

In chapters 1-10, David is seen as a positive character, with increasing blessing:

- † 5:10 says David continued to become greater because God was with him.
- † 7:9-16 quotes God as saying he will make David's name great and is establishing a covenant with him, known to us as the Davidic Covenant, regarding establishing his throne forever.
- † 8:15: says David administered justice and righteousness for all his people.
- † 9:1-13 shows David's kindness regarding Jonathan's remaining son, including great generosity and the security of having such a potential rival within his house.

In chapters 11-12, David is seen as a negative character, with decreasing blessing:

- † 11:1-4 says David did not lead his troops into battle, lusted after Bathsheba, inquired of her, and took her to bed.
- † 11:5-13 says David tried to cover up his sin instead of confessing it and making restitution.
- † 11:14-27 says David killed Bathsheba's husband and married her, which was evil in the sight of the Lord.
- † 12:1-9 shows God rebuking David through Nathan the prophet, and revealing David's hypocrisy [or judgment on self].
- † 12:10 shows God speaking through Nathan, telling David that the sword will not depart from his house now, because he despised God in taking Bathsheba as his wife.

In chapters 13-24, David is seen as both negative and positive, or – more precisely – as a man struggling due to repercussions of his sins but sustained in power by God:

- † 13:21-29 says David was angry over his son Amnon's rape of his half-sister, but David did not judge him, resulting in Absalom killing Amnon two years later.
- † 13:38-39; 14:24, 28 shows David was glad Absalom killed Amnon. He did not judge Absalom for this action, but he also did not approach Absalom while he was in exile for three years and wouldn't see him when he returned for two more years.
- † 15:14 says David fled Jerusalem in fear of Absalom. This is partially mitigated by the good news that David did not act superstitious or disrespectful about the Ark.
- † 16:10; 19:22-23 says David failed to judge those who were cursing him.
- † 18:4 says David allowed the people to talk him out of going into battle himself.
- † 18:5 shows David asking for gentleness when apprehending Absalom, thus failing to judge him again.
- † 23:1-7 shows that David retained a passion for God until the end, despite all that happened.
- † 24:1 shows the Lord was angry at Israel and that David ordered a census. This was partially mitigated by his repentance in 24:10, but 24:15 shows the result was three days of pestilence.

Throughout, David enjoyed the preservation of God despite the onset of treachery from within his family and from without, despite the troubles erupting from old enemies such as the Philistines, and despite the trouble brought on by his own sins.