

Bible - Chapter 2

History

Overview Review

1. The Law
2. **Books of History**
 - a. Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job
 - b. Books primarily describe historical events and people
 - c. Timeframe runs from crossing the Jordan until the return after the exile
3. Books of Poetry
4. Books of Prophecy
5. Gospels
6. Acts and Letters

Where are we? At the end of the books called the **Law** we've arrived on the bank of the Jordan river opposite the "Promised Land," the land of Canaan. The Israelites have been incubated in Egypt such that their numbers grew from just over 70 total to more than 600,000 men plus their wives and children when God freed them from Egyptian slavery. For one generation, they've wandered in the desert as discipline for their distrust of God which showed itself in their disobedience. Now Moses has died, Joshua has just been appointed over the people and they stand on the brink of finally entering the land of milk and honey (that is, great abundance). This is an exciting time!

What promises have we seen God keep? Through Abraham, God has promised *land, descendants* and *blessing* to all nations. We've seen the *descendants* multiply massively during the 400 years in Egypt. In this chapter will see the people receive their *land* and through them, God's *blessing* will extend to some beyond Israel. Thus we'll see limited fulfillment of the **Abrahamic Covenant**.

What happens during the time called "history"? "History" can be broken into five sections: **Conquest, Judges, Kingdom, Exile, and Return**. **Conquest** of the Promised Land sets the stage for the people to govern themselves. After a strong start they sin and fall away. God permits them to be disciplined by foreigners who oppress them until they cry out to Him. God then responds by sending a **judge** to deliver them. After repeating this cycle for about 350 years, they beg God to give them a king so they can "fit in" and look like other nations. Through the prophet **Samuel**, God acquiesces to grant their request, making it clear they have rejected Him as their true King. The **Kingdom** grows under **Saul** then **David** and continues under **Solomon**, but the people continue sin despite countless warnings by **prophets**. Eventually they encounter God's discipline again, this time in the form of **Exile**. Despite their rebellion, God refuses to abandon the Israelites. Instead, He repeatedly promises that a "remnant" will **Return** to their land. The alternately miraculous, abominable and sometimes shocking tales of this time further reveal God's character and foreshadow Jesus.

As a reminder, consider the following questions each day. Record at least one response to Question 4:

1. What happens? (major characters, events, places)
2. What does it say about God? About Jesus?
3. What questions does it raise? (Write down at least 1.)
4. How should I respond? (Write down at least one practical, tangible adjustment to your life/thinking.)

What questions do you have?

What is the Conquest? God, in His usual unexpectedness, allows Moses to see the land but not to enter it. Instead, with multiple repetitions of "*be strong and courageous,*"¹ God commands **Joshua** to lead the people in their conquest on the Promised Land. According to the spies of 40 year before, though the land was exceedingly good and fruitful, the people and cities were tall, well-fortified and terrifying, so Joshua would need all that courage.

In the end, Joshua trusts God and obeys, though not without glitches, and conquers many peoples in the Promised Land throughout the book of Joshua.

As a backdrop to the **conquest**, we need to remember God's command regarding treatment of the land's inhabitants: "*When the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you...you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. You shall not intermarry with them...for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the Lord would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly*" (underline added).²

Point to ponder: What's in a name? In the last chapter, we noted that God renamed Abram/Abraham, Sarai/Sarah, and Jacob/Israel. Joshua's name has also been changed. What is significant about Joshua's name change? And this isn't the last name we'll see changed... See Numbers 13:16 and notes on it.

<u>Original name</u>	<u>its meaning</u>	<u>new name</u>	<u>its meaning</u>
_____	_____	Joshua	_____

Where is Jesus? As we will one day see Jesus in His role as King of Kings and Lord of Lords leading a massive army into battle, so Joshua foreshadowed Jesus when he commanded the army that conquered God's enemies. Even more to the point, Jesus actually appears to Joshua in His role as Commander, and says as much (Joshua 5:13-15), accepting Joshua's worship and making "*holy*" even the ground they were standing on.

What questions do you have?

Where are we?

