

Bible Survey II

Glossary of Terms

I & II Samuel

Abiathar -- Son of Ahimelech. Survived slaughter of priests by Saul and Doeg the Edomite. Served as high priest during David's reign. Banished by Solomon for promoting Adonijah over Solomon for King. (1 Sam. 22-23; 2 Sam. 15; 1 Kings 1)

Abigail -- Wife of Nabal. Acted as peacemaker between David and Nabal. Married David after Nabal died. (1 Sam. 25)

Abishai -- Nephew of David. Brother of Joab and Asahel. Loyal soldier and one of David's Mighty Men. Commander of David's group of thirty. Saved David's life in battle. (1 Sam. 26; 2 Sam. 10, 18, 21, 23)

Abner -- Cousin of Saul. Commander of Saul's army. Switched allegiance from Saul and Ish-Bosheth to David. Assassinated by Joab in revenge for killing Asahel. (1 Sam. 14, 17, 26; 2 Sam. 2-3)

Absalom -- Third son of David. Arranged for death of Amnon to avenge his sister Tamar. Fled in exile, returned to Jerusalem three years later, reconciled with David after two more years, then instigated a rebellion and drove David into exile. Finally killed by Joab and mourned by David. Name means "Father is peace." (2 Sam. 3, 12, 14-19)

Achish -- Philistine king of Gath. Gave David refuge from Saul. Commander of army which killed Saul and Jonathan. (1 Sam. 21, 27, 31)

Adonijah -- Fourth son of David. Apparent heir to throne, but passed over in favor of Solomon. Instigated a rebellion and proclaimed himself king. Killed by Solomon. (2 Sam. 3; 1 Kings 1-2)

Ahimelech -- Priest at Nob. Father of Abiathar. Gave bread and Goliath's sword to David when fleeing from Saul. Killed by Saul and Doeg the Edomite, along with all the other priests at Nob except Abiathar. (1 Sam. 21-22)

Ahithophel -- A wise and valued counselor of David. Joined Absalom's revolt against David. Hanged himself when Absalom rejected his counsel and headed toward defeat. (2 Sam. 15-17)

Amasa -- Nephew of David. Army commander for Absalom, later for David in place of Joab. Killed by Joab. (2 Sam. 17, 19-20)

Amnon -- First son of David. Raped his half-sister Tamar. Murdered by Tamar's brother Absalom in revenge. (2 Sam. 3, 13)

Asahel -- Nephew of David. Brother of Joab and Abishai. One of David's Mighty Men. Killed by Abner at Gibeon. (1 Sam. 2; 2 Sam. 23)

Bathsheba -- Wife of Uriah the Hittite. Coveted by David, who committed adultery with her, then had her husband killed and married her. Mother of Solomon. (2 Sam. 11-12; 1 Chron. 3)

Beersheba -- A town in southern Palestine, in the tribal area of Judah or Simeon. Samuel's sons were judges here. The phrase "from Dan to Beersheba" was often used to refer to all of the land of Israel. (Josh. 15, 19; 1 Sam. 8)

David -- Youngest son of Jesse, of the tribe of Judah. Second king of Israel. A king, warrior, prophet, poet, and musician. A man after God's own heart. Ancestor of Jesus. One of the most important figures in Scripture. Though his reign was turbulent, he later became a religious symbol for the Jews. (1 Sam. 16--1 Kings 2).

Ebenezer -- A site near Aphek. Where the Israelites camped before losing the Ark to the Philistines. After finally defeating the Philistines, Samuel set up a memorial stone here and called it "Ebenezer." Name means "stone of help." (1 Sam. 4-5, 7)

Eli -- High priest at Shiloh. A descendent of Aaron. Father of Hophni and Phinehas. Trained Samuel. (1 Sam. 1-4)

Endor -- A Canaanite village in the tribal region of Manasseh. Saul visited a fortune-teller here in an attempt to consult Samuel. (Josh. 17; 1 Sam. 28)

Gad -- A prophet and advisor to David. Rebuked David for taking a census. Kept a written record of David's acts. (1 Sam. 22; 2 Sam. 24; 1 Chron. 21, 29)

Gath -- A Philistine city. One of the places where the Philistines took the Ark. Home of Goliath. David took refuge from Saul here, and later captured the city. Name means "winepress." (1 Sam. 5-7, 17, 21, 27; 1 Chron. 18)

Gibeah -- A city of Benjamin. Site of inhumane crimes in the time of the judges. Birthplace and residence of Saul. Name means "hill." (Judg. 19; 1 Sam. 10-15; 2 Sam. 21)

Goliath -- A Philistine giant from Gath who was killed by David with a slingshot. (1 Sam. 17)

Hannah -- Mother of Samuel. Childless until she vowed to devote her child to God. (1 Sam. 1-2)

