

THE BIBLE

FROM BEGINNING TO END

SESSION TWO CONQUEST

Js	Jd	R	1S	2S	1K
1C	2C				
Ps	Pr	Ec	Ss		

1. RECAP

At the end of the Pentateuch, we can see the beginnings of God's plan to redeem his creation and restore relationships as they once were:

- people banished from garden
 but promised the land of Canaan
- cursed in childbearing
 but promised descendants as numerous as stars
- separated from God and his blessing
 but have the tabernacle as his presence among them
- promised a serpent-crusher
 but begun to see how God saves his people

2. KINGDOM

The history told in Joshua to 1 Kings covers a time from about 1400BC to 1000BC. This history is also told from 1 Chronicles to 2 Chronicles 9.

During this time, the Israelites go from being an extended family wandering in the wilderness to being a settled nation with a land of their own and a king of their own.

Joshua and Judges tell the story of God giving the land to Israel that he had promised Abraham centuries earlier. The books of Samuel and Kings tell how God established a monarchy in Israel.

3. CONQUEST OF THE LAND

i. The battle belongs to the Lord

- Crossing the Jordan
 - on dry ground
- Taking the city of Jericho
 - by prayer, by trumpets, by singing
- The victory is God's.
 - he gives the land to his people.

ii. God's presence goes with them

- the ark of the covenant
- circumcision and Passover
- blessings poured out on them

iii. But why so much destruction?

1. To purify the land
2. To remove temptation
3. In obedience to God
4. Because God is just

- Remember, some were saved by faith.

- Rahab and her family

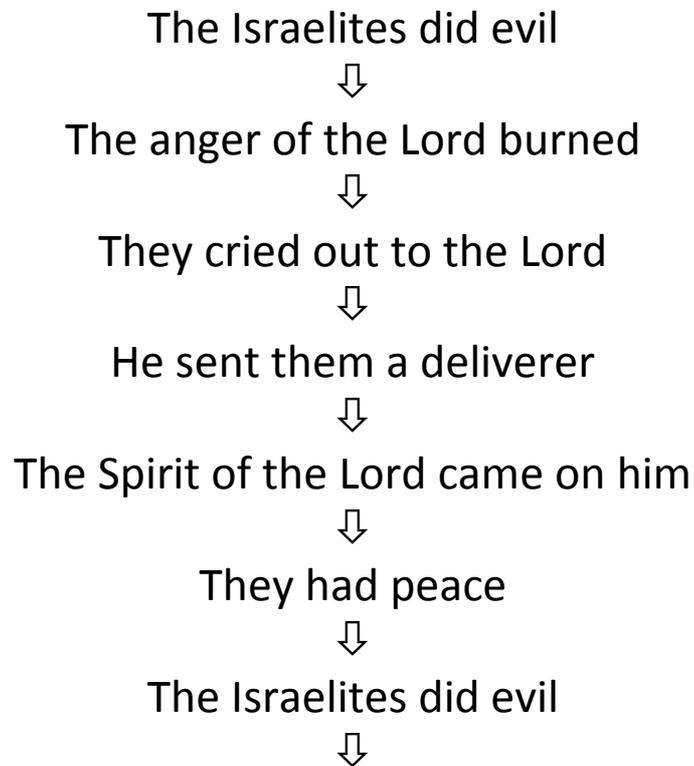
- The danger of holding something back

- Achan

So, God's people are now living in the land, have many thousands of descendants, and are enjoying all the blessings associated with God's presence...

4. CHAOS IN THE LAND

i. The spiral of sin and salvation:



Judges ends with this depressing summary:

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit in his own eyes. **Judges 21:25**

ii. First attempt at a king

Abimelech

iii. God's plan for a king

Ruth

5. A KING LIKE THE OTHER NATIONS

1. Samuel

- a prophet born to a barren woman
- the people don't want his sons; they want a king
- in Deuteronomy 17, God has made provisions for a king
- Samuel warns them what a king will be like
1 Sam 8: 10-22.
- the people are rejecting God as king

2. Saul

- takes on roles which aren't his as king
- because of Saul's disobedience, God tells Samuel to anoint another king

3. David

- doesn't look like a king
- defeats Goliath
- eventually Saul is overpowered
 - beaten by Philistine army and commits suicide

6. A KING CHOSEN BY GOD

i. Successful military leader

- defeats all Israel's enemies, establishes the nation

ii. Renewal of the covenant

The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall endure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever."

