

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

- d. 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.
    - \_\_\_ Northern kingdom is totally destroyed
    - \_\_\_ Israel is divided into northern kingdom and Judah
    - \_\_\_ Northern kingdom is taken captive by Assyria
    - \_\_\_ Judah returns from 70 years of captivity
    - \_\_\_ Babylon is conquered by Persia
    - \_\_\_ Israel becomes a kingdom
    - \_\_\_ 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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