Yale
DIVINITY SCHOOL
Yale Bible Study

Kings and Chronicles
The Book of Kings – Part 1

Interpreting the Text:

1. What is your impression of Solomon's character? Do you think he comes off as a hero in this story? What bias does the author seem to have?

2. Did you notice anything unique about how Israel's history is portrayed in Kings compared to other books in the Hebrew Bible? What purpose would this text have served for its original readers?

3. What is your impression of the book of Kings' narrator? Does the storyteller sound like an objective observer? Are there any points in the text that sound more biased than others?

Applying the Text:

1. How is Solomon seen in your own faith communities? Does he represent wisdom, or perhaps serves as a reminder that we are all capable of falling from grace?

2. This book feels more like a true historical text than some other books of the Bible, even citing outside resources for reference. Do the books of Kings feel different than books like Genesis or Judges, even though they all belong to a canon of scripture? Do you use them differently in worship or Bible study?