

# Old Testament Survey

Joshua, Judges & Ruth

# Joshua

- Part of the “historical books”
- Continues the story from Deuteronomy
- Concerning the inheritance – its conquest and distribution
- Israel used to execute God’s judgment on the nations

**“Trusting a faithful savior to lead God’s people to land and rest”**

# Joshua

- **Joshua 1-12** – Entry into and capture of the Promised Land
- **Joshua 13-24** – Division of the land among the tribes of Israel

# Joshua – Overview

- Entrance into the Land (1:1-5:12)
  - Joshua's Commission (1:1-18)
    - After the death of Moses God spoke to Joshua and commissioned him to take the people of Israel into Canaan
    - Assurance of victory and of God's presence all his days
    - "Be strong and courageous"

# Joshua – Overview

- Entrance into the Land (1:1-5:12)
  - The Reconnaissance of Jericho (2:1-24)
    - Joshua sent two spies into Jericho
    - Rahab the prostitute hid the spies from the king's men and helped them to escape
    - Rahab made a deal with the spies to spare her household
    - Note: Rahab's actions came from faith (Hebrews 11:31) and she was commended for what she did (James 2:25) **not** how she did it

# Joshua – Overview

- **Entrance into the Land (1:1-5:12)**
  - **Crossing the Jordan (3:1-4:24)**
    - The priests were instructed to take the ark into the water, when they did the river was cut off
    - All the people crossed over on dry land
  - **Consecration at Gilgal (5:1-12)**
    - God commanded that the Israelite men be circumcised
    - The Israelites celebrated the Passover
    - The day after the Israelites began eating the produce of the land the manna stopped

# Joshua – Overview

- The Conquest of the Land (5:13-12:24)
  - The Initial Battles (5:13-8:35)
    - Victory at Jericho (5:13-6:27)
    - Joshua encountered the commander of the army of the Lord
    - God instructed Joshua on how to take Jericho
    - Complete destruction of Jericho
    - God's judgment on Jericho "passed over" Rahab's family (compare 6:20 vs. Ex. 12:23; 2:17-18 vs. Ex. 12:13; 2:19 vs. Ex. 12:22b)

# Joshua – Overview

- The Conquest of the Land (5:13-12:24)
  - The Initial Battles (5:13-8:35)
    - Achan's sin (7:1-26)
    - Defeat at Ai because Achan took treasure from the devoted things in Jericho
    - Joshua's words in 6:18 were fulfilled
    - God revealed who the offender was and the whole community stoned his household and burned them with their possessions



# Joshua – Overview

- The Conquest of the Land (5:13-12:24)
  - The Initial Battles (5:13-8:35)
    - Victory at Ai (8:1-29)
    - The Israelites set an ambush lured Ai's defenses away from the city
    - Complete destruction of Ai
  - Renewal of the covenant (8:30-35)
  - Joshua build an altar and renewed the covenant with the people of Israel as Moses had commanded (Deuteronomy 11:29)

# Joshua – Overview

- The Conquest of the Land (5:13-12:24)
  - The Campaign in the South (9:1-10:43)
    - The treaty with the Gibeonites (9:1-27)
    - The Gibeonites deceived Israel into making a treaty of peace with them by presenting themselves as distant travelers
    - The men of Israel didn't inquire of God and were fooled

# Joshua – Overview

- The Conquest of the Land (5:13-12:24)
  - The Campaign in the South (9:1-10:43)
    - The long day of Joshua (10:1-15)
    - Five Amorite kings attacked Gibeon because of their treaty with Israel
    - The Israelite army went to defend Gibeon and God gave them victory over the Amorites
    - God sent hailstones on the Amorites and caused the sun to stand still in the sky until Israel had defeated its enemies

# Joshua – Overview

- The Conquest of the Land (5:13-12:24)
  - The Campaign in the South (9:1-10:43)
    - The southern cities conquered (10:16-43)
    - Joshua capture the five Amorite kings and had his army commanders put their feet on their necks before executing them
    - Additional victories for Joshua

