Name: _____
Date: _____ Junior 1 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 5 – Student Handout

THE BOOKS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT (II): THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

"I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You." (Job 42:2)

Objectives

Knowledge of God's Will	Learn a brief overview of the historical books. Learn how God's sovereignty is superior to mankind. Understand how God's sovereignty has affected history, nations, and our sins.
Knowledge of God's Divine Nature	God is almighty. God has the power to enact His will.
Good Works	Learn how God's sovereignty should affect our daily lives. Learn how trusting God can give us stability in our lives, even in tribulation.

A. Timeline and Overview of the Historical Books

1. *The Conquest of the Land of Canaan (Joshua)*
2. *The Period of Judges (Judges; Ruth; 1 Samuel 1–7)*
3. *The Period of Kings (1 & 2 Samuel; 1 & 2 Kings; 1 & 2 Chronicles)*
4. *Exile and Return (Ezra; Nehemiah; Esther)*

B. The Historical Books: A Demonstration of God's Sovereignty

We know that God is sovereign in that He has the power to do anything. His omnipotence makes Him the sovereign of all sovereigns, and this is understood well by even King David, one of the greatest leaders in Israelite history (1 Chr 29:11–12). The difference between the sovereignty of a man and the sovereignty of God is that God has the power to do anything. He is all-powerful, and nothing can stop what He intends to do.

C. God's Sovereignty over Nations (2 Chr 20:6)

We know that nothing in the nations occurs without God's permission. He has the power to prevent anything that He chooses to, and likewise has the power to enact His will regardless of mankind's choices (Ps 33:10–11).

D. God's Sovereignty over History (Prov 16:33)

Everything Esther had gone through was likely for the purpose of this moment in history, but in the end, it was still her choice to be a part of His plan and receive His blessings. But if she did not, her family would be "cast out," and God's will would still be enacted.

E. God's Sovereignty over Sin (Isa 38:16–17)

For both Hezekiah and Manasseh, the consequences and results of their actions were entirely dependent on their sin or their repentance. Both may have been kings, but just like any other man, it was their sin, not their wills, that dictated the direction of their lives. God's sovereignty over sin is shown in His ability to punish our rebellion, or to cast away our sins and grant us blessings.

Life Application: Finding Stability in God's Sovereignty

Name: _____
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Lesson 5 Homework Assignment

The Books in the Old Testament (II): The Historical Books

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Job 42:2):

_____

_____

_____

1. Explain the memory verse in your own words.

2. What four major sections can the timeline of Israelite history be divided into?

3. What is the difference between the sovereignty of man and the sovereignty of God?

4. From the examples of Hezekiah and Manasseh, how are we affected by God's sovereignty over sin?

5. How should our understanding of God's sovereignty affect our daily lives?

6. What kind of attitude should we have when making our requests known to God? Do you think you do this successfully in your prayers?

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Testimony: Finding Stability in God's Sovereignty

– **Anonymous**
(Edited to accommodate length and written format.)

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I testify. I'd like to share my experience of how God was able to give me true peace in a time of trouble, and how I found comfort through prayer.

In July of 2020, I opened my MacBook expecting to work on some projects, only to find that the computer didn't turn on. An icon of a white folder labeled with a question mark appeared on the screen. I was originally really confused, and I thought I could solve this problem with a simple restart, but it would always pop up whenever I tried again. After a few days of attempting to solve this problem by retrieving possible backups, I began worrying about whether or not my files were actually gone.

I started praying about this, and I hoped that God would be able to restore the computer completely. I knew He was all-powerful, and this would not be a task that is too hard for Him. As I prayed, I began to feel more relieved and would expect my computer to work every time I opened it up. However, the problem persisted. My dad decided to bring it to a mechanic, who told him that its hardware was destroyed. There was nothing he could do to find my previous files, and… everything was gone.

At this moment, I began to panic, as there were four major problems that I had to deal with after hearing the news about my old computer.

