

Week 7: Survey of the Historical Books

1. What Are the Historical Books?

- 1) In the Old Testament, the 12 books from Joshua to Esther are categorized as "Historical Books."
- 2) These books cover Israel's history from the conquest of Canaan, the period of the Judges, the monarchy, the exile, to the return from captivity.
- 3) Theologically, they demonstrate a cyclical pattern of covenant, judgment, and restoration, reflecting God's faithfulness and justice.

2. Overview of Each Book

Book	Summary
Joshua	Led by Joshua, Israel conquers and distributes the land of Canaan. Highlights God's fulfillment of His promises.
Judges	Cycles of sin, oppression, repentance, and deliverance. "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
Ruth	Story of Ruth and Boaz. Ancestral background of King David; ties to the messianic lineage.
1 & 2 Samuel	Transition from judges to monarchy. The rise and fall of Saul, and the establishment of David's reign.
1 & 2 Kings	From Solomon's reign to the fall of the northern and southern kingdoms. Chronicles obedience and disobedience.
1 & 2 Chronicles	Retells Israel's history from a priestly perspective. Focuses on David and the temple.
Ezra	Post-exilic return from Babylon and the rebuilding of the temple. Emphasis on restoring the Law.
Nehemiah	Rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls and spiritual reforms. A leader of prayer and revival.
Esther	Story of Jewish deliverance in Persia. Emphasizes divine providence (even though God is never mentioned).

3. Theological Themes

- 1) Covenant Fulfillment and Judgment: Blessing follows obedience; judgment follows disobedience.
- 2) Human Leadership vs. Divine Sovereignty: Despite the failures of kings, God's plan moves forward.
- 3) Message of Repentance and Restoration: God forgives and restores those who return to Him.
- 4) Preservation of the Messianic Line: Books like Ruth, Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles trace the lineage to Christ.

4. Applications and Lessons

- 1) The Bible is not just historical, but redemptive history revealing God's hand in human affairs.
- 2) God's providence is still active in individuals and nations today.
- 3) True faith is marked by continual repentance and obedience to God.