

# The Life of David

## Introduction

### The Importance of David

- David is one of the most complex and important figures in the Bible.
  - He is a warrior, king, poet, instrumentalist, administrator, sinner, and servant of God.
- His existence was one of the most debated of all people in the Bible but in the past century archaeologists have found instances of his name on inscriptions.
- His name is used over 1000 times in the Bible.
- He wrote at least 75 of the Psalms. 73 are credited to him in the superscriptions and 2 more in the New Testament.
- Many promises are made about him, his descendants, and his kingdom that relate to Christ as the Messiah and Israel in the end times.

### The Heritage of David

- The tribe of Judah – I Chronicles 2:1-15
  - The tribe that was prophesied to rule – Genesis 49:10
  - At the end of the Exodus, they could field more soldiers than any other tribe (Numbers 16:19-22). Thus we can presume they were the largest tribe overall.
  - They were leaders in battle – Judges 1:1-2, 20:18
    - In passages like I Samuel 11:8, the number of Judah's soldiers is given and then Israel's (all the other tribes)
  - They had a history of conflict because their territory was bordered by or inhabited by many other peoples: Philistines, Amalekites, Jebusites, Amorites, Moabites, and Edomites.
- He was the 10<sup>th</sup> generation from Judah - I Chronicles 2:1-15, Matthew 1:3-6
  - Judah → Pharez → Hezron → Ram → Amminadab → Nahshon → Salma → Boaz → Obed → Jesse → David
- Two notable figures in this lineage:
  - Nahson, prince of Judah during the Exodus - Numbers 1:7, 2:3, etc.
  - Boaz, husband of Ruth – Ruth 4:13-17
- Father was Jesse, mother was Nizbeth (according to rabbinical tradition)
  - There is a theory that David was illegitimate or at least presumed to be so. It is based primarily on three verses (Psalm 51:5 and 69:8 & 12) and as an explanation for why David was not present when Samuel came in I Samuel 16. Personally, I think it is too fanciful and unlikely to be true.
- Jesse's family lived in Bethlehem ("house of bread") – Ruth 1-4, I Samuel 16.
- David was the youngest of eight sons born to Jesse.

- David was born in 1085 (according to *Reese's Chronological Bible*) and was the youngest of eight(?) sons born to Jesse.
  - I Chronicles 2:13-15 lists seven, I Samuel 16:10-11 hints there are eight.
  - NOTE – in this study we will follow Reese's chronology and dating as much as possible

## **The World of Young David**

- David was born into the closing decades of the Judges and the opening decades of the Jewish Kingdom.
  - Samson (1153-1101 B.C.) was alive with Saul (1135-1056 B.C.)
- The tribes were not very united except in worship (I Samuel 1:3, etc.) and in war.
- There was a religious reawakening in the land under leadership of Samuel – I Samuel 7:3-6
- The people demanded a king, and Saul was chosen by God to be the first king in 1095 B.C. – I Samuel 9-10
- Saul's character and spirituality were too weak to remain king – I Samuel 13:8-18, 15:1-35.