



The Books of Samuel Introduction to the Course

Interpreting the Text:

1. Dr. Baden shared in the video that there is little in the archaeological record to authenticate the story of David's kingship. Is it important whether the stories in the Books of Samuel are historical or not? If so, why?
2. In the books of Samuel, David is often portrayed as a complex figure. Why might the storyteller here want to portray David as more human than saint?
3. What light do these stories shed on the ancient institution of the monarchy, and its strengths and weaknesses? How can we think about the work of leaders in Judges as we embark on the story of the Israelite monarchy?

Applying the Text:

1. How have you imagined King David based on what you know of him? What sources (scripture or popular culture) influence your idea of him?
2. The story of David is told in a compelling prosaic fashion. How does storytelling affect how we hear and share stories?