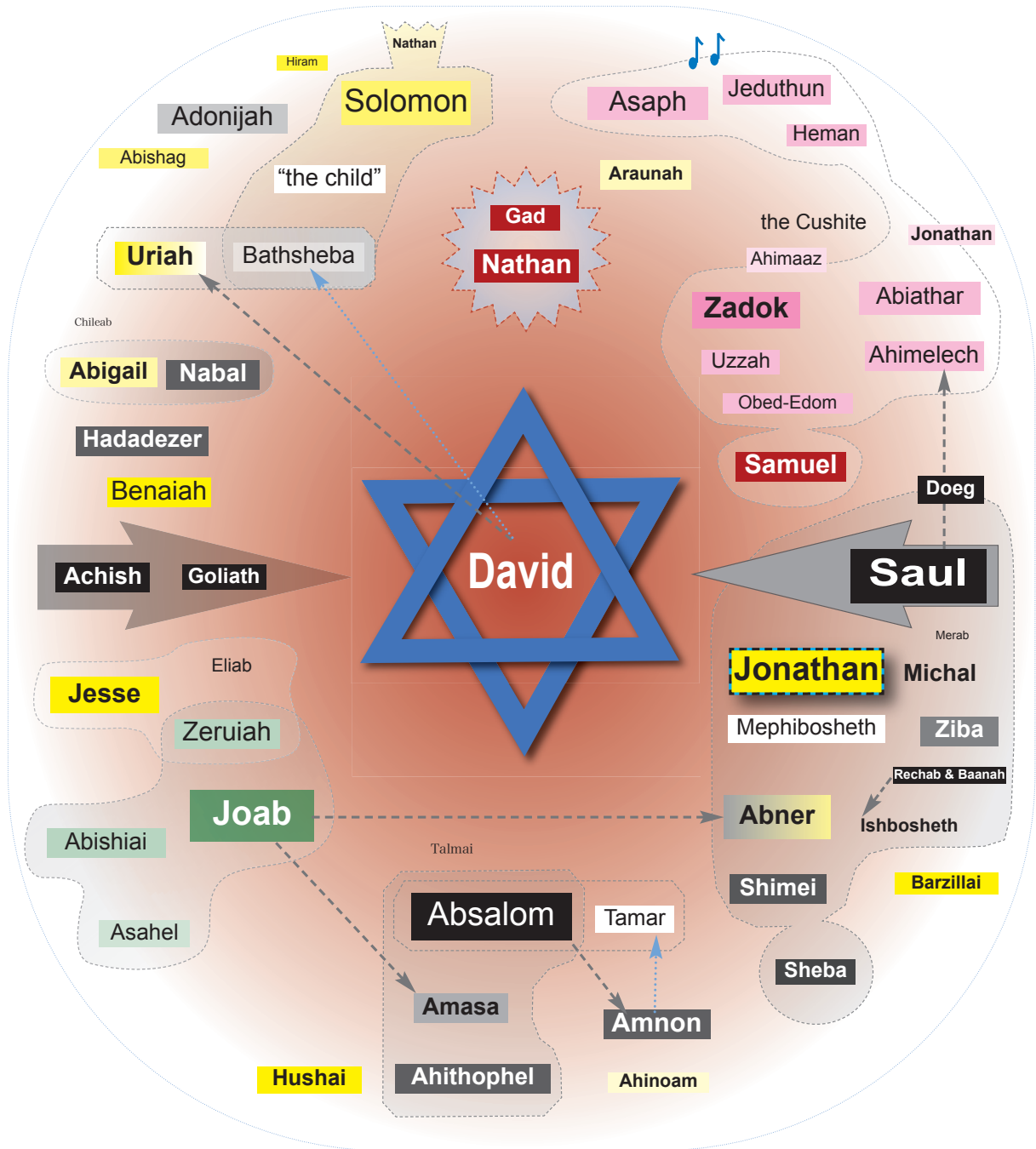


surrounded



people in the life of David

about Jonathan

1. Two things about Jonathan are well known. The first is that he was David's best friend as seen in 1 Sam. 18:1, 20:17, and 2 Sam. 1:26. Second, we know that Jonathan loved David despite being the son of King Saul who was trying to kill David. Unlike Saul, Jonathan did not view David as a threat (1 Sam. 20:30-31).

2. Like David, Jonathan showed his faith in the Lord through his military exploits against the Philistines. (See 1 Sam. 14:6-14 and 2 Sam. 1:17-27.) Their common active trust in the Lord undoubtedly played a key part in their mutual admiration and friendship.

