

## Book of Samuel

First, a bit of catch-up on the narrative. Israel has entered into the land, the land promised to Abraham. Formerly known as Canaan, the land is now Israel. Israel is a tribal league, made up of tribes descended from Jacob's sons, except for Levi who didn't get any land but became the priestly tribe, and then instead of Joseph becoming a tribe, each of his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, got one. So Israel exists as a semi-united nation, a group of tribes surrounded by hostile peoples; this is something that now is happening in real time; we can get actual archaeological confirmation for this stuff.

Israel is ruled by no one person in particular; there are a wealth of shrines and local holy men, and tribal authorities and households that hold local sway. With laws, who needs anyone in charge? When there are national emergencies, the Judge can serve-

describe Judges, describe the cycle of Judges

What are the advantages of Judges? The disadvantages?

So let's begin with Samuel in earnest- trope of the barren woman, familiar from Torah; plus Samuel is vowed as a Nazirite. We know that he is going to be special.

Introduce the DH- what we're reading.

What's the solution? A king?

Why should we have a king? Why not?

Who is Saul?

What does he do? Does having a king work?

Saul does well for a while, then the Philistines really turn out against Israel

A bit about the Amalekites- who are they? Why does God hate them? have someone read 15:1-4

The Herem- non-profit warfare; the Amalekites are to be destroyed, NOT robbed.

Chapter 15- The Amalekites are around. Saul orders an attack, but doesn't do the right thing and kill everyone. He spares Agag, the king, and they keep the best stuff. That is REALLY not OK. explain that God doesn't accept Saul's repentance, and has a torn robe sign act.

This is the classical role of prophets; they serve as a foil to kings- they tell the king what God wants of them, they tell the king when God says they have screwed up.

16- a New King!

Note that by this time, God has given up on the idea of not having a King; he instructs Samuel to go to Bethlehem, which is in Judah ( go back to first slide) to the house of Jesse, and pick a new king from his sons. We see some familiar tropes- David is the youngest, not his father's favorite, and he is a shepherd. He isn't big, but God says to not mind that; 16:7. When Samuel sees David, he knows what to do, and anoints him right there. Now David is the legitimate sovereign.

But Saul doesn't really know that.

A bit about David- he is arguably the main character of the Bible; an amazing personality whose achievements can still be felt today

David the King  
2Sam 1-7, 11-19

Goliath  
"Saul has killed his thousands,  
and David his ten thousands"  
Nabal  
The Song of the Bow

2Sam 1:27 "How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!"

Today we are going to talk about David, the second King of Israel, the united monarchy, but sort of the first king, the first that really took, and the one who established a ruling dynasty that lasted 500 plus years. His legacy is enormously important to both Judaism and Christianity; he is one of those figures whose personality is really stamped on history. He is arguably the main character of the Hebrew Bible, the one with the most written about him, less arguably the main character of the non-Pentateuch part of the Hebrew Bible. Certainly he is the main character of the DH.

OK- so on that note, we enter David. The early David stories show some source confusion- there are about three stories about how he comes into the picture; and two or so about how he is anointed by Samuel; the first story we looked at, where Samuel is told by God to go to Bethlehem and anoint the youngest son of Jesse. After David is secretly anointed, he ends up with the job of Saul's musician. Have someone read this.

The first episode I want to look at is the story, one of those ones we all kind of know, but not really, the story of David and Goliath.

This is a big battle against the Philistines; and an important one for Saul; this is the sort of thing that is why he was made King in the first place.

The Philistines engage in typical Greek practice; they send out their champion and taunt the other side; they challenge the enemies top guy to single combat; Israel's hugest was...??? Saul. He wimps out, and David takes up the slack, as things should be.

Note that David has a scene with his older brothers here, and he is a shepherd. This sort of thing should be getting familiar by now.

Show in chapter 18 verses 6-9; the rivalry, which there really should be, since David has been tapped for Saul's job

Now I want to move ahead a bit, and go to another episode in David's career, kind of zoom in on that; 1samuel 25- the story of David and Abigail. Fast forward a bit- David has been chased out of court by Saul, who knows what is going on with David. It is sort of a self-fulfilling prophecy; David is married to Saul's daughter Michal, and is best friends with Saul's son Jonathan, so he has even sort of taken over his family. Nevertheless, David finds himself on the run, sort of living off the land with his people.

Abigail takes matters into her own hands, one of these Biblical women who does this, not out of prophecy but out of common sense. Meanwhile, David has said the thing about the males; this is David the soldier, and this is often how soldiers talk. Think of Patton.

When Abigail tells Nabal what she has done, he has some kind of stroke and dies ten days later. David marries Abigail, adding her to his household.

