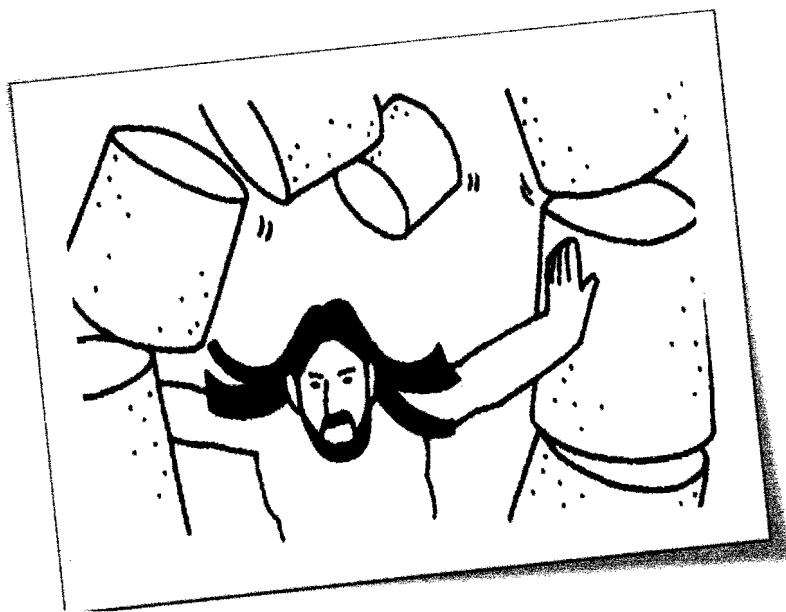




Judges

A Bible Survey of:
Judges, Ruth and 1 Samuel 1-9



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17 Bible Periods

Before The Flood
The Flood
The Scattering of the People
The Patriarchs
The Exodus
The Wandering in the Wilderness
The Invasion and Conquest of the Land

The Judges

The United Kingdom
The Divided Kingdom
Judah Alone
The Captivity
Return From Captivity
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Life of Christ
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Letters to Christians

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* The NKJV translation of the Bible was used in the preparation of this study material.

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Introduction To The Period Of The Judges

Introduction:

1. This period follows the “Invasion and Conquest of the Land” and comes before the “United Kingdom.”
2. The Scriptural Limitation of the period is: Judges, Ruth and 1 Samuel 1-9.
3. This period follows Israel through a continuous cycle of apostasy.
4. A reading of Judges 17:6 gives us a good summary of the Period of the Judges, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Discussion:

I. The Term Judges

- A. The term “Judges” comes from the Hebrew word *shapat* meaning “to judge, deliver, rule” (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)
- B. The Judges delivered Israel from enemy oppression and administered the law of God.

II. The Cycle of Apostasy During The Period of the Judges.

- A. The cycle: Apostasy, Affliction, Repentance, Deliverance, Peace...
- B. This cycle occurred as “...everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judg. 17:6; 21:25).

III. The Period of The Judges.

- A. The events of the book of Judges, Ruth, and 1 Samuel 1-9 don't all necessarily happen one after another.
 1. Perhaps several of the Judges who ruled, did so at the same time.
 2. The student should not think that all of Israel was oppressed at the same time.
 3. The enemy often afflicted a certain region or certain tribes.
- B. In all there were fifteen Judges:

1. Othniel	9. Jephthah
2. Ehud	10. Ibzan
3. Shamgar	11. Elon
4. Deborah	12. Abdon
5. Gideon	13. Samson
6. Abimelech (self appointed, wicked)	14. Eli
7. Tola	15. Samuel
8. Jair	
- C. The statement “Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord” can be found seven times in the book of Judges (Judg. 2:11; 3:7; 3:12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1).

Conclusion:

As you study the period of “the Judges” learn the story as revealed by God and take note of any lessons that should be learned!



Israel Enters Into A Cycle Of Apostasy

Judges 1:1 – 5:31

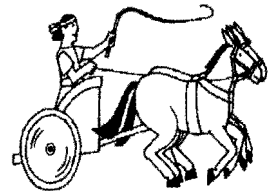
Introduction:

1. Read: Judges 1:1 – 5:31
2. Following the days of the “Invasion and Conquest” Israel falls into a cycle of apostasy known as the “Judges.”
3. This lesson notes the Israelites journey into apostasy and the first four deliverers or judges.

Discussion:

I. Israel Fails To Completely Drive Out The Canaanites (Judges 1:1-36).

- A. The book of Judges opens with a review of events that occurred during the life of Joshua.
- B. Following the days of the initial invasion and conquest the Israelites were responsible for driving the remainder of the inhabitants.
- C. The tribe of Judah:
 1. The tribe of Judah had much success in their campaigns capturing cities like, Jerusalem, Hebron and Debir (Judg. 1:1-18).
 2. What was the tribe of Judah unable to do according to Judges 1:19? _____



D. Many of the tribes of Israel failed to drive out the inhabitants. Briefly describe the following tribe’s failure to drive out the enemy:

1. The Tribe of Benjamin (Judg. 1:21). _____
2. The tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim (Judg. 1:22-29)? _____
3. The tribe of Zebulun (Judg. 1:30). _____
4. The tribe of Asher (Judg. 1:31-32). _____
5. The tribe of Naphtali (Judg. 1:33). _____
6. The tribe of Dan (Judg. 1:34-36). _____

II. Israel Forsakes God Serving The Baals (Judges 2:1-23).

- A. What was at the heart of Israel’s unfaithfulness and cycle of apostasy (Judg. 2:10)? _____

- B. Israel's cycle of apostasy is summarized in Judges 2:11-23. In a few words describe this cycle of apostasy: _____

III. Judges Deliver Israel From Oppression (Judges 3:1-31).

- A. Following Israel's failure to drive out the other nations God used them to test Israel (Judg. 3:1-4)
B. Read Judges 3:5-6 and describe Israel's apostasy: _____

- C. What is the name of the first Judge (Judg. 3:7-11)? _____
1. The Israelites commit apostasy (Judg. 3:7), suffering oppression at the hand of the king of Mesopotamia (Judg. 3:8), Israel repents and calls upon God (Judg. 3:9), Othniel delivers Israel (Judg. 3:10) and the people have peace for forty years (Judg. 3:11).
2. This same cycle will be repeated many times over during the period of the Judges.

