



*An Introduction to the
Old Testament*

*The Nevi'im
(The Prophets)*



The Former Prophets Joshua – 1 & 2 Kings

The Former Prophets (Joshua – 1 & 2 Kings)

- Read as historical narrative
- Israel's history from the conquest of Canaan to the Babylonian conquest (587-586 B.C.E.)
- Deuteronomy : the foundation document ; forms the Deuteronomistic History
- Date: completed during the postexilic period but much was probably available during the reign of King Josiah (609 B.C.E.)
- Sources mentioned: “The Book of Jashar”; “The Book of the Chronicles of Solomon”; “The Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah”; “The Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel”

Deuteronomistic History

- Book of Deuteronomy key
 - Sets forth the requirements of the law (Dt 4, 44-26,19)
 - Obedience brings covenant blessings (28, 1-14)
 - Disobedience brings curse (28, 15-68)
 - Most important commandment was the first (Dt. 5, 6-7)
 - Exclusive worship critical
- Worship centralized in Jerusalem
- The word of the Lord defines and determines the history of Israel
- Expressed in the deuteronomic law
- Reiterated by the prophets
- What is prophecy?
 - Dt. 18, 9-20

The Book of Joshua

THE DIVISION OF THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

- The Conquest of Canaan (Joshua 1-12)
- The Division of the Land (Joshua 13 – 21)
- Joshua's Final Discourse (Joshua 22 – 24)

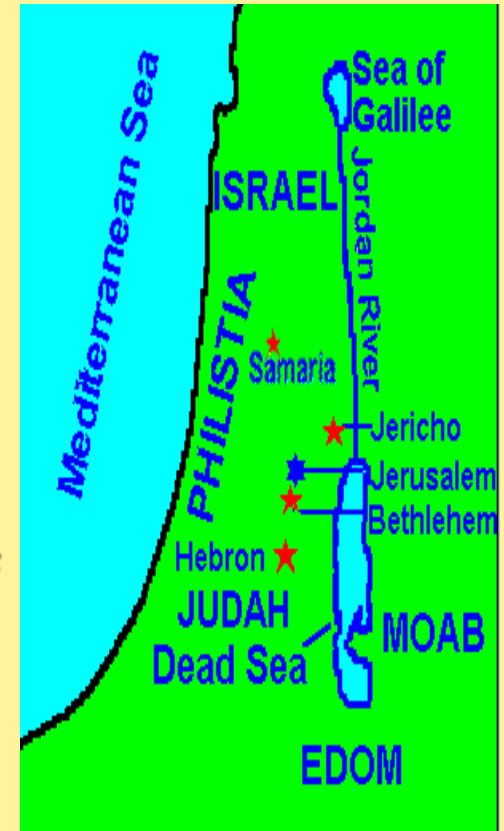
Important Theological Concepts

■ Warrior God

- Warfare was seen as an expression of God's concern for Israel
- Similar to other nations
- Practice of *herem*

■ Land is a Gift

- The land is a gift and a perpetual memorial of the covenant
- The warrior God gave this land as a pledge of *shalom*, peace
- A sacred trust