1. The Law
2. History
 - a. Conquest
 - b. Judges
 - c. Kingdom
 - d. Exile
 - e. Return
3. Poetry
4. Prophecy
5. Gospels
6. Acts and Letters

¹ Deuteronomy 31:6-7, 23; Joshua 1:6, 9, 18

² Deuteronomy 7:1-4

Read...	Summarize...	Notes, comments, questions
<i>1. Moses' death, Entry to Canaan</i>		
<i>Deut 34</i>		
<i>Josh 1</i>		
<i>Josh 2</i>		
<i>Josh 3</i>		
<i>Josh 4</i>		
<i>Josh 5</i>		Who is the "commander of the Lord's army"?
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		
<i>2. Conquering Canaan</i>		
<i>Josh 6</i>		
<i>Josh 7</i>		
<i>Josh 8</i>		Which covenant is renewed?
<i>Josh 9</i>		
<i>Josh 10:1-15</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		

Who are the Judges (rated R)? Packed with stories of military deception, crazy miracles and just plain wacky stuff, the book of Judges contains as much gore as some movies today. Watch for the cycles of *sin, repentance, crying out to God, God's salvation through a judge* followed by *forgetfulness* then *sin* again. Highlights include **Ehud**'s story, full of deception, gore and a little graphic humor. Soon after comes a tale of two women, **Deborah** judging Israel and **Jael** killing the enemy's leader.

Like some of us today, **Gideon**, another judge, has trouble believing and trusting God. God clearly calls him, yet he asks for a sign - and then another sign. He finally believes and does as God asks but not before God reduces Gideon's army to only 300 men so everyone will know it is God who fought for them.

Samson follows after Gideon, during another time of captivity for Israel. He avenges a personal offense by tying foxes' tails together, torching their tails and sending them into the fields, thus burning an entire harvest of Israel's enemies. Seemingly unbiblical stories continue in Samson's killing 1000 men with a donkey's jawbone, his wild temper, his week-long marriage, his involvement with prostitutes and finally his ill-fated affair with Delilah. Like his first wife, Delilah schmoozes Samuel into betraying himself. He finally tells her his secret, which she relays to her people (his enemies) so that he is captured. But the story doesn't end there. Samson is famed for "taking more people with him when he died than when he lived."³ Not once does Sampson choose to willingly submit to God, but God's will to *begin* conquering the Philistines is still accomplished. I can't help wondering how God might have used Samson if he'd actually obeyed his parents - or God! - once or twice.

Two R-rated stories follow Sampson's and reveal just how low the Israelites have sunk morally. They seems to be a mix of those who've forgotten God and those who openly rebel against Him. But despite all that, God graciously sends them **Samuel**, the last judge. More on him in the next section.

Where is Jesus? Each time the Israelites need deliverance, God raises up a **judge**. Ultimately, however, people need deliverance from the sin that repeatedly defeats them, preventing God's blessing. One day, God will raise up the ultimate **Judge** to deliver them - Jesus.

Point to ponder: Given that God's Big Picture story will move forward whether or not we willingly participate, why might we want to join His story? Are there benefits to humble obedience and submission to God? Are there benefits to choosing our own way? Which choice is more of a struggle? Who is the struggle against? Which choice is harder? Which is better? Which do your actions say you are choosing?

Where are we?

1. The Law
2. History
 - a. Conquest
 - b. Judges**
 - c. Kingdom
 - d. Exile
 - e. Return
3. Poetry
4. Prophecy
5. Gospels
6. Acts and Letters

What questions do you have?

³ Judges 16

Read...	Summarize...	Notes, comments, questions
3. Joshua's death, Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah		
<i>Judges 1:27-36</i>		Did the Israelites fulfill God's command to drive out all the people of the land? Can you hear the ominous music predicting the tragedy ahead?
<i>Judges 2</i>		
<i>Judges 3</i>		
<i>Judges 4</i>		
<i>Optional: Judges 5</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		
4. Gideon, Samson		
<i>Judges 6</i>		
<i>Judges 7</i>		
<i>Judges 13</i>		
<i>Judges 14</i>		
<i>Judges 16</i>		
<i>Judges 17:6</i>		Is this similar or different from today?
<i>Judges 21:25</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		

How does a family, now a people group, become a Kingdom? As we've seen, the twelve sons have become more than a million people, moved to Egypt and back, and taken over a good bit of their Promised land. Now a woman named Hannah, who was barren like Sarah and Rachel had been, begs God for a son. When her son **Samuel** arrives, she keeps her vow to give him back to God and Samuel grows up in the temple, becoming the last **judge** and the first in a long line of **prophets**. Years later God finally acquiesces to the people's plea for a human king and directs Samuel to anoint **Saul** king. When Samuel feels rejected God assures him the people are not rejecting Samuel, but God Himself as their true King.

