

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Historical Books

- I. **Historical books reveals God's plan in process.**
 - a. God doesn't always accomplish things according to the Israelite's timetable.

- II. **Joshua—successor to Moses**
 - a. Difficult to read this part of OT. Very bloody and resembles our modern idea of ethnic cleansing.
 - i. God's training of his people to be priests for the entire human race.

 - b. We must step back to look at this within the context of the story. The land was intimately tied to the covenant.

 - c. In Joshua we see emphasized and reiterated, the faithfulness of God in fulfilling his covenant, his holiness in not tolerating any sin or disobedience, and his hesed especially to the Israelites, but also to all those who repent.
 - i. Israelites were going to establish themselves on the land so that they might be a priesthood to all around them.

 - d. But once again, disobedience and hard hearts led them away from God's promise and into destruction.

- III. **Judges (From death of Joshua to beginning of monarchy)**
 - a. Twelve Judges—six described in detail and six described little.

 - b. Charismatic Leadership—leaders that were produced by God's spirit.

 - c. Cycle of sin and repentance within the covenant
 - i. Prosperity would lead to idolatry and rebellion against God and His laws.
 - ii. This led to punishment followed by captivity, which brought oppression from their enemies.
 - iii. But within God's covenant there is always the possibility of repentance and crying out to God, which brought deliverance.

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IV. **Ruth (a few years around 1100 B.C.)**

- a. Originally a Moabite, but converts to the faith of Israel and marries Boaz.
- b. Ancestress of King David who was ancestor of Jesus.
- c. Theme of books is that a true Israelite is a child of God by faith, not by birth.

V. **1-2 Samuel (from Samuel's birth, ca. 1100 B.C., to the end of David's kingship, 970 B.C.)**

- a. Introduction of the Kingship to Israel
 - i. Israel gets what it desires, but again they suffer the consequences of their worldly desires.
 - ii. 1 Samuel 8:4-9: The sadness in the heart of God.
- b. Decline of Saul and the rise of David
- c. 2 Samuel
 - i. The Davidic Covenant (Chap. 7): God's promise that David's royal throne will be established forever.

VI. **1-2 Kings (From death of David, 970 B.C., to the 6th century exile, 586 B.C.)**

- a. Solomon—son of David and builder of the temple.
- b. The Temple
- c. Degeneration of the nation of Israel and its divide (931-885 B. C.)
 - i. Northern tribe of Israel and Southern tribe of Judah
- d. Elijah and Elisha—prophets against the corrupt kings of Israel.
 - i. By the time of King Josiah, the temple was being used for all sorts of idolatry and prostitution.
- e. Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem sent Israelites into exile.
 - i. 70 years of exile for God's people. (586-516 BC)

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- VII. **1-2 Chronicles (narrative covers from David, 1000 B.C. to the decree of Cyrus in 539 B.C.)**
- a. Describes the same events as Samuel and Kings, but is centered more on the positive.

 - b. Particular Focus includes
 - i. Davidic Kingship—David and Solomon’s covenant loyalty as a model for a time of restoration.
 - ii. Temple—God’s dwelling place on earth and it’s central place in all worship and restoration.
 - iii. Jerusalem

 - c. Encourage the rebuilding of the people, temple, city, and nation.
- VIII. **Ezra and Nehemiah (from the first return, 539 B.C., to the end of the 5th century)**
- a. Return and Rebuilding—second temple built in 516 BC

 - b. Nehemiah’s purposes are to see Israelites return to the Laws of God and not just to rebuild walls of Jerusalem.

 - c. 2nd temple Judaism begins.
- IX. **Esther (takes place in one year during reign of Xeres, 486-465 B.C., before the events of Ezra and Nehemiah)**
- a. About the Jews who did not return from exile.

 - b. Demonstrates God’s sovereignty and preservation of his people even amidst the exile.