

WEEK 1: THE BOOKS OF HISTORY
DAY 1: THE STORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE, ISRAEL

1. Welcome to another time of studying the Bible together. The Bible is a wonderful book. It is God's message to us. Everyone who studies the Bible gets help for his own life. That is why men, women, young people, and children need to study it.

Whose Word do we find in the Bible? _____

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2. The Bible is God's word. His word helps us very much. The Bible is a big book made of 66 smaller books. They are divided into parts.

Take your Bible now. Find the page which tells the names of the books of the Bible. You see that the name of the second part of the Bible is the New Testament.

What is the name of the first part of the Bible? _____

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3. The first part of the Bible is called the Old Testament. The Old Testament has four kinds of books. Let us look at the four kinds on this list.

| The Old Testament | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------|
| Law: | History: | Poetry: | Prophecy | |
| Genesis | Joshua | Job | Isaiah | Jonah |
| Exodus | Judges | Psalms | Jeremiah | Micah |
| Leviticus | Ruth | Proverbs | Lamentations | Nahum |
| Numbers | 1&2 Samuel | Ecclesiastes | Ezekiel | Habakkuk |
| Deuteronomy | 1&2 Kings | Song of Solomon | Daniel | Zephaniah |
| | 1&2 Chronicles | | Hosea | Haggai |
| | Ezra | | Joel | Zechariah |
| | Nehemiah | | Amos | Malachi |
| | Esther | | Obadiah | |

Today we shall learn two things:

- (1) In the Books of History in the Old Testament we find the story of God's people, Israel.
- (2) There are twelve Books of History.

Look again at the list of the books of the Old Testament. The first kind of book in the Old Testament is Law. Write the name of the second kind of book.

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4. The second kind of book is called History. These Books of History are in the Old Testament. In these books we read about what God did for His people, Israel.

Look at the list again. Count the books of History. Write the number of the Books of History. _____

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5. There are 12 Books of History. History is the second kind in the Old Testament. We shall study these twelve Books of History together. In these 12 Books of History we find the story of God's people, Israel.

In what part of the Bible do we find the 12 Books of History? _____

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6. The 12 Books of History are in the Old Testament. In these Books of History we find true stories of God's people, Israel.

Why do you think God gave these stories? _____

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7. Let us talk about this in class. Most people like stories. There are many different kinds of stories. There are stories about people. There are stories about animals. There are stories about countries. Some stories are made-up stories. The writer pretends the people in the story really lived. He makes up names for them. He tells what happened to them. A story like this can be a good story, but it is not a true story.

Which kind of book in the Old Testament tells us true stories about God's people, Israel? _____

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8. We read true stories about God's people, Israel, in the Book of History. The stories are about people who really lived. They are stories about what actually happened to God's people. These stories in the Books of History are not made up by the writers. Made up stories are not history.

How many books of History are there in the Old Testament? _____

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9. There are 12 Books of History in the Old Testament. History is the story of what happened to people in the past. A history is a true story. All the stories in the Books of History are true stories about Israel. They tell us the story of Israel over a time of about 1,200 years.

Think carefully. Are all stories history? _____

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10. No, only true stories of what happened to people in the past are history. Here are two stories. Read them.

Mando, the monkey, wanted to become a man. He watched some men walking on the road. He noticed that these men had no tails. He decided to chop off his tail so that he could become a man. He found a sharp knife and cut off his tail. Now, he thought, I am a man! Some children saw him and said, "Look at that funny monkey without a tail!" Mando was still a monkey.

In the year 1896, in Kenya, the building of the railway was started. This railway began at Mombasa and was to reach Kisumu. In 1901 the Nandi people tried to stop the work. They killed some of the workers. They stole the iron and other materials. The government sent an army to fight them. The Nandi surrendered on November 13th, 1905.

Now read the two stories again. Write Yes beside the story that is a true story.

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11. You should have put Yes beside the second story. The first story is a made-up story. It is not a true story. It did not happen. The second story is a history story. It tells us what actually happened when the railway was being built in Kenya. We are told when the events took place. All the facts in the story are true.

