



## The unfolding purposes of God in the whole Bible

### Session 3 Joshua 1 – 2 Samuel 7

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At the end of the book of Deuteronomy **God's people are numerous, they are on the edge of the land he promised and are experiencing the blessing of living in relationship with God and obeying his law. However they are still regularly under his judgment for sin and the serpent crusher has not come. The kingdom of God has only partly arrived.**

#### Joshua 1- 2 Samuel 24

In this session we are looking at a period of about 240 years from Joshua (approx 1240BC) to David (approx 1000BC).

#### Joshua – Conquering the Land

A disturbing book...

*"They devoted the city to the Lord and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it – men and women, young and old, cattle sheep and donkeys."*  
Joshua 6:21

Is Joshua an abhorrent book?

- a)
- b)
- c)

The main message of the book of Joshua is that it is God who conquers the land rather than the people of Israel.

1

2

3

4 Read Joshua 6:1-21.

- What things that happen in these verses show that this is God's victory not their victory?

5 The battle of Ai

The book is designed to show that when the people are obedient God keeps his promises of blessing to them.

Chapters 6-12: the conquest of the land, the battles that are fought and their progress.

Chapters 13-21: how the land is divided up so that everybody receives part of God's gift.

Summary verse for Joshua is 21:43-45

*"So the LORD gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their forefathers, and they took possession of it and settled there. The LORD gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their forefathers. Not one of their enemies withstood them; 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."*

A note of doubt? See 24:19-20

## Judges

After the death of Moses... (Joshua 1:1)

After the death of Joshua... (Judges 1:1)

The essential problem: *"After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel."* (Judges 2:10)

The spiral of decline – Judges 2:11-19

- Fill in the following table describing the cycle:

The Israelites	Did evil
So God	
Because of this the Israelites...	
So God gave them a...	
And then...	
But the judge...	
And the Israelites...	

Fill in the following table telling us what are the flaws in each judge:

Name	Flaw 1	Flaw 2
Ehud	3:15	4:1
Deborah	4:4	6:1
Gideon	6:15	8:33
Jephthah	11:30-39	12:7
Samson	14:1-2	16:30

Judges 18-21 - civil war and why Richard Dawkins doesn't know anything about the Bible...

The summary verse for Judges: *"In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit."* (21:25)

- At the end of Judges we are left with God's people, in his land but not experiencing his blessing because they will not submit to his rule. What kind of judge do you think the Israelites need?

## Ruth

The book of Ruth is set (Ruth 1:1) in the time of the judges and provides a bit of a counterpoint.

It tells the story of a foreign lady (Ruth) who becomes Jewish and marries a man called Boaz. He treats destitute Ruth with great kindness and justice just as the law God gave to Moses said he should.

In all the mess and horror of this period there are people who trust God and are obedient to his law. God is still preserving a people.

And there is a hint at the end of the book of Ruth that even better things are to come. Because Ruth becomes the great-grandmother of a man called David...

## 1 & 2 Samuel

Samuel...

The capture of the Ark...

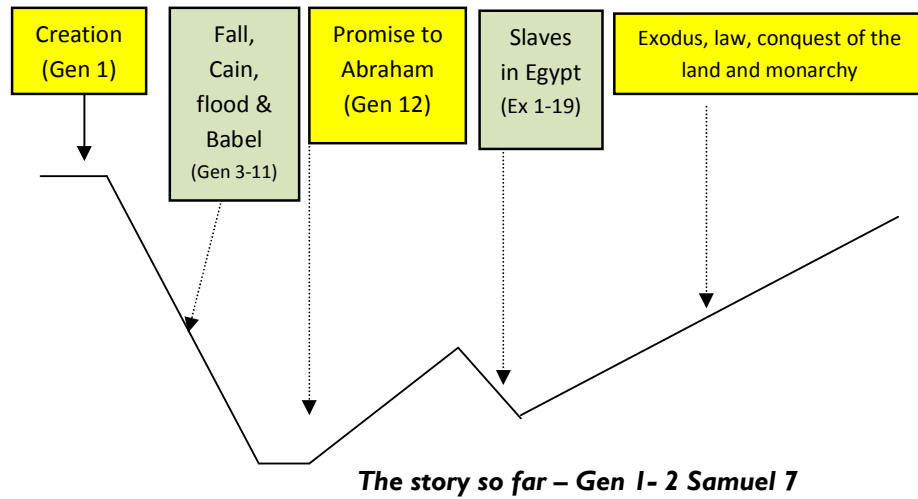
Read 1 Samuel 8:1-20

- What is wrong with the Israelites' motivation in asking for a king?
- What will be the negative consequences of having a king?

Eventually God rejects Saul as king (1 Samuel 15:22-23) and appoints, instead, King David.

1 Samuel 17 – a model in interpreting the Bible by looking at the whole story...

- This passage is often taught as being about us "slaying giants" in our lives with the stones of prayer, Bible study, evangelism... Why does knowing who David is and who he points to help us see that this is wrong?



- Who are we like in this story?

Great blessing in 2 Samuel:

5:6-10 - David conquers Jerusalem.

5:17-25 - David conquers the Philistines.

6:1-15 - The Ark is brought back to Jerusalem.

6:16-23 - The end of Saul's dynasty

7:8-16 – The High point...

**Summary:** God's people are living in his land under his rule, mediated through the Anointed King (or Christ) God has chosen and they are experiencing great blessing. But (2 Samuel 11) it turns out that David is an adulterer and a murderer – clearly not the serpent crusher we are looking for, or the judge who will never die. The search continues...