

CHARACTERIZATION OF DAVID

I SAMUEL (Chs.16-31)

II SAMUEL (Chs.1-24)

I KINGS (Chs.1-2)

Characterization of David

(I Sam Chs.16-31; II Sam Chs.1-24 & I Kings Chs.1-2)

1020 –970 B.C.

KING DAVID



Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David (1020 – 970 B.C.) was the **second** and the **greatest king** of Israel whose descendants ruled Judah for 400 years.

Name: The **Hebrew root dwd** of the name David means “**to love**” or “**beloved**”. David could be his throne name. His personal name may be **Elhanan**, who in 2 Sam 21:19 is credited with killing Goliath.

Genealogy: David was the **youngest of the eight sons of Jesse** from **Bethlehem** from the **tribe of Judah**. The list of ancestors given in Ruth 4:18-22 traces his ancestry to **Perez, son of Judah by Tamar** (Gen 38). **Ruth** was the **great-grand mother** of David.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1) 1020 –970 B.C.

His Youth: He was a handsome and red haired man (I Sam 16:12). He also must have been strong and courageous (I Sam 17:34ff). He was also talented with playing music with Lyre (I Sam 16:18). He was a shepherd (I Sam 16:19; 17:34). He was able to fight with bears and loins, which would come in search of the prey (I Sam 17: 34-37).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

Anointing of David (I Sam 16:1-13): Jesse paraded all his sons except David before Samuel. JHWH has not favoured any of them. “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the **Lord does not see as mortals see**; they look on the outward appearance, but the **Lord looks on the heart**” (I Sam 16:7). Finally **Samuel** summoned David and like Saul he **anointed him in a private ceremony** in the presence of his brothers **at Bethlehem** (I Sam 16:13). Though David continued as a shepherd in Bethlehem for some time after this ceremony, he began to display charismatic qualities due to the influence of the presence of the Spirit of JHWH (I Sam 16:13) like the Judges and Saul before him.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David the Musician (I Sam 16:14-23): Even though David was anointed while Saul was still the king of Israel his introduction to Saul was only in his capacity as a musician. When Saul was tormented by the evil spirits, the music played by David with his Harp helped Saul to get relieved of such evil spirits. Saul immediately made David his *armour bearer*. I Sam 17:55-58 gives us a picture that David was unknown to Saul till the time of the young man had his encounter with Goliath.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

Defeating Goliath (I Sam Ch. 1): When the huge Philistine warrior, Goliath of Gath, challenged and defied the Israelite army in which David's brothers were fighting. David who brought provisions to his brother sensed the situations there and offered to take on Goliath's challenge. There were **two challenges before David**: 1) The challenge posed by Goliath is that **in case of any one is able to prevail against him and to kill him then the Philistines would serve him.** 2) The king **Saul was also ready to offer his daughter to the one who is able to conquer the Philistine.** David armed with a sling and five stones advanced to meet the giant warrior. He brought him down with a well aimed stone. He then used the giant's own sword to decapitate him.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

Army Commander in Saul's Court (I Sam Ch. 18): The victory over Goliath brought joy to the people of Israel and David became their hero (1) overnight (I Sam 18:6). Saul also honoured him by making him the *army commander* (2). This brought Jonathan the son of Saul very close to David (3).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

Army Commander in Saul's Court (I Sam Ch. 18): On the contrary **Saul began to be jealous of David**. The reason could be that Saul was aware of David's ambition to become the king. **Saul desired the death of David**. Saul attempted to kill David in which he miserably failed (I Sam 18:10-11). Again he **promised to give his daughter Merah as wife to David if the young man is able to achieve a few more military exploits** thinking that David would be killed in the battle. But David successfully met the challenge.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

Army Commander in Saul's Court (I Sam Ch. 18): On the other hand **Saul broke his promise about Merab** by giving her to Adriel the Meholathite as a wife (I Sam 18:17-19). Now **Saul came with the new promise** telling that **he will give David his daughter Michal as wife if David is able to bring hundred foreskins of Philistines as marriage gift**. But the calculation of Saul was that David would be killed in such mission. David not only succeeded in killing the Philistines, he also got Michal as his wife whom he loved most (I Sam 18:20-28).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David's life as a Political fugitive (19:18-24:22; 25:2-44; Ch. 26-27):

The hostility between David and Saul was no more a hidden agenda. David had to flee with the help of Michal and Jonathan. First he took refuge at **Naioth in Ramah of Benjamin** (1) with Samuel. All the Messengers of Saul sent to take David fell into a prophetic frenzy. Finally he also met the same fate (I Sam 19:18-24).

