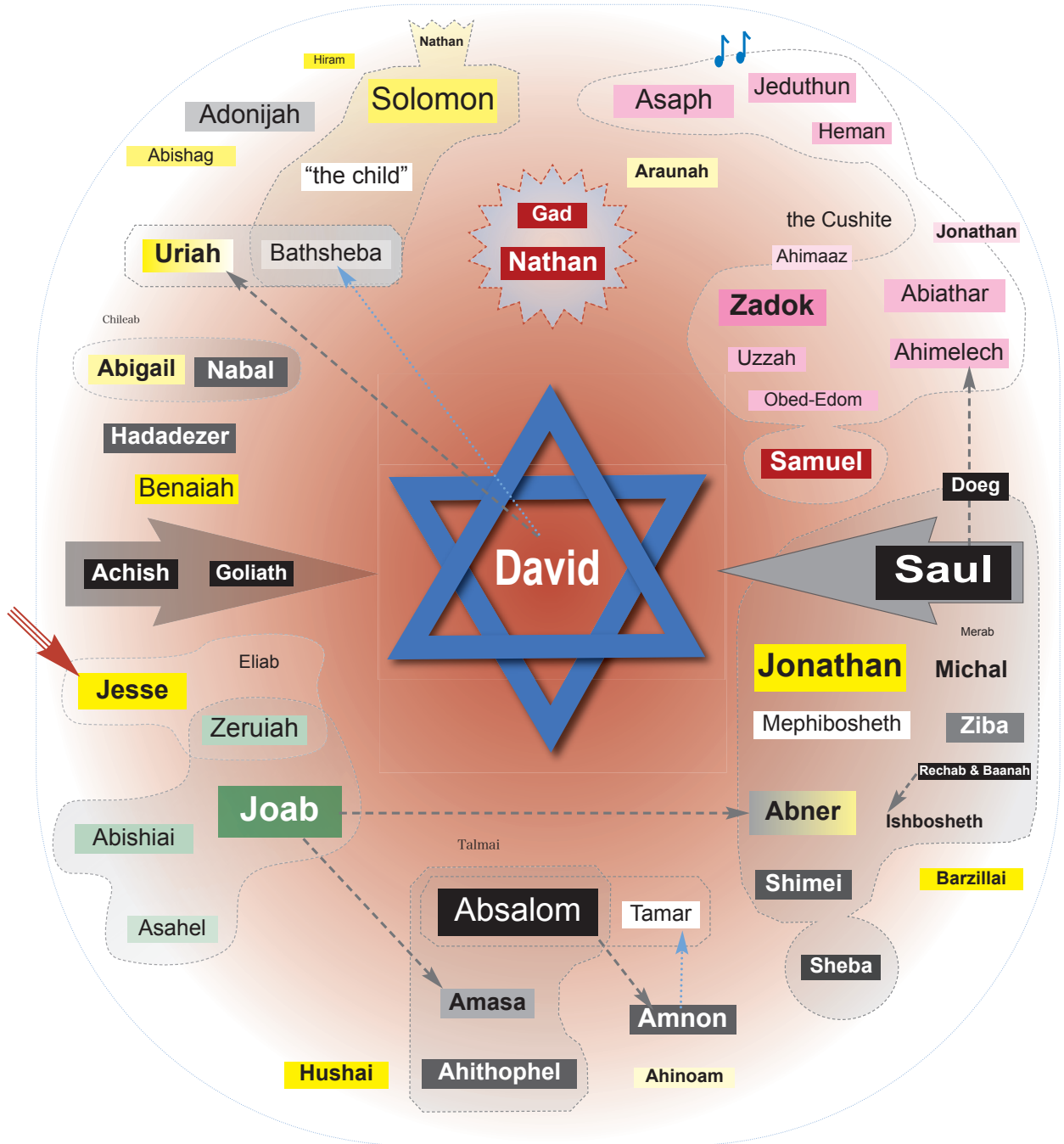


surrounded



people in the life of David

## some facts about Jesse

1. According to Ruth 4:17 and 1 Chr. 2:12 Jesse was the son of Obed, the grandson of Boaz, and the father of David.

2. Jesse' seven sons and two daughters are listed in 1 Chr. 2:13-16. Apparently he had eight sons, but one of them had died or had no children (1 Sam. 16:10). The name of his wife is not given, unless it is the Nahash in 2 Sam. 17:25.