# Joshua – Overview

- **The Conquest of the Land (5:13-12:24)**
  - **The Campaign in the North (11:1-23)**
    - The king of Hazor joined forces with the other kings and peoples of the north against Israel
    - God gave total victory to Israel over the other armies, there were no survivors left
    - Complete destruction of Hazor
    - A summary of Joshua's victories

# Joshua – Overview

- **The Conquest of the Land (5:13-12:24)**
  - **The Defeated Kings of Canaan (12:1-24)**
    - A summary of the military conquests east of the Jordan under Moses and the allotment of the land
    - A summary of the 31 kings defeated under Joshua's leadership

# Joshua – Overview

- **The Distribution of the Land (13:1-21:45)**

The assignment of the inheritance was a joyful event and cause for celebration. Israel had previously sampled the goodness of the land but now the land was now theirs to keep

- **Areas Yet to be Conquered (13:1-7)**

- **Land Assigned to the Transjordan Tribes (13:8-33)**

- A record of the distribution of the lands east of the Jordan
- The Levites were given no land, the offerings made to the Lord would be theirs

# Joshua – Overview

- **The Distribution of the Land (13:1-21:45)**
  - **The Division of the Land of Canaan (14:1-19:51)**
    - A record of the distribution of the lands west of the Jordan
    - Caleb's allotment
    - Some tribes had not received their inheritance because they didn't go to occupy the conquered land
    - Joshua's allotment



# Joshua – Overview

- **The Distribution of the Land (13:1-21:45)**
  - **The Cities Assigned to the Levites (20:1-21:45)**
    - The cities of refuge and procedures for admitting a person waiting to stand trial for an unintentional death
    - There were three cities of refuge on each side of the Jordan
    - The Levites claimed the towns and pasturelands promised to them

**The promises of God were fulfilled completely: Israel had victory over all of its enemies and rest was achieved on every side (21:43-45).**

# Joshua – Overview

- **Epilogue: Tribal Unity and Loyalty to the Lord (22:1-24:33)**
  - **The Altar of Witness (22:1-34)**
    - Joshua released the Transjordan tribes to go home and on their way back they built an altar at Geliloth
    - The other tribes misinterpreted their intentions and gathered to go to war against them
    - The altar was to be a witness to mark the partnership of the Transjordan tribes with the rest of Israel
    - Unity among the tribes of Israel against sin

# Joshua – Overview

- **Epilogue: Tribal Unity and Loyalty to the Lord (22:1-24:33)**
  - **Joshua's Farewell Exhortation (23:1-16)**
    - Joshua exhorted the leaders of Israel to follow God faithfully and warns them of the consequence of not doing so
  - **A Second Renewal of the Covenant (24:1-28)**
    - Joshua set before the people a choice of who they would follow and renewed the covenant with them
  - **The Death and Burial of Joshua and Eleazar (24:29-33)**

# Joshua – Themes

- **God's Righteous Judgment**

- God's judgment on sin is vividly displayed in the punishments that He executed on the inhabitants of Canaan
- God had been patient with the Canaanites but they refused to turn from their evil ways
- Some of the sins of the Israelites also called for God's immediate punishment (E.g., Achan)
- The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
- Sin and idolatry are acts of war against the rightful reign of a holy God that merit His wrath

# Joshua – Themes

- **The Promises of God Fulfilled**
  - **The promise of People**
    - There was a unity under God and collective submission to Him amongst all of the tribes of Israel
    - The Israelites walked in the faith of their forefather, true children of Abraham (Romans 9:6-8)
  - **The promise of Place**
    - Possession of the land was the goal and conclusion of the deliverance that God began when He brought the Israelites out of Egypt
    - The land was an extension of God's provision for His people and a precursor to Israel as a kingdom under a human monarchy

# Joshua – Themes

- **The Promises of God Fulfilled**
  - **The promise of God's Presence**
    - God was present with Israel in His going to war for them against their enemies (10:11, 14, 42; 11:6; 13:6; 23:3, 9-10; 24:12)
    - His presence was also with Israel through His relationship with and guidance of their leader Joshua
  - **The promise of Blessing to the Nations**
    - Rahab and her family were saved out of the judgment on Jericho and brought into the community of the Israelites (2:14; 6:25)
    - There were other aliens who lived within the community who were included with Israel at the renewal of the covenant (8:33, 35)
    - Aliens could take shelter in the cities of refuge

