

THE LIFE OF DAVID

AFTER
GOD'S
HEART

“The Tragic Life of Saul”
1 Samuel 15

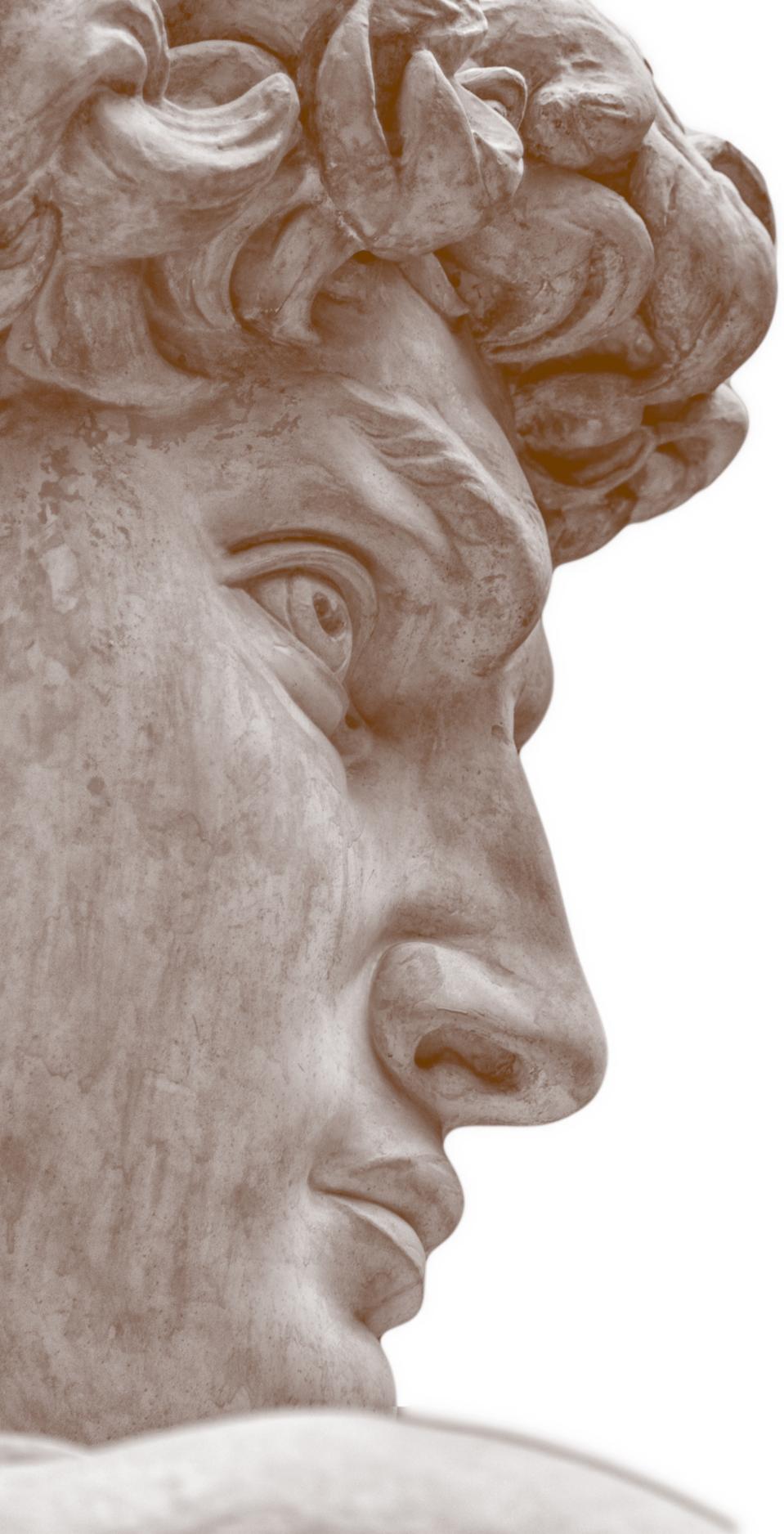


David Wolpe

The drive to see David's character as perfectly consistent betrays a blinkered view of human nature. David contains more than any single explanation can embrace. He is, in the words of historian Baruch Halpern, "the first human being in world literature."

