

The David Story: Cast of Characters

<i>Character</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Places in text</i>	<i>Comment</i>
THE HOUSE OF ELI			
Elkanah, son of Jeroham, of Ramathaim	Husband of Hannah and Peninnah	1 Sam 1	
Hannah	Wife of Elkanah, mother of Samuel	1 Sam 1-3	Her song is echoed in Mary's song, Luke 1
Eli	Priest of YHWH, father of Hophni and Phinehas	1 Sam 1-3	
Hophni and Phinehas	Sons of Eli		"scoundrels"
A "man of God"	Prophecies demise of House of Eli	1 Sam 2	
Ichabod and Ahitub	Sons of Phinehas	1 Sam 4 1 Sam 14.3	"Ichabod" means "glory has departed from Israel"
Ahijah	Son of Ahitub (grandson of Eli)	1 Sam 14	Worked for Saul
Abiathar	Son of Ahitub (grandson of Eli)	1 Sam 22-23; 2 Sam 8; 15; 17; 19; 1 Kg 1-2	Escaped the slaughter of the priests at Nob to become a royal priest for David; banished by Solomon for siding with Adonijah as David's successor
Peninnah	Wife of Elkanah	1 Sam 1	
THE HOUSE OF SAUL			
Kish	Father of Saul	1 Sam 9	
Saul	First king of Israel	1 Sam 9-31	
A "band of prophets"	Temporarily host Saul	1 Sam 10	
"Saul's uncle"	Asks for Samuel's message to Saul	1 Sam 10	Unclear who he is exactly
Ahinoam	Wife of Saul	1 Sam 14.50	Likely became one of David's wives, 1 Sam 25.43; 27.3; 30.5, etc.
Jonathan	Son of Saul, friend of David	1 Sam 13-14, 18-20; 23	
Abinadab and Malchishua	Sons of Saul	1 Sam 31	Killed by Philistines
Ishbaal	Son of Saul	2 Sam 2-4	Made king of Israel by Abner until Abner rejects him; killed by

			Rechab and Baanah
Merab	Daughter of Saul	1 Sam 18	Promised by Saul to David as wife, but denied to David
Michal	Daughter of Saul, wife of David	1 Sam 18-19; 25.44; 2 Sam 3	Protects David from her father's wrath, then turns against David later
Abner	Leader of Saul's army	1 Sam 14; 17; 20; 26; 2 Sam 2-3	Murdered by Joab, David's army commander
Doeg the Edomite	Chief of Saul's shepherds	1 Sam 21-22	Kills all the 85 priests at Nob
Baanah and Rechab	Ishbaal's captains	2 Sam 4	Killed Ishbaal, then killed by David
Palti/Paltiel	Husband of Saul's daughter, Michal	1 Sam 25.44; 2 Sam 3.15	Saul took away Michal from David and gave her to Palti; later, David took her back
Ziba	Royal advisor to Saul, then to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth	2 Sam 9; 16; 19	
Mephibosheth	Lame son of Jonathan	2 Sam 9; 16; 19; 21	Killed by David
Shimei, son of Gera	Cursed David as he escaped from Absalom	2 Sam 16; 19; 1 Kg 2	David ordered Solomon to assassinate him
Sheba	Son of Bichri, a Benjamite	2 Sam 20	Led Israelites to leave David during Absalom's rebellion; killed by a woman of Abel
Woman of Abel of Beth-maacah		2 Sam 20	Gave up Sheba's head to save her city from Joab's army
THE HOUSE OF DAVID			
Gad	A prophet/seer for David	1 Sam 13; 22; 2 Sam 24	
Jesse	Father of David	1 Sam 16	
Eliab	Older brother of David	1 Sam 16-17	Chastises David for wanting to watch the battle
Abinadab and Shammah	Other brothers of David	1 Sam 17	
Abigail	Widow of Nabal; wife of David	1 Sam 25	
Ahinoam	Wife of David	1 Sam 25.43	May be Saul's widow
Abishai	One of three "sons of Zeruiah" who serve David as assassins and more	1 Sam 26; 2 Sam 2-3; 10; 16; 18-21	

Joab	One of three “sons of Zeruiah”; David’s army commander	2 Sam 2-3; 10-12; 14; 18-20; 23-24; 1 Kg 1-2	Killed by Benaiah at Solomon’s order
Asahel	One of three “sons of Zeruiah”	2 Sam 2	Killed by Abner
Elders of Judah	Supporters of David	1 Sam 30.26; 2 Sam 19.11	
Amnon, of Ahinoam of Jezreel; Chileab, of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel; Absalom son of Maacah, daughter of King Talmi of Geshur; Adonijah son of Haggith; Shephatiah son of Abital; Ithream, of David’s wife Eglah.	Sons of David born to him in Hebron	2 Sam 3	
Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.	Sons of David born to him in Jerusalem	2 Sam 5	
Nathan	David’s royal prophet	2 Sam 7; 12; 1 Kg 1	Prophesied eternal reign of the house of David; sided with Solomon in the succession.
Bathsheba	Wife/widow of Uriah the Hittite; wife of David, mother of Solomon	2 Sam 11-12; 1 Kg 1-2	Sided with Nathan to make Solomon king
Benaiah	Son of Jehoiada	2 Sam 8; 20; 23; 1 Kg 1-2	Leader of David’s mercenary forces
Zadok, son of Ahitub	Priest in David’s house	2 Sam 8.17; 15; 17-20; 1 Kg 1	Sided with Nathan to make Solomon king
Cherethites and Pelethites	David’s mercenary army	2 Sam 8; 15; 20; 1 Kg 1	
Uriah the Hittite	Husband of Bathsheba	2 Sam 11	Sent to his death by David by deceit
Absalom	Son of David; sister of Tamar	2 Sam 13-19	Led failed rebellion against his father, David
Amnon	Son of David	2 Sam 13	Raped and abandoned his half-sister, Tamar; killed by Absalom
Jonadab	Son of David’s brother, Shimeah	2 Sam 13	Advised Amnon re: Tamar
Ahithophel the Gilonite	David’s counselor	2 Sam 15-17	Supported Absalom’s rebellion; later commit-

