

Adult Class

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

The Story of the Bible
Connecting the Dots

The Time Periods...

- Before the Flood
- The Flood
- The Scattering of the People
- The Patriarchs
- The Exodus
- Wandering in the Wilderness
- Invasion and Conquest of the Land
- The Judges
- The United Kingdom
- The Divided Kingdom
- Judah Alone
- The Captivity
- Return from Captivity

The Time Periods...

Before the Flood
Genesis 1 – Creation
Genesis 5 – Generations

The Flood
Genesis 6 – Warning of the Flood
Genesis 8 – Ending of the Flood

Scattering of the People
Genesis 9 – Command to fill the earth
Genesis 11 – Tower of Babel, forced scattering – Generations of Shem to Abraham

The Patriarchs
Genesis 12 – Abraham introduced, promise given to him
Genesis 50 – Joseph dies in Egypt

The Exodus
Exodus 1 – People in bondage in Egypt
Numbers 13 – People lose their faith (spy incident)

Wandering in the Wilderness
Numbers 14 – God curses the people to wander for 40 years.
Joshua 5 – Commander of the Lord's army appears to Joshua

Invasion and Conquest of the Land
Joshua 6 – Jericho
Joshua 24 – Death of Joshua

The Judges
Judges 1 – Summary of the time period
1 Samuel 9 – Demand for a king

The United Kingdom
1 Samuel 10 – Saul anointed first king of Israel
1 Kings 12 – Kingdom splits after Rehoboam's unwillingness to listen to the people

The Divided Kingdom
1 Kings 13/2 Chronicles 10 – Israel begins its rebellion under King Jeroboam
2 Kings 17/2 Chronicles 31 – Assyria destroys and captures Israel (Northern tribes)

Judah Alone
2 Kings 18/2 Chronicles 31 – Israel taken by Assyria
2 Kings 25/2 Chronicles 36 – Judah taken by Babylon

The Captivity

Return from Captivity
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Years of Silence

Return from Captivity...

- Following their release from captivity by King Cyrus (of the Medo-Persian empire), the people now called “Jews” return to Jerusalem to rebuild their nation.
- The people undergo numerous challenges and difficulties as they reconstruct their homes, God’s temple, and the wall around Jerusalem.
- This is the last section of history in the Old Testament during which any inspired writings are recorded. The next writings will be by New Testament authors.

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Return from Captivity...

- The books included in this time period are the remaining books of history (Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther) as well as the remaining prophets (Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi).

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Return from Captivity...

- The Reconstruction of the Temple (Ezra)
 - Recall a prophecy made by Isaiah regarding the king who would allow Jerusalem to be rebuilt
 - King Cyrus of Persia allows the people to return to Jerusalem in order to reconstruct the temple of God.
 - A man named Zerubbabel is chiefly in charge of the rebuilding Jewish nation.
 - The foundation of the temple is eventually built, and there are mixed emotions about its construction.
 - For a time, the construction of the temple is halted by the adversaries of the Jews.

Return from Captivity...

The Reconstruction of the Temple (Ezra)

Recall a prophecy made by Isaiah regarding the king who would allow Jerusalem to be rebuilt – Isaiah 44:24-28

King Cyrus of Persia allows the people to return to Jerusalem in order to reconstruct the temple of God. – Ezra 1

A man named Zerubbabel is chiefly in charge of the rebuilding Jewish nation. – See Matthew 1:12

The foundation of the temple is eventually built, and there are mixed emotions about its construction. – Ezra 3:10-13 (Why would this be?)

For a time, the construction of the temple is halted by the adversaries of the Jews.

Return from Captivity...

- The Reconstruction of the Temple (Ezra)
 - Eventually, construction recommences and completes with further aid from the Persians.
 - Despite their punishment, it seems the people still have difficulty following God's commands, and begin intermarrying once again with foreigners.
 - Ezra and the people make a covenant that they will put away their foreign women and return to the Lord.
 - Notice that God records all those who had sinned. Not a single sin escapes His view.

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Ezra and the people make a covenant that they will put away their foreign women and return to the Lord. – Ezra 10

Notice that God records all those who had sinned. Not a single sin escapes His view.

Return from Captivity...

- The Reconstruction of the Wall (Nehemiah)
 - Another problem with Jerusalem was that its wall had been completely destroyed, but that it had not been reconstructed yet, despite the fact that the people have been there for many years.
 - Nehemiah determines that it must be repaired and leads the people in doing so.
 - Like the reconstruction of the temple, there are many adversaries who are opposed to the rebuilding of the wall.
 - Once the people put their minds and hammers to work, the wall is completed in only 52 days.

