

Bible Overview: understanding the message in the different books of the Bible.

Video 4—Judges and Kings—Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles

What does this part of the Bible tell us about each of the following?

1. How were the Israelites unfaithful to God at this time?

they joined with the unbelievers in the land and worshipped their false gods

2. What did God do for the people (2 things)?

allowed enemies to take them over so they realized they needed help

provided Judges (or rulers) to help the people and rescue them from the enemies

3. Who was the final judge (or ruler) of Israel?

Samuel

4. What did the Israelites ask for?

A King

5. Who was the greatest of Israel's Kings?

David

6. What does David's sins the Bible teaches us about tell us about people we call heroes of faith?

these "heroes" of faith are saved in the exact same way we are, only because Jesus rescued them and their sins are forgiven

The book of Judges over-view for knowing where you are as you read your Bible.

Judges is named for the rulers (the Judges) who led Israel both spiritually and politically at this period in history. It is a sad book showing the Israelites constantly falling away from the Lord. Yet it also showcases the amazing grace (undeserved love) of our God that He continued to reach out to his people.

Ruth

One of two books of the Bible named for a woman, Ruth. Set in the time of the Judges, Ruth is about a Gentile (non-Israelite) woman (Ruth) who ends up becoming an ancestor of our Lord Jesus (according to the human nature). This book provides us with a bright spot of faithful believers living their faith in the midst of the largely dark and faithless period of the Judges.

Memorable Verse: Ruth 1:16,17 But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."

1 and 2 Samuel

Named for Samuel, the last of the Judges whom the Lord uses to anoint the first two kings of Israel: Saul and then David. These books bridge the period between the Judges into the establishment of the Kingdom of Israel. (Remember the Lord used the kings to serve as a picture for the work of Jesus Christ, our Great and Perfect King!) It is really only book in the Hebrew Bible, divided into two books because of its large size.

2 Samuel 7 holds an important passage that contains God's promise of a King from David's family whose kingdom will last forever. A promise kept in Jesus "whose eternal kingdom has no end."

1 and 2 Kings

Like Samuel, this was one book divided into two because of its size. Kings begins with the beginning of the reign of King Solomon, King David's son and continues through to the end of the period of when God's people Israel was ruled by kings. After the death of King Solomon, the kingdom of Israel was divided into 2: The Northern Kingdom (also called "Israel" or "Samaria" after its capital, the city of Samaria) and the Southern Kingdom (also called "Judah" after the tribe of Judah; its capital was Jerusalem). The Northern Kings were all unfaithful to God and in the end, the Lord let the Northern kingdom disappear as a nation forever when it was conquered by the Assyrians. The Southern Kingdom had some good kings, some bad kings, and was finally taken into exile, but God would restore them to keep His promise of the Savior.

1 Chronicles

A Chronicle is a record of historical events. 1 Chronicles covers many of the same events in the book of Kings, but often gives us additional details, especially about God's people in Judah. Though some of these historical books can be tougher reading, it is also very rewarding, for it is God's Word and contains some very powerful and comforting verses and Bible Lessons.

These books continue the history of God's promise of the Savior Jesus, passed on from one generation to the next, God keeping his promise and preparing the people from whom the Savior would come. In all these historical books, we find our Gracious God faithfully reaching out to stubborn sinners (what's new?!) and we see God in His undeserved love working to keep his ancient promise of the Savior.