

BITH200 BIBLICAL HISTORY OF ISRAEL

Introduction

The Bible tells the story of God's redemptive work in the life and death of Jesus Christ through the human history of the nation of Israel and the early church. This course helps the student pinpoint the place and time of major events in salvation history.

Course Objectives:

- To obtain an adequate knowledge of the chronograph and geographic concerns of the Old Testament in its presentation of events.
- To gain facility in solving some of the critical problems in Old Testament history.
- To reconstruct a working model of Israel's history.
- Understand the translation of the Bible

Though the beginning of Israel's national history must be placed at the time of her departure from Egypt, an account of her history must start with Abraham. Only after Israel had moved across Egypt's border did she have size and identity with which nations would have to reckon. The reader learns what the people did, and how they thought, spoke and behaved.

Israel was one of the smaller countries of the pre-Christian era, but her history has had a major impact on the world. The basic principles of Israel's law have provided guidelines for lawmakers. Among Israel's prophets are the greatest thinkers and writers of their day. The call to social justice and, supremely, to commitment to God, in both this wisdom literature and the prophets, has continued to be as significant for subsequent generations as it was for its first readers.

Contributing also to Israel's political importance was her strategic location. Wedged between the Arabian Desert and the Mediterranean, her narrow sixty miles afforded the only caravan routes for north-south traffic between the major nations of the ancient world. Egypt prospered and pursued extensive trade with countries to the north.

The name Palestine is derived from Philistia, meaning land of the Philistines.

On the east side of the Jordan rift lies Transjordan, a rolling plateau land known for its grazing value. Little farming is done there because hot winds burn it in the spring and fall, and cold desert winds sweep across it in the winter. On the west of the Jordan runs three blocks of mountain country, often called the backbone of Palestine proper.

Old Testament history can be divided into seven periods as follows:

1. The Patriarchal (from Abraham to Jacob's twelve sons)
2. The Egyptian (from Jacob's descent into Egypt to the exodus)
3. The Wilderness (the time spent wandering in the wilderness)
4. The Judges (when the tribes lived as separate entities)
5. The United Monarchy (Saul to Solomon)
6. The Divided Monarchy (from the division to the fall of Samaria and Judah)
7. The Exilic and Post Exilic Period (from the exile to the close of the fourth century)

Learn more by purchasing the entire course that covers the following topics:

Lesson 1 - Introduction and patriarchal background

Lesson 2 - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph

Lesson 3 - Sojourn and Exodus Chronology

Lesson 4 - Israel in the Wilderness

Lesson 5 - The Conquest

Lesson 6 - King Saul

Lesson 7 – King David

Lesson 8 - King Solomon

Lesson 9 - The Northern Kingdom

Lesson 10 - The Kingdom of Judah

Lesson 11 - The Exile and Return