- D. What is the name of the second Judge (Judg. 3:12-30)? _____
1. Israel again does evil (Judg. 3:12), suffers affliction by Eglon, king of Moab, for eighteen years (Judg. 3:12-14), Israel repents and calls upon God (Judg. 3:15), Ehud, the left handed judge delivers Israel (Judg. 3:15-30) and the land had rest for eighty years (Judg. 3:30).



2. Ehud is known as the left handed Judge (Judg. 3:21).
E. What is the name of the third Judge (Judg. 3:31)? _____
1. How many Philistines did Shamgar kill (Judg. 3:31)? _____
2. What weapon did he use (Judg. 3:31)? _____

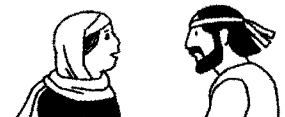
IV. Israel Visits A Prophetess For Judgment (Judg. 4:1-24).

- A. The cycle of apostasy continues and Israel is sold into the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan (Judg. 4:1-3) and the affliction last for twenty years (Judg. 4:3).
B. What is the name of the fourth Judge, the only woman judge (Judg. 4:4-5)? _____

- C. God spoke His will through Deborah. She has been likened to a modern civil judge rather than a military, like some of the other judges we have read about (Judg. 4:4-5).

DEBORAH

- D. Israel came to Deborah for judgment (Judg. 4:5).
E. What Israelite was chosen to lead 10,000 men against Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army (Judg. 4:6)? _____
F. What was the outcome of this battle and what happened to Sisera (Judg. 4:10-24)? _____



V. Deborah Writes A Song (Judg. 5:1-31).

- A. This song was composed in celebration of Israel's victory over Jabin and the Canaanites and the words provide further insight into the battle.
B. The land had rest for forty years (Judg. 5:31).

Conclusion:

From this lesson we learn that those who forsake God do not enjoy His blessings. We must repent of sin, obey God and serve Him faithfully.



Gideon Delivers Israel From Midianite Affliction

Judges 6:1 – 8:35

Introduction:

1. Read: Judges 6:1 – 8:35
2. Following deliverance from the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan, the Israelites enjoy forty years of peace, but Israel will again do evil and face oppression from the Midianites.
3. This lesson takes a look at Gideon's days of delivering Israel from oppression.

Discussion:

I. The Midianites Oppress Israel and the Fifth Named Judge Is Called (Judges 6:1-40).

A. How many years were the Israelites oppressed by Midian (Judg. 6:1)? _____

B. In what ways did Midian afflict Israel (Judg. 6:4-6)? _____

C. What was the name of the fifth Named Judge (Judg. 6:11)? _____

D. How did Gideon respond when the Angel of the Lord called upon him to save Israel (Judg. 6:15-22)? _____

E. God commanded Gideon, "Now it came to pass the same night that the Lord said to him, "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it; and build an altar to the Lord your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down" (Judg. 6:25-26).

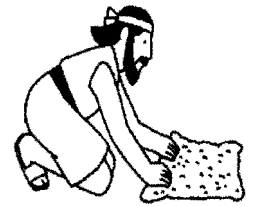
1. What time of day did Gideon tear down the altar of Baal (Judg. 6:27)? _____

2. How did the men of the city react to Gideon's actions (Judg. 6:28-32)? _____

F. Then "all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him. And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them" (Judg. 6:33-35).



G. What sign(s) did Gideon ask God for (Judg. 6:36-40)? _____



II. Gideon's Army Is Reduced In Size By God (Judges 7:1-25).

A. Gideon "all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley" (Judg. 7:1).

B. God said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me'" (Judg. 7:2). (note: Gideon's army = 32,000; Midian army = 135,000; Judg. 7:3, 8:10).

1. By what process was Gideon's army reduced to 10,000 (Judg. 7:3)? _____

2. By what process was Gideon's army reduced to 300 (Judg. 7:4-7)? _____

C. To assure Gibeon of victory God told him to visit the camp of the Midianites (Judg. 7:9).

1. Who did Gibeon take with him (Judg. 7:10-11)? _____

2. What did Gibeon hear when he visited the Midianite camp (Judg. 7:12-15)? _____

D. Gideon "divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. And he said to them, "Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, 'The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!'" (Judg. 7:16-18).



E. What happened when Gideon and his men attacked the Midian camp "in the beginning of the middle watch, about 10-11pm (Judg. 7:19-3)? _____

F. Gideon called upon the men of Ephraim to secure the Jordan when the Midianites fled. The Men of Ephraim captured and killed "two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb" (Judg. 7:24-25).

III. Israel Subdues The Midianites and Gibeon Dies At A Good Old Age (Judges 8:1-35).

A. Why were the men of Ephraim Jealous and how did Gideon pacify them (Judg. 8:1-3)? _____

B. Gideon and his army of 300 continued in pursuit of the 15,000 Midianites and they were exhausted and request some food first from Succoth and then from Penuel. Both denied Gibeon's request and he promised to punish both (Judg. 8:4-9).

