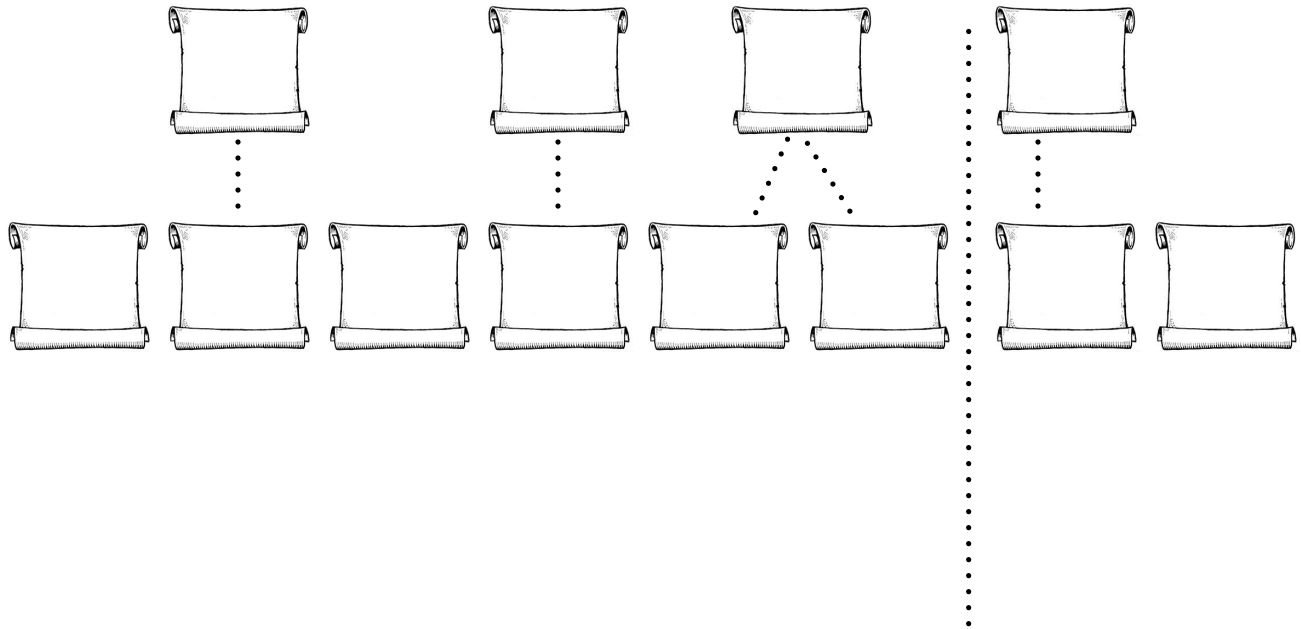


XIX. UNIT 9: JOSHUA - “POSSESSING YOUR POSSESSIONS!”

A. LOOKING BACK – A REVIEW

THE BOOKS OF HISTORY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT



II. “POSSESSING YOUR POSSESSIONS!” - THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

A. The Old Testament Books of History in Context

1. The 3 eras of our Old Testament

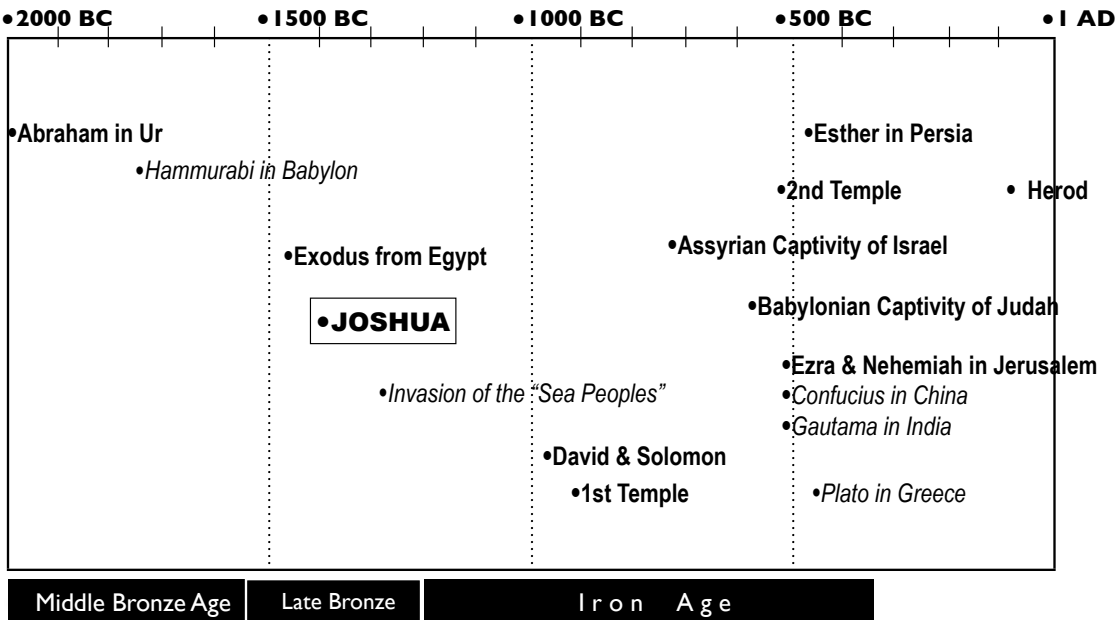
- a. _____: **Joshua – Judges**; making the “switch” from being desert nomads to a settled people with a distinct national identity.
- b. _____: **Samuel thru Chronicles** – the story of the rise and fall of the kings of Israel and Judah
- c. _____: **Ezra thru Nehemiah** – the return of the exiles and the beginning of “Second Temple Judaism”

2. The Old Testament Panorama at a Glance: **(see chart on next page)**

B. The “Geography” of History

- 1. One crucial question: “What is _____?”
- 2. Two reasonable outcomes of our answer to this question:
 - a. It will determine how history is _____.
 - b. It will determine how history is _____.

OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY...A GLANCE



3. The "Western" View of History

- It is _____: it chronicles the affairs of people (we may have "religious" holidays, but we lack a spiritual view of time).
- Cause & Effect: occurs in a "_____ system" of natural laws.
- It is _____: history is based on a continuum using an absolute chronology (i.e. "fixed" dates based on a common reference point)
- "Time": refers to incremental _____ along this continuum (E.g. the fall of Jerusalem occurred in 586 B.C.)

4. The "Eastern" View of History

- It is _____: the gods are an integral aspect of all of life; they play an enormous role in the affairs of mankind.
- Cause & Effect: occurs in an "_____ system" of supernatural "laws" that control events and people.
- It is _____: because the gods are responsible for the seasons, the passing of time is inseparable from the seasons. (E.g. the "Baal cycle")
- "Time": is understood in terms of the _____; no absolute chronology; it is neither needed nor important. (E.g. 2 Kings 25:1 tells us that the Babylonian invasion of Jerusalem occurred "in the 9th year of Zedekiah's reign, on the 10th day of the 10th month.")

Time needs to be "_____ " more than recorded; there is a heavy reliance upon "_____ " signs and omens:

"For the king of Babylon stands at the parting of the way, at the head of the two ways, to use divination. He shakes the arrows; he consults the teraphim; he looks at the liver." —Ezeki. 21:21

