

## *David Remembers Discussion*

*Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.*

*David began his life as a brave young shepherd who trusted the LORD completely. He ended his 40-year reign battered and bruised by life, with a string of regrets, but is called “a man after God’s heart.” Why?*

*David did not ascend the throne of Israel in a storybook fashion with cheering crowds. Might he be resentful towards God for the trials he faced?*

*Was he convinced by his experience with Goliath that nothing was too hard for God?*

*What does David’s feigned insanity and periods of (at least pretended) service to Israel’s enemies show about his abilities?*

*Is showing mercy towards Saul militarily foolish but, morally right?*

*Could it have been at least partly due to his friendship with Jonathan?*

*Did his discovery of the way to conquer Jerusalem by entering the water duct give a glimpse at his tactical genius?*

*Does his story indicate that it is all right to be angry at God if one comes back to humility and worship?*

*When denied the right to build the Temple, is it remarkable that instead of complaining, he focusses on the promise that his “throne would be established forever”?*

*Where did his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah begin?*

*Why did he not confess his sin and “do the right thing” when he discovered she was pregnant?*

*What difference might it have made to David’s family?*

*Is the fact that David did not kill Nathan the prophet for speaking the truth to him a significant insight into his character?*

*Are you surprised that the LORD chose to bring the Messiah to earth through the lineage of a child conceived in seduction and adultery?*

*Should a wise parent talk with their children about their own failings as part of their education in moral awareness and spiritual danger?*

*Can you imagine the inner turmoil David experienced as he saw sexual sin and murder take place under his own roof?*

*Was he perhaps paralyzed by the guilt and shame of his own responsibility for opening the door to those sins?*

*How might he have made a difference at each step along the way?*

*In running away from Absalom, was he possibly accepting it as a punishment?*

*How did Joab both help and harm David?*

*What might David have been thinking when he ordered the census although he knew that it was against the Law?*

*In making a sacrifice to end the plague (the punishment for breaking the Law) he states the principle that he will not offer the LORD something that cost him nothing. How does that apply to us today?*

*He had to make use of all his strategic skills to accomplish the elevation of Solomon to the throne even though it was the LORD's will. Why?*

*Are we to be passive in bringing about the LORD's will in our own time?*

*David knew that the Temple would be built by Solomon, but he set aside the building materials and made the contacts that would be needed to bring it about. What does that tell us about him?*

*Did he also try to prepare Solomon for the spiritual challenges he would face?*