

THE KINGDOM, HISTORY

Read: II Samuel, I & II Kings, Skim I & II Chronicles.

Continue reading in Anderson in Part II, *Israel becomes like the Nations*

Write: A short paper on the city of Jerusalem. What makes this city so special and Why is it such a source of conflict now.

Questions for Class Discussion

When was II Samuel written? When was I Chronicles written? How can you explain the difference in their accounts of the same story? Why do you think I Chronicles leaves out the Bathsheba story?

Both Saul and David sinned against the Lord and both were confronted by their court chaplains. (I Sam 15; II Sam 11 & 12). Ponder their different responses and the different styles that Samuel and Nathan used to speak to the king. What can we learn from these stories about how to help someone understand what they are doing.

Notice the role of prayer in these books. Identify some of the prayers, who prayed them and why.

What do you learn from the stories about the responsibility of someone in a leadership position being scrupulous about knowing and keeping the law? Is anyone exempt from keeping the law?

When you live between two great powers (e.g. Egypt & Assyria) are you more afraid of offending political power or God? What about depending on Military Strength rather than God? How does a community find its security in God?

Are we to love God so that God will keep us safe or give us what we want? Is ours a bargaining kind of love, or are we to love God just because God is God? (Look at Josiah's response to Huldah's prophecy; II Kings 23)

Is it possible to remain completely loyal to God in a pluralistic society?

***“Lord, Remember David,
And all the hardships he endured”***
Psalm 132 BCP p.785