



The Books of Samuel David's Decline

Interpreting the Text:

1. How might we understand the parallels between the stories of David's sons and the patriarchal narratives, especially the removal of the three eldest sons (of David and Jacob, respectively) in favor of the fourth (Solomon and Judah, respectively)?
2. How do David's sons, especially Absalom and Solomon, learn lessons in gaining power from their father?
3. How do these chapters contribute to the overall picture of David and his reign? What part do they play in the later traditions of David that view him as beloved and powerful?

Applying the Text:

1. How has your opinion of David changed during this study of the books of Samuel? What will you keep in mind when you next interact with these texts?
2. Do you find the story of the Israelite kings significant to your understanding of God or your faith in God? How so?