

Quest Confirmation Class

Week 6: The History of Israel

Joshua and the conquest of the Promised Land:

Read Joshua 1:1-3,9

- 😊 God is beginning to fulfill God's promise to Abraham - "to make a great nation."
- 😊 People - Law - Land
- 😊 The story of Rahab (*Joshua 6.17 & 25*)
- 😊 Conquest not completed—enemy resistance (and pagans) still lived in pockets throughout the Promised Land. These groups and other surrounding nations would become temptations for the Israelites to disobey God or to worship other gods.

The Great Judges:

Read Judges chapter 2

- 😊 "Liberators" raised up by God to lead the tribes in battle or guerrilla warfare against the pockets of enemies.
- 😊 Examples: Deborah, Gideon and Samson.
- 😊 The cycle of the judges - Judges 2 (Especially versus 18-19).
- 😊 Good judges & bad judges.
- 😊 The story of Samuel: Samuel was the last and best Judge and a prophet (See 1 Samuel).

The Kings:

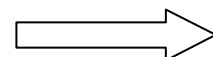
- 😊 God provides a king to govern and guide Israel.
- 😊 Saul (1 Samuel 8-12)
- 😊 David (1 Samuel 13-31)
- 😊 Solomon (2 Samuel 1-11)
- 😊 The Psalms - prayers of a king
- 😊 The Proverbs- wisdom of a king

The Great Prophets:

Read Daniel 5.13

Led by the word of God, not always popular, acted as court advisers and political watchdogs.

- 😊 Spoke out against political, social and religious injustices
- 😊 Spoke of God's hurt about the Israelites' disobedience and turning away
- 😊 Spoke of the coming judgment (consequences) that would come if Israel continued in their sin
- 😊 Spoke of hope that would come after the judgment. Isaiah predicted much about Jesus.
- 😊 Example: Elijah & Elisha (2 Kings 1 - 8)
- 😊 The End of the United Kingdom: Assyrian Captivity
- 😊 The End of Israel: Babylonian Captivity.
- 😊 God uses prophets to warn, encourage and rebuke Israel.



Themes:

- 😊 Kingship: struggle for power and desire to be like other nations
- 😊 Prophecy: Prophets speaking the word of God is central. A word once spoken—the curse (or judgment) on the house of Ahab, for instance—eventually worked its way to fulfillment.
- 😊 Temple: Concern about the welfare of the Ark of the Covenant. King David desired to build a temple and his son, Solomon, did.
- 😊 Worship: The Israelite people were called to worship God alone but many struggled with allowing worship of other gods to continue in the land. Kings were judged to be good or bad based on their devotion to God. Israel and Judah eventually were exiled as a consequence of their sin of turning away from God...sound like one of the commandments??

The Point: 1.) There are consequences for our actions 2.) Keeping God first in life is always the right way to go. If we fail, though, God always loves and will forgive us.

The History of Israel: REFLECTION

Name: _____

Class Summary:

God fulfilled God's promise to bring Israel to the Promised Land. Now, they had the Law, Land and a numerous people. God rose up judges to govern the people, but the people wanted Kings. God then rose up three great kings to rule Israel, but the people continued to turn their hearts away from God. God then rose up prophets to remind and warn the people to live righteous lives, keeping the Law, but still they did not turn their hearts toward God. Thus, God allowed Israel to be divided and conquered - first by the Assyrians, then by the Babylonians. This is a fascinating time in Israel's history. It lasts approximately 600 years; from the Conquest of the Promised Land in 1200 B.C. to the destruction of Judah by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.

Scripture Memory Work:

John 1.14

Also, CONTINUE memorizing the books of the Bible. You will be quizzed on this May 4th (Old Testament AND New Testament). But it's a lot! Start now!

Family Time Questions *Youth and Parents please talk about and answer together*

- Youth, what questions do you have about what was learned?

- Parents and youth, read Judges 2 and Judges 17:6. The story of Israel is also a picture of our own lives...how do you see yourself like the Israelites?

- Parents and youth, what is your favorite story from the history of Israel? Is it about a judge? A king? Or a prophet? Share the story and why you like it.

- Parents and youth, how will you seek to keep God first in your life?

Pray for each other, sharing prayer requests, and asking God to be the center of your life.

For next week: Read John 1:14 (memory verse!) What's the big deal about Jesus (God coming to live on earth)? Think creatively--there can be many, many answers!

If you have any questions about this lesson, please contact Jim and I will try to answer your questions (234-8673, jpope@fpcf.org)