

## **History Books**

Date range:

Judges 1250-1020 BC

Jewish United Kingdom (David and Solomon) 1020-930 BC

Kingdom Splits (Israel and Judah) 930-722 BC

Judah Alone 722-586 BC

Babylonian Exile 585-539 BC

Postexilic Period 539-332 BC

Greek Rule 332-175 BC

Maccabees 175-1 BC

### **Joshua**

Transitional book; Joshua leads people into Promised Land

Conquest of land – Jericho (Chapter 6) most famous

Land is divided for 12 tribes

Baal – ancient god from Mesopotamia, fertility god

### **Judges**

From Joshua to Samuel

Repeated cycle of disobedience, punishment, repentance, restoration

12 judges – Samson is most famous

Birth of Samson: Judges 13:1-5; 24-25

### **Ruth**

Romantic story with theological implications

During time of judges and ends with genealogy of David

### **1&2 Samuel**

Birth of Samuel (prophet) to David's death

David overtakes Moses as most significant OT person

Threatened by Philistines, people beg Samuel for a king

He warns them about too much power in one person but they insist (1 Sam 8:5)

Be careful what you wish for – clear cautionary tale (Saul as first king)

Davidic Covenant – everlasting covenant (2 Sam 7:8-16)

He and heirs “son of God” and universal high king

His house will never fail

Previous covenant focused on singular house

Use of flawed person – he sins but repents immediately

David unlikely chosen one (anointed – messiah)

David’s success and jealousy of Saul

David’s triumph over Saul and his heirs

David makes Jerusalem capital

The sin of David – Bathsheba affair (2 Sam 11-12)

2 Sam 12:10-11

Rebellion of son Absalom (civil war)

## **1&2 Kings**

David’s successors to Babylonian conquest 586 BC

Height of kingdom under Solomon and building of first Temple

Gradual decline at end of Solomon’s reign and through successors

One Kingdom under Solomon (1 Kings 1-11)

Two Kingdoms, Israel and Judah (1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17)

One Kingdom alone – Judah (2 Kings 18-25)

Divided Kingdoms before Great Prophets (1 Kings 12-16)

Divided Kingdoms during Elijah (1 Kings 17-2 Kings 1)

Elijah to Elisha (2 Kings 2)

Divided Kingdoms during Elisha (2 Kings 3-13)

Divided Kingdoms after Great Prophets (2 Kings 14-17)

Elijah

Miracle worker

Cultic reformer

New Moses

Ascended into heaven

Elisha

Greatest OT miracle worker (13 miracles)

## **1&2 Chronicles**

Retells salvation history to this point

Written post-exile in optimistic tone to encourage people

## **Ezra and Nehemiah**

Rebuilding of Temple decree by King Cyrus (537-516 BC)

Renewal of Mosaic covenant by priest Ezra (c. 458 BC)

Nehemiah rebuild city walls of Jerusalem (444 BC)

Collection of different literary genres

## **Tobit**

Northern family during Assyrian exile

Not strictly Jews but God has not abandoned them

Not included formally in Jewish Bible

Sometimes considered *aggadic midrash* (narrative explanatory expansion)

2 crises: Tobit's blindness and Sarah's lack of husband

God hears prayers and sends Raphael to heal them

Raphael guides Tobias to Sarah, marriage heals both

Redemptive suffering

### **Judith**

Jewish heroine after Babylonian exile

Beheads Assyrian general Holofernes which leads to victory

### **Esther**

Jewish heroine during Persian rule of Xerxes I (519-455 BC)

Thermopylae 480 BC

### **Maccabees**

2<sup>nd</sup> century BC Jewish revolts against Seleucids (Greeks)

Judas recaptured Jerusalem and rededicated Temple in 165 BC

Nicknamed "Maccabeus" (Aramaic for "Hammer") which becomes family name

1 Maccabees: sober historical account from about 175-134 BC

2 Maccabees: dramatic account of overlapping period (180-161 BC)

Positive depiction of Romans probably reason why not accepted in Jewish canon

Interesting: origin of Feast of Dedication (i.e. Hanukkah) (1 Mac 4:36-61)

Also great love for mother and 7 sons martyred (2 Mac 7)

Purgatory: 2 Mac 12:38-46

**Next up: Wisdom Literature/Prophets**