

10,000 Foot View

Week 1: Creation/Fall

Week 2: Patriarchs of Israel

Week 3: Exodus

Week 4: Kings/Exiles

Week 5: Jesus

Week 6: Early Church

Week 7: The Church Continues

Week 8: New Creation

Metanarrative:

The overarching story of the Bible; all parts of the Bible point to—the story of creation, the fall, redemption, and restoration. Imagine an umbrella over all Scripture, and all of it points to Jesus Christ, present at creation, the hope in the fall, our Redeemer, and promise of complete restoration. As you read the Scripture, look at how each part fits into this story.

Week 4: Kings and Exiles

God's people tend to follow a cycle: Israelites turn from God (fall/sin), God's judgement upon them (persecuted by surrounding people), Israelites repent for turning from God, and God saves them. As you read, try to see which phases of the cycle the Israelites are in and where it fits into the Big Story of the Bible (creation, fall/sin, redemption, restoration). As you notice this in the readings, apply it to your life as well.

Day 1:

The Israelites ask for a King—1 Samuel

8:4-9 (more? Read through verse 22)

Last week we followed the Exodus, God rescuing the Israelites and bringing them into the Promised Land. The Israelites had years of conquering the new land, and time when God raised Judges (Samson, Gideon, etc....) to help lead. Eventually the Israelites ask for a king since other people have one, and this is where we will start this week.

How did the Israelites turn from God in this passage?

How did God respond to their request for a king?

When have you turned from God? How did that play out?

When have you desired what others have rather than follow God?

Prayer Prompt: As you now pray, confess those times you have turned from God and have followed the temptation of comparison. Thank God for drawing you to Him and for forgiving you through Jesus' life, death and resurrection (Hallelujah!). Ask for the Holy Spirit to continually restore you until Jesus return and for contentment.

Day 2:

King Rehoboam and Israel Splits:

2 Chronicles 9:30-10:17

King Saul was the first king, but God chose to change the lineage of kings after him to David lines (David→Solomon→Rehoboam). During Solomon's reign he turned from God (1 Kings 11:9-33) and it was then God said Israel would split in the future during Solomon's son's reign. This reading is when the kingdom split. The following links take you to maps.

Map before the Split:

https://www.conformingtojesus.com/charts-maps/en/12_tribes_of_israel_map.htm

Map after the Split:

https://www.conformingtojesus.com/charts-maps/en/israel_and_judah_map.htm

How did Rehoboam respond to the Israelites?

Whom should Rehoboam look to for advice?

Who speaks into your life?

God should be our first go-to, but He also provides people in our lives. Who is someone in your life you can go to for godly advice?

Prayer Prompt: As you now pray, repent for times of turning to a feeble place/person for advice rather than God or a person He sent. Ask for wisdom and discernment in present decisions. Thank God for His forgiveness to wash away these sins and for confidence to follow God, and humility to ask for advice from God and the people He sends.

Day 3:

The Kings—did he follow God or not?

1 Kings 14:21-15:3

After you read this segment, skim through the headings of chapter 15 and 16. Read far enough to note whether the king followed God or not.

When a “good” king came to the throne, what did he do?

How do you think the people received the changes a good king made?

When you are “against the grain,” do you still follow God?

Since there were kings who followed God amid those who didn’t, what can we assume about the presence of God even during rebellion?

Prayer Prompt: As you now pray, thank God for always being present, even when you are against Him. Ask for forgiveness for times of rebellion from God. Ask for increased strength from the Holy Spirit to confidently share His love and the story of Jesus’ saving grace. Reach out to someone who is on your heart to share with today.

Day 4: Israel Falls (goes into Exile) to Assyria: 2 Kings 17:6-23 and Amos 4:6-13

God sent many prophets (Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Amos, Hosea...) to tell the Israelites (the North Kingdom) to turn back to God. They unfortunately did not; it ended in their exile into another country—Assyria, from which they did not return.

Map of Exiles:

https://www.conformingtojesus.com/charts-maps/en/assyrian-babylonian_captivity_map.htm

Read verse 9 again. Can any secret be kept from God?

What hidden thing can you confess before God?

What is the recurring phrase in the Amos passage?

How does the Amos passage show God's love and care?

Prayer Prompt: As you now pray, repent for those "secret" sins. Ask God to help you return to Him. Thank Him for His loving care that welcomes you into His arms, forgiven through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection!

Day 5: Judah Falls (goes into Exile) to Babylon: 2 Chronicles 36:11-23 and Ezekiel 11:16-20

God sent many prophets (Obadiah, Zechariah, Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum...) to tell God's people in Judah (the southern kingdom) to turn back to God. They unfortunately did not; it ended in their exile into another country— Babylon, but even before the exile, God prophesies how He will reestablish them in Israel after exile.

Map of Exiles:

https://www.conformingtojesus.com/charts-maps/en/assyrian-babylonian_captivity_map.htm

What did God's people do to call God's judgment of exile upon them?

Where do you see God's compassion in this passage?

Where can you apply this passage to your life? (Following others rather than God, ignoring God's nudges to return to Him, broken and needing restored)

How do you think the exiled people felt to hear the prophetic word from Ezekiel?

Prayer Prompt: As you now pray, repent for a specific time you rejected God recently. Thank God for drawing you back to Him. Remind yourself and another person today how you are God's!

Day 6: God brings them back from Exile!!!

Ezekiel 37: 1-14 and

Ezra 1:1-4; 6:19-22

Ezekiel is a prophecy from God to the people before the exile happened. The Ezra passages tell of them coming back to Israel to rebuild and have Passover.

Why did the foreign King Cyrus let them return to Jerusalem with resources to rebuild?

After 70 years of exile, how do you think the Israelites felt to take the Passover in Jerusalem in the rebuilt temple? (After this how wonderful will it feel to worship and have communion together!?)

Since Ezekiel prophesied about the valley of dry bones before their return, what hope did this provide the exiled Israelites?

What is your hope in?

Prayer Prompt: As you now pray, ask God to open your eyes and soften your heart to where you are astray. Thank Him for providing the hope of Jesus' return and the restoration He will bring. Ask for strength to share this hope with _____ today!