

HISTORICAL BOOKS

INTRODUCTION

I. HISTORY

1. Deuteronomomic History (**Joshua, Judges, I + II Samuel, I & II Kings**) – 6 Books
2. Chronicle History (**I + II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah**) – 4 Books
3. Popular History (**Ruth, Esther, Tobit, Judith**) – 4 Books
4. Maccabean History (**I & II Maccabees**) – 2 Books

II. IN BIBLE

Proto Canonical Books: First Canon or Hebrew Canon

Former Prophets: I + II Kings; I + II Samuel, Judges, Joshua – 6

Chronicles Books: I + II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah - 4

Popular Historical Books: Ruth, Esther (Hebrew) - 2

Deutero-Canonical Books: 2nd Canon or Greek Canon

(Apocrypha Books for Jews & Protestants)

Esther (Greek), Judith, Tobit, I+II Maccabees - 4 (+1)

III. PERIOD

1. Pre-Monarchic Period (1250 B.C. - 1050 B.C.) - (3)

Formative period or Settlement period - Book of Joshua

Conquest & Settlement - Book of Judges, Ruth

2. Monarchic Period (1050 B.C. - 587 B.C.) – (6)

I + II Samuel, I + II Kings & I + II Chronicles

3. Exile Period (721 B.C. - 539 B.C.) – 2

II Kings and II Chronicles

III. PERIOD

4. Persian or Post Exilic Period (539 B.C.-333 B.C.) - (3)

Ezra + Nehemiah, Esther

5. Hellenistic or Greek Period (333 B.C. - 134 B.C.) - (4)

Tobit, Judith, I+II Maccabees

The Time Frame of the Historical Books (1290 B.C. - 134 B.C.)

Joshua	1290 to 1250	Conquering the promised land and settlement of the twelve tribes.
Judges	1250 to 1050	Life histories of 13 Judges who ruled before the emergence of Monarchy.
Ruth	1200 to 1150	Story of a Moabite woman who enters in the Israelite race.
I Sam	1100 to 1010	From the birth of Samuel to Death of Saul
II Sam	1010 to 971	Rule of David from Jerusalem to his old age.
I Kings	971 to 853	From Death of David to the Rule of Jehoshaphat of Judah and Ahaziah of Israel – Samaria.

The Time Frame of the Historical Books (1290 B.C. - 134 B.C.)

II Kings	853 to 560	From Ahaziah to the release of Jehoiachin from Prison
I Chr	1950 to 971	From the story of Abraham to the reign of David
II Chr	971 to 537	From Solomon to the Beginning of the Persian Rule
Ezra	537 to 450	Building of the Second Temple and coming of Ezra, the priest and scribe to Judah.
Nehemiah	445 to 410	Nehemiah, Governor of Judah
Esther	483 to 465	Story of Esther and Mordecai in the 5th century B.C.
Tobit -	722 B.C.	After the fall of Samaria, Northern Kingdom

The Time Frame of the Historical Books (1290 B.C. - 134 B.C.)

Judith	485 B.C.	Nebuchadnezzar referred to be the King of Assyrians. Holofernes and Bagoas are mentioned as the officials of 5th cent B.C. Persian king Artaxerxes III. It could be only after the Persian conquer.
I Maccabees	184 to 134	Time of Antiochus Epiphanes IV and the sons of Mattathias
II Maccabees	184 to 160	Time of Antiochus Epiphanes IV and the sons of Mattathias

DEUTERONOMIC HISTORY

INTRODUCTION

DEUTERONOMIC HISTORY

- ❖ **Deuteronomistic History from the Time of Samuel, the Judge (1100 B.C.) to the Time of Exile (until 550 B.C.) was compiled during the period of Exile.**
- ❖ **The books were put together by the same school of thought, which edited the book of Deuteronomy.**
- ❖ **It gets its major inspiration from the Theology of Deuteronomy & it gets insights from the prophetic spirit of the life of Jeremiah.**

DEUTERONOMIC HISTORY

The purpose for the Deuteronomistic History is to explain why the Kingdom of David has failed and the people were exiled despite God's promises (Covenant).