2 Samuel 7:11-16

I will be your God and you will be my people



I will be his father and he will be my son.

iv. David the psalmist

- some explicitly linked with episodes in David's life
- others more general
- not all are psalms of David

v. David the sinner

- most notably with with Bathsheba.
- consequences among his children

7. A KING WITH GOD'S WISDOM

i. Solomon asks for wisdom

ii. Solomon's wisdom blesses other nations

iii. Solomon writes books of wisdom

At the end of Solomon's reign:

- the people are at peace, prosperous and numerous
- the land is fertile and fruitful
- they have the temple as a permanent sign of God's presence

But there is a problem...

- Solomon married foreign wives
- and as a result, started to worship foreign gods
- so God promises to split the kingdom in two...

8. READING BIBLICAL WISDOM

- how does this wisdom reflect God's character?
- which circumstances does this apply to?
- which circumstances doesn't this apply to?
- how did Christ embody this wisdom?

9. SUMMARIES OF EACH BOOK

JOSHUA

The Israelites enter Canaan, and take possession of the land. They allocate it to 11 of the tribes, with the Levites living among them all as God's priests. They recommit themselves to God's covenant, promising to be faithful and obedient in the land.

JUDGES

The Israelites are disobedient to God and so he doesn't drive out the remaining Canaanites. They fall into a spiral of sin, God's anger, calling for God's help, God sending a judge to deliver them, a time of peace, and then more disobedience to start the spiral again.

RUTH

The widow of an Israelite man comes to Israel where she receives the protection of a kinsman by marriage. She is included in Israel's promised inheritance because of her faith and is an ancestor of David and ultimately Christ.

1 SAMUEL

God hears the prayer of a barren woman and gives her a son, Samuel, who is a prophet and leader of Israel. When the people ask Samuel for a king, God tells him first to anoint Saul and then, when Saul is disobedient, David. Saul tries to destroy David, but eventually he is defeated and commits suicide.

2 SAMUEL

David is established as king and victorious over all Israel's enemies. But he commits adultery with Bathsheba and arranges for her husband to be killed in war. He repents and God establishes his covenant will be with David and his descendants, through the line of Bathsheba's son, Solomon.

1 CHRONICLES

Traces Israel's genealogies from Adam through all the 12 tribes of Israel. The narrative begins with Saul's death and retells the story of David's victories. It omits the story of David and Bathsheba and the problems among David's children. There is a list of the priests, musicians and others who serve God, as well as the provisions for temple-building.

1 KINGS 1-11

Solomon is established as king and asks for God's wisdom. He builds a palace and the temple. His wisdom becomes known around the world. But he marries foreign women and as a result turns to worship foreign gods.

2 CHRONICLES 1-9

Retells the story of 1 Kings 1-11, but omits all reference to Solomon's foreign wives and worship of foreign gods.

JOB

Set much earlier than Solomon's time, but with many similar themes to the other wisdom books. In particular, the book of Job examines wisdom in the face of suffering and reasserts God's sovereignty over his creation.

PSALMS

150 songs of worship, lament, praise, history, confession, repentance, faith, hope and more. They are expressions from the faithful believer to God, but they are also God's word, teaching us how to respond to him and worship him.

PROVERBS

These are collections of sayings set in the context of a father instructing his son. Some are attributed directly to Solomon and some to other kings. They are collected together for the purpose of giving wisdom to the reader and deal with the complexities of life.

ECCLESIASTES

This is a reflection on the meaning – and meaninglessness – of life and death, and how to live wisely as a mortal being. It is attributed to Solomon, though it may not actually have been written by him.

SONG OF SONGS

A celebration of love in which the bridegroom is identified as Solomon – and yet better than Solomon. It points to another royal bridegroom who will be like the idealised Solomon and better than the historical Solomon.

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