

Characters in 1 & 2 Samuel

Abiathar

Son of Ahimelech who told David that Saul had all the priests of Nob killed

Abigail

Intelligent and beautiful wife of Nabal who becomes David's wife after Nabal dies

Abner

Commander of Saul's army; Saul's uncle; supports Ish-Bosheth as king but switches to David's side; is killed by Joab because he killed Joab's brother, Ashel

Absalom

Son of David; brother of Tamar, kills Amnon, tries to take the kingdom from David, is killed by Joab

Achish

The Philistine king for whom David worked while hiding from Saul

Agag

King of the Amalekites; was supposed to be killed by Saul, but ended up being killed by Samuel

Ahimelech

Priest of Nob; gives David consecrated bread and the sword of Goliath; killed along with all the priests of Nob by Saul's Command

Ahinoam

One of David's wife; mother of Amnon

Ahithophel

An advisor to David who betrays David and sides with Absalom; commits suicide when his advice is not taken by Absalom

Amnon

Firstborn son of David; rapes his half-sister, Tamar

Ashel

Joab's brother who was killed by Abner

Bathsheba

Wife of Uriah the Hittite; David commits adultery with her and eventually takes her as his wife after making her pregnant and having her husband killed

David

Second king of Israel; a man of great faith

Doeg

An Edomite who did the actual slaughter of the 85 priests of Nob

Elkanah

Samuel's father; had 2 wives (Hannah and Peninnah)

Eli

A priest who had 2 evil sons; he also thought Hannah was drunk; raised Samuel

Goliath

9-foot tall Philistine who was killed by David

Hannah

Samuel's mother; was barren, but was granted a son: Samuel

Hophni

An evil son of Eli the priest; took raw meat instead of boiled; slept with women from Tent of Meeting

Hushai

A servant of David sent to Jerusalem as a spy for David against Absalom

Ichabod

Son of Phinehas; this name means "no glory"

Ish-Bosheth

Son of Saul who was named King of Israel by Abner after Saul killed himself

Joab

Commander of David's army; David's cousin

Jonathan

Son of Saul; David's best friend; killed in battle; ate honey in battle causing Saul to want to kill him

Kish

Father of Saul

Mephibosheth

Crippled son of Jonathan taken in by David

Michal

Young daughter of Saul, given to David in marriage

Nabal

A wealthy man who was surly and mean in his dealings with David; struck dead by the Lord

Nahash

An Ammonite who wanted to gouge out the right eye of all the people of Jabesh Gilead; Saul defeats him in Saul's first battle as King of Israel

Nathan

A prophet of God who confronts David about Bathsheba (tells the story of a rich man and the poor man)

Peninnah

Elkanah's other wife who had children and made fun of Hannah

Phinehas

An evil son of Eli the priest; took raw meat instead of boiled meat; slept with women in the Tent of Meeting

Saul

First king of Israel; a tall, strong man from the tribe of Benjamin; started with strong faith - later God's spirit leaves him

Samuel

Son of Elkanah and Hannah; raised by Eli, the priest; was a nazirite, last great judge of Israel; anoints both Saul and David as Kings

Solomon

David's second son with Bathsheba (the first had died as a punishment for his adultery)

Tamar

David's daughter, Absalom's sister, raped by her half-brother Amnon

Uriah

A Hittite who is married to Bathsheba; is eventually put in the front lines and killed at David's command

Uzzah

A man killed by the Lord for touching the Ark of the Covenant (it was being transported improperly)