

SESSION 3: The Deuteronomistic History (Joshua-2 Kings)

Please read “Prophets Prologue”, pages 210-218 and re-read pages 201-202 “Deuteronomistic History” in **RTOT**.

1. What are the basic divisions of prophetic literature?
2. Why are the “Former Prophets” called the Deuteronomistic History?
3. Is the Deuteronomistic History (DH) history or literature? What are the arguments for viewing the DH as history? What are the arguments for viewing it as literature? What difference does this make as you preach or teach from DH?
4. What criteria did the DH use in evaluating the kings of Israel and Judah?

Please read “Joshua”, pages 225-244 in **RTOT**.

1. What were the major campaigns of the conquest of Palestine?
2. What archeological evidence lends support to the narrative of the conquest? What archeological evidence contradicts the narrative?
3. What are the major scholarly models for the occupation of Palestine by the Israelites?
4. In what ways was Joshua like his mentor Moses? How was he different?
5. What is holy war? Were you satisfied with Banstra’s explanation of holy war? How do you hold together in one concept the God of love and the God of holy war?

6. How does the perspective of the DH find expression in the book of Joshua?
7. What themes for our faith come from the Book of Joshua?

Please read “Judges”, pages 245-262 in **RTOT**.

1. What is a judge?
2. How is the Book of Judges transitional between the era of Joshua and the rise of kingship?
3. How is the cycle of sin, punishment, repentance and deliverance seen in the Book of Judges? How is Israel’s continues life a mystery hidden deep within the gracious purposes of God? How might this be an important word for those in exile?
4. How are women viewed in the Book of Judges?
5. Should the Book of Judges be rated “R” for violence?

Please read “Samuel”, pages 263-284 in **RTOT**.

1. Why are I and II Samuel called the Books of Samuel?
2. What are the three cycles of stories in the books of Samuel?
3. What is the theme of Hannah’s Song (I Samuel 2:1-10) and how does it shape the perspective of the rest of the books of Samuel?

4. What major institution developed in Samuel and what was the theological struggle associated with it?
5. What issues concerning leadership in the church might be appropriate for today?

Please read “Kings”, pages 286-314 in **RTOT**.

1. Why did the DH criticize the Northern Kingdom of Israel more than the southern kingdom of Judah?
2. What was the religious challenge facing Israel during the time of the Kings?
3. What prophets appeared in the books of Kings? What was their role?
4. What are the parallels between the prophetic ministries of Elijah and Elisha? Between Elijah and Moses? Between Elijah and Jesus in the New Testament?

A CLOSER LOOK

1. Please use “Interpreting Old Testament Texts: A Checklist” for interpreting one of the below passages from the Former Prophets.
2. For help use comments from Banstra’s “Reading the Old Testament” and from Dr. Ralph Klein’s web site: www.prophetess.lstc.edu. Click on Documents by RWK. Click on Lectionary Notes. Click on Series and Sunday provided for passages below.
 - Joshua 24:1-25 (Lectionary 32, Series A)
 - I Samuel 3:1-20 (2nd Sunday after the Epiphany, Series B)
 - 2 Kings 5:1-14 (6th Sunday after the Epiphany, Series B)