The story of David is the
story of a person
growing more and
more alive to God.





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Psalm 16:1

Keep me safe, my God, for in you
I take refuge. I say to the LORD,
“You are my Lord; apart from you
I have no good thing.”



Psalm 18:29

For by you I can run against a
troop, and by my God I can leap
over a wall.



Psalm 22:1-2

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.



Psalm 23:1

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.



Psalm 51:7,10

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.



Eugene Peterson

[David] has little wisdom to pass on to us on how to live successfully. He was an unfortunate parent and an unfaithful husband. From a purely historical point of view he was a barbaric chieftain with a talent for poetry. But David's importance isn't in his morality or his military prowess but in his experience of and witness to God. Every event in his life was a confrontation with God.

1 Samuel 9:2

And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.





Jeffrey Immelt
6'4"



Tim Cook
6'3"



Bill Clinton
6'2"



Barack Obama
6'1"



Donald Trump
6'3"

5'7"

6'3"



1 Samuel 10:24

And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? There is none like him among all the people."

And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!"



1 Samuel 10:26-27



Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied by valiant men whose hearts God had touched. But some scoundrels said, "How can this fellow save us?" They despised him and brought him no gifts. But Saul kept silent.

1 Samuel 11:12-13



Then the people said to Samuel, "Who is it that said, 'Shall Saul reign over us?' Bring the men, that we may put them to death."

But Saul said, "Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the LORD has worked salvation in Israel."

1 Samuel 15:1

And Samuel said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore listen to the words of the LORD.



1 Samuel 15:9

But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fattened calves and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction.



1 Samuel 15:10-11



The word of the LORD came to Samuel: "I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments."

And Samuel was angry, and he cried to the LORD all night.

1 Samuel 15:13-14



And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed be you to the LORD. I have performed the commandment of the LORD."

And Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?"

1 Samuel 15:15

Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the LORD your God, and the rest we have devoted to destruction."



1 Samuel 15:16-19



Then Samuel said to Saul, "Stop! I will tell you what the LORD said to me this night."

And he said to him, "Speak."

And Samuel said, "Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. And the LORD sent

1 Samuel 15:16-19



you on a mission and said, 'Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the LORD?"

1 Samuel 15:16-19



Then Samuel said to Saul, "Stop! I will tell you what the LORD said to me this night."

And he said to him, "Speak."

And Samuel said, "**Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel.**"

1 Samuel 15:20-21



And Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the LORD. I have gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, **to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.**"

1 Samuel 15:22-23



And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king."

1 Samuel 15:24-25

Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may bow before the LORD."



1 Samuel 15:26-29



And Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel."

As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore. And Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret."



1 Samuel 15:30

Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may bow before the LORD your God."



1 Samuel 15:30

Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of **my** people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may bow before the LORD **your** God."





Matthew 15:8

These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Above all, God is
after our hearts.







Eugene Peterson

We can't get away from God; he's there whether we like it or not, whether we know it or not. We can refuse to participate in God; we can act as if God weren't our designer, provider, and covenant presence. But when we refuse, we're less; our essential humanity is less. Our lives are diminished and impoverished.



Eugene Peterson

And it's just this sense of *lessness* that gives us an important clue to understanding ourselves. We're aware of something we need or lack most of the time. We're not complete. We're not fully human. This sense of being unfinished is pervasive and accounts for a great deal that's distinctive in us humans. We then attempt to complete ourselves by getting more education or more money, going to another place or



Eugene Peterson

buying different clothes, searching out new experiences. The Christian gospel tells us that in and under and around all of these incompletions is God: God is who we need; the God-hunger, the God-thirst is the most powerful drive in us. It's far stronger than all the drives of sex, power, security, and fame put together.