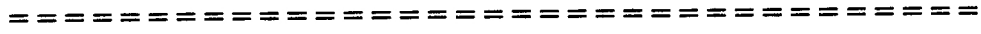
In which kind of books in the Old Testament do we find the story of God's people, Israel?

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12. We read the story of Israel in the 12 Books of History. Remember that history is the true story of what happened to people in the past.

In the front of your Bible find the page which tells the names of the books. Write in order the names of the Books of History. Begin with Joshua and end with Esther.

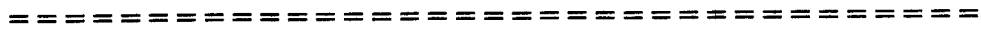
- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| (1) _____ | (5) _____ | (9) _____ |
| (2) _____ | (6) _____ | (10) _____ |
| (3) _____ | (7) _____ | (11) _____ |
| (4) _____ | (8) _____ | (12) _____ |



13. These books are: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

In the book of Genesis God called Abraham. He promised to bless him. God told Abraham that He would make a great nation. God made the same promise to Isaac and Jacob. Jacob had 12 sons. The families of these sons became the 12 tribes of Israel. These are true facts about the beginning of God's people.

What do we call true facts about what happened to people in the past? _____

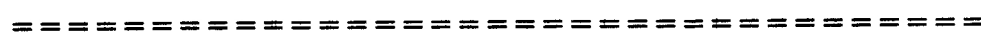


14. History is the name given to these true facts. In the 12 Books of History we find the story of God's people, Israel. It was in Egypt that these tribes were called the people of Israel.

Exodus 6:6-7:

Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the Lord ...I will take you for my people, I will be your God.'

Read these verses again. Whose people did God say the people of Israel would be? _____



15. The people of Israel would be God's people. They were known as, God's people, Israel. They were also called the Children of Israel. Sometimes they were called Israel or the Israelites. You will find all these names in the 12 Books of History. It is the history of these people we will study together.

In which kind of books in the Old Testament do we find the story of God's people, Israel?

How many of these books are there? _____

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16. In the 12 Books of History we find the story of God's people, Israel. It is a long story. It is a sad story. God loved His people, but they often disobeyed Him. God had to punish them many times. He wanted them to be different from the heathen people around them. He wanted them to be holy. He wanted to bless them. From the Books of History we shall learn many things to help us in our own lives.

Stop now and ask God to help you learn many things from Israel's history.

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17. In which kind of books in the Old Testament do we find the story of God's people, Israel?

How many of these books are there? _____

WEEK 1: THE BOOKS OF HISTORY
DAY 2: THE FIRST PERIOD - THE RULE OF GOD
JOSHUA, JUDGES, RUTH

1. Yesterday we learnt the meaning of the word history. History is the true story of people in the past. In the Old Testament we read the true story of God's people, Israel.

In which kind of books in the Old Testament do we find the story of God's people, Israel?

2. We find this in the Books of History. These Books of History tell us the story of 1,200 years. These 1,200 years are divided into three Periods of History. A period is a number of years.

In the next three days we shall learn the names of these three periods. We shall also learn the Books of History which tell about each period.

How many Books of History are there? _____

3. There are 12 Books of History. Here is a list to show the names of the three periods of History. It also shows the names of the Books of History which tell about each period.

| The Books of History | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Period 1 Rule of God | Period 2 Rule of Kings | Period 3 Rule of Foreign Kings |
| 1. Joshua 2. Judges 3. Ruth | 4. 1 Samuel 5. 2 Samuel 6. 1 Kings 7. 2 Kings 8. 1 Chronicles 9. 2 Chronicles | 10. Ezra 11. Nehemiah 12. Esther |

Today we will learn:

- (1) The first Period of History is called the Rule of God.
- (2) The books of History which tell us about this period are Joshua, Judges, and Ruth.

Who were God's people? _____

4. God chose Israel to be His people. Read again what God said.

Exodus 6:7:

I will take you for my people, and I will be your God.

God made Israel His people. He wanted to be their King. A King is one who rules over his people. This is why the period is called the Rule of God. God wanted to rule over Israel. He wanted to lead and guide them. He wanted to provide for them. Joshua, Judges and Ruth are the Books of History which tell about the period called the Rule of God.

