

An Introduction to the Old Testament
Class 9
Old Testament History Part 1: Joshua to Esther Overview
2025-2026
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- I. **Books of the Bible Quiz**
- II. **Our Timeline**
- III. **“Historical Narratives”: What are these?**

A “narrative” is something that describes a series of events. It tells some kind of story. “Historical narrative” is giving us history in a narrative format.

The Bible’s Historical Narrative is distinct by being at the same time:

- A True Narrative: Using narrative techniques (beginning, middle, end, characters, etc.) but it isn’t fiction.
- True History: What is says really happened, really happened.
- True Theology: The writing is not just biography or history, it’s also theology. It gives truth about God and God’s dealings with humanity. Yet, this theology is not just the invention of man but is God’s revelation to us (what he revealed to us). Everything it says to believe and do is 100% correct

A huge part of our Bibles is historical narrative: Just over half the Old Testament, just over half of the New Testament.

What to look for:

- The flow of the narrative - Where do passages start and stop? What are the large and small narrative divisions?
- Look at how the characters are developed: Look for clues for who is the good guy and who is the bad guy. Sometimes not easy to tell and very subtle (Isaac in Genesis).
- Look at the dialogue: In the Bible’s narratives, a huge part of the theology and importance of a passage is carried by the dialogue.

IV. Ruth – Let’s Think Through Our Steps

- A. Where in the history of redemption?
- B. Some facts about the narrative

- C. How does it connect to Christ?
- D. What does Ruth call us to believe, think, or do? (note Hebrew *hesed*)

V. Joshua to Esther

- A. No King in the Land – Joshua (conquest!), Judges (Judg 21:25), Ruth
- B. A King Rises Up – 1–2 Samuel
 - 1. Samuel: A judge and a prophet
 - 2. Saul
 - 3. David (and the Davidic Covenant, the Covenant of the King)
- C. Kings Rule...for a While – 1–2 Kings, 1–2 Chronicles
- D. [The Exile]
- E. No King in the Land – Ezra-Nehemiah, Esther