

- I read the Bible for 2 1/2 hours on the book of Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Chronicles and Esther
- I read 100% of the assigned material, highlighted and took notes from chapter 10.
- I watched all the class lecture videos and the Bible Project Videos

The historical books are the recounts of what God is doing in history towards the goals of fulfillment of His covenant to His people. As Walton says on the Introduction to the Historical Books Video: "If you read the historical books and all that you can do after is talk about the events narrated inside them, you've missed it! (Lesson 10 Video)". Both the Theology and the account of history according to the agenda of the editor are merged in the covenant.

The book of Joshua shows how God kept his covenant promise to give the land to Israel. As Hill and Walton point out in page 217: "The purpose of the book of Joshua is summarized nicely in Joshua 21:43–45: "So the LORD gave Israel all the land, ... and they took possession of it and settled there. The LORD gave them rest on every side The LORD handed all their enemies over to them. Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled." On the other hand, the book of Judges "show the failure of Israel to keep their part of the covenant" while "God demonstrated His power and mercy by delivering them time after time after his justice had demanded that he bring punishment" (page 235). That if followed in the English Canon by the book of Ruth where it shows "that when people is faithful, God is faithful" (page 249). Also it sets up the narrative preparation of presenting us the Davidic dynasty. The books of Samuel tell the story "of the establishment of the kingship covenant with David" (page 347-348). The books of Kings build on this kingship narrative in order "to record the "covenant failure" of the united and divided monarchies" (page 279). The books of Chronicles gives a "theology of hope for the post exilic Hebrew community by the retelling the story of the God of history and Israel's story in the Davidic kingship while affirming that God is faithful and he will restore Davidic kingship by raising a shepherd-king like David to rule over Israel" (page 309). Ezra and Nehemiah "shows the numerous ways that God was faithfully at work in restoring the people of Israel to their land after the Babylonian exile" (page 329). And Esther

shows “that God can accomplish his purposes just as easily through “coincidences” as he can through grand miracles of deliverance. Though he works behind the curtain, he is just as much in control. Events that others see as chance or fate, can be seen by believers as signs of God’s sovereignty” (pages 347-348).

For me, it was new and very impactful to learn that we’re not supposed to read for role models. As the authors say, “The Old Testament is not revelation of Joshua, Samson, David, Elijah or Josiah. It is revelation of God” (Hill and Walton, 206). What we see about them in the text is the literary representation that enables us to see God at work through them, with them, for them and, sometimes despite them. As Walton says on the Lesson 10 video: “There is 1 hero in the Bible: God!”

To research further, I’m intrigued by Joshua’s encounter with the angel general of the armies of the Lord. Who was he? Some people have gone as far as to say he was pre-incarnated Jesus. That would present problems with the OT being monotheistic as Israel was (Deut. 6:4).