Look at the list again. Which Period of History is the Rule of God? _____

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5. It is Period 1. The Period of History called the Rule of God is the first period. It is the period when God ruled over His people as their King. The books of Joshua, Judges and Ruth tell us the story of Israel during this time. The people of Israel were God's people. God was their King and was ready to do great things for them. God wanted Israel to be a great nation.

What kind of books are Joshua, Judges and Ruth? _____

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6. Joshua, Judges and Ruth are Books of History. Joshua is the first Book of History. Joshua tells the beginning of the first Period of History. In the book of Joshua we read how God led His people into Canaan. He chose the man Joshua to help him. Read what God said to Joshua.

Joshua 1:2:

...now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land which I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.

Write the name of the first Period of History.

(1) _____

(2) Rule of Kings.

(3) Rule of Foreign Kings.

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7. The first Period is called the Rule of God. God ruled over Israel. In Canaan God helped Israel to conquer their enemies. He told Joshua what to do. As long as Joshua and the people obeyed God, everything went well. The first Book of History tells this story.

Write the name of the first Book of History. _____

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8. Joshua is the first Book of History.

Open your Bible now and find the Books of History. Begin to memorise the names of the first three Books of History which tell us about the Rule of God.

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9. You are learning the names of the first three Books of History. Judges is the second Book of History. The Book of Judges continues the story of Israel. The story in this Book of Judges is a sad story. God's people disobeyed Him. They did not want God to rule over them. They forgot God and worshipped idols. God used heathen nations to punish them. When they cried to God for help He heard them. He sent men called Judges to deliver them. These things happened again and again.

How many Books of History tell us about the period called the Rule of God

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10. There are three Books of History which tell us about the Rule of God. In the second Book of History we read how Israel began to disobey their King. They wanted to do things in their own way. They no longer wanted God as their King. It was the period called the Rule of God. But Israel did not want God to rule over them.

Judges 21:25:

In those days there was no King in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.

Write the names of the first two Books of History.

(1) _____ (2) _____

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11. Joshua and Judges are the first two Books of History. They tell us the history of Israel over about 450 years.

Now find in your Bible the Book of History which follows Judges. It is the third Book of History. It also tells about the Period of History called the Rule of God.

Write the name of the third Book of History. _____

Now read chapter 1 verse 1 of this book.

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12. The third book of History is called Ruth. The story of Ruth took place in the time of the Judges. You remember that God used men called judges to deliver His people from their enemies. The Book of Ruth tells a lovely story. It shows how God took care of those who trusted Him. Ruth, from Moab, chose to follow God and God blessed her. Through Ruth God prepared the family through whom he would send Jesus.

What is the name of the first Period of History?

(1) _____

(2) Rule of Kings

(3) Rule of Foreign Kings

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13. The first Period of History is called the Rule of God. You are learning the names of the Books of History which tell about this period. The stories of our tribes tell of good prophets who helped people respect God. But many times people followed evil and did not respect Him.

Write the name of the third Book of History in the Bible _____

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14. The third Book of History is called Ruth. Joshua, Judges and Ruth are the three Books of History which tell us about the period called the Rule of God.

Practise finding each of these three books in your Bible. Memorise their names in order.

15. Yesterday we looked at a list showing the kinds of books in the Old Testament. You remember that the Books of History follow the Books of Law. Today's list shows that the Books of History are divided into three periods.

What is the name of the first Period of History?

- (1) _____
- (2) Rule of Kings
- (3) Rule of Foreign Kings

Write the names of the Books of History which tell about this period.

- (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

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16. The first period of history is called the Rule of God. Joshua , Judges and Ruth tell us about this period. In these books we shall see how God blessed Israel when they obeyed. We shall see that when they disobeyed they brought trouble on themselves. They refused to allow God to be their King. God had to punish them. It is the same as today. Our people have many proverbs that say this: The evil man will suffer in the end.

Now think about your own life. Is God ruling your life? _____

Are there some people today who do not let God rule their lives? _____

How can we help them? _____

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17. You may have said by teaching God's word or praying for them. Be ready to talk about this in class.

What is the name of the first period of history?