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Like the reconstruction of the temple, there are many adversaries who are opposed to the rebuilding of the wall. - Nehemiah 4

Once the people put their minds to it, and their hammers to work, the wall is completed in only 52 days. - Nehemiah 6:15

Return from Captivity...

- The Reconstruction of the Wall (Nehemiah)
 - After the wall is rebuilt, Ezra reads the book of the Law before the whole house of Israel for several hours every day for 7 days (the Feast of Booths).
 - A similar (if not the same) event is recorded in Nehemiah regarding the marriage of foreign women.
 - The men of Israel all sign a covenant with each other and with God, that they will put away their foreign women, just as God had commanded.
 - Nehemiah confronted those who continued in sin.

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A similar (if not the same) event is recorded in Nehemiah regarding the marriage of foreign women. – Nehemiah 9-10 –

Prayer in Nehemiah 9; all the people will write a covenant repenting of their sin

Covenant in Nehemiah 10; accountable to one another and to God (28-29)

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Nehemiah confronted those who continued in sin (Nehemiah 13:23-26)

Return from Captivity...

● Esther

- This book follows the well-known story of Esther, the Jewish queen (married to King Ahasuerus of the Persian empire) who saved the Jews from extermination.
- The popular quote “...who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” is spoken by Mordecai, Esther’s uncle.
- Ultimately, by Esther’s devotion and courage, the people are saved from extermination, and a feast, “Purim,” is instituted to remember their deliverance.

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Return from Captivity...

- The Books of the Return from Captivity

- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi



Minor Prophets

The Books of the Return from Captivity

Themes of Prophecy

- ◉ Repentance
- ◉ “The Day of the Lord”
- ◉ God’s concern for all nations
- ◉ The Messiah
- ◉ A new kingdom

Themes of Prophecy

Repentance

- God never ceases to chastise his people
- God warns the people that without repentance, disaster was soon to follow
- God extends mercy to His people, as long as they repent of their wickedness

“The Day of the Lord”

- A day of reckoning that comes for all individuals and nations
- For the evil, it is a day of judgment; for the righteous, it is a day of deliverance
- There have been many “days of the Lord” throughout history, so it is important to understand what is meant by this idea

God’s concern for all nations

- God does not simply demand Israel to behave properly while allowing all of the other nations of the world to act as they like
- God also calls the nations of the world to repentance, promising disaster if they do not comply with His demands

The Messiah

- Someone is coming to ultimately save God’s people
- There is a great deal of prophecy about the Messiah, looking, of course, to Jesus and the events that would surround his life and death
- Often referred to as a king or high priest, etc.

A new kingdom

- Hand in hand with the idea of a Messiah is the idea of a new kingdom
- Different images of this kingdom include a mountain, a grand temple, etc.
- The new kingdom ultimately refers to the establishment of the church as God’s “spiritual” Israel

Return from Captivity...

- Haggai
 - This book is delivered by Haggai the Prophet to the remnant in Jerusalem.
 - The people refuse to reconstruct the temple and are busy working on their own lands and homes.
 - “Consider your ways.”
 - God will not allow the people to be physically satisfied until they first attend to their spiritual needs.
 - The people are upset that the temple is not as magnificent as it once was.
 - The glory of the Lord will once again inhabit the temple (spiritual) in the future.

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- Zechariah
 - Written by Zechariah, this book was written around the same time as Haggai.
 - One of the more difficult books of prophecy, it includes a great deal of prophetic imagery that requires in-depth study to understand.
 - When men turn from God, He turns from them.
 - There are also numerous references to the Messiah in the book and the things that He would do eventually.
 - The new kingdom is described as a people who will be refined by fire and who will rely on God.

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There are also numerous references to the Messiah in the book and the things that He would do eventually. – Zech 6:12, Zech 12:9-10

The new kingdom is described as a people who will be refined by fire and who will rely on God. – Zech 13:9 (also referenced in 1 Cor 3)

Return from Captivity...

- ◉ Malachi
 - The last book of prophecy written in the Old Testament, it chastises the Jews for neglecting the completed temple and God's proper worship.
 - God demands complete and proper sacrifice, or else He wants no sacrifice or worship at all.
 - Malachi rebukes the people for their lack of devotion to both God, and subsequently, to their spouses.
 - Malachi speaks of an "Elijah" who will come before the great and terrible day of the Lord; this refers to John the Baptist, who will be the last "Old Testament" prophet.

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