

When you fall and cry out to God, He will send you a Deliverer.

1. Israel Failed to Complete the Conquest of Canaan.

Jud. 1-3

- a. Seven tribes failed to finish their missions to extricate sin and evil from Canaan (1).
- b. God judged Israel and Canaan's moral cancer as Joshua's generation died (2).
- c. The sinful enemies remained as threats to their faithfulness and righteousness (2:20-3:4).

"And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the Lord to anger,"... "They were for the testing of Israel, to know whether Israel would obey the commandments of the Lord, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. So the people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And their daughters they took to themselves for wives, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they served their gods," Jud. 2:11-12...3:4-6

2. God Delivered Israel from Seven Cycles of Sin.

Jud. 3-16

- a. God raised up Othniel, Ehud and Shamgar defeating Mesopotamians, Moabites and Philistines, respectively, in the South (3).
- b. God raised up Deborah and Barak as a team in the North, defeating Canaanites (4-5).
- c. Gideon defeated the Midianites (6-8); Tola and Jair took Abimelech (8-10), Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon and Abdon took the Ammonites (10-12), and Samson the Philistines (13-16).

"That the leaders took the lead in Israel, that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the Lord!"... "So may all your enemies perish, O Lord! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might.' And the land had rest for forty years," Jud. 5:2 ... 31

3. Israel Sinned like the Canaanites. But Ruth and Boaz Displayed Faith.

Jud. 17-21, Ruth

- a. Idolatry flourished among individuals (17) and entire tribes (18).
- b. Immorality flourished (19), and many tribes began to fight each other (20-21).

"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes," Jud. 21:25

- c. Ruth's faith was demonstrated with Naomi's family (1-2), and love with Boaz (3-4).

"For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God." ... "Boaz said to Ruth and Naomi, 'The Lord be with you!' And they answered, 'The Lord bless you,'" Ruth 1:16b ... 2:4b

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When you cry for an earthly king, God has a different one in mind...

1. Eli and Samuel—Israel’s Last Judges—Debate the Peoples’ Call for a King. 1 Sam. 1-8

- a. Judge Eli’s sons were evil (2), so God blessed Hannah to birth Samuel as judge (1-3).
- b. The Philistines captured the Ark (4), but returned it after God plagued their towns (6).
- c. Israel demanded a king, but Samuel prayed and pleaded with God not to allow it (8).

“And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord. And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord,” ... “But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, ‘No! But there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.’ And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Obey their voice and make them a king.’ Samuel then said to the men of Israel, ‘Go every man to his city,’” 1 Sam. 3:19-21... 8:19-22

2. Saul—God Allowed Saul to Demonstrate Might, but With a Lack of Faith. 1 Sam. 9-31

- a. Saul became king (11) but sinned in sacrifice (13), and ignored God’s command (15).
- b. Saul lost God’s spirit (16), and God picked David for king, letting him take Goliath (17).
- c. Saul was jealous and tried to kill David (18-20). Samuel and Saul died (25, 31).

“The word of the Lord came to Samuel: ‘I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments.’ And Samuel was angry, and he cried to the Lord all night. And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was told Samuel, ‘Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself and turned and passed on and went down to Gilgal,’” 1 Sam. 15:10-12

3. David—Israel Prospered Spiritually and Politically Under King David. 2 Sam., 1 Chron.

- a. David united Israel politically and spiritually. Jerusalem was worship center (2 Sam. 1-7).
- b. David had military triumphs over Philistia, Moab, Zoba, Syria, and Ammon (8-10).
- c. David’s sins of adultery and murder brought troubles to David and Israel’s unity (11-24).

“When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever,” 2 Sam. 7:12-13 and 1 Chron. 17:14

When you cry for an earthly king, God has a different one in mind...

Upon whom you follow, you depend ...

1. Solomon—United Israel and Built the Temple, but Failed God. 1 Kings 1-11, 2 Chron. 1-9

- a. Solomon became king, rose to glory, (1 Kings 1-4), and constructed the Temple (5-6).
- b. The Ark returned and Covenant retold (8-9). Solomon disobeyed and Israel declined (11).
- c. The Temple finished (2 Chron. 1-7). Solomon knew God’s plan but failed and died (7-9).

“And as for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my rules, then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel,’”... “Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, ‘Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant,’” ... “if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land,” 1 Kings 9:4-5 ... 11:11 ... 2 Chron. 7:14

2. Divided Kingdom—North Israel Declined, Exiled by 722 B.C. 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17

- a. Solomon’s son Rehoboam threatened his “yoke on Israel,” and the North revolted.
- b. King Jeroboam, and 18 successors, all “did evil in God’s sight,” and idolatry followed.
- c. God sent Prophet Elijah and others to warn His people, but Israel sinned and fell to exile.

