

Journeys Class assigned reading for our class next Sunday, September 27.

Our reading will be the first half of the account of David's reign widely thought to have been written by a contemporary of his, or of his son Solomon. Also, we'll read two of the four "Servant Songs" from II Isaiah.

II Samuel 9-14

Isaiah 42:1-4 and 49:1-6.

Some context for the David story: Saul was the original king of Israel. Previously, it had been ruled by what we would today call "warlords." They were then called "judges" because one of their functions was to keep disputes among tribe members from becoming violent. But divided as the tribes were, they were no match for the various Canaanite tribes who opposed their settlement. So, the tribes petitioned God to give them a king. God's prophet Samuel designated Saul. Saul was a good king for a while, but he fell mentally ill and eventually committed suicide. David, his son-in-law, took his place after a short succession dispute. His challenge as a Judean, that is, someone from the southern tribe, was to unite the northern tribes of Israel with the southern tribe of Judah, plus of course to protect the kingdom from the constantly threatening Canaanites.

See you on Sunday!

Dick