

Sabrina Phillips

OT 503 Reading the Old Testament, Fall 2020

Lesson 3 Essay, October 4, 2020

Read the Bible

On October 4, 2020, I listened to two hours of the book of Joshua on Bible Gateway Audio Bible.

Assigned Reading

I read one hundred percent of the assigned reading and I scanned all the individual chapters for each of the "Historical Books".

Assigned Videos

I watched one hundred percent of the assigned lessons on both Google drive and Bible Project website.

Essay

The so-called "historical books" of the Old Testament are not so much history of people, time and places in a linear explanation, but the self-revelation of God and his Divine Plan to show his faithfulness to an oftentimes fickle and unfaithful people and his deliverance and restoration of them.

The purpose and message of:

The book of Joshua is a revelation of God making good on his promise to bring the children of Israel into and give them the promised land to dwell with them four hundred years earlier, but they were unfaithful to keep up their end of the covenant (Hill and Walton, p. 217).

The book of Judges is to show that God was faithful to Israel and repeatedly delivered them although they failed to keep the covenant (Hill and Walton, p. 235).

The book of Ruth is demonstration of God's faithfulness through the story of Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi and the blessing that resulted from obedience. It also shows God preserving faith and his covenant through David's ancestry through Ruth (Hill and Walton, p. 251).

The books of Samuel are to reveal God keeping his covenant by establishing the Davidic covenant and his appointment of a line of kings (Hill and Walton, p. 259).

The books of the Kings are demonstrate God revealing he still ruled human history and remained faithful to his agreement with the Hebrews as his "elect" through fulfilled prophecy and promise to establish kingship forever in Israel despite human weaknesses.

The books of the Chronicles are God's revelation of how obedience to properly worship him and to the covenant will bring blessings.

The books of Ezra through Nehemiah are to show God was faithful at restoring the people of Israel to their land and that he is a covenant keeper.

The book of Esther is to reveal God's faithfulness is at work, even in obscurity, to save his faithful people and keep them from the plans of wicked and to continue to keep his covenant.

The Deuteronomistic History message and critique was challenging to me. I had to read it twice and take meticulous notes to comprehend it. I would like to research the Davidic Dynasties and the assessment of King David in comparison to the other kings. I would also like to research the Amarna letters.