

David's royal team in 2 Samuel 8.16-18

JOAB, SON OF ZERUIAH OVER THE ARMY

Mentioned 96 times. Brother of Asahel (killed by Abner at 2 Samuel 2.23) and Abishai (with Joab, murdered Abner; had been with David during Saul's pursuit of David).

Joab bridged the transition from Saul to David; participated in the Bathsheba/Uriaah coverup for David; sought to prevent, and then to stop, Absalom's rebellion and the reestablishment of David's reign. Supported Adonijah in the succession struggle and murdered by Benaiah at the command of Solomon.

JEHOSHAPHAT SON OF AHILUD WAS RECORDER/REMEMBERER

Never mentioned outside the royal role lists.

ZADOK SON OF AHITUB, PRIEST

Descendant of Eli, priest at the time of Samuel's birth and rise. Partnered with Abiathar to serve David during Absalom's rebellion. Sided with Solomon in the succession struggle. An ancestor of the priest-scribe, Ezra, who served the Persians in the post-exilic reconstruction. His lineage became Ezekiel's "levitical priests" in the post-exilic period.

AHIMELECH SON OF ABIATHAR, PRIEST

Grandson of his namesake; son of Abiathar who was saved by David at Nob. Not mentioned again.

His own son, Abiathar, will have the role starting at 2 Samuel 15.24, in the Absalom rebellion, alongside Zadok. Sided with Adonijah in the succession struggle and was first banished, then restored, by Solomon

SERAIHAH, SECRETARY/SCRIBE

Only mentioned here.

NATHAN, COURT PROPHET

Not mentioned in royal lists; mediated YHWH's "house" oracle to David. Confronted David on the Bathsheba/Uriaah situation. Sided with Bathsheba in the succession struggle, convincing David to put Solomon on the throne.