Then David fled from **Ramah to Gibeah of Benjamin** (2) where he met Jonathan (I Sam Ch. 20).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David's life as a Political fugitive (19:18-24:22; 25:2-44; Ch. 26-27):

Getting advice from Jonathan he fled to ***Nob of Benjamin*** (3) and met the priest Abimelech. He received both the bread of the presence and the sword of Goliath from Abimelech (I Sam 21:1-9). Later Saul took revenge by killing Ahimelech because of his help to David. Abiathar one of his sons escaped and joined hands with David (I Sam 22:6-23).

Then David had to escape to ***Gath***, (4) ***the territory of Philistines***. He pretended to behave like a madman before Achish, the king of Gath and thus escaped the wrath of the king (I Sam 21:10-15).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David's life as a Political fugitive (19:18-24:22; 25:2-44; Ch. 26-27):

Then he reached to *Adullam (Cave) in Judah* (5). There he started to regroup all his supporters, which numbered to four hundred men (I Sam 22:1-2).

From there he went to *Mizpeh of Moab* (6) - I Sam 22:3-4.

From there he went into the *Forest of Hereth in Judah* (7) – I Sam 22:5.

From Hereth David moved to *Keilah in Judah* (8) to rescue the inhabitants who were under Philistine attack. David inflicted heavy loss to the Philistines and saved Keilah. When the news of David's presence in Keilah reached Saul he sought to capture him by destroying the city with gates and bars (I Sam 23:1-14).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David's life as a Political fugitive (19:18-24:22; 25:2-44; Ch. 26-27):

David escaped to the hill country of the ***Wilderness of Ziph in Judah*** (9).

Besides the inhabitants of Keilah were also in a mood to hand over David to Saul. The escape prevented Saul to take an expedition to Keilah. David was staying ***at Horesh in Ziph of Judah*** (10). Jonathan came to Horesh and made a covenant with David. Some of the Ziphites also plotted against David and passed on the message of David's presence in their land to Saul (23:15-24a). David and his men were now hiding themselves in ***the Wilderness of Maon, in Arabah*** (11). Saul with his men searched for David in the Wilderness of Moan. But he had to break his search and rush to Gibeah since the Philistines raided the land in his absence (I Sam 23:24b-28).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David's life as a Political fugitive (19:18-24:22; 25:2-44; Ch. 26-27):

David got a relief and moved to *En-Gedi of Judah* (12). Now for the second time Saul took a mission to capture David. He took 3000 men went to look for David. David and his men spotted Saul while he was resting in a cave. David instead of laying his hands on Saul he cut a piece from the cloak of Saul. Then David shouted at Saul telling that he will not touch the anointed of the Lord. David's act not only brought bewilderment to Saul but he also recognized that David would not be a threat any more to him and his family members (I Sam 23:29- 24:4).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David's life as a Political fugitive (19:18-24:22; 25:2-44; Ch. 26-27):

Almost similar incident is narrated in I Sam Ch. 26. This time David is staying on the ***hill of Hachilah in the Wilderness of Ziph in Judah*** (13). In this occasion David removes the spear and the water jar from the cave where Saul was resting. While David was in Moan he sent his men to make peace with Nabel, a rich man living there. He humiliated the men of David. But his wife Abigail, a beautiful and clever woman made peace with David. When Nabel came to know what his wife had done he died of shock. After his death David married Abigail (I Sam 25:2-42). He also married another woman called Ahinoam of Jezreel (I Sam 25:43).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David's life as a Political fugitive (19:18-24:22; 25:2-44; Ch. 26-27):

After long stay in the territory of Judah David once again entered into the territory of the Philistines. He stayed with **Achish, king of Gath (14) in the Territory of Philistine**. Achish gave Ziklag to David and his men to live. It was his stay in Ziklag should have helped him to learn the warfare of the Philistines and later to conquer the territories of the Philistines too. He also pretended to Achish that he hated the tribes of Israel. Even though made raids on the Amelakites, Egyptians and other races, he informed Achish that he had looted the territories of Saul in order to make him believe that he was the enemy of Israelites and friend of Philistines (I Sam Ch. 27). Achish believed David so much that he was even able to make him his bodyguard when the Philistines prepared to make a war against Israel (I Sam 28:1-2).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David's life as a Political fugitive (19:18-24:22; 25:2-44; Ch. 26-27):

But the other army commanders of the Philistines rejected David. Achish who gave Asylum to David requested David not to go with him in the war against Israel telling that the Philistine Commanders have refused to fight in case of David coming along with them. David went back to Ziklag. The Philistines went to Jezreel to fight with Israel (I Sam Ch. 29)

During the absence of David in Ziklag, the Amalekites attacked Ziklag and Negab. They took away the women & Children of David's men and burnt the city Ziklag. David went to attack the Raider party with help of the left out servant of the Amalekite Master, an Egyptian. He brought his wives and all the spoils back (I Sam 30).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

