

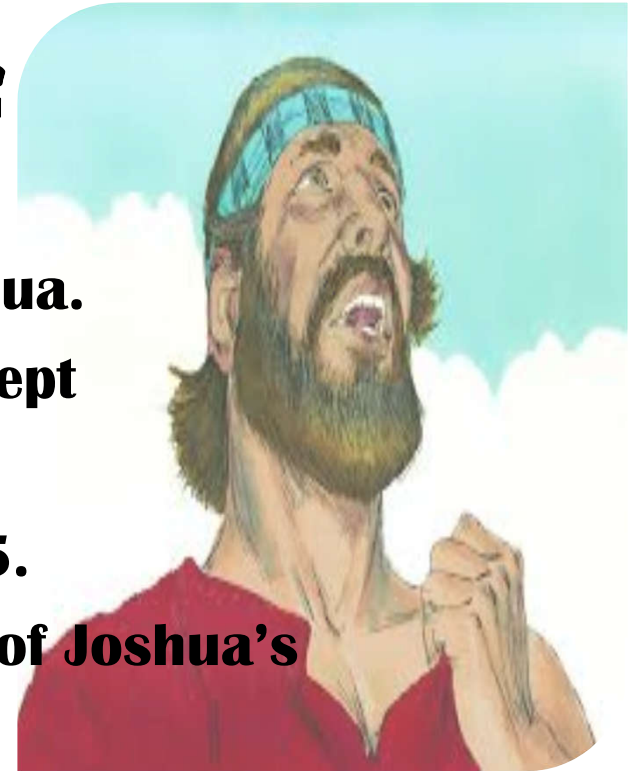
THE BOOK OF JOSHUA:



- **There are 12 books of history that we are going to study in the Old Testament survey.**
- **They tell the story of the rise and fall of Israel, of the Hebrew people.**
- **We will see the formation and development of the nation of Israel.**
- **These books record the history of Israel, beginning with the conquest of the land of Canaan and ending with the return of God's people from foreign captivity.**
- **We will see her rise to prominence, collapse into moral and physical defeat and her restoration.**
- **They cover the history of Israel and Judah from the occupation of the Promised Land to their return from exile and the rebuilding of the temple, plus the book of Esther.**

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA:

- **The author of the book of Joshua is believed to be Joshua.**
- **The Talmud says that Joshua wrote the whole book except the last five verses.**
- **The Key verses are Joshua 1:6-9 and chapter 2:14 &15.**
- **This book covers approximately twenty years, the time of Joshua's leadership of Israel.**



Who was Joshua?

- **Joshua was the son of Nun, from the tribe of Ephraim, Joseph's son.**
- **His name was Hoshea, but Moses called him Joshua.**
- **Joshua means 'the Lord saves.'**
- **Joshua, as a type or shadow of our Saviour, was to act as a 'saviour' to his people as he led them into Canaan.**
- **He was Moses' servant, his attendant from his youth.**
- **Moses was his mentor, his teacher and his encourager.**

- **Joshua is a prime example of the benefits of a worthy mentor.**
- **He watched Moses' life and followed him as Moses followed God.**
- **He learned faithfulness, obedience, patience and to wait upon the Lord.**
- **We too are mentors. There are others who are watching our lives and our faithfulness and commitment.**
- **What sort of mentor are you?**
- **Do you have a mentor?**



- **Joshua was chosen by God to succeed Moses.**
- **Moses was told by the Lord to commission him.**
- **Numbers 27:18-20: NAS. “So the Lord said to Moses, ‘Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation; and commission him in their sight. And you shall put some of your authority on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey him.’”**
- **V22-23: “And Moses did just as the Lord commanded him; and he took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation. Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses.”**

Warrior:

- **The first mention of Joshua in the Bible is found in Exodus 17:9:**
- **Amalek had come to the Rephidim to fight against Israel, and Moses gave Joshua the commission to choose men and to fight the battle.**
- **V13: NAS. “So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.”**
- **Moses is told to charge, encourage and strengthen Joshua.**
- **Deuteronomy 3:28b: NAS. “for he shall go across at the head of this people, and he shall give them as an inheritance the land which you will see.”**

- **Joshua was one of the twelve spies chosen to go and look at the land of promise.**
- **Only he and Caleb brought back a good report about the land, saying that they could go in and take it as the Lord had said.**
- **They were the only two out of a whole generation of men twenty years and up, who entered the Promised Land.**
- **He was described, along with Caleb, as one who followed the Lord fully.**
- **After going into the land, Joshua and Eleazar the priest were the ones who would apportion the land to the 12 tribes for their inheritance.**
- **God showed Moses the land of Canaan, but he was not allowed to enter because of disobedience.**
- **Joshua would be the one to lead the people into the land.**

THE PROMISED LAND:

- **What land is this?**
- **Genesis 12:1-7: NAS. “Now the Lord said to Abram, “go forth from your country, and from your relatives, and from your father’s house to the land I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you shall all the families of the earth be blessed.” So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him.**



- **Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan. And Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land. And the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him.”**

