

What is the Bible? - Joshua - 2 Samuel

Joshua

Theme: "As promised, the Lord gives his people the land in which the Savior will be born"

- I. Conquest of the land (Joshua 1-12)
(Rahab, Jericho, Ai, Aachen, sun stands still)
- II. Division of the land the tribes (Joshua 13-24)
(Eastern tribes return, Joshua's farewell speech, Joseph's bones)

Time: about 1410 to 1350

Key Passages: Joshua 24:15

A sample of Messianic Prophecies: As the Lord fulfills his promise to give his people the land, so his faithfulness to send the Savior is confirmed.

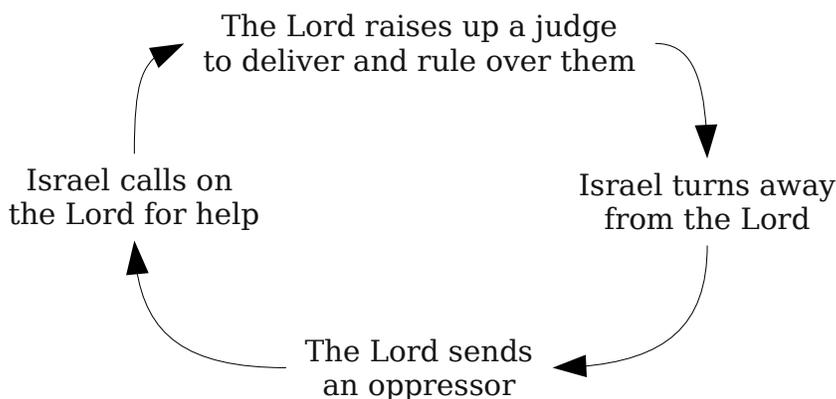
Summary: Through Joshua the Lord fulfilled his promise, giving his people the land of Canaan, and Joshua urged them to remain faithful to the Lord.

1. Agree/Disagree: Since God gave Israel the land of Canaan, we should do what we can to make sure that the Jews still control that land today.

Judges

Theme: "The Lord calls his people to repentance again and again ... and again"

Summary:



"Judge" = Leader

Failure to take all the land (Judg. 1, 2)

Othniel (Judges 3)

Ehud (Judges 3)

Deborah/Barak (Judges 4, 5)

Gideon (Judges 6-9) (Abimelech)

Japhthah (Judges 10-12)

Samson (Judges 13-16)

How low it can go (Judges 17-21)

Time: about 1350-1050

A sample of Messianic Prophecy: Jesus is our great Deliverer

2. Pick one of the judges you know well and describe that judges' strengths and weaknesses.

Ruth

Theme: "God works his saving plan even through 'insignificant' people"

- I. The Moabitess, Ruth, comes to be with the Israelites (Ruth 1, 2)
- II. Ruth marries Boaz, an ancestor of the Savior (Ruth 3, 4)

Time: about 1100 B.C.

A sample of Messianic Prophecy: kinsman redeemer

Key Passages: Ruth 1:16, 17

Summary: As the foreigner, Ruth, humbly serves where the Lord has led her, he blesses her in ways she could never have imagined. In so doing, the Lord advances his preparation for sending the Savior.

3. Agree/Disagree: Naomi was happy with her husband's decision to leave the promised land.

1 & 2 Samuel

Theme: "God brings David to the throne, who foreshadows his great descendant, Jesus"

I. Israel becomes a monarchy

- A. The Lord trains Samuel, the last of the judges, to lead his people (1 Samuel 1-8)
(Hannah, Eli, Hophni & Phinehas, the ark captured and returned)
- B. Saul, the first King (1 Samuel 9-15)
(humble, then proud Saul, Jonathan)
- C. The Lord finds and trains Saul's replacement (1 Samuel 16-31)
(David and Goliath, David in Saul's service, David hunted by Saul, Abigail, Endor, Saul's suicide)

II. The Lord establishes the throne of David

- A. David becomes king of all Israel (2 Samuel 1-10)
(Abner, Joab, the ark brought to Jerusalem, God's promise to David, Mephibosheth)
- B. David's sin and strife (2 Samuel 11- 24)
(Bathsheba, Nathan, Amnon, Tamar, Absalom, Ahithophel, the census and altar)

Time: about 1100-970 B.C.

A sample of Messianic Prophecy: David as a foreshadow (*type* in the theological sense) of Christ, 2 Samuel 7:11-16

4. Agree/Disagree: The Scriptures give us more biographical information about David, including both his actions and his inner life (the Psalms), than about anyone else.

The Bible is the only authority for our faith and life (and therefore applies to our day-to-day living in the most practical ways). The Berean Christians *received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.* (Acts 17:11 NIV) 

Therefore, the Bible is the only rule and norm for our faith and life. It's the *canon*.

- a) Although many other churches say that the Bible is the authority they let reason, tradition, church hierarchy, communal or personal experience have equal or greater authority. Which of these do you see as the greatest danger in our times and why? 
- b) Agree/Disagree: As confessional Lutheran we clearly confess the authority of God's Word as the only rule and norm for  faith and life, but we fall far short in putting it into practice. Support your answer. 