The first problem was the loss of my digital artwork. I saved everything locally, meaning that everything was wiped. Almost every drawing that I ever did for the past five years was gone. On top of that, the file that I was going to submit to a digital art competition that month was gone. All that I had left was a low-resolution file that I had exported to show my parents.

The second problem was the loss of my video files. I was in charge of recording and editing the video project that our J2 class had begun work on over the summer. But now, all of the files and edits that I had made were gone. The only backup video was a low-resolution export that I had sent to my teachers for feedback. What frustrated me even more was how my R.E. teachers did not understand the gravity of the situation. One of them told me that this wasn't a valid excuse to stop our project, and that it was my responsibility to keep going. But how was I supposed to continue without a computer?

The third problem was the loss of my code. I had been developing a video game as a personal project that I could share with friends and publish on a website, but everything that I had worked on was gone. I could try redoing everything and rewriting the code, but it would just make me way too sad knowing that I had to waste so much time doing something I almost finished. I tried to avoid thinking about the project as this was one of the most valuable things that I lost that week.

The fourth problem was a choir video for Oahu church. One of their members contacted me a few weeks in advance about helping to edit their youth choir video, and I agreed. However, without my computer, I no longer had the editing software to help and couldn't continue. I was extremely stressed because I couldn't find someone to replace me and help with this project. I had already accepted the duty, and I felt really bad telling the church member that I couldn't uphold my end of the project.

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After finding out about the amount of data I lost, I almost broke down because I'm the type of person who uses the computer every day. Almost everything I do can be found on my computer. I knew I couldn't handle it myself, so I decided to pray so that God could somehow alleviate my stress and resolve some of these problems that I faced. I didn't know what He would do next, but I knew that He was the only one who could help me during this difficult time.

As the days passed, I felt God slowly answering my prayers. One by one, He helped me with every problem that I faced after losing all my files on my computer.

For our R.E. year-end project, I thank God for helping our class figure out a way to present the video. Although the final presentation was super short and the blurriest video I have ever seen, I felt that we still got our message and story across. I also thank God for resolving the misunderstanding and miscommunication between the students and the teachers, and that we were at least able to export something instead of abandoning the project we worked so hard on altogether.

For the choir video that I had to edit, I thank God for finding a substitute for me. When I was about to respond to the Oahu church member and tell her that I could no longer help, I remembered that I had a close friend from previous spiritual convocations who might be available. I was unsure if he would want to be involved in this project since he had no prior experience editing videos, and I knew he was a very busy person. However, I thank God that he had a very willing heart to serve, understood my situation, and gladly took over for me.

For my code, I remembered that I had decided to back up my project to the cloud a month prior to this incident for no apparent reason. Reflecting upon this, I now feel that it was truly by the grace of God that my game files could actually be restored. It was most likely not just a random backup, but one that God did for me. I really thank God that He made me do it in preparation for this trial.

Finally, for my artwork, I was never actually able to retrieve any of my recent drawings. I ended up submitting a low-resolution file to the art contest and did not win. However, even though I lost so much, God still gave me peace. The peace that He gave me after I prayed was actually a lot more valuable than my art files because He taught me to trust and have faith in Him. When I count the considerable number of things that I had lost, I don't feel miserable about what happened. Being a pessimist, I tend to see things from a negative point of view, but I really do not see this event as a loss. Instead, I see this as an opportunity for me to draw closer to God and find the peace that He promises to us.

John 14:27 says, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." I feel like this verse really sums up this whole experience, as it touches upon the peace that God gives each one of us. For me, God touched my heart so that I no longer feel as sad about this difficulty. When we are facing troubles and don't get the outcome that we expect, we can pray for the peace that only comes from God. If we do so, I believe God will be more than willing to give us the peace that He promises and help us to have the right attitude when encountering different trials in our lives.

This concludes my testimony. May all the glory and honor be unto His holy name. Amen.