

## Joshua

**In Joshua, Jesus is our Deliverer.**

The first of the 12 history books of the Old Testament.

It is the book of battles—the children of Israel taking possession of the Promised Land.

It is a sequel to Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy	Joshua
Moses passed through the Red Sea.	Joshua passed over Jordan.
Moses led Israel from bondage	Joshua led Israel into blessing.
Moses gave a vision of faith.	Joshua led them in a life of faith.
Moses told of an inheritance.	Joshua led them into possession.
Anticipation	Realization

Nation was led OUT by Moses and led IN by Joshua.

God never uses just ONE person to complete His plan. We are co-laborers.

God had been preparing Joshua for many years. He was born in slavery in Egypt but God led him out and made him a co-laborer with Moses. He was always a valiant captain. He was the one that was almost stoned to death because he urged the children of Israel to advance into Canaan 40 years before. (*Numbers 14:6-10*).

The book of Joshua has two main parts:

1. Conquest of the promised land (Chapters 1-12)
2. Occupation of the promised land (Chapters 13-24)

A key concept of Joshua comes from Deuteronomy 7:22.

Moses is a type of the Law, while Joshua is a type of Christ (grace).

## Judges

**In Judges, Jesus is our Supreme Judge.**

This has been described as the *Dark Ages* of the Israelite people. Where Joshua emphasized the victories of conquest, Judges emphasizes how much land was NOT conquered. Most tribes failed to take over their territories.

In Judges 2:13, the people left God. In Judges 2:23, God left the people.

This book covers the time between Joshua's death and the kingship of Saul. It seemed "leaderless."

*Judges 17:6, "Every man did that which was right in his own eyes."* The book begins with compromise and ends with confusion.

God raised up 14 local judges to rule for about 350 years.

- Othniel
- Ehud
- Shamgar
- Deborah
- Gideon
- Tola
- Jair
- Jephthah
- Ibzan
- Elon
- Abdon
- Samson
- Eli
- Samuel

There were three types of judges:

1. Warrior judges (*like Samson and Gideon*)
2. Priest judges (*like Eli*)
3. Prophet judges (*like Samuel*)

They were not kings or queens. They were not succeeded in office by family members. (This would change with the next form of Israel's government.)

We see Samson's childish escapades; Gideon's all-too-human timidity; Deborah's bold and sarcastic leadership....and behind it all we see our God who always listens to desperate prayer. (*Joshua 10:11-16*)

Like Numbers recounted the wilderness wanderings, Judges shows us a people who spent much time in disobedience to God and made little progress in their lifetime.

In the book, we see **7**:

- Failures
- Oppressions
- Deliverances

## Ruth

### **In Ruth, Jesus is our Kinsman-Redeemer.**

A “kinsman-redeemer” was a near relative who could redeem property that was no longer in the family.

The setting for this book is during the time of the judges (first 5 chapters of Judges). It is the story of grace in the Old Testament time of anarchy.

- Ruth was a Moabitess (a descendant of Lot).
- People of Moab were heathen.
- Ruth was brought into the land of Canaan, and made the bride of a man of integrity.
- Yet this man, Boaz, was the son of a prostitute who had been rescued from another sinful past.
- After marriage, the two had a son...Obed.
- Obed had a son named Jesse.
- Jesse had a son named David...the bloodline of the Messiah!

In the books of Joshua, Judges and Ruth, we see three unlikely heroes of the faith—one from each book. They were women and foreigners. But they were bold and resourceful champions of the faith:

- Rahab (book of Joshua), the Canaanite prostitute, who saved the two Israelite spies and thereby her own family from certain destruction.
- Jael (book of Judges), whose killing of Israel’s enemy Sisera will be forever celebrated in the Song of Deborah.
- Ruth (book of Ruth), the Moabitess, who preserved the family line of Judah, thus becoming the great-grandmother of King David and ancestor of Jesus.

## 1 & 2 Samuel

### **In 1 & 2 Samuel, Jesus is our King.**

The books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles were originally 3 books instead of six. When translated into the Greek language, they were divided by the translators because the Greek required one third more space than the Hebrew and the scrolls on which they were written were limited in length.

Samuel was the last judge. The rule of the judges has ended. He was also the first of the prophets.

Royal history begins with the book of Samuel. The 500-year period of the kings of Israel begins (approximately 1050-586 BC).

Three main characters in 1 Samuel:

1. Samuel (chapters 1-7)
2. Saul (chapters 8-15)
3. David (chapters 16-31)

Samuel was a man of prayer...the son of a woman of prayer. His name means “name of God.”

Throughout the period of the judges, the priesthood became corrupt.

Through Samuel, God provided:

1. Deliverance from the Philistines
2. Preparation for the kingdom
3. A permanent sanctuary instead of a tabernacle at Shiloh
4. A better priesthood.

Samuel’s greatest ministry was the organization of the kingdom.

God never intended for Israel to be ruled by kings. However, He gave them what they asked for.

In this book, we see the rise and fall of Saul, and the rise of an obscure leader—David.

David becomes the key player in 2 Samuel. “The House of David” is established through which the Messiah would come. “The throne of David” is carried throughout eternity (*Isaiah 9:7 and Luke 1:32*).

## 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles

**In Kings and Chronicles, Jesus is our King.**

Written while the first Temple was standing, Kings is a continuation of Samuel’s history.

Begins with King David and ends with the king of Babylon.

Opens with the building of the Temple and ends with the burning of the Temple.

We see the reign of Solomon (both good and bad) (1 Kings 1-10)

Both David and Solomon each reigned forty years. But then the kingdom experienced civil dissension and division.

The prophets Elijah and Elisha rise to speak God’s voice to the divided and corrupt nation.