The Road Map of David's Fugitive:

Gibeah of Benjamin → Ramah of Benjamin → Gibeah of Benjamin → Nob of Benjamin → Gath, the territory of Philistines → Adullam (Cave) in Judah → Mizpeh of Moab → forest of Hereth in Judah → Keilah in Judah → Wilderness of Ziph in Judah → Horesh in Ziph of Judah → Wilderness of Maon, in Arabah → En-Gedi of Judah → hill of Hachilah in the Wilderness of Ziph in Judah → Gath in the Territory of Philistine

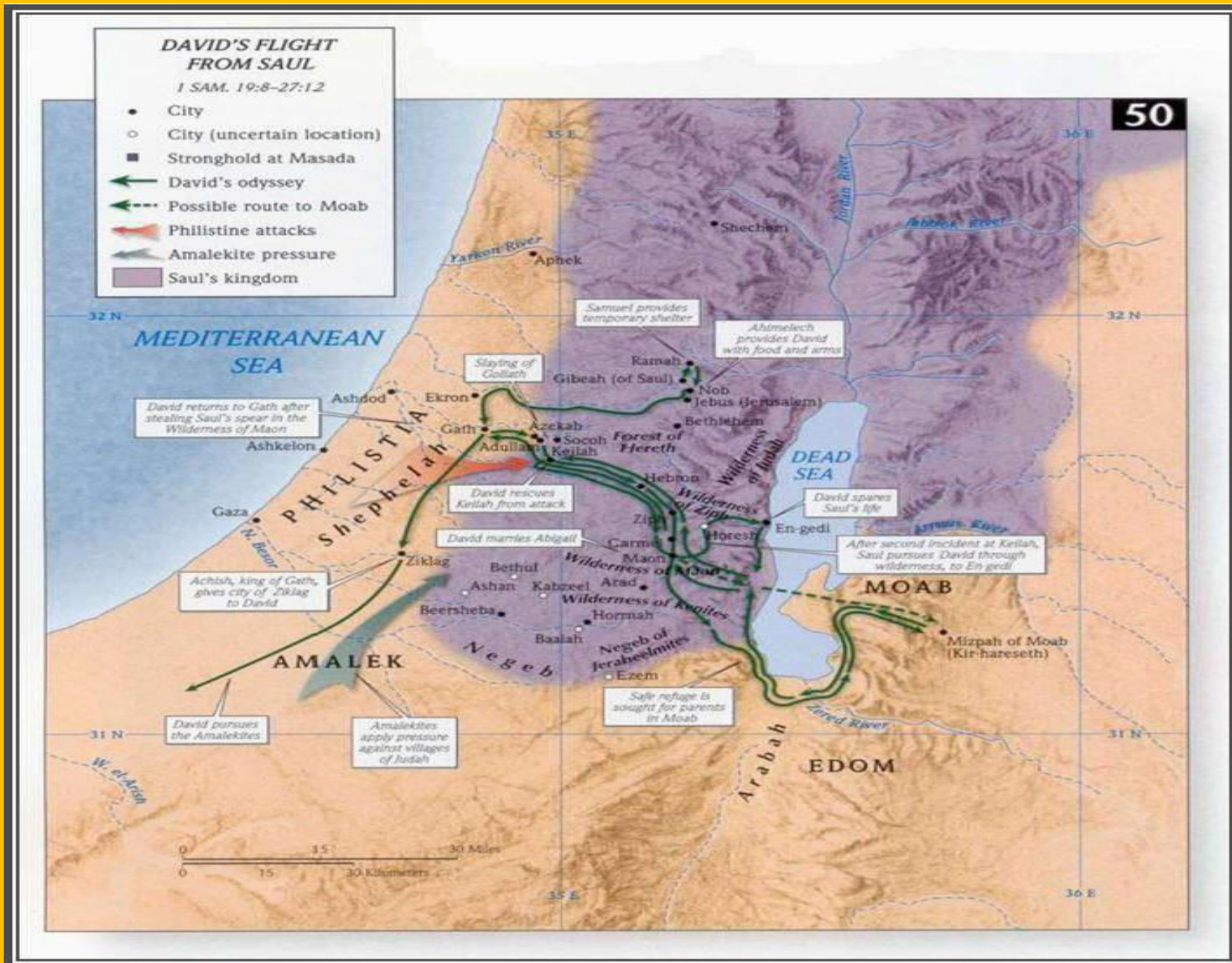


Fig. 9 David's Flight From Saul

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA



1 Sam. 23:14-29

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David becoming King of Israel (2 Sam Ch. 1-8):