Saul, the first king, starts out well, but gets impatient and disobeys God's command to destroy all the people and belongings of the Amalekites, so God rejects him as king. God then tasks Samuel to anoint the next king, **David**, the youngest son of Jesse, during which we read the well known verse, "*man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*"⁴

David is anointed king in 1 Sam 16, but waits patiently for God's timing for 16 more chapters covering about 15 years. After David twice refuses to kill Saul simply because Saul was "the Lord's anointed," Saul and his sons are killed in battle. Finally David is crowned king over Judah. Seven years later, the northern ten tribes follow suit and David begins his 33 year reign over the **United Kingdom** of Israel (not Great Britain!).

As king, David conquers many nations and brings the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem, which is called the City of David. Through all his victories, David never stops giving glory to God.⁵ He's known as the greatest king, yet one of the most famous stories is his sin with Bathsheba and murder of her husband. The prophet Nathan exposes David's sin and God's disappointment. Psalm 51 is David's lament of this sin. Though God forgives him the consequence remains: his son with Bathsheba dies and the rest of his reign is troubled by revolts and violence. While David is on his deathbed, his son Adonijah tries to steal the throne, becoming the second of David's sons to do so. David hears about it, however, in time to hand the throne to **Solomon** (his and Bathsheba's second son).

Where is Jesus? Raised from humble shepherd to honored king, David is a "type" of Christ, showing us a pattern that Jesus repeats when He is born to a poor family but raised to be exalted as King of kings.

Is that another covenant? Note especially 2 Samuel 7:16 where the prophet Nathan tells David of God's promise to give him a *house* (descendants, lineage or dynasty), a *kingdom* (a people ruled by a king) and a *throne* (the authority to rule)...*forever*. Like the covenant with Abraham, this **Davidic Covenant** is not dependent on David; it is simply God's promise. Keep an eye out for its fulfillment!

Where are we?

1. The Law
2. History
 - a. Conquest
 - b. Judges
 - c. **Kingdom**
 - i. **United**
 - ii. Divided
 - d. Exile
 - e. Return
3. Poetry
4. Prophecy
5. Gospels
6. Acts and Letters

What questions do you have?

⁴ 1 Samuel 16:7

⁵ 2 Samuel 7:18, 22-24

Read...	Summarize...	Notes, comments, questions
5. Ruth, Samuel, Saul		
<i>Optional: Ruth</i>		
<i>1 Sam 1</i>		
<i>1 Sam 3</i>		
<i>1 Sam 8</i>		
<i>1 Sam 9</i>		
<i>1 Sam 10:1-16</i>		
<i>1 Sam 15:10 - 35</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		
6. David		
<i>1 Sam 16</i>		
<i>1 Sam 17</i>		
<i>1 Sam 24</i>		
<i>2 Sam 2:1-4</i>		
<i>2 Sam 5:1-5</i>		
<i>2 Sam 7:1-17</i>		What does God promise to David?
<i>2 Sam 11</i>		
<i>2 Sam 12:1-25</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		

How did the Kingdom transition from United to Divided? God promises in a dream to give **Solomon** anything he asks for. He requests “a discerning heart” and God approves, promising to also give what Solomon did not ask for: “*riches and honor – so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.*”⁶ Solomon is known as the wisest person who ever lived (although seemingly not the happiest), and is responsible for writing Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon. After him, the kingdom falls into disarray and is divided again into a northern and southern kingdom each ruled by a succession of kings.⁷ Some kings were good and sought God but most led the people further from Him.

In the end and in accordance with God's covenant with Moses,⁸ God “curses” His people and sends them into exile. You might wonder, “Don't curses involve fairy tale people doomed to sleep or to beast-hood until kissed by their true love?” But since that's not what we see in the Bible, we need to ask...

