

The Historical Books of the Old Testament

Genesis, Exodus, Numbers – See **The Books of the Pentateuch**; There are also some narrative passages in the Prophets – Jonah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel

Joshua, Judges and Ruth

Joshua

Author: Joshua, Approx 1400 B.C. New Leadership, and a new generation move into the Promised Land. A series of lessons on following God's directions – the conquering, dividing, and early settlement under Joshua.

Intro: Joshua's Commission 1:1-9

Preparation and Entrance to Promised Land 1:10 – 5:

Conquests 6:1 – 12:

Central 6 – 9; Southern 10; Northern 11

Division of the Land 13-22

[Jericho 6; Ai 7,8; Gibeonites 9]

Judges (Samuel? Approx 1000) Judges 17:6

The cycle of events that occur regularly in the lives of God's people when they ignore his directives and act on their own. Rest – Rebellion – Retribution – Repentance – Restoration.

Introduction 1:1-2:5

Israel's Failure 2:6 – 16:

14th and 13th Century Judges: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar,

Deborah and Barak

12th and 11th Century Judges: Gideon, Toal and Jair,

Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson

The Results 17 – 21

Ruth (an appendix to Judges?) (Samuel). Ruth 1:16

A beautiful love story of tragedy and love renewed – Boaz – the Kinsman Redeemer – a picture that points forward to Christ.

Samuel, Kings and Chronicles

1 & 2 Samuel

Records the founding of the Hebrew Monarchy and the careers of Samuel, Saul and David – with all their good and bad qualities and character.

Deliverance from Philistia 1:1 – 7:17

Rise of King Saul 8:1- 15:35

Decline of Saul, Rise of David 16:1-31-13

David over Judah 1 – 4

Rise in Israel 5 – 9

Failures 10-20

Five Appendices 21-24

1 & 2 Kings

A history of Israel's two kingdoms with a focus on the consequences of disobedience. Key Phrase: "They did evil in the sight of the Lord . . ." It also records the ministries of the prophets Elijah and Elisha.

- Reign of Solomon 1:1 – 11:43
- Early Kings of Divided Monarchy 12:1 – 16:28
- Period of Alliance 16:29-2 Kings 9:37
 - Elijah and Elisha
- Decline and Fall of Israel 10:1-17:41
- Jewish Monarchy after fall of Samarian 18:1-25:30

1 & 2 Chronicles (Probably Ezra)

A history of Judah, focused on God's covenant promises to David and God's faithfulness to his people. It was written to encourage an exiled people to return.

- Genealogies (Adam to David) 1:1-9:44
- History of David 10:1 – 29:30
- History of Solomon 2 Chronicles 1:1 – 9:31
- History of Kings of Judah 10:1 – 36:23

Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther

Ezra

Picking up where Chronicles left off – it shows the response to the message of Chronicles. An account of who returned and of God's restoration and work among his people. The Second Temple was built and worship brought back to Jerusalem.

- First Return of Exiles (Zerubbabel) 1:1-2:70 (539—515 B.C.)
- Restoration of Worship 3:1-6:22
 - (58 year gap)
- Second Return under Ezra 7:1 – 10:44 (457 B.C.)

Nehemiah (Author – Nehemiah, 444 B.C.)

An account of the rebuilding of the walls under Nehemiah's leadership as he overcomes obstacles, hardships and consequences to complete the job and spark reform among God's people who had again become lax regarding God's law.

- The Third return
- Restoration of City Walls 1:1-6:19
- Reforms of Ezra and Nehemiah 7:1-8:18

Esther (Author unknown, Events in Persian Capital, Susa 483 B.C.)

A book that doesn't even mention God, yet His hand of providence stands out throughout.

Key dates for Divided Kingdom

North	South
931 Jeroboam I	Rehoboam
909 Baasha	
885 Omri (Ahab)	Jehoshaphat
841 Jehu	
752 Last Kings	Uzziah
722 Fall of Samaria	Hezekiah
641	Josiah
586 Fall of Jerusalem	