			ted suicide
Hushai the Archite	David's friend	2 Sam 15-17	At David's urging, played the traitor to mislead Absalom
Ahimaaz	Son of Zadok the priest	2 Sam 16; 17-18	Sided with David in the rebellion
Jonathan	Son of Abiathar, the priest	2 Sam 16; 17	Sided with David in the rebellion
Amasa	Son of Ithra the Ishmaelite	2 Sam 17; 19-20	Absalom's army commander; killed by Joab
Adoram	In charge of forced labor	2 Sam 20	
Jehosophat	Son of Ahilud; David's recorder/scribe	2 Sam 20	
Sheva	David's royal secretary	2 Sam 20	
Ira the Jairite	Third priest for David	2 Sam 20	
Elhanan	Son of Jaare-oregim	2 Sam 21	Killed Goliath (!)
"The Thirty"		2 Sam 23	List of David's esteemed warriors
Abishag the Shunammite	Brought to old David to keep him "warm"	1 Kg 1-2	
Adonijah	Son of Haggith/David	1 Kg 1-2	Declared himself successor to David; killed by Solomon via Benai-hah
OTHERS			
Samuel	Judge, prophet, king-maker	1 Sam 1-3; 7-13; 15-16; 19; 28	
Abijah and Joel	Sons of Samuel	1 Sam 8	corrupt
Elders of Israel	Speak on behalf of the people of Israel	1 Sam 8; 2 Sam 3; 5; 17	
People of Israel	The collective voice		
Joshua of Beth-Shemesh	Owner of field where the Philistines offered burnt offerings	1 Sam 6	
People of Kiriath-jearim	Temporary holders of the Ark of the Covenant	1 Sam 7	
A "man of Benjamin"	Announces to Eli the death of his sons	1 Sam 4	
Abinadab of Kiriath-jearim	Housed the ark of YHWH	1 Sam 7; 2 Sam 6.3	Not to be confused with son of Saul or son of Jesse of same name
Ahimelech	Priest at Nob who sheltered David from Saul	1 Sam 21-22	Killed by Doeg the Edomite by Saul's order
Uzzah and Ahio	Sons of Abinadab of Kiriath-jearim	2 Sam 6	Uzzah died after touching the Ark.

Nabal	Wealthy sheepowner in Carmel, husband of Abigail	1 Sam 25	Tries to resist David's "protection"; thwarted by his wife, Abigail
Woman of Endor	Calls up the spirit of Samuel for Saul	1 Sam 28	
King Hiram of Tyre	Political ally of David	2 Sam 5	Financed and constructed David's royal palace
Obed-edom the Gittite	Housed the Ark for three months	2 Sam 6	
PHILISTINES			
Dagon	A Philistine god	1 Sam 5	
Goliath	Killed by David	1 Sam 17; but see also 2 Sam 21.19	
Achish	King of Philistines	1 Sam 21; 27-29	Makes David a mercenary soldier
Woman of Tekoa	Enlisted by Joab to alert David about Absalom	2 Sam 14	
Araunah the Jebusite	Sold a threshing floor to David to be used as an altar	2 Sam 24	
FOREIGN OPPONENTS/ALLIES OF SAUL OR DAVID			
Nahash	King of the Ammonites	1 Sam 11; 2 Sam 10.2; 17.25-27	Opposed Israel during time of Saul; later, befriended by David
Agag	King of the Amalekites	1 Sam 15	Spared by Saul, against Samuel's orders; killed by Samuel
Ziphites		1 Sam 23	Report David's secret location to Saul
Hadadezer	King of Zobah	2 Sam 8	Defeated by David
Arameans of Damascus		2 Sam 8	Turned to David after losing a battle with him
Toi (and son, Joram)	King of Hamath, opponent of Hadadezer	2 Sam 8	Sided with David
Edomites	David's allies	2 Sam 8	
Hanun	Son of Nahash, Ammonite king	2 Sam 10	Opposed David; later fled
Arameans of Beth-rehob and of Zobah	Joined the Ammonites in battle against David	2 Sam 10	Defeated by David
Gibeonites	Besieged by Saul	2 Sam 21	Revenged by David by killing Saul's remaining sons.