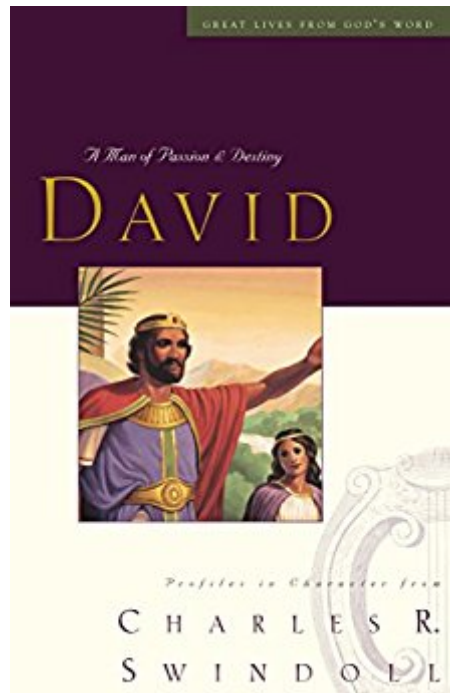




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Great Lives: David: A Man Of Passion And Destiny (Great Lives Series)



Synopsis

David, unlike any Bible character before him, had the charisma to inspire a great nation. Yet in other ways he was a most ordinary man-often gripped by destructive passion, rocked by personal tragedy, and motivated by political gain. Yet, he is the one character the Bible describes as a "man after God's own heart." In this first volume of the "Great Lives" series Charles Swindoll shows how David proved his love for God many times over in an extraordinary life that left an enduring legacy of faith.

Book Information

File Size: 598 KB

Print Length: 332 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Up to 5 simultaneous devices, per publisher limits

Publisher: Thomas Nelson (February 6, 1997)

Publication Date: February 6, 1997

Sold by:Â HarperCollins Publishing

Language: English

ASIN: B007V93NDE

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #76,761 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #5 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Biographies > Old Testament #5 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Sacred Writings > Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) > Biography #20 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Old Testament > Biography

Customer Reviews

Mr. Swindoll gives you a complete account of David's life. Not only does he accurately depict the greatness of David, the anointing by Samuel, the victory over Goliath, and the courage of David, but he also vividly portrays the human side of greatness. That is the fleshly side. For so long we have to come to highly esteem our Biblical brothers and sisters just for the good side and great accomplishments. Mr. Swindoll takes you into every aspect of David's human side (David's sin and

faults). He expounds on David's lack of discipline toward his children, his inability to provide a functional home, his quick temper with Nabal the husband of Abigail, his issues with Bathsheba that we all know about along with his murderous plot of Uriah, his pride in numbering the people of God, and the rashness (quick judgment) of his counsel as when he was instructed by the Prophet Nathan to build God a house. This was not God's will for David but he was instructed as so. I don't want to dwell on the negatives, I just want to commend Dr. Swindoll for covering the whole aspect of the life of David and not just the good. Every human being, even Bible great ones as David, have two sides. We ought to learn from both. Take the good side of the great ones and model it. Then take the faulty human side in order to learn how not to make the same mistakes. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Romans 15:4. I commend Dr. Swindoll for doing a wonderful job of covering every side of the life of David. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is looking to take the lives of the Bible Patriots as a modeling tool and as a studying tool. This book was recommended to me by a friend. and I do the same to any interested party

Consistent with Swindoll's writing style, the reader sees the character as described by the Bible - both good and bad. While David was Israel's greatest king, he also committed grievous sins that adversely impacted those around him. Even so, he was described as "a man after God's heart". Some of the excellent points Swindoll covers in his book include: 1. God can use our talents and use them for His glory. 2. Do not fight battles in your own strength! Rely on the Lord and His timing and methods. 3. How our bad decisions affect others. 4. God cares about the details of your life - the better you know your standing with the Lord, the freer you are. 5. We must not abuse God's grace to sin and expect no consequences. 6. When God says no to our dreams, it may be because of redirection in our lives. 7. The importance of having a thick skin - if you want God to use you, you need to shed your ultrasensitivity. 8. Important notes about true friendship. All in all, an excellent read that can encourage us and sober us about the impact we have on other people!

This book was definitely for me! Moses, I believe, is one of Swindoll's finest works. There are so many lessons to be taken from the life of Moses, and Swindoll makes a pretty good attempt at fitting as many in one book as possible. One of the key messages I got from the book is the outline of what a great leader is. This book would certainly serve those in the ministry well.

Charles Swindoll does an excellent, if not remarkable, job of not only presenting the trials of David in

modern day life, but he also vividly illustrates the psalmist's shortcomings into lessons for today. Without a doubt, this book was written with God's guidance (no slight intended towards Mr. Swindoll), and I recommend this book to be used as a tool for the Christian of today in his/her walk with God. Upon finishing, I not only had renewed insight upon David, but also within myself, and found newborn strength to conquer my own daily struggles. God has anointed this book, of that there is no doubt, and I strongly urge Christians to delve into it.

Contrary to what the first reviewer says, I believe "Moses" is excellent and consistent with Swindoll's other titles - warts and all. Indeed, since the Bible does not gloss over a person's sin, then why should books about Biblical characters overlook their flaws? We can learn important lessons from people's failures, specifically: how not to repeat them! Among the important points Swindoll mentions in his book are: 1. God can use "losers" and "accidents" for His glory. 2. Let God operate His will in your life in His time and way. 3. There are no shortcuts to maturity. 4. God prefers to use broken people instead of the proud and self-sufficient. 5. Be willing to surrender every detail of your life under the authority of Jesus Christ. 6. We do not know how to live until we learn to die. 7. When we try to make things happen, things are forced. When God is in something, things flow smoothly. 8. You cannot scoff at God forever. His judgments may take time, but they are decisive when they happen! Instead of belittling Swindoll's book, I much prefer to honestly analyze my Christian walk and be ever mindful that should I become too proud or self-sufficient, I stand to experience failures like Moses did. Why should we always read the Bible or a Christian book with the intention of feeling better about ourselves? Sometimes we have to be convicted by the Holy Spirit before He does a great work in our lives. Indeed, two of the Holy Spirit's roles is to convict us of sin and to keep us from falling into sin. Before we can be used by God, He must first refine our character. I highly recommend Swindoll's book - be honest in your walk with the Lord and always remember, He can work great things through us not because of ourselves, but in spite of ourselves - a perfect picture of His unmerited grace towards us! Read the book and be challenged and encouraged!

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