

People of the Bible

David

David, the greatest of Israel's kings, ruled from about 1010 to 970 BC. The events of his life are found in 1 Samuel 16 through 1 Kings 2 and 1 Chronicles 10-29.

David was also gifted musically. He was skilled in playing the lyre and the author of no fewer than seventy-three psalms, including the beloved Psalm 23.

His public and private character displayed a mixture of good (for example his defeat of the giant Goliath [1 Samuel 17]) and evil (as in his adultery with Uriah's wife, followed by his murder of Uriah [2 Samuel 11]).

David's greatness lay in his fierce loyalty to God as Israel's military and political leader, coupled with his willingness to acknowledge his sins and ask for God's forgiveness (2 Samuel 12; see Psalm 51).

It was under David's leadership that the people of Israel were united into a single nation with Jerusalem as its capital city.