

**CROSSPOINTE MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP**  
**Old Testament Survey: Joshua – Esther**  
March 23, 2016

**I. JOSHUA – ESTHER: POSSESSION, EXILE, RETURN**

**A. JOSHUA**

Describes the conquest of the promised land that God promised to Abraham and its apportionment to the tribes of Israel. God's people could not boast of their military prowess because it is God who accomplishes the victory. Joshua summons God's people to be faithful to the covenant or face his judgment.

Important Themes:

The Lord as the Divine Warrior (Joshua 5:13-15)  
Conquest, Sanctification, Faithfulness  
Destruction of Canaanites

**B. JUDGES**

The story of fourteen judges who ruled over Israel after Joshua. The judges go from decent to very bad and the book is a descending cycle of the moral failure and idolatry of Israel. A cycle of sin, oppression, repentance, deliverance, and short-lived peace before more sin is repeated throughout the book. The phrase, "everyone did as was right in their own eyes" is repeated numerous times. Maybe the darkest book in the Bible.

Important Themes:

The pain of disobedience  
God's patience despite his people's failure  
The need for a righteous leader

**C. RUTH**

A short story during the days of the Judges. It functions as a ray of God's grace against the dark backdrop of Judges and serves to announce and prepare the way for the birth of David.

Important Themes:

God's grace to his people and Gentiles  
A kinsmen redeemer  
David's line established

**D. 1 & 2 SAMUEL**

Are about the last judge, Samuel and the first two kings: Saul and David. God's promise to Abraham further develops along as God establishes the throne of David and his kingdom.

Important Themes:

God's covenant with David (2 Samuel 7)  
The need for a true and better King

**E. 1 & 2 KINGS**

Focus is on the reign of David's son, Solomon, followed by the fall of both Solomon and his line. Solomon builds the temple and his palace. The kingdom divides and things go downhill from there. Although there are several revivals, both the northern and southern kingdoms suffer at the hands of mostly bad kings and their own immorality and idolatry.

Important Themes:

Building of the temple  
Content and place of true worship  
Consequences of bad kings and disobedience

## **F. 1 & 2 CHRONICLES**

A summary of everything from Adam to the beginning of the exile. The focus is on David, Solomon, the role of the temple, and the kings of the southern kingdom leading up to the exile. There is a good bit of repeated material from 1 & 2 Kings and 2 Samuel.

### Important Themes:

God's Covenant with David  
The Temple  
Encouragement to an exiled people

## **G. EZRA**

Describes the return of the Jews from Babylonian captivity to rebuild the temple. God raises up the Persian King Cyrus to wrench the Jews from Babylonian captivity. Cyrus, although their new captor, allows God's people to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

### Important Themes:

God's sovereign control of the nations  
True worship and repentance

## **H. NEHEMIAH**

Continues the story of the rebuilding of Jerusalem with the focus on the exterior walls.

### Important Themes:

The Lord hears and uses prayer to work out his sovereignty.  
God protects his people from schemes of the enemies.

## **I. ESTHER**

The last book of the history of the Old Testament. It tells the story of God delivering the Jews who remained in the Persian Empire late in the exile through the faithfulness of a young Jewish queen, Esther.

### Important Themes:

God's protection of his people

## **II. THREE MAJOR THEMES FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS**

1. A particular people
2. A passion for holiness
3. A promise of hope

## **III. THREE THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN READING OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY**

1. Understand where you are in the timeline of redemptive history.
  - Realize God may act in unique ways for unique purposes.
2. Seek to connect what you are reading to the Gospel.
  - How does this story, passage, scene point to Christ?
3. Finally, look for application to life today.
  - What does this text teach us about God?
  - What does this text teach us about ourselves?
  - What does this text teach about what we need, or need to do?