3. That which reveals the most about Jonathan as a man of faith, however, is probably the confirming and strengthening of his covenant with David in First Samuel ch. 20. (Also, see 18:1-4.) Unlike Saul, Jonathan knew and rejoiced in the fact that David was chosen of God to be the next king.

4. The positive and negative emotions of Jonathan are also revealed in this great chapter. Notice his anger toward the shameful attitude and acts of his father in 20:33-34, as well as his grief and love for David expressed in 20:41.

5. One wonders why Jonathan used the shooting of an arrow and a prearranged coded message to communicate with David. The danger from Saul was undoubtedly involved, though Jonathan was sceptical of the danger earlier in the chapter (20:1-3). Even so, he went along with David's test (20:4-8).

descriptive terms

The list below will help you describe Jonathan as seen in 1 Sam. ch. 20. Some terms fit him well, while others do not. Use the list to help fill out the worksheet on the opposite page for yourself.

active

ambitious

angry

believing

blunt, bold

cautious

courageous

covenantal

defensive

dissappointed

emotional

enthusiastic

fearful

future-oriented

grieved

godly

influential

informative

helpful

honest

insecure

loyal

manly

naive

obedient

opportunistic

powerful

practical

responsible

secretive

selfish

serious

trusting

wise

worldly

people in the life of David series, study #5

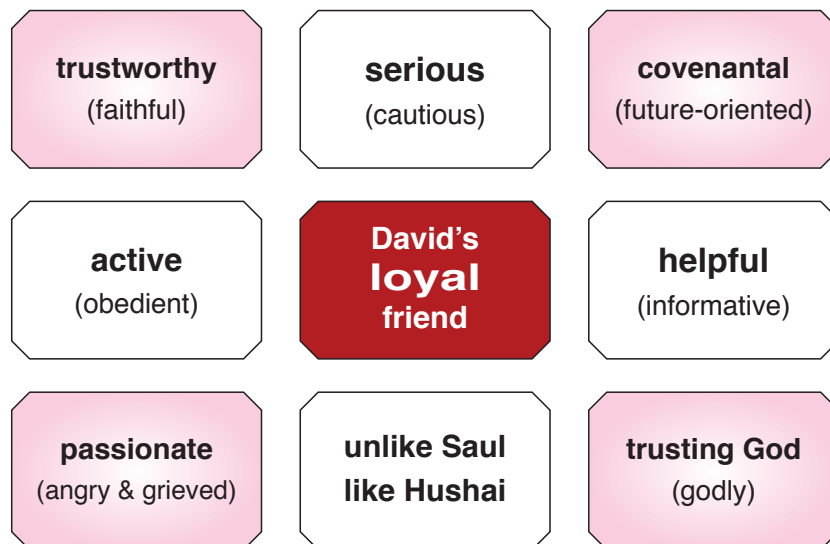
Jonathan

If you were to choose just one key thing to say about Jonathan as seen in First Samuel ch. 20 what would it be? Perhaps the main thing that should be said about him is that he was **David's loyal friend**. This is in line with the covenant made between them in the beginning (18:1-4) which was tested and reaffirmed in light of Saul's open hostility.

Describing Jonathan is like describing the nature of genuine biblical love and reminds us of descriptions in the N.T. In line with Paul's famous description, Jonathan was not envious or selfish and did not think evil things about David (1 Cor. 13:4-5) as his father did. In line with Peter's hierarchy of love in 2 Pet. 1:5-7, Jonathan's loyalty and love toward David was based on faith in God and godly courage, which probably is the core meaning of "virtue" in 2 Pet. 1:5. It took faith and courage to remain loyal to David in opposition to Saul, just as it did to face the Philistines. Whereas Saul was cowardly and unstable, Jonathan was not.

Many years later Hushai was another key friend of David's who had the necessary faith and courage to remain loyal and helpful despite great danger to himself. (See 2 Sam. 15:32-37.) Like Jonathan in First Samuel 20, he cautiously and obediently communicated to David the necessary information (2 Sam. 17:15-17) and saved David's life from Absalom.

Jonathan was...



To be loyal to the Lord Jesus as Jonathan and Hushai were to David we must be diligent to add courage to our faith as Peter exhorted us to do in 2 Pet. 1:5. Unlike Ahithophel (2 Sam. 15:31), Hushai and Jonathan were loyal to the end. Peter was, as well, according to John 21:18-19. Genuine love endures (1 Cor. 13:7-8).