

The David Story: Table of Contents and Plot Summary

FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Focal events</i>
1	Story of Elkanah and his two wives, Peninnah and Hannah. Hannah yearns for and receives a son, Samuel.
2	Hannah sings a song of praise to YHWH; The priest Eli's sons are condemned for being corrupt
3	Samuel is called by YHWH and learns of YHWH's judgment on the house of Eli
4	The Philistine battle against Israel and rout them; Eli's sons are killed; Eli dies; his daughter-in-law dies; the ark of God is captured.
5	The Philistine god, Dagon, is downed by the Ark; the Philistines send the Ark away.
6	The Philistines make golden images of mice/rats and "tumors" to placate the power of the Ark; they send the Ark to Beth-Shemesh (House of the Sun).
7	The people of Kiriath-Jearim take the Ark and keep it for twenty years.; Samuel calls the people of Israel to repent of their worship of foreign gods, Baal and Astarte; the people go out to battle the Philistines and rout them.
8	Samuel's sons are corrupt; the people demand that Samuel appoint a king over them; after consulting with YHWH, Samuel warns them of the "ways of the king"
9	While searching for his father's missing donkeys, Saul, son of Kish, meets Samuel.
10	Samuel anoints Saul as "ruler" over Israel. YHWH gives Saul "another heart." Saul joins in the frenzy of a wandering band of prophets; Samuel presents Saul to the people of Israel as their king.
11	Nahash the Ammonite threatens the people of Israel; Saul musters a force and pushes the Ammonites away.
12	Samuel testily reminds the people of the "evil" they have done in asking for a king, but promise that YHWH will still be with them if they are faithful.
13	Saul and his son, Jonathan, lead the Israelites in battle against the Philistines; when the people begin to slip away from Saul, he makes a burnt offering contrary to Samu-

el's order. Samuel tells him that YHWH will take away the kingship from him.

14 Jonathan leads the Israelites against the Philistines without telling Saul; Saul orders a curse on anyone who eats before Saul is avenged; not knowing, Jonathan eats honey and gives some to his troops. Saul seeks to find out who violated his order. Saul threatens to kill Jonathan but is stopped by the people.

15 Samuel orders Saul to destroy the Amalekites and their animals; Saul spares their king and best animals; Samuel confronts him and refuses Saul's apology, then kills the Amalekite king.

16 YHWH tells Samuel to stop grieving over Saul and orders him to find YHWH's next choice for king among the sons of Jesse. After seven of Jesse's sons pass by without approval, Samuel sends for the youngest son, David, who was hiding among the baggage. David becomes Saul's armor-bearer.

17 The Philistines align for battle against Israel. Their gigantic warrior, Goliath, taunts the Israelites and invites Saul to send a man to do battle with him. Against the wishes of his older brothers, David goes to Saul to volunteer. Saul accepts and David defeats Goliath with his slingshot. David is re-introduced to Saul.

18 Jonathan makes a covenant with David and symbolically passes his authority as king's son to David. God sends an evil spirit onto Saul, who attempts to pin David to the wall with his own spear. Saul's daughter, Michal, falls in love with David. Saul offers her to David if he can bring 100 Philistine foreskins.

19 Saul continues to try to kill David. Jonathan conspires to protect David. Michal also protects David by deceiving her father. Saul again goes into a frenzy among the band of prophets.

20 David flees from Saul and joins with Jonathan. They plot together against Saul. Saul realizes that his son has sided with David, and Saul curses Jonathan. While hurling his spear at his own son.

21 David comes to the priestly town of Nob. The priest Abimelech gives him holy bread to eat and the sword of Goliath. David flees to King Achish of Gath of the Philistines and plays the madman to protect himself.

22 David hides from Saul in the cave of Adullam. He gathers a band of the debts and the discontented. Saul chases after David. Doeg the Edomite reports to Saul on David's whereabouts. Saul confronts Ahimelech for helping David. Saul orders his guard to kill the priests, but they refuse. Then Saul turns to Doeg who kills Ahimelech and 85 priest, with only Abiathar escaping.

23 Abiathar comes to David. Saul gathers his men against David and his men. David and Jonathan again covenant together. The Ziphites tell Saul of David's whereabouts.

David is told that Saul is coming; when the Philistines attack, Saul pursues them and gives up on David for now.

