

LIFE OF DAVID—HANDOUT 1

1 Samuel 25:10

A. “Who is David?”

מִי דָוִד

B. “And who is the son of Jesse” (Hebrew, *ben-Jesse*)

וּמִן בֶּן־יֵשׁוּעַ

Hebrew Parallelism or Hebrew Symmetry (Narrative and Poetry):

What is A (“Who is David?”)

And What is More, B (“Who is *ben-Jesse*?”)

Illustration:

What is A: “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity” (Ps. 51:2a)
And What is More, B: “And cleanse me from my sin.” (Ps. 51:2b)

What is A: “For I know my transgressions.” (Ps. 51:3a)
And What is More, B: “And my sin is ever before me.” (Ps. 51:3b)

Biblical-theological Paradigm:

Protological David (David the First)
Eschatological David (David the Last)

(Based on the language of the Greek New Testament: *protos* = “first”; *eschatos* = “last”)

Archaeology

Foundation Stones of David’s Palace (Eilat Mazar, attached)

Tel Dan Inscription (attached)

Date

David reigned 40 years (2 Sam. 5:4) (1010-970 B.C.)

Saul reigned 40 years (Acts 13:21) (1050-1010 B.C.)

Solomon reigned 40 years (1 Kings 11:42) (970-930 B.C.)

Current Discussion:

Hermeneutics of Inspiration

Historicity of David, Jerusalem and the United Monarchy
K.A. Kitchen (*On the Reliability of the Old Testament*), Gleason Archer (*Survey of Old Testament Introduction*), Eugene Merrill (*Kingdom of Priests*)

Hermeneutics of Suspicion

David as a Myth, Invention of 7th B.C. Judaism, Rogue, “Mobster” and “Thug”
Israel Finkelstein (*Bible Unearthed*), Baruch Halpern (*David's Secret Demons*),
Steven McKenzie (*King David: A Biography*)

Macrostructure: 1 Samuel 15-31

David's Rise and Saul's Demise: or Constitution of David's Kingdom and
Destitution of Saul's Kingdom

A. Saul and Amalek (1 S 15) → David Anointed King (16) → Death of Samuel (25:1)

Shift from Kingdom of Saul to Kingdom of David (1 S 24-29)

A'. David and Amalek (1 S 30) → David Acts as King (30:26ff.) → Death of Saul (31)

OR

A. David's Rise and Exile to the Philistines (1 S 16-21)

Narrative Transition Point: Slaughter of the Priests of Nob (1 S 22)

A'. Saul's Demise and Death by the Philistines (1 S 23-31)

Displacement Motif

(young) Samuel → (old) Eli (1 Sam. 3)
(young) Saul → (old) Samuel (1 Sam. 8, 9)
(young) David → (old) Saul (1 Sam. 16)
(young) Solomon → (old) David (1 Kings 2)

?Step-Stone Narrative Progression

Eli (Judge) → Samuel (Prophet/Judge)
Samuel (Judge/Prophet) → Saul (King)
Saul (False King) → David (True King)
David (Warrior King) → Solomon (King in *Shalom*)

Literary Aspects of Narrative Drama

Scene or Location
Setting or Occasion
Plot or Narrative Development
Characterization
Redemptive-Historical of Biblical-Theological Drama

Microstructure: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Suggestion #1 (Spatial Motif)

“Samuel went to Ramah” (15:34)

Shift: “Samuel . . . came to Bethlehem” (16:4)

“Samuel went to Ramah” (16:13)

Suggestion #2 (Occasion Motif)

“horn” “oil” (16:1)

Shift: Saul to David

“horn” “oil” (16:13)