What is a curse? Unlike the spooky, mystical *curse*s in movies and fairy tales, the biblical curse is simply “the penalty levied for not keeping [God's] Law.”⁹ So when we read of God's covenant with Moses, “*I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life...*”¹⁰, the choice is simple: obey God and be blessed, or disobey and receive your penalty.

Point to ponder: If it really is that simple, then why did the Israelites disobey and choose the penalty?! It makes no sense. And yet, don't we have the same choice? Why do we so often choose to go our own way and do our own thing, rather than lay down our own worries and desires, obey God and be blessed? But let's get back to the Israelites and the prophets who constantly urged them to make the better choice.

What are prophets? And how is one different from a priest? Prophets and priests have very different roles. Priests bring sacrifices and requests *from the people to God*; prophets bring *God's words from God to the people*. Priests represent the people before God; prophets represent God before the people. If you could choose one of these offices, I'd recommend being a priest because prophets in the Bible are generally hated and often killed.

We'll see prophets cropping up alongside kings in order to help and guide them. Even though Israel has rejected God as her true King, God never stops pursuing her and calling her back to Himself and He does this through the prophets.

Where is Jesus? The prophets spoke God's word to man, but Jesus would go beyond that; He IS the Word. As John wrote, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*”¹¹ Elsewhere is written, “*the word of God is living and active...*”¹²

Where are we?

7. The Law
8. History
 - a. Conquest
 - b. Judges
 - c. **Kingdom**
 - i. **United**
 - ii. **Divided**
 - d. Exile
 - e. Return
9. Poetry
10. Prophecy
11. Gospels
12. Acts and Letters

⁶ 1 Kings 9:3-14

⁷ 1 Kings 12 through 2 Kings

⁸ Exodus 19:5 and many other places and Chapter 1, Page 13

⁹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/curse-of-the-law.html>, 2020.

¹⁰ Deuteronomy 30:19

¹¹ John 1:1

¹² Hebrews 4:12

Read...	Summarize...	Notes, comments, questions
7. Solomon		
<i>1 Kings 2:1-12</i>		
<i>1 Kings 3:3-28</i>		
<i>1 Kings 9:10</i>		What two major things did Solomon build?
<i>1 Kings 10</i>		
<i>1 Kings 11:1-13</i>		What contributed significantly to Solomon's fall (1 Kings 11:1 and 11:7-8)?
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		
8. Divided Kingdom and Elijah		
<i>1 Kings 12:1-24</i>		
<i>1 Kings 17</i>		
<i>1 Kings 18</i>		
<i>1 Kings 19</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		

What is prophecy? Bible dictionaries define **prophecy** as *predictions* given by God to His prophets. As we'll see, however, prophets also speak many words that are not predictions but rather communication that God wants people to hear. Thus, prophets speak both *prophecy* in the sense of predictions and *messages from God*.

Did all prophets write? No. While the Books of Prophecy are written by the **writing prophets**, not all prophets wrote their messages down. Those who don't are called **non-writing prophets**.

Where do some non-writing prophets fit into the story? After several kings of Israel, about each of whom is written, "*[he] did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him,*" Ahab ascends to the throne. After a severe three-year drought, the prophet **Elijah** confronts King Ahab and lays the blame for the drought squarely in Ahab's lap.¹³ Ahab has led the people to disobey God and God is disciplining them so that they might become aware of their wayward ways and return to Him so that He can bless them.

Elijah may have been the most well-known and well-dreaded prophet of Ahab's reign, but he is far from the only one. About **Micaiah**, Ahab whines, "*I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me.*"¹⁴ Sure enough, when Micaiah's predicts Ahab's death, Ahab changes everything to avoid it, but a random arrow strikes and kills him in battle just as Micaiah had said.

Elijah's ministry continues until God takes him to heaven in a chariot of fire and his apprentice **Elisha** takes over. Endowed with a "*double portion of [Elijah's] spirit,*"¹⁵ Elisha works many miracles similar to Elijah's, miracles Jesus would one day repeat, like feeding a crowd, healing leprosy and raising the dead.

As 2 Kings continues, the spotlight swings back and forth between Israel and Judah, telling tales of one king after another. All the kings in Israel "*did evil*" while most of the kings of Judah "*did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father...had done.*" Into this succession of kings of the **Divided Kingdom**, the remainder of the OT prophets speak and write.

