

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

- Abigail** – Beautiful and wise woman that wins the affection of David as a young man and later becomes one of David's wives.
- Abishai** – David's left hand, Joab's brother, mighty warrior.
- Abner** – General for Saul, then Ish-bosheth after Saul's death. He is a capable warrior and wise. He almost formed an alliance with King David that would have ended the War of Contention. He reluctantly kills Asahel, and is later killed by Joab in retaliation.
- Absalom** – David's son: gifted, cunning, and handsome. He is known for his larger-than-life pageantry and accompanying ego. Kills his brother, steals the hearts of the people, usurps the throne of his father. He is killed by Joab in in the single battle of the War of Rebellion.
- Adonijah** – David's third son, he attempts to take the throne while his father is still living. His move for the throne fails quickly, despite gaining the support of Joab and other prominent people.
- Ahithophel** – Counsellor to Absalom during his rebellion. He kills himself after his advice is thwarted by Hushai, who is a secret agent of David.
- Amasa** – General for Absalom's armies in the War of Rebellion, later named as Joab's replacement as commander of the armies of David for a short time. Joab kills him treacherously.
- Amnon** – David's son. His twisted lust leads him to rape his half-sister Tamar. He is killed by Absalom in revenge.
- Asahel** – Joab's youngest brother, known to be brave and fast of foot. He tries to kill Abner in the War of Contention between the house of David and the house of Saul, but is defeated.
- Bathsheba** – Beautiful wife of Uriah the Hittite. She becomes the forced mistress of King David and later his wife after Uriah is murdered by the king. She is the mother of Solomon.
- David** – Shepherd, poet, warrior, slayer of Goliath, murderer of Uriah, 40-year king of Israel.
- Hushai** – David's secret agent planted in the court of Absalom during the rebellion. He spies and reports on Absalom's plans to David, and confounds the advice of Ahithophel.
- Ish-Bosheth** – Son of Saul, has a short reign over half of a divided kingdom after winning the support of the tribe of Benjamin and several of Saul's key leaders. Engages in a civil war with the

house of David to contest the rightful control of Israel (War of Contention). He is assassinated by his own men after Abner defects to David.

- Joab –** David's right hand: general, assassin, advisor, and friend. He does what he wants sometimes - not always what he is told. He carries out most of David's killing and is known to take matters into his own hands. He is not afraid to speak his mind to the king, even rebuke. Joab is a capable leader and a proficient warrior, but his complex relationship with David makes him unpredictable.
- Jonathan –** Saul's son and the favorite to succeed Saul's throne. He is an accomplished warrior that is beloved by the people. He abdicates his throne to David in a covenant of friendship defined by the Hebrew word *hesed*. He pleads David's innocence before his father Saul and protects David from the mad king.
- Mephibosheth –** Jonathan's son, Saul's grandson. He was crippled as a young child and made to live in secret for fear of David's wrath. Mephibosheth received mercy (*hesed*) from David in fulfillment of his promise to Jonathan.
- Michal –** Saul's daughter, David's wife. She is taken from David when he flees the kingdom as a fugitive and given to another of Saul's men. She is later given back to David during the War of Contention. She mocks David's worship as the ark is returned to Jerusalem.
- Nathan –** A prophet that acts as the corrective voice of God to David during his reign. Nathan confronts David after his sins against Bathsheba and Uriah. Later he is present at the anointing of David's heir.
- Samuel –** Prophet, sage, kingmaker. He is the voice of God to the people. He anoints Saul as king, and later he presides over Saul's rejection as king. Samuel anoints David as a boy in anticipation of his ascension to the throne.
- Saul –** Israel's first king - a hero turned villain. He is tall, handsome, and impressive, yet known to be paranoid, fearful, and anxious. The latter years of Saul's reign are marked by instability as he unsuccessfully strives to retain his power.
- Shimei –** Supporter of King Saul that taunts, shames, and abuses David while David flees from Absalom. When David returned to the throne, Shimei begs for mercy.
- Solomon –** Another of David's younger sons; his mother is Bathsheba. Solomon is the only one of David's sons that doesn't make a play for the throne while his father is still living. David names him his heir and gives him command of his private army. Solomon is known for his legendary wisdom, and his reign is the high-water mark for Israel.
- Tamar –** Beautiful daughter of David, sister to Absalom. She was shamed and abused by her half-brother Amnon and used to advance the political goals of her brother Absalom. Her story is tragic.