- (1) _____
- (2) Rule of Kings
- (3) Rule of Foreign Kings

Write the names of the Books of History which tell about this first period.

- (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

WEEK 1: THE BOOKS OF HISTORY
DAY 3: THE SECOND PERIOD - THE RULE OF KINGS

1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles

1. What is the name of the first period of history? _____

Write the names of the Books of History which tell about this first period.

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

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2. See if you got the right answers from this list.

| The Books of History | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Period 1 Rule of God | Period 2 Rule of Kings | Period 3 Rule of Foreign Kings |
| 1. Joshua (2) Judges (3) Ruth | 4. 1 Samuel 5. 2 Samuel 6. 1 Kings 7. 2 Kings 8. 1 Chronicles 9. 2 Chronicles | 10. Ezra 11. Nehemiah 12. Esther |

Today we shall learn:

(1) The second period of history is called the Rule of Kings.

(2) The Books of History which tell about this period are 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, and 1&2 Chronicles

We find the story of what group of people in the 12 Books of History? _____

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3. We find the story of God's people, Israel. The first three Books of History tell about the period called the Rule of God. Open your Bible now. Find the page which tells the names of the books of the Bible.

Write the names of the six Books of History which follow Ruth.

(4) _____ (7) _____

(5) _____ (8) _____

(6) _____ (9) _____

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4. You should have written 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles. When there are two books of the same name we can write them like this: 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles.

These Books of History tell about the period called the Rule of Kings. During this second period of history Israel had kings ruling over them.

Write the names of the Books of History which tell us about the first period.

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

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5. Joshua, Judges and Ruth tell us about the Rule of God. We learned that during this period God ruled His people. They did not have a king like other nations. God was their king. The name of the second period of history is the Rule of Kings. Israel no longer wanted God to rule them. With our people today there is desire for money, health and education. These are good things. But in seeking them we sometime get leaders who forget God. Israel did this.

Think about the name of this second period of history. Whom do you think God's people wanted to rule over them? _____

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6. During the period called the Rule of Kings, God's people wanted kings to rule them. 1&2 Samuel tell about the first two kings of Israel. They were King Saul and King David. We also read about Samuel, the prophet. The elders of Israel asked Samuel to give them a king.

In your Bible read 1 Samuel 8:4-5. From these verses whom do you think Israel was refusing to have rule over them? _____

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7. Israel asked for a king. They did not want God to rule over them any longer. They wanted to be like the heathen nations around them. Samuel was sad. Read what God said to Samuel.

1 Samuel 8:7:

... they have rejected (or refused) me from being king over them.

Samuel warned them of the trouble that would come if they had a king. They refused to listen. The book of 1 Samuel tells how their first king, Saul, failed. The book of 2 Samuel tells about David, the next king of Israel.

What is the second period of history called? _____

8. The second period of history is called the Rule of Kings. 1&2 Samuel are the first two Books of History which tell about this period. We shall be studying these books in a few weeks' time. We may have rulers today. But we must be careful not to forget God's way. We Christians must help our government respect God's laws.

In your Bible find the two Books of History which follow 1&2 Samuel. What are they?

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9. 1&2 Kings are the next two books which tell about the Rule of Kings. These books follow 1&2 Samuel in the Old Testament. 1&2 Kings tell the story of many other kings who ruled Israel. David's son, Solomon, became the third king of Israel. When Solomon died the kingdom was divided into two kingdoms. There was the Northern Kingdom of Israel. There was the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Both kingdoms had many kings. A few of the kings of Judah were good. All the kings of Israel and many of the kings of Judah were evil. They led the people away from God to the worship of Idols.

What are the names of the first two Books of History which tell about the Rule of Kings?

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10. The first two books which tell about the Rule of Kings are 1&2 Samuel. The Rule of Kings is the second period of history. This period lasted about 500 years. During this period Israel sinned again. They went far away from God. Most of their kings led them deeper into sin. Only a few kings tried to help them back to God. In the end God had to punish His people. They were taken away to a strange country.

We are studying the period of History called the Rule of the Kings. Write the names of the two Books of History which follow 1&2 Samuel.