- **This was the land that the children of Israel were about to enter and to occupy, the land in which God had promised them rest.**
- **They had spent forty years in the wilderness because of their unbelief.**
- **We are warned not to let unbelief keep us from entering God's rest in Christ.**
- **Hebrews 3:7-12: NLT. "That is why the Holy Spirit says, "Today you must listen to His voice. Don't harden your hearts against Him as Israel did when they rebelled, when they tested God's patience in the wilderness. There your ancestors tested My patience even though they saw My miracles for forty years. So I was angry with them and I said, 'Their hearts always turn away from Me. They refuse to do what I tell them.' So, in My anger I made a vow. 'They will never enter My place of rest.' Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God."**

- **This new generation were trained and disciplined in the wilderness and promised to obey Joshua as they had Moses.**
- **They were now ready to conquer the land.**
- **Joshua 1:16: NLT. “They answered Joshua, ‘We will do whatever you command us, and we will go wherever you send us.’”**



THE AMALEKITES:

- **Moses had defeated the Amalekites east of the Jordan and the land had been allocated to the two and a half tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh.**
- **The Amalekites were the enemy of Israel and God had said that they were to be destroyed.**
- **Deuteronomy 25:19: NAS. “Therefore, it shall come about when the Lord your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies, in the land which the Lord God gives you as an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you must not forget.”**

DEATH OF MOSES:

- **Deuteronomy 34:5-9: “So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord. And He buried him there in the valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; but no man knows his burial place to this day. Although Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, ‘his eye was not dim, nor his vigor abated’. So the sons of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses came to an end.**
- **Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hand on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.”**
- **Moses has died. The people have mourned. Now is the time to move into the Promised Land.**

TIME TO MOVE:

- **Joshua 1:1-5: NAS. “Now it came about after the death of Moses, the servant of the Lord, that the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ servant, saying, ‘Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.**
- **Every place on which the sole of your foot treads I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the great sea toward the setting of the sun, will be your territory.**
- **No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail or forsake you.”**

- **Joshua is on the east side of the Jordan River. He is about to lead the people into the land of Canaan.**
- **There are about two million people that need to be ready to move.**
- **Joshua commanded the officers to go through the camp and tell the people to get ready.**
- **In three days, they were to cross the Jordan and go in to possess the land.**
- **Joshua reminded the two and a half tribes who had received their inheritance on the east side of the river, of their promise to fight with their brothers until God gave them rest.**

GOD IS GUIDING HIS PEOPLE:

- **We see here how God laid out every detail to Joshua so that he knew exactly what to do.**
- **Was Joshua afraid? Three times the Lord told Joshua to be strong and courageous. God encouraged Joshua.**
- **Joshua 1:6-9: NAS. “Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.**

- **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 success.**



- **Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”**

RAHAB:

- **Joshua sends two spies into the land and especially to Jericho.**
- **Moses sent 12 spies into the land and only two came back with a good report. Joshua now only sends two spies in.**
- **The two spies went to the house of a harlot in Jericho, Rahab.**
- **She had heard about the Lord and the great things He had done. She realized who He is – ‘the God of heaven above and on earth beneath.’**
- **She hid the spies and secured a pledge of safety for herself and her father’s household.**
- **Before they left, she told them how to return safely to the camp of Israel.**
- **She tied the scarlet thread in the window of her house on the wall as soon as they left.**

- **In almost every passage about her she is referred to as ‘Rahab the harlot’, yet she was the great-great-grandmother of King David and in the line of Christ. (Matthew 1:5).**
- **Rahab was also justified by her works of faith and is listed as one of the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11:3.**
- **She is mentioned again in James 2:25 for her good works.**
- **Rahab is a reminder to us that there is no one so defiled that they cannot come to faith in Jesus Christ.**
- **This is a foreshadowing of God’s grace to sinners and salvation by faith alone.**





- **The people of Jericho still remembered what they had heard about the Lord drying up the Red Sea when He led the children of Israel out of Egypt.**
- **They had also heard what Israel had done to the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan. Sihon and Og.**
- **Their hearts had melted, and no courage remained in any man because of Israel, because of the God of Israel.**
- **Joshua 2:11: NAS. “And when we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; **for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.**”**

CROSSING THE JORDAN:



- **The Ark of the Covenant was to go ahead of the people with a distance between it and them.**
- **Chapter 3:5: NAS. “Then Joshua said to the people, ‘ Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.’”**
- **The Ark symbolized the presence of the Lord. God was in the camp and the people needed to consecrate themselves.**
- **God was leading them in a way they had never gone before.**

- **God leads us in the way we have never gone before, and we too need to consecrate ourselves.**
- **V7: “Now the Lord said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that just as I have been with Moses, I shall be with you.”**
- **The Lord is the One Who exalts His leaders. He alone is able.**

**For you have been
bought with a price.**

1 CORINTHIANS 6:20

STEP OUT IN FAITH:

