

The Message of History

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Joshua-Esther.
- B. The Scripture has been given for the maturity of the believer in Jesus Christ.
- C. The Old Testament prepares the believer, and the New Testament realizes from what the believer has been prepared.
- D. The historical books give the perils that confront believers when they try to walk in the life of faith.
- E. History is visualized in one nation—Israel—and it pictures the perils that an individual believer will face.
- F. A believer must know his enemy.

II. Joshua.

- A. This is the story of victory.
- B. The Christian life is a life of entering into the life of promise.
- C. This book traces the story of conquest and gives the believer confidence in the face of trial.
- D. When a Christian enters into the secret of the indwelling life of Jesus, conflicts that seem insurmountable disappear.
- E. The defeat of Jericho is a picture of the defeat of the world.
- F. The defeat of Ai is a picture of the defeat of the flesh.
- G. The conflict with Gibeon pictures the conflict with the deceitful wiles of the devil.
- H. The peril is in Joshua 13:1. Much remained to be possessed for the believer. The temptation here was to premature contentment in the life of the believer.
- I. There was never a letdown in Joshua.

III. Judges.

- A. This is the story of the cycle of defeat.
- B. The judges failed because of idolatry. (Judges 2:11-13)
- C. The people were deluded suffering from dedicated ignorance.

IV. Ruth. This is the story of victory in the midst of defeat.

V. I Samuel.

- A. The people were hungering after something other than God.
- B. The people wanted a king like all the nations, but the trouble was that God called the people to be different from the other nations. (I Samuel 8:5)
- C. This is the peril of legalistic conformity.
- D. The defeat of Saul comes at the peril of seeking man. Saul wanted to serve God, but he also wanted to serve man.

VI. The book of I Chronicles covers the same material largely as II Samuel.

VI. II Samuel.

- A. This covers the story of David.
- B. This tells the peril of a forgotten calling with David's failure.
- C. This also yields the story of a repentant heart. (Psalm 51)

VII. I Kings.

- A. This tells the story of Solomon.
- B. The peril here is downfall of Solomon that was the result of material significance.
- C. Jeroboam demonstrates the peril of a substitute faith.
- D. Elijah demonstrates standing with God in the midst of great pressures.

VIII. II Kings and II Chronicles.

- A. This tells the story of the rapid succession of kings because of the nation's moral abandonment. (II Kings 17:16)
- B. God gives men over to ungodliness when they continually turn away from Him.

Application questions:

1. Based on what you have learned from the historical books, how would you defend the importance of the Old Testament?

2. Which of the books stands out to you now? What strikes you?

3. What are the perils that come from the historical books? How do these stories help to make us aware of the work of Satan? Explain.