3. Ancient tradition says that Nahash in 2 Sam. 17:25 is another name for Jesse. Others think that it is the name of his wife's former husband, who fathered David's two sisters. Still others think that Nahash is his wife's name and the mother of the two daughters, but perhaps not of the eight sons.

4. Jesse's name appears 26 times in First Samuel, twice in Second Samuel, once in First Kings, and five times in First Chronicles. He is number seven in the overall frequency ranking, but among positive characters he is number three in frequency of appearance.

5. The phrase "the son of Jesse" is used 13 times, always referring to David. About half of these are spoken by Saul (1 Sam. 20:27, 30, 31, 22:7, 8, 13) avoiding the use of David's name. It was also used negatively by Doeg (22:9).

6. Jesse's name appears 13 times in First Samuel, ch. 16, far more than in any other chapter. He is named five times in ch. 17. He last appears as a living person and David's father (though unnamed) is in Moab and 22:3-4.

## some questions

1. Was Jesse famous for anything other than for being the father of David? Did people even know him before his son became famous (16:1, 18)?

2. Did Jesse have a happy home? Are there some indications of trouble among his children in 1 Sam. 17:28-29? Was he a better father than Jacob? (See Genesis ch. 37.) How many wives did he have?

3. Was Jesse unfair to David by not bring him to Samuel at first, as was done with his seven older brothers? (16:11) Why do you think he was left tending the sheep? He was able to leave the sheep with someone else in the next chapter (17:20). Do you think Jesse was surprised at God's choice?

4. How was Jesse like any ordinary father who is concerned for his children? (17:18) How was he different from some, as well? Was he, himself, all that different from other fathers or did God make all the difference? Was he chosen, as well as David (16:1)?

5. Notice the things that Jesse sent with David in 16:20 and 17:17-18. Was he wealthy or just generous and practical? Was he too old to fight or carry things? (17:12) Notice that he later traveled to Moab. (22:3-4.)

6. How do you think Jesse influenced young David for good? Most fathers think they need to say a lot to their sons, but that's not what we see in First Samuel 16 and 17. Notice that Jesse gave David things to do.

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## Jesse was...

*Read First Samuel chs. 16 and 17 then describe Jesse.*

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### a good ordinary man?

practical (17:17-18)?

concerned about his sons (16:11, 17:13, 18)?

a good father and leader (16:8-11, 17:17-20)?

a better father than Jacob (Gen. 37)?

somewhat known (16:18, 17:58)?

famous only because of David?

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### blessed of the Lord (16:1, 13)?

a surprised old man (17:12)?

the father of 10 children (16:10, 1 Chr. 2:13-16)?

a rich man, generous (16:20, 17:17-18, 28)?

a native of Bethlehem (16:1, 16, 18, 17:12, 17:58)?

forced to flee to Moab (22:3-4)?

chosen like David (16:1, 13)?

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## conclusions and applications

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*Mark the descriptive terms and phrases above as correct (\*), incorrect (X), or partly correct (▲).*

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## **Jesse and David**

### **1 . Jesse was an ordinary man.**

- Nearly everything that is reported about Jesse is in relation to his famous son, David. If we knew more about Jesse, we would probably think even more highly of him.
- Although Jesse is not a main character in the Bible, he was well-known in Israel, according to 1Sam. 16:18. Of course, the most important thing was that he was known to God. (1Sam. 16:1)
- He honored his older sons and left David, the youngest, taking care of his sheep. So when Samuel came, he never gave a thought to David becoming the anointed one (1Sam. 16:6-11).
- He was not rich, nor poor, as seen by what he prepared to be taken to his older sons and their military leaders. There was nothing out of the ordinary in this or anything else that he did.

### **2 . Jesse was a blessed man:**

- because he was known to God (16:1) and had a son who was chosen by God for a special purpose,
- because his son became a good and great king (unlike Saul), and was included in the Savior's line,
- because he was probably influenced spiritually by his godly grandparents, by Boaz and even more so by Ruth,
- because he lived a long life (22:3,4) and could rejoice in (most of) his family, and
- because his name appears in the prophecy of the Savior in Isa. 11:1, 10 and in the genealogies of Christ in the Gospels.

### **3. Jesse is an example for us.**

Jesse is an example of an ordinary man who was blessed by God in a special way. However, as in our experience, as well, the blessings did not come without problems. (He had to flee from Saul with David in 1 Sam. 22:3-4, for instance.)