

Introduction and Overview

Historical Books II
Lecture #1

Thematic Overview

- Over 600 years of history covered.
- Record of God's interaction with mankind.
- Practical lessons.
- Groundwork for the coming Messiah

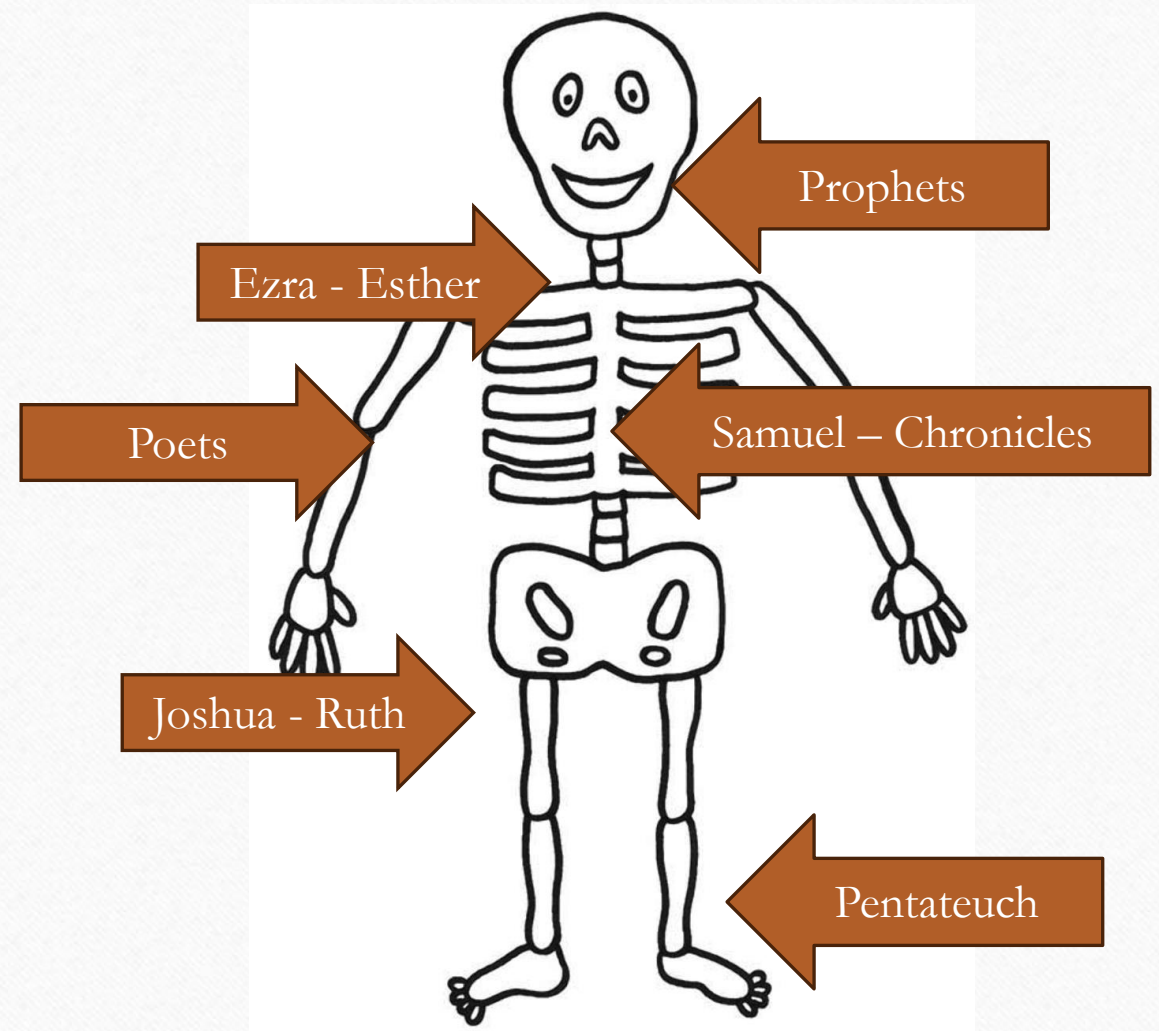
“Backbone of the Old Testament”

It is not a perfect metaphor.

Genesis – Ruth lay the foundation of the Jewish Kingdom.

Ezra-Esther are on top of the Kingdom.