1) After David had returned to Gath from defeating the Amalekites, a resident Amalekite reported to David the killing & defeat of Saul & his Sons at Mt. Gilboa. There are two versions of the death of Saul reported in II Sam 1:6-10 (Saul requested the Amalekite to kill him) and 1 Sam 31:3-6 (Saul killed himself). David as a mark of mourning tore his clothes. He and his people wept and fasted for Saul. The news saddened David so much that he killed the Amalekite who informed him that he killed the wounded Saul. Then David lamented for Saul and Jonathan. The song of Lamentation that David sang for Saul and Jonathan not only indicates his real sorrow at their death, but also his awareness that Israel once again lay helpless before Philistines, who now controlled the whole country west of the river Jordan.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David becoming King of Israel (2 Sam Ch. 1-8):

2) After getting instructions from JHWH David went and settled at Hebron with his family members. The people of Judah came there and they anointed David king over the house of Judah. One of the sons of Saul, Ishbaal, who was made as king over all Israel at Mahanaim with the support of Abner, son of Ner, the Commander of Saul's army, took control over some areas in Transjordan. But in the west of Jordan it was David who alone had both the skill and capacity to compete with the Philistines. The civil war broke out between the house of David and the house of Saul.

David and Sons of Zerulah - Joab, Abishai and Asahel	X	Ishbaal and Abner
House of David	X	House of Saul

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David becoming King of Israel (2 Sam Ch. 1-8):

3) The House of David grew stronger and stronger. The house of Saul grew weaker and weaker. David also further strengthened his position by new advantageous marriages (II Sam 3:2-5).



Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David becoming King of Israel (2 Sam Ch. 1-8):

Mean while Abner decided to desert Ishbaal on the pretext that Ishbaal had insulted him. For that reason he decided to change his loyalty to David (II Sam 3:6-21). But David demanded him to bring Michal, daughter of Saul back, if at all peace is to be made between him and Abner. Abner accepted the demand of David and did as David wished. He made a covenant with David and gave his full support to him by bringing considerable following along with him. But Joab who did not want Abner in the company of David and who wanted to take revenge on Abner for the blood of his brother, Asahel, stabbed him to death. David wept for the death of Abner.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David becoming King of Israel (2 Sam Ch. 1-8):

4) After the death of Abner, Ishbaal could reign only for two more years. Soon Ishbaal was assassinated by the collaborators of David. The head of Ishbaal brought to David. When David heard the death of Ishbaal, he was not happy and was very sad. He decided to take revenge on the one who beheaded Ishbaal and he immediately gave orders to kill his assassins.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David becoming King of Israel (2 Sam Ch. 1-8):

5) *Samuel* first anointed David *at Bethlehem* (I Sam 16: 11-13). Then David was anointed by *the tribe of Judah at Hebron* after the death of Saul (II Sam 2:1-4). Following the death of Ishbaal David was anointed by *the people of Israel* as their king *at Hebron* (II Sam 5:1-5). When David was made the king of Judah by the people of Judah at Hebron he might have been 30 years old.

David ruled Israel totally for *(40) or 40½ years*

7½ years – at Hebron (Capital)

33 years - at Jerusalem (Capital)

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

Jerusalem and David (II Sam 5: 6-16; Ch. 6):

The attack on Jerusalem was the first aggressive action of David. The city was held by the Canaanite people, the Jebusites.

❑ **First**, David refortified the city and made his own property (II Sam 5:9). Militarily the city was important. David also built him a house in the city. King of Hiram of Tyre helped David by sending along with cedar trees and the carpenters and masons (II Sam 5:11) to build a palace.

❑ **Second**, Jerusalem became a neutral city for all the Israelites. It means that it was neither in Judah nor in any other tribe's territory. It was the capital of united kingdom. Thus it served to alleviate some of the jealousies between the tribes living both in the north and in the south.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

Jerusalem and David (II Sam 5: 6-16; Ch. 6):

□**Third**, David's attention then shifted to the Ark of the Covenant that was housed for 20 years on the hill in the house of Abinadab in *Baale-Judah* (II Sam 6:2). This place was called differently all through the centuries. *Kirjath* (Josh 18:28), *Kirjath-Jearim* (Ezr 2:25), *Kirjatharim*, *Baalah* (Josh 15:9; I Chr 13:6), *Kiriath-Baal* (Josh 15:60; 18:14) and *Jaar* (Ps 132:6). David made Jerusalem an important sanctuary by bringing the Ark of the Covenant to the city and installing it in tent. While bringing the Ark of the Lord from Baale-Judah to Jerusalem, David and all the house of Israel were shouting and playing the sound of the trumpet. By uncovering himself David leaped and danced before the Ark of the Covenant. God denied David the chance to build a permanent structure to house the Ark of the Covenant.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

The Other Battles of David:

