A special note about studying the life of King David.

As you read through the historical portions of the Old Testament, you will notice some events are recorded more than once. For example, the life of David is covered in I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, I Chronicles, and II Chronicles.

The books of 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles both tell the extended story of King David’s reign, yet they do so in strikingly different ways. Whereas the author of Samuel tells the tragic story of David’s sin and subsequent troubles, the author of Chronicles focuses almost entirely on David’s blessings.

The author of Chronicles, writing after the return from exile, needed to encourage Israel toward wholehearted devotion to God in a time of blessing. Both authors offer a tour of the same reign, but they take different paths to communicate different lessons for their original audiences[[1]](#endnote-1).

King David had a full life.

Consider Psalm 37:25

**Life Lesson #32** - Senior Saints have unique perspectives on God. They “know” him to be faithful, while many others are still “learning” to trust God.

The study of the life of David should cause this verse to take on a greater meaning. We have seen David grow up before our eyes, rise and fall, succeed and fail. As we follow the Scriptures, we watch him age. The brash young boy who bragged his way into and through his most defining moments becomes an old man, and it appears that he figured life out.

It has been said by many people that real maturity is not really possible before the age of 40 or even 50. Even people who are thrust into adulthood, need several decades to fully understand their purpose and God’s plan for them. People who miss childhood, actually miss more than fun and games. They miss foundational life lessons that are best taught to children, things like honesty, integrity, self-control, and discipline.

David lived a full life. He was raised well. He lived, he loved, he laughed, he worked, he had children, and he grew old and died. In this lesson, we will focus on his last few years. We will see him finish strong.

The Scriptures make it very clear that David was blessed to get old….I Kings 1:1, I Chronicles 23:1

Clearing the way

The Scriptures share a major family drama in I Kings. The timelines are difficult to follow, but one thing is clear, Solomon almost missed the opportunity to lead. David and Bathsheba were well aware that God had assigned Solomon to lead after David. Unfortunately, that point was not clearly communicated. In perhaps the final family drama during David’s life, he had to act quickly to prevent God’s will from being averted.

Consider I Kings 1:5-53 What a story!

**Life Lesson #33.** There are some things that we must do before we die. Otherwise, there will be undesired outcomes.

The desire to build a Temple for the Lord

King David earnestly wanted to build a temple for the Lord. This was a driving dream of his. He had it in his mind when he captured Jerusalem, and when he brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. We can only imagine his disappointment by the revelation that God would not permit him to build it. But that revelation did not break his will and willingness.

Consider II Samuel 7:1-17, also in I Chronicles 17.

Preparing the Way

As we read I Chronicles chapters 22-29, we see David winding down his career with an eye on the future.

* David helps Solomon. I Chronicles 22:1-5
* David organizes the Levites. I Chronicles 23, I Chronicles 24:20-31, I Chronicles 26:29-32
* David organizes the Priests. I Chronicles 24:1-19
* David appoints musicians. I Chronicles 25
* David appoints porters for the Temple. I Chronicles 26:1-19
* David appoints treasurers for the Temple. I Chronicles 26:20-28
* David appoints Captains for each month. I Chronicles 27
* David prepared the people to fear God. I Chronicles 28
* David prepared the people to support Solomon. I Chronicles 29:1
* Most of all, David had documented his plans for the future.

Consider I Chronicles 22:1-5 and I Chronicles 28:11-21

Pouring into the next generation

We have talked at length about the problems David had with his sons. His inaction with them is perhaps his biggest failure. However, based on the Scriptures from the final days of his life, it seems that David was very present in the formative years of young Solomon. The instructions he gave Solomon were profound. In light of David’s life, his advice to Solomon was the result of a lifetime of experience with God.

As wise as Solomon would become, David could say, “I taught him everything he knows!”

I Kings 2:1-11, and I Chronicles 29:1-9

**Life Lesson #34** - Help the next generation by equipping them, through example. Be the kind of person that offers advice freely and frequently.

**Life Lesson #35** - We must also be the kind of people who leave resources for the next generation as well. David left iron, wood, gold, silver, stones and blueprints!

1. [Same King, Different Story | Desiring God](https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/same-king-different-story) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)