C. Gibeon and his men subdued the remaining 15,000 midianites (Judg. 8:10-12).

D. When Gibeon returned from war, what did he do to the princes of Succoth and the tower in Penuel (Judg. 8:14-17)? _____



A New Cycle Of Apostasy and Repentance
Judges 9:1 – 12:15

Introduction:

1. Judges 9:1 – 12:15
2. The Israelites have experienced victory with the assistance of God only to forsake Him and suffer at the hand of the enemy.
3. This lesson takes a look at Israel's continuation in the cycle of apostasy and the next line of Judges that will deliver Israel from oppression.

Discussion:

I. A Man Appoints Himself As A Judge or Leader Over Israel (Judges 9:1-57).

- A. After Gideon's death Abimelech, Gideon's son, approached the men of Shechem, his mother's brothers and convinced them to make him king over them (Judg. 9:1-6).
1. Abimelech is traditionally named among the judges of this period.
 2. However, it is important to note he was self appointed, not Divinely appointed and he was a wicked leader, not a good leader.
 3. What did Abimelech do to his own brothers (Judg. 9:5)? _____
 4. Who escaped from Abimelech (Judg. 9:5)? _____

B. Jotham came to the men of Shechem and spoke a parable to them (Judg. 9:7-21).

1. He said the trees (the people) were looking for a king and they turned to the olive tree, but he refused. They then turned to the fig tree, but he declined. The people then turned to vine, but he refused. Finally the people turned to the bramble bush who accepted to be their king. (Judg. 9:7-15).
2. The parable or fable is directly connected to the men of Shechem appointing Abimelech to rule over them.
3. Jotham fled to Beer for fear of Abimelech (Judg. 9:21).

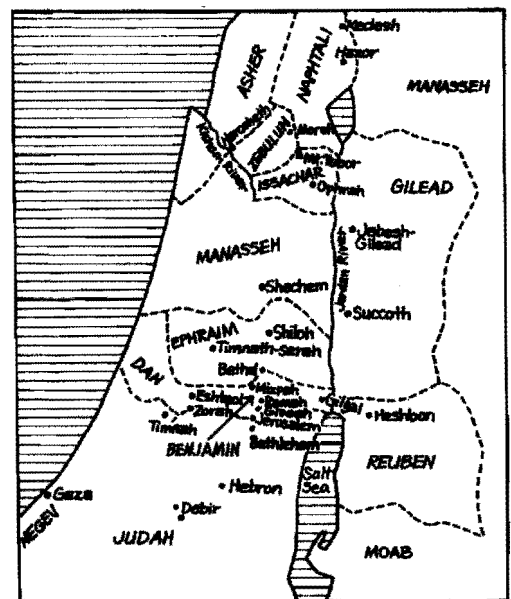
C. How many years did Abimelech reign over Israel (Judg. 9:22)? _____

D. Abimelech destroys Shechem when the men of Shechem failed to defeat him (Judg. 9:23-49)

E. How did Abimelech die (Judg. 9:50-55)? _____

F. Jotham's prophecies against Abimelech and the men of Shechem are fulfilled (Judg. 9:56-57).

WHERE IT ALL HAPPENED (Judges)



II. Israel's Apostasy Continues (Judges 10:1-18).

- A. What is the name of the seventh Judge (Judg. 10:1-2)? _____
1. How long did he judge Israel (Judg. 10:2)? _____
 2. All we know about Tola is what is recorded in these two verses.
- B. What is the name of the eighth Judge (Judg. 10:3-5)? _____
1. How long did he judge Israel (Judg. 10:3)? _____
 2. He is the first judge noted to work on the east side of the Jordan River (Judg. 10:4).
- C. "Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him" (Judg. 10:6).
1. The new cycle of apostasy is noted here as the philistines come into the narrative, the philistines that Samson will deliver Israel from.
 2. Who did God tell Israel to turn to for deliverance and what point was God making to the people (Judg. 10:14)? _____

III. A Mighty Man of Valor Judges Israel (Judges 11:1-40).

- A. What is the name of the ninth judge (Judg. 11:1, 12:7)? _____
- B. Jephthah's background (Judg. 11:1-3).
1. Gileadite.
 2. Mighty man of valor.
 3. Son of a harlot.
 4. Driven out by his family and settled in the land of Tob.
 5. He formed a small militia.
- C. The people of Ammon made war against Israel and the elders of Israel said to Jephthah, "Come and be our commander, that we may fight against the people of Ammon" (Judg. 11:6).
- D. How did Jephthah answer the elders of Israel (Judg. 11:7-11)? _____

- E. Now "Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the people of Ammon, saying, "What do you have against me, that you have come to fight against me in my land?" (Judg. 11:12).
1. Why did the king of Ammon come to fight against Israel (Judg. 11:13)? _____

 2. What defense did Jephthah send back to the king of Ammon (Judg. 11:14-28)? _____

- F. As Jephthah advanced to battle the people of Ammon he made a vow to the Lord saying, "If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands, 31 then it will be that whatever

comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering" (Judg. 11:30-31).

1. God delivered the people of Ammon in the hand of Jephthah (Judg. 11:32-33).
2. Who or what came out of Jephthah's house to meet him (Judg. 11:34)? _____

G. Did Jephthah actually offer his daughter up as a burnt offering? This has become a pointed discussion in some circles. There are essentially two options concerning the keeping of the vow:

1. Jephthah offered his daughter up as a burnt offering without God's approval.
2. His daughter was devoted to the service of God for the remainder of her life.