Hiram -- Phoenician king of Tyre. Provided wood and workers to David and Solomon to build their palaces and temple. Provided sailors for Solomon's ships. (2 Sam. 5; 1 Kings 5; 2 Chron. 9)

Hophni -- Son of Eli. Brother of Phinehas. Greedy and evil. Killed by the Philistines when the Ark was captured. (1 Sam. 4)

Ichabod -- Grandson of Eli. Son of Phinehas. Mother died in childbirth, just after Eli, Hophni, and Phinehas had died and the Ark had been taken by the Philistines. Name means “no glory.” (1 Sam. 4)

Ish-bosheth -- Son of Saul. Made king of the northern tribes for seven years after Saul’s death and supported by Abner. Murdered by two of his captains after Abner’s death. Name means “man of shame.” Also called Eshbaal, meaning “man of Baal.” (2 Sam. 2-4)

Jabesh-Gilead -- A city east of the Jordan in the tribe of Manasseh. Men were killed by Israel for not coming to the aid of Benjamin. City delivered from Ammonites by Saul. Inhabitants gave proper burials to Saul and his sons after their defeat. (Judg. 20-21; 1 Sam. 11, 31)

Jesse -- Grandson of Boaz and Ruth. Father of David. (Ruth 4; 1 Sam. 17)

Jezreel -- A city, valley, and plain in the tribal area of Issachar, in north central Palestine. David waged a battle against the Philistines here. The kings of Israel had a palace here. (1 Sam. 29; 2 Sam. 2)

Joab -- Nephew of David. Brother of Abishai and Asahel. Commander-in-chief of David’s troops. A skillful, ruthless, unscrupulous, loyal soldier. Killed at the altar in the tabernacle for supporting Adonijah against Solomon. (2 Sam.; 1 Kings 1-2)

Jonathan -- First son of Saul. Very close personal friend of David. Killed by the Philistines with Saul at Gilboa. (1 Sam. 13, 14, 18, 31)

Kidron -- A valley (and brook) on the east side of Jerusalem. Crossed by David as he fled Absalom. One of the limits of Shimei’s free travel. (2 Sam. 15; 1 Kings 2)

Mephibosheth -- Son of Jonathan; grandson of Saul. Lame; cared for by Ziba. Adopted by David. (2 Sam. 4, 9; 1 Chron. 8)

Michal -- Daughter of Saul. Wife of David. Saved David’s life from Saul, then taken by Saul and given to another for a time. Became offended at David’s dancing in the streets. (1 Sam. 14, 18, 19, 25; 2 Sam. 3, 6)

Nabal -- A wealthy, evil herder. Husband of Abigail. Insulted David. Took ill and died, being punished by God. (1 Sam. 25)

Nathan -- A prophet of God. Prevented David from building the temple, rebuked him for adultery and murder involving Bathsheba, and supported Solomon for the throne. (2 Sam. 7, 8, 12; 1 Kings 1; 1 Chron. 17)

Phinehas -- Son of Eli. Brother of Hophni. Greedy and evil. Killed by the Philistines when the Ark was captured. (1 Sam. 4)

Samuel -- A judge, priest, and prophet. Son of Hannah. Trained by Eli. Anointed both Saul and David as kings. (1 Sam. 1-2, 10, 16)

Saul -- First king of Israel. From the tribe of Benjamin. The kind of king Israel desired, to be like the other nations. He began well, but became increasingly unstable during his forty-year reign. Killed by the Philistines at Gilboa. (1 Sam. 8-31)

Sheba -- Led the northern tribes in a rebellion against David after Absalom's revolt was crushed. Later beheaded. (2 Sam. 20)

Shimei -- Relative of Saul. Cursed David as he fled Absalom. Forgiven, but later killed by Solomon. (2 Sam. 16, 19, 23; 1 Kings 2)

Tamar -- Daughter of David. Brother of Absalom. Raped by half-brother Amnon. (2 Sam. 13-14)

Uriah -- A Hittite. Husband of Bathsheba. One of David's Mighty Men and a devoted soldier. Killed in battle by David so he could marry Bathsheba. (2 Sam. 11, 23)

Uzzah -- A son of Abinadab. Died when he touched the Ark, which was being transported in an improper manner. (2 Sam. 6)

Zadok -- Descendent of Aaron. Served as priest with Abiathar. Close associate of David. Became high priest under Solomon. Name means "righteous." (2 Sam. 15; 1 Kings 2)

Ziba -- A servant of Saul, who took care of Mephibosheth. (2 Sam. 9, 16, 19)

Ziklag -- A city in the tribal area of Simeon or Judah. Held by Philistines until given to David by Achish. (Josh. 15, 19; 1 Sam. 27, 30; 2 Sam. 1, 4)