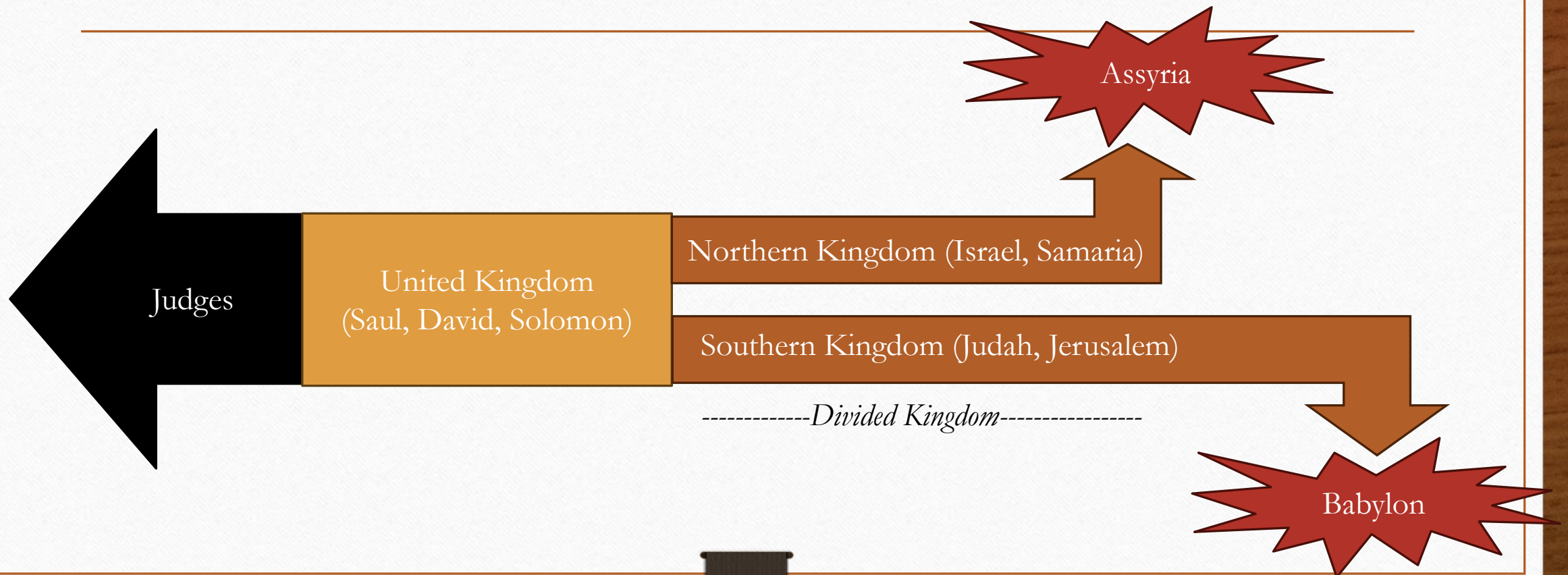
The Poets and Prophets are directly related to the Kingdom or events following it.



Our Approach

- Expository - Chapter-by-Chapter
- When appropriate we will look at broader issues.
- Special focus on historical and cultural understanding.
- We will deal with the so-called “contradictions” when we come to them.

Historical Overview



Harmonization

Samuel and Kings

- One continuous narrative from the birth of Samuel (c. 1160 B.C.) into the Babylonian Captivity (561 B.C.)
- Follows a combined history of the Divided Kingdom

Chronicles

- Focuses on David and his descendants in Judah.

John Phillips chart

Kings

- Was written before the Captivity.
- Was written from the standpoint of the Prophets.
- Embraces the history of the Northern Kingdom
- Is compulsive – was written in the dust and din and distraction of the time and place

Chronicles

- Was written after the Captivity.
- Was written from the standpoint of the Priests.
- Ignores the history of the Northern Kingdom
- Is contemplative – was written in the quiet and calm of a library, far from the sounds and scenes involved

