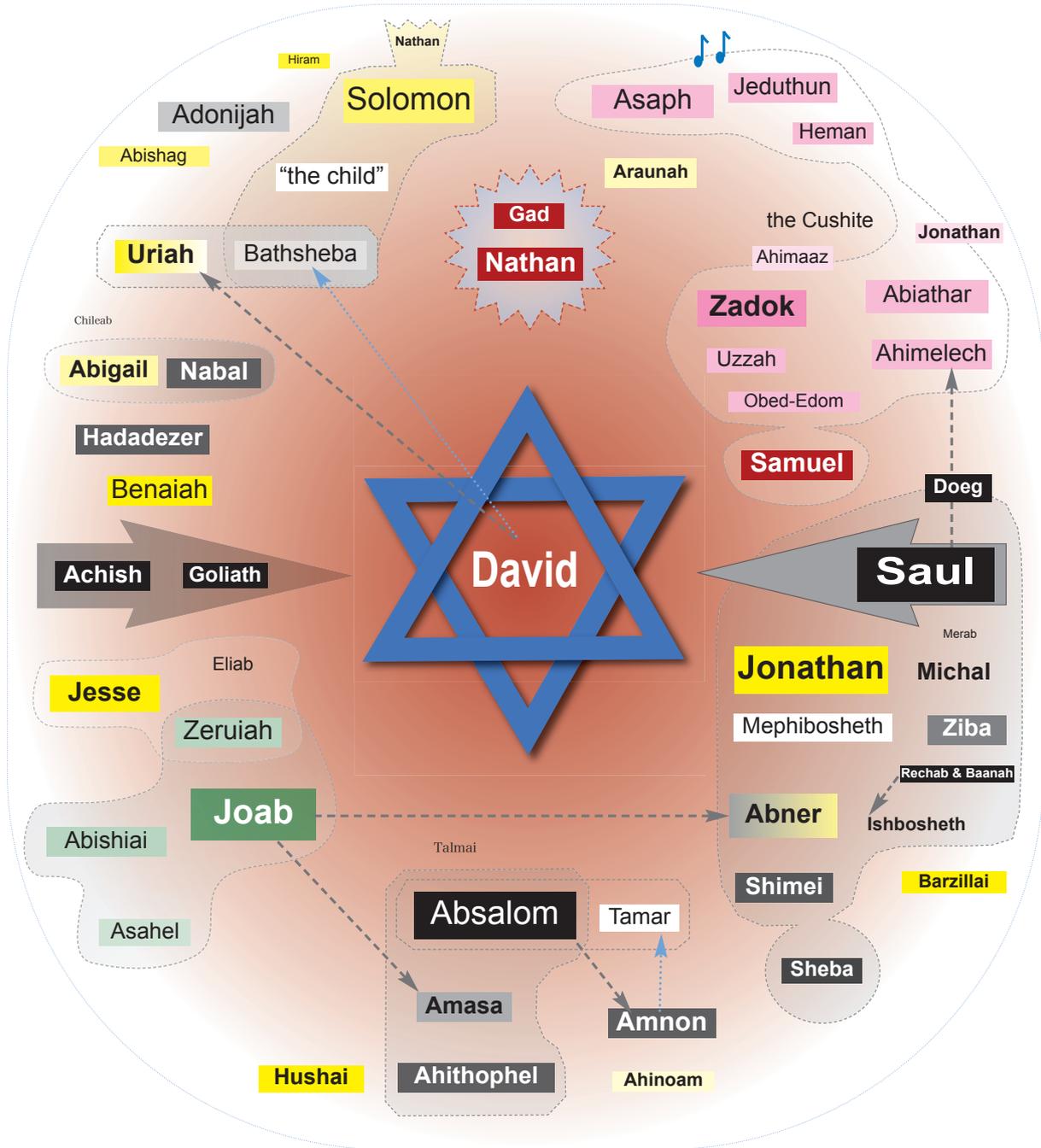


surrounded



people in the life of David

dangerous people

Throughout his life David was surrounded by dangerous people; but they were not all dangerous in the same way or to the same extent. Goliath was a great physical threat, but only briefly (1 Sam. ch. 17). Saul, however, tried to kill David for many years (1 Sam. chs. 18-26). Achish, the king of Gath, was a dangerous ally for a brief period (1 Sam. chs. 27 and 29). Joab was David's general, but was a dangerous man because he had his own agenda. Bathsheba was a moral threat in 2 Sam. ch. 11, though David was also a great danger to himself at that point. Later in 2 Sam. chs. 15 and 16, the wise man, Ahithophel, betrayed David and conspired with Absalom against the king.

Rank the people listed below on a scale of one to five, with five being the most dangerous to the king. Who do you think was most dangerous?

people dangerous to David	
Absalom, David's rebellious son	
Achish, king of Gath	
Ahithphel, wise man and traitor	
Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah	
Goliath, the Philistine giant	
Joab, David's general	
King Saul and his army	
King David, himself	

conclusions & applications

people you feel sorry for

Many innocent people suffered greatly because of the evil people of David's day. Jonathan and Michal were caught between their father and David (1 Sam. chs. 19-20). Ahimeleck the priest and his family were killed by Saul and Doeg (1 Sam. ch. 22). After Nabal's death, Abigail married David (1 Sam. ch. 25); but her son, Chileab, apparently died at a young age (2 Sam. 3:3). Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, was injured as a child and became lame (2 Sam. 4:4 and ch. 9). Tamar, David's beautiful daughter was raped by her half-brother and died without children (2 Sam. ch. 13). Uriah was killed by David because of Bathsheba. And the unnamed first son of Bathsheba and David died (2 Sam. chs. 11 and 12).