“The people of Israel walked in all the sins that Jeroboam did. They did not depart from them, until the Lord removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day,” 2 Kings 17:22-23

3. Southern Kingdom of Judah—Declined, Exiled in 586 B.C. 2 Kings 18-25, 2 Chron. 10-36

- a. Eight of Judah’s 20 kings followed God like David, but 12 “did evil in God’s sight.”
- b. God sent Obadiah, Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, etc., with warnings to Judah.
- c. After Israel was exiled Hezekiah and 7 others reigned over Judah until exile to Babylon.

“The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, until there was no remedy,”... “And the Lord said, “I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there,” 2 Chron. 36:15-16 ... 2 Kings 23:27

Upon whom you follow, you depend ...

When you wait on God and follow Him, He will bring you home...

1. Ezra and Nehemiah—Israel Returned to Jerusalem to Rebuild the City of David. Ezra, Neh.

- a. God inspired King Cyrus of Persia to release the exiles and rebuild Jerusalem (Ezra 1-2).
- b. Zerubbabel led the Temple rebuilding (3-6), and Ezra returned to teach the Law (7-9).
- c. Nehemiah returned to rebuild the wall (Neh. 1-6) and Ezra restored the Covenant (7-13).

“Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem,” ...

“Remember them, O my God, because they have desecrated the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites. Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I established the duties of the priests and Levites, each in his work; and I provided for the wood offering at appointed times, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good,” Ezra 1:2-3 ... Neh. 13:29-31

2. Esther—God used Esther and Mordecai to Protect Jews still under Persian Exile. Esther

- a. Esther was picked as new Queen (1-2). Mordecai revealed Haman’s murder plot (3-6).
- b. King Ahasuerus ordered Haman’s death (7), and made Mordecai his new executive (8).
- c. The King made a new decree protecting Israel, converting Gentiles in celebration (9-10).

“On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her. And the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.”... “And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.,” Esther 8:1-2 ... 17

3. Job—Subject to Sin, Trials and Troubles, Job Sought Only God for Answers. Job

- a. God allows suffering. We all sin, and Satan tempts even the righteous (Job 1, James 1).
- b. Job’s friends debate his innocence (4), wickedness (15), and God’s roles (5, 7, 12, 24).
- c. Job firmly trusted God (31, 40), confessed, repented, and God restored him twofold (42).

“Then Job answered the Lord and said: ‘I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.’... ‘therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes,’” Job 42:1-2 ... 6

When you wait on God and follow Him, He will bring you home...

God provides our means to know Him, praise Him, and worship Him eternally.

1. Psalms—David’s Worship Hymnal for Israel, and for us. Psalms

- a. Personal (23) and penitent (51) Psalms strengthen our personal relationship with God.
- b. Praise (55) and thanksgiving (92) Psalms help us pray, adore and thank our Lord.
- c. Prophetic and Messianic Psalms (22, 110) help us know the eternal plan for our Christ.

“The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’ ... The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, ‘You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.’ The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth,” Psalm 110:1 ... 4-6

2. Proverbs and Ecclesiastes—Solomon’s Wisdom and Sermons. Prov., Eccls.

- a. Proverbs gives purposes for youth (1-9), godly v. wicked (10-24), and for others (25-31).
- b. *“Train up a child,”* is on teaching children (22). And another on godly women (31).
- c. Ecclesiastes means “teaching” with Solomon sharing his wisdom and fear (Eccls).

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it,” ... “Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him,” ... “The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh. The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil,” Prov. 22:6 ... 15 ... Eccls. 12:11-14

3. Song of Solomon—Solomon’s Love Song and Marriage Prophecy. Song of Sol.

- a. Solomon’s sings of falling in love (1-2). The bride Israel/Church sought her groom (3).
- b. Groom Yahweh/Christ is to be wed, the bride praised and marriage consummated (4-5).
- c. Married, they first struggle in love (5:2-7:10), and grow in love (7:11-8)

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” ... “Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb,” Rev. 21:1-2 ... 9

God provides our means to know Him, praise Him, and worship Him eternally.

God has long promised us judgment and salvation from a Savior.

1. Prophecies of Wickedness and Justice, and Signs of Immanuel and Messiah. Isaiah 1-35

- a. Justice will come for Judah (1-6), Assyria (7). Immanuel, Messiah also will come (7-12).
- b. Prophecies against nations (13-23), of tribulation (24). Praises for the Kingdom (25-27).
- c. Woes to nations (28-34), and blessings of the coming King (32) and Kingdom (35).

