

Introduction to the Bible Week 2 Old Testament Historical Books

Looking back on last week's readings:

Review: What is the bible?

The Story of God's Loving Pursuit of Rebels in Jesus Christ

The error of "moralism"

God's loving pursuit

The steps of a man are established by the LORD,
And He delights in his way.
When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong,
Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand. (Ps. 37:23,24)

Introduction to Old Testament Historical Books

"...the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. *All* Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." – 2 Timothy 3:15-17

"...*everything* that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." – Romans 15:4

Bible books:

Timeline:



Why OT history is important:

- *It's a _____ of scripture!*
- *Our faith grows as we learn about _____.*
Hebrews 12:1,2
- *The events they describe ultimately _____.*

When Jesus met the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, he discovered that they were in despair because their Messiah had been crucified. He responds, "how slow of heart to believe all the prophets have spoken!... And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." (Luke 24:25, 27)

Jesus blames the confusion of the disciples on their inability to see that all the Old Testament is about him and his salvation. He shows them that "all the Scriptures" point to him and that each part — the Law, the Prophets, and the Wisdom Literature — are all about Him.

5:46,47 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for **he wrote about Me.** But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

What kind of history do these books record?

- _____ history

2 Peter 1:20,21

- _____ as He fulfills two important promises:
 1. God's Promise to _____ – nation, land, blessing to the world.
 2. God's Promise to _____ – one of his descendants will sit on his throne and rule the world forever.

Biblical history shows God's faithfulness _____
_____.

Enjoying Narratives

Be aware of the conflict, tension and drama of the Biblical story.

At the macro level of the Biblical Story is the opposition of _____
_____ to His Plan.

At each stage of the Biblical story, there is a tension between what is
_____ and what is _____.

There are dramatic _____ and _____ of how God comes
through.

At each stage of the Biblical story, there is a tension between what is promised
and what is actually happening. There are dramatic reversals and surprises of
how God comes through. When you read a narrative, look for:

- The tension between what was promised and the circumstances of the main
characters. Are there perceived obstacles?

Examples of Tension:

The promise of Genesis 12:1-3 and the obstacles of:

11:30

12:6

12:10

The promise of 2 Samuel 7:11-16 (last week) and the crisis in Daniel 1:1,2:

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And *the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand*, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

- God's faithfulness to His promise.
- The characters' faith or lack of faith. Do they act ways that indicate they trust God's promise?
- Look for foreshadowing of Jesus ("types")

Types are persons, institutions, or events that were designated by God to be models, previews, or pictures of something that was to come in the work of the Messiah (Jesus). Examples from Tim Keller:

Jesus is the **true and better Adam** who passed the test in the garden and whose obedience is credited to us. (Romans 5:17-20)

Jesus is the **true and better Abel** who, though innocently slain, has blood now that cries out, not for our condemnation, but for acquittal. (Genesis 4)

Jesus is the **true and better Abraham** who answered the call of God to leave all the comfortable and familiar and go out into the void not knowing wither he went to create a new people of God. (Genesis 12)

Jesus is the **true and better Isaac** who was not just offered up by his father on the mount but was truly sacrificed for us. And when God said to Abraham, "Now I know you love me because you did not withhold your son, your only son whom you love from me," now we can look at God taking his son up the mountain and sacrificing him and say, "Now we know that you love us because you did not withhold your son, your only son, whom you love from us." (Genesis 22)

Jesus is the **true and better Joseph** who, at the right hand of the king, forgives those who betrayed and sold him and uses his new power to save them. (Genesis 37-50)

Jesus is the **real Passover Lamb**, innocent, perfect, helpless, slain so the angel of death will pass over us. (Exodus 12)

Jesus is the **true and better Moses** who stands in the gap between the people and the Lord and who mediates a new covenant. (Exodus 32)

Jesus is the **true and better Rock of Moses** who, struck with the rod of God's justice, now gives us water in the desert. (Exodus 16)

Jesus is the **true and better David** whose victory becomes his people's victory, though they never lifted a stone to accomplish it themselves. (1 Samuel 17)

Example of Reading OT History: 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

ANALYSIS

Larger Context:

Read the whole passage

Outline the passage

- *The people of God are threatened (1-4).*
- *Jehoshaphat's prayer as a representative (5-12)*
- *God's answer through Jahaziel (13-17)*
- *Jehoshaphat and the people are emboldened (18-23).*
- *God defeats the enemies (22-26).*
- *The results: joy and peace (27-30).*

Look for repeated words or concepts:

Is this story related to God's promise to Abraham or David? If so, how?

APPLICATION:

Prayerfully consider questions like:

Are there *principles* about the way God operates in this passage that have relevance for my life today?

WARNING:

Principle:

What have I learned and how can I put it into practice this week?

Identify some “threats” you feel and identify & reflect on promises in the Word

Fear or threat	Why are you afraid?	Promise	Steps of Faith

Assignment: Bible Reading Assignment #2 due next week. Read “Why Believe the Bible,” section III on Historical Evidence part 2