<b>Elijah</b>	<b>Elisha</b>
Miracles were to show God’s judgment	Miracles were to show God’s kindness and mercy
A prophet of judgment, law, severity	A prophet of grace, love, tenderness

Because of the continued cycle of disobedience to God in the lives of the kings and the people, both Judah and Israel were taken away into captive exile.

Chronicles was written to reconnect the returned Jewish exiles with their ancestry and redemptive history. In doing so, it underscored three issues:

1. The importance for the Jews to preserve their racial and spiritual heritage.
2. The importance of the law, the temple and the priesthood in their ongoing relationship with God; far more important than allegiance to an earthly king.
3. Israel's ultimate hope in God's promise of a Messianic descendant of David to sit on the throne forever.

Rather than emphasizing the dark side of Israel's past, Chronicles stresses revival, reform and the recovery of faith for the beaten-down exiles, who sought a future and a redemptive hope in the promised land.

## Ezra

### **In Ezra, Jesus is the Restorer.**

This book is part of a continuous history of the Jews written after their exile, consisting of 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah. In the Hebrew OT, Ezra and Nehemiah were originally a single book, as were 1 and 2 Chronicles.

According to tradition, Ezra was the one who collected all the OT books together as a unit, originated the form of worship used in the synagogue, and founded the Great Synagogue in Jerusalem where the canon of OT scriptures was eventually settled. Ezra was a godly leader with an uncompromising loyalty to and passionate love for God's Word. His writing emphasizes the themes of hope, revival, reform and restoration of God's people.

### **Purpose**

This book was written to show God's providence and faithfulness in restoring a Jewish remnant from exile in Babylon

1. By moving the hearts of three different Persian kings to assist God's people in returning to their homeland, resettling Jerusalem and rebuilding the temple;
2. By providing godly and capable leaders to lead the returning remnant in a revival of worship, commitment to God's Word and repentance for unfaithfulness to God.

## Survey

Chapters 1-6 begin where 2 Chronicles ends—with the Jewish captivity and the decree of King Cyrus of Persia that permitted the Jews to return to their homeland. Only about 50,000 Jewish exiles from among one million or more were in the first group to return. Governor Zerubbabel and High Priest Jeshua rallied the people to start rebuilding the destroyed temple. Shrewd enemies of Judah used political means to stop that project for some time, but eventually the work was resumed and the temple was completed.

A gap of about 60 years occurs between chapters 6-7, during which time Esther reigned as queen in Persia with King Xerxes I.

Chapters 7-8 record events about 20 years later when a smaller number of exiles returned from Persia to Jerusalem under Ezra's leadership. Whereas the first returning exiles accomplished the task of rebuilding God's house, Ezra set about to restore God's Law in the hearts of the people. Ezra found widespread spiritual and moral backsliding among the men in Judah, evident in their intermarriages with pagan women. In deep grief, Ezra confessed their sin to God and interceded on their behalf.

The book ends with Ezra leading the men in public repentance and severing the marriage ties with the pagan wives.

Ezra demonstrates clearly how God watches over His Word to see that it is fulfilled.

Ezra's treatment of unbelieving pagan women whom the Jewish men (including priests) had married in violation of God's commands profoundly illustrates how God:

1. requires His people to retain their spiritual purity and heritage by not intermarrying with unbelievers and adopting their pagan cultures.
2. Sometimes uses radical surgery in order to deal with dangerous and cancerous compromise among His people.

## New Testament Fulfillment

The return of a Jewish remnant to their homeland and the rebuilding of the temple reveal that God always longs to restore His wayward people. His ways include not only judgment for apostasy, but also restoration and hope for the believing remnant, through whom God directs the plan of redemption. This principle is seen in the NT, where a believing remnant of Jews accepted Jesus as their Messianic Lord, while the main stream of redemption was rechanneled from unbelieving Jews to believing Gentiles in the Early Church.

## Nehemiah

### **In Nehemiah, Jesus is the Restorer.**

Time Line:

Book of Esther → Ezra returns to Jerusalem → Temple is rebuilt → Ezra reestablishes priority of God's Word → Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall of the city.

This book was written:

1. To complete the recording of the post-exilic history begun in the book of Ezra
2. To show what God did on behalf of the remnant through the godly leadership of Nehemiah and Ezra during the third stage of the post-exilic restoration.

Chapters 1-7—Nehemiah's role as governor and as leader in rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. He was a man of prayer. He demonstrated bold, wise and decisive leadership in rallying Jerusalem to rebuild its broken-down walls in only 52 days, in spite of serious opposition from inside and outside the city.

The second half of the book describes:

1. The spiritual restoration among the people of Jerusalem, led by Ezra the priest.
2. Certain national issues addressed by Nehemiah.
3. Central to the spiritual restoration was the public reading of God's Law, repentance for sin, and a new resolve by the remnant to remember and keep their covenant with God.

### **Special Features**

1. It records the last events of Jewish Old Testament history before the inter-testamental period.
2. It provides historical background for Malachi, the last book of the OT, since Nehemiah and Malachi were contemporaries.
3. Nehemiah is a superb Biblical model of a godly leader in government: a man of wisdom, principle, courage, impeccable integrity, unwavering faith, compassion for the oppressed, and great gifts in leadership and organization. Through his years as governor, Nehemiah remained righteous, humble, free from greed, self-sacrificing, and uncorrupted by his prominence or power.
4. Nehemiah is one of the foremost OT examples of a praying leader. No less than 11 times he is described as addressing God in prayer or intercession. He was a man who accomplished seemingly impossible tasks because of his complete dependence on God.

The book graphically illustrates that prayer, sacrifice, hard work, and tenacity go together in realizing a God-given vision.