

Key events

1. boy shepherd, anointed king
2. musician, poet
3. fierce giant killer
4. Bathsheba
5. respect for Saul, Jonathan
6. Absalom
7. Solomon

Compare Jesus and King David –

Both Born in Bethlehem, am leader in Jerusalem, shepherd and king, spent time in the wilderness, rejected by existing leaders, triumphed over enemies.

David's greatest SINS – ?

adultery, 2nd degree murder, counting people (credit / glory), dysfunctional father,

2 sam 10 he was derelict (negligent) in his duty to lead. He waited in Jerusalem

He was desensitized – polygamy – 7 wives

David is a strong but unassuming shepherd who becomes God's choice to replace Saul as king of Israel.

He is humble yet self-possessed, readily dismissing human opinion.

His humility becomes clear early in his youth, when he kills the giant Goliath with a sling stone, declining the opportunity to use Saul's royal armor.

As king, his foremost quality is obedience to God. For example, when his wife expresses embarrassment at David's dancing while he marches into Jerusalem, he rebukes her, boasting that he will embarrass himself so long as it pleases God.

David's mercy to others displays his selflessness—a product of his strenuous commitment to ethical ideals.

His sense of propriety is striking when he refrains from killing Saul while Saul has his back turned.

David scorns the easy opportunity to attack because he feels it would be morally wrong to strike God's current anointed ruler.

As king, David forgives the kingdom's traitors, and executes the traitors of his enemies. When his own rebellious son dies, David cries aloud in public, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom!" (2 Samuel 18:33). His weeping suggests the depth of a father's blind love for his son.

David's mercy may also be interpreted as a product of his political aspirations.

David refuses to kill Saul because he senses that whatever standards he imposes against the current king may one day be used against himself as ruler.

Moreover, seeds of revolt have already been planted in the northern tribes of Israel by David's reign, and the kingdom's unity may be on shaky ground.

King David shows mercy to his traitors, especially Absalom, because he wishes to quell emotions and court the graces of all his subjects. By this reading, David appears to be a pragmatist—one who acts not out of his or her ideals, but on the basis of what is practical or expedient.

However, the Old Testament ultimately seems to suggest that David's religious ideals do not conflict with his pragmatism.

David's popularity did not sit well with Saul. Even though Saul appointed him as a commander of the army, the king became jealous and eventually tried to murder David with his javelin. Saul's son Jonathan, however, befriended David, and David married Saul's daughter Michal as the king continued to make plots on his life. Even as he continued to wage successful war against the Philistines, David's life was rescued by both Jonathan and Michal.

Finally, David fled the court, heading first to Nob and then southwest to the land of the Philistines. He visited the kingdom of Moab in the southeast, leaving his parents in the protection of that king, and then dwelt in the arid southern deserts of Judah. More than once Saul pursued him with armed men, but David continued to escape, even sparing Saul's life when he had the opportunity to kill him.

David cultivated a friendship with Achish, the Philistine king of Gath. Achish made him the ruler of the city of Ziklag, and from this base, David continued to make raids against the enemies of Israel. Eventually, the Philistines prepared to make war against Saul. While David was away from Ziklag, a group of Amalekite warriors destroyed the village and captured the possessions and family members of David and his own followers. David responded by pursuing them into the desert, defeating them, and bringing back all the spoils of war.

David would reign for 33 years over the twelve tribes. He conquered the city of Jerusalem from the non-Hebrew Jebusites, renaming it as the City of David. He rebuilt this city (also known as 'Zion'), and established a diplomatic relationship with Hiram, king of the city of Tyre in the north. David continued the war against the Philistines, and he brought the Ark of God into the City of David.

David wanted to do more – he intended to build a temple of God in Jerusalem. However, the prophet Nathan recounted God’s Word to David: that David should not build a temple. Instead, God would himself bless David, providing him with a descendant whose throne would remain forever. After this, David continued to enjoy triumphs over neighboring nations, including Moab, Syria, and Edom. When he found a grandson of Saul – Mephibosheth – he showed kindness to the man.

King of Israel: The Years of Sorrow

David’s greatest years came to a sudden end when he fell into a scandal. While his army was away, David was relaxing at the palace. He happened to look out over the city of Jerusalem and saw a beautiful woman (Bathsheba) bathing. He brought her into the palace and committed adultery with her. In an attempt to cover his sin, he eventually murdered her husband, one of his most trusted military leaders, and married the now-widowed Bathsheba.

Nathan the prophet reappeared, condemning David for his sin. Suddenly filled with remorse, David repented with grief, crying out to God for mercy. Meanwhile, his child with Bathsheba died. Later, David had another child with Bathsheba, a child whom he named Solomon – the next king of Israel.

Yet the consequences of David’s sin would continue throughout the rest of his reign. A military victory over the Ammonites was soon forgotten when his son Amnon committed incestual rape against his daughter Tamar. Tamar’s brother, Absalom, determined to take justice into his own hands, and he responded by killing Amnon. Later, Absalom revolted against his own father. David and his trusted followers fled the capital, while Absalom moved into the royal palace and the royal harem.

Civil war broke out in Israel, leading to the defeat and death of Absalom. David was grieved to lose a son, but the turmoil was not over; another conspirator, Sheba, later made war with David. Sheba also ended up dead.

A three-year famine then weakened the Israelite economy. After this, David made successful war against the Philistines, but he sinned against God again when he determined to take a military census of the Israelite nation – an action strictly forbidden by God. The divine judgment was an outbreak of disease, killing tens of thousands of Hebrews. David repented, and the outbreak subsided.

In his last years, David married Abishag, a beautiful young Hebrew maiden. Adonijah, another of his sons, then tried to seize the throne, but David – though decrepit from age – intervened, ending the conspiracy and selecting Solomon as his successor. After giving words of wisdom and advice to his son Solomon, David died and was buried in Jerusalem, the City of David.

[Acts 13:22](#)

And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’

[1 Chronicles 18:14](#)

So David reigned over all Israel, and he administered justice and equity to all his people.

[Psalm 26:1-12](#)

Of David. Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes,

and I walk in your faithfulness. I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites. I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked. ...

1 Samuel 16:13

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

Psalm 63:1-11

A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, ...

ps 51 - 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

2 Samuel 19:5-7

Then Joab came into the house to the king and said, “You have today covered with shame the faces of all your servants, who have this day saved your life and the lives of your sons and your daughters and the lives of your wives and your concubines,

because you love those who hate you and hate those who love you. For you have made it clear today that commanders and servants are nothing to you, for today I know that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, then you would be pleased. Now therefore arise, go out and speak kindly to your servants, for I swear by the Lord, if you do not go, not a man will stay with you this night, and this will be worse for you than all the evil that has come upon you from your youth until now.”