



# Building the Nation of Israel

*Wilbur Reid*

# Building the Nation of Israel

1. Overview
2. Israel's Dark Ages: Judges
3. Lights Amid the Darkness: Ruth and Samuel
4. Beginnings of the Monarchy in Israel (Saul)
  - 1 Sam 8-15
5. Prelude to the reign of David
  - 1 Sam 16 – 2 Sam 5
6. The reign of David
  - 2 Sam 6 - ; 1 Chronicles 28
7. The reign of Solomon
  - 1 Kings 3, 8, 11 2 Chron 5
8. The division of the kingdom and early ministry of Elijah
  - 1 Kings 12-18
9. The divided monarchy in the times of Elijah and Elisha
  - 1 Kings 21-22, 2 Kings 5-7
10. The divided monarch from Jehu to the fall of the northern kingdom
  - 2 Kings 9-17
11. The kingdom of Judah from Hezekiah to the fall of Jerusalem
  - 2 Chron 30, 2 Kings 19-34

*Bonus week: Archaeology of the period by Jerry Mattingly*

Judges  
Ruth  
1 and 2 Samuel  
1 and 2 Kings  
1 and 2 Chronicles



STANDARD REFERENCE LIBRARY  
THROUGH-THE-BIBLE COMMENTARY  
OLD TESTAMENT VOLUME TWO

## The History of Israel

compiled by Douglas Redford

**Standard**  
PUBLISHING  
*Bringing The Word to Life*  
Cincinnati, Ohio

# Historical Ages

- Pre-History, or Ancient *(defined by archeologists)*
  - Stone Age – prior to 2500 BC
  - Bronze Age – 2500 – 1200 BC
  - Iron Age – 1200 – 400 BC
- History
  - Classical Age – 400 BC – AD 476
  - Middle/Medieval Age – AD 476 – 1500
  - Modern Age – 1500 – 1800
  - Contemporary Age – 1800 - current



*There are a variety of categorizations, and dates are approximate, fuzzy and can vary by region.*

# Stone Age

- Prior to 2500 BC
- Stones were shaped and used as tools and weapons
- Garden of Eden to patriarchs
  - Genesis 1-11
- Key characters:
  - Adam and Eve
  - Enoch
  - Methuselah
  - Noah
- World events:
  - First and Old dynasties of Egypt
  - Stonehenge





# Bronze Age

- 2500 - 1200 BC
- Bronze was made by melting copper and tin and mixing them together, then pouring into molds.
- Patriarchs to Joshua
  - Genesis 12-Joshua
- Key Characters
  - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
  - Pharaohs
  - Moses
  - Joshua
- World events:
  - Alphabetic writing: Epic of Gilgamesh, Code of Hammurabi
  - Pyramids of Egypt, Middle and New Kingdoms
  - Shang Dynasty in China
  - Sea peoples settled (Philistines, Palestinians)

# Iron Age



- 1200 – 400 BC
  - Roughly from the time of the judges until the end of the Old Testament.
- Iron and steel tools and weapons
  - Steel is an alloy of iron and carbon
- World events:
  - Rise of Greek city-states
    - Homer: The Illiad and Odyssey
    - Parthenon in Athens
    - Ancient Olympic games
    - Socrates
  - Founding of Rome
  - Confucius and Buddha





# Nation of Israel begins with God's covenant with Abraham

---



I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

Genesis 17:6-8



# Moses: Covenant Renewed

- Deuteronomy 28:
  - 14 verses of blessings for obedience
  - 54 verses of curses for disobedience
- “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess”.
  - Deuteronomy 30:15-18



# Joshua



# THE STRUCTURE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



Law/History (5+12)

GENESIS  
EXODUS  
LEVITICUS  
NUMBERS  
DEUTERONOMY

Wisdom ( 5 )

JOB  
PSALMS  
PROVERBS  
ECCLESIASTES  
SONG OF SOLOMON

Prophets (5+12)

ISAIAH  
JEREMIAH  
LAMENTATIONS  
EZEKIEL  
DANIEL

JOSHUA  
JUDGES  
RUTH  
1 SAMUEL  
2 SAMUEL  
1 KINGS  
2 KINGS  
1 CHRONICLES  
2 CHRONICLES

EZRA  
NEHEMIAH  
ESTHER

Number of books  
in the  
Old Testament:

39

Number of books  
in the  
New Testament:

27

Number of books  
in the Bible:

66

HOSEA  
JOEL  
AMOS  
OBADIAH  
JONAH  
MICAH  
NAHUM  
HABAKKUK  
ZEPHANIAH  
HAGGAI  
ZECHARIAH  
MALACHI

# Attributes of OT Historical Books

---

- Anonymous
- Not dated, but...
- Written in Hebrew
- Samuel, Kings, Chronicles were later divided into two sections.
- Genre: Story narratives
- Books of history or theology?