“The Lord spoke to me again: ‘Because this people has refused the waters of Shiloah that flow gently, and rejoice over Rezin and the son of Remaliah, therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory.’ ... ‘Be broken, you peoples, and be shattered; give ear, all you far countries; strap on your armor and be shattered; strap on your armor and be shattered. Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us [Immanuel].’ ... ‘For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this,’ Isaiah 8:5-7a ... 9-10 ... 9:6-7

2. The Salvation of Hezekiah and Prophecy of Judah’s Fall to Babylonian Exile. Isaiah 36-39

- a. Assyria challenged God (36). Hezekiah was saved by God and Assyria destroyed (37).
- b. Hezekiah prayed for deliverance (37), and was saved from sickness and protected (38).
- c. Hezekiah showed his belongings to evil Babylon, and Isaiah prophesied the exile (39).

“Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, ‘Hear the word of the Lord of hosts: Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the Lord. And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon,’” Isaiah 39:5-7

3. Isaiah’s Prophecies of Christ the Deliverer and Savior. Isaiah 40-66

- a. God brings comfort by His character (40), His greatness (41), and His Servant (42-44).
- b. God will use Cyrus (45), destroy Babylon (46-47) and free Judah from exile (48).
- c. The Messiah will deliver and atone Israel (49-56), and give blessings of God (57-66).

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him [the Savior] the iniquity of us all,” Isaiah 53:6 (See also Rom. 3.)

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God patiently called His people back to Him and promised a future hope in Him.

1. Jeremiah—Lamented Jerusalem’s Demise; Prophesied the New Covenant. Jer., Lam.

- a. He told of Judah’s condemnation, fall (1-30) and the future New Covenant (31-33).
- b. He prophesied Jerusalem’s fall (34-45), wrath for other nations (46-51), and exile (52).
- c. He cried for Jerusalem and God’s anger (Lam. 1-2); prayed for mercy, restoration (3-5).

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people,” ... “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him,’” Jer. 31:33 ... Lam. 3:22-24

2. Ezekiel—During Judah’s Fall and Exile—Gives Hope and Vision for Israel. Ezekiel

- a. Ezekiel saw the glory of God, was called, commissioned, given words and sent (1-3).
- b. He prophesied judgment on Judah (4-24), and on the other Gentile nations (25-32).
- c. He foretold the return (33-39) and restoration of Jerusalem and Israel (40-48).

“And he said to me, ‘Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.’ And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. And he said to me, ‘Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me,’” ... “I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules,” Ezek. 2:1-3a ... 36:24-27

3. Daniel—Chosen to Advise Kings—Revealed World History and Israel’s Future. Daniel

- a. A faithful and prepared Daniel was deported to Babylon at 16 to speak for his God (1).
- b. God enabled him to interpret dreams of world empires, God’s power and Kingdom (2-7).
- c. Daniel told Israel’s status under three empires, and God’s plan under the Messiah (8-12).

“And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, ... it shall stand forever, ...A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.” The king answered ... to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery,” ... “Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place,” Dan. 2:44 ... 45b ... 47 ... 9:24

God patiently called His people back to Him and promised a future hope in Him.

God used these prophets over times and places to call His people back to Him.

1. Before the Northern Exiles—Hosea to Micah. Hos., Joel, Amos, Obad., Jonah, Micah

- a. Hosea’s family illustrated his prophesy of Israel’s adultery and sin vs. God’s holiness.
- b. Joel’s prophesy used locust plagues to illustrate their devastation, invasions and disaster.
- c. Amos warned Israel of their sin, doom and preached hope and need for repentance.
- d. Obadiah warned prideful Edom, descendants from Esau, of their pending destruction.
- e. Jonah reluctantly preached to Nineveh, they repented, and God spared this evil city.
- f. Micah prophesied to Israel and Judah, saying, “*out of Bethlehem shall come the One.*”

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, ... And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth,” Micah 5:2a ... 4

2. Before the Southern Exile—Nahum to Zephaniah. Nahum, Hab., Zeph.

- a. Nahum predicted destruction of Assyrian city Nineveh 150 years after Jonah’s ministry.
- b. Habakkuk asked God of His leniency on Judah’s wickedness. God said He will judge.
- c. Zephaniah described the Judgment Day of the Lord for Judah and Gentiles.

“Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith,” Hab. 2:4

3. After the Return to Jerusalem—Haggai to Malachi. Haggai, Zech., Malachi

- a. Haggai preached as the Temple was rebuilt, that God’s people weren’t putting Him first.
- b. Zechariah also encouraged the Temple rebuilding, revealing Messianic visions of hope.
- c. Malachi, as the Old Testament closed, preached Israel’s complacency toward God.

“They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.,” Malachi 3:17-18

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