

Episode: Kings and Prophets Series No. 3

Narrator: King David and Nathan

Primary Scriptures: 1 Samuel 16 – 2 Samuel 12, 1 Chronicles 11-19

Story Summary: David and Goliath, David as king, Bathsheba

Location: Kingdom of Israel

Time: Circa 1050-970 BC

Suggested Memory Scriptures: 1 Samuel 17:47. 2 Samuel 6:7; 11:1

Perhaps it might be helpful to think about David's life in four segments: youth, early adulthood before becoming king, first half of kingship, and second half of kingship.

David's first occupation is as a shepherd. He probably starts before he is ten years old, likely as an apprentice. For the next several years, he spends time in solitude protecting the sheep and enjoying nature. It is during this time that he learns to use a sling and staff, play a harp, and compose songs and poems. It is also during this time that he is secretly anointed to be a future king, and the Spirit of God comes upon him powerfully...and stays upon him.¹

Although the timing of events is uncertain, the second segment of David's life starts when he takes his brothers some lunch. Before the trip is over, he kills Goliath and takes the giant's bloody head to Jerusalem. He goes into the service of Saul, where he becomes a mighty warrior. As Saul becomes more and more paranoid, David is forced to run for his life. He lives in the countryside and forms a small army. He avoids Saul, gathers support from the common people, and lives among the Philistines long enough to learn about them and their methods of warfare. This part of his life ends when Saul and Jonathan are killed and David becomes the second king of Israel.

The third segment of David's life is a little harder to fathom from the Biblical accounts. It starts when the elders of the tribes of Israel agree to accept David as king. They continue to keep their individual tribal identities, but unite under his leadership. He systematically overcomes the historical enemies of Israel, as well as all of its neighboring nations. He subjugates and exacts tribute from the Philistines, Amalekites, Edomites, Moabites, Ammonites, and Arameans. When David is through, he controls the land and trade routes from the border of Egypt to the Euphrates River.

This third segment ends about the time David completes his conquests. When he stops participating in the battles, he stays behind in Jerusalem and succumbs to the temptation of the wife of one of his warriors. He has an affair with Bathsheba that will have long-lasting ramifications for his family and the entire nation, especially during the second half of his kingship.

¹ 1 Samuel 16:13

Discussion Questions:

1. 1 Samuel 16:13 tells of David getting anointed as a future king by Samuel. How long would it be before he became king? When do you think Saul found out about David's anointing?
2. 1 Samuel 17:54 says that David took Goliath's head to Jerusalem. Why do you think he did that?
3. 1 Samuel 25 tells the story of Abigail. David ends up marrying her, but he was already married to Ahinoam and Michal. How could David be a man after God's heart if he willingly became a bigamist? How would his decision play out in Solomon's life?
4. 1 Samuel 27:6 says that David lived among the Philistines. Why might that have proven to be a good thing for David?
5. 1 Samuel tells of the witch bringing up Samuel from the dead. Where was Samuel, and how could she bring him back?
6. 2 Samuel 2:4 says the people of Judah crowned David king. Why only Judah?

1. David was thirty when he became king. He was probably 10-15 years old when he was anointed. We don't know when Saul found out. 4. He might have gathered intelligence about their military methods, their leaders, and their economy. 6. David was of the tribe of Judah, they were in the territory of Judah, and the other tribes were still united under Saul's son.

Application Questions:

1. David probably waited more than fifteen years between his anointing and his kingship. Could you be that patient for something you really wanted? What would you do while you wait?
2. 1 Samuel 17:12 says Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him. Saul's son, Jonathan, was David's best friend. Do you tend to want to be around godly people or stay away from them?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. In 1 Samuel 21:2, David obviously lied to the priest. His lie resulted in the entire family of the priest being killed by Saul. Is it ever right to tell a lie? Have you ever told a lie that you thought was unimportant but it resulted in a lot of damage?
2. 1 Samuel 24:6 tells of David being unwilling to harm Saul because he was God's anointed king. Have you ever purposefully tried to harm the reputation or situation of a person who was in authority because God placed them there?
3. Read 2 Samuel 8. Do the things in that chapter sound like something God would want David to do?