

Choose one of the topics below for your essay on *The David Story*

- First speeches. In the first footnote (page 47) in 1 Sam 9:5 an interesting observation is made concerning the first speech that is made by a character in the Bible: "According to the general principle of biblical narrative that the first reported speech of a character is a defining moment of characterization." Although this may not be true for every character in the Bible, the example given is "Saul's first utterance [which] reveals him as a young man uncertain about pursuing his way, and quite concerned about his father." Saul says, "Come, let us turn back, lest my father cease worrying about the asses and worry about us" (1 Sam 9:5). Locate three other characters in *The David Story* whose first speeches "defines" their characterization.
- Is Saul a tragic figure? When we studied *Oedipus the King*, we also looked at the criteria that Aristotle established for a tragic figure. (You can review the specific criteria on Blackboard if you need to.) Look at all the information we have concerning Saul and determine if Saul is a tragic figure according to Aristotle. Give specific examples from 1 Samuel that will justify your ideas. Be sure to cite the chapter and verse(s) from which the examples come. Also be sure to include all facets of the characteristics of the tragic hero.
- Saul's reign as King of Israel. Trace Saul's story as he is chosen to be king and the expectations that he is expected to have and how he exemplifies the characteristics of a king. Also keep in mind the relationship he has with both Samuel and David during his kingship and how his encounters shape his decisions. Include in your discussion the impact that Samuel has on Saul and the influence the prophet has on Saul. Also show how David's presence and relationship with God antagonizes Saul's actions.
- David and Saul. Compare and contrast Saul and David as kings. Look at how each was chosen and why they were selected to be kings. What positive and negative attributes did each have and how did these characteristics influence their relationship, as well as their ability to be admired (or rejected) by their people.
- The influence of others on David. Look at the relationship David had with Jonathan, Bathsheba, Absalom, and Nathan. How did each of these persons impact David either positively or negatively. In your discussion consider any other individuals directly related to these four persons who influenced David.

Paper is due on Monday, Nov. 30, 2020, by noon.

Be sure to include citations from the text. The proper way to cite direct quotations or paraphrased material from the Bible is to cite book, chapter, and verse(s). For example (1 Sam 4:5) These citations would follow the quotation or paraphrased material. Using citations in your paper will enhance your discussion.