24 Saul is told that David is in the wilderness of En-gedi and pursues. David comes upon Saul relieving himself in a cave, and stealthily cuts off the corner of Saul's robe. David seeks peace with Saul. Saul acknowledges that David will be king.

25 Samuel dies. David seeks protection money from a rich landowner, Nabal. Nabal refuses and David gathers his men to kill Nabal and his men. Nabal's wife, Abigail, placates David with gifts and denounces her husband as a fool. David relents. Abigail tells Nabal who has a heart attack and dies. Abigail becomes David's wife. Saul has Michal taken from David and given to another man.

26 The Ziphites again report to Saul on David's whereabouts. David comes upon Saul but refuses to kill YHWH's "anointed" (messiah). David takes Saul's spear and water jar and leaves. David calls to Abner, Saul's general, seeking peace. Saul again acknowledges David's ascendancy to the throne.

27 David, hiding from Saul, becomes a mercenary warrior for the Philistines.

28 King Achish of the Philistines makes David his "bodyguard for life." The Philistines and Israel line up for battle. In fear of the Philistines, Saul goes to a woman of Endor to call up the spirit of Samuel. She does, and Samuel condemns Saul.

29 The Philistine "lords" question why David is among them. Achish assures them that David is on their side. However, he does not oppose the Philistines lords and sends David away.

30 David comes to Ziklag after the Amalekites had attacked and burned the city, taking women and children captive, including David's wives, Abigail and Ahinoam. David pursues with 600 men. He defeats the Amalekites and recovers the women. David shares the spoils with his friends, the elders of Judah.

31 The Philistines catch Saul and kill him and his three sons.

SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

Chapter Focal events

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- 1 An Amalekite man from Saul's camp comes to David to report Saul's death at his hand, after Saul had been injured in battle. David orders the man killed for killing the Lord's anointed. David proclaims a lament over Saul and Jonathan.
- 2 David and his wives settle in Hebron. The people of Judah make David king. Abner makes Saul's son, Ishbaal, king over Israel. Joab, David's general and Abner meet with a group of young soldiers at the pool of Gibeon. The soldiers all grasp their opponents by the head and all are killed. David's men win the ongoing battle. Asahel, one of the three "sons of Zeruah" who serve David, pursues Abner. Abner warns Asahel to turn back, but Asahel refuses. Abner strikes Asahel down with his spear. Joab and Abishai, Asahel's brothers, pursue Joab. A truce is declared.
- 3 A long war ensues between the house of Saul and the house of David. Abner "goes into" Saul's concubine, Rizpah. When Ishbaal confronts him, Abner goes to David to seek a covenant of safety. David agrees on the condition that Michal is returned to him. Michal is taken from her husband and given to David. Joab challenges David about making peace with Abner. Joab kills Abner by deception. David disclaims the killing and calls for mourning for Abner.
- 4 Ishbaal hears that Abner is dead and his courage fails. Ishbaal is killed by two of Saul's captains, Rechab and Baanah and his head is brought to David. David orders the death of Rechab and Baanah.
- 5 The tribes of Israel come to David and beg him to be king over them. David invades the Jebusite city of Jerusalem and takes it as his own city, turning it into a fortress. King Hiram of Tyre aligns with David, sending workers and materials to build a palace for David. David does battle successfully against the Philistines.
- 6 David brings the Ark up to Judah. One of the servants, Uzzah, reaches out to touch the Ark to stabilize it and is struck down by YHWH. David fears YHWH. The Ark remains in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite for three months and then is brought to Jerusalem. David dances in the streets while Michal watches from a window. She rebukes him for dancing half-naked before the street girls. David defends himself and David and Michal become estranged forever.
- 7 David wonders about building a house for YHWH. His prophet, Nathan, tells him that it is YHWH who will make David into a "house," i.e., a dynasty, that will last forever.

8 David wins battles against various enemy armies. His royal court officials are named.

9 David seeks to clean up leftovers from the house of Saul. Jonathan's crippled son, Mephibosheth, is brought to him. David promises him safety and gives him a seat at David's royal table.

10 David sends messengers to the Ammonites to console them after the death of their king. The people attack David's envoys, humiliating them by cutting off half their beards and half their clothes. The Ammonites stand against David.

