

King David: Priest, Prophet, and King

1. Introduction: The Pivotal Figure

- David is a pivotal figure in the Bible, looking back toward Adam and forward to Jesus, the "Son of David."
 - David embodies the roles of **priest, prophet, and king**.
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2. David as the Sweet Singer of Israel

- **David the musician:** He first appears playing the harp for King Saul to relieve him from headaches, reflecting David's ability to touch hearts through music.
 - **Lyrical leadership:** Great leaders, such as **Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill, and Martin Luther King Jr.**, led through the power of language, expressing their nations' and people's spirit.
 - **The power of song:** David's connection to the Psalms represents his role as someone who understands and uses words to move others spiritually.
 - **Modern call:** There is a need for "sweet singers" today in Christianity, to express biblical truths in a compelling and lyrical way.
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3. David as the Warrior

- **David vs. Goliath:** This iconic story shows David's courage and faith in God. Goliath represents worldly power and intimidation, but David trusts in the Lord and overcomes him with a simple slingshot.
- **Spiritual meaning:** David's battle reflects the believer's struggle against the powers of a materialistic world. We are called to face worldly challenges with trust in God, not by using the world's weapons.

- **John Paul II in Poland:** His speech in 1979 without military power, yet sparking the collapse of Soviet dominance, exemplifies this biblical principle of spiritual warfare through faith.
 - **David's downfall:** In 2 Samuel 11, David becomes complacent, stays home instead of going to battle, and sins with **Bathsheba**, showing that even great leaders can fall when they stop listening to God.
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4. David as the Priest

- **The Ark of the Covenant:** David brings the Ark into Jerusalem, understanding that **right worship** is essential for the kingdom's well-being.
 - **Priestly actions:** David dons an ephod (priestly garment) and dances with abandon before the Ark, symbolizing his alignment with God's will through worship.
 - **The dance of praise:** David's dance represents being in rhythm and harmony with God, and it serves as a model for liturgical actions later in the Temple and in Christian worship.
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5. David's Role Anticipating Christ

- **Priest, Prophet, and King:** David prefigures Christ in these three roles, as Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of David's lineage.
 - **Jesus as the New David:** In the genealogy of Matthew, Jesus is presented as the Son of David, the long-awaited Messiah who embodies these three offices.
 - **The Temple:** David's vision of the Temple as the meeting place of heaven and earth is realized in Jesus, who becomes the true Temple where God and humanity meet.
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6. Elijah: The Great Prophet

- **Elijah's confrontation with Ahab:** Elijah emerges to confront King Ahab, who led Israel into idolatry by worshiping false gods, primarily **Baal**.
 - **Bad worship = bad society:** Elijah shows how false worship leads to societal and spiritual decay, invoking a drought as a consequence of Israel's idolatry.
 - **The showdown at Mount Carmel:** Elijah challenges the 450 prophets of Baal in a public display of faith. Despite their efforts, Baal's prophets fail to summon fire, while Elijah's prayer to God is answered with fire from heaven.
 - **Right worship:** Elijah's victory illustrates that only worship of the true God brings fulfillment, while false gods (wealth, power, pleasure, and honor) lead to emptiness.
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7. Isaiah's Call to Prophecy

- **Isaiah's vision:** In Isaiah 6, Isaiah encounters God on a throne, surrounded by seraphim who proclaim, "Holy, Holy, Holy." This vision reveals the transcendence and immanence of God.
- **The call to mission:** Isaiah, aware of his sinfulness in the presence of God, receives purification through a burning coal, symbolizing divine grace. He then responds to God's call, saying, "Here I am; send me!"