

Eric P. Brown

10/4/20

OT 503 Reading The Old Testament

Dr. Russell Mack, P.D

I read the bible for this week 2 hours combined.

I read 100% of the assigned readings carefully, highlighting and taking notes from it.

I watched all of the videos pausing and rewinding in order to jot down notes important to me.

Hill and Walton state that the English arrangement of the historical books of the Old Testament include Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. These books share a prophetic view of history in which cause and effect are tied to the blessings and curses of the covenant. They also share a Deuteronomistic history which is history framed with the idea of Deuteronomy. The purpose and message of Joshua is the sovereign favor of God giving Israel the land. It is filled with military details, conquest, campaigns, land allotments, and covenant renewal. Judges had no central authority, so the book is about the need for a king in order to establish order. These Judges weren't exactly righteous men, but they were empowered by God's spirit. Ruth shows God's preservation of a faithful people for his covenant lineage. There's an emphasis on the kinsman redeemer portrayed by Boaz. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel purpose is to tell the story of the establishment of the kingship covenant with David. The Davidic dynasty is established by God. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings records the covenant failure of the Hebrew united and divided monarchies. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles points to God's faithfulness and has a theology of hope. It's a biography of God and His intervention to accomplish His purposes. Ezra and Nehemiah is a continuation of post-exilic history and points to covenant renewal such as the initial return and rebuilding of the temple. Esther's purpose is that God can work just as effectively behind the scenes. Events that others see as chance can be seen by believers as signs of God's sovereignty.

A challenging feature in scripture was the corruption of Israel's judges. Their roles as tribal, regional, political, military leaders gave me a better understanding of who they actually were. I'd like to research God's miracles through reversals found in Esther and more about the God who works behind the scenes throughout biblical history.