

Joshua, Judges, and Ruth



Part 2

Gardendale church of Christ
2024

DATE	LESSON	PAGE	TEACHER
	1	3	
	2	5	
	3	7	
	4	9	
	5	11	
	6	13	
	7	15	
	8	17	
	9	19	
	10	21	
	11	23	
	12	25	
	13	27	
	14	29	
	15	31	
	16	33	
	17	35	
	18	37	
	19	39	
	20	41	
	21	43	
	22	47	

andrew@gardendalechurchofchrist.com

The 300

1. How many men did the Midianites have? (8:10)
2. What did God say was wrong with the armies of Israel?
3. Who were the first people cut?
4. How many were left?
5. When they drank from the river, which group was cut?
6. What did God tell Gideon to do if he was afraid?
7. Describe the dream.
8. What 3 items did each man have?

9. How did God defeat the Midianites according to verse 22?

10. Who joined the army?

11. Thought Question: What do we learn about our relationship with God from this chapter?

“Rule over us”

1. Why did the Ephraimites reprimand Gideon?
2. What was Gideon’s answer as to why he did not invite Ephraim?
3. What did Gideon ask the people of Succoth?
4. How did Succoth answer?
5. What information did Gideon get from the young man from Succoth? (v.14)
6. Why did Gideon kill Zebah and Zalmunna?
7. What was Gideon’s firstborn’s name?

8. Thought Question: Why would Israel want Gideon to become their king?

9. What does Gideon say rightly about the king of Israel?

10. Thought Question: Why did Gideon build an Ephod?

“King” Abimelech

1. Who was Abimelech? (8:31)
2. Where was Abimelech’s mother from?
3. What proposal does he make to his mother’s family?
4. Research Question: Abimelech’s family funds his “campaign” with the temple treasury of Baal-Berith. What is the irony between this event and his father, Jerubbaal? (6:32)
5. What did Abimelech and the worthless hired men do to the other sons of Gideon?
6. What is the message(s) of Jotham’s parable about the trees finding a king?

Abimelech's Death

1. How did Shechem persuade Gaal to attack Abimelech?
2. How is Gaal's argument to the men of Shechem like the argument Abimelech made to Shechem around three years ago?
3. Who is Zebul and what did he tell Abimelech?
4. How did Zebul get Gaal to leave the city and fight Abimelech in the fields?
5. What was the result of the battle between Gaal, Shechem, and Abimelech?
6. As Abimelech retook Shechem, where the people hide? (9:46)
7. How did Abimelech kill the people in the tower?

8. Inadvertently, what did Abimelech do to the temple of Baal-Berith?

9. Later, when Abimelech took Thebez, how did he plan to destroy their tower?

10. Who killed him?

11. Why did Abimelech have his armorbearer kill him?

12. Today, around three thousand years later, what do we say about Abimelech's death?

13. Who repaid the wickedness of Abimelech?

Prelude to Jephthah

1. What area did Tola serve as a judge?
2. What area did Jair serve as a judge?
3. Thought Question: What is the purpose of mentioning the number of sons and donkeys of these different judges?
4. Who harassed the Israelites in Gilead for years?
5. How far did the Ammonites press into west Israel?
6. Thought Question: Now that the Philistines have returned, which tribe(s) are being pinched between the Ammonites and the Philistines?
7. What did the Israelites finally admit? (v.10)

8. What was God's response to their appeal? (v.14)

9. Why did God finally act and deliver the Israelites?

10. After the army gathered, what are the people in Gilead looking for?

Jephthah Part I

1. Who were Jephthah parents?
2. What did Jephthah do when he was driven out of his father's home?
3. Later, while East Israel was at war with Ammon, what did the elders want from Jephthah?
4. What was Jephthah's response?
5. What agreement does Jephthah and the elders come to?
6. What did the King of Ammon want from Israel?
7. In general, what did Jephthah remind the King of Ammon about Joshua and Moses' conquest of the area east of the Jordan?

8. What argument does Jephthah make about the God of Israel and the god of the Ammonites?

9. How much time has past since Moses and Joshua's conquest of Ammon?)

10. Why was Jephthah victorious? (v.29)

We have time set aside for the next lesson to discuss Jephthah's rash vow.

Jephthah Part II

1. What foolish vow does Jephthah take during the battle?

This story purposely ends vaguely, not outright saying that Jephthah killed his daughter. Instead saying, he “did as he vowed.” This is another of the writer’s attacks against the people of the period. That they would make foolish vows and perhaps even try to carry them out. The Law provided atonement for those that made rash vows. A wrong cannot be righted by another wrong. I imagine that Jephthah was not the type of person that spent time reading Leviticus. If the man had read the Law, his daughter would not have needed to fear for her life. One of the themes of Judges continues, an innocent woman suffers because of the ignorance of a leader.

⁴ “If anyone makes a rash vow, whether the vow is good or bad, when he realizes what a foolish vow he has taken, he is guilty.