Comparing Parallel Accounts



BETWEEN THE NARRATIVES
OF SAMUEL/KINGS AND
CHRONICLES

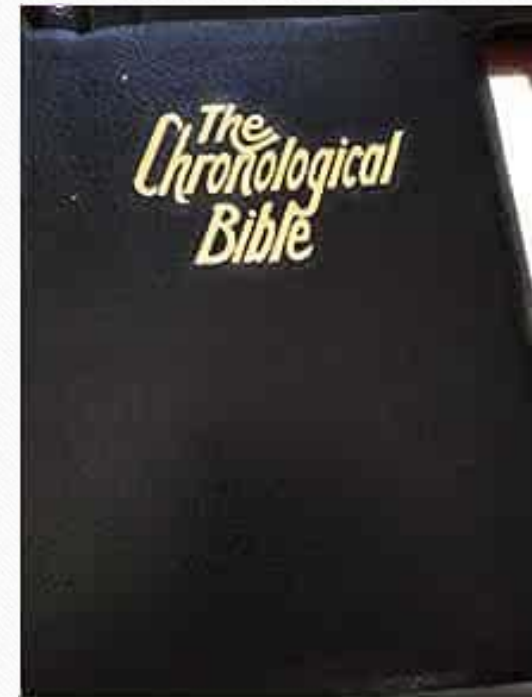
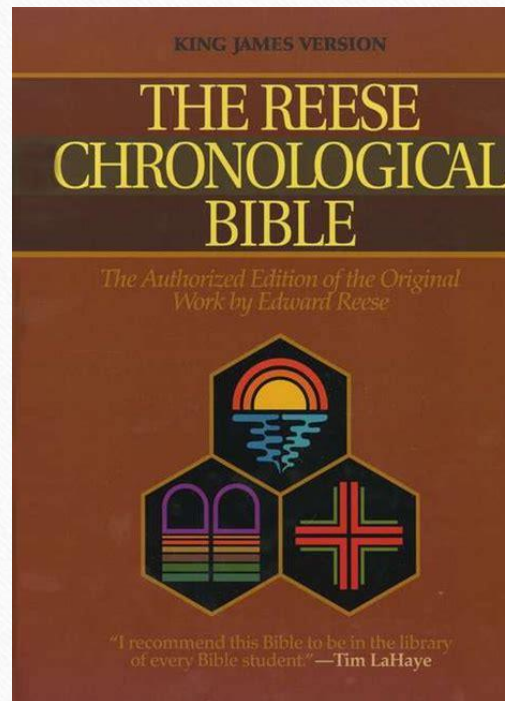
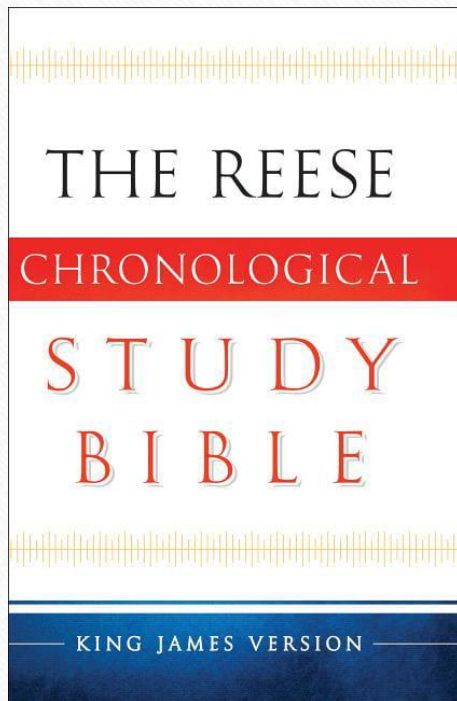


BETWEEN PSALMS/POETRY
WRITTEN THEIR
HISTORICAL SETTING



BETWEEN PROPHECY AND
ITS HISTORICAL SETTING.

Reese's Chronological Bible



Other Harmony References

- James Ussher's dates
- A Harmony of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles by William Day Crockett

Analysis of I & II Samuel

- These two books are one in the Hebrew Bible
- Title – From its major figure, Samuel, who anointed the first kings.
- Dates covered - c. 1160 (birth of Samuel) to 1018 B.C. (David's numbering of the people), a period of roughly 140 years.

Analysis of I & II Samuel

- Author(s) – likely Samuel, Nathan, and Gad
- Date of Writing – During or soon after the events (1100-970 B.C.?)
- Theme – Transition
- Purpose – Trace the foundation of the Davidic dynasty

Analysis of I & II Samuel

- The first chapters of I Samuel overlap with the final chapters of Judges. Reese, for example, puts I Samuel 1 between Judges 12 and 13. This is key to remember that I Samuel is the story of the transition from a theocratic government led by the judges to the monarchy.

Analysis of I & II Samuel

- Outline:
 - The Dying Theocracy – I Samuel 1-7
 - The Dawning Monarchy – I Samuel 8-31
 - David's Patient Years – II Samuel 1-4
 - David's Prosperous Years – II Samuel 5-12
 - David's Perilous Years – II Samuel 13-24

Analysis of I & II Kings

- These two books are one in the Hebrew Bible
- Title – Based on the contents of the book. It is the story of the kings of Israel and Judah.
- Dates covered - 1016-560 B.C.

Analysis of I & II Kings

- Author(s) – Unknown, but there is a tradition that it was Jeremiah.
- Date of Writing – Perhaps around 550 B.C.
- Theme – The decline and fall of the kingdom(s).
- Purpose – These books were not written to just record history, but to also analyze the events spiritually.