# Joshua – Themes

- **Covenant Rest**
  - Rest was the goal for God’s people (1:13-15; 21:44; 22:4; 23:1, see also 11:23; 14:15)
  - It was made possible only by the covenant faithfulness of God in light of the repeated episodes of Israel’s failure
  - Rest implies security, peace, and the absence of threat to life and well-being
  - The theme of rest in Joshua points forward to a coming time of complete rest and security for God’s people (Hebrews 4:1-11)

# Judges

- Continues the story from Joshua
- Israel lost sight of their identity as God's people
- Repeated cycles of apostasy /rebellion, suffering, crying out to God, and deliverance
- Downward spiral of immoral behaviour

**“Requiring a perfect saviour to maintain God's people's land and rest”**



# Judges

- **Note:** The events in the prologue and epilogue are not listed in strict chronological order with each other or with the events in the rest of the book of Judges. No chronological scheme of time as a whole is intended in the order of these accounts.

# Judges – Overview

- **Prologue: Incomplete Conquest and Apostasy (1:1-3:6)**
  - **Israel's Failure to Purge the Land (1:1-2:5)**
    - Israel continued to occupy the Promised Land after Joshua's death to varying degrees of success Judah banded with Simeon to attack the Canaanites
    - Judah and Simeon banded together and had success, Caleb and the house of Joseph also had success
    - Many tribes failed to drive the inhabitants out
    - The angel of the Lord confronted Israel with their sin

# Judges – Overview

- **Prologue: Incomplete Conquest and Apostasy (1:1-3:6)**
  - **God's Dealings with Israel's Rebellion (2:6-3:6)**
    - A summary of the events from the period after Joshua to the monarchy
    - The sequence of events for the accounts of the judges takes a standard form: disobedience, chastisement, crying out to God, and deliverance followed by a time of peace
    - Failure of the previous generation to raise their children in the knowledge and ways of the Lord

# Judges – Overview

- Oppression and Deliverance (3:7-16:31)

Judge	Oppression	Deliverance
<b>Othniel</b> (3:7-11)	8 years under Cushan-Rishathaim	The land had peace for 40 years
<b>Ehud</b> (3:12-30)	18 years under Eglon	The land had peace for 80 years
<b>Shamgar</b> (3:31)	---	Struck down 600 Philistines and saved Israel
<b>Deborah</b> (4:1-5:31)	20 years under Jabin and Sisera	The land had peace for 40 years
<b>Gideon</b> (6:1-8:35)	7 years under the Midianites	The land had peace for 40 years
<b>Tola</b> (10:1-2)	---	Led Israel for 23 years
<b>Jair</b> (10:3-5)	---	Led Israel for 22 years
<b>Jephthah</b> (10:6-12:7)	18 years under the Philistines and Ammonites	Led Israel for 6 years
<b>Ibzan</b> (12:8-10)	---	Led Israel for 7 years
<b>Elon</b> (12:11-12)	---	Led Israel for 10 years
<b>Abdon</b> (12:13-15)	---	Led Israel for 8 years
<b>Samson</b> (13:1-16:31)	40 years under the Philistines	Led Israel for 20 years

# Judges – Overview

- **Oppression and Deliverance (3:7-16:31)**
  - **Othniel Defeats Naharaim (3:7-11)**
    - When Israel cried out because of Cushan-Rishathaim the Lord raised up Othniel, Caleb's nephew, to save them (Joshua 15:17; Judges 1:13)
    - The Spirit of the Lord came upon him to make him Israel's judge and He overpowered king of Aram Naharaim

# Judges – Overview

- Oppression and Deliverance (3:7-16:31)
  - **Ehud Defeats Moab (3:12-30)**
    - Eglon king of Moab enlisted the Ammonites and Amalekites and attacked Israel, capturing Jericho from them
    - When Israel cried out God gave them Ehud
    - On an errand to deliver tribute to Eglon, Ehud deceived the king and assassinated him
    - Ehud rallied Israel and struck down ten thousand Moabites and made them subject to Israel