F. One thing we can be certain about is that God does not condone sin. When we sin, they do so without God's approval.

IV. Civil War Breaks Out In Israel and Three More Judges Deliver Israel (Judges 12:1-15).

- A. Who came against Jephthah (Judg. 12:1)? _____
- B. Jephthah said to them, "My people and I were in a great struggle with the people of Ammon; and when I called you, you did not deliver me out of their hands. So when I saw that you would not deliver me, I took my life in my hands and crossed over against the people of Ammon; and the Lord delivered them into my hand. Why then have you come up to me this day to fight against me?" (Judg. 12:2-3).
- C. Jephthah "gathered together all the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. And the men of Gilead defeated Ephraim, because they said, "You Gileadites are fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites and among the Manassites." The Gileadites seized the fords of the Jordan before the Ephraimites arrived. And when any Ephraimite who escaped said, "Let me cross over," the men of Gilead would say to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" If he said, "No," then they would say to him, "Then say, 'Shibboleth!'" And he would say, "Sibboleth," for he could not pronounce it right. Then they would take him and kill him at the fords of the Jordan. There fell at that time forty-two thousand Ephraimites" (Judg. 12:4-6).
- D. What is the name of the tenth judge (Judg. 12:8-10)? _____
1. Ibzan served as judge in the city of Bethlehem.
 2. He judged Israel for seven years during which time he used his sons and daughters to increase his influence.
- E. What is the name of the Eleventh judge (Judge. 12:11-12)? _____
1. Elon was an Zebulunite.
 2. He judged Israel for ten years, died and was buried in Aijalon in Zebulun.
- F. What is the name of the Twelfth judge (Judg. 12:13-15)? _____
1. Abdon was from Pirathon in Ephraim and judges Israel eight years.
 2. He was also of royalty as Ibzan as "He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who rode on seventy young donkeys. He judged Israel eight years" (Judg 12:14).

Conclusion:

1. The period of the "Judges" is a troublesome time for God's people of this dispensation.
2. However, we can learn about God's longsuffering and man's need to repent of sin.



Samson, The Thirteenth Judge Over Israel

Judges 13:1 – 16:31

Introduction:

1. Read: Judges 13:1 – 16:31
2. The first twelve chapters of the book of Judges reveal the first twelve named Judges. Israel's cycle of apostasy can be readily identified as they sin, suffer affliction, repent and are delivered from oppression.
3. This lesson takes a closer look at Samson, the thirteenth judge over Israel.

Discussion:

I. Samson Is Born To Monoah and His Wife (Judges 13:1-25).

- A. This lesson opens with these words, "Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years" (Judge. 13:1).
- B. An Angel of the Lord appeared to Monoah's wife, who was barren and had not children (Judg. 13:2).
- C. What did the Angel of the Lord reveal to her (Judg. 13:3)? _____
- D. What shall this child be from birth (Judg. 13:5)? _____
 1. He must abstain from the grape in all of its forms (Num. 6:1-21).
 2. His hair could not be cut (Num. 6:1-21).
 3. No contact with the dead (Num. 6:1-21).
- E. From whom would this son "begin to deliver Israel" (Judg. 13:5)? _____
- F. The remainder of the text reveals Monoah receiving the news from his wife about a future son and how an angel of the Lord revealed it to her.
- G. What happened to the Angel of the Lord when Monoah offered up a burnt offering (Judg. 13:15-21)? _____

- H. So it happened "the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. And the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol" (Judg. 13:24-25).

II. Samson Desires To Marry (Judges 14:1-20).

- A. Samson "went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife" (Judg. 14:1-2).

- B. Samson's father and mother replied, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" And Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well." (Judg. 14:3).
1. Samson violated the law of Moses by marrying this Philistine woman (Ex. 34:16; Deut. 7:3-4).
 2. Notice, however, God will use the weakness of Samson to deliver Israel from the Philistines (Judg. 14:4).
- C. So Samson "went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came to the vineyards of Timnah" (Judg. 14:5).
1. What happened to Samson on his way to Timnah (Judg. 14:5-6)? _____
 2. Samson continues onto Timnah the woman pleased Samson well (Judg. 14:7).
- D. Samson held a wedding feast as the custom was in those days and it was attended by thirty Philistines. Samson told them if they could solve his riddle he would give them each a set of garments.
1. He asked them to explain, "Out of the eater came something to eat, And out of the strong came something sweet" (Judg. 14:14).
 2. How did the Philistine men solve the riddle (Judg. 14:14-18a)? _____
 3. With what words and action did Samson respond (Judg. 14:18b – 19)? _____
- E. What happened with Samson's wife (Judg. 14:20)? _____

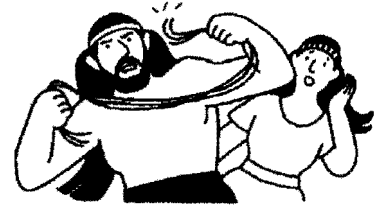
III. Samson Wages Retaliation Against The Philistines (Judges 15:1-20).

- A. Samson returns to visit his wife only to learn she has been given to another man (Judg. 15:1-2)?
- B. Samson "went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails. When he had set the torches on fire, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves" (Judg. 15:4-5).
1. What did the Philistines do in retaliation (Judg. 15:6)? _____
 2. Samson then, "So he attacked them hip and thigh with a great slaughter; then he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of Etam" (Judg. 15:8).
- C. The Philistines came up to Judah to take Samson captive and 3000 men of Judah went and arrested Samson to deliver him to the Philistines (Judg. 15:9-13).
1. Samson was able to free himself from the bonds and with a jawbone of a donkey he killed 1000 Philistines (Judge. 15:14-17).
 2. Samson "And he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines" (Judg. 15:20).