11 While his army is doing battle, David looks out from his palace roof and sees Bathsheba, the wife of David's soldier, Uriah, bathing. David calls for her and she gets pregnant. David tries unsuccessfully to make it look like Uriah is the father, then sends Uriah to the war to get him killed.

12 YHWH sends Nathan to David to confront him about Bathsheba. Nathan recites a story about a rich man, a poor man, a traveler and a ewe lamb, which is a thinly veiled parable about David and Bathsheba. David falls into the trap and Nathan, speaking for YHWH, warns him that his own house will now be filled with trouble. The lovechild dies. David consoles Bathsheba and she becomes pregnant and then gives birth to Solomon.

13 David's son Amnon, lusts for his half-sister, Tamar. He is advised by Jonadab to play sick to get Tamar to nurse him. When he does, Amnon rapes Tamar and then despises her. Absalom, Tamar's brother, plots revenge while David does nothing. Absalom calls a feast for the king's sons and has Amnon killed, while the other sons flee. Absalom flees to his grandfather, Talmai, king of Geshur.

14 Joab seeks to call David back to royal business by getting a "wise woman" from Tekoa to deceive David with a story planted in her by Joab. David realizes that Joab is behind the story and calls Joab to bring Absalom back to Jerusalem, but not into the presence of David. Absalom stays in Jerusalem away from his father for two years.

15 Absalom seeks popular support for a rebellion that would make him king in place of his father. The report comes to David that the hearts of the Israelites have turned to Absalom. The king and his household flee from Jerusalem. Further plotting ensues.

16 While fleeing, David is taunted by Shimei from the house of Saul. Abishai offers to kill him, but David demurs. The royal counselor, Ahitophel, advises Absalom.

17 Absalom seeks also the counsel of Hushai the Arcite, who is secretly working for David. Absalom takes Hushai's advice over that of Ahitophel, who quietly commits suicide.

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- 18** David's army comes out against Absalom's army. Absalom's long hair gets stuck in a tree and Absalom is left hanging from the tree. Joab kills him and sends a messenger to tell David. When David hears that Absalom is dead, he cries out and weeps.
- 19** With David mourning the death of the enemy, Absalom, the army and people become discouraged. Joab encourages David to speak to the people so that they don't leave him. David has the priests, Abiathar and Zadok, speak to the elders of Judah on his behalf. The people return to David. Abishai again asks to kill Shimei, but David disclaims the violence of the "sons of Zeruiah." The old counselor, Barzillai, is blessed by David.
- 20** Sheba, a Benjaminite, seeks to lead the people of Israel away from David, with the chant, "We have no share in David...to your tents, O Israel!" Joab's men pursue Sheba. Meanwhile, Amasa comes out to meet the army and Joab kills him, then continues to pursue Sheba, who is hiding in the town of Abel of Beth-maacah. A wise woman of the town calls Joab and suggests a deal: the head of Sheba in exchange for peace. Joab agrees and Sheba is killed.
- 21** A famine ensues for three years. YHWH says that it is because there is bloodguilt on the house of Saul because of the situation with the Gibeonites. David agrees with the Gibeonites that the lives of Saul's sons be taken in exchange for peace, except for Saul's grandson, Mephibosheth. The Philistines again war against Israel; David grows weary of war.
- 22** David proclaims a psalm in honor of YHWH
- 23** David proclaims an oracle to YHWH. A list of David's chief warriors is inserted.
- 24** David calls a census of the people of Israel. YHWH's anger arises in response. David is stricken with remorse. David erects an altar on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

THE FIRST BOOK OF KINGS

Chapter Focal events

- 1** Old David is cold, and a young, beautiful virgin, Abishag, is given to him to warm him. David's eldest son, Adonijah, seeks a coalition who will support him in succeeding his father as king. Nathan hears of it, and calls Bathsheba to go into David's chamber and "remind" him that he promised the reign to Solomon. Nathan and Bathsheba speak to David, who agrees to make Solomon king. Adonijah's supporters are terrified and flee.
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2 On his deathbed, David gives Solomon orders on who to kill and who to keep in power. Adonijah asks Bathsheba to ask Solomon to give Abishag to Adonijah. Bathsheba does, and Solomon rebukes her and has his brother, Adonijah, killed. Solomon has Benaiah confront and kill Joab and Benaiah takes Joab's place as head of the army. Shemei is killed. The kingdom is established in Solomon.