

Dear Teacher,

I want to share some wonderful words of God's promise to Joshua and by application, to you and me. *"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. **Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."***

—Joshua 1:6-9

For some of you this is the first time you are leading a Bible study group and for others this might be your third or fourth. The Lord's word to you is found in His words to Joshua to encourage him and let him know that if he did his part (meditate on His Word and be obedient) God would do His part (make him prosperous and successful).

As we move through the study of the History of Hebrew people I want you to be asking yourself and your group the following questions:

- What does the Word of God say?
- What does this passage mean?
- What does this passage mean to me? How can I apply God's eternal principles to my life today?

If you have these three questions in mind and search for their answers, then this course will be truly fruitful and profitable in your life and in the lives of those you will be leading through this study.

Please take a few minutes to read the thoughts and ideas given in this introduction to help you be more effective in your study and teaching.

It is my prayer that the experience of this study of Judges through Esther, and then as you teach it, will continue to help you in your spiritual journey and nurture you in your faith as you continue to grow in your spiritual life and lead others in their spiritual journey. When you are teaching the history books of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 10:11 should guide your teaching. This verse teaches that all these things happened to them for examples and are written as warnings for you and me. This means we should continuously look for examples and warnings as we teach the history books of the Bible.

Praying for His blessing upon you,

Dick Woodward  
Pastor and Author of the Mini Bible College

## Leading the Bible Study Group

The Mini Bible College has prepared this devotionally practical survey of the foundational books of the Bible. Your role as teacher is to guide your group through the study sessions and exercises, helping them to understand the concepts, discover the eternal principles and, most importantly, apply them to their lives. This is a survey study that will take almost four months and is designed to be more than just a course. This study is part of a strategic plan to provide you with the tools to nurture and grow personally and help your church grow both spiritually and numerically.

To help you we have provided the following tools:

- This Leader's Guide
- A Leader's Manual
- Report forms
- Audio of Judges through Esther
- A study booklet on Judges through Esther
- A set of 10 workbooks for the students

## GETTING STARTED

### Before Class

- Personally start inviting people to come to this spiritual banquet. *“Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.”* —Matthew 22:9-10
- Prepare yourself in prayer for those who will attend. If possible, pray for them by name. Only God can change the hearts of people, and prayer is the most powerful tool. *“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”* —Luke 18:1
- Ask for help. Do not try to do everything yourself. Invite one or two people to help with music, singing, greeting, and keeping records for the class.
- Review the lesson and understand the lesson objective.
- Become familiar with the material; listen, read and study each lesson and memorize the Bible verse before class time.
- Be sure all materials are ready for each class.
- Make sure the meeting area is adequate and comfortable for the class.

### During Class

**(Remember to try to keep the class time to one hour and a half.)**

- Greet everyone as they arrive. Remember how nice it is when you are welcomed? Extend God's welcome to all. Have someone serve as the greeter and introduce people to one another if they are not already acquainted.

- Open with a time of worship and prayer, asking God to help you and each one understand and apply the God’s Word to your lives.
- Recite the memory verse.
- Listen to the audio lesson.
- Work through the workbook, inviting discussion with a focus on application. We trust the questions will raise interesting discussion and understanding that will lead to application. If the group is large (more than 10), consider dividing it into smaller groups of three or four people to encourage discussion. Be sure to monitor the time and be careful that the conversation does not detract from the focus of the lesson and the study of God’s Word.
- Thank all for coming and encourage attendance to the next class.
- Challenge the students to invite others to join the Bible study.
- Encourage the students to memorize the biblical passages of the lessons each week.

### **After Each Class**

- Gather up all materials.
- Restore the meeting room to the proper order. Leave things more orderly than you found them.
- Fill out and file report forms.
- If you are meeting in someone’s home, be sure to thank them for their hospitality.

### **Special Instructions for Teaching Auditory Learners**

It is important to remember that those who cannot read and write learn and retain information differently than those of us who are literate. The auditory learners learn from listening and telling what they have heard. Illiteracy was not an obstacle in Jesus’ day. It is good to remember and even tell those in your class that most of the disciples and the majority of the people who first shared and spread the Gospel could not read or write.

In many ways, auditory learners have a greater capacity to learn what they hear than we who must write something down to remember it. Take the time, therefore, to allow your students to hear the Scripture and the lessons, pausing the message and even going back to listen again to a portion if it was not understood, and then allow them to respond to questions. When auditory learners can “story back”—tell in their own words what they have heard and learned—it indicates that they have properly grasped the principle. Therefore, use the study questions to guide the study time as it will help in the learning process. Ask the questions out loud and encourage all to participate and this will lead them into a deeper understanding of God’s Word and a stronger relationship with His Son, Jesus the Christ.