Point to ponder: With fire coming down from heaven so intense that it licks up even the water, stones and dust of a drenched altar, Elijah triumphs over 400 prophets of Baal. A true mountain top experience on Mt Carmel. The next scene, however, finds him running for his life from the threat of Queen Jezebel. Scared and exhausted, he trudges alone into the desert and asks God to take his life. God responds gently, feeding Elijah, giving him rest and listening to his complaints. But when Elijah moans, "*I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too,*" God stops him, replying, "*Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel – all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal.*" More often than not in ministry, low valleys follow high peaks, and for those who are "*zealous for the Lord,*" deep feelings of isolation are not uncommon. If you can identify, be encouraged. You are in good company. Carry on and keep an eye out to connect with some of those 7,000 when you encounter them.

Where are we?

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¹³ 1 Kings 18:18

¹⁴ 1 Kings 22:8

¹⁵ 2 Kings 2:9-12

Read...	Summarize...	Notes, comments, questions	
9. Micaiah and Elisha			
<i>1 Kings 22:1-40</i>			
<i>2 Kings 2:1-14</i>			
<i>2 Kings 5:1-14</i>			
<i>2 Kings 6:8-23</i>			
Date:	Key Verse:		
Take away:			
10. Sequence of kings			
List the kings of Israel and Judah. <u>Circle the kings</u> who did right in God's eyes. The kings you look up are only those who reigned 10 years or more. The briefer ones are done for you, and all are roughly aligned time-wise. What do you notice?			
Read...	<u>King of Israel</u>	Read...	<u>King of Judah</u>
<i>1Kings 14:14-16</i>		<i>1Kings 14:21-22</i>	
	Nadab - 2 years		Abijam - 3 years
<i>1Kings 15:33-34</i>		<i>1Kings 15:9-11</i>	
	Elah - 2 years		
	Zimri - 7 days		
<i>1Kings 16:23-25</i>		<i>1Kings 22:42-43</i>	
<i>1Kings 16:29-30</i>			
	Ahaziah - 2 years		Jehoram - 8 years
<i>2Kings 3:1-2</i>			Ahaziah - 1 year
<i>2Kings 10:31-36</i>			Athaliah (queen) - 6 years
<i>2Kings 13:1-2</i>		<i>2Kings 12:1-2</i>	
<i>2Kings 13:10-11</i>		<i>2Kings 14:1-3</i>	
<i>2Kings 14:23-24</i>		<i>2Kings 15:1-3</i>	
	Zechariah - 6 months	<i>2Kings 15:32-34</i>	
	Shallum - 1 month	<i>2Kings 16:1-3</i>	
	Menahem - 10 years	<i>2Kings 18:1-3</i>	
	Pekahiah - 2 years	<i>2Kings 21:1-2</i>	
<i>2Kings 15:27-28</i>			Amon - 2 years
	Hoshea - 9 years	<i>2Kings 22:1-2</i>	
	Israel defeated by Assyria		Jehoahaz - 2 months
		<i>2Kings 23:36-37</i>	
			Judah defeated by Babylon
Date:	Key Verse:		
Take away:			

What is the Exile? Through Moses, God laid a choice before the people: either obey and be blessed, or disobey and be cursed. So when they disobey, God disciplines them by *removing them from the Promised Land* in hopes that they might recognize their error and return to Him. Thus Israel goes into **exile** under Assyria and Judah follows 150 years later under Babylon which has defeated Assyria.

Did the people ever return to their land? Persia's rise to power sets up the **return** of a few people, a *remnant*, to Jerusalem after 70 years of exile, as described in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Despite opposition and ridicule, they rebuild the temple and the city wall.

As we just mentioned, only a *remnant* returned, a small fraction of all the Israelites. From their return about 500 years before Jesus until 1948, Israel remained under the control of another nation. And even up to today, it has not become again the great kingdom it once was. But God promised *land, descendants* and *blessing*. He promised a *dynasty, kingdom* and *throne forever*. What about all that? That's what the Israelites wondered and that's why they were looking for a king who would lead them again to conquer other nations and restore their former glory. No wonder they misunderstood Jesus! The light of His truth took everything to a new level... But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

How do the books of Poetry and Prophecy fit into the Story? It is worth a look at the timeline while we are reading through the events of History to see where the Books of Poetry and Prophecy fit. See Section 11 for some questions to guide your timeline study.