IV. Samson Falls In Love With Delilah, Another Philistine Woman (Judges 16:1-31).

A. Now Samson “went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her. 2

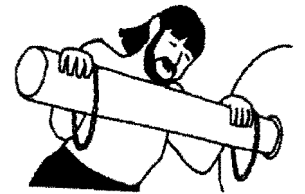
1. When the Gazites were told, “Samson has come here! “they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. They were quiet all night, saying, “In the morning, when it is daylight, we will kill him” (Judg. 16:2).
2. Samson “lay low till midnight; then he arose at midnight, took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two gateposts, pulled them up, bar and all, put them on his shoulders, and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron” (Judg. 16:3).



B. Afterward it happened that Samson loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah” (Judg. 16:4).

1. How did the Philistines use Delilah against Samson (Judg. 16:5-20)? _____

2. Then the Philistines “took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison. However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven” (Judg. 16:21-22).

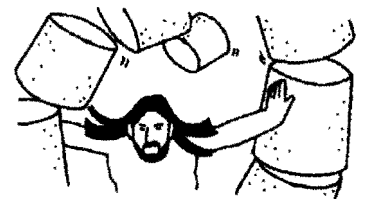


C. Now the lords of the Philistines “gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice. And they said: “Our god has delivered into our hands Samson our enemy!” (Judg. 16:23).

1. Samson was brought in to perform before the Philistines who numbers in the thousands.
2. What did Samson do when he was stationed between the pillars of the philistine temple (Judg. 16:25-30)? _____

D. Samson on this occasion “killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life” (Judg. 16:30).

E. Samson’s “brothers and all his father’s household came down and took him, and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of his father Manoah. He had judged Israel twenty years” (Judg. 16:31).



Conclusion:

In the New Testament the Hebrew Writer penned, “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens” (Heb. 11:32-34).



By: Keith N. Welch

Israel's Immorality Overflows In The Days Of The Judges

Judges 17:1 – 21:25

Introduction:

1. Read: Judges 17:1 – 21:25.
2. The narrative recorded in these chapters are appendices to the book of Judges. These stories occurred sometime during the period of the Judges.
3. A summary of this period can be found in Judges 17:6, "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
4. These events will illustrate how immoral and terrible things were in the days of the Judges.

Discussion:

I. Micah Practices Idolatry (Judges 17:1-13).

- A. Micah was a man from the mountains of Ephraim. (Judg. 17:1).
- B. He stole 1100 shekels of silver from his mother, but he repented and returned the money to her (Judg. 17:2-3).
- C. What did Micah's mother do with 200 shekels of silver (Judg. 17:4)? _____
- D. Micah further violated the law by consecrating his own son as a priest (Judg. 17:5) and later he appointed a Levite to serve as his personal priest (Judg. 17:7-12).
- E. The wise man was right when he said, "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death" (Pr. 16:25).
 1. Micah's actions "seemed right" to himself.
 2. Micah said, "Now I know that the Lord will be good to me, since I have a Levite as priest!" (Judg. 17:13).

II. The Danites Relocate And Adopt Micah's Idolatry (Judges 18:1-31).

- A. The Narrative continues "In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an inheritance for itself to dwell in; for until that day their inheritance among the tribes of Israel had not fallen to them" (Judg. 18:1; see Judg. 1:34).
- B. Danites sent five men out to find a place to relocate and they came to Ephraim and lodged at Micah's house (Judg. 18:2).
 1. The Danites left Micah's and spied out the land of Laish in the North (Judg. 18:7).
 2. Describe the land and people of Laish (Judg. 18:7-10): _____

3. They returned to the leaders with a favorable report and the decision was made to invade the territory (Judg. 18:11-12).
- D. As these men journeyed to invade Laish, the five men who had gone to spy out the country of Laish answered and said to their brethren, “Do you know that there are in these houses an ephod, household idols, a carved image, and a molded image? Now therefore, consider what you should do” (Judg. 18:14).
1. What did they decide to do (Judg. 18:15-17)? _____

 2. How did they persuade Micah’s priest to come with them (Judg. 18:18-21)? _____

- E. Micah made an attempt to recover his possessions, but to no avail (Judg. 18:22-26).
- F. The Danites went on to take possession of Laish (Judg. 18:27-31).

III. The Abuse and Death of The Levite’s Concubine (Judges 19:1-30).

- A. Another story is here told and must have occurred within 100 years of the death of Joshua and earlier in the period of the Judges (see Judg. 20:28).
- B. The Bible states, “and it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote mountains of Ephraim. He took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah” (Judg. 19:1).
- C. The Levite’s concubine “played the harlot” and returned to her father (Judg. 19:2). Her husband, the Levite, journeyed to Bethlehem to bring her back and after some delay he left with her to return home (Judg. 19:2-10).
1. As the Levite and his concubine traveled north toward Ephraim evening came upon them near Jerusalem, but passed by because it was occupied by the Jebusites. They stopped to lodge at Gibeah, which belonged to Benjamin (Judg. 19:10-14).
 2. What does Judges 19:15 say about the hospitality of Gibeah? _____
 3. Who took them in (Judg. 19:16-21)? _____
- D. As “they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, surrounded the house and beat on the door...” (Judg. 19:22).
1. What did these men of Gibeah request (Judg. 19:22)? _____

 2. What did the man of the house offer instead (Judg. 19:23-24)? _____

 3. What did the men do to the Levite’s concubine (Judg. 19:25-26)? _____

- E. The Levite returned home with his dead concubine and “When he entered his house he took a knife, laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel” (Judg. 19:28-29).
- F. What purpose did the Levite’s action serve (Judg. 19:30; see Deut 13:12-18; Josh. 22:11-14)? _____

