

100 DAYS

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE

Together
In The Word

MAJOR THEMES IN THE PENTATEUCH

Key Themes: The Character of God: God is merciful and gracious, but He will by no means clear the guilty. The Pentateuch is full of sin, it is full of God punishing sin, and it is full of God graciously providing means of salvation from the judgement He is justly administering.

Covenants: The major storylines in the Pentateuch (and the entire Bible) hinge on the different covenants (Covenants with: Creation, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and the New Covenant). The common denominator in every covenant is that God is faithful despite the fact that man is consistently not. Deuteronomy recognizes this and expresses the need for man to get a new heart, which is then ultimately fulfilled in the New Covenant.

Land, Seed, and Blessing: The Pentateuch zooms in and focuses on how God will fulfill His promises to Abraham. It ends with Israel being a great nation (in number), but it remains to be seen how they will inherit the promised land and how they will be a blessing to the nations.

Key Verse: Genesis 12:1-3 (Land, Seed, and Blessing); Exodus 34:5-7 (The character of God is revealed); Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (The Greatest Commandment)

Key Takeaway: The Lord is steadfast and faithful to fulfill all of His promises. But He needs a better human covenant partner. We need a better King (Adam), a better Savior (Noah), and better Son (Israel). We need Jesus.

JOSHUA

Key Themes: Possessing the Promised Land: Joshua provides a theological record of how Israel possessed the promised land. Ever since Genesis 12 the plot line has been developing to show how God is fulfilling His promises to Abraham (land, seed, and blessing). The emphasis in Joshua is on the fulfillment of the promise of land, as the word is used 102 times.

God as Warrior: Joshua is not a book about Israel slaughtering Canaan with God's permission. Rather, the book clearly shows that God and God alone is the one who is fighting (consider how the walls of Jericho fell), and that He is merely using Israel as an instrument of His judgment against a sexually perverted, child sacrificing, idol worshipping people.

Joshua is the new Moses: Like Moses, Joshua commands Israel to remain faithful to God and obey the covenant. Like Moses, Joshua sends spies into the land of Canaan. Like Moses, Joshua

leads Israel through divinely parted waters. Like Moses, God shows Joshua that He is steadfast and faithful, but will by no means clear the guilty.

Key Verses: Joshua 1:8 (If Joshua wants to lead like Moses did then he needs to meditate on the law day and night) Joshua 6:14 (God is the Warrior, Israel is just His weapon) Joshua 24:15 (Choose this day whom you will serve).

Key Takeaway: Everyday is a new day where we need to declare whom we will serve. And even when we are faithless, He is faithful.

JUDGES

Key Themes: Israel's Apostasy: Joshua ends with Israel's leader pleading with them to put away false gods and remain faithful to the covenant. Judges shows Israel's complete and utter failure to do this as Israel breaks the covenant in every conceivable way.

The need for a King: Judges is written as a justification for the monarchy. The fundamental problem with Israel's wickedness is that everyone did what was right in their own eyes, and the book attributes this to the lack of a king. This sets the stage for the rest of the Bible. The proceeding books look forward to a King who will do what is right in the Lord's eyes, not his own. Israel needs a king like David, a man after God's own heart. Or better yet, they need a King like Jesus.

Imperfect Leaders: The book of Judges gets its name because of the leaders at the time. Some of the judges helped stall Israel's apostasy for a moment, but as time goes on they get worse and worse to the point where the judges are responsible for accelerating the apostasy. The point that the book makes is that Israel needs a king, but their problems are deeper than political. Israel needs a spiritual leader, they need King Jesus.

Key Verses: Judges 2:11 (Israel did was evil in the eyes of the Lord) Judges 21:25 (everyone did what was right in their own eyes).

Key Takeaway: God has put certain restraints in place to mitigate human evil (like government). Behold what happens when some of those restraints are slightly removed.

PREVIEWING 1 SAMUEL

Key Theme: Israel gets a king: Judges ends with Israel's need for a king. 1 Samuel records how Israel gets a king. But this king fails as well. And even the man after God's own heart is not enough to change Israel. Israel needs more than a human king. They need Jesus.