Analysis of I & II Kings

- Albert Barnes - “The language of Kings belongs unmistakably to the period of the captivity. It is later than that of Isaiah, Amos, Hosea, Micah, Joel, and Nahum, earlier than that of Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, and Zechariah. In general character it bears a close resemblance to the language of Jeremiah and Ezekiel; and may be assigned to the sixth century before our era.”
- Albert Barnes – “The history is, however, written - not, like most history, from a civil, but from a religious point of view. The Jews are regarded, not as an ordinary nation, but as God’s people. The historian does not aim at exhibiting the mere political progress of the kingdoms about which he writes, but intends to describe to us God’s treatment of the race with which he had entered into covenant. Where he records the events of the civil history, his plan is to trace out the fulfillment of the combined warning and promise which had been given to David (II Samuel 7:12-16)”

Analysis of I & II Kings

- Outline:
 - Solomon Reigns – I Kings 1-11
 - The Kingdom Wanes – I Kings 12-22
 - The Deterioration and Fall of Israel – II Kings 1-17
 - The Deterioration and Fall of Judah – II Kings 18:25

Analysis of I & II Chronicles

- These two books are one in the Hebrew Bible
- Title – Based on the contents, it is the history, or chronicles, of the house of David and the Kingdom of Judah.
- Dates covered - Creation (the genealogies start with Adam) to 538 B.C.

Analysis of I & II Chronicles

- Author(s) – Ezra, according to tradition.
- Date of Writing – around 450 B.C.
- Theme – Commentary on Judah.
- Purpose – A theological analysis of the glory and fall of the kingdom of David, Solomon, and their descendants on the throne of Judah.

Analysis of I & II Chronicles

- Albert Barnes - “The style of Chronicles is simpler and less elevated than that of Kings. Excepting the psalm of David in I Chronicles 16 and the prayer of Solomon in 2 Chr. 6, the whole is prosaic, level, and uniform. There are no especially striking chapters, as in Kings; but it is less gloomy, being addressed to the restored nation, which it seeks to animate and inspirit. The captive people, weeping by the waters of Babylon, fitly read their mournful history in Kings: the liberated nation, entering hopefully upon a new life, found in Chronicles a review of its past, calculated to help it forward on the path of progress, upon which it was entering.”
- B.H. Carroll - “It must be studied as the record of the divine preparation for the incarnation of the Son of God. The whole of the Old Testament is a preparation for the New Testament. The Old Testament not only contains prophecies, but the whole history itself is a prophecy.”

Analysis of I & II Chronicles

- Outline:
 - Genealogies from Adam to Saul – I Chronicles 1-10
 - The Reign of David – I Chronicles 11-29
 - The Reign of Solomon – II Chronicles 1-9
 - The Succeeding Kings of Judah – II Chronicles 10-36

Prophetic Glimpses

- Prophecy is just pre-written history.
- Through the records of these earthly kings, we see the shadow of the King of Kings that is to come.

Notes on Notes

- I make a ton of typos and am trying to find and correct them as we go.
- Footnotes are included to document sources and provide additional commentary.
- For most books I have tried to include page numbers of the sourced material. For many I am using electronic versions so the exact page or (if a commentary) Scripture reference may not be included. A simple search should be able to locate the exact source locations.
- All dates are from Reese's Chronological Bible unless otherwise noted.

Notes on Notes

- The following symbols will be used:
- ∪ indicates a parallel passage to the one being discussed.
- 🎵 indicates a psalm that would have been written at this time, according to Reese's Chronological Bible.
- 📖 indicates a book or passage that would be written or occur at around this time. I am following Reese's Chronological Bible unless otherwise noted. This information is not meant to be exhaustive; I am simply providing it to supplement the primary material in the books we are covering.

Parallel Accounts

vs. 26-31 – David captures Rabbah

↻ I Chronicles 20:1-3

In the background of the story of David and Bathsheba there is still the Ammonite War that has been continuing. Joab and the army have nearly taken the city, so David is sent for to lead the final offensive. David places the crown of the king on his own head as symbol of their victory and subjugation of the Ammonites.

Psalms

Chapter 15 – Absalom Rebels

vs. 1-6 – Absalom Steal the Hearts of the People

Absalom begins his plot to seize the throne in earnest. He moves about with great pomp and fanfare with chariots and runners. He involves himself in matters of civil judgment while planting seeds of doubt about David's abilities. He honored those that honored him.

♪ Psalms 5, 36, 62, 64

Other Books

vs. 4-16 – Repair of the Temple

🕒 II Chronicles 24:4-14

In 854 B.C.,¹⁷ Jehoash begins to repair and renovate the temple for the first since its completion in 1004 B.C.¹⁸ There was a delay of some years since Jehoash commanded the work to be done and its inception. It appears any money that was given for the special project was either used for other purposes or possibly stolen. The solution came when a special chest is constructed for offerings.¹⁹ All the donations were carefully secured and spent in the repair work on the building.

📖 The Book of Joel – 865 B.C.