

David's Poems in Psalms and 1 & 2 Samuel with Historical Superscriptions in Chronological Order¹⁵

Escape leads to a large lens - "the ends of the earth"

Story: 1 Sam 19:11ff.

Poem: Ps 59 A Mikhtam of David, when Saul sent *men* and they watched the house in order to kill him.

In Gath: Miraculously Delivered!

Story: 1 Sam 21:11

Poem: Ps 56 A Mikhtam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

Story: 1 Sam 21:10

Poem: Ps 34 A Psalm of David when he feigned madness before Abimelech, who drove him away and he departed.

Adullam: Fleeing Saul in a Cave

Story: 1 Sam 22:1-5 - Adullam

Poem: Ps 142 A Maskil of David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer.

Betrayal, Slander, Intrigue, Massacre – A Voice after Violence

Story: 1 Sam 22:22f.

Poem: Ps 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."

Engedi: Confronting Saul in a Cave

Story: 1 Sam 24 - Engedi

Poem: Ps 57 A Mikhtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.

Saul's Continued Pursuit of David

Story: 1 Sam 20-26

Poem: Ps 7 A Shiggaion of David, which he sang to the LORD concerning Cush, a Benjamite.

Lament over Jonathan's Death

Story: 1 Sam 31

Poem: 2 Sam. 1:17-29 Then David chanted with this lament over Saul and Jonathan his son and he told *them* to teach the sons of Judah *the song of the bow*; behold, it is written in the book of Jashar.

¹⁵ See Bruce Waltke's discussion on the historical reliability of the superscripts and their vital importance for determining a royal interpretation in Bruce K. Waltke and James M Houston with Erica Moore, *The Psalms as Christian Worship* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010), 88-92.

Praise for God delivering David from Saul

Story: 1 Sam 20-31

Poem: Ps 18 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. And he said,

Poem: 2 Sam 22:1 And David spoke the words of this song to the LORD in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.

The Davidic Covenant: God's New House

Story: 2 Sam 7:1-17

Poem: 2 Sam 7:18-29 Then David the king went in and sat before the LORD, and he said, "Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me this far?"

National Defeat and Lament

David's "success brought its dangers of alliances among his enemies and of battles far from home. At such a moment, when his main force was with him near the Euphrates, Edom evidently took its chance to fall upon Judah from the south."

Story: 2 Sam 8:14

Poem: Ps 60 A *Mikhtam* of David, to teach; when he struggled with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, and Joab returned, and smote twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt.

Adultery and Murder: A Voice of Confession

Story: 2 Sam 11-12

Poem: Ps 51 A *Psalm* of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Fleeing Absalom, His Son:

Story: 2 Sam 15

Poem: Ps 3 A *Psalm* of David, when he fled from Absalom his son.

Story: 2 Sam 16

Poem: Ps 63 A *Psalm* of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

Last Words: Give Me a Voice When I Die

Now these are the last words of David.

David the son of Jesse declares,
The man who was raised on high declares,
The anointed of the God of Jacob,
And the sweet psalmist of Israel,
"The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me,
And His word was on my tongue." (2 Sam 23:1-7)

THE SHAPE OF DAVID'S VOICE

Six psalms with superscriptions and one lament in 2 Samuel

A The Voice of Exile: A New Family Found in the Wilderness

The story: 1 Samuel 22:1-5

The poem: Psalm 142

B Cornered by a Rebellious King

The story: 1 Samuel 24

The poem: Psalm 57

C The Voice of Grief: The Death of a Friend

The story: 1 Samuel 31

The poem: 2 Samuel 1:17-29

X The Voice of Praise: Victory over his Enemies

The story: 1 Samuel 18-31

The poem: Psalm 18; 2 Sam 22

C' The Voice of Grief: The Death of a Friend

The story: 2 Samuel 11-12

The poem: Psalm 51

B' Cornered by a Rebellious Son

The story: 2 Samuel 15

The poem: Psalm 3

A' The Voice of Exile: God's Presence Found in the Wilderness

The story: 2 Samuel 16

The poem: Psalm 63