

THE BIBLE YEAR (2023-2024)

Class #5: The Wandering

(Numbers)

REVIEW/QUESTIONS

OVERVIEW OF THEMES IN THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

THE PURPOSE/REASON FOR NUMBERS

IMPORTANT PASSAGES:

Numbers 1-4. Census

Numbers 5:11-31. The Torah and Women's Rights

Numbers 6. The Nazarite Vow

Numbers 6:22-27. The Aaronic blessing

Numbers 7 - 12. Altar Furnishings & Dedications/Complaints

Numbers 13. The 10 spies and 2.

Numbers 14 - 17. Rebellions-Repentance-Repeat. Anthropomorphic.

Numbers 15:37ff. Tassels - "Tallith"

Numbers 19. Red heifer (Hebrews 13:11-12)

Number 21. Bronze Serpent/Fiery Snake/Symbolism

Numbers 22-24. Balaam. (Ancient Middle Eastern Storytelling)

Numbers 26 - 27. 2nd Census/Inheritance for Women

Numbers 27 - 34. Joshua/Vows/Reuben & Gad

Numbers 35. Cities of Refuge

CLOSING PRAYER

THE BIBLE YEAR (2023-2024)

Class #6: Deuteronomy

Opening Prayer/Introductions/Questions

Review: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers

Overview

- 4 types of law/commandments
 - “Statute” (hoq)
 - “Ordinance”
 - “Law”- Torah
 - “Commandment” (mitzvah)
- Martin Luther -Law/Gospel
- Other

Lesson on Deuteronomy

- Three sermons delivered by Moses on the plain of Moab just prior to the Israelites’ entrance into Canaan (1:6-4:43; 4:44-28:68; 29:1-30:20).
- Significant Passages
 - Deuteronomy 5:6-21 (10 Commandments)
 - Deuteronomy 6 (*Shema*)
 - Deuteronomy 10. Love the foreigners in your midst.
 - Deuteronomy 11. Phylacteries.
 - Blessing and a curse.

Next Week and Closing Prayer

THE BIBLE YEAR (2023-2024)

Class #7: Joshua/Conquest

OPENING Prayer/Introductions/Questions

REVIEW: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers

OVERVIEW

- Joshua = “Yeshua”
- Power of “Land”
- Conquest and War - Augustine’s *Just War Theory*

LESSON

Chapter 1 - courage

Chapters 2, 6: Rahab and Conquest of Jericho

Chapters 8-10: Conquests in the South

Chapters 11-12: Conquests in the North

Chapters 14-20: Distribution of Lands to Tribes

Chapters 23-24: Farewell and Covenant at Shechem

SUMMARY - WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN?

It is generally agreed by scholars that Joshua reached its final form during the Babylonian exile in the sixth century B.C.E., though the book obviously contains older material. The many occurrences of the phrase “to this day,” to refer to structures or practices existing in preexilic Israel, would argue that some “edition” of the book was completed prior to the exile (see 4:9; 5:9; 7:26; 8:28-29; 9:27; 13:13; 14:14; 15:63; 16:10). The use of the phrase would also imply that the author is writing for an audience living well after the time of Joshua. Many scholars place this first “edition” of Joshua in the reign of King Josiah, in the last half of the seventh century B.C.E.

THE BIBLE YEAR (2023-2024)

Class #8: Judges/Ruth

OPENING Prayer/Introductions/Questions

REVIEW: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua

OVERVIEW

- Joshua's conquest was not so complete...
- What is a "judge"?
- Challenges
- Canaanite Religion.

LESSON: JUDGES

- Judges 2:11ff. A good summary of the reason for the need for judges.
- Chapter 6 - 7: The story of Gideon.
- Chapter 9. The Parable/Story of the "Tree Who Would be King"
- Other stories from various Judges
- Ending of the Book

LESSON: BOOK OF RUTH

- Major Themes/Characters
-
- Why is Ruth included?
-
- Rival Tribes:
 - The Moabites
 - Edomites
 - Ammonites

Next Week: 1 and 2 Samuel: Introduction to "Samuel's Compromise" and the Beginning of the Monarchy.

