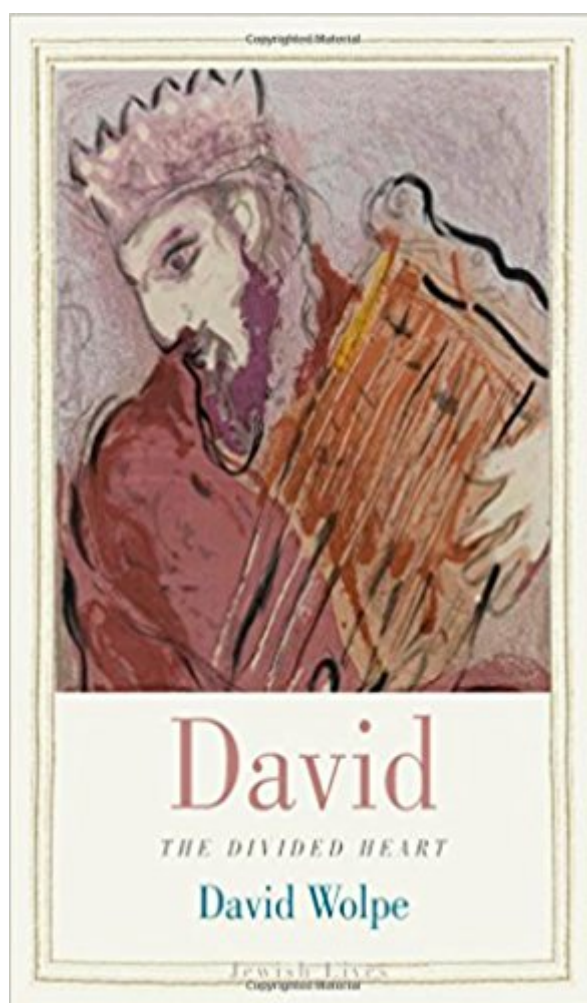


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David: The Divided Heart (Jewish Lives)



Synopsis

A reexamination of the biblical David, legendary warrior, poet, and king, by one of America's most respected rabbis. Of all the figures in the Bible, David arguably stands out as the most perplexing and enigmatic. He was many things: a warrior who subdued Goliath and the Philistines; a king who united a nation; a poet who created beautiful, sensitive verse; a loyal servant of God who proposed the great Temple and founded the Messianic line; a schemer, deceiver, and adulterer who freely indulged his very human appetites. David Wolpe, whom Newsweek called "the most influential rabbi in America," takes a fresh look at biblical David in an attempt to find coherence in his seemingly contradictory actions and impulses. The author questions why David holds such an exalted place in history and legend, and then proceeds to unravel his complex character based on information found in the book of Samuel and later literature. What emerges is a fascinating portrait of an exceptional human being who, despite his many flaws, was truly beloved by God.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This is an excellent study of the most fascinating character in the Old Testament." —Wall Street Journal
"How can a man who murders his lover's husband in order to cover up an adulterous affair be fit to be king? . . . Wolpe gently and gracefully explores the many facets of king, sinner, father, lover, and husband, among others that together create

David's outsized personality . . . In the end, the author observes, contemporary readers identify with David so well because he is full of contradictions, and he is great because of this complexity, not in spite of it." •Publishers Weekly"Engaging . . . Boring has no place in David's story, or in this lively and thoughtful appreciation of that story." •Los Angeles Review of Books"A portrait of David that is vibrant and nuanced, full of the complications that marked his life." •Jewish Week"A lovely book (whose) power is in its artistry." •Walter Brueggemann, Christian Century"David Wolpe's fascination with his namesake brings to life in stunning clarity why King David is the most beloved man in the Bible." •Moment"An estimable book brimming with insight, and an excellent short reworking of the story of the biblical David in a way that both educates and instructs. This book deserves a space in every Jewish library." •Association of Jewish Libraries "A sensitive and utterly unsparing reading of the most attractive and least edifying character in the Hebrew Bible." •Jack Miles

David Wolpe is the rabbi of the Sinai Temple in Los Angeles. He is the author of seven books, including the national bestseller Making Loss Matter: Creating Meaning in Difficult Times. He lives in Los Angeles, CA.

I am a history buff but usually get very turned off by most history written on Biblical subjects. They are so often useless rehashing of popular but highly disputed conventional wisdom. Wolpe's treatise is a rare exception. He writes with respect for the historical and religious perspectives but takes an approach very similar to Abarbanel (highly respected medieval Biblical commentator) which allows him to bring in relevant psychological analysis without negating the clear religious intentions contained in the books of Samuel and Kings. Wolpe also makes his work highly readable. You feel the complex character of David and really appreciate - despite all of his foibles - how extraordinary a king he was compared to all others of his times. No kings in those days allowed "religious fanatics" to embarrass them in public by bringing attention to their wrong doings. David does and is haunted by his own actions. Yet he is not incapacitated by them as was Saul. Quality reading.

This biography of David should be read together with Halberstam's The Beginning of Politics. Wolof in a recent article criticizes Halberstam's analysis, but I find the two books complement each other. Very worth reading, both of them!

I'll be reading this book again and again. Wolpe breaks it up into "Young/Husband/Fugitive/King/Sinner/Father/Caretaker/Death/Future" so pretty much a direct depiction of the arc of life and living. The insights into the life of David go as deep and wide as you can go. If you are a person or are in a family or have a family of your own, you should read this book.

The author provides brilliant insight into King David's character and personality. King David is portrayed as a man of both great strengths and also as a man who has many faults. The narrative of King David's life is clear and concise. This is a superbly written book that is suitable for people regardless of their religious affiliation.

WOW!! LOVE this book for so many reasons. This book is a good combination of head and heart, holy and Hollywood! 'David' is an old captivating story of a king, and David, the author, brings it to life in a way that it captures the past, and relates it to modern life and makes it everlasting, just like King David himself. This book is a good read; it makes you think and makes you feel. A 'beloved' book, indeed!

This was a fascinating book about a man who was both a remarkable leader and yet amazingly self-centered. It seems that throughout it all, however, he never lost his desire to be closer to God

An interesting essay of what it takes for leadership. The more one reads, ponder & reflect the life and who David really is one can only absorb what it takes to be a leader having difficult trials & tribulations to overcome

A very well done account of the Biblical David and his faith. Written by a rabbi, it has implications for Jews and Christians as well as Muslims. David's flaws are evident, yet his work and his poetic passions live on.

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