IV. Israel Seeks Justice For The Rape and Murder of The Concubine (Judges 20:1-47).

- A. So “all the children of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, as well as from the land of Gilead, and the congregation gathered together as one man before the Lord at Mizpah. 2 And the leaders of all the people, all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand foot soldiers who drew the sword. 3 (Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.)” (Judg. 20:1-3).
 - 1. The Levite explained all that had happened (Judg. 20:4-6).
 - 2. The people of Israel gathered together against Gibeah and the tribe of Benjamin to punish the crime (Judg. 20:7-12).
 - 3. The tribe of Benjamin refuse to turn over the guilty and declared war (Judg. 20:13-16).
- B. This Civil War will consist of three battles:
 - 1. The first battle results in the Tribe of Benjamin killing 22,000 Israelites (Judg. 20:18-21).
 - 2. The second battle results in the Tribe of Benjamin killing 18,000 Israelites (Judg. 20:22-25).
 - 3. Prior to the third battle Israel inquired of the Lord and He commanded them to attack a third time, the tribe of Benjamin (Judg. 20:26-28). With a military strategy in hand Israel fought Benjamin leaving only 600 men alive (Judg. 20:29-48).

V. The Extinction Of The Tribe of Benjamin Is Halted (Judges 21:1-25).

- A. The tribe of Benjamin is in danger of becoming extinct if they are unable to have children (Judg. 22:1-4).
- B. Because Jabesh Gilead did not come up with Israel to punish the crime, Israel determined to kill all except those women who had not known a man (Judg. 21:5-11).
- C. So “they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead four hundred young virgins who had not known a man intimately; and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan” (Judg. 21:12).
- D. However, Israel was short 200 women for the men of Benjamin.
- E. How did Israel determine to provide wives for the other 200 men of Benjamin (Judg. 21:19-23)?

- F. The Period of the Judges is rightly defined by the following statement, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judg. 21:25).

Conclusion:

- 1. This final lesson from the book of Judges provides insight to the level of immorality that has engulfed the nation of Israel.
- 2. Sin will destroy nations, people and the soul!



Ruth – A Story Of Things To Come!

Ruth 1:1 – 4:22

Introduction:

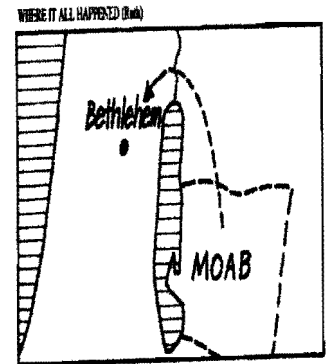
1. Read: Ruth 1:1 – 4:22
2. The events of the book of Ruth occurred during the period of the Judges (Ruth 1:1).
3. This lesson takes a look at the story revealed in the Book of Ruth.

Discussion:

I. Ruth Returns To Bethlehem With Naomi (Ruth 1:1-22).

A. The book of Ruth opens with these words, “Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons” (Ruth 1:1).

1. While in Moab Elimelech, Naomi’s husband died (Ruth 1:3).
2. While in Moab the sons of Elimelech and Naomi married Moabite women.
 - a. Mahlon married Ruth (Ruth 4:9-10).
 - b. Chilion married Orpah (Ruth 1:4).
3. Sometime later both Mahlon and Chilion also died leaving these Moabite women widows (Ruth 1:5).



B. Having survived the death of her husband, two sons, and knowing that the famine in Israel is over, she is ready to return to Bethlehem (Ruth 1:7).

C. Knowing that life would perhaps be better for them in Moab Naomi exhorted her daughter-in-laws to remain in their homeland (Ruth 1:8-13).

1. What did Orpah do (Ruth 1:14)? _____
2. What did Ruth do (Ruth 1:15-18)? _____

D. The folks of Bethlehem were excited to see Naomi. She returned with Naomi, a Moabite and with a bitter spirit (Ruth 1:19-22).

II. Ruth Gathers Grain (Ruth 2:1-23).

A. Whose field did Ruth glean grain from (Ruth 2:1-4)? _____

B. How did Boaz treat Ruth (Ruth 2:5-18)? _____



C. Ruth returned with her grain and told Naomi all that had occurred (Ruth 2:19-23).

III. Ruth Approaches A Near Kinsman (Ruth 3:1-18).

- A. Naomi expresses her desire for Ruth to marry (Ruth 3:1, 9).
 - 1. Under the Mosical law “when an Israelite died without leaving male issue, his nearest relative should marry the widow and continue the family of his deceased brother through the firstborn son of their union, he becoming the heir of the former husband.” (New Unger’s Bible Dictionary).
 - 2. This is called the Levirate Law (Deut. 25:5-10).
- B. Naomi instructs Ruth to prep herself and approach Boaz, a near kinsman, to fulfill the Levirate law (Ruth 3:1-10).
- C. What does Ruth 3:11 reveal about Ruth? _____
- D. Boaz answered Ruth’s request, “Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. 13 Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you — good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the Lord lives! Lie down until morning” (Ruth 3:12-13).
- E. Ruth returned and told all to Naomi and now they must wait for an answer from Boaz (Ruth 3:18).