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11. 1&2 Kings also tell about the Rule of Kings. The books of 1&2 Chronicles follow 1&2 Kings. These are the last two Books of History which tell about the Rule of Kings. The books of 1&2 Chronicles repeat many stories found in 1&2 Samuel and 1&2 Kings. 1&2 Chronicles were written to help those born in foreign lands. They helped Israel to know the history of their own people. When the people of Israel returned to Canaan, 1&2 Chronicles showed them how to worship God.

What is the name of the second period of history? _____

12. The second period of history is called the Rule of Kings. We have learned that 1&2 Samuel and 1&2 Kings tell about this period.

What are the last two books of History which also tell about the Rule of Kings?

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13. 1&2 Chronicles together with 1&2 Samuel and 1&2 Kings all tell about the Rule of Kings. Joshua, Judges and Ruth tell about the period called the Rule of God. These nine Books of History tell us part of the story of God's people, Israel.

Take time now to memorise the names of these nine books in order. Learn them from your Bible. Start with Joshua and end with 2 Chronicles.

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14. Close your Bible now and fill in this list.

| The Books of History | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Period 1 Rule of God | Period 2 Rule of Kings | Period 3 Rule of Foreign Kings |
| 1. _____ | 4,5 _____ | 10. Ezra |
| 2. _____ | 6,7 _____ | 11. Nehemiah |
| 3. _____ | 8,9 _____ | 12. Esther |

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15. We have been learning about Period 1 and Period 2 of Israel's history. We have also learned the names of the books which tell about these two periods. Tomorrow we shall learn the name of the third period of history. We shall also learn the names of the books which tell about this last period.

What is the name of the second period of history? _____

What are the books of history which tell about this period?

(4,5) _____

(6,7) _____

(8,9) _____

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16. The second period of history is the rule of Kings. The books 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings and 1&2 Chronicles tell about this period.

The people of Israel wanted their own way. They wanted to be like other nations ruled by kings. God had chosen them to be His people. He wanted them to be a separate, holy nation. When you preach, think about people's lives. When they follow God they are blessed. When they disobey they are punished. Preach that your nation should follow God.

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14 to 18. Write some things from which believers today should separate themselves.

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17. Perhaps you wrote somethings of the world like drinking, sinful dancing, and adultery.

Be ready to talk about your answers in class.

What is the name of the second period of history? _____

Write the names of the Books of History which tell about this period.

(4,5) _____

(6,7) _____

(8,9) _____

WEEK 1: THE BOOKS OF HISTORY
DAY 4: THE THIRD PERIOD - RULE OF FOREIGN KINGS
Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

1. We find the story of Israel in 12 Books of History in the Old Testament.

What is the name of the first period of history? _____

Write the names of the Books of History which tell about it

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

What is the name of the second period of history? _____

Write the names of the Books of History which tell about it.

(4,5) _____ (6,7) _____ (8,9) _____

=====

2. Now see if your answers are right from this list.

| The Books of History | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Period 1 Rule of God | Period 2 Rule of Kings | Period 3 Rule of Foreign Kings |
| 1. Joshua 2. Judges 3. Ruth | 4,5. 1&2 Samuel 6,7. 1&2 Kings 8,9. 1&2 Chronicles | 10. Ezra 11. Nehemiah 12. Esther |

Today we shall learn:

- (1) The third period of history is called the Rule of Foreign Kings.
- (2) The Books of History which tell about this period are Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.

Whose story do we find in the 12 Books of History? _____

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3. We find the story of Israel in these 12 books. The history of Israel is divided into three periods. The Rule of Foreign Kings is the third period of history. A foreign king is a king from another country. God allowed foreign kings to overcome Israel. He did this because Israel disobeyed Him and worshipped idols. These kings took the people of Israel to live in their country. The kings of the foreign country ruled over them.

Write the names of the first and second periods of history.

(1) _____ (2) _____

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4. The first period is called the Rule of God. The second is called the Rule of Kings. In the third period Israel lived for many years in foreign countries. They often thought about their own land. They wanted to return. One day God made a way for them to go back to their own land. We read this part of Israel's history in the books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.

What kind of kings ruled over Israel during the third period of history?

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5. We are studying the time when foreign kings ruled Israel. The Book of Ezra is the first to tell about these foreign kings.

