



Introduction to Biblical History

Icebreaker Question

When you hear the word “history,” what comes to mind?

Video Notes

- What is history?
 - History is the record of events.
 - History is selective in the details it includes and excludes.
 - History is biased storytelling based on its author and audience.
 - History is subject to interpretation.
 - History isn't what happened but our relationship to what happened.

- What is the difference between ancient and modern history?
 - Modern history has scientific processes and standards.
 - Ancient history is about storytelling to make a point.
 - Example: strict chronology vs telling out of order for a purpose (Jesus' cleansing of the temple in John vs the other gospels)
 - Need to approach ancient history by its standards, not ours.

- How does history help us better understand the Bible?
 - Understand the choices people made and what they knew rather than what we know.
 - Jesus born “in the days of Caesar Augustus”
 - Caesar Augustus, the “son of god” vs Jesus, the “Son of God”
 - A clash of kingdoms
 - Pharisees' legalism, a reaction to the past and present in order to obey God
 - Trying to prevent another exile
 - Trying to push back against Greco-Roman culture

Discussion Questions

1. Read 1 Corinthians 10:11. Why should we study the past?
2. Read John 20:30-31. Why was the Gospel of John written? Is it an unbiased historical record? How does this impact how we should read his book?
3. Read Romans 15:4. According to this verse, why is it important to understand the past? How can it help us today?
4. Compare 2 Chronicles 9:22-31 with 1 Kings 11:9-13, 41-43. Compare and contrast. Why are there differences?
5. Read 2 Kings 3:4-5. What historical information can you find about this passage?

Recommended Resources

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History>