Closing Prayer

THE BIBLE YEAR (2023-2024)

Class #9: 1&2 SAMUEL/1&2 KINGS

OPENING Prayer/Introductions/Questions

REVIEW: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth

OVERVIEW

- Opposing Positions Related to the Monarchy (1 Samuel 8:10-18)
- Samuel and his Compromise
- King and/or Prince
- The Monarchy and the Prophets (rise & fall)
- The Philistines

LESSON: SAMUEL

- Hannah/Eli (*The Magnificat*/Reversals Throughout 1 & 2 Samuel)
- Prayer and Listening to the Voice of God
- Corruption of Religious Leaders

LESSON: SAUL

- Selection: 1 Samuel 9 & 10 (Lost Donkeys and Hiding Away)
- Downfall: 1 Samuel 18 (David and Goliath - Nonlinear stories)
- Tragedy/Mental Health
- Jonathon
- Establishment of a Kingdom - The Conquest was a Process

LESSON: DAVID

- “A man after God’s own heart.”
- Consolidation of the Kingdom and Power (Jerusalem)
- Bethsheba
- Main Characters: Joab, Nathan, etc.

LESSON: SOLOMON AND THE DIVIDED KINGDOMS

- Wisdom and Foolishness
- Syncretism/Idols/Marriages/Concubines

NEXT WEEK: The Major and Minor Prophets/The Writings

- Rabbi Abraham Heschel - Closing Comments

CLOSING PRAYER

THE BIBLE YEAR (2023-2024)
Class #10: 1&2 KINGS/1&2 CHRONICLES

OPENING Prayer/Introductions/Questions

REVIEW: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel

OVERVIEW

- Prophets of Baal
- High Places
- Bands of Prophets
- Elijah/Elisha

LESSON: Elijah

- Ahab/Jezebel - 1 Kings 17 - 18
- Elijah and the “still small voice” - 1 Kings 19
- Naboth’s Vineyard - 1 Kings 21.

LESSON: Elisha

- Transition from Elijah to Elisha - 2 Kings 2
- Miracles of Elisha - 2 Kings 4-8
- Elisha’s Death and One More Miracle - 2 Kings 13
- Conquests and Important Dates

NEXT WEEK: 1 and 2 Chronicles.

CLOSING: The Prophets, vol. 1 - Abraham J. Heschel. pp.159ff.

THE BIBLE YEAR (2023-2024)
Class #11: THE PROPHETS/ISAIAH

OPENING Prayer/Introductions/Questions

REVIEW: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Chronicles

OVERVIEW

- Christmas and Isaiah
- Prophets (Righteousness/Justice)
- Isaiah Introduction - 3 Isaiahs

LESSON: ISAIAH

- Isaiah 1:17-18
- Isaiah 2:1-5
- Isaiah 6 - The call of Isaiah
- Isaiah 9:1-8. Messianic King.
- Isaiah 11:1-9. The rule of the Messiah.

LESSON: 2 ISAIAH - Isaiah 40-55.

- Isaiah 40:1ff
- Isaiah 42. First Suffering Servant Song
- Isaiah 53. Fourth Suffering Servant Song.

LESSON: 3 ISAIAH

- Isaiah 56-66. Restoration
- 58:6-9.

NEXT WEEK: Break until January

CLOSING

THE BIBLE YEAR (2023-2024)
Class #13: THE PSALMS (Tehillim)

OPENING Prayer/Introductions/Questions

REVIEW

OVERVIEW OF THE PSALMS

- LAMED - to, of, for... dating the Psalms... (generally monarchy, temple)
- COMMUNITY...
- INDIVIDUAL
- HANDOUT ON TYPES (lament, praise, royal, wisdom, imprecatory, wisdom...)
- DIRECTION: Humans to God...
- ANNOTATIONS, MUSICAL DIRECTIONS (Selah), 5 PARTS/SECTIONS

LESSON: PSALMS

- Psalm 34 (Acrostic Poetry)
 - Reasons to give thanks to God.
- Psalm 46 - “The juice, the strength, the passion, and the fire.”
- Psalm 133
 - Heney Mah Tov (Handout)

NEXT WEEK: Finish up the Psalms/The Writings

CLOSING