⁵ “In any of these cases, he shall confess his sin ⁶ and bring his guilt offering to the Lord, a female lamb or goat, and the priest shall make atonement for him, and he shall be freed from his sin, and need not fulfill the vow. (Leviticus 5:4-6, TLB)

2. Why was Ephraim angry at Jephthah?

3. What was Jephthah’s answer to Ephraim?

4. How did the Gileadites check the people crossing the Jordan to see if they were Ephraimite?

5. Where was Ibzan from?

6. Which tribe was Elon from?

7. Thought Question: What is the purpose of the record of sons, daughters, and donkeys of the judges?

Birth of Samson

1. How long had Israel been in the hand of the Philistines?
2. Which tribe did Manoah and his wife belong to?
3. What did the Angel of the Lord tell Manoah's wife to be careful about?
4. Why would she need to keep these practices?
5. What was to be the purpose of this miraculous child?
6. What did Manoah do after hearing the message from his wife?
7. What was the Angel of the Lord's answer to Manoah's questions?

8. What does the Angel of the Lord say about the young goat they offered?

9. How did the Angel of the Lord leave?

10. Why did Manoah think they were going to die?

11. How did Manoah's wife reason they were not going to die?

12. What began to happen at Mahaneh Dan?

Samson's Marriage

1. How does Samson's father react to his son asking for a Philistine wife?
2. Why did Samson like this woman? (v.4)
3. What happened to Samson while in Timnah?
4. Thought Question: Why did Samson not share this story with his parents?
5. What strange thing did Samson find after leaving his soon-to-be wife?
6. What did Samson propose to the thirty men about his riddle?
7. How did they find the answer to the riddle?

8. How did Samson's wife get the answer to the riddle?

9. How did Samson collect the clothes for the thirty men?

10. What is stated before Samson does an amazing feat?

11. Thought Question: What should have Samson done when he discovered that his wife told the answer to the riddle?

Samson Terrorizes the Philistines

1. What happened to Samson's wife? (14:20)
2. What does Samson do in the time of wheat harvest?
3. What had her father assumed about Samson's feelings towards his daughter?
4. Thought Question: Why would the father try to appease the wrath of Samson?
5. What did Samson do to the Philistines for losing his wife?
6. How did the Philistines retaliate?
7. How did Samson retaliate?
8. What do the Philistines demand of Judah?

Samson and Delilah

1. Thought Question: Do you think Samson was a faithful judge to Israel, like Gideon and Deborah?
2. What did Samson do to with the city gate in Gaza?
3. What were the Philistines lords willing to pay for information on Samson's weaknesses?
4. What was Samson's first answer to Delilah's question?
5. What was Samson's second answer to Delilah?
6. What was Samson's third answer to Delilah?

7. Thought Question: How did Delilah manipulate Samson into telling her the truth?

8. What did the Philistines do to Samson after capturing him?

9. Who did the Philistines praise for the capture of Samson?

10. When Samson prayed to the Lord, what did he want vengeance for?

11. What is said about Samson's final feat to destroy the temple and kill all the Philistine nobles? (v.30)

Micah's Idols

1. What had Micah done with his mother's silver?
2. Why does Micah's mother give him the silver back?
3. What did Micah have and create for his idolatry?
4. Why is Micah's family so wrong about what pleases the Lord?
5. Thought Question: Micah's first priest was his son, but when he meets a Levite, he asks him to be his new priest. Was Micah completely ignorant of God's word?
6. Thought Question: Did Micah's want to please the Lord?
7. Research Question: Which land was Dan supposed to own and why were they not occupying it?

8. Why did the Danites arrive at Micah's house?

9. What was the Danites' report of the land?

Micah and Dan

1. Who did the Danites recognize at Micah's home?
2. Thought Question: Can this priest really inquire of the Lord?
3. How many Danites went armed towards Micah's home?
4. What did they take from Micah's house?
5. What did they offer Micah's priest?
6. What was the priest's response?
7. Why did Dan want Laish?

8. What did they do in Laish?

The Wicked Men of Gibeah

We have been trained to look for heroes and villains in every story. However, this is not just a story, it is a history. Please consider while reading that there may not be any heroes in this lesson, only villains and victims. We do not need to justify evil actions simply because we are looking for a hero.

1. Why was this Levite's concubine living with her father?
2. Why did the Levite travel to Bethlehem?
3. Thought Question: Why was the Levite not willing to spend the night in Bethlehem?
4. Why was the Levite not willing to spend the night in Jerusalem?
5. Why were they preparing to spend the night in the open square?

6. What terrible compromise do the old man and the Levite offer the perverted men of Gibeah?

7. Thought Question: This story begins with, “When there was no king in Israel.” I believe it implies this question. What would have King David done if he found himself in this Levite’s position?

8. What did the Levite tell his concubine as she lay dead or dying at the threshold of the door?

9. Why did the Levite send pieces of his concubine’s body throughout all Israel?

Israel Punishes Benjamin

1. How far did all of Israel travel from to gather before the Lord?
2. What did the Levite ask of the leaders of Israel?
3. How did the people respond?
4. Thought Question: Why did they use this selection process from every tribe to make the attack force against Benjamin?
5. What did Israel offer Benjamin first?
6. What could seven hundred left-handed Benjamite men do?
7. Who did the Lord choose to attack first?