# Judges – Overview

- **Oppression and Deliverance (3:7-16:31)**
  - **Deborah Defeats Canaan (4:1-5:31)**
    - Israel cried out under the cruel oppression of Jabin and his commander Sisera
    - Deborah, who was a prophetess leading Israel, sent for Barak with a plan to ambush Sisera
    - When Sisera advanced on Israel the Lord routed his army and subdued Jabin until the Israelites destroyed him
    - In Deborah's song Reuben, Gad, Dan, and Asher were rebuked and the town of Meroz was cursed for not fighting alongside Israel

# Judges – Overview

- **Oppression and Deliverance (3:7-16:31)**
  - **Gideon Defeats Midian (6:1-8:35)**
    - The Midianites oppressed and impoverished Israel
    - The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon to commission him
    - The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon and he summoned an army from Israel
    - Gideon asked for two signs with his fleece as assurance from God that he would be victorious
    - Gideon's men surrounded the Midianite camp and God caused the Midianites to turn on each other



# Judges – Overview

- **Oppression and Deliverance (3:7-16:31)**

- **Gideon Defeats Midian (6:1-8:35)**

- During his pursuit of the kings of Midian, Gideon asked for provisions from Succoth and Peniel but was denied
- Gideon captured the Midianite kings and took revenge on Succoth and Peniel before executing them
- Israel wanted Gideon's family to rule over them but he pointed the people back to God as their ruler (8:23)
- Gideon asked for gold from the plunder and made an ephod (a pagan object of worship) with it which led Israel astray

# Judges – Overview

- Oppression and Deliverance (3:7-16:31)
  - Abimelech, the anti-judge (9:1-57)
    - Abimelech, Gideon's son, tried to seize power in Israel; he hired mercenaries to murder his 70 brothers, only the youngest one escaped
    - When Abimelech's people crowned him as their king his brother cursed all of them to destroy each other
    - A dissenter in Shechem turned the people against Abimelech and provoked him to attack one of the towns that made him king
    - Abimelech destroyed Shechem but was killed when a woman dropped a millstone on his head when he attacked Thebez

# Judges – Overview

- **Oppression and Deliverance (3:7-16:31)**
  - **Jephthah Defeats Ammon (10:6-12:7)**
    - When the Israelites cried out from under the Philistines and Ammonites God initially rejected their plea (10:12-14) but in the end He had compassion on them (10:16)
    - Jephthah was an outcast from his family but when his people were in need they approached him for help with the promise of headship over Gilead
    - The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah and he advanced against the Ammonites
    - He rashly vowed to God to sacrifice the first thing that came out of his house to meet him in exchange for victory

# Judges – Overview

- Oppression and Deliverance (3:7-16:31)
  - Jephthah Defeats Ammon (10:6-12:7)
    - God gave the Ammonites into his hands and he subdued them but upon his return his only child came out to meet him and he did to her as he had vowed
    - The Ephraimites confronted Jephthah for not including them in the battle against the Ammonites and threatened him
    - Jephthah called the men of Gilead and struck down 42,000 Ephraimites in a civil war

# Judges – Overview

- **Oppression and Deliverance (3:7-16:31)**
  - **Samson Checks Philistia (13:1-16:31)**
    - God responded to the distress of Israel when they were under Philistine rule even when they didn't cry out to Him
    - God enable the miraculous conception of Samson to his mother and set him apart as a nazirite from birth
    - At his wedding feast he made a wager with his Philistine companions who used his wife to win the challenge
    - Samson struck down 30 Philistines to pay for the prize he owed
    - When he found out later that his wife had been given to another man he burned the grain fields of the Philistines

# Judges – Overview

- **Oppression and Deliverance (3:7-16:31)**
  - **Samson Checks Philistia (13:1-16:31)**
    - The Philistines killed his wife so he slaughtered many of them and escaped to Judah
    - The men of Judah handed Samson over to the Philistines but he was able to break free and struck down a thousand of them
    - Samson fell in love with Delilah and the Philistines used her to subdue and capture him
    - At the Philistines' feast in the temple of their god, Samson prayed for his strength to return and God enabled him to collapse the temple, killing more of his enemies in death than he did during his life

# Judges – Overview

- Epilogue: Religious and Moral Disorder (17:1-21:25)
  - **First Episode (17:1-18:31)**
    - Micah's corruption (17:1-13)
    - Micah the Ephraimite had his own place of worship set up in his house and installed his son to serve as his priest
    - His mother had a silver carved image and cast idol made and put them in Micah's house
    - One day Micah met a journeying Levite (Jonathan, Moses' grandson – 18:30) and hired him to serve as his priest

# Judges – Overview

- Epilogue: Religious and Moral Disorder (17:1-21:25)
  - **First Episode (17:1-18:31)**
    - The Danites' departure from their tribal territory (18:1-31)
    - The Danites didn't claim their tribal inheritance but sent spies to Laish in search of another place to live
    - On their way to attack Laish the Danites plundered Micah's house of his objects of worship and convinced Jonathan to leave with them
    - They put the people of Laish to the sword settled there carrying on Micah's distorted religion



# Judges – Overview

- Epilogue: Religious and Moral Disorder (17:1-21:25)
  - **Second Episode (19:1-21:25)**
    - Gibeah's corruption of morals (19:1-30)
    - A Levite man who was bringing his concubine home stopped for the night in Gibeah
    - The wicked men of the city surrounded the house they were in and demanded that the Levite be surrendered to them
    - Instead, the Levite sent his concubine out to the mob who sexually assaulted her and left her for dead
    - The next day the Levite found the body of his concubine and took it home where he dismembered it and sent the pieces throughout Israel, inciting the Israelites

# Judges – Overview

- Epilogue: Religious and Moral Disorder (17:1-21:25)
  - Second Episode (19:1-21:25)
    - The Benjamites' near removal from their tribal territory (20:1-21:25)
    - All the Israelites assembled against Gibeah but instead of surrendering the offenders the Benjamites rallied with them
    - Israel suffered heavy losses but defeated the Benjamites
    - The Israelites also took an oath to not give their daughters in marriage to the Benjamites
    - To enable the Benjamites to have heirs, the Israelites allowed them to capture wives for themselves at the festival of the Lord

# Judges – Themes

- **“Israel Had No King; Everyone Did as He Saw Fit” (17:6, 21:25)**
  - After the deaths of Joshua and the elders Israel had no leader to guide them in the ways of the Lord
  - The monarchy had not yet begun and the people had rejected God as their heavenly king (8:23)
  - Without God’s laws each person was left to do whatever his sinful nature desired
  - Religious and moral degeneracy and national disunity

# Judges – Themes

- **Israel's Constant Stubbornness and Sin**
  - Israel failed to clear the land of its pagan inhabitants
  - The Israelites didn't keep themselves set apart (2:1-2) and didn't listen to their judges (2:17)
  - Repeated cycles of disobedience and apostasy caused by Israel's affinity for idolatry
  - Israel quickly turned back to progressively worse practices each time a judge died
  - The people didn't acknowledge that the Lord was their Judge (11:27)

# Judges – Themes

- **The Need for a Perfect Saviour to Obtain True Rest**
  - God used flawed individuals to deliver a deeply flawed nation – character defects, lapses of faith, dubious actions
  - All of the judges were sinners by nature
  - Death ended the careers of all of the judges and none of their accomplishments endured
  - The shortcomings and limitations of all of the judges point to our need of one who is perfect in character and deed and who will live on in headship

# Judges – Themes

- **The Patience and Grace of God**
  - Despite the constant provocation from the people of Israel, God didn't forsake them
  - God didn't do to Israel as He had done to the nations before them but chastised them to bring them to repentance
  - He continued providing deliverers for His people knowing how quickly they would return to their idolatry once the leader died
  - He preserved His people and kept them from being overwhelmed and absorbed by the pagan nations around them

# Ruth

- The events of Ruth took place during the time of the Judges
- The author is unknown, Jewish tradition points to Samuel as the author
- The story of a single Israelite family as opposed to the story of a nation

**“God’s providence in times of trial for the good of His people”**

# Ruth – Overview

- **Introduction: Naomi Emptied (1:1-5)**
  - There was a famine in the land, Elimelech, Naomi, and their two sons left their home in Bethlehem and moved to Moab
  - Elimelech died in Moab and his sons married Moabite women (Orpah and Ruth)
  - After 10 years both sons die as well



# Ruth – Overview

- Ruth Clings to Naomi (1:6-22)
  - Naomi heard that the famine had ended and prepared to return home
  - Ruth clung to Naomi and made a declaration of solidarity with her while Orpah returned to her mother's house
  - Ruth and Naomi arrived in Bethlehem at the time of the barley harvest

# Ruth – Overview

- **Ruth and Boaz Meet in the Harvest Fields (2:1-23)**
  - **Ruth Begins Work (2:1-7)**
    - Ruth offered to glean in the harvest fields to support herself and Naomi
    - She “found herself” working in Boaz’s field
  - **Boaz Shows Kindness to Ruth (2:8-16)**
    - Boaz told Ruth to stay with his servant girls and ordered his men not to harass her
    - He invited her to eat with him and told his men to leave extra gleanings for her

# Ruth – Overview

- **Ruth and Boaz Meet in the Harvest Fields (2:1-23)**
  - **Ruth Returns to Naomi (2:17-23)**
    - Ruth brought back a large amount of barley and Ruth inquired about the field she worked in
    - Boaz is revealed to be a kinsman-redeemer
    - Naomi's attitude begins to change
  - **Naomi Instructs Ruth (3:1-5)**
    - Naomi told Ruth to prepare herself like a bride and to find Boaz on the threshing floor, uncover his feet, and lie down there

# Ruth – Overview

- **Naomi Sends Ruth to Boaz's Threshing Floor (3:1-18)**
  - **Boaz Pledges to Secure Redemption (3:6-18)**
    - Ruth followed Naomi's instructions and went to Boaz after the celebration of the harvest
    - When Boaz found Ruth at his feet she asked him to cover her with the corner of his garment, an appeal to Boaz as a kinsman-redeemer
    - Boaz commended Ruth for choosing him but there was another kinsman-redeemer who had priority to redeem, Boaz pledged to redeem if the other man didn't

# Ruth – Overview

- **Boaz Arranges to Fulfill His Pledge (4:1-12)**
  - **Boaz Confronts the Unnamed Kinsman (4:1-8)**
    - Boaz gave the other kinsman-redeemer the opportunity to redeem Naomi's land but he refused when he found out about Ruth
    - The kinsman-redeemer rights were transferred to Boaz
  - **Boaz Redeems Naomi's Property (4:9-12)**
    - Boaz bought Naomi's property and announced his marriage to Ruth, receiving the blessing of the elders and witnesses

# Ruth – Overview

- **Conclusion: Naomi Filled (4:13-17)**
  - Boaz married Ruth and the Lord enabled her to conceive. Their son, Obed, was King David's grandfather.
  - Naomi was filled once again and the women rejoiced with her
- **Epilogue: Genealogy of David (4:18-22)**
  - The genealogy from Perez son of Judah to David

# Ruth – Themes

- **Redemption**

- Recovery of something, often from an unpayable debt as was the case when the kinsman-redeemer was involved
- The kinsman-redeemer was responsible for protecting needy members of the extended family
- Purchasing back a property or person sold into slavery (Leviticus 25:25-28, 47-49; Jeremiah 32:6-9)
- Boaz as the kind and faithful kinsman-redeemer is a type of Christ
- God would later work through Ruth and Boaz's great-grandson David to redeem Israel

# Ruth – Themes

- **God's Providence**

- In the famine to bring Naomi's family into the land of Moab
- In Ruth's marriage to Mahlon to bring her into Naomi's family
- In ending the famine to bringing Ruth and Naomi back to Bethlehem at just the right time
- In sending Ruth to Boaz's field where Boaz he takes notice of her "woman of noble character" qualities
- In allowing Ruth to give birth to Obed



# Ruth – Themes

- **God's Provision**

- For Naomi through the kindness, loyalty, and self-giving diligence of Ruth
- For Israel in coming to their aid during the famine to provide food for the people
- For Naomi and Ruth through the compassion and generosity of Boaz towards two widows
- For Israel through the future reign of King David

# Next class

- 1 Samuel & 2 Samuel

# References

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