



Bible Class With Dr. Ricky Temple

Session 1: How the Bible Fits

1. How the Bible Is Organized

The Bible is organized into two main divisions, then grouped by type of writing, not by strict chronology.

Old Testament (39 Books)

1. Law (5 books)
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
2. Historical Books (12 books)
Joshua through Esther
3. Wisdom & Poetry (5 books)
Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs
4. Major Prophets (5 books)
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
5. Minor Prophets (12 books)
Hosea through Malachi

New Testament (27 Books)

1. Gospels (4 books)
Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
2. History (1 book)
Acts
3. Epistles / Letters (21 books)
Romans through Jude



4. Prophecy (1 book)
Revelation

2. The Historical Books of the Old Testament (Listed)

The twelve Historical Books record Israel's national history:

1. Joshua – Conquest of Canaan
2. Judges – Tribal leadership and repeated decline
3. Ruth – A family story during the Judges period
4. 1 Samuel – Transition from judges to kings
5. 2 Samuel – Establishment of David's kingdom
6. 1 Kings – Solomon and the divided kingdom
7. 2 Kings – Decline and exile of Israel and Judah
8. 1 Chronicles – Priestly retelling with a Davidic focus
9. 2 Chronicles – Kings of Judah and temple history
10. Ezra – Return from exile and rebuilding the temple
11. Nehemiah – Rebuilding Jerusalem's walls and community
12. Esther – God preserving His people in exile

3. Where Samuel Fits in the Story

- Samuel follows Judges
- Samuel precedes Kings
- It marks the transition from:
 - Tribal judges → National monarchy
 - Spiritual chaos → Centralized leadership



4. Time Period Covered by Samuel

- Approximate Dates: 1105 BC – 971 BC
- Covers the end of the Judges, the rise of Saul, and the reign of David.

5. One-Sentence Class Summary

- The books of Samuel record Israel's shift from tribal judges to kings and reveal that leadership success is shaped by obedience to God, not position or power.