

Joshua - Nehemiah

The Bible so far

Joshua: The people and the land

- Entering the Land (1-4)
- Taking the Land (5-12)
- Distributing the Land (13-21)
- Special cities (20-21) (Cities of Refuge & for Levites)
- Retaining the land (22-24), but (15:63, 16:10, 17:12-13)

At the end of Joshua:

	People	Place	Rule/Blessing
Promise to Abraham	Great Nation, Countless Descendants	In a Land God will give	Blessing for the World
Reality by end of Joshua	Israel: A Great Nation	In the Promised Land	The People have failed to take the Land fully

Judges to Kings: Trouble in the Land

- The failure of the second generation (Judges 1:1-3:6)
- The pattern of rescue through Judges 3:6-16:31 (12 Judges: unlikely rescuers, unlikely rescues)

The books of Samuel: trace the change from Israel being led by a Judge to being ruled by a King.

- The last of the Judges & the request for a king (1 Sam 1-8)
- The first King: Saul (1 Samuel 9-15)

- The demise of the 1st King & the rise of 2nd (1 Samuel 16-31)
- The reign of David (2 Samuel 1-20)
 - The Davidic covenant 7:1-29! (The Lord will fulfil his previous covenants through the King born to David's line, through a kingdom that will last forever).

	People	Place	Rule/Blessing
Promise to Abraham	Great Nation, Countless Descendants	In a Land God will give	Blessing for the World
Promise to David	David's Line	Temple at Jerusalem. Secure and Peaceful Land	David's Son, the Son of God

- David's personal failures (10-12)
- Like father like sons (13-19)

The Books of Kings

- The Reign of Solomon (1 Kings 1-11)
- The high point of the OT
 - A great people (4:20); A wonderful land (4:25); Ruled by David's wise son (4:31); Bringing blessing to all nations (4:34); With a temple built
 - But... the danger signs are clear, a tragedy to come (Deut 17:15 & 1 Kings 9:11; Deut 17:16 & 1 Kings 9:17-18 (10:26); Deut 17:17b & 1 Kings 10:14-22; Deut 17:17a & 1 Kings 11:1-8)
- The Two Kingdoms (1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17)
 - The divided kingdom (12-13) (Israel to the north and Judah to the south)
 - Ahab, king of Israel, and the prophets of God (1 Kings 17 - 2 Kings 2) - Elijah and Elisha
 - The fall of the north (2 Kings 17:1-7) (Israel exiled and the land repopulated, 722 BC)

- The exile of the south (2 Kings 18-25): The land is invaded, temple destroyed, Judah taken into exile,

God's people, led by bad kings disobedient to God's law, receive the judgement God's word had warned. They are thrown out of the land, are subject to Gentile rulers, with no temple.

Daniel: During the Exile

- A faithful remnant of God's people are preserved
- The Lord is with his people even in exile
- The Lord demonstrates that the previous promises are still on track
- The Lord shows that he is the King over all the earth

Ezra & Nehemiah: Return from Exile

- The place of Chronicles
- The return and the rebuilding of the temple (Ezra 1:1-6:22)
- Ezra's return and reforms (7:1-10:44)
- Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the city walls (1:1-6:19)
- The returnees rededicate themselves to the Lord (7:1-13:3)
- How the history of the OT ends: Temple abuse (13:4-13), Sabbath defiled (13:14-22), Mixed marriages (13:23-28)

Some observations from the post-exilic period

- The remnant of Judah kept during the exile was significant
- The building project enabled the people to live under the Mosaic Law
- The judgement of exile had not changed the heart of man and therefore the heart of the problem
- The return from exile in Ezra-Nehemiah is nothing like the fulfilment of the promises to Abraham and David (or the prophets we'll learn about later)
- The end of OT history leaves us waiting for the promises to Abraham and David (and the prophets) still to happen