The Philistines who found their erstwhile vassal becoming the king of united Israel were unable to tolerate it and began hostilities (II Sam 5:17). David squashed the attack of the Philistines and made many of the territories of Philistines as his tributary (II Sam 8:11-12). Even the bodyguards of David were later drawn among the Philistines (II Sam 15:18). Afterwards David also subdued all his ancient foes like Moab, Edom, Ammon and the territories of Syria (Arameans). David's successes were due to his own abilities although Joab must also have been a very able soldier. David was able to extend his territory not only in the western part of Jordan, but he was able to acquire areas also in the eastern part of Jordan.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

David inquired of the Lord (II Sam 2:1; 5:19, I Sam 23:2-4; 30:8):

David had always ready to listen to the advice of JHWH and he inquired the plan and will of JHWH for him. Book of Samuel narrates a few instances of David asking JHWH's next plan to him.

❑ Whether he should attack the Philistines (I Sam 23:2-4)

❑ David inquired whether he should pursue the Amaleikites who took away his wives (I Sam 30:8).

❑ He inquired whether to go to the cities of Judah after the death of Saul (II Sam 2:1).

❑ He inquired whether he should make a war against Philistines or not (II Sam 5:19).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

God's covenant with David (II Sam Ch 7): Another bright part of David's life was the covenant that he made with JHWH. Prophet Nathan was the initiator of this covenant. In the beginning of David's life prophet Samuel was his mentor. Samuel's support and guidance helped David to overcome the evil designs of Saul and his company. From the middle part of David's reign it was Nathan who helped the king to overcome his weaknesses and limitations. Nathan was the go between God and David. Nathan timely intervened and advised David that he should not build a permanent place for JHWH in Jerusalem, because JHWH's wish was that the job had to be done not by David but by his descendant (II Sam 7:13). He also confirmed to David that the presence of God is with him (II Sam 7:3). Nathan assured to David that JHWH would establish the kingdom of David forever (II Sam 7:13-15).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

God's covenant with David (II Sam Ch 7):

DAVID – NATHAN (II Sam 7:1-2)

NATHAN - DAVID (II Sam 7:1-3)

GOD - NATHAN (II Sam 7:4-16)

NATHAN – DAVID (II Sam 7:17)

The prayer of David (II Sam 7:18-28)

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

Sin of David, Nathan Condemning and the Punishment of God (II Sam Ch. 11-12): The saddest story of David was the adultery of David with the Bathsheba, the wife of URIAH the Hittite. He showed the cunningness of Jacob his ancestor in his dealing with Uriah. David not only took Bathsheba his wife but he also in a clever way planned the death of Uriah in the battle of Rabbah. More than the immoral deed of David it was the blood of Uriah that caused God's anger against David. Nathan came with a wonderful parable of the poor man with his little ewe lamb. The parable narrated by Nathan to David portrayed the real life of David himself. Nathan cleverly taught David that the king taking Bathsheba, wife of Uriah, the Hittite, as his wife was as murderous as the rich man taking away the poor man's little ewe lamb.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

Sin of David, Nathan Condemning and the Punishment of God (II Sam Ch. 11-12): Nathan also made David to realize that the king had to face the same judgment, which the rich man would deserve for his evil act. The prophet not only condemned David for his evil act but he also proclaimed three punishments from God to the house of David (II Sam 12:11-15).

1. God would raise up trouble against David from within his own house
2. The wives would be taken out of David
3. The Child of Bathsheba would die

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

The Consequences of David's Sin (II Sam Ch. 12-20):

- 1) Death of the Child born to Bathsheba (12:16-19)**
- 2) Amnon sinned with Tamar, Sister of Absalom. Absalom took revenge by killing Amnon (Ch.13-14)**
- 3) After the death of Amnon, Absalom left Jerusalem because David sought to kill Absalom. Joab planned to bring back Absalom. He sent a woman to king David to instruct him that it was not right on his part to plan to kill Absalom just because Absalom killed Amnon. David repented and changed his mind and sent Joab to bring Absalom back to Jerusalem. Absalom was unable to come in the presence of king David for two years (14:23-28).**

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

The Consequences of David's Sin (II Sam Ch. 12-20):

- 4) Absalom plotted to usurp the throne planned to make him king at Hebron (15:1-12) and finally killed in the battle (Ch. 18).**
- 5) People also parted away from David in support of Absalom. (15:1-6)**
- 6) David had to flee from Jerusalem (15:13-30)**
- 7) Ahithophel, the counselor of David also supported Absalom (15:31)**
- 8) The house of Saul (Shimei) cursed David on his flight from Jerusalem (16:5-14)**
- 9) Rebellion of Sheba, a Benjaminite (Ch.20)**

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

The Census by David: David ordered to take census from Dan to Beersheba – Joab was commissioned by king for that work. It took 9 months & 20 days. It was recorded that there were 800,000 soldiers in the whole of Israel and 500,000 soldiers in Judah itself. Prophet Gad uttered the punishment of JHWH to David for having faith in men not on JHWH by taking census. Three possibilities of punishment proposed to David: Either 3 years of Famine or 3 months of fleeing from the land or 3 days of pestilence. God sent pestilence to the land of Israel for the punishment done by David. I Chr. 21:1 attributes the Satan for the decision of David going for census. The plague was brought to an end when David confessed his sin, raised an altar and made sacrifice.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

The Census by David:

There were seven census recorded in the Bible.

