

THROUGH THE BIBLE

November 15, 2017

Genesis – 2 Samuel Lessons Learned

The Nature of God
The Nature of Humankind
Relationship between God and Humans
Thread – The Redemption of Humankind



The Books of Law

God is the creator of the universe.
God created humans in his likeness.
God made us stewards of his creation.

God demands obedience but still provides for his people in the midst of punishment.
Sin entered the world and God condemned humans to work but also cared for them.
Cain murdered Abel but the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one would kill him.
In the story of the flood God saved Noah and his family.
In the story of Sodom and Gomorrah God instructed his people what to do to be saved.

God calls us into a covenant relationship (the promise of redemption).
The covenant relationship starts with Abraham and travels through his family.
Sin still exists.
God still provides for his people.
We see the effects of our obedience and disobedience.

God speaks through different people for different purposes (and all are flawed).
God empowers Moses beyond what he thought he was capable of doing.
God also called Aaron into service to help his brother.
The Levites became the priests for their community of faith.

The power of God is most evident in the deliverance of the people out of Egypt.
The plagues and the parting of the Red Sea went beyond magic.
God gave the people bread from heaven and water from a rock in the wilderness.

God demands obedience and provides the people with clear commandments.

God is holy and God demands holiness.

Our offerings demonstrate to whom we are responsible.

When we fail we make restitution with God and with our neighbor.

There are blessings for obedience.

We learn about atonement.

Atonement enables us to have our relationship with God restored.

God offers us a substitution for our sins in the form of sacrifices.

What story was most meaningful to you in the *Books of Law*?

How does this story reinforce *the thread* we are following in Scripture?

The Books of History

These books are history in the best sense of the word.

They do more than record data about past events.

They present the data in such a way that we understand what the events mean.

They are historical in content and written from a prophetic standpoint.



God fulfills his promise of bringing the people into the Promised Land.

The people of Israel attribute their losses (in war) to their disobedience.

And they attribute their wins (in war) to their obedience to God.

The people of Israel finally receive their allotment of land.

God has completed his covenant promise.

God is faithful but God also demands faithfulness.

The people of God continually rebel against God.

The cycle repeats – sin / suffering / cries to God / salvation

The nation has to be continually reminded that the Lord is their King.

They are to be loyal to his rule.

God offers a ray of hope with the story of Ruth.

God always preserves a remnant that stay true to him despite their wicked surroundings.

In the midst of the sins of the people, Ruth and Boaz display selfless acts.

They show us how God expects his people to live.

We see the start of a monarchy and the prominence of Jerusalem.

The leaders that are called are not without sin.

God gives the people what they want but with consequences.

The power given to the kings makes them turn away from God (self-reliance).

The sins of the parents influence the sins of their children.

God calls and appoints successors to lead the people.

God calls the judges.

Samuel is the faithful prophet.

Saul is the fallen king.

David is the chosen one.

David sets the precedent for future generations (the ideal king).

For the first time since Joshua there is no idolatry in Israel.

In the midst of his sins, David stands like a rock for the Lord God.

He takes a chaotic nation and establishes a dynasty that lasts over 450 years.

David does not hold on to resentment or bitterness (no matter the wrong).

He has patience and is willing to do things on God's time.

He is willing to be obedient to the will of God.

He has compassion for those less fortunate than himself.

He seeks forgiveness from God when he fails and takes responsibility for his actions.

What story was most meaningful to you in the *Books of History*?

How does this story reinforce *the thread* we are following in Scripture?

In our own stories –

What does the story look like when we share the facts?

What does the story look like when we put God in it?