

Bible Survey

Lesson 5 – Judges and Ruth

Judges

1. The Summary

The book of Judges continues the story of Israel's history from where we left it at the end of Joshua. At the time they made a commitment to serve God and keep His commandments (Joshua 24:19-24). But that was not the case.

The book of Judges is much different than Joshua. Joshua was marked by _____. Judges is characterized by _____. In fact, some have called Judges the *Book of _____*. Another refers to this book as one of the “saddest Biblical Books.”

Joshua was the story of Israel taking possession of what God had given them. All through Joshua we were reminded that there was still much land to be possessed. Joshua was the story of _____ the land as a whole but not in detail. There were large numbers of the enemy still in possession of cities and strongholds in the midst of the 12 tribes of Israel. The command was to _____ the enemy after they had possessed the land. Judges is the story of Israel's _____ in this regard. The ideal book of Judges would have been a history of progress. The real and actual book of Judges is a history of _____ to make progress. While there are deliverances along the way, the tone of the book is predominantly one of oppression and defeat because “every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (21:25).

2. The Author

The author of this book is not given anywhere in the Bible, but according to Jewish tradition Samuel wrote it.

3. The Date

- Written after Saul became king (17:6; 18:1; 19:1)
- Written before David conquered Jerusalem (1:21)
- It covers about 340 years from the death of Joshua to the death of Samson (1390 – 1050 BC)
- The events of the book of Judges appear to represent about 410 years but some of the judges were contemporaneous rather than successive (see 1 Kings 6:1)
 - 1 Kings 6:1 = 480 years after the exodus from Egypt
 - 4 years of Solomon's reign
 - 40 years of David's reign
 - 40 years of Saul's reign
 - 16 years conquering the land
 - 40 years wandering
 - 141 years total

$480 - 141 = 339$ years under judges.

Conclusion = some of these judges were contemporaneous

4. The Purpose

Judges continues the history of Israel from the death of _____ to the time of _____. It shows the consequences of _____ to God.

5. The Theme

Disobedience to God Results in Sorrow and Suffering

6. The Key Verses

2:20,21; 21:25 (Every man did that which was right in his own eyes)

7. The Title

Judges might be better rendered “deliverer.” The judges were raised up by God to deliver Israel from their oppressors. The judges were not rulers as such but more like military generals. The individual judges were each associated basically with only a portion of the nation and some related only to a single tribe.

8. The Outline

- I. The Preface (1-2)
- II. Israel’s Apostasies, Captivities, and Deliverances (3-16)
- III. Anarchy in Israel (17-21)

9. The Highlights

JUDGES

DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD RESULTS IN SORROW AND SUFFERING

PREFACE 1-2	<p>Incomplete victory because of disobedience (1)</p> <p>Disobedience, judgment, and institution of judges (2)</p>
ISRAEL'S APOSTASIES, CAPTIVITIES, AND DELIVERANCES 3-16	<p>Othniel (nephew of Caleb) defeats Mesopotamia (3)</p> <p>Ehud delivers Israel from Philistines (3)</p> <p>Shamgar delivers Israel from Philistines (3)</p> <p>Deborah defeats Jabin, King of Canaan (4,5)</p> <p>Gideon defeats the Midianites (6-8)</p> <p>Abimelech murders his brothers and makes himself king (9)</p> <p>Tola and Jair judge Israel (10)</p> <p>Jephthah defeats the Ammonites (11)</p> <p>Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon judge Israel (12)</p> <p>Samson defeats the Philistines (13-16)</p>
ANARCHY IN ISRAEL 17-21	<p>The idolatry of Micah and Migration of Dan (17-18)</p> <p>The immorality of Benjamin (19-21)</p>
About 340 YEARS (1390 - 1050 BC)	

Ruth

1. The Summary

The book of Ruth concerns a young girl from Moab who married into a Jewish family while the family was in Moab during a famine in Israel. Elimelech and his wife, Naomi, had two sons. While the family was in Moab each one of the sons married a girl from that country. Elimelech died. The two sons died. This left the widow, Naomi, with her two daughters-in-law who were also widows. Naomi decided to go back to Bethlehem. She suggested that her two daughters-in-law remain in Moab and marry again. One of them did but the other, Ruth, stayed with Naomi, adopted her religious faith and accompanied her back to Bethlehem. Ruth married a man who was distantly related to the family of Naomi and became the great-grandmother of David.

2. The Date

The events of Ruth took place during the time of the Judges (1:1). It was probably written during the reign of David because David is mentioned in the book but Solomon is not.

3. The Theme

Ancestress of David

4. The Key Verses

1:16; 4:17

5. The Outline

- I. Ruth Deciding (1)
- II. Ruth Gleaning (2)
- III. Ruth Requesting (Proposing) (3)
- IV. Ruth Marrying (4)

RUTH

RUTH, ANCESTRESS OF DAVID

RUTH DECIDING
(Chapter 1)

RUTH GLEANING
(Chapter 2)

RUTH REQUESTING
(PROPOSING)
(Chapter 3)

RUTH MARRYING
(Chapter 4)

During the period of the Judges (1:1)