



## Interesting Men in the Bible: David

Leviticus 20:26 *“Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.”* There are spots in the Bible that confuse some people. The life of King David could be taken as a confusing story. He is a young boy who slays a giant. He beats a lion and a bear. How was this possible? Then we have the ascension of King Saul, yet the young David is anointed as King. It would take 22 years for David to ascend the throne. Let’s head back to the verse at the top of the page. Be holy! Yet, David is a mess for much of his life. Was he holy? Then we have this verse in Acts. Acts 13:22 *“And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’”*

So, which David is he? Is he the holy righteous one after God’s own heart or the messed-up adulterer? I think what makes King David special in the eyes of Israel is his ability to be real. Sin got to him. David was a great warrior and King. He made mistakes as a father. Throughout it all David kept his faith with God very close to his heart. Church has a history of separating sin from the person. If you’re sinful then you’re not a good person. Yet, we all are failures when it comes to sin. God knows and God deals with sin. David’s life can be described as glorious and a disaster. This is also the story of each one of us.

David as the great King is not how this story begins. God is setting up the nation up for a King of Gods choosing. Does it begin with the anointing of the greatest King that ever lived? No, it begins with a corrupt priest named Eli. God will replace him with a young man named Samuel. Samuel and the people choose the first King of Israel named Saul. David was not the first King? Nope! Instead, Samuel would anoint David as a young boy and it would take 22 years before he becomes king. The kingdom would have to endure Saul first.

Like Abraham and Moses, David must go through his own trials to be the leader. The height in David's life came early. He killed a lion and a bear to protect his flocks. Then we see him boldly go before the armies and kill the giant named Goliath. Is David anointed king then? No, David must flee for his life from the evil King Saul. David learns to respect authority and resist taking the nation for his own. It took many trials and tribulations for David to gain the kingdom. His second anointing as king should have been the end of a great story.

Strangely enough, the second act of the story of King David is the slow declining fall of this man. Here are the lows of David. What promise of a king anointed by God! Then we hit 2 Samuel 11:1 *"In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem."* Why, oh why, didn't David go? I have heard commentaries that depict Bathsheba as a conniving adulteress that lured David into bed. Yet, David stayed home. David watched her bathe. Yes, King David called for her to come to him. Yep, she did it, not! The Bible is pretty clear that Kings go to war but David stayed home. What a man allows happens!

To make matters worse. David then devises a plan to hide his sin. He tried to get Uriah (Bathsheba's husband) to sleep with her. When that does not work, he sends the man to his death

on the front lines. This whole scene is the beginning of his decline. Eventually, it becomes more about himself and less about those around him. His son Absalom's sister Tamar is raped and David ignores it. Absalom pleads for retribution but David is quiet. Eventually, Ammon and Absalom are killed in this tragedy. A good king is making a ton of mental mistakes.

There are moments when God said count the men. There are other times when He told His people not to do that. On his own, David counts his army. Yet, 1 Chronicles 21:1 makes a point "*Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.*" God then gave David three choices of punishment. This is combined with David receiving two punishments for his adulteress affair. In total, Satan nailed David's kingdom. He became distracted and a terrible father. His marriages were less than stellar. David could have gained all the promised land but in the end, he was reduced to a frail old man.

Yet he was loyal to the kings anointed. David respected God's authority. He could have killed King Saul twice. David refused to take the throne even though he was anointed to have it. The weakness in this kingly line was women. This weakness filtered down through his family. David is considered Israel's best king, yet I have often wondered why? He was loyal and faithful to the Lord for the most part. Yet, God did not let this man have everything he desired without punishment. The descendants of David are a mess. David had trouble with the Ark of God. This King had to flee for his life several times. David is like most of us. A person with great potential to me successful and a hot mess all at the same time.