Take your Bible now and read Ezra 1:1 to 3. Cyrus was king of what country?

Write the name of the third period of history. _____

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6. The name of the third period of history is the Rule of Foreign Kings. You have just read about one of these kings called Cyrus. God wanted His people to return to their land of Canaan. You read how He used Cyrus, King of Persia, to bring this about.

Write the name of the first book of history which tells about the Rule of Foreign Kings. _____

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7. The book of Ezra tells about the Rule of Foreign Kings. The foreign king, Cyrus, allowed Israel to return to Canaan. The book of Ezra tells us about their return. It tells how they rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem. It tells how Ezra helped them study and obey the Law.

Now look in your Bible. Find the Book of History which follows Ezra. Write its name. _____

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8. The book of Nehemiah follows Ezra. Nehemiah is the second book which tells about the Rule of Foreign Kings. This book tells how the people of Israel worked in Canaan. We read how Nehemiah helped them rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah also reminded the people of God's Law.

What is the name of the third period of history? _____

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9. It is called the Rule of Foreign Kings. Some of the people returned to their own country during this period. But they were still ruled by foreign kings. Others remained in the foreign land.

The book of Esther is the last Book of History. It also tells about the rule of Foreign Kings. It tells the story of a woman called Esther. God used her to save Israel from their enemies.

What is the second Book of History which tells about the rule of Foreign Kings?

(10) Ezra (11) _____ (12) Esther

10. Nehemiah is the second book which tells about the Rule of Foreign Kings. Ezra and Esther also tell about this period. Look carefully at these two names, Ezra and Esther. They sound alike. Remember Ezra is a man's name. The book of Ezra comes first. Esther is a woman's name. Esther is the last Book of History in the Old Testament. The book of Esther tells how Haman tried to destroy God's people. They prayed to God. We see clearly that God worked to save His people. In the book of Esther God's people are called Jews

There are three periods of history. Which period is the rule of Foreign Kings?

11. The Rule of Foreign Kings is the third period of history. This period lasted about 200 years. During the first 70 years Israel lived in a foreign land. Then they were allowed to return to their own land. But foreign kings continued to rule over them.

Write the names of the three Books of History which tell about the Rule of Foreign Kings.

(10) _____ (11) _____ (12) _____

12. Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther all tell about the Rule of Foreign Kings. They tell us the last part of the history of the people of Israel.

Now spend time memorising the names of the last three Books of History in order. Revise the names of the other nine Books of History. Start with Joshua and end with Esther.

13. The 12 Books of History in the Old Testament tell much about the people of Israel. During the weeks ahead we shall look at these books one by one. We shall see how God loved and helped His people. Many times they disobeyed God. He had to punish them. But when they obeyed, God blessed them. We will see that God was faithful. He kept His promises to his people.

What is the name of the third period of history?_____

Write the names of the Books of History which tell about this period.

(10) _____ (11) _____ (12) _____

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14. The third period of history is called the Rule of Foreign Kings. Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther tell about this period.

You remember that the first period of history is the Rule of God. Joshua, Judges, and Ruth tell about this period. The second period of history is called the Rule of Kings. The books of 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings and 1&2 Chronicles tell about the second period.

Spend time now memorising the names of these periods. Revise the names of the Books of History which tell about each period.

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15. What is the name of the third period of History?_____

Write the names of the Books of History which tell about this period.

(10) _____ (11) _____ (12) _____

WEEK 1: THE BOOKS OF HISTORY
DAY 5: GOD'S PROMISES TO HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL

1. The 12 Books of History give the story of God's people. We have learned that Israel's story is divided into three periods.

What is the name of the third period of history? _____

Write the names of the books which tell about this period.

(10) _____ (11) _____ (12) _____

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2. See if your answers are right with this list.

| The Books of History | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Period 1 Rule of God | Period 2 Rule of Kings | Period 3 Rule of Foreign Kings |
| 1. Joshua 2. Judges 3. Ruth | 4,5: 1&2 Samuel 6,7. 1&2 Kings 8,9. 1&2 Chronicles | 10. Ezra 11. Nehemiah 12. Esther |

The story of Israel is what is found in these books of history. Today we shall learn two promises that God made to Israel.

