

The History Books (Cyprus Training 1, session 7)

Why 'Story'? (The Importance of Narrative)

What Makes a Story?

How are we to benefit from / respond to Bible Narrative?

- Stories shape our...

- Key to Bible Narrative: **It's all about** _____

- Spotlight on...

- A good story invites...

- Always ask: "Why are you telling *this* story in *this* way?"

What's in the Historical Books?

Joshua "God Gives His People the Promised Land"

Entering, 1-4 ♦ Conquering, 5-12
Dividing, 13-21 ♦ Retaining, 22-24

Judges "God's Flawed Rescuers"

Failure & Pattern, 1-3_{v6}
The Judges, 3_{v7}-16 (Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, **Gideon**,
Abimelech, Jephthah, **Samson**)
Lawless times, 17-21 (Micah's Idols & New Sodom)

Ruth "God Provides" (for Naomi, & for Israel)

1st & 2nd Samuel: "The Rise & Fall of King David"

Samuel: king-maker, 1Sam.1-7 ♦ **Saul**: failed king, 8-14
David: chosen one (his rise & Saul's decline), 15-31
David becomes king, 2Sam.1-8 ♦ David's Fall, 9-20
More from David's Reign (failure, exploits, faith), 21-24

1st & 2nd Kings: "From Glory to Exile"

The Rise & Fall of **Solomon**, 1Ki.1-11
The Torn Kingdoms, 12-22; 2Ki.1-17 (focus on the North)
Last Days in the South, 18-25

1st & 2nd Chronicles: "The Fortunes of King & Temple"

[the same history from a different perspective]

From the Archives, 1Chr.1-11 ♦ David's Reign, 10-29
Solomon's Reign, 2Chr. 1-9 ♦ Southern Kingdom, 10-36

Daniel 1-6: "Staying Faithful to a Sovereign God"

(in Exile in Babylon)

Ezra "The Exiles Return"

The Initial Return, 1-2 ♦ The Temple Rebuilt, 3-6
Ezra's Return, 7-8 ♦ Intermarriage Addressed, 9-10

Nehemiah "Rebuilding"

Rebuilding Walls, 1-6 ♦ Reforming the Community, 7-12

Esther "Unseen Protector"

(the Jews who didn't come home)

Sum up: **Jeremiah 32v22-23** (and **Ezra 9v9b-10**)
OT overview: Neh.9v23-31; (and in prospect: Deut.4v25-31)

Observations

The overarching story:
(i) Sin spoils everything again!

Exile...

Return...

(ii) But God is in control, working out his unfolding plan.

(iii) Individual lessons... & examples

Look out for narrator's comments, repeated words & themes,
climax/punchlines, contrasts, key dialogue, allusions, irony.
Beware the temptation to spiritualise / allegorise.
Learn from e.g.s but beware the "Moses-is-me" syndrome
Translate 'cross-culturally'

Where do we see Jesus?