

BAC Podcast Notes

Episode 5: “The Historical Books”

This week’s episode covers the 12 historical books from Joshua–Esther.

- Driving forces of the Old Testament story:
 - How will God fulfill his promises to Abraham (descendants, land, worldwide blessing)?
 - Will Israel be faithful to their covenant with God?
- General pattern of historical books
 - Two books that advance the storyline of Israel
 - Followed by one book that gives a “spotlight” on something going on during that time
 - Joshua and Judges advance Israel’s story
 - Ruth gives a “spotlight” during the time of the Judges
 - Samuel and Kings advance Israel’s story
 - Chronicles gives a “spotlight” during the time of the Kings
 - Ezra and Nehemiah advance Israel’s story
 - Esther gives a “spotlight” during the time of Ezra
- **Joshua**
 - Joshua, one of the spies who trusted God (Numbers 13) is commissioned as leader after Moses
 - Under Joshua, Israel crosses the Jordan River on dry ground, enters the Promised Land, and conquers the Canaanite nations living in the land
 - After defeating the Canaanite nations, Israel divides the land amongst the twelve tribes
 - Now two of God’s promises to Abraham are fulfilled: many descendants and land
- **Judges**
 - Records Israel’s repeated failure to keep their covenant with God
 - Israel fails to completely remove the Canaanite people from the land (Judges 1)
 - Israel falls into idolatry, chasing after the gods of the Canaanite people
 - Israel falls into a downward spiral of sin
 - Israel falls into idolatry
 - God responds by allowing them to be oppressed by other nations
 - Israel suffers and cries out to God for help
 - God raises up a deliverer, or “Judge,” to save Israel
 - Israel repeats the cycle
 - Judges concludes with, “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25).
- **Ruth (spotlight book)**
 - Takes place during the time of the Judges
 - When seemingly no faith found in Israel, Ruth, a Moabite woman, proves faithful
 - God rewards her faithfulness by including her in the line of David and Jesus
 - Start to see God fulfilling his promise to bring a blessing to all nations—Ruth, who is not an Israelite, is included in the people of God
- **1–2 Samuel**
 - Records the story of how Israel came to have a king
 - Israel rejects God as their true King and cries out for an earthly king like the surrounding nations (1 Kings 8)
 - Saul is anointed as the first king of Israel by Samuel, the last of the judges
 - Saul initially shows promise
 - But he eventually turns his back on God, and God rejects him as king

BAC Podcast Notes

Quarter 1, Episode 9: "The Historical Books"

- David is anointed as the second king of Israel
 - God calls David a "man after his own heart" (1 Sam 13:14)
 - God promises David that he will have a descendant who will sit on the throne of his Kingdom forever (2 Samuel 7)
 - Shows that God's promise to bring a worldwide blessing will come through David's line
 - But this promise will not be fulfilled through David himself—David commits adultery and murder (2 Samuel 11)
- **1–2 Kings**
 - David's son, Solomon becomes king of Israel
 - Solomon initially trusts God and enjoys success
 - Solomon builds a temple in Jerusalem for God's presence to dwell in (1 Kings 5–8)
 - But Solomon takes many wives, falls into idolatry, and turns his back on God (1 Kings 11)
 - Under Solomon's son, Rehoboam, Israel splits into two kingdoms (1 Kings 12)
 - Northern Kingdom: Israel (10 tribes)
 - Southern Kingdom: Judah (2 tribes)
 - The rest of 1–2 Kings traces the various Kings of Israel and Judah
 - All of Israel's Kings are evil
 - Some of Judah's Kings are good
 - But the sin of both Israel and Judah leads to their demise:
 - Israel is taken into exile in 722 BC by Assyria
 - Judah is taken into exile by Babylon in 586 BC
 - At this point, it seems like the story is moving backward—Israel is not in the Promised Land, and they're subject to a foreign nation, so David doesn't have a descendant on the throne
- **1–2 Chronicles (spotlight book)**
 - Covers much of the same history as 1–2 Kings but with a different perspective
 - 1–2 Kings: look backward with a more negative outlook; explain why Israel went into exile
 - 1–2 Chronicles: look forward, focusing on the fulfillment of the promise to David; written after the exile to encourage the Jewish people that God is still at work and still faithful to his promises
- **Ezra–Nehemiah**
 - God's people are allowed to return to the Promised Land
 - They rebuild the temple and Jerusalem
 - But the temple is rebuilt only modestly, there's no record of God's presence returning to the temple, and the Jews are still subject to a foreign nation (Persia)
 - The OT story ends in anticipation of a King from David's line who will restore Israel
- **Esther (spotlight book)**
 - Takes place between Ezra 6 and Ezra 7
 - Records God's providential care of the Jews living in Persia
 - God uses Esther, a Jewish girl, to protect the Jewish people from the threat of extermination
- **Takeaways:**
 - The OT is a story without an ending
 - We're left anticipating who the King from David's line will be and how God will fulfill his promises to Abraham
 - We see that human effort and strength are insufficient to save Israel and humanity from their sin—a supernatural act is needed