Rank the people listed below on a scale of one to five, with five being the most to be pitied. Who do you feel sorry for most?

people to be pitied	
Abigail, a godly wife of David	
Ahimeleck the priest and his family	
Michal, Saul's daughter, David's wife	
Mephibosheth, Jonathan's lame son	
Tamar, David's daughter	
"this child," Bathsheba's first son	
Uriah, Bathsheba's husband	
Uzzah, priest who touched the ark	

conclusions & applications

helpful people

Many people helped David and are shown with a yellow, red, or pink background on the cover. (There are too many to mention them all.) Fushai was a great help to David when Ahithphel sided with Absalom. Three prophets, Samuel (1 Sam. ch. 16), Gad (1 Sam. 22:5 and 2 Sam. ch. 24), and Nathan (2 Sam. chs. 7, 12, and 1 Kings ch. 1) assisted King David at key points in his life. Of the three, Nathan is mentioned most. A large number of priests, shown with a pink background on the cover, helped David. (Samuel was both a priest and a prophet.) Of the many priests, Zadok's name appears most. (See 2 Sam. 15:24-29.) He anointed Solomon; the other chief priest, Abiathar, sided with Adonijah (1 Kings 1).

Rank the people listed below on a scale of one to five, with five being the most helpful. Who, aside from God, do you think helped David most.

helpful people	
Bathsheba, the mother of Solomon	
Hushai, loyal wise man	
Gad, prophet who counseled David	
Jonathan, Saul's son & David's friend	
Nathan, prophet who counseled David	
Samuel, prophet who anointed David	
"this child," Bathsheba's first son	
Zadok, David's chief priest	

conclusions & applications

favorite characters

Everyone has their favorite characters in Samuel and in other Bible books. Aside from David, himself, who is your favorite character or characters in the life of David. These do not need to be people that you admire. We can learn a lot from the lives of evil characters.

If you had to choose just one man (other than David) and one woman in Samuel to study, who would you select? There are fewer women to choose from; so Abigail would be a good choice. Bathsheba is probably the most famous woman; but more is said about Abigail.

There are various lesser known characters who are interesting, as well. Be different if you like; and pick out an obscure names from the cover.

Rank the people listed below on a scale of one to five, with five being reserved for your favorites. Add another name or two if you wish.

favorite characters	
Abigail, a godly wife of David	
Absalom, David's rebellious son	
Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah	
Hushai, loyal wise man	
Joab, David's general	
Jonathan, Saul's son & David's friend	
Mephibosheth, Jonathan's lame son	
Nathan, prophet who counseled David	
Samuel, prophet who anointed David	
"this child," Bathsheba's first son	
Uriah, Bathsheba's husband	
other(s)	

lessons from the many people in the life of David

dangerous people

The most dangerous person in David's life was not Saul, even though he tried to kill David many times. Nor was the most dangerous person Absalom, even though his rebellion nearly succeeded. Some believe that Bathsheba was the most dangerous person in David's life. However, God blamed David, himself, for his sin with her and against Uriah. Nathan did not blame her, even though she was, of course, guilty, as well (2 Sam. ch. 12). The most dangerous person was David, himself, for his sin was the root cause of all the trouble from 2 Samuel ch. 12 onward. The lesson to be learned from this is to take heed to yourself (1 Cor. 10:12).

people we pity

We naturally feel sorry for Tamar, Uriah, and others. And we are commanded to weep with those that weep (Rom. 12:15). However, feeling sorry, for those who died in the past, for whom we can now do nothing, is questionable. Mourning for friends and loved ones who have passed away recently is certainly natural, proper, and necessary. However, to do so for a long period, for years without end, easily degenerates into self-pity which is sinful and harmful to us and others. It can keep us from doing what we should do for the Lord in our own lives. David mourned for Jonathan and Saul (2 Sam. ch. one), but not forever. The lessons to be learned from Tamar, Uriah, and others should help us to move forward for God.

helpful people

It is difficult to say who was most helpful to David. Hushai, Gad, Jonathan, Nathan, and Zadok are all certainly near the top of the list. One way to judge this perhaps is to consider those who were present and helpful at the end of David's life in First Kings ch. one, those who helped establish Solomon as his successor. These were mainly Nathan the prophet, Zadok the priest, and Benaiah, a key military leader (1 Kings 1:32-34). Joab was noticeably absent. Bathsheba, however, was present (1 Kings 1:28-31) and, despite her past sin, was used by God. The Lord often graciously uses us and others in different and greater ways than we might expect.

favorite characters

Abigail (1 Sam. ch. 25) is usually the most popular female character to study, even though she did not play as big a role in David's life as we might have hoped. Though he is not popular, King Saul played a powerful formative role in David's character development. Thus, he may be more important to study than Jonathan, who is far more popular. Zadok and other priests are not well known; but they played important roles and should be studied more. Nathan is a favorite of many, for good reason. Most of all, through all these and others, we can learn about God, himself, who, of course, was the most important person in the life of David.