IV. Boaz (Ruth 4:1-22).

- A. Boaz “went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down. 2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down” (Ruth 4:1-2).
- B. Boaz first explained how Naomi, a widow, sold her possession (Ruth 4:3-4).
 - 1. The law allowed a near relative to redeem land sold by a brother (Lev. 25:23-38).
 - 2. The near relative Boaz spoke with indicated he would redeem the land (Ruth. 4:4).
- C. However, Boaz said, “On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance” (Ruth 4:5).
 - 1. How did the nearest relative respond (Ruth 4:6). _____
 - 2. And so Boaz took Ruth to be his wife (Ruth 4:7-13).
- D. What significant about the genealogy of Boaz and Ruth as detailed in Ruth 4:17-22 (see Matthew 1:1-16)? _____



Conclusion:

During the days of the judges all was not bad. The story of Ruth demonstrates well the providence of God toward the faithful and obedient.

Lesson Seven

Judges



*Through
the Bible*

By: Keith N. Welch

Eli and Samuel Judge Israel

1 Samuel 1:1 – 4:22

Introduction:

1. Read: 1 Samuel 1:1 – 4:22
2. In the early chapters of 1 Samuel we find ourselves still reading of events that occurred during the days of the Judges.
2. This lesson takes a look at the work of Eli and the early life of Samuel.

Discussion:

I. Samuel Is Born And Dedicated (1 Samuel 1:1 – 2:11).

A. The narrative introduces to us a man named Elkanah (1 Sam. 1:1).

B. He had two wives: Hannah and Peninnah (1 Sam. 1:2).

1. What did Hannah not have that Peninnah did (1 Sam. 1:2)? _____
2. What did Peninnah do to Hannah (1 Sam. 1:6-7)? _____

C. After the meal in Shiloh Hannah returned to the tabernacle where she prayed and made the following vow, "O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head" (1 Sam. 1:11).

1. Eli, priest and (fourteenth) judge, was seated by the doorposts of the tabernacle and heard Hanna praying and thought she was drunk (1 Sam. 1:9-14).

2. Hannah explained her situation to Eli (1 Sam. 1:15-16).

3. Eli said to Hannah, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him" (1 Sam. 1:17).



D. Elkanah and his family returned to Ramah and "Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her. So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the Lord" (1 Sam. 1:19-20).

E. After Samuel was weaned Hanna dedicated Samuel to the service of the Lord (1 Sam. 1:21-28).

F. Hanna prayed to God thanking Him and acknowledging His greatness (1 Sam. 2:1-10).

G. Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli the priest (1 Sam. 2:11).

II. Eli's Sons Abuse Their Position (1 Samuel 2:12-36).

- A. What does 1 Samuel 2:12 say about Eli's sons? _____

- B. Describe how Eli's sons were corrupted a man's sacrifice and their portion (1 Sam. 2:13-17):

- C. How else were Hophni and Phinehas corrupt (1 Sam. 2:22-25)? _____

- D. Throughout all of this Samuel "ministered before the Lord... and the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the Lord and men" (1 Sam. 2:18-26).
- E. What blessing did Hannah receive (1 Sam. 2:21)? _____
- F. Then a man of God (unnamed) came to Eli and pronounced judgment against him and his house (1 Sam. 2:27-36). The following are some main points from the pronouncement:
1. "...there will not be an old man in your house..." (1 Sam. 2:31-33).
 2. "...Now this shall be a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them" (1 Sam. 2:34).
 3. "Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever..." (1 Sam. 2:35-36).

III. God Calls Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-21).

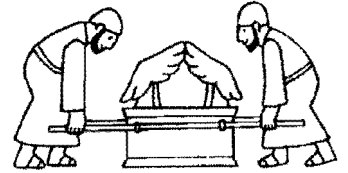
- A. When God called Samuel in the middle of the night, Samuel thought it was Eli calling (1 Sam. 3:1-5).
- B. This happened three times and then Eli realized it was God calling Samuel. Eli told Samuel the next time God calls him to say "Speak, for Your servant hears" (1 Sam. 3:10).
- C. God revealed His will to Samuel concerning His judgment against Eli's house (1 Sam. 3:11-14).
- D. What did Eli fail to do with his sons (1 Sam. 3:13)? _____

- E. Then Eli called Samuel to himself and asked what the Lord has said to him (1 Sam. 3:15-19).
- F. So "Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the Lord. Then the Lord appeared again in Shiloh. For the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord" (1 Sam. 3:19-21).

IV. The Philistines Capture The Ark of the Covenant (1 Samuel 4:1-22).

- A. Now "Israel went out to battle against the Philistines, and encamped beside Ebenezer; and the Philistines encamped in Aphek" (1 Sam. 4:1).
- B. The Philistines "...killed about four thousand men of the army in the field" (1 Sam. 4:2).
1. The Israelites called for the Ark of the Covenant to be brought into the midst of the camp from Shiloh (1 Sam. 4:3-6).
 2. The Philistines were afraid when Israel brought the Ark in the midst of Israel's camp, but the Philistine men were encouraged to be "men and fight" (1 Sam. 4:7-9).

3. The Philistines fought Israel and killed 30,000 foot soldiers (1 Sam. 4:10).
4. The Philistines captured the ark of the covenant (1 Sam. 4:11).
5. According to 1 Samuel 4:11, who was killed in the Philistine attack? _____



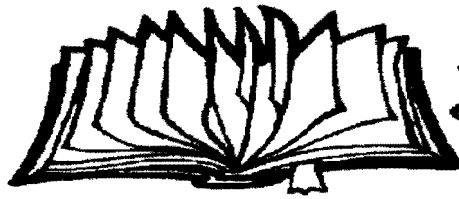
- C. Following this defeat a man of Benjamin, an Israelite, ran to Shiloh and told Eli all that had happened (1 Sam. 4:12-17).
- D. What happened to Eli (1 Sam. 4:18)? _____
- E. The writer concludes this section by telling how Phinehas' wife gave birth to a son and named him Ichabod, meaning Inglorious.
 1. Phinehas' wife said, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband" (1 Sam. 4:21).
 2. She also announced, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured" (1 Sam. 4:22).