- 1)** Census taken by Moses and Aaron in the wilderness for the purpose of collecting taxation to build the Tabernacle (Ex 30:11-16).
- 2)** Moses ordered the census in the wilderness of Sinai to assess the military strength. Leaving out the Levites it was 603550 (Num 1:2-3).
- 3)** After 40 years in the wilderness Moses ordered to take census in the plains of Moab. The total number of population of Israel was 601730 (Num 26:1,51).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

The Census by David:

4) David – To Count People

1.3 Million (II Sam 24:9)

1.57 million (I Chr. 21:5)

It took 9 month 20 days to take the census (II Sam 24:8)

5) Solomon ordered to number the aliens living in the land (1Kg 5:13-18; II Chr 2:17-18). There were 153,600 aliens living in the land.

6) Ezra & Nehemiah.

The return of Jews from the Exile for the purpose of rebuilding of the Temple.

It was counted that there were 42, 360 Jews, 7 337 servants, 200 Singers.

7) Augustus Caesar announced the census (Lk 2:13).

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

The Last days of David (I Kings Ch. 1-2): The last days of David are narrated in the first book of Kings. It was full of palace intrigues. It contains the succession conflicts and confrontations between Adonijah, the eldest surviving son of David and Solomon, the son of Bathsheba. Adonijah had the support of Joab, the close associate of David and Abiathar, the priest. But Solomon had the support of Bathsheba - his beloved mother, Nathan - the prophet, Zadok - the priest and Benaiah, who commanded the royal bodyguards. The attempt of Adonijah to crown himself at the Stone of Zehoeth as the king of Israel failed because David, the bedridden king, not only articulated his support to Solomon and he also crowned him as the king of Israel while he was still alive.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

The Last days of David (I Kings Ch. 1-2): Along with this succession story of Solomon as king of Israel, the character twist of David also is also found. In the book of Samuel, we see a David who was very lenient and merciful towards his enemies. But the first chapter of the first book of kings pictures a different David, who advised Solomon to liquidate all his enemies, including his own son - Adonijah, the beloved commander in Chief – Joab and the respected priest – Abiathar. Even though the reported narratives are hard to understand, it could be that in his last days David would have wished that his son Solomon should not face the hostility and revolt he himself faced. David died when he was seventy years old. David could have ruled from 1020 till 770 B.C.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

Analysis of the Reign of David:

- 1) David was **a shrewd military strategist and a motivator**. That is why he was able to raise himself from a vassal ruler of a small, disunited tribal league to a king of a great Israelite kingdom that could last 400 years even after the death of David. He had victories over the vulnerable Philistines. He was successfully able to unite all the twelve tribes into one united kingdom of Israel. He was militarily so able that he could extend the territory of his kingdom even in the eastern side of the river Jordan.
- 2) His **skills as a poet, musician and sponsor of music were renowned**. His compositions in II Samuel and the Davidic Psalms demonstrate the poetic genius. We also have information about the instruments of David that he created or that were somehow associated with him (II Chr 29:26; Neh 12:36; Amos 6:5). His involvement in the religious celebrations in connection with the Ark of the Lord betrays his musical talents and interest.

Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

Analysis of the Reign of David:

3) He was **ready to repent when he was confronted with his sins** (II Sam Ch. 12, 24). The penitent sinner was able to fall before the feet of God with loud cries for the conversion and change of life.

4) He was **very lenient and merciful towards all those who plotted against him**, especially, Saul - his predecessor, Ishbaal - the son of Saul, Abner - the commander in-Chief of Saul's army, Absalom - his beloved son and Shimei – the descendant of Saul.

5) David's name goes in the annals of the Israelite kings **as one who waged many wars (a Warrior) and whose hands are tainted with blood (murderer)**.

