

Some of the scholarly issues about the David story

1. Who wrote it? When? Why? Some options:

- a. Apologists for the Solomonic regime, at roughly the time of the events
- b. 8th century justification for later kings of Judah in Jerusalem
- c. 7th century justification for Hezekiah or Josiah's reigns
- d. 6th century explanation of the end of Jerusalem
- e. 5th century, Persian era justification for rebuilding Jerusalem
- f. 3rd century, Hellenistic era justification for maintaining national identity around Jerusalem
- g. One of endless possible combinations of the above

2. Is it promonarchy, antimonarchy or some combination?

3. How much of the narrative reflects real events?

4. How can archaeology assist in these questions?

- a. Challenge of being unable to excavate under Jerusalem
- b. Ambiguity of available evidence

5. What is the relationship between the story in 1-2 Samuel and the one in 1-2 Chronicles?

- a. Scholarly consensus that Chronicles is later than Samuel
- b. Ongoing debate on the relationship between the two texts

6. What is the relationship between 1-2 Samuel and other, earlier texts of the Hebrew Bible?

- a. Many connections with Genesis; question of which was written first (i.e., which is echoing the other)
- b. Ongoing debate on relationship with the rest of the "Deuteronomistic History" (Deuteronomy-2 Kings)
- c. Ongoing debate on relationship with Exodus (early Moses tradition)

7. What is the relationship between 1-2 Samuel and other, later texts?

- a. "messianic" expectations in Roman era (i.e., time of Jesus) associated with David from 2 Samuel 7
- b. Debate on relationship with Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls) texts and community
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