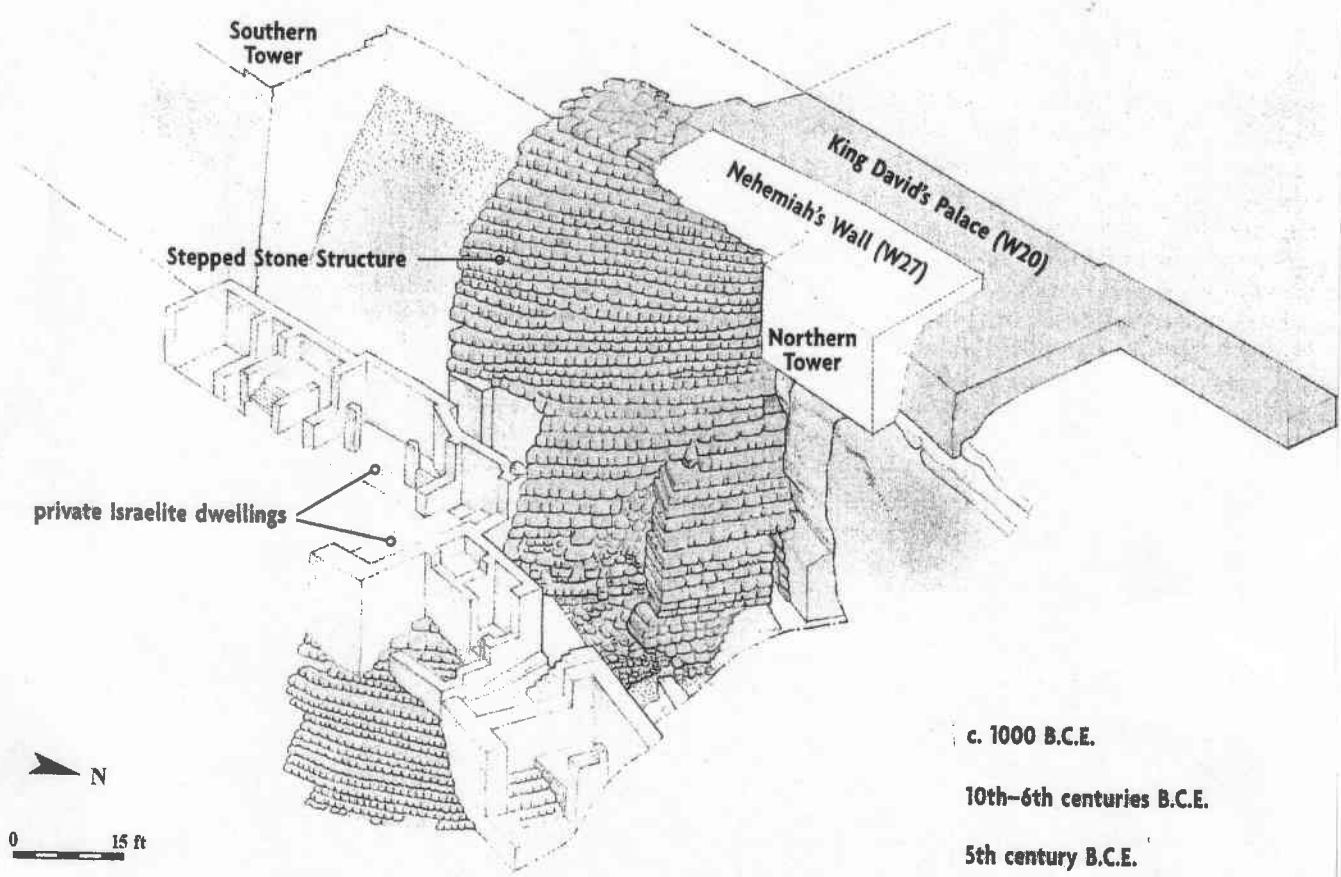
Suggestion #3 (Character Motif)

Samuel (16:1)

Shift: David (16:6-13)

Samuel (16:13)





c. 1000 B.C.E.
10th-6th centuries B.C.E.
5th century B.C.E.



←

that we are dealing with epigraphers' mirages are indeed remote. We are, however, moving on slippery ground, and the reader may judge whether the proposals made in this article are convincing or not. For ease of reference, I will first give the editors' text and translation, followed by my own and a commentary.

Text and translation of Biran and Naveh ("A New Fragment", 12-13):

1. [] *mr.* '[] *wgزر* []
 2. [] *'by.ysq*['*lwh.bh*]'*tlhnh.b'*-[.]
 3. *wyškb.* *'by.yhk.* '*l.*'*bhw*]'*h.wy'l.mlky*[š]
 4. *r'l.qdm.b'rq.* *'by*[. *w*]'*yhmlk.hdd*[.] '*lty.*
 5. *'nh.wyhk.hdd.qdmy*[. *w*] *'pq.mn.* *šb'*[t.--]
 6. *y.mlky.w'qtl.ml*[*kn. šb*] '*n.* *'sry.* '*lpy.r*]
 7. *kb.w'lpy.prš.* [*qilt.* *'yt.yhw*]'*rm.br.* [*'h'b*]
 8. *mlk.yšr'l.wqtl*[t. *'yt.* *'h'z*]'*yhw.br*[. *'yhwrm.ml*]
 - 9. *k.bytdwd.w'sm.* []
 10. *yt.* *'rq.hm.* [*yšmn*]
 11. *'hrn.wlh-* [] *wyhw' m*]
 12. *lk.* '*l.yš*[*r'l.*] *w'sm.*]
 13. *mšr.* '*l.* []
1. [... ...] ... [...] and cut [...]
 2. [...] my father went up [against him when h]e fought at [...]
 3. and my father lay down, he went to his [ancestors (viz. became sick and died)]. And the king of I[s-]
 4. rael entered previously in my father's land, [and] Hadad made me king,
 5. And Hadad went in front of me, [and] I departed from the seven [...]
 6. s of my kingdom, and I slew [seve]nty kin[gs], who harnessed thou[sands of cha-]
 7. riots and thousands of horsemen (or: horses). [I killed Jeho]ram son of [Ahab]
 8. king of Israel, and [I] killed [Ahaz]iahu son of [Jehoram kin-]
 9. g of the House of David, and I set [their towns into ruins and turned]
 10. their land into [desolation]
 11. other [...] and Jehu ru-
 12. led over Is[rael] and I laid]
 13. siege upon []

Text and translation:

1. [*'nh.hwy*]'*t.*] *šr.* '*l.*'*bdy.ml*]'*wgزر*[. *dynh.*]
2. [*'h'z*]'*h'l.* *'by.ysg*[*pnh.bh*]'*tlhnh.b'b*[*y.*]
3. *wyškb.* *'by.yhk.* '*l.*'*qryt*]'*h.wy'l.mlky*[š]
4. *r'l.qdm.b'rq.* *'by*[. *w*]'*yhmlk.hdd*[.] '*lty.*
5. *'nh.wyhk.hdd.qdmy*[. *w*] *'pq.m--b'* [...]
6. *y.mlky.w'qtl.ml*[*kn. šr*]'*yn.* *'sry.* '*lpy.r*]