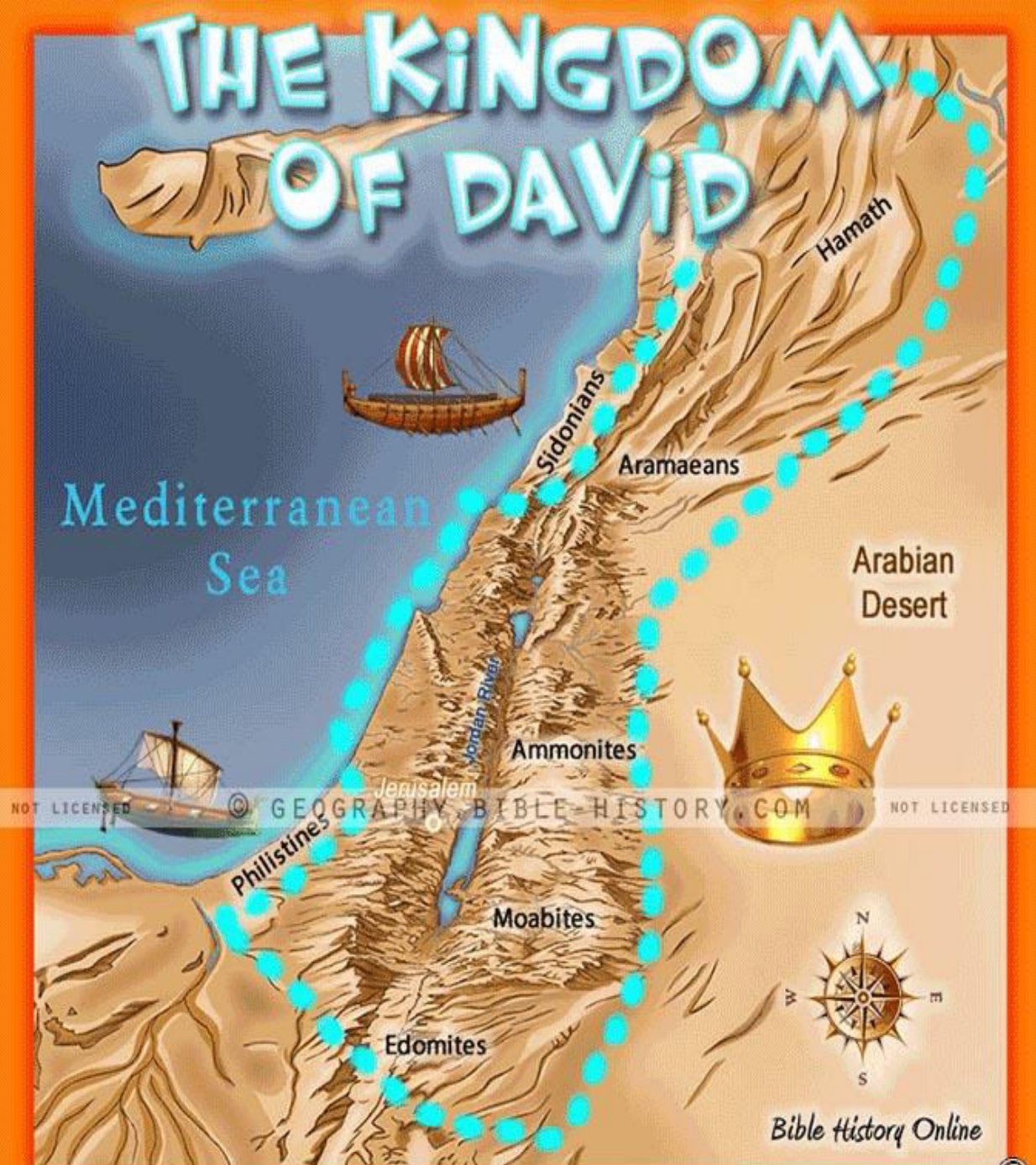
Characterization of David (I Sam Ch.16-31 & II Sam 1)

1020 –970 B.C.

Analysis of the Reign of David:

- 6) His **adultery with Bathsheba**, the wife of Uriah the Hittite was seen by not only from the point of view of the moral code of the ideal ruler, but also as an act of injustice done by the king to Uriah.
- 7) In spite of his limitations and weaknesses as a ruler, the reign of David was considered as a **golden age to the people of Israel**.
- 8) Scripture consistently viewed David **as the prototype of the Messiah** who was to be great David's greater son.
- 9) David **occupied a midpoint between his great ancestor Abraham and his great descendent Jesus**.
- 10) He was **JHWH's chosen king for Israel as the father of the royal dynasty that JHWH chose to bless**.

