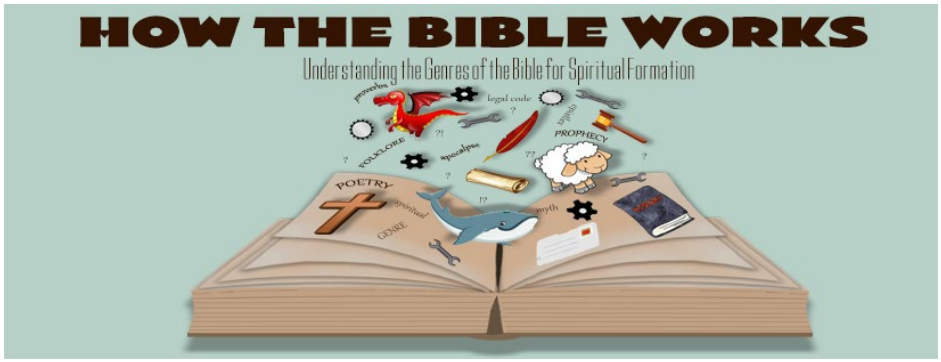

Discussion Guide for "How to Read History"

How the Bible Works Week 8

Biblical history doesn't hold up to our modern standards for history. So how can we trust history in the Bible? And more importantly, how can these stories of ancient peoples and events help us know God better today?

Scriptures for Further Reading

Deuteronomy 11
Judges 10:1-16
1 Kings 11:29-35
2 Timothy 3:15-17

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a step-by-step guide here. The passage for this week's sacred reading is Deuteronomy 11.

Questions for Discussion

1. Do you consider yourself a history buff? What is your favorite period of history?
2. What are some differences between the way ancient Hebrews wrote history and the way we write history today?
3. What was the goal of the historians we call the 'Deuteronomists' today? Why did they tell the story of Israel the way they did? How was that reflected in 1 Kings 11:29-35?
4. What relevance does Solomon's kingship have for us in Texas today?
5. This week, read Deuteronomy 11. How can you see the hand of the historians in this text? What does it say to you about how we know God?