Conclusion:

1. The Philistines will be a thorn in Israel's side and an irritant in their eyes for nearly one hundred years until they are subdued under David.
2. Even the priest hood has been corrupted in Israel and it's time the people repent and obey the Lord!

For Discussion:

- I. What value is there in studying the Old Testament (see 1 Cor. 10:1-11)?
- II. As parents what can we learn from how Eli disciplined his sons (see 1 Sam. 2:12, 22-23; 3:13)?



The Israelites Ask For A King

1 Samuel 5:1 – 9:27

Introduction:

1. Read: 1 Samuel 5:1 – 9:27
2. The Philistines are afflicting Israel and have captured the Ark of the Covenant. Samuel is Judging Israel. Samuel is the fifteenth and final Judge during the period of the Judges.
3. In this lesson Israel will ask Samuel to give them a King to be like the other nations.

Discussion:

I. The Philistines Take The Ark Into The House Of Dagon (1 Samuel 5:1-12).

- A. The "Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon" (1 Sam. 5:1-2).
 1. Dagon is the "Name of the god of the Philistines. The god had his temple ("the house of Dagon") and his priests. When the ark was captured by the Philistines, it was conducted to Ashdod where it was placed in the house of Dagon by the side of the idol" (International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia).
 2. What happened to the idol Dagon when the Ark of the Covenant was brought before it (1 Sam. 5:3-5)? _____
 3. What did God do to the people of Ashdod (1 Sam. 5:6)? _____
- B. The Philistines moved the ark from Ashdod to Gath. God also struck the men of this city with tumors (1 Sam. 5:7-9).
- C. The Ark was then moved from Gath to Ekron and God was very heavy there also (1 Sam. 5:10-12).

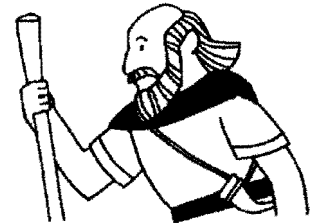
II. The Philistines Return The Ark To Israel (1 Samuel 6:1 – 1 Sam. 7:2).

- A. How long was the Ark of the Lord in the country of the Philistines (1 Sam. 6:1)? _____
- B. The Philistines built a cart, hooked two milk cows to it and placed trespass offerings on it along with the Ark (1 Sam. 6:2-11).
- C. The Philistines sent the cart on its way and the cows took the road to Beth Shemesh, which served as a sign to the Philistines that God had afflicted them (1 Sam. 6:12).
- D. Now "Now the people of Beth Shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley; and they lifted their eyes and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it" (1 Sam. 6:13).

1. What did the men of Beth Shemesh do with the cart and cows (1 Sam. 6:13-15)? _____
 2. Why did God strike “fifty thousand and seventy men” of Beth Shemesh (1 Sam. 6:19; Num. 4:5, 19-20)? _____
- E. The men of Beth Shemesh requested the men of Kirjath Jearim “to come down and take it (the ark) up with you” (1 Sam. 6:20-21).
 - F. The men “of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the Lord, and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the Lord. So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord” (1 Sam. 7:1-2).

III. Samuel Judges Israel (1 Samuel 7:3-17).

- A. Samuel “spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, “If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the Lord, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines” (1 Sam. 7:3).
- B. How did Israel respond to Samuel’s words (1 Sam. 7:4)? _____
- C. Samuel gathered all Israel to Mizpah and when the Philistines heard about this gathering, they sought to attack Israel (1 Sam. 7:5-10).
- D. Israel “went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car. Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.” So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel” (1 Sam. 7:11-13).
- E. Samuel “judged Israel all the days of his life. He went from year to year on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all those places. But he always returned to Ramah, for his home was there. There he judged Israel, and there he built an altar to the Lord” (1 Sam. 7:15-17).



IV. Israel Demands Samuel To Make Them A King (1 Samuel 8:1-22).

- A. Israel came to Samuel “Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations” (1 Sam. 8:5).
- B. Who did Israel want to be like (1 Sam. 8:5; 20)? _____
- C. Samuel spoke with God about Israel’s demand and God told Samuel to do as they asked, but forewarn them of things to come (1 Sam. 8:6-18).
- D. The People “refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, “No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles” (1 Sam. 8:19-20).
- E. God said to Samuel “Heed their voice, and make them a king” and then Samuel told the men of Israel “Every man go to his city” (1 Sam. 8:22).

V. **Saul Is Selected To Be King** (1 Samuel 9:1-27).

- A. We are introduced to Saul, the future king of Israel, when his father, Kish, instructed his son, Saul, to go and look for his lost donkeys. Saul and a servant passed through the mountains of Ephraim and through the land of Shalisha, Shaalim and the land of the Benjamites, but did not find the lost donkeys (1 Sam. 9:1-4).
- B. When “they had come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, "Come, let us return, lest my father cease caring about the donkeys and become worried about us” (1 Sam. 9:5).
- C. The servant said to Saul, “Look now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honorable man; all that he says surely comes to pass. So let us go there; perhaps he can show us the way that we should go” (1 Sam. 9:6).
- D. Saul and his servant enter the city and find Samuel. Samuel invites them to eat with him and latter he commanded Saul, “Tell the servant to go on ahead of us." And he went on. "But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God” (1 Sam. 9:7-27).

Conclusion:

The period of the judges lasted nearly 300 years (1390-1080?) and came to an end when the people asked for a king.

For Discussion:

I. What lessons have we learned from the time period of the Judges?

II. What Bible Period comes after the Judges?