THE KINGDOM OF DAVID

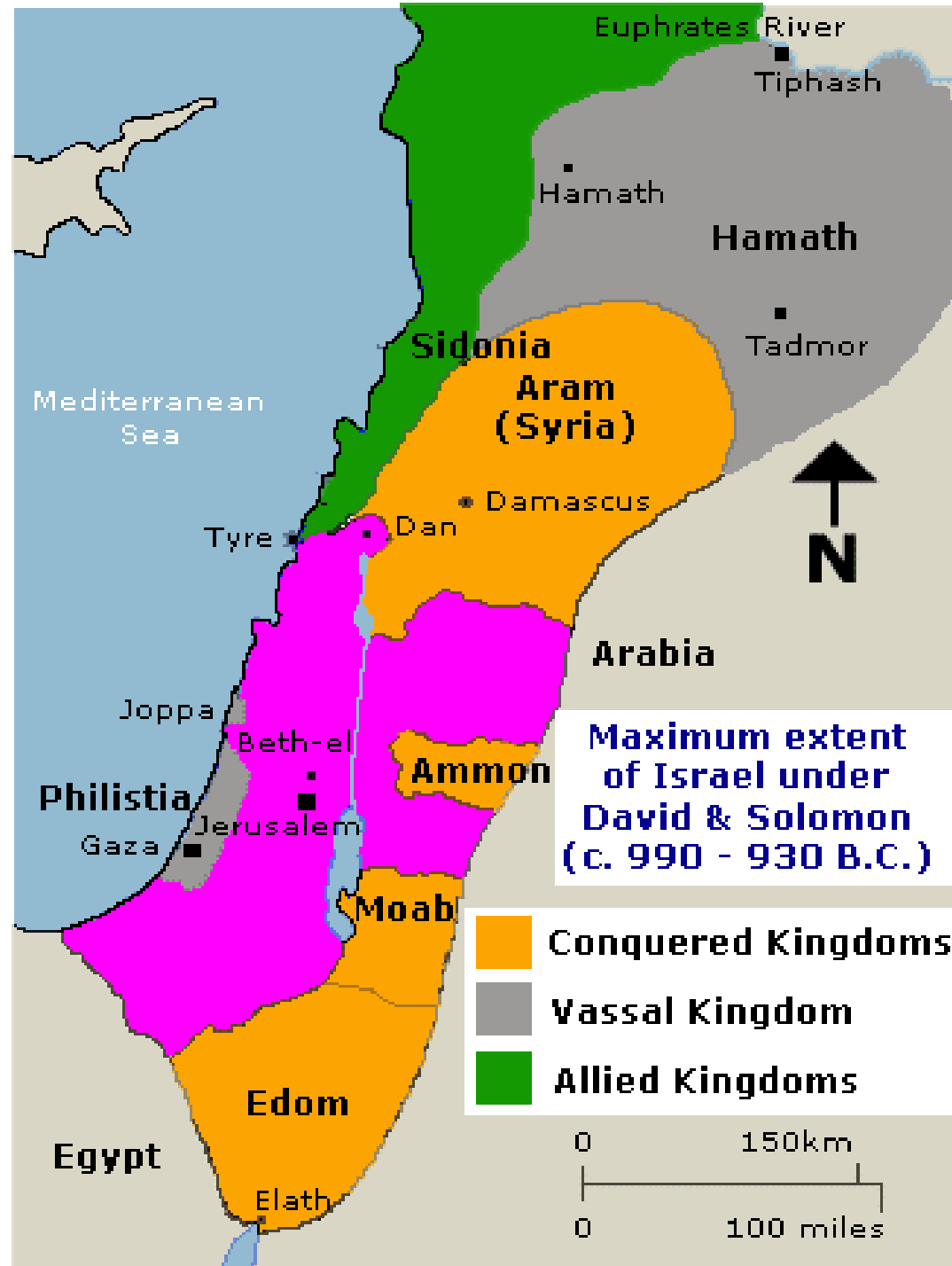


THE UNITED KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

Around the time of
SAUL AND DAVID

EDOM Vassals and defeated peoples





KINGDOMS OF DAVID, SOLOMON, SAUL

This map illustrates the territorial extent of the Kingdoms of David and Solomon, as well as the Kingdom of Saul and the Kingdom of Ammon. The map includes the following regions and cities:

- Regions:** HAMATH, ZOBAB, PHOENICIA, AMMON, MOAB, EDOM, PHILISTIA, and the EASTERN DESERT.
- Cities:** Aleppo, Haran, Tiphseh (Thapsakos), Hamath, Kadesh, Saded, Tadmor, Qaryatein, Byblos, Sidon, Tyre, Megiddo, Shechem, Joppa, Ashdod, Gaza, Raphia, Tamar, Kadesh-barnea, Ezion-geber, Petra, Salekah, Ramoth-gilead, Hazor, and Jerusalem.
- Geographical Features:** GREAT SEA, EUPHRATES, and GULF OF AQABA.
- Legend:**
 - Boundary David's Kingdom (Red line)
 - Saul's Kingdom (Green)
 - David's Kingdom (Purple)
 - Solomon Economic Control (Pink)
- Scale:** 0 to 100 miles / 160.9 kilometers.
- Date/Source:** 12-18-04 www.Biblenews1.com

12-18-04 www.Biblenews1.com