- (1) He promised to give them the land of Canaan.
- (2) He promised to send Jesus through their nation.

Who chose Israel to be His people? _____

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3. Before Period 1 God chose Israel to be His people. He first called Abraham. Read the promise of God to Abraham.

Genesis 13:14-15:

The Lord said to Abram ...all the land which you see I will give to you and to your descendants (or children) for ever.

From these verses, what did God promise to give Abraham? _____

Was God making the promise to Abraham only? _____

If not, to whom else was He making the promise? _____

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4. God promised to give land to Abraham. He also promised to give it to Abraham's descendants. These were the people of Israel. God also made another promise. He promised to bless all the families of the earth through Israel. God fulfilled this promise when He sent the Lord Jesus.

In which kind of books in the Old Testament do we find the story of God's people Israel?

=====

5. We find this in the Books of History. These 12 books show how God kept His promises to Israel. The first promise we are learning is that God would give His people land.

Genesis 17:8:

And I will give you, and to your descendants after you all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession.

From this verse what was the name of the land that God promised to give to Israel?

=====

6. The name of the land was Canaan. We can read about this land in Exodus.

Exodus 3:8:

... a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Canaan was a fertile land. God was promising His people the very best.

What did God promise Israel He would do with the land of Canaan? _____

=====

7. God promised to give them the land of Canaan. We are learning two promises that God made. This is the first one. God always keeps His promises. The Bible has many promises for us today. Here is one.

Philippians 4:19:

And My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

God promises to meet our needs just as He did for Israel.

To what nation did God promise to give the land of Canaan? _____

=====

8. God made this promise to Israel. He also made another promise to them. You remember what God told Abraham. He said that through his descendants all the families of the earth would be blessed.

God promised to send Jesus through the nation of Israel. This is the second promise God made to Israel.

What is the first? _____

=====

9. He promised to give them the land of Canaan. Canaan today is known as Israel and Jordan. It is still the land of the Jews. Other people have tried to take it from them. They have failed because God promised the land to the Jews forever. God always fulfils his promises.

Whom did God promise to send through the nation of Israel? _____

=====

10. God promised that He would send Jesus through the nation of Israel. In Israel He chose the tribe of Judah. In Judah God chose the family of David. Through them He fulfilled His promise. When Jesus came, Matthew and Luke wrote about the promise which God had given again through the prophets.

Matthew 2:6:

...the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.

Luke 1:32-33:

...the lord God will give the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Both these verses tell of the coming of Jesus.

To what nation did Judah, Jacob and David belong? _____

=====

11. The all belonged to the nation of Israel. The story of Israel shows how God prepared for the coming of Jesus. Satan tried to stop God's plan many times. In the book of Esther we read how Satan tried to destroy the whole nation. From the New Testament we know that Satan tried to kill the baby Jesus through Herod. But Satan failed. God had made a promise. God always keeps His promises.

Through what nation did God promise to send Jesus? _____

=====

12. We are learning two promises that God made to Israel. The second was that He promised to send Jesus through their nation.

Write the first promise that God made to Israel.

(1) _____

(2) He promised to send Jesus through their nation.

=====
13. God promised to give them the land of Canaan. When we look at the book of Joshua we shall see how God fulfilled this promise.

What is the second promise God made to Israel? _____

=====
14. He promised that He would send Jesus through their nation. You will find this promise repeated many times in the Old Testament. Let us read one from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 7:14:

... Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

About whose birth do you think this verse speaks? _____

=====
15. This verse speaks about the birth of Jesus. The lives of many people have been blessed through the coming of Christ.

What two promises did God make to Israel?

(1) _____

(2) _____

=====

16. He promised to give them the land of Canaan. He also promised to send Jesus through their nation. The people of Israel were God's people. He loved His people and kept all his promises to them.

Today those who know the Lord Jesus and are born of His Spirit are God's people. God has made many promises to His people. Earlier we read a promise in Philippians 4:19. Now think of another promise of God which helps you.

Write the promise here.

=====

17. Be ready to tell the class why this is a special promise for you.

What two promises did God make to Israel?

(1) _____

(2) _____