One of the most pressing issues in biblical studies is the historicity of the biblical narratives of kings David and Solomon. These kings are reported to have lived in the tenth century BCE, and the biblical stories about them present them as kings reigning over a significant and expanding kingdom. Recent studies, however, have attacked this image as mere romance. That assault on the historicity of David and Solomon is based on both archaeological data and biblical interpretation. In his lecture Prof. Dever will explain how the skillful use of both archaeology and the biblical text can together produce a reliable reconstruction of the Kingdom of Israel’s earliest years.

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