

# RE-24 THE BIBLE

## Early Israel

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## The Deuteronomistic History

- = Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings
- Israel's history
- Deuteronomy's perspective
- *Critical* of Israelite's behavior

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## Joshua

- **Person:** Moses' assistant, Israel's new leader
- **Book:** Israel finally returns and conquers the land promised to Abraham

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**3 paradigmatic stories  
(Joshua 1:1-10:27)**

- Jericho
- Ai
- Gibeon



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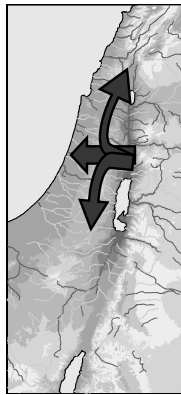
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**Lists of  
conquered  
cities in 3  
campaigns  
(Joshua  
10:28-12:24)**



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**Division of  
land &  
Covenant  
renewal  
(Joshua  
13-24)**

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## Judges 1-2

- Tribal conquests
- List of unconquered territory



Bet Shean

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## Folktales in a repetitive framework (Judges 3-16)

1. Apostasy
2. Oppression
3. Prayer
4. Savior ("judge")
5. Peace



Samson & Delilah, by Rubens

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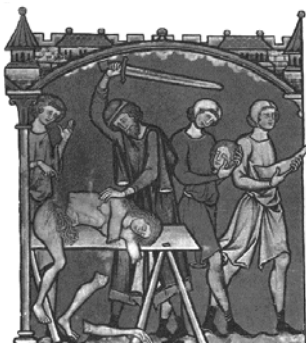
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## Anarchy in Israel (Judges 17-21)



Medieval illustration, ca. 1250 CE

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## History of Israel's Settlement

Serious questions about its



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## Uncertainty due to

- Sparse & contradictory archeological evidence
- Only one extra-biblical reference to Israel in this period
  - Merneptah's stela:



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## Ancient vs. modern historians

**Ancients:**

- Accept **WHAT** happened
- Ask: **WHY?**

**Moderns:**

- Test **WHAT** happened for accuracy
- Ask: **WHY?**

**Deuteronomistic History:**

**WHAT?** victory

**WHY?** Obedience to God

**WHAT?** Defeat

**WHY?** Disobedience of God

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**Modern theories of  
the Settlement**

- Conquest
- Immigration
- Revolt

**Probably a mix of all three ...**

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