



THE LIFE OF DAVID

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AFTER  
GOD'S  
HEART

“Israel’s Shepherd”  
2 Samuel 2-5







**20 YEARS**

**10 YEARS**

**7.5 YEARS**

**Youth**

**Wilderness**

**Civil War**

**shepherd**

**running for  
his life**

**anointing**

**Ziklag**

**musician in  
Saul's court**

**death of Saul**

**Goliath**



## 2 Samuel 2:1, 4

After this David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?"

And the LORD said to him, "Go up."

David said, "To which shall I go up?"

And he said, "To Hebron."

... And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.



## 2 Samuel 2:8-11

But **Abner** the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took **Ish-bosheth** the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim, and he made him king over Gilead and the Ashurites and Jezreel and Ephraim and Benjamin and all Israel. Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David. And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.



## 2 Samuel 2:12-13

Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. And **Joab** the son of **Zeruiah** and the servants of David went out and met them at the pool of Gibeon. And they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool.





## 2 Samuel 2:17-23

And the battle was very fierce that day.  
And Abner and the men of Israel were  
beaten before the servants of David.

And the **three sons of Zeruiah** were  
there, **Joab**, **Abishai**, and **Asahel**.



## 2 Samuel 2:17-23

Now Asahel was as swift of foot as a wild gazelle. And Asahel pursued Abner, and as he went, he turned neither to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner. Then Abner looked behind him and said, "Is it you, Asahel?"

And he answered, "It is I."

Abner said to him, "Turn aside to your right hand or to your left, and seize one of the young men and take his spoil."



## 2 Samuel 2:17-23

But Asahel would not turn aside from following him. And Abner said again to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I lift up my face to your brother Joab?"

But he refused to turn aside. Therefore Abner struck him in the stomach with the butt of his spear, so that the spear came out at his back. And he fell there and died where he was. And all who came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died, stood still.



## 2 Samuel 2:24-26

But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner. And as the sun was going down they came to the hill of Ammah, which lies before Giah on the way to the wilderness of Gibeon. And the people of Benjamin gathered themselves together behind Abner and became one group and took their stand on the top of a hill. Then Abner called to Joab, "Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that the end will be bitter? How long will it be before you tell your people to turn from the pursuit of their brothers?"



## 2 Samuel 3:1

There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. And David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker.



## 2 Samuel 3:6-11

While there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, Abner was making himself strong in the house of Saul. Now Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah.

And Ish-bosheth said to Abner, "Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?"



## 2 Samuel 3:6-11

Then Abner was very angry over the words of Ish-bosheth and said, "Am I a dog's head of Judah? To this day I keep showing steadfast love to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not given you into the hand of David. And yet you charge me today with a fault concerning a woman. God do so to Abner and more also, if I do not



## 2 Samuel 3:6-11

accomplish for David what the LORD has sworn to him, to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan to Beersheba."

And Ish-bosheth could not answer Abner another word, because he feared him.



## 2 Samuel 3:12-14

And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, "To whom does the land belong? Make your covenant with me, and behold, my hand shall be with you to bring over all Israel to you."

And he said, "Good; I will make a covenant with you. But one thing I require of you;



## 2 Samuel 3:12-14

that is, you shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see my face."

Then David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, saying, "Give me my wife Michal, for whom I paid the bridal price of a hundred foreskins of the Philistines."



## 2 Samuel 3:15-16

And Ish-bosheth sent and took her from her husband Paltiel the son of Laish. But her husband went with her, weeping after her all the way to Bahurim.

Then Abner said to him, "Go, return." And he returned.



## 2 Samuel 3:26-30

When Joab came out from David's presence, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the cistern of Sirah. But David did not know about it. And when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the midst of the gate to speak with him privately, and there he struck him in the stomach, so that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.



## 2 Samuel 3:26-30

Afterward, when David heard of it, he said, "I and my kingdom are forever guiltless before the LORD for the blood of Abner the son of Ner. May it fall upon the head of Joab and upon all his father's house, and may the house of Joab never be without one who has a discharge or who is leprous or who holds a spindle or who falls by the sword or who lacks bread!"



## 2 Samuel 3:26-30

So Joab and Abishai his brother killed Abner, because he had put their brother Asahel to death in the battle at Gibeon.



## 2 Samuel 3:31-39

Then David said to Joab and to all the people who were with him, "Tear your clothes and put on sackcloth and mourn before Abner." And King David followed the bier. They buried Abner at Hebron. And the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner, and all the people wept.

And the king lamented for Abner, saying, "Should Abner die as a fool dies?"



## 2 Samuel 3:31-39

Your hands were not bound; your feet were not fettered; as one falls before the wicked you have fallen.”

And all the people wept again over him. Then all the people came to persuade David to eat bread while it was yet day. But David swore, saying, “God do so to me and more also, if I taste bread or anything else till the sun goes down!”



## 2 Samuel 3:31-39

And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them, as everything that the king did pleased all the people. So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been the king's will to put to death Abner the son of Ner.

And the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel? And I was gentle today, though anointed king. These men, the sons of Zeruah, are more severe than I. The LORD repay the evildoer according to his wickedness!"



## 2 Samuel 4:8-11

... They then bring his head to David thinking expecting to get a reward. And they said to the king, "Here is the head of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life. The LORD has avenged my lord the king this day on Saul and on his offspring."

But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity, when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought

## 2 Samuel 4:8-11

he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and destroy you from the earth?"





## 2 Samuel 5:1-5

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.'"

So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.



## 2 Samuel 5:1-5

David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.





# Jeffrey Meyers

Do not be surprised to find yourself in a frustrating situation from which you cannot escape by means of controlling it. Not everything can be fixed! Not everything is a problem to be solved. Some things must be borne, must be suffered and endured. Wisdom does not teach us how to master the world. It does not give us techniques for programming life such that life becomes orderly and predictable.



# Eugene Peterson

The recurrent error of our technologically conditioned age is to look for what's wrong in our lives so that we can fix it, or what needs doing so that we can have something worthwhile to do. There *are* things wrong that need fixing; and there *are* jobs that need doing. But the Christian life starts at the other end—not with us but with God: What is God doing that I can respond to? How is God expressing his love and grace so that I can live



# Eugene Peterson

appreciatively and in obedience?

This is why the David story continues to prove so useful: it doesn't show us how we *should* live but how we *do* live. And how in that living, if we keep our eyes open, stay honest, and avoid pretense, we encounter God alive, God in covenant with us, God pulling the best out of us.



# Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.



# Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

