

Jewish Dispensation – From Moses To Samuel

Hebrews 3:7-19

Numbers

The First Census

Numbers 1:2-3,46 – There were 603,550 men, 20 years old and upward, able to go to war. Likely the whole nation numbered a couple of million.

The Wilderness Wandering (40 Years)

This dark time was caused by a lack of faithfulness on the part of the Israelite nation. Only 2 of the 12 spies stood up for God's power! (**Numbers 13:1-2; 13:30-32; 14:26-35; 26:63-65**)

603,548 soldiers died in the wilderness for their lack of courage! Only two of these men lived: Joshua and Caleb. - **Matthew 7:13-14**

Deuteronomy 8:1-2,16-18 – Moses later recounted Wilderness Wanderings were a time of "testing." In New Covenant, times of difficulty and "testing" prove our faith - **1Peter 1:6-7; Hebrews 3:7-4:11**

Selected Events in the book of Numbers

Korah's Rebellion (**Numbers 16**)

Aaron's Rod Budding (**Numbers 17**)

Moses Disobeys God (**Numbers 20** – see **Deuteronomy 32:48-52**)

Fiery Serpent (**Numbers 21** – compare **John 3:14-16**)

Balaam's Advice (**Numbers 22-24** – see **2Peter 2:15-16**)

Baal-Peor (**Numbers 25**)

2 ½ Tribes Settle (**Numbers 32**)

The Second Census

Numbers 26:51 – After burying average of 40 soldiers per day over 40 years, a new generation has arisen. There are now 601,730 men, at least twenty years of age and able to go to war.

Deuteronomy

"Second Giving of the Law" - (**Deuteronomy 1:3-5; 4:44-46; 5:1; 29:1**).

What would you say was the purpose of Moses' sermon? - (**Deuteronomy 4:1-6,40; 8:1,11; 29:9,29**).

Note: Deuteronomy 34 records Moses' death. So how could Moses have written this letter? A "colophon" is an inscription placed at the end of a book, by another writer, providing additional information. It is often used to unite its narrative to the succeeding book. (See **Joshua 1:1**).

Joshua

Joshua was the leader who succeeded Moses (**Numbers 27:15-23**).

The book of Joshua opens with Joshua's appeal to Israel to act with courage (**Joshua 1:6-9**).

In about 1400 BC, he led the people across the Jordan into the land of Canaan. The book is a documentation of the 7 years it took for the Conquest and Division of the land of Canaan.

Joshua 12 – Lists the kings defeated during the conquest of the land.

Joshua 13 – The division of the land begins among the tribes of Israel.

See Chart #3 to identify where this event fits along the timeline of the Jewish Dispensation.

Rahab

One unique, and often discussed, events in book of Joshua is interaction spies have with Rahab, the harlot (**Joshua 2:1-21; 6:22-25**). How do you answer questions asked about her deception?

This is the story of an outsider who demonstrates greater faith than most of Israel during this time

Land Promise Fulfilled - Joshua 21:43-44; 23:14; Genesis 12:7

While Solomon may have later expanded its borders, Joshua's possession of the land served as the fulfillment of God's promise. This is important due to modern false doctrine that is still looking for God's people to possess physical Canaan.

Joshua's Farewell Address.

Just before his death, and in the first days of Israel as owners of Canaan, Joshua issues a challenge to the nation of Israel to remain faithful to God - **Joshua 24:15**

This still stands today as a challenge to all families to remain devoted to God and to raise children who know and honor Him.

Judges

If we only count the actual deliverers there are 12 judges in this book. (Samuel & Eli not in book and not described as deliverers. Abimelech was troubler rather than a deliverer)

“Judges” as leaders over Israel was a choice God made - **Deuteronomy 16:18-20**

“an elected or appointed official with authority to hear and decide cases in a court of law” (Webster’s Dictionary). This is similar to the description taught by Moses for the nation. In this design, God was the King and these people carried out localized oversight.

While judges may have decided cases of civil concern (**Judges 4:4-5; 1Samuel 7:15-17**), their mission as deliverers from the oppression of the enemy is emphasized in the book of Judges (**Judges 2:15-18; 3:9,15,31**). However, it was not God’s original plan for them to be needed as deliverers! Had the people followed God, judges would have simply been legislators of peace.

A Devastating Cycle

More than a dozen times throughout the approximate 375 year history of the Judges, the people found themselves in a vicious cycle, caused by a lack of faith and trust and honor for God!

SIN - **Judges 6:1**; SUFFERING - **Judges 6:2-6**; SUPPLICATION - **Judges 6:6-7**; SALVATION - **Judges 7:22-25**

Chapters 17-21 represent darkest time in Jewish history, as *“everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”*

Ruth

For second time an outsider demonstrates the kind of faith and devotion that has been noticeably missing from Israel as a whole.

Ruth’s story is a digression from historical development of Hebrew nation. Her story is included at this point in the Old Testament because it occurred “during the time of the judges” (**Ruth 1:1**).

“...new-found faith of a Moabite girl, and her sacrificial love for her mother-in-law are woven into the great tapestry of God’s plan of salvation. For descended from Ruth is King David, and from the line of David comes the Messiah himself” (Eerderman’s Handbook of the Bible, p. 226).

From a probable future of idolatry in Moab to the people of God and the lineage of Christ, Ruth’s love for Naomi led her to great faith in God and a wonderful story of redemption. Here is a brief layout:

Due to famine, Naomi’s family moves to Moab. Her son marries Ruth. (**Ruth 1:1-5**)

Naomi’s husband and both sons die. She prepares to go back to the land of Judah. (**Ruth 1:6-8**)

Ruth refuses to leave Naomi’s side, so they both travel back to Bethlehem. (**Ruth 1:15-18**)

Boaz, an Israelite, takes note of Ruth’s good character. (**Ruth 2:8-13**)

He desires to marry Ruth, but she is to be redeemed by a closer relative. (**Ruth 3:12-13**)

The closer relative chooses not to redeem her and Boaz marries her. (**Ruth 4:5-13**).

Ruth has a son named Obed. He is the father of Jesse. Jesse is the father of David. (**Ruth 4:17**)

Samuel

1Samuel 1-9 records the birth and life of Samuel as prophet and judge over Israel. Samuel was not only the last judge, but was chosen by God to appoint the first two kings of the monarchy: Saul and David. The rest of the book of I Samuel records the reign of each of those two kings. Samuel thus ties the period of the judges to the period of the Kings - **Acts 13:17-23**

1Samuel 1-2 – The story of Hannah’s prayer for a son and dedication of the son to the Lord’s work.

1Samuel 8:1-9 – The period in history where Israel demanded a king (other than God)!

They demanded such in part because of the sinfulness of Samuel’s sons.

They also did so because of their desire to be like the nations around them.

God considered this to be a rejection of His rule - **1Samuel 8:6-8**

Such was a recurring problem through Israel’s history: creating change instead of going back to the Pattern of God’s word and finding godly people to do things God’s way!

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