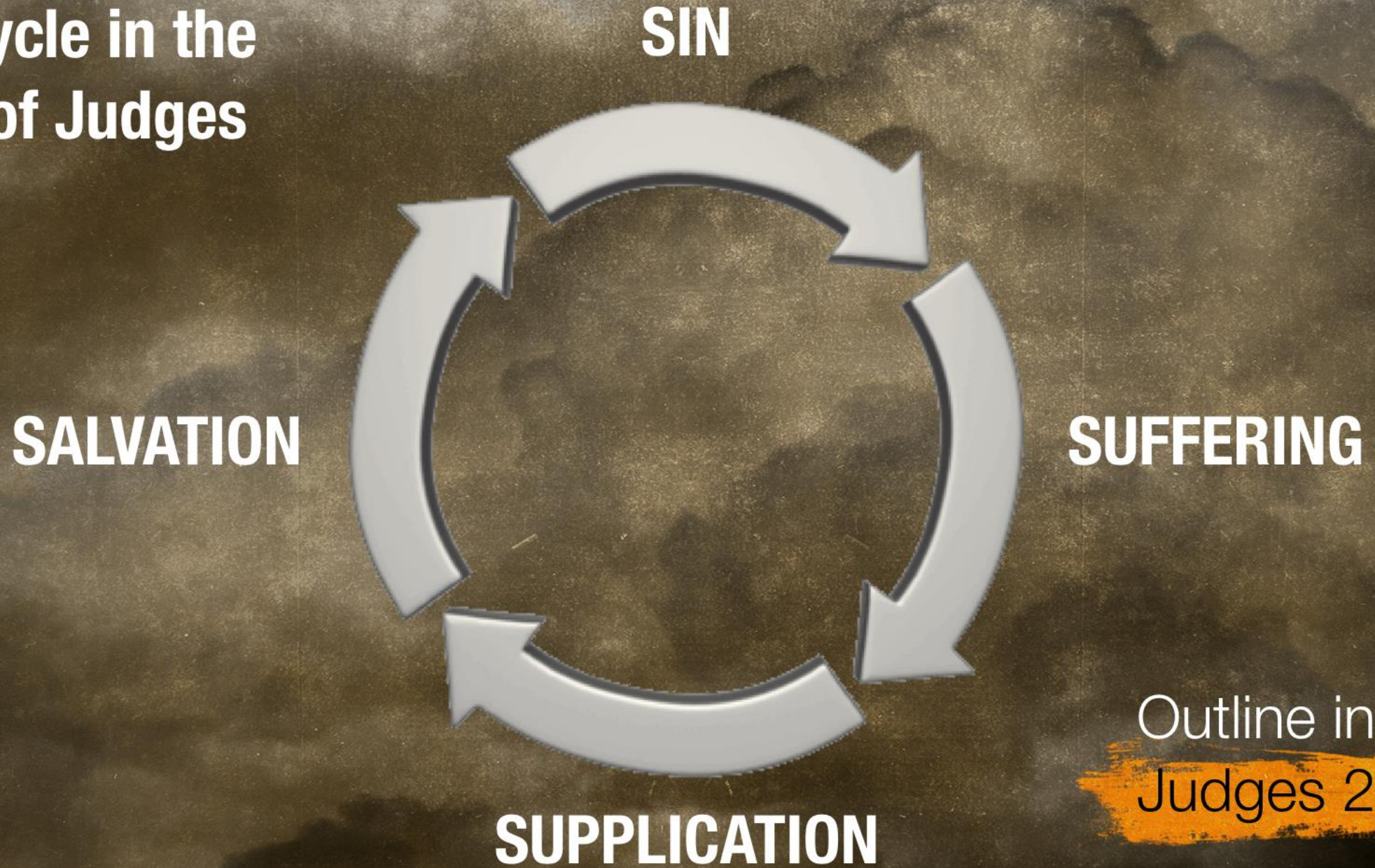
# Judges





IN THOSE DAYS  
THERE WAS NO  
KING IN ISRAEL;  
EVERYONE DID  
WHAT WAS  
RIGHT IN HIS  
OWN EYES.  
JUDGES 21:25

# The Cycle in the Book of Judges



Outline in  
Judges 2:11-19



- Self-contained short story of God’s grace in the life of “Ruth the Moabitess”
- “In the days when the Judges ruled...”
  - Book was originally attached to Judges.
- God honors loyalty and integrity, and rewards character
- God will use anyone to accomplish his purpose

# 1 and 2 Samuel

---

- Samuel was the last judge
- 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel about Samuel and King Saul
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel is about David
- Detailed stories and character development
- Covers 150 years (~1120 – 971 BC)
- Two theories on authorship:
  - Written during united monarchy (between 970 -900 BC) by Samuel, Gad, and/or Nathan
  - Written during exile (~550 BC) by someone who compiled the writings of Samuel, Gad, and Nathan.
  - Other sources, including Book of Jashar (2 Sam. 1:18)