5. The Hebrew View of History

GETTING THE BIG PICTURE

- a. It is _____: history is inseparably bound to God and the _____.
- (1) **the past** - always explained in terms of God dealing with them in response to _____ or disobedience.
 - (2) **the present/future** - would be “_____” based on *their* response to the Covenant and God’s distribution of “blessings” or “curses.”
 - (3) this view of history is on virtually every _____ of the Old Testament historical books.
- b. **Cause & Effect:** _____ in terms of obedience and disobedience
- c. **“Recurrence”:** the cyclical nature of history is _____; God can not be manipulated through sympathetic magic, or _____ by “reading” omens (divination was prohibited! cf. Deut. 18:10)
- d. **Time:** there are recurring “_____” that become opportunities to learn (E.g. “He did evil in the eyes of the Lord as his father had done...”)
6. Distinctives of Hebrew History
- a. Joshua – Kings is in the “Former _____” section of the Tanakh.
 - b. The Jews understood God to be “_____” to them in and through these books because they are connected to the covenant blessings and curses.
 - c. “Prophetic” had to do with the _____, *not* the author (unlike our own day!)
 - d. Hebrew historical literature paints a distinctly blatant portrait of its own _____ and weakness.
 - e. ANE documents are often propagandistic in favor of the _____ of nations and leaders.
 - f. As an “_____” people, their own *faithlessness* in the face of God’s unrelenting faithfulness is a dominant theme (This would be an excellent thing to point out to Islamic followers who think we believe Israel itself is “special” rather than an object of undeserved, divine Grace.)
- C. Joshua: The Man & the Mystique
1. He was an outstanding military _____ (Exodus 17)
 2. He was Moses’ “_____.” (Exodus 24:13; 32:17; 33:11)
 3. One of original 12 _____. (Numbers 13)
 4. He was a “_____” figure”:
 - a. Of the 223 times he is mentioned in the Bible, _____ are before Judges 3.
 - b. He is only mentioned _____ in the NT (Rahab is mentioned 3x)
 - c. His absence in _____ is very unusual (the wall falling *and* Rahab are mentioned, as well as the names of four judges).
 - d. He is called “the servant of the Lord” *after* his _____ (Moses is called “the servant of the LORD” 16x in this book, as well as in 1 Kings, Psalms, and Hebrews!)
 5. Joshua: A “_____” Figure
 - a. God’s promise to _____: “*I’ll be with you like I was with Moses.*” (Joshua 1:5)
 - b. Israel’s _____: “*We’ll obey you like Moses.*” (Joshua 1:17)
 - c. Israel’s _____: “*May God be with you like He was with Moses.*” (Joshua 1:17)
 - d. God’s “_____” to both: “*Today, I’ll exalt you in their eyes and show them I am with you like I was with Moses*” (Joshua 3:7)

- (1) Red Sea crossing and Jordan River crossing
- (2) removal of sandals in God's presence (Joshua 5:5-15 and Ex. 3:5; cf. Rev. 19:11-16)
- (3) spies sent-in prior to invasion (Joshua 2 and Num. 13)
- (4) led the nation in Passover celebration (Josh 5:10-11; Ex. 12; Num. 9:2-12)
- (5) interceded for Israel's sin (Joshua 7:7-9; Deut. 9:25-29)

D. "Building Blocks" and "Stumbling Stones"

1. The Foundation Stone: The Theme of Covenant Faithfulness

- a. Joshua's "_____ " is to usher in the covenant promise to Abraham to the covenant people of God (Josh 1:6; Gen. 12:7), and hold them to the Law of the Covenant of Moses (Josh 1:8; ch 24)

*"Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land."
So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.*

Genesis 12:7

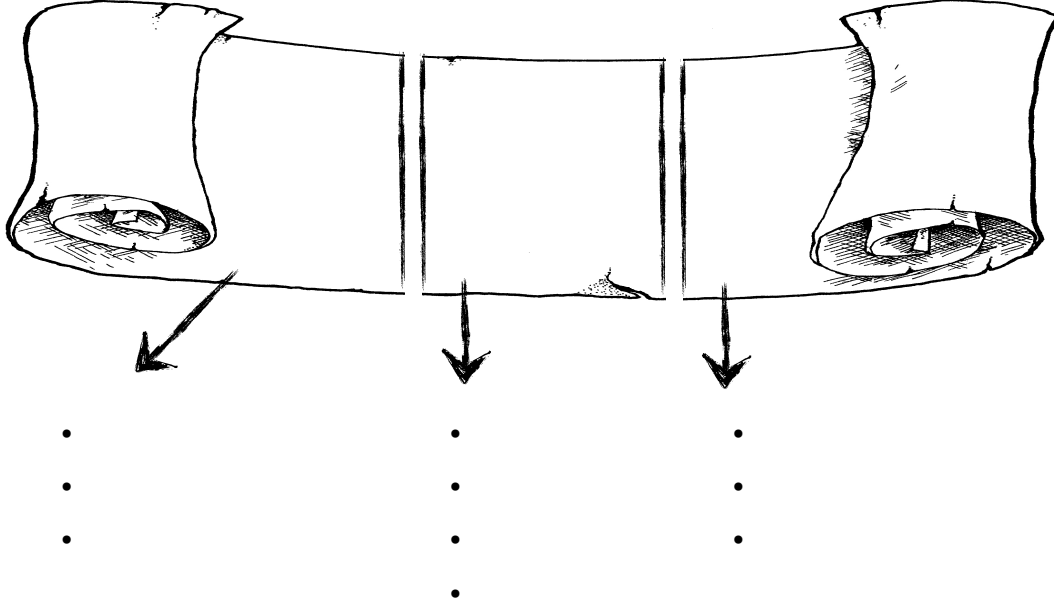
- b. "The _____ " is mentioned 77x in this book, and it is always linked to obedience to the covenant.
- c. God's "covenant" is mentioned ____ times in the book.
- d. There are ____ references to the God of Israel in this book and only ____ to the gods of Canaan (all in the final 2 chapters!)
- e. Considering there were ____ years of warfare, there is very little detail about it. (*the longest war narrative deals with the covenant offense at Ai*).
- f. The first two events once in the land were both _____ celebrations: circumcision & Passover.
- g. The military portion of the book opens with a sobering reminder that this is all about _____, not them.
- h. The book closes with the reburial of _____ bones at Shechem, in fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham.