This is David; things go his way. Plus he falls in love a lot. This is going to be a big problem for him.

Next scene I want to look at is important for several reasons; Saul and his house are still fighting the Philistines when they aren't trying to kill David, and they aren't doing all that well. At the battle of Mt. Gilboa (near Bet

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Shehan, show it on the map to show how bad this is), there is an Israelite defeat; Saul and Jonathan are killed; technically Jonathan and his brothers are killed in battle, and Saul kills himself in order to avoid capture. David laments at this, even though it means that he is now the last man standing in the king sweepstakes.

David composes this lament. Talk about how it is called the bow, it fits in with this idea that David is a poet, a singer, and a composer;

After a continued struggle with the supporters of Saul, David becomes king of all Israel.

Uriah the Hittite

II Samuel 11:1: And it came to pass, at the return of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried at Jerusalem.

II Samuel 11:2: And it came to pass at eventide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house; and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

II Samuel 11:3: And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said: 'Is not this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?'

II Samuel 11:4: And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness; and she returned unto her house.

II Samuel 11:5: And the woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said: 'I am with child.'

II Samuel 11:6: And David sent to Joab, saying: 'Send me Uriah the Hittite.' And Joab sent Uriah to David.

II Samuel 11:7: And when Uriah was come unto him, David asked of him how Joab did, and how the people fared, and how the war prospered.

II Samuel 11:8: And David said to Uriah: 'Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet.' And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of food from the king.

II Samuel 11:9: But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house.

II Samuel 11:10: And when they had told David, saying: 'Uriah went not down unto his house', David said unto Uriah: 'Art thou not come from a journey? wherefore didst thou not go down unto thy house?'

II Samuel 11:11: And Uriah said unto David: 'The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in booths; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open field; shall I then go into my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.'

II Samuel 11:12: And David said to Uriah: 'Tarry here to-day also, and to-morrow I will let thee depart.' So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow.

II Samuel 11:13: And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk; and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

II Samuel 11:14: And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

II Samuel 11:15: And he wrote in the letter, saying: 'Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.'

II Samuel 11:16: And it came to pass, when Joab kept watch upon the city, that he assigned Uriah unto the place where he knew that valiant men were.

II Samuel 11:17: And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab; and there fell some of the people, even of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

II Samuel 11:18: Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war;

II Samuel 11:19: and he charged the messenger, saying: 'When thou hast made an end of telling all the things concerning the war unto the king,

II Samuel 11:20: it shall be that, if the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee: Wherefore went ye so nigh unto the city to fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall?'

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II Samuel 11:21: who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast an upper millstone upon him from the wall, that he died at Thebez? why went ye so nigh the wall? then shalt thou say: Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'

II Samuel 11:22: So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent him for.

II Samuel 11:23: And the messenger said unto David: 'The men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entrance of the gate.

II Samuel 11:24: And the shooters shot at thy servants from off the wall; and some of the king's servants are dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'

II Samuel 11:25: Then David said unto the messenger: 'Thus shalt thou say unto Joab: Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth in one manner or another; make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it; and encourage thou him.'

II Samuel 11:26: And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she made lamentation for her husband.

II Samuel 11:27: And when the mourning was past, David sent and took her home to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

David has become King of Israel. Everything is going pretty well.

Let's do a bit of close reading here in 2Sam 11

2- he rose from his couch in the afternoon for a walk.- he sees her bathing- talk about the geography. Note all the asking and the note sending and so forth. This is not likely to stay secret for very long.

11:6-13. Does Uriah know? Is he just annoyingly virtuous?

11:14-21 - tell who Joab is, talk about just what David is asking. Is this the sort of thing a soldier would like?

So David and Bathsheba marry, and the child is born, a son.

## Chapter 12

Now we are going to see a prophet in serious action. This is classical prophecy doing its thing; the king has seriously abused his power, and God knows all about it and is not happy. Nathan, as God's representative, can say anything to the King, and the King can't really do anything about it. But it wouldn't really do to have someone just come and accuse the King; he tells a story.

David's child with Bathsheba dies; if there is a time thing look at this for the unusual mention of the afterlife. Maybe do 12:20-25. Mention that this boy is Solomon, he is going to grow up to be the next king, and succeed David.

Talk about how this is a turning point in David's career; up to this point, everything had gone right for him. Now it's all downhill.

So now we are going to turn to the idea of David the Psalmist.

SO now we have seen the spectrum of David's personality; the pious warrior, anointed by God, the cunning soldier who does what is needed, the king, the abuser of power, and the poet.

We've seen David portrayed a lot as a singer, a composer, a poet, a musician. This is part of the character as he is portrayed.

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