

History (Joshua – Esther)

Books in section:

Before Kingdom	Kingdom	Post Kingdom
Joshua	1/ 2 Samuel	Ezra
Judges	1/2 Kings	Nehemiah
Ruth	1/2 Chronicles	Esther

Timeline of writing: 1370BC - 400BC +/- 30 years

Timeline of events: Entering promised land, settling land, unification/division/dissolution of kingdom, exile and return from exile. 1400BC +/- 30 years - 430BC

- 1405–1390 BC Conquest of Canaan (Joshua)
- 1390–1050 BC Settlement of the Tribes (Judges)
- 1050–1010 BC Kingship of Saul (1 Samuel)
- 1010–970 BC Kingship of David (2 Samuel)
- 970–931 BC Kingship of Solomon (1 Kings 1–11)
- 931–586 BC Kings of Israel and Judah (Kings and Chronicles)
- 605–535 BC Babylonian Captivity (Kings and Chronicles)
- 486–464 BC Dispersion of the Jews (Esther)
- 458–430 BC Return from Exile (Ezra and Nehemiah)

Theological significance:

God's relationship to man is viewed over nearly a thousand years, as His providence, preservation, judgment, and grace toward man are revealed. This is not just for Israel; we see examples of others being brought under God's protection and plan. Though the history books focus on the nation of Israel, God's interactions with all mankind are observed.

God's plan revealed through each subsection:

- God's love, protection, provision, etc. are available to ALL who seek and obey Him.
 - Joshua, Judges, Ruth
 - Total surrender brings victory, disobedience brings calamity
 - Rahab – Canaanite
 - Ruth – Moabite
 - Samuel, Kings, Chronicles
 - Faithfulness, or lack thereof, to God is revealed in various leaders
 - Direct consequences to those under their leadership
 - God is patient to bring His righteous judgement
 - God is quick to bring relief when offenders are repentant
 - Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
 - God is working even when all seems lost
 - God has no geographic, political, or ethnic limitations

How to Interpret:

- Utilize basic interpretive principles (OICA)
 - Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, Application
- Use these books to accurately observe how God interacts with man.
 - Allow the text to answer “why would God...” type questions
 - Note the time period and focus of the book
 - Pay attention to the context:
 - Is Israel being faithful to God?
 - Is Israel being faithful to herself?
 - Conduct of those outside Israel
 - How is God interacting with Israel?
 - How is God interacting with those outside of Israel?

Analyze and apply a passage:

- 2 Kings 5:1-19
 - What happened?
 - What do you observe or learn about man?
 - What do you observe or learn about God?
 - How is this relevant to man today?
 - Is this historical account in any direct way connected to the Gospel?
 - How can you use this story to share the Gospel?