

Intro to the Historical Books



Literature

- What are the Books contained in the Historical Books division of the Old Testament?

History

- How are the Historical Books related to the historical epochs? Which Epoch(s) do they cover? Which books cover which epochs? What does this tell us about the content of the Historical Books?
- What is meant by the terms “primary history” and “secondary history”? Which books are in each group?
- What is meant by the term “Deuteronomistic history”? Why is it given this name? Which books are in this group? How is this group related to the history of the Pentateuch?
- How are the books of the secondary history related to the history of the Deuteronomistic history books? What does this tell us about the overall history covered in the Old Testament? What difference does this make?
- How are the historical books as a whole related to the Torah? How does this help us understand the historical books? How are the historical books related to Jesus? How does this help us understand the historical books? How should we respond?

Theology

- What does it mean that the historical books are “prophetic history”? What are the characteristics of prophetic history? How does this help us understand the historical books? How does this apply?
- What does it mean that the historical books are carefully crafted literature? Why does this matter? How does this help us to understand the historical books better? What kinds of things should we look for in reading them?
- Describe each of the themes from Deuteronomy which are highlighted in the Deuteronomistic history books. What does each tell us about the content of the historical books? What should we watch for when reading the historical books? What does each tell us about God’s overall plan for His Old Testament people? What does this tell us about God’s character and how we should relate to Him today? What difference should this make in your everyday life?