

The Story of King David, King of Israel

As told in Samuel 1 and 2

Course #	21FSTD
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Gene Fisher
Date and Time:	Thursday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/30/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	16
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: This seminar seeks to convey the character of David in all its complexity and depth.

Description: The story of David is "one of the most astounding pieces of narrative that has come down to us from the ancient world" (Robert Alter, *The David Story*). In each of our two-hour seminar meetings, the first hour will be devoted to an episode within the David story. The second hour will be concerned with themes running through the story.

The moderator will create a list of sixteen topics, eight dealing with important episodes in the story (for example, David slaying Goliath). The remaining eight topics focus on themes running through the story (for example, why the Israelites demanded a King).

Role of participants: Members will choose either an episode or a theme. They will present their research on their chosen topic and lead a period of comment and discussion.

Resources: All participants will read *The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel* by Robert Alter, 1999. An equivalent, but more expensive source is *The Hebrew Bible, A Translation with Commentary by Robert Alter, 2019*. Members should consult other sources, translations, and commentaries to supplement their presentation. Some possible sources will be listed in the weeks running up to the seminar.

About the Moderator: Gene is a Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts. Since joining LIR in 2017 he has moderated several seminars, including one on the Psalms of David, and attended as many more.