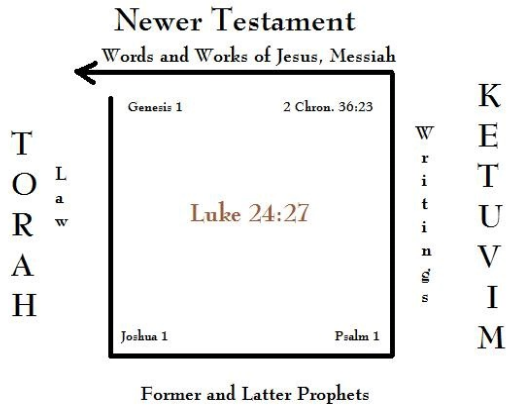


How the Early Prophets (Joshua–Kings) Advance The Messianic Message

The Messianic promise of the Torah is interpreted by the Prophets throughout the history of Israel, and finds its fulfillment in Jesus and elaboration in what we call the “New Testament.”



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In Deuteronomy, Moses prophesies the failure of Israel to keep God's Law, and the Early Prophets are the interpreted narrative of that rebellious path. Things begin well enough in Joshua, with the conquest of Jericho, but disobedience mars even that initial victory. The partial obedience of Israel brings Joshua to predict the same failure as had Moses. Judges shows what happens when there is no leadership, and Samuel/Kings shows what happens when leadership is not godly.

1. Torah shows how man's disobedience leaves all in danger of judgment and in need of grace, it's prophetic poetry foretelling a coming Savior/ King to lead God's people. Genesis 3, 49; Numbers 23, 24; Deut. 18, 32, 33.

2. Joshua 1 connects the Torah to the Prophets (as Psalm 1 connects the Prophets to the Writings), emphasizing that spiritual success comes from knowing, delighting in, and obeying Torah's message, the revelation of God.

Remember that the Law (Torah as a whole) teaches Grace!

3. The Early Prophets (Joshua–Kings) show that Messiah is still very much needed, and has not yet arrived. Each leader, however successful, proves not to be The One Moses promised. The story is told in two similar narrative cycles of rekindled hope which wanes under Israel's willful disobedience:

A Rekindled Hope: Conquest under Joshua Joshua 1–12

An Incomplete Obedience of Israel Joshua 13–22

A Prophetic Pinnacle: Joshua's Challenge Josh. 23--Jud. 1:1–2:4

Cycles of Disobedience Judges 2:5–16:31

A Waning Hope: Leaderless Anarchy Judges 17–21

A Rekindled Hope: Theocracy under Samuel I Samuel 1–7

An Incomplete Obedience under Saul I Samuel 8–15

A Prophetic Pinnacle: David's Kingdom I Sam. 16–II Sam. 24

Willful Disobedience under Solomon 1 Kings 1–11

A Waning Hope: Fall of the Kingdom 1 Kings 12–2 Kings 25