2. The Falling Stones: Central Cities in Canaan

- a. **Jericho:**
 - one of the _____ cities on earth.
 - was continually inhabited for nearly _____ years (6000 years before Joshua!).
 - its remains predate the Pyramids by _____ years
 - "Joshua's walls" are _____; but there are "hints" of a 15th century upheaval.
 - The tel is 10 acres, 70 feet high.
- b. **Hazor:**
 - the "_____ " of the northern cities in Joshua's "northern campaign"
 - enormous city; _____ acres on a mound
 - burn layers have been found at 1400BC and 1250BC
 - had ____ occupations from 2700 - 150 BC
- c. **Ai**
 - there is great confusion over the _____ of the site
- d. These are the only three cities _____ (i.e., totally destroyed).
- e. God's intention was to give His people cities, vineyards and houses, *not* _____ and _____.

- f. The archeological remains that address this book are *not* as _____ as we would like.
3. “Stumbling Stones” — Difficulties in Joshua
- a. “the _____” - (**kerem**) God ordered the total annihilation of the Canaanites in Deuteronomy 7:1-11 and Joshua instituted it in Joshua 6:17,21
- (1) We do *not* have _____ for this that will fully satisfy us.
 - (2) What we *do* have, is information about:
 - (a) the seriousness and depth of the Canaanites’ _____ (Deut. 9:5)
 - (b) the example of _____ (6:17) indicating that God didn’t “hate” Canaanites
 - (c) the example of _____ & his family, indicating that God didn’t “favor” the Israelites
 - (d) the _____ of the conquest allowed repentance (16-20 years)
- b. **solidarity** - Achan’s entire _____ died because of his sin. But...
- (1) _____ Israelites died because of Achan’s sin.
 - (a) this was not unique to _____; it is recorded on the Moabite Stone
 - (b) it is the foundation of our doctrine of _____ (“in Adam” vs. “in Christ” 1 Cor. 15:22)
- c. **“victory”** - the book records complete victory *and* _____ victory (cf. 11:23; 21:43-35 with 13:1-6; 23:4-5)
- (1) God had enabled Israel to conquer those with _____; control then went to Israel.
 - (2) conquest and _____ were not always synonymous in this book.
- E. Joshua and The Christian
1. We need to be careful not to relegate _____ to “supporting actor” in this drama. This is more than a book with great role models!
 2. The Old Testament is *not* a “_____” history book. It is an ANE document about a covenant-keeping sovereign God who _____ history. (*He doesn’t merely see to it that it’s “recorded”!*)
 3. We need to understand the delicate balance between “victory” and “possession” in our lives as Christians when it comes to the _____ work of Christ.
 4. We need to understand that God has no “_____” other than His own.
 5. We need to see *ourselves* as “_____” figures in an ongoing Story, not central characters of a _____ event.

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA



Key  Information

Key Word:

Key Chapters:

Basic Geography:

Book summary: