

# INVASION AND CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND AND THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

*Joshua 1:9*

*Have not I commanded thee?  
Be strong and of a good courage;  
be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed:  
for the LORD thy God is with thee  
whithersoever thou goest.*

by

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# INVASION AND CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND

## LESSON 1

**Our Bible Text: Deuteronomy 34, Numbers 27:18, and Joshua 1: 1- 9**

### **GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO BE FAITHFUL AND GIVES THEM A NEW LEADER**

The nation of Israel had been wandering in the wilderness of Sinai for 40 years. They had been wandering because they had been afraid to trust in God and take the land that God had promised them. God told the Israelites that they would wander in the wilderness until every man who had been afraid to keep God's law had died. Joshua and Caleb were the only two men who had not been afraid. They were the only two men of that generation who were allowed to go into the promised land because they were the only men who had been sent into the land and had wanted Israel to go in and take the land for their own possession.

Even Moses, who was the leader of God's people, was not allowed to enter the promised land because of the sin he did at Kadesh. Before it was time for the people to go into the land, God took Moses up on Mount Nebo and let him see all the land that He was going to give His people. Moses could see the land of Gilead unto Dan, Ephraim, Manasseh, all the land of Judah, the plains of Jericho, and Zoar.

After God let Moses see the land from the top of Mount Nebo, God buried Moses in a valley in the land of Moab. When Moses died he was 120 years old. His eyes could still see well and he still had his physical strength. Moses did not blame God for not letting him go into the land. He knew that he must be punished for the sin that he did.

Before Moses died he warned the Israelites that they should remain faithful to God. Being faithful is what would cause God to help them fight their battles and conquer their enemies as they took the land that God promised them. If they were faithful, God would give them great blessings. But if they were unfaithful God would bring curses upon them and upon the land.

God chose a man to take Moses' place after Moses died. He chose a man named Joshua. God told Moses to lay his hands upon Joshua so that he would receive the spirit of wisdom to lead God's people.

The Israelites knew who Joshua was. Joshua had been in the Lord's army when they fought the battle with Amalek. He was with Moses when Moses went up into Mount Sinai to receive

God's Law, and as Moses came down from the mountain. He was with Moses at the tent of the congregation when the pillar of cloud descended upon it, and when he spoke out to Moses about Eldad and Medad prophesying. Joshua was one of the twelve spies that wanted to go in and possess the land of Canaan, and because of his and Caleb's faith, he and Caleb were the only two men who survived the wandering in the wilderness.

After Moses died, God spoke to Joshua and said, "Moses, My servant, is dead. Get up and go over the Jordan with all these people, unto the land that I have given you. Everywhere your feet walk will be yours, just as I promised Moses."

God told Joshua what the borders of the promised land would be. The land would be from the Negeb in the South, to Lebanon in the North. From the great river Euphrates in the East, to the Great Sea on the West.

If Israel followed God's law, God promised that He would be with them and would not forsake them. Let's watch Israel and see if they follow God. Let's also notice the promises that God keeps.

Does God promise the same thing to us? Yes! If we are faithful to keep God's laws today He will not forsake us. God keeps His promises!

## **MAP WORK**

**Find and circle on your map**

**Mediterranean Sea**

**Negeb**

**Lebanon (Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon Range)**

**Mount Nebo**

**Jordan River**

**Dan**

## Memory Work

Joshua 1:8a

*" This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth,  
but you shall meditate in it day and night,  
that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it..."*

### MATCH

40 years	God let him see the promised land from the top of Mount Nebo.
Canaan	What Israel would receive if they were faithful to God.
Moses	The only two men of their generation to see the promised land.
Joshua and Caleb	Israel wandered in the wilderness this many years.
God	What Israel would receive if they were <u>not</u> faithful to God.
Joshua	The promised land.
Blessings	The new leader God chose for Israel.
Cursings	He told Joshua to walk over the promised land and that everywhere his feet walked would be his.

THOUGHT QUESTION: Does God promise us blessings and cursings? \_\_\_\_\_

# INVASION AND CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND

## LESSON 2

**Our Bible Text: Joshua 1: 10 - 18; 2: 3; 4; 5: 1 - 12; Numbers 32: 1 - 5, 16 - 32**

**Four things Israel must do before they go in and take the land of Canaan:**

- 1) Cross the Jordan River.**
- 2) Camp at Gilgal.**
- 3) Circumcise all of the male Israelites.**
- 4) Keep the Passover.**

This is an exciting time for Israel! It is finally time to prepare for taking the land that God had promised them! Joshua is the new leader of Israel.

The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and one-half of the tribe of Manasseh wanted their homes to be on the east side of the Jordan River. Joshua talked to the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh and reminded them of their promise made with Moses to go with the other tribes to the west side of the Jordan and help those tribes conquer the land. They had promised that they would leave their homes and families on the east side of the Jordan and would not return home until all the land was conquered and all the children of Israel received the land God had promised them.

Joshua sent two spies in the city of Jericho before they went to take the land. There was a harlot named Rahab in Jericho and she took them to the roof of her house and hid the two spies under some stalks of flax so the king's soldiers could not find them. She asked that the spies would save her and her family when Israel came in to take the land. She told them that she had heard of the wonderful things the God of Israel had done, and she had faith in the God of Israel.

Rahab's house was on the wall of the city, and she let a rope down through a window for the spies to escape by. She said, "Go to the mountain or the king's men will find you. Hide three days until they come back into the city, then you may go back."

When the spies returned to Joshua they told him that the Lord had delivered the land into their hands and that all the people in Jericho were afraid of them. So, Joshua prepared to take the land. The people of Israel moved from Shittim closer to the Jordan River. Joshua told the officers of Israel to prepare to cross the river Jordan.

The officers told Israel to follow the priests and Levites who were carrying the ark of the covenant, but to keep some space between themselves and them.

On the 10th day of the month, God was going to do a miracle through Joshua to show Israel that He was with Joshua. When the priests came to the Jordan River, they were to stand still in the water. The waters of the river rose up and stood in a great heap a great distance away. The waters going toward the Dead Sea were cut off and the people passed through the river on dry land.

After all the Israelites had crossed the Jordan River, Joshua told 12 men, one from each tribe, to carry 12 stones from the place where the priests were standing and carry these stones with them to Gilgal where they would camp for the night. The stones were to be a memorial to help Israel remember when God brought them across the Jordan on dry land. From then on, whenever the Israelite's children would see this memorial, they were to tell their children how God had carried them over the Jordan on dry land.

After they crossed the river, the kings of the land heard how God had dried up the waters and let Israel pass over the river. They became very afraid of Israel.

While the Israelites camped at Gilgal, God commanded Joshua to circumcise all the men who had been born in the wilderness while they wandered there. They also kept their first Passover feast at Gilgal on the 14th day of the month. After they kept the Passover feast and ate the food that grew in the land, the manna that God had been feeding them stopped the next day. They no longer needed to be fed by God.

Israel's wandering was over! How wonderful! They were now in the land that God had promised them, but the work was just beginning. They still had to conquer the land and destroy their enemies. God promised them that He would be with them as they did this!

## MAP WORK

Find and circle on your map: Jordan River, Abel-Shittim, Jericho, Gilgal

### Memory Work

Joshua 1:8a

*" This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth,  
but you shall meditate in it day and night,  
that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it..."*

## MATCH

Joshua	She hid the two spies Joshua sent.
Reuben, Gad and 1/2 tribe of Manasseh	They stood still in the water with the ark of the covenant.
Jericho	Israel crossed this river on dry land.
Rahab	God stopped sending this when they ate the food that grew in the land.
Priests	Joshua sent two spies there.
12 Stones	Israel celebrated this on the 14th day of the month.
Jordan	All the men of Israel were circumcised there.
Gilgal	He was the new leader of Israel after Moses.
Manna	These were a memorial to help Israel remember when they crossed the Jordan on dry land.
Passover Feast	These 3 tribes wanted to live on the East side of the Jordan and promised to help the other tribes take the land on the west side.

Did you know???

The woman Rahab, who helped the Israelite spies, was in the lineage of Jesus Christ. We can read about her in Matthew 1.

## INVASION AND CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND

### LESSON 3

LESSON TEXT: Joshua 5: 13 - 15; 6

### HOW DID ISRAEL INVADE AND TAKE THE LAND?

The chart below tells us how the Israelites invaded and took the land. They did this by a series of campaigns. A "campaign" is a military operation that takes place in a certain area to achieve a certain goal. Israel had "campaigns" to take certain areas of Canaan.

First -- CENTRAL CAMPAIGN (Joshua 5 - 8)

Second -- SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN (Joshua 9 - 10)

Third -- NORTHERN CAMPAIGN (Joshua 11)

*We will study the CENTRAL CAMPAIGN first.*

### CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

#### *Israel takes the city of Jericho*

What a happy time for Israel! They had already crossed the Jordan River and were camped at Gilgal waiting for the time when they would take the promised land for their very own!

Jericho was the first city that they would conquer. Before they did this, Joshua was standing one day looking over Jericho. He saw a man standing in front of him with his sword uncovered in his hand. Joshua wanted to know if this man was on the side of Israel or on the side of their enemies. The man told him that he was the commander of the Lord's army. When Joshua learned this he fell down with his face to the earth and worshipped him. The commander of the Lord's army told Joshua to take his sandals off because the place he was standing was holy. Then the commander of the Lord's army told Joshua that He had given Jericho into his hand. This meant that Joshua and Israel would be able to defeat Jericho and take it for their own city. The commander of the Lord's army told Joshua how he would take the city.

Joshua called for the priests and told them what to do. For seven days they followed the Lord's instructions. The Lord told them, through Joshua, that everything in the city was to



be destroyed except Rahab and those with her in her house. The soldiers were not allowed to take anything out of the city for themselves or they would be cursed, and would bring trouble and destruction on Israel. Any silver, gold, bronze or iron were to be taken and put into the Lord's treasury. All people in Jericho were to be killed. All the animals were to be killed. Joshua also told the people that a curse would be on Jericho and if anyone tried to rebuild the city they would be cursed.

This is what Israel was told to do: They were to march around the city once a day for six days. Seven priests carrying a trumpet were to march in front of the ark of the covenant. On the seventh day they were to march around the city seven times while the priests blew their trumpets. When they made a long blast on the ram's horn and when they heard the sound of the trumpet all the people were to shout and the wall of Jericho would fall flat. Then every man could go forward into the city.

Joshua called the priests and said to them, "Take the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests carry seven trumpets of ram's horns in front of it. Go forward and march around the city. Let the armed men walk before the priests."

Joshua told the people, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your mouth until the day I tell you to shout."

For six days the children of Israel did the same thing. The armed men would march in front of the priests who were blowing the trumpets, and the priests carrying the ark of the covenant would follow them. Then the Israelites would return back to their camp.

On the seventh day they rose up early in the morning. That day they marched around the city seven times. On the seventh time that they marched around the city, and the priests had blown their trumpets, Joshua told them, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city."

The people shouted! The priests blew their trumpets! The people heard the trumpets. They heard the shouts, and the wall of Jericho fell down flat! Israel marched into the city and took it. They destroyed all in the city -- men, women, young, old, oxen, sheep, donkeys, and killed them all with the sword.

Joshua told the two spies that had spied out the city, "Go to the harlot's house and bring her out and all those who belong to her." So they brought Rahab out, her father, her mother, and all her kin.

Jericho was burned. The Lord was with Joshua, and the news of him spread all throughout the land.

## **MAP WORK: Jericho**

## TRUE OR FALSE

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Gilgal was the first city that Israel would conquer.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua saw a man who told him he was a commander of the Lord's army.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The Lord said everything in Jericho must be destroyed, except Rahab and her household.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ For six days Israel marched around Jericho and shouted.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ On the seventh day that Israel marched around the city and shouted, the walls fell down.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Rahab and all her household were killed.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The Lord was with Joshua and Israel.

### Memory Work

Joshua 1:8a

*" This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth,  
but you shall meditate in it day and night,  
that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it..."*

# INVASION AND CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND

## LESSON 4

**Lesson Text: Joshua 7: 1 - 26**

### **CENTRAL CAMPAIGN**

#### **Israel Battles Ai**

After the Israelites conquered the city of Jericho the Lord became angry with them because of a man named Achan. Achan had taken some things from the city of Jericho. This was against God's law. God had told the Israelites that they were not to take anything out of the city to keep for themselves. Joshua did not know what Achan had done.

The next city that Israel was to take and conquer was the city of Ai. Joshua sent men to Ai to spy out the land. They returned to Joshua and said, "We don't need to send all of the Lord's army to fight this city because it is not very big. Only send two or three thousand men to fight the city."

Joshua sent 3,000 men, but these men ran away from Ai, and the men of Ai killed 36 of their men. This made the men of Israel lose their courage and become afraid.

Joshua became afraid and tore his clothes. He fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the covenant and stayed there until evening, along with all the elders of Israel. They put dust on their heads.

Joshua began to question God. He said, "O Lord God, why did you bring all these people across the Jordan River to destroy us? We would have been happy to stay on the other side of the Jordan. When the Canaanites and the people who live in this land hear what has happened they will surround us and destroy us. What will You do for Your great name?"

Then God said to Joshua, "Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? Israel has sinned and broken their covenant with Me. They have taken some of the devoted things from the battle with Jericho. They have stolen and lied and put the things among their own belongings. It is for this reason that Israel cannot stand before their enemies. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the devoted things that are among you. Get up! Make the people pure and holy before tomorrow because I have this to say to you -- 'There are devoted things among you and you cannot stand before your enemies until you get rid of these things among you. Whoever has taken these devoted things will be burned with fire because he has broken My covenant and done a shameful thing in Israel. '"

The next morning, Joshua rose early. He brought Israel before him tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was chosen. Then he brought each family in the tribe of Judah before him until he came to the family of the Zarhites. Each man of the Zarhite family was brought before Joshua until he came to the man Achan. Joshua told Achan to confess about what he had taken.

Achan said, "I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel. I saw a beautiful Babylonian garment, 200 shekels of silver and a bar of gold. I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath."

Joshua sent men to find the things in Achan's tent. They laid the things out before the Lord and all the people could see them. Then Joshua and all of Israel took Achan, his sons and daughters, his animals, his tent and all the things he had taken and took them to the Valley of Achor.

Joshua said to Achan, "Why did you bring this trouble upon us? The Lord shall trouble you today." Then all of Israel stoned Achan and his family with stones and burned him and his family with fire. They raised a great heap of stones on top of them and then Jehovah turned from His anger.

## MEMORY WORK

*(Notice that you are learning the rest of verse 8 for this lesson.)*

*Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. **For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.***

### MAP WORK

Find: Ai

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

underline the correct answer

1. God was ( happy, unhappy) with Israel because of a man named Achan.
2. Joshua (knew, did not know) what Achan had done.
3. The men of Ai killed (3,000 , 36 ) of Israel's men.
4. The men of Israel (took courage, became afraid).
5. Joshua began to (praise, question) God.
6. Joshua brought every tribe before him and he chose the tribe of (Levi , Judah).
7. Joshua sent men to find the devoted things in ( Moses' , Achan's) tent.
8. All of Israel (gave a party , stoned ) Achan and his family.

## THOUGHT QUESTION ??

1. Did Achan's sin affect only himself? \_\_\_\_\_

# INVASION AND CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND

## LESSON 5

**LESSON TEXT: Joshua 8 and 9**

### **CENTRAL CAMPAIGN**

#### **The Battle of Ai**

After Achan was punished for his sin, the Lord told Israel to take the city of Ai because the city belonged to them. He told them not to be afraid because He would help them win the battle.

Joshua chose 30,000 men to fight the battle with Ai and he sent them out at night. He told them to hide on the other side of the city of Ai and to be ready to fight. He told them that he would take some men with him and run from the men of Ai to get them to leave the city. The men of Ai would think that the men of Israel were running from them as they had done before in the first battle. Then Israel would come out of hiding and capture the city. God would give the city of Ai into their hands.

The next morning, 5,000 of Joshua's men waited on the west side of Ai. The rest of the army was on the north side of Ai, and there was a valley between them. Joshua spent the night in the valley with his group of men. When the king of Ai saw what Joshua was doing he had his men go out to battle Joshua, but he did not know that he was going to be attacked from behind.

Joshua and his men acted like they were beaten by the men of Ai and began to run away from them. As the men of Ai began to run after Joshua and his men, the rest of Joshua's men went into the city of Ai and captured it. When Joshua and his men with him saw that the city was taken, they quit running from the men of Ai, and turned around to fight them. They killed the men of Ai, and none of them escaped or survived. 12,000 men and women were killed. He burned the city and left it in ruins.

Joshua's men captured the king of Ai and brought him to Joshua. They hanged the king on a tree until the sun went down. Joshua commanded they take his body down and throw it down at the entrance of the city. They put a great pile of rocks on top of his body.

## **Blessings and Curses for Israel**

Israel traveled to the hill country of Shechem. Half of the tribes of Israel were in front of Mount Ebal, and the other half were in front of Mount Gerazim. Joshua built an altar to God at Mount Ebal. Israel offered burnt offerings to the Lord and sacrificed peace offerings there. Joshua wrote a copy of the Law of Moses on stones there. Then Joshua read all of the Law to the people. He read the blessings and the curses of the Law.

Everyone in Israel heard the Law of Moses read, even the women and children. After they heard the Law read, they knew what God expected of them, and they knew that keeping the land that God gave them required that they continue to obey God.

**(This is the end of the Central Campaign.)**

## **SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN**

### **Gibeon Deceived Israel**

All of the kings on the west side of the Jordan River gathered together to prepare to fight Joshua and Israel.

The people of Gibeon heard about the battles that Israel had won over Jericho and Ai. They began to make a plan to go see the Israelites and trick them. They took old sacks and old wine bottles. They wore old clothes and carried dry, moldy bread with them. Then they went to see Joshua at Gilgal. The men of Gibeon said, "We have come from a far country and we want you to make a covenant with us."

The men of Israel said, "Perhaps you live nearby. How can we make a covenant with you?"

The men of Gibeon said, "We are your servants."

Joshua said, "Who are you, and where do you come from?"

They said, "We come from a very distant country and we have heard reports about your God and all that He did in Egypt. We've heard what He did to the Amorites, and to Sihon and Og. So, our elders told us to come and tell you that we will be your servants. Come now, make a covenant with us. Our bread was fresh when we started on our journey, but now it is dry and moldy. Our bottles of wine were new, but now they have burst. Our clothes and our shoes are worn out from the very long journey."

The men of Israel did not ask for directions from the Lord about the men of Gibeon. Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live. Three days later though, the Israelites learned that the men from Gibeon were their close neighbor.

Since Israel had made a covenant with them, they were allowed to live, but they became Israel's servants. They would cut wood for Israel and carry their water for them from then on.

Joshua asked them why they had lied to them. They said, "We heard how your God commanded Moses to give you the land and destroy all the people in the land. We were afraid of you and that is why we did this."

**MAP WORK-- Find: Mount Ebal, Mount Gerazim, Ai, Shechem and Gibeon**

### **MEMORY WORK**

*Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ God told Israel that Ai belonged to them.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua and his men got the men of Ai to leave their city.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Israel did not defeat Ai.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua built an altar to God at Mt. Gerazim.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua read the blessings and curses of the Law to Israel at Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerazim.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Israel did not have to obey God to keep the land He gave them.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The men of Gibeon told Joshua that they came from a near country.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The men of Gibeon carried old sacks, old bottles, dry moldy bread and wore old clothes.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The men of Israel asked God for directions concerning the men of Gibeon.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The men of Gibeon became Israel's servants.



# INVASION AND CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND

## LESSON 6

**LESSON TEXT: Joshua 10; 11**

### **SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN**

The king of Jerusalem, Adonizedec, heard about how Joshua had taken and destroyed the city of Ai, just as he had done to Jericho. He also heard about Gibeon and how the men there had made peace with Israel. When they heard about Gibeon they became afraid. They knew that Gibeon was a great city with good fighters. So Adonzedec began to call for the kings of the Amorites in Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon to come and help him attack Gibeon.

All of the kings came together to make war against Gibeon because Gibeon had made peace with Israel. The men of Gibeon to sent word to Joshua that they needed help. They said, "Come quickly and save us. The kings of the Amorites are gathered together against us."

Joshua and his mighty men went to fight these kings, and marched all night to get there. The Lord God told Joshua, "Don't be afraid of them because I have delivered them into your hands."

Jehovah threw the kings into a panic and great numbers of them were killed. Israel chased them and they ran from Israel. The Lord threw down great stones from heaven on them and they died. More men died from being hit by hailstones than were killed by the Israelites. As Joshua pursued the Amorites in battle he prayed that the sun and moon stand still. God answered Joshua's prayer. The Lord fought for Israel that day.

The five kings hid in a cave when they saw they were not winning the battle. Joshua prevented them from coming out of the cave by having great stones rolled in front of the entrance to the cave. After the battle, Joshua asked that the kings be brought to him out of the cave. He ordered that they be killed and hanged on five trees until evening. When the sun went down, he ordered that they be taken down and put back in the cave they had hidden in.

Then Joshua took his army and destroyed all the cities in the south until all of the enemies of Israel were defeated. Joshua then returned to Gilgal with his army.

## NORTHERN CAMPAIGN

Jabin, king of Hazor, heard how Joshua had defeated the cities in the south. He sent word to the kings of Madon, Shimron, and Achshaph, to the kings of the hill country, to those who were south of the sea of Galilee, and to Dor. He sent word to the Canaanites in the east and west, to the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, and Hivites. Jabin wanted all of them to come fight against the army of Israel.

All of these nations came with their soldiers, horses and chariots. There were so many men that the number of them was like the sand on the seashore. They all met at Merom to fight against Israel.

The Lord told Joshua, "Don't be afraid. Tomorrow all of these people will be dead before Israel. You will cripple their horses and burn their chariots with fire."

Joshua and his men attacked them by surprise. The Lord gave them victory. Joshua crippled their horses and burned their chariots, then he took the city of Hazor and burned it. He took all the cities of the kings and destroyed them.

Joshua left nothing undone that God commanded him to do. He took all the land that God had promised to Israel. He gave it to Israel and divided it between the tribes. And the land had rest from war.

### MEMORY WORK

Joshua 21:43

Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land  
that he swore to give to their fathers.  
And they took possession of it,  
and they settled there.

MAP WORK -- FIND: Jerusalem, Gilgal, Sea of Galilee, Dor, Hazor, Merom

Put the numbers (1,2,3) by the Campaigns to show the order that Israel took the land:

\_\_\_\_\_ Northern Campaign

\_\_\_\_\_ Central Campaign

\_\_\_\_\_ Southern Campaign

## YES OR NO

1. Was Adonizedec afraid when he heard how Gibeon had made peace with Israel? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did all the kings come together to make peace against Israel? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did the Lord God tell Joshua to be afraid of fighting the kings of the Amorites?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Did the men of Gibeon want Joshua to come help them? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Did God throw down great stones from heaven to kill the kings of the Amorites?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Did Joshua pray to God that the earth stand still during the battle? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Did the Lord fight for Israel that day? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Did the kings of the Amorites hide in a house? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Did Jaban want the kings of the hill country and the Canaanites to fight Israel?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Did Joshua take only part of the land God had promised them? \_\_\_\_\_

# INVASION AND CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND

## LESSON 7

**LESSON TEXT:** Joshua 11: 23; 12 - 19; Deuteronomy 7: 22; Numbers 32

### **The Promised Land Divided**

God had kept the land promise that he had made to His people. When God gave the land to the tribes many of the people who lived in the land had not been driven out yet, but God expected the Israelites to drive out the people that lived in the land God had given them. They would do this little by little so that the wild animals would not increase and be a danger to them. As the people who lived in the land left, Israel would move into their cities and live there.

Joshua was getting to be an old man by now. The Lord told him, "There is still much of the land that needs to be possessed." Then the Lord told him about all the land that needed to be possessed.

The tribes of Reuben, Gad and one-half tribe of Manasseh had already received their land on the east side of the Jordan River. They saw that the land on the east side of the Jordan River was a good place to raise cattle and they had asked Moses for it before they crossed over the Jordan River and possessed the land. Their land was located from the Arnon River in the south to Mount Hermon in the north. Moses told them that they could have this land so long as they went with the rest of Israel to the west side of the Jordan River and helped the rest of Israel possess the land there.

The tribe of Levi was not given any land possession like the other tribes received. They received cities that were scattered all throughout the land.

The first tribe to receive their land on the west side of the Jordan River was the tribe of Judah. The sons of Judah and Caleb went to Joshua and Caleb and said, "You remember what the Lord said to Moses about me at Kadesh-barnea. He sent me to spy out the land and I brought back word to Him that was in my heart. I followed God's laws and Moses said the land that I walked upon would be mine and my children's inheritance because I had followed the Lord. The Lord kept me alive, and I am as strong today as I was the day Moses sent me to spy out the land. Now give me the hill country that the Lord spoke about on that day, and if the Lord is with me I will drive out the Anakims who live there."

Joshua blessed Caleb and gave him the city of Hebron. Judah's land was between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. It reached from the edge of Edom's territory in the south to the Dead Sea's northern tip.

The next tribes to receive their land were the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. Ephraim received Beth-horon (northwest of Jerusalem) and the land around it. The other half tribe of Manasseh took the rest of their land on the west side of the Jordan. The city of Shechem was in the south of Manasseh's territory and Megiddo was in the north.

The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh went to Joshua and began to complain, "Why have you given us only one portion of land to inherit? There are a great number of us and the Lord has blessed us until now."

Joshua said, "If there are so many of you, and if the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go up into the forest and take the land of the Perizzites and the giants there."

Ephraim and Manasseh replied, "The hill country is not enough for us, but the Canaanites who live there have chariots of iron."

Joshua said to them, "There are many of you and you are powerful. You will not have only one portion of land, but the hill country will be yours too. Clear it of the trees, and as far as you clear the land it will be yours. You are to drive out the Canaanites because even though they have chariots of iron, you are strong and can drive them out."

Seven tribes still had not received their land. All the people of Israel gathered at Shiloh and Jacob asked them, "How long is it going to be before you begin to possess the land that the Lord has given you? Appoint three men from each tribe to go out and look over the land, then return to me. After that you are to divide the land."

The men of the seven tribes surveyed the land and Joshua divided the land between them. The tribe of Benjamin was the first to cast their lot for the land. Benjamin's land was between Ephraim and Judah. The cities of Jerusalem and Jericho were in Benjamin's land.

Since Judah received such a large portion of land, the tribe of Simeon received their inheritance of land within Judah's land.

The tribe of Zebulun's land was in the northeast region of the valley of Jezreel and part of southern Galilee.

Issachar had land in the southeast region of the valley of Jezreel and the rest of southern Galilee.

Asher's land was in the north and on the coastal plain of the Great Sea. Mount Carmel, Tyre, and Sidon were in their territory.

Naphtali received their land in the north too. Some of the cities in Naphtali were Kedesh and Hazor.

Dan's territory was between Ephraim and Judah's land. Zorah and Joppa were some of the cities in Dan.

When all the land was divided between the tribes, Joshua asked for his own inheritance. He asked for Timnathserah in the hill country of Ephraim. He went there to live and built a city there.

## MEMORY WORK

Joshua 21:43

So the Lord gave to Israel all the land  
of which He had sworn to give to their fathers,  
and they took possession of it  
and dwelt in it. (NKJ)

## QUESTIONS

1. Did the Lord keep the Land Promise that He had made with His people? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why were they to drive out the other nations in the land "little by little"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What 3 tribes had already received their land on the east side of the Jordan River?  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did the tribe of Levi receive instead of a land possession? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Was ALL THE LAND divided and given to the twelve tribes of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_



# INVASION AND CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND

## LESSON 8

**LESSON TEXT:** Joshua 20 - 23; Numbers 35: 6 - 34; Deuteronomy 19: 1 - 14; 4: 41 - 43

### **Levi's Inheritance**

The Lord told Joshua to speak to Israel and to tell them that certain cities would be cities of refuge. A city of refuge was a city that one could go to if he had killed someone, and he could be safe there until a trial could be held for him.

Before Moses died, three cities of refuge had been chosen on the east side of the Jordan River. They were Bezer, Ramoth-gilead and Golan.

The cities that were chosen on the west side of the Jordan River were Kadesh, Shechem, and Hebron. These six cities were part of the tribe of Levi's inheritance.

The tribe of Levi was also given 42 more cities that were scattered throughout the land of Canaan. That means that the Levites were given 48 cities in all. They were to live in these cities, and there would be enough space in the cities for them to keep their animals.

The tribe of Levi had three families (or clans). They were Kohath, Gershon and Merari. Kohath received 23 cities. Gershon received 13 cities and Merari received 12 cities.

### **The Tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half-tribe of Manasseh go home.**

After all the land was divided between all the tribes, Joshua called together the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half-tribe of Manasseh who received their land on the east side of the Jordan. They had been busy helping the other tribes receive their land possessions. Joshua said to them, "You have kept all the commands that Moses and the Lord gave you, and you have obeyed me. Now you can go home to your families on the other side of the Jordan River."

The three tribes went home and when they came to the borders of the east side of the Jordan they built a great altar. The tribes on the west side heard what these three tribes had done and they were upset about it. They gathered at Shiloh and planned to go to war against Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh. They sent Phinehas the priest to them, along with the ten princes of Israel, and said, "Why have you quit following the Lord and built this altar to rebel against God? Today you have sinned against God, and tomorrow He will be angry with all of the tribes of Israel. Don't sin against God by building this altar."



The three tribes of Reuben, Gad and half-tribe of Manasseh said, "God knows if we have built this altar to disobey Him. We did not build it to offer sacrifices on, but to be a witness between us and you and to future generations."

When Phinehas and the leaders of Israel heard this explanation they were pleased. Phinehas said, We know the Lord is among us this day because you did not sin against the Lord."

Phinehas and the princes of Israel went back home to their homes on the other side of the Jordan and told the people there what the tribes on the east side of the Jordan had done. This satisfied Israel and they did not go to battle against them.

### **Joshua's Instructions to Israel**

Israel was at rest from fighting their enemies in the land. Joshua was getting old. He called Israel and their leaders together to give them some instructions before his death. He told them that God would be with them as they finished driving out the other nations in the land. He said, "Be courageous and do all of God's law. Don't serve the gods of other nations or make marriages with people from other nations. If you do this, God will let you perish from off the land that He has given you. I am going to die, and you know that every good thing that the Lord promised you has happened. Just remember that if you don't obey He will bring all evil things upon you, and you will perish off the good land that He has given you."

### **MEMORY WORK**

**Joshua 21:43**

**So the Lord gave to Israel all the land  
of which He had sworn to give to their fathers,  
and they took possession of it  
and dwelt in it. (NKJ)**

**MAP WORK -- FIND AND CIRCLE: Kadesh, Shechem, Hebron, Bezer, Ramoth-gilead  
and Golan**

## **MATCH**

Joshua	He said, "Why have you quit following the Lord and built this altar to rebel against God?"
Cities of refuge	Tribes who received their land on the east side of the Jordan River.
Reuben, Gad, 1/2 tribe Manasseh	3 cities of refuge on the west side of the Jordan
Bezer, Ramoth-gilean, Golan	He said, "Be courageous and do all of God's law."
Kadesh, Shechem, Hebron	They received 48 cities throughout the land.
Kohath, Gershon, Merari	Reuben, Gad and one-half tribe of Manasseh built this to be a witness between them and the other tribes.
Phinehas	3 cities of refuge on the east side of the Jordan.
Altar	3 families (or clans) of the tribe of Levi.
Levi	A city that one could go to if one had killed someone, and be safe there.

# INVASION AND CONQUEST OF THE PROMISED LAND

## LESSON 9

**LESSON TEXT: Joshua 24; Judges 1; 2: 1 - 2**

### **Joshua's Farewell Speech**

*Joshua was a good man. He was God's man. What we mean by this is: Joshua was a man who wanted what God wanted. When he and Caleb went as spies into the promised land, during the time Moses was their leader, he made the right choices. God chose Joshua to be God's leader after Moses died.*

*Joshua was a man with great faith in God. He served God even when Israel worshipped idols. He served God during the 40 years God made Israel wander in the wilderness. He served God, and God helped him conquer the nations in the promised land.*

*Now we are at the end of our study about Joshua.*

It was getting close to the time for Joshua to die. He called all the people of Israel together and told them that they needed to be faithful to God. He told them to choose to serve God. He reminded Israel that God had taken care of them from the time that they had left the land of Egypt until that very day.

Israel would need to **remember** how God had taken care of them if they wanted to be faithful to Him. Israel would need to fear God if they wanted to be faithful to Him. They needed to **fear God** to keep God from destroying them. Only an honest heart would help them remain faithful to God. He told them to put away the idol gods that their fathers had served and **serve God**.

Joshua told them that God wanted them to be a **"separate people"**. This means that God wanted them to be separate and different from the nations around them. They could not be a "separate people" if they served the idol gods of other nations or if they married people from the nations around them.

After Joshua gave his speech, Israel said, "We will serve the Lord our God and obey His voice."

That day, Joshua renewed God's covenant with Israel at Shechem. After this, Joshua died and was buried in the land that belonged to him in the promised land. Israel served God all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders of Israel who outlived Joshua.

### **Israel After Joshua's Death**

After Joshua died, Israel was concerned about who would fight against the Canaanites first, so they asked the Lord about it. The Lord told the tribe of Judah to go fight first

because He had delivered the land into their hands. The tribe of Judah asked the tribe of Simeon to help them, and they fought the Canaanites and Perizzites in their territories. They fought Adonibezek the king of Bezek and cut off his thumbs and his big toes, then they took him to Jerusalem where he died.

They fought against Jerusalem, killed the people, and set the city on fire. Then they fought the Canaanites in the Negeb and Hebron. The people of Judah went with the tribe of Simeon and defeated Hormah, Gaza, Ashkelon and Ekron. The Lord was with Judah as they took possession of the hill country, but they didn't drive out the people in the plain because they had chariots of iron.

The tribe of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites in Jerusalem. The tribe of Manasseh did not drive out the people of Bethshean and the cities around it. The tribes of Ephraim, Zebulun, Asher and Naphtali did not drive out the people in their land. The tribe of Dan was forced into the mountains by the Amorite people.

#### MEMORY WORK

**Joshua 24: 14**

**"Now therefore, fear the Lord,  
serve Him in sincerity and in truth,  
and put away the gods which your fathers served  
on the other side of the River and in Egypt.  
Serve the Lord!"**

**Map Work -- find on your map and circle: Bezek, Hebron, Negeb, Hormah, Gaza,  
Ashkelon, Ekron, Jerusalem, Shechem**

#### ***DO YOU REMEMBER THIS PROMISE??***

*When you studied the book of Genesis, Joseph told the children of Israel before he died that he wanted to have his bones carried out of Egypt and buried in the promised land . Hundreds of years later, when Moses left Egypt, Moses took the bones of Joseph with him. FINALLY -- during the days of Joshua-- the bones of Joseph were buried in the promised land, in Shechem (Josh. 24: 32).*

## QUESTIONS

1. What did Joshua want Israel to choose to do after he died? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Israel need to remember to be faithful to God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who did Israel need to fear? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who did Israel need to serve? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What kind of heart did Israel need to have to remain faithful? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What kind of people did God want Israel to be? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. THOUGHT QUESTION -- Do we need to be a "separate people" today when we serve God? \_\_\_\_\_
8. After Joshua died, did the children of Israel drive out all the other nations out of the promised land? \_\_\_\_\_
9. THOUGHT QUESTION -- Do you think God was happy with the tribes when they did not drive the other nations out of the promised land? \_\_\_\_\_

## THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

### LESSON 10

**LESSON TEXT:** Judges 2; 3: 1 - 6

*Note: We studied Joshua's death in the last lesson, but we'll study some more details around his death in this lesson.*

#### The Angel of the Lord Visits

Israel had not driven out the people who lived in the land of Canaan, so an angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to a place called Bochem and said, "I brought you out of Egypt to this land that I promised to your father. I told you that I would not break my covenant with you. You were told that you were not to make covenants with the people of the land. I told you to break down the altars that belonged to the people of the land, but you have not obeyed me. Because of this, I will not drive out your enemies. They will be a danger to you, and their gods will be a trap to you."

What the angel of the Lord said upset the people of Israel and they began to cry loudly. They called the place Bochem because Bochem means weeping. They offered sacrifices to God.

Joshua sent the people on their way, and each man went to possess his own land.

As long as Joshua was Israel's leader the people worshipped God. As long as the elders of Israel were alive who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel, Israel served God.

Finally Joshua died when he was 110 years old. He was buried in the hill country of Ephraim.

After Joshua and the elders of Israel died, a generation of people were born who were not living when Joshua and the elders lived. This generation of people didn't know God or His mighty works. This generation of Israelites began to do evil and served other gods. They stopped worshipping the Lord and they bowed down to idol gods. These things made God angry, and He gave Israel over to people who attacked and robbed them. They could not protect themselves from their enemies any longer. Whenever Israel would march into battle, the Lord was against them and they would not win against their enemies.

During this period of time the Israelites became very upset and distressed because they knew the Lord was against them. God still loved them though, and he had mercy on them. He would see Israel's trouble and distress and raise up men to be judges who would deliver them from their enemies. Every time the Lord raised up a Judge to lead

His people it would not be long before they were not listening to God and disobeying Him again.

Over and over again, Israel did the same things over and over. They would be at peace with God for a period of time and then they would begin to sin. God would punish them and they would repent under their punishment. The people would be in distress while they were punished and they would turn back to God. God would hear his people and He would deliver them again. Over and over this happened. But Israel did not learn from their mistakes.

### **Israel's Pattern:**

**Peace with God**

**Sin against God**

**Punishment by God**

**Repentance and turning of the people back to God**

**God delivering His people**

(This pattern was repeated over and over by Israel.)

( Notice this pattern as we study the Judges in the rest of our lessons this quarter.)

### **MEMORY WORK**

**Joshua 24: 14**

**"Now therefore, fear the Lord,  
serve Him in sincerity and in truth,  
and put away the gods which your fathers served  
on the other side of the River and in Egypt.  
Serve the Lord!"**

**Map Work: Gilgal**

## TRUE OR FALSE

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The tribes of Israel drove all the people out of the land they received.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ God wanted Israel to make covenants with the people of the land.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Israel did not obey God.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The generation of people who were born after Joshua died did not continue to serve God.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ God raised up judges to lead Israel and deliver them from their enemies.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Israel learned from their mistakes.



## THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

### LESSON 11

**LESSON TEXT: Judges 3: 7 - 31; 4: 5**

#### **Israel's First Four Judges**

*(\*NOTE: It is thought that some of Israel's judges may have served at the same time as others, especially toward the end of the time Israel had judges. It is impossible to know exactly.)*

The children of Israel began to do evil. They began to serve the false god Baalim. This made God very angry and He allowed the Israelites to be sold and put under the ruler of the king of Mesopotamia who was named Cushan-rishathaim. Israel served this king for eight years and they began to cry out to the Lord to deliver them from him.

The Lord heard Israel's cry and He raised up a man to deliver them named Othniel from the tribe of Judah. The spirit of the Lord was on Othniel while he was a judge of Israel. Othniel went to war against the king of Mesopotamia and was victorious! Israel finally had rest!

After Othniel died Israel began to do evil again. This time God allowed the king of Moab to become strong and overtake Israel. The king of Moab joined with two other nations to fight against Israel. They defeated Israel. Israel served the king of Moab for 18 years and then they began to cry out to the Lord again. God raised up another man to deliver Israel. His name was Ehud and he was from the tribe of Benjamin.

While Ehud was judge, Israel sent him to the Eglon, king of Moab, with a gift. Before Ehud went he hid a two-edged sword under his clothes on his right thigh. Eglon the king of Moab was a very fat man. When Ehud gave the gift to Eglon he sent away all the men who had helped him carry to him. Then, turning from the idols at Gilgal, Ehud said to the king, "I have a secret message for you."

Eglon the king of Moab stood up and commanded, "Silence!" All of his servants left him alone with Ehud. Ehud came before Eglon and killed him with the sword that he had hidden in his clothes. The whole sword went into Eglon and the fat covered it so that Ehud could not pull the sword out. Then Ehud left, shut the doors of the room and locked them.

The king of Moab's servants waited for him to come out of his room. When they saw the doors were locked they said, "Surely he is in there for a private reason." But when he did not come out they finally opened the door and found king Eglon dead.

Ehud escaped and sounded a trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim. The people of Israel came and Ehud said, "Follow after me because the Lord will give you victory over your enemies the Moabites."

Israel killed many Moabites and Israel had rest for 80 years after this battle.

After Ehud was judge of Israel, Shamgar became their judge. He saved Israel by killing 600 Philistines with an ox goad.

After Ehud died, Israel began to do evil again. The Lord allowed Israel to be sold into the hand of the king of Canaan. Canaan's army had a commander named Sisera who had 900 chariots of iron. He caused Israel to suffer for 20 years and Israel began to cry out the Lord for help again.

A woman named Deborah was a judge of Israel. She would sit under a palm tree and Israel would come to her for judgment. One day Deborah called for a man named Barak and said, "The Lord commands you to gather 10,000 men at Mount Tabor. Have Sisera meet you there with his iron chariots and troops. The Lord will give you victory over him."

Barak did not want to go unless Deborah went with him. Deborah told Barak, "I will go, but if I go, you will not get the glory because the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman."

The day of the battle Deborah went with Barak and his men. She said, "Rise up! This is the day the Lord will give you victory over Sisera. Hasn't the Lord gone out before you?"

When Barak and his army went to meet Sisera in battle, the Lord threw Sisera and his men into confusion. Sisera left his chariot and began to run away on foot. Barak killed all of Sisera's army.

Sisera ran to the tent of a man named Heber who was a Kenite. Heber had a wife named Jael who came out to meet Sisera and asked him to come inside her tent. Sisera came inside and asked Jael for some water to drink. She gave him some milk, then she covered him. He said, "Stand at the door of the tent, and if anyone comes and asks if anyone is here, say 'No.'"

While Sisera was lying there, Jael took a hammer and tent peg in her hand and walked softly to him. She drove the tent peg into his temple until it went into the ground, and he died.

Barak came looking for Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him. She said, "Come, and I will show you the man you are looking for." When Barak went into the tent he saw Sisera lying there dead with the tent peg in his temples.

On that day God gave Israel victory over the king of Canaan. Under Deborah, Israel had rest for 40 years.

**Map Work: Find Moab, Canaan, Ephraim**

**FIRST FOUR JUDGES: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah**

## MEMORY WORK

*NOTICE -- NEW VERSE ADDED!*

Joshua 24: 14 -15a

"Now therefore, fear the Lord,  
serve Him in sincerity and in truth,  
and put away the gods which your fathers served  
on the other side of the River and in Egypt.

Serve the Lord!"

15a And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this  
day whom ye will serve;

### MATCH

ISRAEL	The first judge of Israel.
CUSHAN-RISHATHAIM	He took Eglon, king of Moab, a gift from Israel.
OTHNIEL	She drove a tent peg through the temples of Sisera.
EHUD	They would cry out to God and God would send a Judge to deliver them.
SHAMGAR	She sat under a palm tree and judged Israel.
DEBORAH	He did not want to go to battle Sisera unless Deborah was with him.
SISERA	The very fat king of Moab.
JAEL	He fought Israel and Barak with iron chariots.
BARAK	The king of Mesopotamia in the days of Othniel.
EGLON	Judge who killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad.

## THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

### LESSON 12

**LESSON TEXT: Judges 6: 1 - 31**

#### **Gideon Becomes Judge of Israel**

The children of Israel had begun to do evil again and the Lord delivered them over to the nation of Midian who ruled over them for 7 years. The people of Midian were stronger than Israel. They would come and eat the crops that the Israelites had planted. They took all the food that Israel had. They even took their sheep, oxen and donkeys. When the Midianites and Amalekites would come, they came with their cattle and tents, and so many camels that Israel could not count them. They destroyed the land that Israel lived on and were so strong against them that Israel hid in the mountains and caves to escape from them.

The people of Israel began to cry out to God because of Midian. God heard them and sent a prophet to them who said, "The Lord says that He brought you out of Egypt and slavery. He saved you from the Egyptians. He drove out the people in this land and gave the land to you. He told you 'I Am Jehovah your God and you are not to fear the gods of the Amorites.', but you did not obey Him."

One day an angel of Jehovah came and sat under an oak tree. Nearby a man named Gideon was threshing wheat by a winepress. He was doing this to hide his grain from the Midianites. As Gideon was doing this an angel appeared before him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty warrior."

Gideon said to the angel, "If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all the Lord's wonderful works that our fathers told us about? They said the Lord brought us out of Egypt, but now the Lord has given us up and delivered us to the Midianites."

The Lord looked at Gideon and said, "Go with your strength and save Israel from the Midianites. Haven't I sent you?"

Gideon had a hard time believing that Jehovah wanted him. He said, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? My family is the poorest family in the tribe of Manasseh and I am the least important person in my family."

Jehovah said, "I will be with you, and you will destroy Midian as if they were only one man."

Gideon still had a hard time believing what Jehovah said and asked Jehovah for a miracle to prove that He had talked to Gideon. Gideon said, "Please do not leave until I have brought you an offering of food. The Lord said, "I will stay until you come back."

Gideon went to his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes. He put the meat in a basket and the broth from the goat meat in a pot, and he brought them to the angel of Jehovah. The angel of Jehovah said, "Take the meat and unleavened bread and put them on this rock. Pour the broth over them." Gideon did so.

Then the angel reached out with the tip of his staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and unleavened cakes. Fire came up out of the rock and burned up the meat and cakes. Then the angel of Jehovah disappeared from his sight.

When Gideon realized that he was an angel of Jehovah he said, "Alas, O Lord God! I have seen the angel of Jehovah face to face!"

Then Jehovah said, "Peace. Don't be afraid because you will not die."

Gideon built an altar to the Lord. That night Jehovah said to Gideon, "Take your father's young bull and another bull. Pull down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father and cut down its grove beside it. Build an altar to the Lord on top of this rock and offer the second bull on it using the wood from the grove that you cut down."

Gideon and ten of his servants did what Jehovah told him to do. He feared his father's family finding out about this, so he did it at night. The next morning the men of the city saw the grove cut down. They saw the altar with the second bull offered on it. They asked each other, "Who did this?"

When they found out that Gideon had done it they wanted to kill him. Gideon's father said, "Are you going to fight for Baal or save him? Whoever fights for Baal will be put to death by morning. If Baal is a god, let him defend himself because of his broken altar."

On that day, Gideon's father called him "Jerubbaal" -- saying, "Let Baal plead against him."

## **MEMORY WORK**

**Joshua 24: 14 -15a**

**"Now therefore, fear the Lord,  
serve Him in sincerity and in truth,  
and put away the gods which your fathers served  
on the other side of the River and in Egypt.**

**Serve the Lord!"**

**15a And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye  
will serve;**

## JUDGES OF ISRAEL SO FAR: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah

### UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWER

1. The nation of Midian ruled over Israel for ( 10, 7 ) years.
2. The Midianites ( planted, destroyed) Israel's land.
3. Israel ( sang , cried ) to God about Midian.
4. An angel of Jehovah came to Gideon as he was ( traveling to Jerusalem, threshing his wheat).
5. Gideon ( was , was not ) ready to serve God when the angel spoke to him.
6. Gideon brought the angel of Jehovah ( an altar , food ).
7. Gideon and his servants built an altar to ( God , Baal ).
8. On the day Gideon and his servants cut down the altar of Baal and its grove his father called him ( Baal , Jerubbaal ).

## THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

### LESSON 13

**LESSON TEXT:** Judges 6: 36 - 40; 7: 8

#### **Gideon and Israel Battle the Midianites**

All of the Amalekites and Midianites, along with people from the east, came and camped in the valley of Jezreel. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and Gideon blew the trumpet to call people to come follow him. He sent messengers out, and people came to follow him.

Gideon wanted a sign from God that He would save Israel. He said, "If You will save Israel by me as You have said, I will lay a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If the dew is only on the fleece, and the ground is dry, then I will know that You will save Israel by my hand like You have said.

The next morning, Gideon looked at the fleece that he had lain on the ground. There was so much dew on it that when he wrung it out it filled a bowl with water.

Then Gideon said to God again, "Don't be angry with me. Let me test one more time with the fleece. Let the fleece be dry and dew all around it on the ground."

The next morning the fleece was dry and dew was all around it on the ground.

Gideon and his men got up early and went to the spring of Harod to camp. The camp of Midian was to the north of them. The Lord said to Gideon, "There are too many people with you for Me to give you victory over Midian. The Israelites will boast and think they have won by their own might. Announce to the people that whoever is afraid can return home."

Gideon did and 22,000 people went back home. Only 10,000 men remained in the Lord's army. The Lord said, "There are still too many people. Take them down to the water and I will test them there."

Gideon took the people to the water. The Lord said to Gideon, "Separate all the people who lap the water like a dog from those who kneel down to drink."

300 men lapped the water, putting their hand to their mouth. The rest of the men got on their knees to drink the water. The Lord said, "I will save you and give Midian into your hand with the 300 men. Let all the other men go home."

That night the Lord commanded Gideon, "Get up and attack the Midianites' camp. I have delivered it into your hands. If you are afraid, go down to the camp with your servant Purah and you can hear what the Midianites are saying. Then you'll have the courage to attack them."

Gideon went to the Midianites' camp with his servant. The army of the Midianites and Amalekites was so large they could not be counted. As Gideon came close to their camp he heard a man telling about his dream. The man said to another man, "I dreamed that a loaf of barley bread tumbled into our camp and hit a tent. The tent fell down and lay flat on the ground."

The man's friend said, "This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon. God has delivered Midian and this whole camp into his hand."

When Gideon heard this man's dream, and what it meant, he worshipped God. He returned back to his camp and told his army, "Get up, Jehovah has delivered Midian into your hands!"

Gideon divided the 300 men into three groups and gave each man a trumpet and a jar with a torch inside it. He told the men, "When we come to the outside of their camp, do as I do. When I blow my trumpet you are to blow yours and everyone is to shout, 'For the Lord and Gideon!'"

Gideon and his men came to the outskirts of the Midianites' camp. They blew their trumpets and smashed their jars. With the torch in their left hand and the trumpet in their right hand they cried, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!"

The 300 men stood still in their places around the camp. All the Midianites began to cry out and run away. Israel blew the trumpets and the Lord caused all the Midianites to begin attacking one another.

Gideon and his 300 men crossed the Jordan River. They were very tired but continued to pursue the Midianites. When Gideon came to Succoth he asked the men of Succoth to give his men bread because they were so tired.

The men of Succoth said, "Why should we give your army bread? Have you defeated Zebah and Zalmunna the Midianite kings?"

Gideon told them, "When Jehovah gives us Zebah and Zalmunna I will tear your flesh with the thorns and briers of the wilderness."

Gideon went on to Penuel and asked them for food. They answered the same way the men at Succoth had. Gideon told them, "When I return to Penuel I will tear down the tower here."

Gideon went on to defeat Zebah and Zalmunna the Midianite kings. The army of Midianites were in a panic. Gideon captured a young man from Succoth and told him to write down the names of the important officials there. Then Gideon went to Succoth and taught the 77 officials a lesson. He brought Zebah and Zalmunna and said to them, "Here are the kings that you made fun of me about." Then he took the officials of Succoth and punished them with briers and thorns.

Gideon went to Penuel and tore down the tower there. He killed the men of the town. He killed the Zebah and Zalmunna. When Israel saw what Gideon had done they said, "Rule over us. You have saved us from Midian."



Gideon said, "I'll not rule over you. The Lord will rule over you."  
Israel had rest from the Midianites for 40 years during the days of *Gideon*.

## MEMORY WORK

### JUDGES OF ISRAEL

Othniel

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

*Gideon*

## MATCH

Gideon	He ruled over Israel.
Gideon's army	They cried, "A sword for the Lord and for <i>Gideon</i> !"
Zebah and Zalmunna	300 men who lapped like a dog.
Men of Israel	Enemies of God's people whom <i>Gideon</i> defeated.
Midianites	The kings of the Midianites.
Jehovah	Went with his servant at night to the Midianite camp.
Penuel	<i>Gideon</i> tore down a tower there.

## THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

### LESSON 14

#### **LESSON TEXT: Judges 9; Judges 10: 1- 5**

*Do you remember how Gideon destroyed the altar of Baal and began to be called Jerubbaal? Gideon had many wives. One of his wives was called a concubine (or a servant wife). She and Gideon had a son named Abimelech.*

*Abimelech became a leader of Israel, but -- he became leader on his own, not by God. He wanted to be king. Many times Abimelech is listed along with the other Judges of Israel, but he was not appointed by God.*

#### **Abimelech, a Leader Who Appointed Himself**

One day Abimelech, the son of Jerubbaal, went to Shechem to see his mother's relatives. He said to them, "Tell this to the men of Shechem -- 'Is it better for you that the 70 sons of Jerubbaal rule over you, or for only one to rule over you? Remember that I am your near kin.'"

Abimelech's relatives told this to all the men of Shechem and they decided to follow Abimelech because he was their near relative. Then Abimelech went to his father's house at Ophrah and killed all 70 of his brothers, except for Jotham the youngest brother. The men of Shechem aided Abimelech when he killed them.

The men of Shechem made Abimelech their king. When they told Jotham what they had done, Jotham stood on top of Mount Gerizim and told a story to the men of Shechem. He said, "One day the trees went out to anoint a king over them. They said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us.', but the olive tree said, 'To rule over you I would have to stop making oil which is used to honor gods and men.' So the trees said to a fig tree, 'You come and be our king.' But the fig tree said, 'Should I give up my sweetness and my good fruit to be over the trees?' Then the trees said to the grapevine, 'You come and be our king.', but the vine answered, 'Should I leave my new wine that cheers God and man to be over the trees?' Then the trees said to the bramble, 'You come and reign over us.', and the bramble said, 'If you want to make me king, trust in my shadow. If not, let fire come out of the bramble and burn up the cedars of Lebanon'"

Jotham's story meant that the best of men would not lead them, so they had chosen the worst of men to lead them -- Abimelech. He said, "If what you have done to Gideon

(Jerubbaal) and his family is honest and right, then rejoice with Abimelech and let him rejoice in you. But, if what you have done is not honest and right let Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem be destroyed."

After Jotham said this he was afraid and ran away to live at Beer.

Abimelech ruled for three years when God sent an evil spirit between him and the men of Shechem because of what they had done. God did this so that the men of Shechem, who had encouraged Abimelech to kill Gideon's 70 sons, would be punished.

The men of Shechem began to make plans against Abimelech. They had men hide in the mountains who robbed everyone who passed their way.

A man named Gaal went to Shechem. The men of Shechem trusted in him. They went out to the fields and gathered their grapes, made wine and had a feast. They ate and drank to their god and cursed Abimelech. Gaal said, "Who is Abimelech, and why should we serve him? If people were under my rule I would removed Abimelech. I would tell him to make his army strong and come out."

An officer of the city named Zebul heard what Gaal said. He became angry and sent messengers to tell Abimelech what Gaal had said. He said, "You and your people wait in the field at night and come out against Gaal in the morning."

Abimelech and his men waited for Gaal that night. When they saw Gaal come to the city gate, they came out of hiding. Gaal saw them and said, "Look, there are men coming down out of the mountaintops!"

Zebul said, "You are only seeing shadows."

Gaal insisted, "See, there are people coming."

Zebul said, "Where is your big talk now? Aren't these the people you despise? Go fight them!"

Gaal fought Abimelech and his men. Abimelech chased Gaal and he killed people who were entering the gate of the city. Zebul sent Gaal and his brothers out of the city and did not let them live in Shechem.

Abimelech took the city of Thebez. The men and women of Thebez shut themselves in a strong tower. Abimelech came near to burn the tower, but when a woman in the tower saw Abimelech near she threw a millstone out onto his head and broke his skull. Abimelech called one of his armor bearers to him. He said, "Take your sword and kill me so that it will not be said that a woman killed me." So the servant put his sword through him and he died.

When the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead they went home.

### **Tola Becomes Judge of Israel**

After Abimelech died, a man named Tola rose up to save Israel. He judged Israel for 23 years before he died.

### Jair Becomes Judge of Israel

After Tola died, Jair became judge of Israel. He judged Israel for 22 years. He had 30 sons who rode 30 donkeys and they controlled 30 cities in the land of Gilead.

## MEMORY WORK

### JUDGES OF ISRAEL

Othniel

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

\*Abimelech

\*Tola

\*Jair

\* New Judges to learn. *We include Abimelech in this list, but God did not choose him to lead.*

## TRUE OR FALSE

1. \_\_\_\_\_ God appointed Abimelech to be judge of Israel.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Abimelech killed all of his brothers.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem because they had aided Abimelech in killing his brothers.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Gaal wanted to serve Abimelech.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A woman in the tower at Thebez threw a millstone and broke Abimelech's skull.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Abimelech had one of his armor bearers kill him with a sword.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Tola judged Israel for 100 years.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Jair had 30 sons who rode 30 donkeys.

## THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

### LESSON 15

LESSON TEXT: Judges 10: 5 - 18; Judges 11; Judges 12

#### **Israel Turns From God Again**

After Jair died the children of Israel began to do evil and serve false gods. Because they forsook Jehovah and did not serve Him, He became angry against them. Jehovah allowed Israel to be sold into the hands of the Philistines and Ammonites who oppressed them for 18 years. Israel became distressed and began to cry out to Jehovah. They said, "We have sinned because we have forsaken our God and served Baalim."

Jehovah said to Israel, "Haven't I delivered you from other nations in the past? They oppressed you and when you cried out to Me I delivered you. But you have forsaken Me and served other gods, so I will not deliver you anymore. Cry to the gods you have chosen to serve and let them deliver you."

The children of Israel were sorry for what they had done and they said, "We have sinned. Do whatever seems good to You, only please deliver us we pray."

Israel put away their idol gods and began to serve Jehovah, but Jehovah was troubled over Israel's distress.

#### **Jephthah Becomes Judge of Israel**

The Ammonites were camped at Gilead. The children of Israel gathered their army together and camped at Mizpah. They were disturbed about the Ammonites and the leaders of Israel in Gilead began to ask, "What man will fight these Ammonites? Whoever will do this will be the head over all the people who live in Gilead."

There was a man in Gilead named Jephthah who was a mighty warrior and was the son of a harlot. His father's name was Gilead. Gilead had other sons, and when they grew up they cast Jephthah out of the house they lived in. Jephthah ran away from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob. Jephthah had a group of men following him who were worthless and vain.

Time passed, and the Ammonites came to war against the Israelites. When this happened the men of Gilead brought Jephthah back from Tob and said to him, "Be our leader so that we can fight the Ammonites."

Jephthah said, "Didn't you hate me and cast me out of my father's house? Why do you come to me when you are in distress?"

The elder leaders in Gilead said to Jephthah, "We are turning to you because we want you to go with us to fight the Ammonites and be our leader."

The elder leaders said, "God will be our witness if we do not do what you say."

So Jephthah went with them, and the people made him their ruler and leader. Then Jephthah sent word to the king of the Ammonites. He said, "What do you have against us that you want to fight against my land?"

The king of the Ammonites said, "Because Israel came out of Egypt and took my land. Now give it back to us peacefully."

Jephthah sent messengers back to the king of Ammon who said, "Jephthah says that Israel did not take the land of Moab or the land of Ammon. When Israel came out of Egypt they went through the wilderness to the Red Sea. Israel sent a message to the Edomites and asked to pass through their land, but the king of Edom would not listen. They sent a message to the king of Moab, but they wouldn't listen. So Israel stayed at Kadesh. They went through the wilderness and around Edom and Moab. Israel also sent a message to the Amorite king, but he would not let Israel pass through and they fought Israel. But the Lord God gave Israel victory against them and they took the land of the Amorites."

"Now, the Lord God has given Israel the land of the Amorites. Are you going to take it from them? You can possess all the land your god Chemosh gives you, and we will possess all the land the Lord God gives us."

"Do you think you are better than the king of Moab? Israel lived in the cities on the banks of the Arnon river for 300 years. Why didn't you take those cities in all that time? I have done no wrong to you, but you are wrong to make war with me. The Lord, the Judge, will judge between Israel and Ammon."

When Jephthah sent this message, the king of Ammon paid no attention to it. Jephthah passed through Gilead and Manasseh to Mizpah. Then he went to Ammon. Jephthah made a vow to Jehovah and said, "If You will give Ammon into my hands then the first one out of the door of my house to meet me when I return will belong to the Lord, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering."

Jephthah went to the land of Ammon and God gave him victory over them. When he came home to his house in Mizpah his daughter who was his only child came out of his house to meet him. She was playing timbrels and dancing. When Jephthah saw her he was overcome with grief and he said, "Oh my daughter! You have made me miserable and have become a great trouble to me. I made a promise unto Jehovah, and I cannot take it back!"

Jephthah's daughter said, "My father, if you have made a promise to the Lord, you must do as you promised because Jehovah has taken vengeance on your enemies, the Ammonites."

Do this thing for me -- leave me alone for two months so I can go into the mountains with my friends and weep for my virginity."

At the end of two months, she came back to her father Jephthah, and he did as he vowed. She never married and remained a virgin in Israel.

### **The Men of Ephraim Want to Fight Jephthah**

The men of Ephraim called out their men to battle and went to Jephthah. They said, "Why did you go fight the Ammonites and not call us to go with you? Now we are going to burn down your house on you."

Jephthah replied, "I and my people were in a great struggle with Ammon. When I called you, you did not save me from their hands. I saw that you were not going to help, so I took my life into my own hands and fought the Ammonites. The Lord gave me the victory. Now, why have you come up today to fight me?"

Jephthah then called together all the men of Gilead and fought Ephraim. Gilead captured the fords of the Jordan River that led to Ephraim's land, and 42,000 men of Ephraim were killed.

Jephthah judged Israel for 6 years.

## **MEMORY WORK**

### **JUDGES OF ISRAEL**

Othniel  
Ehud  
Shamgar  
Deborah  
Gideon  
*Abimelech*  
Tola  
Jair  
\*Jephthah

(\* New Judge)

## TRUE OR FALSE

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Jephthah's brothers loved him.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Jephthah was a mighty warrior.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Israel put away their idol gods after Jair was judge and they served Jehovah.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The men of Gilead wanted Jephthah to be their leader so they could fight Edom.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Jephthah told the king of Ammon that they were right to make war with him.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The king of Ammon paid attention to Jephthah's message.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ God gave Jephthah victory over Ammon.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Jephthah did not have to keep his vow to Jehovah.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Jephthah's daughter married and had 10 children.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Ephraim helped Jephthah fight the Ammonites.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Jephthah fought against the tribe of Ephraim.



## THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

### LESSON 16

**LESSON TEXT:** Judges 12: 8 - 15; Judges 13; Judges 14

#### **Judges Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon**

After Jephthah died, Ibzan became judge of Israel. He was from Bethlehem. He had 30 sons and 30 daughters, and he judged Israel for 7 years.

Ibzan died and Elon became the judge of Israel. Elon judged Israel for 10 years. After he died, Abdon judged Israel. Abdon had 40 sons and 30 grandsons who rode on 70 donkeys. He judged Israel for 8 years.

#### **A New Judge For Israel**

After Abdon died the children of Israel began to do evil in the sight of Jehovah. Because of their evil ways, Jehovah let the Philistines rule over them for 40 years. During this period of time a man lived in the tribe of Dan named Manoah. Manoah and his wife could have no children.

One day an angel appeared to Manoah's wife and said, "You have not had any children, but soon you are going to have a son. There are some things you need to do. See that you do not drink any wine or strong drink, or eat anything that is unclean. No razor is to come upon your son's head because he will be a Nazarite who is dedicated to God even while you carry him in your body. He will save the Israelites from the Philistines.

Manoah's wife told him what had happened and what the angel had said to her. Then Manoah prayed to Jehovah and said, "O Lord, please let the man of God that you sent come to us again and teach us what to do with the child who is to be born."

God heard Manoah's prayer and the angel came again. This time the angel came as the woman was sitting alone in a field. She got up quickly and went to tell her husband Manoah. She said, "I have seen the man who came to me the other day." Manoah followed his wife and when he saw the angel he said, "Are you the man who spoke to this woman?"

The angel said, "I am."

Then Manoah asked the angel how they were to raise the child who was to come. The angel said, "Be careful to do all that I told the woman. She may not eat or drink anything that grows on the vine, or eat anything unclean. She must do everything I have said."

Manoah said, "Please stay and let us prepare a young goat for you."

The angel told Manoah that he would not eat their food, but if they prepared a burnt offering they should offer it to the Lord. At this time, Manoah did not realize that he was an angel of the Lord, so he said, "What is your name so that when your words come true we can honor you?"

The angel said, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"

Manoah took the young goat and offered it with a grain offering to the Lord, and the angel did wonders while Manoah and his wife were watching. For when the flame of fire went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the Lord went up in the flame. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell to the ground. Manoah then realized this was an angel of the Lord and he said to his wife, "We are sure to die because we have seen God."

But Manoah's wife said, "If the Lord wanted to kill us, He wouldn't have accepted our burnt offering or shown us these things. He would not have announced these things to us."

Manoah's wife did have a son and called his name Samson. Samson grew and the Lord blessed him. And the Spirit of God began to move him at times.

### **Samson Marries**

One day Samson went to the city of Timnah, and while he was there he saw a Philistine woman. He went to his parents after he saw her and said, "I saw one of the Philistine daughters at Timnah. Get her for me as my wife."

Samson's parents said to him, "Can't you find a woman among your relatives or our own people? Must you have a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?"

But Samson said, "Get her because she is the right one for me."

Now, Samson's parents did not know that it was from the Lord that he was looking for an opportunity to fight against the Philistines because the Philistines were ruling over Israel. So Samson went down with his mother and father to Timnah. Along the way a young lion came out to him roaring. Samson had nothing in his hand to fight with, but he tore the young lion into pieces as one would tear a young goat. But, he did not tell his parents what he had done.

Samson talked to the woman and she pleased him well. After some days, Samson went back to marry the woman, and on the way there he saw the carcass of the lion that he had killed. In the carcass were bees and honey, so he scraped out the honey with his hand and ate it as he went on his way.

Samson's father went down to see the woman, and Samson made a wedding feast there. When the Philistines saw Samson, they brought 30 young men to be with him. Samson told the 30 men a riddle. He said, "If you can figure out the riddle I will give you 30 linen garments and 30 changes of clothes. But, if you cannot figure out the riddle you will give me the 30 linen garments and 30 changes of clothes."

The Philistines said, "We want to hear the riddle."

Samson's riddle was: *Out of the eater came something to eat. Out of the strong came something sweet.*

The men could not solve the riddle, so they said to Samson's wife, "Get your husband to tell us the answer to the riddle, or we will burn you and your father's house. Have you invited us here to take what we have?"

Samson's wife cried over Samson. She said, "You hate men and do not love me. You told a riddle to my people and have not told me what it is."

Samson said, "I have not even told my parents this riddle, and should I tell you?"

Samson's wife cried for seven days of the feast. On the 7th day Samson told her because she kept pressing him to tell her. When she learned the answer to the riddle, she went to her people and told them. The men of the city came to Samson and said, "What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?"

Samson said, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have found out my riddle."

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson and he went to Ashkelon and killed 30 men of that place. He took their garments and gave them to the Philistines whom he had told the riddle to. Then Samson went back to his father's house and his wife was given to the man who had helped him at his wedding feast.

## MEMORY WORK

### JUDGES OF ISRAEL

Othniel  
Ehud  
Shamgar  
Deborah  
Gideon  
*Abimelech*  
Tola  
Jair  
Jephthah  
\*Ibzan  
\*Elon  
\*Abdon  
\* Samson

(\* New Judges)

**THOUGHT QUESTION:** What was the first thing Manoah did when he learned he was going to have a child? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was this important? \_\_\_\_\_

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### MATCH

<b>Ibzan</b>	A Judge whose 40 sons and 30 grandsons rode donkeys.
<b>Elon</b>	A Judge whose father was named Manoah.
<b>Abdon</b>	An angel came and told her she would have a son.
<b>Samson</b>	<i>Out of the eater came something to eat. Out of the strong came something sweet.</i>
<b>Manoah</b>	Samson would be this from before his birth.
<b>Manoah's wife</b>	A judge of Israel who had 30 sons and 30 daughters.
<b>Nazarite</b>	Samson told them a riddle.
<b>Philistines</b>	He said, "We are sure to die because we have seen God."
<b>Riddle</b>	He went up in the flame from Manoah's burnt offering.
<b>Spirit of the Lord</b>	He judged Israel for 10 years.
<b>Angel of the Lord</b>	He moved Samson to kill the 30 men of Ashkelon.

## THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

### LESSON 17

**LESSON TEXT:** Judges 15; Judges 16

#### **Samson Takes Vengeance Upon The Philistines**

After the wheat harvest Samson decided to visit his wife and bring her a young goat. But, when he arrived his father-in-law would not allow him to go in to his wife. He said, "We thought that you hated her, so I gave her to your companion. Isn't her sister prettier than she? Take her instead."

Samson said, "This time when I do the Philistines harm I will be innocent." Then Samson went out and caught 300 foxes. He tied them together by pairs and put a torch between each pair of foxes. Then he set the torches on fire and let the foxes go into the grain fields of the Philistines and burned up their fields.

The Philistines wanted to know who had done this to their fields and they were told that Samson had done it because his wife had been given to his companion. They burned Samson's wife and her father with fire.

Samson told the Philistines, " Because you have done this I will take revenge upon you and then I will stop." Then he attacked many of them and killed them.

The Philistines came and made their camp in Judah. The men of Judah came to the Philistines and wanted to know why they were against them. The Philistines said, " We have come to take Samson our prisoner and do to him what has been done to us."

Samson was at a cleft in the rock at Etam. 3,000 men of Judah came to him and said, "Don't you know that the Philistines are ruling over us? What have you done to us? We are going to tie you up and give you into their hands."

Samson said to the men of Judah, "Swear that you will not kill me." Then the men of Judah said, "We will not kill you, but we will tie you up and give you into their hands." Then they brought two new ropes and tied him up.

The Philistines came out against Samson. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson, and he broke off the cords of the ropes he was tied up with very easily, as if they were burnt flax. Then he found the fresh jawbone of a donkey and he killed 1,000 men with it. Samson said, "With the jawbone of a donkey I have killed a thousand men." As soon as he said this, he threw the jawbone out of his hand. He was very thirsty and he called upon Jehovah. He

said, "You have given this great salvation by the hand of me your servant, and now, shall I die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised Philistines?"

Then God opened up a hollow place in the place called Lehi and water came out for Samson to drink.

### **Samson is Surrounded**

One day Samson went to the city of Gaza and saw a woman there who was a harlot. He went in to spend the night with her. Soon word spread throughout Gaza that Samson was spending the night in their city, so they surrounded the place where he slept. That night no move was made to take Samson because the Philistines had decided to kill him the next morning.

But, Samson lay in the bed until midnight, then he got out of bed. He took hold of the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and pulled them up bar and all. Then he put them on his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that overlooks the city of Hebron.

### **Samson, Delilah and the Philistines**

After those things happened, Samson loved a woman who lived in the valley of Sorek named Delilah. The rulers of the Philistines knew that Samson loved Delilah, so they came to her and said, "See if you can persuade Samson and find out where he gets his great strength. Then we will know how we can overpower him and tie him up to make him helpless. Each one of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver if you do this."

So Delilah went to Samson and said, "Please tell me where you get your great strength, and how you might be tied up to make you helpless."

Samson said, "If you tie me up with seven fresh bowstrings that have never been dried I shall be as weak as any other man."

So the Philistines brought Delilah seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she tied Samson up with them. Delilah had some men waiting in another room, and she said to Samson, "The Philistines are upon you Samson!"

Samson snapped the bowstrings, just as a thread of flax snaps when it touches fire. So they did not learn the source of his strength.

Delilah came to Samson again and she said, "You have mocked me and told me lies. Please tell me how you might be tied up."

Samson said, "If they tie me up with new ropes that have never been used, then I will be weak and like other men."

So Delilah took new ropes and tied Samson up. After she did so she said, "The Philistines are upon you Samson!" and men who were waiting in another room came out. But Samson broke the ropes off his arms just as one would a thread.

Delilah said to Samson, "You have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me how you might be tied up."

Samson said, "If you weave seven locks of my hair into a loom and fasten it tight with a pin then I shall become weak and as other men."

While Samson slept, Delilah took seven locks of Samson's hair and wove them into a loom and fastened with a pin. Then she said, "The Philistines are upon you Samson!" Samson awoke out of sleep and pulled away from the pin and loom.

Delilah said to him, "How can you say you love me, when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me three times and still have not told me where your great strength is." She began to nag at Samson every day so that he became tired to death of it. Finally he told her all that was in his heart and the secret of his strength. He said, "A razor has never come upon my head because I have been a Nazarite from the time I was born. If I am shaven my strength will go from me, and I shall be weak like other men." Seeing that this time he was telling her the truth, Delilah sent word to the rulers of the Philistines and said, "Come once more because he has told me all that is in his heart."

The rulers came, with their money, and Delilah lulled Samson to sleep on her lap. She called for a man to shave off his locks of hair. Then she said, "The Philistines are upon you Samson!"

As Samson awoke he thought he would go out as he had at other times, but the Philistines seized him and put his eyes out. They took him to Gaza and put him in prison and had him grind at the mill. While he was in prison his hair began to grow back.

One day the rulers of the Philistines gathered together to sacrifice to their idol god Dagon. They said "Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand." When they were merry they said, "Call for Samson to entertain us!"

Samson was brought to them from prison and stood among the pillars of the building. Samson said to the young boy who held his hand, "Let me touch the pillars that hold up the temple so that I can lean on them."

3,000 men and women were there watching Samson. Then Samson called out to the Lord and said, "O Lord God, remember me I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once that I may with one blow get even with the Philistines for putting out my two eyes." Then Samson took hold of the two pillars that supported the building, one with his right hand and one with his left hand. He said, "Let me die with the Philistines." And pushing with all his might the house fell and everyone there was killed. He killed more people in his death than he had killed during his life.

Samson's brothers came to get his body and buried it. He judged Israel for 20 years.

## MEMORY WORK

### JUDGES OF ISRAEL

Othniel

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

*Abimelech*

Tola

Jair

Jephthah

Ibzan

Elon

Abdon

Samson

\*Eli

\*Samuel

(\* New Judges)

### True or False

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Samson did not have very much physical strength.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Samson took goats by their tails and put torches between them to burn the Philistines fields.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Delilah was a good woman.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Samson's strength was in the ropes he was tied up with.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The Philistines offered Delilah money to learn the source of Samson's strength.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Samson killed 1,000 men with the jawbone of a donkey.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Samson killed 3,000 people in the temple of Dagon.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ God answered Samson's prayer at the temple of Dagon.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Samson judged Israel for 100 years.



## THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

### LESSON 18

**LESSON TEXT: I Samuel 1 ; 2; 3**

#### **The Prayer of Hannah**

In the hill country of Ephraim lived a man named Elkanah. He had two wives named Hannah and Penninah. Penninah had children, but Hannah did not.

Every year Elkanah would go to worship the Lord at Shiloh. When the time came to sacrifice he would give portions of the sacrifice to his wives. He would give portions to Penninah and her children, but to Hannah he would give twice as much because she could not have children.

The same thing happened year after year. Penninah would provoke and torment Hannah because she could not have any children, and Hannah would become upset to the point that she would weep about it and could not eat. When this would happen, Elkanah would come to Hannah and say, "Why are you crying? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

One day, after they had eaten and drank at Shiloh, Hannah rose up and went into the Tabernacle to pray. She was very distressed and she made a promise to the Lord that if He would give her a son she would give him to the Lord all the days of her child's life and his hair would never be cut.

As Hannah prayed, Eli the priest was watching her. She was moving her lips as she prayed, but no sound came out of her mouth. Eli thought that she was drunk. He decided to rebuke her and said, "How long will you keep getting drunk? Get rid of your wine."

Hannah told Eli that she was not drunk, but that she was pouring out her soul to the Lord. She said, "Don't think that I am a worthless woman. I have been praying about all my grief and trouble."

Eli answered her, "Go in peace. God will give you what you have asked for."

Hannah replied, "Let me find favor in your eyes." As she left the Tabernacle she ate and she no longer looked sad.

Hannah and her family went back home the next morning. After she returned home it was not long before she learned that she was going to have a baby. When the baby boy was born she said, "His name is Samuel because I asked Jehovah for him."

The next year, Elkanah went back to worship the Lord at Shiloh, but Hannah would not go. She said that she would not go until Samuel was weaned and old enough to go. Then she would take him and present him to the Lord to live at the Tabernacle.

Hannah stayed at home until she had weaned Samuel. When it was time, Hannah took him to the Tabernacle at Shiloh. She told Eli, "I am the woman who stood beside you and prayed to the Lord. I prayed for this child and the Lord granted my prayer. Now I am giving him to the Lord and he will be dedicated to the Lord for as long as he lives." Then Hannah prayed a prayer of rejoicing to the Lord.

When Elkanah went home, Samuel stayed to serve the Lord and Eli would teach him what to do. Each year Samuel's mother would bring a little robe for him to wear. Samuel grew taller and in favor with God and man.

### **Eli's Wicked Sons**

Eli the priest had two wicked sons who did not want to obey the Lord and His commands. When people would come to the Tabernacle to sacrifice to the Lord, Eli's sons would not sacrifice the animals as God had commanded. The things they did were very serious in Jehovah's sight because they gave no honor to the Lord's offerings.

Eli the priest was very old. He heard about all the wicked things that his sons were doing and he told them to stop, but his sons would not listen to him. Because of his son's sins, Jehovah wanted to put them to death.

A man of God came to Eli. He said to Eli, "Jehovah wants to know why you honor your sons more than you do Him. He says, 'The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and there will not be an old man in your family. All your descendants will die before they are old men. Both of your sons will die on the same day and then I will raise up a faithful priest who will do My will.'"

### **Samuel Is Called By God**

The boy Samuel served Jehovah under Eli the priest. One night Eli laid down in his usual place. He could not see very well. The lamp of had not gone out, and as Samuel was lying down, Jehovah called out to him. Samuel answered Him, "Here I am."

Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

Eli replied, "I did not call you. Go back and lie down."

Jehovah called again and said, "Samuel."

Samuel got up and went to Eli again. He said, "Here I am, for you called me."

Eli answered, "I did not call you my son. Go and lie down again."

The Lord called to Samuel a third time. Samuel got up again and went to Eli. He said, "Here I am, for you called me."

Eli realized that the Lord must be called Samuel, so he said, "Go lie down. If He calls you, you are to say, 'Speak Lord, for Your servant is listening.'"

Samuel went and laid back down. Jehovah said, "Samuel, Samuel."

Samuel said, "Speak Lord, for Your servant is listening."

Jehovah said, "I am going to do something in Israel that will cause the ears of those who hear about it to tingle. I will carry out against Eli everything I said about his family. I told him I would judge his family because of the sin he knew about. I have sworn that the sin of Eli's house will never be taken away by sacrifice or offering."

Samuel lay in his bed until the morning came, then he got up to open the doors of the Tabernacle of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli his vision, but Eli said to him, "Samuel, my son."

Samuel said to him, "Here I am."

Eli said, "What did Jehovah say to you? Do not hide what He said. Tell me or may God deal with you severely if you hide it from me."

Samuel told Eli everything the Lord said, and Eli replied, "It is Jehovah. Let Him do what seems good."

Samuel grew and all of Israel recognized that he was a prophet of the Lord.

## MEMORY WORK

### JUDGES OF ISRAEL

Othniel

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

*Abimelech*

Tola

Jair

Jephthah

Ibzan

Elon

Abdon

Samson

Eli

Samuel

## YES OR NO

1. Were Eli's sons good men? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did Elkanah give Hannah twice as much because she had so many children? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did Penninah treat Hannah nicely? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did Hannah make any sound when she prayed at the Tabernacle? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Was Hannah drunk when she prayed? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Did God answer Hannah's prayer for a son? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Did Hannah name her son Samuel because she asked Jehovah for him? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Did Hannah give Samuel to Jehovah when he was weaned? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Did Jehovah want to honor Eli's sons? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Would there be an old man in Eli's family? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Did Jehovah say He would raise up a faithful priest who would do His will? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Did Jehovah call out to Samuel 4 times? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Did Jehovah change His mind about judging Eli's family? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Did all of Israel recognize that Samuel was a prophet of God when he grew up? \_\_\_\_\_

## THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

### LESSON 19

**LESSON TEXT: I Samuel 4; 5; 6; 7**

#### **The Ark of God is Taken and Returned**

Samuel was known throughout all Israel as a prophet of God and Israel heard all his words. It was during this period of time that Israel went to battle against their enemies the Philistines. The Philistines defeated Israel. When Israel's army went back to camp the elders of Israel asked, "Why has the Lord defeated us today? Let us bring the ark of the covenant here so that it will be among us and save us from our enemies."

So, Israel brought the ark of the covenant from Shiloh into their camp. Eli's sons came with the ark. When the ark came into the camp the people of Israel gave a mighty shout. Their shouts were so loud that the Philistines heard them and asked, "What does this shouting mean?"

When the Philistines learned that the ark of the covenant had come into Israel's camp they became afraid and said, "A god has come into the camp. Woe to us! Nothing like this has happened before! Woe to us! Who can save us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods that killed the Egyptians with all the plagues! Be brave Philistines, or you'll become slaves to the Hebrews like they have been to you."

The Philistines fought against Israel again and defeated them. Israel fled home. Many were killed and the ark of the Lord was captured by the Philistines. Eli's sons were killed in the battle.

That same day a man from the tribe of Benjamin ran from the battle to Shiloh where Eli was. Eli was sitting by the road watching and waiting. He was afraid for the ark of the Lord. He heard the shouts of the people from the city and the man from Benjamin came to Eli and said, "I have come from the battle."

Eli asked, "How did it go my son?"

The man replied, "There has been a great defeat of Israel. Your two sons are dead and the ark of the Lord has been captured."

When Eli heard that the ark of the Lord had been taken he fell backward, broke his neck, and died. Eli had judged Israel for 40 years.

At the same time, Eli's daughter-in-law was about to give birth to a baby. When she heard the news of Israel, of the ark of the Lord, and of Eli, she gave birth to a son. Before she

died she said, "The glory has departed from Israel because the ark of the Lord has been captured."

The Philistines took the ark of God to Ashdod and into the house of the false god Dagon. They put the ark of God beside Dagon. The next morning the god Dagon had fallen face downward before the ark of God. Some of the Philistine men put Dagon back in place again.

The next morning Dagon was facing downward again, and this time his head and hands were lying cut off on the threshold of his temple. While the Philistine people in Ashdod had the ark of God, Jehovah punished them with tumors on their bodies. When the Philistines saw what was happening, they did not want the ark of God to be in their midst anymore. They decided to send it to Gath, however the Lord sent tumors on the people of Gath also.

The people of Gath sent the ark to Ekron, but the people of Ekron did not want the ark either. They ordered it sent away. The people began to panic because so many were dying. The men who did not die had tumors.

The ark of God was in Ekron for 7 months. It was decided that the ark must go back to where it belonged in Israel. The people of Ekron called for their idolatrous priests and soothsayers and asked them how to send the ark back to Israel. They decided to send it back on a cart that was pulled by two milk cows. They sent it in the direction of Beth-shemesh, and they sent an offering with it of five golden tumors and five golden mice.

When the people of Beth-shemesh saw the ark of God returning they rejoiced! The Levites took the ark of God off the cart and the people offered burnt offerings and sacrifices to the Lord that day. Some of the men of Beth-shemesh looked into the ark of the Lord, so the Jehovah killed 57,000 men in Beth-shemesh. This caused the men of Beth-shemesh to become afraid. They decided they did not want the ark in their city anymore. They sent word to the people of Kiriathjearim to come and get the ark of the Lord.

The people of Kiriathjearim came and got the ark and put it in the house of Abinadab. It was there for 20 years.

### **Samuel and the Stone of Help**

Samuel spoke to Israel and said, "If you will turn to Jehovah with all your heart He will deliver you from the Philistines."

So Israel put away their idols of Baal and Ashteroth and began to serve Jehovah only. Samuel told Israel to gather together at Mizpah and he would pray for them there. The Philistines learned that Israel was going to gather, so they decided to come against them in battle. This made Israel afraid. They asked Samuel to continue crying out to the Lord for them, to save them from the Philistines. Samuel did, and he also offered burnt offerings to Jehovah. Jehovah answered him.

As the Philistines came near to attack Israel, Jehovah thundered with a mighty sound and threw the Philistine army into confusion. Seeing their confusion, Israel rushed out of Mizpah and went after the Philistines. The Philistines did not enter Israel's territory again, and the hand of Jehovah was against the Philistines while Samuel was their judge.

Samuel set up a stone between Mizpah and Shen and called the stone, "Ebenezer", because Jehovah helped them.

### **\*MEMORY WORK**

**I Samuel 2:2**

**"No one is holy like the LORD,  
for there is none besides YOU,  
nor is there any rock like our God."**

**\*NEW VERSE!**

### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The enemy of Israel during the time Samuel was judge was the Philistines.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The ark of God saved Israel from their enemies.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Eli's sons were killed in battle with the Philistines.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The Philistines were happy to have the ark of God.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The people of Ekron sent the ark of God back on a cart pulled by milk cows.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Jehovah was happy the men from Beth-shemesh looked in the ark of God.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ When Israel turned back to God, the Philistines did not enter their territory again.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Samuel set up a stone called "Ebenezer" because Jehovah helped them.

## THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

### LESSON 20

**LESSON TEXT: I Samuel 8; Judges 17; Judges 18**

#### **Israel Wants a King**

Samuel became an old man. He made his two sons as judges over Israel. But, Samuel's sons were not good men like their father Samuel. They wanted earthly gain so they took money as rewards from men and they did not judge men honestly.

The elders of Israel were concerned about the wickedness of Samuel's sons and they came to Samuel and said, "You are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us, like all the nations around us have."

What Israel wanted displeased Samuel, so he prayed to Jehovah about it. Jehovah said, "Obey the people. They have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. From the day I brought them out of Egypt till this day they have forsook me and served other gods. Obey them, but warn them of the things that a king will do who rules over them."

So Samuel told the people what Jehovah had said to him. He told them that a king would take their sons and make soldiers of them. Some of the people would have to plow a king's fields and harvest his crops. Some would have to make weapons for the king. Their daughters would have to be the king's cooks and bakers. A king would take the best of their fields and vineyards and give them to his servants. He would take the best men, women and animals to be his servants. Samuel said, "One day you will cry out because of the king you have chosen, but Jehovah will not hear you."

After Samuel told them all these things the people continued to say, "No! We want a king! We want to be like all the nations around us and have a king judge us and fight our battles!"

When Samuel heard these things, he told Jehovah. Jehovah said, "Obey them and make them a king!"

Then Samuel told all the people to go back to their homes.

#### **Micah's Idol**

In those days there was no king in Israel. Every man did what was right in his own eyes, instead of doing what Jehovah wanted.



In the hill country of Ephraim lived a man named Micah. One day Micah came to his mother and said, "Eleven hundred pieces of silver were taken from you and I heard you say a curse about it. Well, I have the silver and I am the one who took it."