# Why We Study Hebrew History

## Chapter 1

### Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson 27



Objective: To learn why Hebrew history is important for us to understand today.



*These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.*

—1 Corinthians 10:11

Some historical narrative is in the first five books of the Bible, and the next twelve books of the Old Testament are all history. So we could say that the first seventeen books of the Old Testament are history books. Why should we study so much history of this one little nation of Israel?

One reason we read Hebrew history is to look for examples. When the Hebrew people obeyed the Word of God, God blessed them, and they are examples for us. When they did not obey the Word of God, they lived under the curse of God, and their lives are warnings for you and me. For this reason and many others we should study Hebrew history for it is through them that God has chosen to bless the whole world.



1. True or **false**? Hebrew history has very little relevance for us today.
2. **True** or false? Israel has a very special place in God's future plan.
3. **True** or false? As the people of God, Hebrew history is part of our own social history.

*Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.*

4. The history of the Old Testament is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Allegorical
  - Historical fact
  - Both**
  - Neither. It is just a collection of legends.
5. Why is Hebrew history important for us? (*choose all that apply*)
- It has examples for us to follow.**
  - It has warnings for us to observe carefully.**
  - It gives us clear instructions about all our social problems today.
  - It is the key to understanding science.
  - It tells us of the Messiah.**
  - It relates to prophecies about the end times.**
  - As people of God, it is part of our history.**
6. With whom does the history of the Hebrew people begin?
- Adam
  - Abraham
  - Moses
  - God**
7. At the end of the book of Joshua, the Hebrew people said “we will serve God.” In the book of Judges, what will we learn about how well they kept their commitment?
- They fulfilled it completely.
  - They kept it pretty well.
  - They tried hard, but they failed.
  - They frequently forgot about their commitment and stood away from God.**
8. How did God feel about Israel’s desire for a human king?
- He was grieved because He wanted to be their king.**
  - He wanted them to have a king, but not until later.
  - He agreed that it was a good idea to be like other countries.
  - He was glad because that is what He wanted too.
9. What was the result of Israel’s monarchy?
- It worked out very well, like God said.
  - It was better than God said it would be.
  - It eventually ended in futility and despair.**
  - It did not last very long.
10. Whose sin resulted in a divided and conquered kingdom?
- Saul’s
  - Solomon’s**
  - David’s
  - Samuel’s

11. What happened to the two kingdoms after their captivities?

- a. We never hear of either one again.
- b. Judah was lost, but Israel returned.
- c. Israel was lost, but Judah returned.**
- d. Both kingdoms returned.

12. What kind of leader did God prefer for His people?

- a. A prophet-priest**
- b. A king
- c. A dictator
- d. A pastor

13. What kind of leader did God work through?

- a. Only prophets and priests
- b. Only kings
- c. Only leaders who were good
- d. All kinds, even evil kings**

14. Number these seven important facts of Hebrew history in order that they occurred.

- 4 Northern kingdom is totally destroyed
- 2 Israel is divided into northern kingdom and Judah
- 3 Northern kingdom is taken captive by Assyria
- 7 Judah returns from 70 years of captivity
- 6 Babylon is conquered by Persia
- 1 Israel becomes a kingdom
- 5 Judah is taken captive by Babylon



What lessons have you learned from your past? How can learning about Israel's past affect your future?

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Thank God for the rich history of His people and the legacy of faith that He has given to us through them. Thank God that through His chosen people He has revealed to us the Messiah, His Word, and salvation. Ask Him to help you continue that legacy by teaching faith to this generation and the next.



### Going Deeper

1. Explain this statement: “The key verse to all the historical narratives in the Bible is found in the New Testament verse of 1 Corinthians 10:11, which tells us that all the things that happened to the Hebrew people happened to them for examples and warnings.” \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Based on this verse, why do we study Hebrew history and what are two things we should look for in all of the historical narratives in both the Old and New Testaments? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. One well-known paraphrase of the Bible tells us that these examples and warnings come in the form of object lessons or little allegories. Compare/relate that to the two verses where Jesus tells us how to approach the Word of God (John 17:17; 7:17). \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Did Jesus teach that we should approach the Scriptures asking, “What is the literary form of this Scripture?” Or did He teach that we should approach Scripture looking for truth, with the commitment that we are going to apply that truth to our life? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How can we explain the commitment expressed by the children of Israel at the end of the book of Joshua and what we read about them in the darkest pages of Hebrew history in the book of Judges? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. In what ways do the awful pages of Hebrew history contained in the book of Judges, which border on pornography, validate the book of Judges as authentic history? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What failure on the part of Joshua can explain the terrible bankruptcy of leadership in the next generation? \_\_\_\_\_

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