

## King David's Life Recap

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- Born the seventh and final, son of Jesse and a grandson of Ruth and Boaz, David lived with his family in Bethlehem of Judea, a village seven miles or so southwest of Jerusalem—which was held by the Jebusites and not a beautiful city surrounded by a wall at the time.
- With one heir and five spare sons ahead of him, not to mention two sisters, David appears to have been overlooked. He father assigned him the most menial task in a household that may not have had many servants.
- Jesse apparently chose David to guard the sheep—and thus spend most of his time outdoors away from home.
- Out among the flocks, David had no one to talk with except God. There, he cultivated a relationship with the Creator of the Universe.
- He poured out his heart to God—sharing with God his delight in living on the hillsides, guarding the sheep, honing his sling skills, and playing the small harp he could tote on his back.
- David learned what it meant to care for a flock of unruly, self-indulgent, stupid sheep—who if they fell over couldn't get themselves back up and were at risk of having birds peck out their eyes. A sheep has no way of protecting itself except by running back to its shepherd—and if they're blind, or even if they're not, they can't find their shepherd unless he calls for them in a voice they recognize.

- Out there, David [wrestled and killed lions and bears](#)—while protecting those hapless creatures. While guarding the sheep, talking to God, singing psalms, and praising his Creator, David came into his own as a [man after God’s own heart](#).
- His older brothers dismissed him. Some might wonder if his father even knew his name—since he didn’t mention David the day the aged [prophet Samuel stopped in Bethlehem](#) to give a sacrifice to God
- Samuel recognized David as the next king of Israel to whom [God specifically sent Samuel to anoint](#).
- Scripture doesn’t tell us, but it’s possible that David only recognized God had created him for something significant with Samuel anointed him.
  - Knowing God had plans for him, what did David do with that information? He returned to guarding the sheep.

*The rest of David’s life in bullet points:*

**Basically, David’s life after Samuel’s anointing boils down to this:**

- [Personal praise leader for King Saul.](#)
- [Slayer of Goliath](#)
- [Philistine killer extraordinaire](#)
- [Subject of “hit song” throughout the region:](#) “Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”
- [Son-in-law of King Saul.](#)
- [Close friend of Crown Prince Jonathan.](#)

- [Husband of a disgruntled wife, Michal](#)
- [Object of Saul's hate](#), and [expert spear dodger](#).
- [Fugitive](#) in Israel, hiding out for six years in caves while in his early-20s.
- [Leader of a large band of disgruntled men](#)
- Would-be murderer of the fool [Nabal](#).
- [Husband of three women at the same time](#): Ahinoam, Michal, and Abigail.
- [Fugitive who lived and worked among the same Philistines who spawned Goliath](#), and Israel's greatest enemy at the time.
- [Bandit, murderer, and raider](#)—with 600 followers plus their wives and children—on [Israel's southern borders](#).
- [Successor in exile of King Saul](#), living in Hebron
- [Regretful fighter against King Ishbosheth](#) (Saul's only remaining son)
- [Husband of more wives](#), had many concubines, fathered many children—and head of an unruly household.
- [Finally, king of Israel](#)
- [Continual fighter against Israel's enemies](#).
- [Adulterer with Bathsheba](#); murderer of her husband—one of his mighty men
- [Chastened sinner](#)
- [Lover of God](#)
- [Thrilled dancer when the ark of the covenant moved to Jerusalem](#)
- [Planner for temple](#)
- [Poor and indulgent father](#)
- [Outraged father at rape of his daughter by her step-brother](#)

- [Focus of second son Absalom's attempt to usurp throne](#)
- [Desperate father fleeing his throne](#)—because he didn't want to kill his unruly son.
- [Thankful for God's mercy](#)
- [Rests with his God](#)
- [Ancestor of the "Son of David," the Messiah.](#)

*Through it all, David, somehow, remained the beloved man after God's own heart—more than willing to bow before the same Creator of the Universe he first knew as a child.*