- ❖ **The exile was not meaningless.**
- ❖ **It did not mean that God was powerless.**
- ❖ **Not that God simply used the people of Israel and then cast them aside.**
- ❖ **Result of sin and blindness of the people.**
- ❖ **The spirit of Deuteronomistic History is basically Prophetic in character.**
- ❖ **It is also the reflection on the community of David's reign & community of the time when the book was written.**

The Themes in the Deuteronomistic History

- (-) Destruction as justifiable outcome of Sins
Critical of Kings & People alike
- (+) Value the Covenant highly
Calls for Repent
Hints of Hope
Restoration of Israel & Bless again

The Four Stages involved in the Deuteronomistic History

- 1) Israel's failure in covenantal loyalty, it's "sin";**
- 2) The punishment or suffering such as falling into the hands of enemies;**
- 3) The cry to God for deliverance;**
- 4) Intervention of God on behalf of Israel.**

**❖ Grace/ Mercy of God → sin of Israel → Punishment →
God's forgiveness → Grace/ Mercy of God → Sin of Israel.**

Deuteronomistic History

This continual circle of sin, punishment, cry for help, forgiveness, mercy and deliverance **oscillates between two poles, prophecy and fulfilment**. One can call it as prophecy and fulfilment pattern. This pattern confirms the acts of God in the world. Here **fulfilment points to faithfulness of God to his promises** and thus shows the **effectiveness of the prophetic Word**.

Deuteronomy History has 5 stages

- 1. Joshua – Book of Joshua**
- 2. Judges – Book of Judges and I Samuel**
- 3. David – I + II Samuel**
- 4. The Kings – I + II Kings**
- 5. Fall & Exile – II Kings**

JOSHUA

Obedience to God

Faithful to God



Ch.1 and Chs.22:10-24:33.

- ❖ The conquest and Israel's superiority over Canaanites termed as the Blessing from JHWH, Glory & pride of Israel (Chs.6 & 8-12).
- ❖ Role of the Ark of the Covenant (Chs. 2-3).
- ❖ The importance of the places of worship like Gilgal (Chs 4-5).
- ❖ Stories of warning and punishment (Ch.7).
- ❖ Nation divided to the Tribes (Chs.13-22:9).

JUDGES

- **Spirit of Rebellion + Disobedience**
- **Gradual process of Settlement**
- **Local uprising**
- **6 major and 6 minor judges coming to liberate the tribes of Israel**
- **Sin, punishment, call for help, rising up of the Judge, victory & peace – Sin & Punishment.**

I SAMUEL

- **Life story of Samuel as Judge, Prophet and Priest.**
- **Samuel anointing Saul as king of Israel.**
- **I Sam 12:5 – Warning of Samuel.**
- **Samuel anointing David as king of Israel to replace Saul.**
- **Conflict between Saul and David.**
- **Death of Saul.**

II SAMUEL

- ❖ **David as the King of United Israel.**
- ❖ **Covenant of God with David (II Sam 7).**
- ❖ **Sin of David with Bathsheba (II Sam 11-12).**
- ❖ **Conflict between David & Absalom (II Sam 13-19)**
- ❖ **The Census of the number of Soldiers ordered by David (II Sam 24).**

I KINGS

- **Death of David (Chs.1-2).**
- **Solomon anointed as King of Israel and seeking wisdom (Ch.3).**
- **Building of the Temple at Jerusalem (Chs.4-8).**
- **Kings in the South - Ahaz (745-715 B.C.), Hezekiah (715-687 B.C.), Josiah (640-609 B.C.).**
- **Kings from North – Jeroboam I (922-901 B.C.), Ahab (869-850 B.C.), Jeroboam II (686-646 B.C.).**
- **The Cycle stories of Prophet Elijah (Chs.17-22).**

II KINGS

- ❖ **The Cycle stories of Prophet Elisha (Chs.1-13).**
- ❖ **Assyrian Exile of the Northern Kingdom and Destruction of Samaria.**
- ❖ **The evil has not stopped but increased - divine punishment cannot be stopped (2Kgs 23:26-27).**
- ❖ **Babylonian Exile for the Southern kingdom and destruction of Jerusalem.**