

Summary of Israel's Life Reflecting the Life Stages of Human Development

Part I Creation: CONCEPTION OF A PEOPLE

Gen. 1:1–2:3

We are first and foremost introduced to God, then we are witness to His care and order to create the vast world we know and even that which is beyond comprehension. Out of nothing, God creates and starts life on earth. God places man as ruler of the other living creatures in his world, but it is clear that man is humble when compared to God. In only 34 verses, God creates infinite potential, much like conception, when a microscopic being begins an eternal life.

Part II Genesis: BIRTH OF A NATION

Gen. 2:4–50:26

The Garden of Eden is explored as a metaphor for the womb. Genesis contains three barren women who give birth miraculously to the Patriarchs of Israel (Isaac, Jacob, Joseph). The theme of the brothers in conflict begins (Cain and Abel) and continues to develop (Ishmael/Isaac, Esau/Jacob, and Reuben/Simeon/Judah/Joseph/Benjamin).

Part III Exodus: Israel's INFANCY

Book of Exodus

God's providence, provision, and protection of Israel shows His care, compassion, and faithfulness to His promises for her. Israel, like an infant, receives and enjoys those gifts, but when they grow too familiar, she takes them for granted, and demands more while wandering in the desert brings constant complaints and self-centered disregard for God's blessings.

Part IV Children of God: CHILDHOOD

Joshua, Judges

Israelites are the children of God. Childlike faith grows among the Israelites as they witness amazing miracles first-hand as well as receive boundaries and rules in the form of the Law from God. Childhood is marked by obedience and disobedience, such is true for Israel as she receives the 10 Commandments and the extensive Law of the Torah along with the Tabernacle and the methods of atoning for guilt and sin.

Part V Israel faces Toil and Trial following a King: ADULTHOOD
Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Esther, Ecclesiastes

Israel claims the Promised Land by the sword with clear instructions from God. Israel's lack of faith is her true enemy, as she continues to struggle with remaining pure in the surrounding pagan culture and following God rather than her own way. Israel finally achieves her life-goal of building the Temple of the Lord. Israel struggles under wicked kings and eventually faces dark times of isolation. Israel is weakened and destitute.

Part VI Israel faces Separation from God and Ceases to Exist: DEATH
2 Kings 1–2, Lamentations, Daniel, Jonah

Israel is let down by their earthly kings. The Temple is destroyed. They are exiled from the land God promised their father, Abraham. God is distant, speaking harsh warnings through His prophets, while Israel endures many corrupt kings who oppress them; the kingdom splits, Israel to the North and Judah to the South. The northern kingdom, Israel, ceases to exist, but a remnant remains in Judah, and there is hope. Death is explored as motifs: falling asleep, other-worldly dream-states, near-death experiences, and separation from God.

Part VII Israel's Remnant: The Kingdom of HEAVEN is at Hand
Psalms 32 and 51, Matthew, John, Romans, Hebrews

God keeps his promises and is willing and waiting to reconcile His people to Himself. His faithful have "fallen asleep" but are to be resurrected, alive again. God has raised from the remains of Israel,

from Judah, a descendant of King David, a Messiah, to fulfill all He began from creation. Christ is the mediator to bridge the separation between God and His children, to atone for their sin for all time. His children will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Several “types” for Christ are explored including: Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Samson, Samuel, and Jonah. Readers discover Christ as the culmination of the themes in this book: the barren woman miraculously giving birth to a hero of the faith, the second son being favored over the first, brothers in conflict, a changed heart, the humble raised high, God’s covenant promises fulfilled, and Israel’s life reflecting the life stages of human development.