as well (2 Chron. 6:6).

David's victory against the Philistines was David's second action as king of Israel. Throughout this time, David continued to inquire of the Lord for guidance (2 Sam. 6:19). God continued to give David victory after victory. Another important victory was for David to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. Although the actual transport of the ark to Jerusalem proved tragic with the death of Uzzah, eventually David brought it to Jerusalem with great celebration and joy (2 Sam. 6). Bringing the ark to Jerusalem showed David's commitment to God. The ark represented God's presence. David recognized that God himself was the King of Israel. He recognized that all authority and blessings proceeded directly from God's presence.



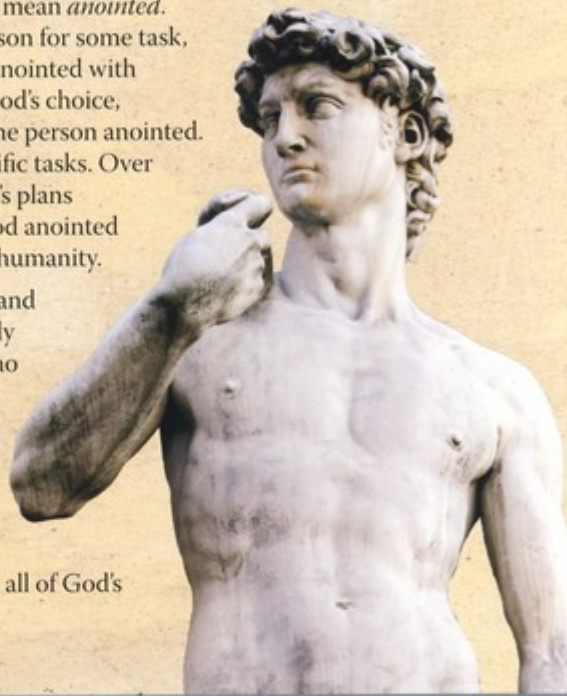
ANointed ONES

David, the great king of Israel, is one of the most important characters in the Bible. David was a powerful warrior, an insightful musician, and a hero of the faith. He is also important for his connection to Christ.

God promised to build a house for David (2 Sam. 7:8–16; see also, page 10). God meant that David's lineage would endure forever. God fulfilled his promise with the birth of Solomon. However, the greatest fulfillment of this promise is the birth of Jesus Christ.

The words *Messiah* and *Christ* mean *anointed*. That is, when God chose a person for some task, that person would have been anointed with oil. Anointment symbolized God's choice, empowerment, and favor on the person anointed. People were anointed for specific tasks. Over time, it became clear that God's plans included a special Messiah. God anointed Jesus to be King and Savior of humanity.

All human rulers were flawed and sinful; but Christ, although fully human, was flawless: "...one who has been tempted in every way, just as we—yet was without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). Through Christ's obedience, death, and resurrection, God would forgive and make a people for himself. In Christ, all of God's promises and plans come to pass.



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