

The Former Prophets:

Joshua–Kings
(*a.k.a.* Historical Books)

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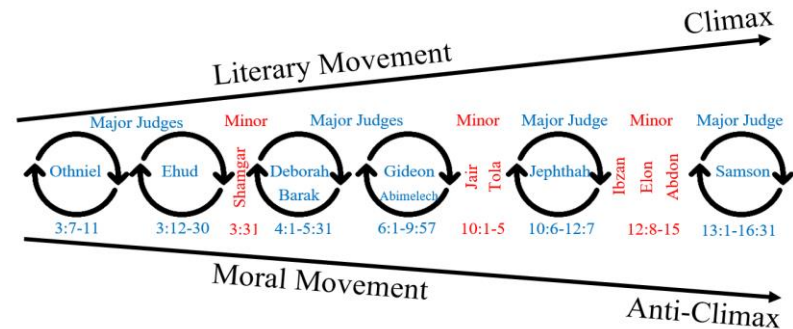
Joshua

- I. **“Crossing”** into the Land (Joshua 1-5):
→ Israel makes final preparations for entering the Land
- II. **“Taking”** the Land (Joshua 6-12)
→ Israel claims the Land by waging war with the Canaanites
- III. **“Dividing”** the Land (Joshua 13-21)
→ Joshua distributes the Land to the twelve tribes of Israel
- IV. **“Serving”** the Lord in the Land (Joshua 22-24)
→ Joshua charges Israel to serve the Lord alone in the Land

**Key: God fulfills His promise to give the Land to Abraham*

Judges

- A. Introduction (Judges 1:1-3:6): Foreign War and Foreign Idols; Israel fails to drive out Canaan
- B. Main Body: Cycles of Judges (Judges 3:7-16:31):



- A'. Conclusion (Judges 17-21): Internal Idols and Civil War; Israel becomes Canaan

1-2 Samuel

I. Samuel (1 Samuel 1-7)

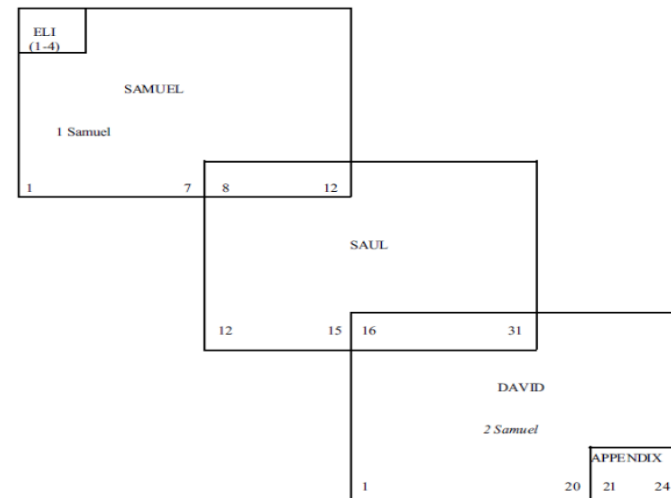
- A. **The Fall of Eli the Priest, Rise of Samuel the Prophet** (1:1-4:1a)
→ The Song of Hannah (2:1-11)
- B. The Judgeship of Samuel; the Ark of the Covenant (4:1b-7:17)

II. Saul (1 Samuel 8-31) (~1010-970 B.C.)

- A. **The Rise of King Saul** (8:1-12:25)
- B. The Reign of King Saul (13:1-15:35)
- C. **The Fall of King Saul, Rise of King David** (16:1-31:13)
→ David vs. Goliath (17:1-18:5)

III. David (2 Samuel 1-24) (~970-930 B.C.)

- A. The Reign of King David (1:1-10:19)
- B. **The Fall of King David** (11:1-20:22)
→ David commits adultery, murder (11:1-12:31)
- C. Appendix (21:1-24:25): God's Wrath, David's Last Words



1-2 Kings

I. Solomon's United Kingdom (1 Kings 1-11) (~970-930 B.C.)

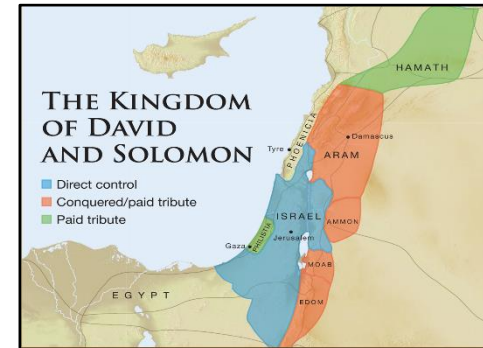
- A. Solomon rules over a united kingdom (1:1-2:46)
- B. Solomon's love for the Lord, request for wisdom (3:1-15)
- C. Solomon dedicates the Temple (8:1-66)
- B'. Solomon's love for foreign women, foolish idolatry (11:1-8)
- A'. Solomon's kingdom is divided—Israel vs. Judah (11:9-43)

II. The Divided Kingdom (1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17) (~930-722 B.C.)

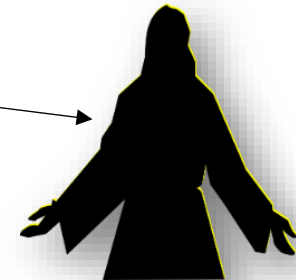
- A. The divided kingdom and the rise of idolatry (12:1-16:34)
- B. Elijah the Prophet's Ministry (1 Kings 17:1—2 Kings 1:18)
 - Transition from Elijah to Elisha (2:1-12)
- C. Elisha the Prophet's Ministry (2 Kings 2:13-13:25)
- D. The kingdom of Israel disintegrates (14:1-17:41)
 - **The Fall of Samaria: Assyria Destroys Israel (17:1-41) (722 B.C.)**

III. The Kingdom of Judah (2 Kings 18-25) (722-587 B.C.)

- A. Righteous Reign: Hezekiah (18:1-20:21)
- B. Wicked Reigns: Manasseh, Amon (21:1-26)
- A'. Righteous Reign: Josiah (22:1-23:30)
- B'. Wicked Reigns: Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah (23:31-25:26)
 - **The Fall of Jerusalem: Babylon Destroys Judah (25:1-26) (587 B.C.)**
- C. Epilogue: Hope for the Line of David (25:27-30)



Christ Connection: The total failure of Israel's judges and kings in the Former Prophets demonstrates Israel's (and humanity's) desperate need for a Messiah—an ideal King in David's line. At their best, Samuel, Joshua, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, etc. all provide glimpses of what this King will be like. The Former Prophets end on a note of hope that the Lord will keep His promise to David by continuing his line. In these ways, the Former Prophets point forward to Jesus the Messiah—son of David and Son of God.



¹ Sources: (A) Joshua: V. Philips Long, "Introduction to Joshua," *ESV Study Bible* (2008), 393. (B) Judges: K. Lawson Younger, *Judges and Ruth* (2002), 49 (diagram). (C) 1-2 Samuel: David Toshio Tsumura, *The First Book of Samuel* (2007), 73-81; K. Lawson Younger, "Historical Books," Trinity Evangelical Divinity School Handout, 57-58 (diagram). (D) 1-2 Kings: David A. Dorsey, *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament* (2004), 138; Paul R. House, *I, 2 Kings* (1995), 85; Jason S. DeRouchie, *What the Old Testament Authors Really Cared About* (2013) (maps).