

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Lesson 2a : **Historical Books (Part 2)**

Books : **Chronicles to Esther**

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, the student will be able to:

1. Know the second division of the bible (Books of History)
2. Tell how many books the second division consists of
3. Name the books of the History (part 2)
4. Name the authors of the books of History
5. Recite the memory verse

BIBLE REFERENCE

[2 Timothy 3:16](#)

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,"

[Joshua 1:8](#)

"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

WORDS TO REMEMBER

History – comes from Greek word, "historia"

- a continuous, typically chronological, record of important or public events or of a particular trend or institution

Historical – relating to history; based on past events or set in the past

Journey - an act of travelling from one place to another

PRE-SESSION ACTIVITY

Greet the children as they arrive. Make certain that you know their names. As they arrive, have each child joins in a circle or around a table. Play a game, sing a song or give them activity to introduce the new lesson. Tell the children that you are going to introduce them to the other books of the bible.

Beginners : Review and continuation of Lesson 1 Books of Law

Primary : Review | Lesson 1 Books of Law and first 7 books of History

Intermediate: Review | Lesson 1 Books of Law and first 7 books of History

A. PREPARATION and MOTIVATION

Review the students about past week's lessons - **The Origin of the Bible ,Books of Law, Books of History.**

1. What are the two primary divisions of the Bible? (*Old & New Testament*)
2. How many books the Bible consists of? (*66 books*)
3. How many books the Old Testament consists of? (*39 books*)
4. How many books the New Testament consists of? (*27 books*)
5. List the 5 books of Law? (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)
6. Who's the author of the first 5 books? (Moises)
7. Name the books of the History (part 1) (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1& 2 kings)
8. Tell how many books the second division consists of? (*12*)
9. What do you called the second division of the bible? (Books of History)
10. Recite the memory verse

Make sure that all students will be able to answer all the questions correctly.

As you introduce the new lesson, hold the Bible in your hand and show the children the second divisions of the Bible.

Teacher: Today we will be talking about the second division of the Bible – **The Books of History or the Historical Books.** This division consists of 12 books in it and each book reveals the history of the people God chose for a special purpose. But for this week, we will be talking the last five (5) books of History.

ASK: *How many books did I say are in the Historical Books? (12)*

ASK: *How many books we will be talking today? (5)*

B. INTRODUCTION

Romans 15:4 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

"Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that we could have hope. That hope comes from the patience and encouragement that the Scriptures give us."

The second section of the Old Testament is known as the **Historical Books of the Bible.** After 40 years of wandering in the desert and the death of Moses, God began to move the Israelites across the Jordan River. Under the leadership of Joshua and Caleb into the Promised Land, these books tell of their journey to and life in the land of Canaan. It was not easy as they lived and encompassed by antagonistic nations with superstitious, blasphemous practices, and cruel customs. The Historical Books are comprised of 12 books.

C. LESSON

1 and 2 CHRONICLES

(Preparation of the Temple)

Author: Ezra

Though the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles cover the same period of Jewish history, the perspective is very different. So while the content is similar, it is not a mere repetition, but more of a spiritual editorial of the history of the people of Israel. The Kings give man's viewpoint while the Chronicles give God's perspective

Famous story: The reign of King Josiah eight year old king (2 Chronicles 34-35)

Josiah was 8 years old when became king. Amon, Josiah's father, was wicked like Manasseh his grandfather had been. The king's officials plotted against Amon and killed him in his palace that's why Josiah become king so young. Josiah began to seek God. He had people tear down the altars and high places to the other gods and Josiah repair the temple and found the lost book. The scroll was the Bible for God's people and most likely contained the first five books of the Old Testament.

EZRA

Author: Ezra

(Reconstruction of the Temple and Restoration of the People)

The Bible book called Ezra is the story of how God takes his people back to their land after having been slaves in another land. Ezra is the priest that God uses in this story to help the people fall back in love with God.