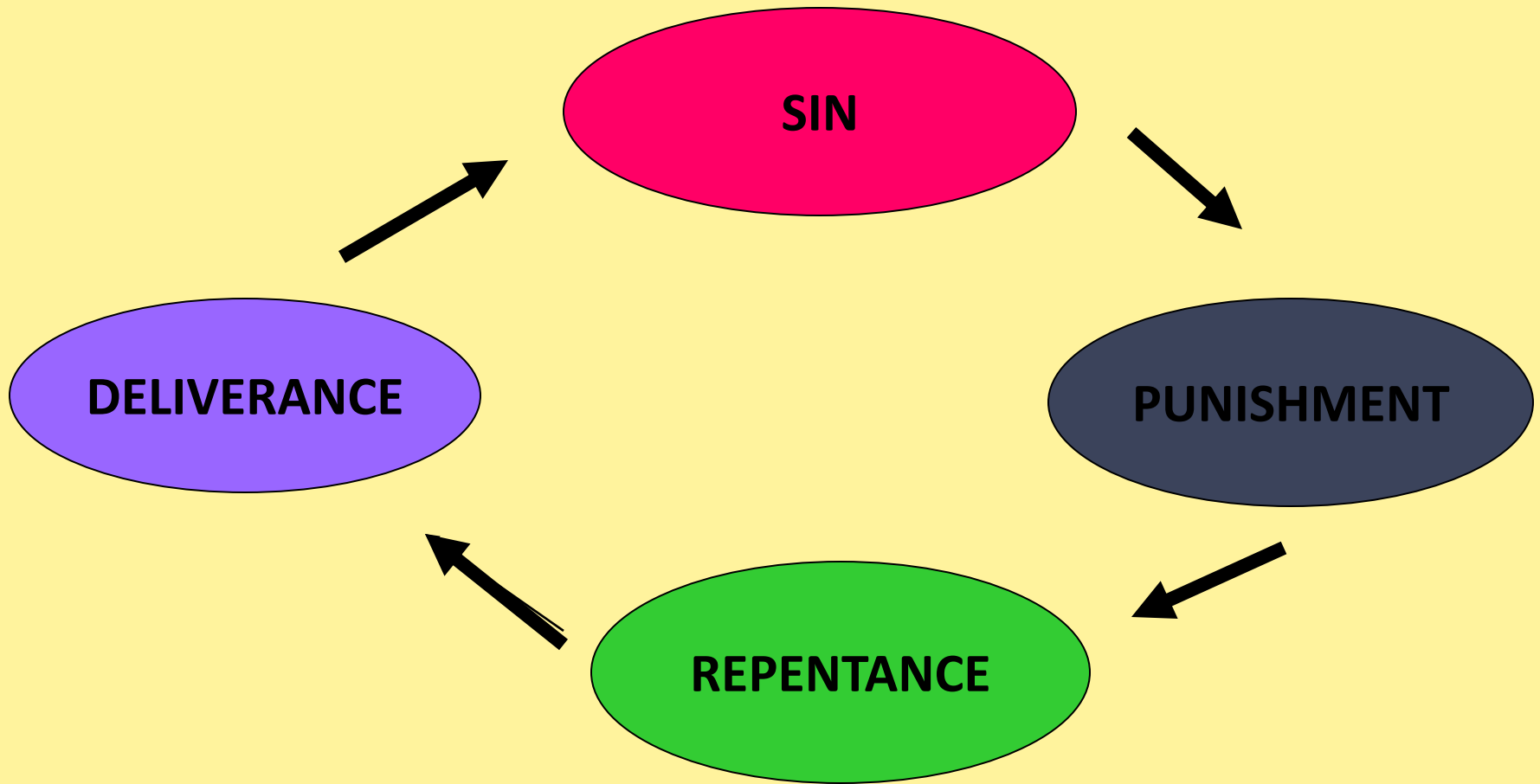


The Book of Judges

- From the Hebrew *'shopet'* - leader, champion, deliverer
- Regarded by the Israelites as leaders appointed by Yhwh to deliver them from enemies
- Warriors, charismatic leaders who led the people in battles against their oppressors



Dominate Theme



The Great Judges

- Ehud (Judg 3:12ff)
 - defeated the Moabites
- Deborah (Judg 4 – 5)
 - only female judge
 - defeated the Canaanites
- Gideon (Judg 6 – 8)
 - Defeated the Midianites with only three hundred men armed with trumpets, torches
- Jephthah (Judg 11 – 12: 7)
 - Fought against the Ammonites
- Samson (Judg 13 – 16)
 - Remembered for his extraordinary strength attributed to his hair
 - A Nazirite who defeated the Philistines by single-handedly destroying their temple

Samuel

- The son of Elkanah
- Among the great men in the Bible, born of a barren woman
- The last judge of Israel, the chief religious authority of his time
- Marked the transition of the nation from being a mere confederation of tribes into a united monarchy
- Inaugurated the monarchy by anointing Israel's first king
- Did not want a monarchy

Samuel

PROCLAIMED THE RIGHTS OF A KING:

- The sons of Israel will have to serve the king as his soldiers or servants
- The daughters of Israel will have to serve the king as his ladies-in-waiting in the royal court
- The king shall collect taxes and claim the best fruits of the people's labor

1 Samuel

- **Birth & Youth of Samuel**
- **Loss & return of the Ark**
- **Samuel as Judge**
- **Saul anointed as king**
- **Reign and rejection of Saul**
- **David becomes king of Judah and Israel**

2 Samuel

- **Reign of King David**
 - **Conquest of Jerusalem**
 - **Jerusalem established as capitol**
 - **Brings the Ark to Jerusalem now the center of worship**
 - **Various battles to solidify the kingdom**

1 & 2 Kings

- Three major sections
 - Accession and reign of Solomon (1Kgs 1-11)
 - The History of the two Kingdoms (1Kgs 12-2Kgs 17)
 - The Kingdom of Judah after the Fall of Israel (2Kgs 18-25)

Extensive prophetic material

Prominence of the word of the Lord as it directs the course of events

