

## *The Life and Psalms of David*

Most of the Psalms below have ascriptions connecting them to specific times in David's life. Psalms with a question mark (?) do not, but I included them because I think we can reasonably locate them in connection with a specific time.

1 Samuel 16: David's anointing, training in spiritual leadership by ministering to Saul, what it means to be after God's own heart

1. ? Psalm 139: no ascription; a prayer to know God to as the One who truly knows one's self

1 Samuel 17: David prepared by God beforehand, how he cultivated courage to defeat enemies

1. ? Psalm 144: no ascription; a prayer for preparation for battle

1 Samuel 18: Friendship between David and Jonathan based on God's truth and values; flight from Saul

1. Psalm 59: *A Mikhtam of David, when Saul sent men and they watched the house in order to kill him* (1 Sam.18); prayer for deliverance from those who are against you, but you still care about.

1 Samuel 21 – 22: David's courage and faith; the sacrifices others make for us; when the mantle (linen ephod) passes to us to pray and make sacrifices for others

1. Psalm 34: *A Psalm of David when he feigned madness before Abimelech, who drove him away and he departed* (1 Sam.21:10 – 15); praise for God's deliverance.
2. Psalm 57: *For the choir director; set to Al-tashheth. A Mikhtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave* (1 Sam.22:1 – 5); prayer for rescue from pursuers
3. Psalm 142: *Maskil of David, when he was in the cave* (1 Sam.22:1 – 5); prayer for help in trouble.
4. Psalm 52: *A Maskil of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul and said to him, 'David has come to the house of Ahimelech'* (1 Sam.21 – 22); prayer for God to take vengeance on Doeg, who killed all the priests.

1 Samuel 23 – 24: David's leadership and prayerfulness (notice recurrence of linen ephod), refusal to take vengeance; Jonathan's humility in giving way to David as future king

1. Psalm 56: *For the choir director; according to Jonath elem rehokim. A Mikhtam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath*; prayer for deliverance

2 Samuel 1: David grieves the deaths of Saul and Jonathan with a lament, and calls Israel to weep also.

1. 2 Samuel 1:17 – 27: the lament of David for Saul and Jonathan; the importance of voicing grief in community

2 Samuel 5 – 6: David's mistake #1, pride and restoration

1. Psalm 18: *For the choir director. A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD, who spoke to the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul*; praise for God's past deliverance.
2. Psalm 68: no ascription; celebration of the ark arriving at the sanctuary

2 Samuel 11 – 13: David's mistake #2, and the consequences; redo of Cain-Abel; literary reversal of Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers ('go out from me', seamless robe torn, etc. occur in reverse order as in Joseph's story), consequences of lack of integrity

1. Psalm 51: David's failure as a king, need for a new heart ('create for me a clean heart'); how can we confess our sins?
2. ? Psalm 32: no ascription; David is grateful for the LORD's forgiveness; God speaks back in the Psalm.

2 Samuel 15 – 17: Absalom betrays David, takes the throne. David flees in exile.

1. Psalm 3: *A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son. Deliver me from my enemies. I will not be ruled by fear, despite the threats.*
2. ? Psalm 63: *Psalm of David when he was in the desert of Judah* (2 Sam.16?); at some point during David's time in the wilderness of Judah; longing for God's presence and favor though your opponents are those you still love