Famous story: Ezra & Israel rebuild the Temple (Ezra 3:7-13)

God's people were living in exile they had been taken into slavery to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. God began to move on the heart of king Cyrus. He told the people of Israel who were in exile that God wanted Him to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, that all who wanted to go back an help with the work he would give them gold, silver an livestock. As the people started to build the temple God began doing amazing things.

NEHEMIAH

Author: Nehemiah

(Reconstruction of the City)

The book of Nehemiah continues the history of the Jews who returned from exile. Nehemiah gave up his position as cupbearer to Artaxerxes, the Persian king, to become governor of Jerusalem and lead the people in repairing the city walls. Ezra and Nehemiah were contemporaries (see Neh. 8:2, 9), were both men of God but served *Yahweh* in different capacities. While Ezra was a priest and involved more with the religious restoration of returning Remnant, Nehemiah was a layman and served in a political capacity as governor in the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.

Famous story: Nehemiah and His Friends Rebuild Jerusalem

Nehemiah is sad when he hears that his friends are in trouble because enemies destroyed the town where they lived. Nehemiah asks King Artaxerxes for permission to

go to Jerusalem to try to help them fix the walls, and the king says it's okay with him. Even though things are worse in Jerusalem than Nehemiah imagined, still he tells the people there that with God's help, they can do it. Together they fix all the gates, then start on the walls. When their enemies get mad and try to stop them from rebuilding, the people just hold a tool in one hand and a sword in the other and keep right on working! Nehemiah 6:15-16 says they finished in just 52 days! Then in Nehemiah 8:1-3 and 10:28-29, Ezra the priest reads God's law to all the people, and they say, "Thank you, God, for helping us rebuild our wall! Whatever you say, we want to do it all!"

ESTHER

Author: suggested that Ezra or Nehemiah wrote the account but no specific evidence supports that view

(Protection of God's People)

Esther tells the story of a beautiful Jewish girl whom King Xerxes of Persia chose to be his queen. When Haman plotted to murder all the Jews, Queen Esther's cousin Mordecai persuaded Esther to try to save her people. Risking her own life, she appealed to the king and rescued the Jews. Although the name of God does not appear in this book, the theme and purpose of the book is to show God's providential care of His people in their trials and persecutions

Famous story: Brave and Beautiful Queen Esther

When the Jewish man Mordecai won't bow to Haman, an advisor to King Xerxes, Haman is very angry. Haman decides to get even by having all of the Jews killed. What Haman doesn't know is that King Xerxes' wife Esther is Mordecai's niece — which means she's one of the Jews! Mordecai encourages Esther to tell Haman's plan to the king. God gives Esther favor, and when King Xerxes hears what Haman said, he gets rid of Haman instead! Because of Esther's courage, the Jews are saved, and they celebrate with a huge feast.

MEMORY VERSE

2 Tim 3:16

Beginners	:	"All Scripture is breathed out by God,"
Primary	:	"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,"
Intermediate	:	"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,"

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. What is the second division of the Old Testament? (*Books of History*)
2. How many books the Books of History consists of? (*12 books*)
3. Name the first seven (7) books of the Books of History? (*J-Ju-R-1&2S-1&2K*)
4. Who is the brave queen that save the Jews from Haman? (*Esther*)
5. Who is the youngest king and how old is he? (*King Josiah – 8 years old*)

LIFE APPLICATION

The historical books do not relay history merely but interpretative history. History itself is an important part of God's self-revelation. And so as we read the historical books, we should look for more than heroes, good and bad role models and the like. We should look to see what God is saying and how His purpose is being accomplished. God is in control of history and with that we could even say that **"History is His-story"**.

ACTIVITY

Beginners : (Craft) – to create the seven books of the Historical Books
Materials –printed cut-out letters, pictures, coloring

Primary : (Craft) – to create the last 5 books of the Historical Books
Materials –printed cut-out letters, pictures, coloring

Intermediate : (Craft) – to create a picture Bible "pop-up"

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Dear God, Thank you for the Holy Bible. We learn so much from the stories about people who loved you and followed your direction. We thank you for the people who wrote this Book so that we might know about you and how you want us to live. Help us always to think about how you would want us to behave. Help us to listen to you and to do what you want us to do. AMEN.