8. Why did children of Israel weep and fast at the house of God?
(v.26)

9. What was the turning point in the last battle that caused Benjamin's
army to be destroyed?

10. How many Benjamites survived?

Benjamin's Survival

1. What did the men of Israel swear at Mizpah?
2. Why did the people weep before the house of God after their victory over Benjamin?
3. What did the people already regret by the next morning at Mizpah?
4. Why did Israel send twelve thousand to attack Jabesh Gilead?
5. Who was the only group allowed to live from Jabesh Gilead?
6. What problem did the people think these survivors would resolve?
7. Since the men had taken an oath not give the Benjamites wives, what did they tell them to do?

“For wherever you go, I will go”

Hebrew tradition keeps the book of Ruth at the end of the Judges’ scroll. Judges and Ruth probably have the same team of authors, prophets living during the time of David.

1. What is the setting of Ruth’s account?
2. What all happened to Naomi after living in Moab for about ten years?
3. What did Naomi instruct her daughters-in-law to do?
4. Why did Naomi insist they leave her? (v.11-13)
5. What is contrasted between Orpah and Ruth? (v.14)
6. What was Ruth’s response when Naomi tells Ruth to follow Orpah back to her people and to her gods?

7. What did Naomi do when she saw that Ruth was determined to go with her?

8. Why did Naomi change her name to Mara?

9. At what time did Naomi and Ruth arrive at Bethlehem?

“Under whose wings you have come for refuge”

1. Who was Boaz?
2. Why did Ruth go to the fields?
3. What did Boaz want to know from his reapers?
4. What does the leader of the reapers tell Boaz about Ruth?
5. What does Boaz tell Ruth?
6. Why did Boaz tell these things to Ruth? (v.11-12)
7. What did Ruth do while they were eating together?

8. What did Boaz tell his reapers to do while they were bundling grain?

9. Research Question: How much is an ephah of barley?

10. What did Naomi tell Ruth about Boaz?

“More kindness at the end than at the beginning”

1. What all did Naomi instruct Ruth to do the night that Boaz is winnowing barley?
2. At what time did Boaz discover Ruth?
3. Why did Boaz wish to marry Ruth? (v.10-11)
4. What is Boaz’s only hindrance?
5. Why did Boaz get Ruth to leave the threshing floor early the next morning?

6. What did Boaz send Ruth home with?

7. What did Naomi assure Ruth that Boaz will do?

“Who is better to you than seven sons”

1. Where did Boaz go to meet his relative?
2. Who witnesses the conversation?
3. What did he tell his relative to do with Naomi’s land?
4. After he says he wants to redeem the land, what did Boaz then inform him of? (v.5)
5. How did Boaz and his relative confirm the exchange of the right to marry Ruth and obtain Naomi’s land?
6. How did the elders bless Boaz and Ruth’s marriage?
7. What did Boaz and Ruth name their son?
8. What is Naomi now assured of?

9. Thought Question: Can we draw any conclusions based off the last verse of Judges and the last verse of Ruth?

The Women of The Conquest

1. What do you think are important characteristics or events of each person's account?

a. Rahab – Joshua 2:3-21

b. Caleb's Daughter – Joshua 15:16-19

c. Zelophehad's Daughters – Joshua 17:3-6

d. Deborah – Judges 4-5

e. Jaal – Judges 4:17-23, 24-30

f. The woman from Thebez – Judges 9:50-57

g. Jephthah's daughter – Judges 11:29-40

h. Samson's mother – Judges 13

i. Samson's wife – Judges 14 - 15:6

j. Delilah – Judges 16:1-20

k. The Levites's Concubine – Judges 19:1-26

l. The kidnapped wives – Judges 21:12, 20-25

m. Naomi –

n. Orpah – Ruth 1:6-14

o. Ruth –

2. What are some similarities between Caleb's daughter and Zelophehad's daughters, and Naomi?

3. What are some similarities concerning the requests of Rahab, Zelophehad's daughters, Caleb's daughter, and Ruth?

4. What do Rahab and Ruth have in common?

5. What do Jaal and the woman from Thebez?

6. What do the stories of Jephthah's daughter and the kidnapped women have in common?

7. Who were the women that were able to manipulate others to get what they desired?

8. Who were the women that suffered under the hands of evil or foolish leaders?

9. Who were the women that sought God for safety or solutions?

“There was no king in Israel
everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

1. Who was the first established leader of this conquest period?
2. How was he selected to lead the people?
3. Who did the people first try to make their king?
4. Why did he reject it?
5. Who became the first “self-declared” king of Israel?
6. What were the advantages of the people **not** having an earthly king?

7. What were the advantages of the people having an earthly king?

8. What are some events that the writer implies a king would have prevented?

9. To combine this lesson and the last, who are the mothers of the king?