Micah's mother said, "God bless you my son!"

Micah returned the silver to his mother and she said, "I will dedicate the silver to Jehovah for my son to make a graven image and a molten image. I am giving the silver back to you."

Micah gave the silver to his mother, and she took 200 pieces of it and gave it to a silversmith to make a graven idol and a molten idol. These idols were put in Micah's house.

Micah had a place to worship the gods in his home. He made an ephod, some idols, and consecrated one of his own sons as a priest.

At this same time, a young Levite living in Judah left there and went to find another place to live. On his way he came to the house of Micah. Micah asked him where he was from. When Micah found out that he was a Levite, he invited him to live with him and be a father and priest to him.

The Levite agreed, and Micah said, "I know the Lord will be good to me since this Levite is my priest."

In those same days some men from the tribe of Dan were seeking a place to live because they had not received their inheritance of land yet. So they sent out five warriors to spy out the land. The five men came to Micah's house and spent the night. While they were there they realized that they knew the young Levite at Micah's house, so they asked him to ask Jehovah about their journey they were to make.

The Levite told them Jehovah was pleased with their trip, so they left and went to the city of Laish. The people of Laish had a prosperous land.

The five men from Dan went back home and told their brethren, "Let's attack Laish. The land is good and the people there will not suspect that you are coming."

So, 600 men from Dan armed themselves for battle and went to Laish. On the way they came to Micah's house. The five men said to the 600, "Do you know that in this house is an ephod, gods and a graven image and molten image? Now consider what you will do."

The 600 men stood at the gate while the 5 spies went inside Micah's house. The five men took Micah's carved image, molten image, his ephod and other gods. The Levite saw them and asked, "What are you doing?"

The men said, "Be quiet and do not say anything. Come with us. Is it better to be a priest to one man, or to a whole tribe?"

This convinced the Levite and he was happy to go with them. When they had gone a long way, Micah and his neighbors banded together and chased after the men of Dan. As they came close to them they shouted out to them. The men of Dan turned around and said, "What is the matter with you? Why have you brought all these men with you?"

Micah said, "You have taken my gods and my priest. What more do I have? How do you ask me, 'What is the matter with you?'"

The men of Dan said, "Don't speak to us or angry men may kill you and the people of your household."

Micah saw that they were too strong for him to fight, so he turned and went back home. The people of Dan took the things Micah had made, and his priest, and attacked the city of Laish. They burned the city with fire, then they rebuilt it and called it "Dan". They set up Micah's graven idol and worshipped it.

### MEMORY WORK

I Samuel 2:2

"No one is holy like the LORD,  
for there is none besides YOU,  
nor is there any rock like our God."

### TRUE OR FALSE

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Samuel made his sons to be judges over Israel.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Samuel's sons were good judges.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The people of Israel wanted a king like the nations around them.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The people of Israel rejected Jehovah when they wanted a king.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Jehovah was happy the people of Israel wanted a king.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Every man did what was right in his own eyes during the days of Micah.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Micah's mother was right to make a graven and a molten idol from the silver.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The men of Dan should have received their land inheritance earlier, when the rest of Israel received theirs.

## THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

### LESSON 21

#### LESSON TEXT: The book of Ruth

#### Ruth and Naomi

In the days that the Judges ruled over Israel a man named Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and his two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, went to live in the land of Moab. They went there because there was a famine in the land.

Elimelech died and left Naomi with her two sons. Both of her sons married Moabite women, and their names were Orpah and Ruth. They all lived in Moab about ten years, then both Mahlon and Chilion died.

Naomi heard word that the famine in her land was over, and that Jehovah had blessed His people with food, so she decided to return home with her daughter-in-laws. The three of them started on their journey back to Naomi's home land, but on the way there Naomi said to her daughter-in-laws, "Go back home to your mother's house. May the Lord be as good to you as you have been to me and my sons. May the Lord give each of you rest in the home of a husband." Then Naomi kissed them. Orpah and Ruth began to cry. They said to Naomi, "No, we will return with you to your people."

But, Naomi said to them, "Go back, my daughters."

Orpah kissed Naomi goodbye, but Ruth clung to Naomi. Naomi said to Ruth, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. Return with her."

But Ruth said, "Don't ask me to leave you or to turn from following after you. Where you go, I'll go. Where you stay, I'll stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I'll die and be buried. May the Lord deal with me severely if anything but death separates you and me."

When Naomi saw how determined Ruth was, she stopped urging her to go home. The two women traveled until they reached the city of Bethlehem. The women in Bethlehem who saw Naomi said, "Can this be Naomi?"

Naomi said to the women, "Don't call me Naomi. Call me Mara because Almighty God has dealt bitterly with me. I left here full and now I have come back with nothing."

When Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem the barley harvest was beginning. Ruth asked Naomi if she could go into the fields and pick up, or glean, the leftover grain left on the ground after the barley was harvested. Naomi said, "Go, my daughter."

When Ruth went out to glean she found out that she was gleaning in the field that belonged to a wealthy man named Boaz. Boaz was a relative of Elimelech, Naomi's husband.

One day Boaz came out to the field where his reapers were cutting the grain. He said to them, "The Lord be with you.", and they replied, "The Lord bless you." Then he said to his servant in charge of his reapers, "Who is that young woman?"

The servant replied, "She is the young Moabite woman who came back from Moab with Naomi. She asked if she could glean the sheaves of grain after the reapers. So she came and has worked from early morning until now except for a short rest."

Boaz went to Ruth and told her, "Listen to me my daughter, do not go to any other field. Stay here and glean with my servant girls. I have ordered my men not to touch you, and when you are thirsty you may get a drink from the water that my men have drawn."

Ruth bowed with her face to the ground and said, "Why have I found favor in your eyes? Why are you concerned about me, seeing that I am a foreigner?"

Boaz replied, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been told to me. I know how you left your father and mother, and the land of your people, and have come to a people that you did not know before. May the Lord reward you for what you have done."

Then Ruth said, "Let me find favor in your eyes, for you have comforted me, and spoken kindly to me, even though I am not one of your servants."

When it was meal time Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her some of the roasted grain. She ate until she was satisfied and had some left over.

When she rose up to go back to work, Boaz told his men, "Let her glean among the sheaves. Pull out some of the bundles and let them fall on purpose for her."

Ruth gleaned the grain until evening and then took what she had gleaned home to Naomi. She also took home the food she had left-over from that afternoon. Naomi asked her, "Where did you glean today? Blessed is the one who noticed you."

Ruth said, "The man's name is Boaz."

Naomi said, "May he be blessed by Jehovah! He is a close relative of ours." She was pleased that Ruth was gleaning in his field because she might have been harmed in the field of someone else.

Ruth continued to glean in the fields of Boaz. When the barley harvest ended, she gleaned during the wheat harvest.

One day Naomi said to Ruth, "My daughter, shouldn't I try to find a home for you where you will be cared for? Boaz is our relative and tonight he is threshing the barley on the threshing floor. Wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but do not let him know that you are there. When he has laid down, go in and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do."

Ruth said, "I will do everything that you say." That night she went to the threshing floor. When Boaz had finished eating, drinking and had laid down at the end of a heap of grain, she went in quietly, uncovered his feet and laid down.

At midnight, Boaz was startled. He turned and noticed that a woman lay at his feet. He said, "Who are you?"

Ruth answered, "I am your servant, Ruth. Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a close relative."

Boaz replied, "You are blessed of the Lord. This kindness is greater than what you showed earlier, and you have not gone after the younger men. Now, don't be afraid. I will do all you request, for everyone in town knows you are a good woman. I am a close relative, but there is one who is closer than I am. Stay here tonight, and in the morning we will see if he will perform the duty of a close relative. If not, I will do it."

Ruth lay there till morning, and got up before it was light enough to be seen by others. Boaz said, "Don't let it be known that a woman came to the threshing floor. Bring me your veil and hold it out."

When Ruth held out her veil, Boaz filled it with six measures of barley. She went home to Naomi and told her all that Boaz had done. Naomi said, "Be patient until you see how all this turns out. Boaz will settle the matter today."

That morning, Boaz went to the town gate and waited for Naomi's near relative to come by. When he came, Boaz said to him, "Naomi has returned and she wants to sell the land that belonged to Elimelech. If you want it, buy it here before all the men here, if not, there is no one else to buy it but me."

The man said, "I will buy it."

Then Boaz said, "If you buy the field from Naomi, you are also buying Ruth the Moabite, so that you can have children in her dead husband's name."

When Boaz said this, the man replied, "I cannot buy it for myself, or I will hurt my own inheritance. You can buy it for I cannot."

Boaz announced to all there at the gate that he was buying the property of Elimelech, Mahlon and Chilion. He also announced that he was acquiring Ruth for his wife so that the name of Mahlon would not disappear in Israel.

The elders of Israel, and everyone at the town gate witnessed what Boaz did and gave their approval. Boaz took Ruth home and she became his wife.

Later, Ruth had a son and Naomi became his nurse. The women of Israel said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord who has given you a grandson. May his name be great in Israel. Your daughter-in-law who loves you has been better to you than seven sons."

The baby's name was Obed. When Obed grew up he became the father of Jesse and Jesse became the father of David.

## MEMORY WORK

I Samuel 2:2

"No one is holy like the LORD,  
for there is none besides YOU,  
nor is there any rock like our God."

Underline the Correct Answer

1. The story of Ruth and Naomi took place during the days of the ( kings, judges).
2. Elimelech went to Moab because there was a ( famine , party).
3. Ruth and Orpah were from (Israel, Moab).
4. When Naomi wanted Ruth and Orpah to go home to their families they were both (happy , sad).
5. (Ruth , Orpah) went with Naomi back to Bethlehem.
6. Ruth gleaned in the field of ( Mahlon , Boaz).
7. Naomi told the women in Bethlehem to call her ( Naomi, Mara).
8. Boaz told Ruth ( go , don't go) to another field.
9. Ruth became the wife of ( Elimelech's near relative, Boaz ).
10. Ruth's son was named ( Obed , David).

## THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

### LESSON 22

#### REVIEW

#### **Underline the correct answer:**

1. God chose ( Joshua , Caleb) to replace Moses as leader of Israel.
2. God told Joshua, ("Israel will be punished"; "Be Strong and Courageous") when you help Israel take the land.
3. (Their weapons; Being faithful) is what would cause God to fight their battles.
4. God helped Israel cross the Jordan River by ( giving them boats; by working a miracle).
5. ( 9 , 3 ) tribes wanted to live on the East side of the Jordan River.
6. ( Deborah , Rahab) helped the Israelite spies who came to Jericho.
7. God stopped the (Passover ; manna) when Israel entered the promised land and ate the food that grew there.
8. Israel marched around Jericho ( 6 ; 7 ) days.
9. The three campaigns of Israel were the ( East, West, South; Central, Southern, Northern ) campaigns.
10. God punished Israel at the battle of Ai because ( Israel was afraid; Achan took the devoted things of God) at Jericho.
11. The Gibeonites tricked Israel by ( cutting wood for Israel; wearing old clothes and bringing dry, moldy bread).

12. Joshua helped Israel take ( some ; all ) the land that God promised Israel.

### Yes or No

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Joshua prayed that the sun stand still during the battle with the Amorites.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Ten cities in Israel were cities of refuge.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Before Joshua died he told Israel that they must be a separate people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Israel drove out all the other nations from the promised land.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The generation of people born after Joshua continued to serve God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Othniel was the first judge of Israel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Ehud killed Eglon with a sword.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Deborah killed Sisera with a hammer and tent peg.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Gideon's father called him "Jerubbaal" after he cut down his father's grove.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The Lord helped Gideon take the Midianites with 10,000 men.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Abimelech was a judge of Israel chosen by God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Jair had 30 sons who rode 30 donkeys.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Jephthah kept his vow to God.



\_\_\_\_\_ 14. Samson was a Philistine.

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. Samson killed a bear with his bare hands.

### MATCH

Delilah	She prayed for a son to give back to the Lord.
Philistines	High priest and prophet of Israel who raised Samuel at the Tabernacle.
Hannah	The evil sons of Eli, both killed on the same day.
Hophni and Phinehas	He came to young Samuel one night to give him a message for Eli and Israel.
Eli	The Philistine woman Samson loved who betrayed him.
Samuel	They put out Samson's eyes and put him to grind at a mill.
Jehovah	Prophet and judge of Israel.
Ebenezer	Stone of help.
King	He had his own idol and priest in his home.
Micah	Son of Ruth and Boaz.
Ruth	He married Ruth.
Naomi	She was from Moab and married Boaz of Israel.
Boaz	Israel asked Samuel for this because they wanted to be like the nations around them.
Obed	Ruth's mother-in-law.