Where are we?

1. The Law
2. History
 - a. Conquest
 - b. Judges
 - c. Kingdom
 - d. Exile
 - e. Return
3. Poetry
4. Prophecy
5. Gospels
6. Acts and Letters

What questions do you have?

Read...	Summarize...	Notes, comments, questions
11. Exile		
<i>2 Kings 17:6-23</i>	Exile of Israel	
<i>2 Kings 25:1-21</i>	Exile of Judah	
<p>After these two short readings today, indulge yourself in the timeline. Record your findings in your notebook or a blank page of this workbook, or even in your Bible's Table of Contents.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compare your Bible's Table of Contents with where each book falls on the timeline. 2. How much time does each book cover? 3. When do the major characters you've already read about live? 4. What are the world's prominent powers during these people's lives? 5. When were the upcoming books of Poetry written? (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon) 6. When and to whom did the non-writing prophets speak? What major events occurred during their time? 7. When and to whom do the writing prophets write? What major events occurred? 8. What else stands out as you look through the timeline? 		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		
12. Return		
<i>2 Chron 36:22-23</i>		
<i>Neh 1</i>		
<i>Neh 2</i>		
<i>Neh 3</i>		
<i>Neh 4</i>		
<i>Neh 5</i>		
<i>Neh 6:1-16</i>		
<i>Neh 8:1-8</i>		
<i>Optional Esther</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		

Pause. This brings to a close the events of OT **History** that the Bible describes. Because of the people's choice to disobey God, their nation has been conquered and scattered. Many prophets have cried out to God's chosen people. Malachi, the last OT prophet, gives a few final words to the Israelites, then God goes silent for 400 years.

What about the History books we haven't read yet? Ruth's opening line places Ruth's life during the time of the judges. Its closing genealogy reveals that she is King David's great grandmother. As her kinsman redeemer, Boaz marries Ruth and brings her into his family, as **Jesus** would do for His church one day.

As for **Chronicles**, the cultures of OT times retained records, or "*chronicles*," each king's reign. Thus the biblical books by that name record events among the royalty of Israel and Judah, paralleling 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. Seventy years later, after the exile, **Ezra** rose up as a scribe and wrote of the return to Jerusalem under the Persian King Cyrus.

The book of **Esther** takes place where the bulk of the Jews remained in exile far from the Promised Land. Though God is never specifically mentioned in Esther, devout Jews in the story clearly expect God to raise up a Savior to deliver them - and one day **Jesus** would...

What promises are still outstanding? God promised Abraham *land*, *descendants* and *blessing* to all nations. So far we've seen the descendants multiply, the Israelites receive their *land* and through them, God's *blessing* extended to some people beyond Israel. But this **limited fulfillment** doesn't seem to be complete. We've also read God's covenant with Moses and seen how the people repeatedly broke it and earned their curse. And finally, we've heard God's promise to give David a *house* (dynasty), a *kingdom* (people ruled by a king) and a *throne* (the authority to rule)...*forever*. Like the Abrahamic Covenant, this **Davidic Covenant** has been partially fulfilled, but the "*forever*" part remains to be seen.

If this is the end of the OT story, what about the remaining OT books? Since the priority of this study is familiarity with your Bible, we will continue to move from *In the beginning* to *Amen*. As a result, some of the upcoming books on Poetry and Prophecy will not appear in the order they were written. Modern western culture prioritizes time-order but the Bible is organized according to category first, then time. And the shorter Books of Prophecy (the *minor* prophets) are only roughly in time order. In the context of so many varied genres of literature, the Bible's organization actually makes a lot of sense. So as we move into Poetry and Prophecy, keep the overall story in mind and refer to the timeline as necessary.

Where are we?

1. The Law
2. History
 - a. Conquest
 - b. Judges
 - c. Kingdom
 - d. Exile
 - e. Return
 - i. **Pause...**
3. Poetry
4. Prophecy
5. Gospels
6. Acts and Letters

Summary: Review your take-aways from each day during this Section. Are there any themes that stand out? What has God been teaching you or asking you to do or change?