# 1 and 2 Kings

---

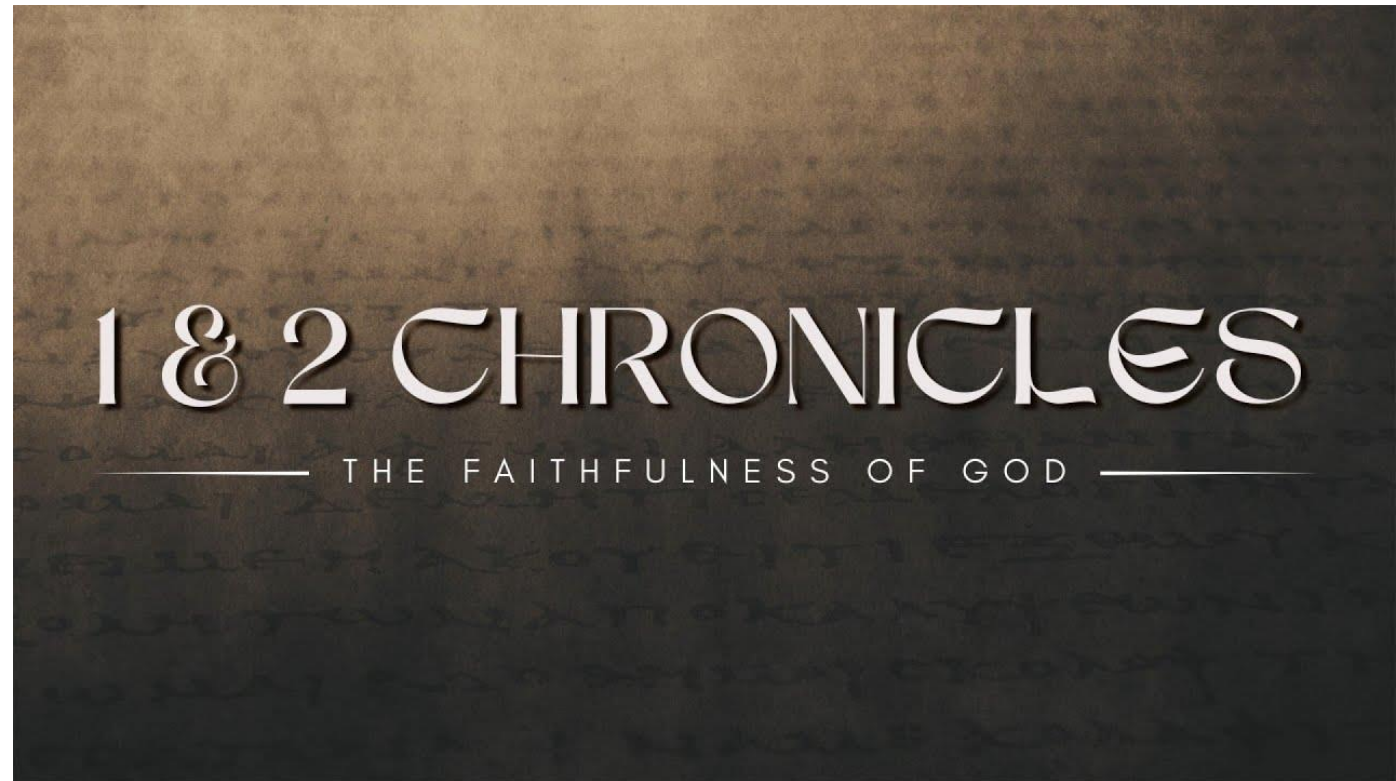
- Begins with Solomon, ends with exile.
- Stories more formulaic
  - Structured around repeated formulas of the accession, main exploits, and deaths of the successive kings.
  - Not as much character development or story detail
- Covers about 400 years (~970-560 BC)
  - Probably written around 550 BC
- Purpose is to show why Israel and Judah were exiled as discipline.
- Possible author: Jeremiah



# 1 and 2 Chronicles

---

- The stories are the same time period as 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings, but new stories added.
- Written after return from exile to provide encouragement
  - Probably about 440 BC
  - Author is called the chronicler - maybe Ezra
  - Much more positive spin
  - Provides hope
- Sources:
  - Court records of King David (*1 Chr. 27:24*)
  - Records of Samuel the Seer (*1 Chr. 29:29*)
  - Records of Nathan the Prophet (*1 Chr. 29:29*)
  - Records of Gad the Seer (*1 Chr. 29:29*)



# THE 12 JUDGES OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

Next  
Week

CAPTIVATING HISTORY



