

THE BOOKS OF HISTORY

By Keith Greer

When one studies the books of the Old Testament, it will be revealed that there are twelve books of history. The time period covered is about seven hundred years in the history of God's people, the children of Israel.

What are some of the major events covered in these historical books? The release from the human bondage in Egypt; entering the promised land of Canaan; the conquest of those lands; the three kings of the United Kingdom: Saul, David, and Solomon; the kingdom divided, Israel and Judah; Destruction and captivity of both kingdoms because of their disobedience to God.

Let us list a short summary of these twelve books of Israel's history:

Joshua: The conquest of the land of Canaan. **Judges:** When Israel is oppressed by her enemies (due to unfaithfulness), God sends them a deliverer in the form of a judge. Fifteen in all, beginning with Othinel and ending with Samuel. **Ruth:** A love story about a Moabite woman named Ruth who is in the lineage of Jesus Christ. **1 & 2 Samuel:** The end of the judges and kingship of Saul and David. **1 & 2 Kings:** The political history of Israel and the reign of Solomon. The kingdom divides and the captivity of God's people. **1 & 2 Chronicles:** The religious history of Israel, giving us additional information about the kings. **Ezra:** The account is given, by the scribe and priest Ezra, of their return from Babylonian captivity. **Nehemiah:** The king's cupbearer who returned to Jerusalem to build the gates and walls of the city. **Esther:** A great woman of courage who saved her people from destruction by her faith and commitment to God. This woman was faithful against great odds.

One can learn much about the people who lived in those days. The people of God made many mistakes along the way causing them great discomfort and ultimate rejection by God. He was longsuffering trying to get them to see the advantage of remaining faithful unto Him. Sadly, many are not learning from the lessons of bygone days and will repeat them. Will we? ***