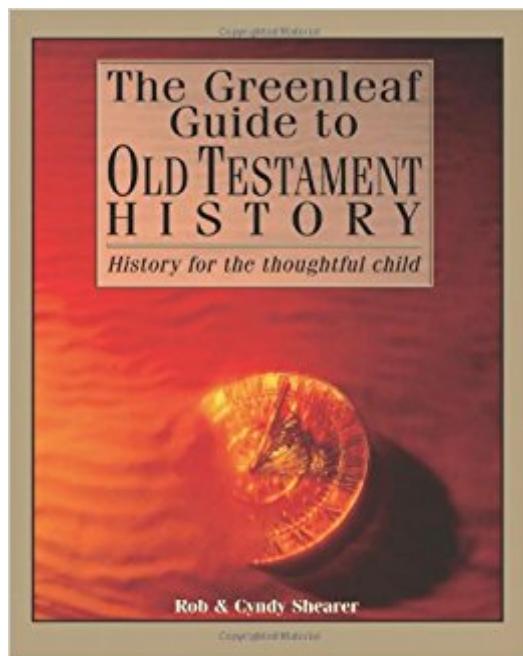


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# The Greenleaf Guide To Old Testament History



## **Synopsis**

This readings in this book take you through the history of Israel from Genesis to Nehemiah, chronologically. The Old Testament's history of Israel is divided into 180 Bible readings (approximately 1-2 chapters each). For each reading there is a series of questions to help you focus on the significant details. There are also background notes, and suggestions on how to cover the material and keep it interesting. The book is intended as a first history course for the early elementary grades, though many parents are using it with high school students. "The Old Testament is the perfect place to start teaching history since it truly starts at the beginning. Many of us shy away from such a study because of the difficulties we might encounter, but the Shearers have made it much easier with this guide." - Cathy Duffy One of Cathy Duffy's "Top 100 Picks for Homeschool Curriculum."

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Winner, "Best Bible Curriculum", 1995, 1996, and 1997 - Reader's Choice Awards. (Practical Homeschooling Magazine) "The Old Testament is the perfect place to start teaching history since it truly starts at the beginning. Many of us shy away from such a study because of the difficulties we might encounter, but the Shearers have made it much easier with this Guide." -- Cathy Duffy, Christian Home Educators' Curriculum Manual

Cyndy Shearer has a BA degree in English (summa cum laude) from Queens College (Charlotte,

NC) and an MA in English from the University of Virginia. She has taught elementary, high school, and college students and has been a home-schooling mom since 1985. Rob Shearer has an AB in History (cum laude) from Davidson College and a MA in History and Humanities from Stanford University. He taught at Stanford from 1977-1979 and at Virginia Wesleyan College from 1981-1984. In 1979-1980 he was a Fulbright Research Fellow in Marburg, Germany. He is the Director of the Francis Schaeffer Study Center in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee - a tutorial program for homeschooled high school students - which he and Cyndy founded in 2004. Rob and Cyndy live near the town of Lebanon in middle Tennessee along with their eleven children. The Shearer home school and petting zoo currently boasts four dogs, five cats, two horses, one pony and whatever else the children may have been smitten with this month.

Okay, I will keep this as short as possible. I bought this book when I thought I was going to be homeschooling my child. I realized I wouldn't have the time but I still use it at night. I have purchased quite a few curriculum that has God as its center but teaches my child what he needs to know without the secular reasoning of it couldn't be a God. This one is by far my favorite! My son is 5 years old and so engaged. Every night he begs me to do a Bible study with this book. The way it is laid out is simple, in big bold it tells you what section of the Bible to read with your child then ask them questions regarding their understanding. The book gives you a good tutorial of what you should do to teach effectively. I recommend always reading the section first and read the questions as well to yourself then to your child so they will have an idea what to look for. This is an essential part of what your child needs to learn and I would recommend this all day long. Trust me you will NOT be disappointed.

My wife and I homeschool our daughter. We have been using an excellent social studies curriculum. With that said, we needed supplemental teaching material as we moved beyond lessons regarding creation, Noah's flood, and Israel's time in Egypt. It seems as if there is a plethora of videos and articles on the aforementioned topics; however, when it came to the move by Israel into the Promised Land, the period of the Judges, and Israel's history in general, we had difficulty finding material that was neither focused on very young children or a more academic, scholarly approach. Thankfully, after some searching, we discovered material by Greenleaf Press, specifically their Greenleaf Guide to Old Testament History. The format of this book makes it an excellent tool to both supplement and at times to perhaps even replace a textbook one may be using. Now keep in mind this book is not a traditional textbook. There is no lengthy discussion, no maps, and no testing

material. What you will find are lessons that focus on a passage of Scripture, followed by penetrating questions that help the student dig into the topic at hand, investigating both Scripture and the historical issues related to that passage. Such an approach serves two important purposes. First, it ensures the student grasps that Scripture relates actual historical events. Second, by making this connection, the student will be able to take important theological truths and to apply those truths to the actual historical events they are studying through this guide. For instance, in the lesson on David and Goliath, the student will read 1 Samuel 17. Then, discussion questions guide the student to take a look at this character called Goliath, exploring who he was, how tall he was, and why he was challenging Israel. Additional questions walk the student through the story of David responding to Goliath as well as working through why this event was important. In the end, the student will have a cogent and holistic understanding of this historical event and why it is important both within Israelite history and in the grand story of Scripture itself. I highly recommend this book for homeschooled who are looking for ways to supplement existing curriculum they may be using. Additionally, I believe this book would serve families well during their family Bible study time. However, if utilized, the Greenleaf Guide to Old Testament History will serve you well in your studies of Israelite history and the Word of God. I know we will be exploring the other offerings from Greenleaf Press as we press forward in our homeschooling journey.

In truth, this book was much more in-depth than we needed, and also a bit hard to use. I ended up picking and choosing information from the book. It was especially good for helping students FIND the main points in the Bible accounts and for introducing the main people. I thought it went way too much into lesser kings. Then again, I was more interested in teaching the prophets and the captivity/return than the kings, so my goal and this book's overview were not exactly in alignment. I was let down that there was almost never connections between how the Old Testament (prophecies, temple sacrifices, even families and ancestral information) can inform the New Testament.

It's okay but not what I expected. Other Greenleaf guides have the history stories rewritten for a child's reading. This one has you read the Bible directly, which is fine but not as interesting to my 10 year old. Instead, this guide has a bunch of questions for discussion instead. That was fine to me but my child disliked it. Just be aware of the different style from the other Greenleaf guides.

This is a nice, thorough old testament guide. It got me thinking about some things that I hadn't

considered. I used it for my kindergartner and third grader, and it kept their attention, but it could be used for all ages, and you can keep going back over it again and again. I haven't found anything equal to it.

This was a great addition to our homeschool curriculum. We were studying Biblical History. It was a great guide for narrating what we read in the Bible. I am so glad that I got it.

I needed an outline for my high school age homeschooled daughter. This book was perfect for that. I was able to use this book as a jumping point to head into other lessons.

Exactly what I ordered! I got in a timely manner, packaged perfectly. Very happy and Thank you! Will order again! My whole family loved this as a bible curriculum.

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