- **The river was in flood, but as the priests carrying the Ark stepped into the river, it stopped flowing from a town called Adam. (Chapter 3:15-17.)**
- **God opened a path for them.**
- **They first had to step into the river, a step of faith.**
- **The Lord dried up the mighty Jordan River, in flood, for Israel to cross on dry land.**
- **He assured this new generation with as great a miracle as drying up the Red Sea.**
- **Moses, in faith, led the children of Israel out of Egypt.**
- **Joshua, in faith, led them into the Promised Land.**

MEMORIAL STONES:

- **After crossing the River on dry ground, one man from each of the 12 tribes of Israel, took a stone from the middle of the riverbed, and they set up a monument in Gilgal.**
- **This would be a reminder to future generations of what God had done.**
- **The people were now in the Promised Land, but they still had to conquer their enemies in the land and take possession of it.**





THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-20

FINALLY, MY BRETHREN, BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL. FOR WE DO NOT WRESTLE AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS AGE, AGAINST SPIRITUAL HOSTS OF WICKEDNESS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES. THEREFORE TAKE UP THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND IN THE EVIL DAY, AND HAVING DONE ALL, TO STAND.

STAND THEREFORE, HAVING GIRDED YOUR WAIST WITH TRUTH, HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND HAVING SHOD YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; ABOVE ALL, TAKING THE SHIELD OF FAITH WITH WHICH YOU WILL BE ABLE TO QUENCH ALL THE FIERY DARTS OF THE WICKED ONE. AND TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION, AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD; PRAYING ALWAYS WITH ALL PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION IN THE SPIRIT, BEING WATCHFUL TO THIS END WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE AND SUPPLICATION FOR ALL THE SAINTS—AND FOR ME, THAT UTTERANCE MAY BE GIVEN TO ME, THAT I MAY OPEN MY MOUTH SOLOLY TO MAKE KNOWN THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL, FOR WHICH I AM AN AMBASSADOR IN CHAINS; THAT IN IT I MAY SPEAK BOLDLY, AS I OUGHT TO SPEAK.

- **God had promised them rest but there were still many battles to be fought. There was serious warfare ahead of them.**
- **The Christian life involves warfare, spiritual warfare. We need to fight the good fight of faith.**
- **1 Timothy 6:12a: NAS. “Fight the good fight of faith, take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.”**
- **God is leading, but we need to be armed for battle. Galatians 6:10-18:**

CIRCUMCISION:

- **The Lord told Joshua to circumcise all the men after they had come into the land.**
- **All the men who had been born in the wilderness had not been circumcised.**
- **Circumcision was the sign of the Abrahamic covenant. Any man who was not circumcised would be cut off from his family.**
- **They were in enemy territory, and Joshua's obedience showed his trust in the Lord as their protector.**

- **The place was named Gilgal because there the Lord rolled away the reproach of Egypt from the people.**



- **We have the perfect fulfillment in the New Testament.**
- **We are circumcised in the heart.**
- **Colossians 2:11: NAS. “And in Him you also were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.”**

THE PASSOVER:

- **Four days after crossing the Jordan, Israel celebrated the Passover in the Promised Land.**
- **The Passover was a reminder to them of how the Lord had brought them out of Egypt, and now He has brought them into the Promised Land.**
- **The day after the Passover the manna stopped. For the first time they ate the produce of the land that was their inheritance.**
- **God had faithfully provided for them for forty years.**
- **This shows God's faithfulness in providing for His children. He has promised to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19.)**

CHRISTOPHANY:

- **The Captain of the Lord's host appeared to Joshua and told him that he was standing on holy ground.**
- **Joshua 5:13-15: NAS. "Now it came about while Joshua was at Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said, "Are you for us or for our adversaries."**
- **And he said, "No, rather I indeed come now as Captain of the host of the Lord." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, "What has my Lord to say to his servant."**
- **And the Captain of the Lord's host said to Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so."**

- **The Captain of the Lord's host is believed to be a theophany, a pre-incarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **As the angel of the Lord appeared to Moses at the burning bush and told him he was standing on holy ground, so the Captain of the Lord's host now tells Joshua that the place where he is standing is holy.**
- **Joshua was the leader of Israel's army, but he was under the authority of the commander of the army of God.**
- **The Captain of the Lord's host led them into battle.**



JERICHO:

- **Jericho was a fortified city with a double wall 40 feet high and 12 feet thick, seemingly impenetrable.**
- **It was tightly shut because of fear of the Lord. No one came in or went out. The Lord told Joshua exactly what he was to do. The Lord had given Jericho into his hands.**
- **When the walls fell flat as the trumpets were blown and the people shouted on the 7th day, the city was surrounded by the Israelites.**
- **They went into the city and utterly destroyed all in it. Only Rahab and her family were spared.**



UNDER THE BAN:

- **The city of Jericho and all that was in it was ‘under the ban’. They were devoted to God. They were the first fruits of the land and belonged to God.**
- **Joshua 7:17-19: NAS. “And the city shall be under the ban, it and all that is in it belongs to the Lord; only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things under the ban lest you covet them and take some of the things under the ban, so you would make the camp of Israel accursed and bring trouble on it. But all the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron are holy to the Lord. They shall go into the treasury of the Lord.”**

THE SIN OF ACHAN:

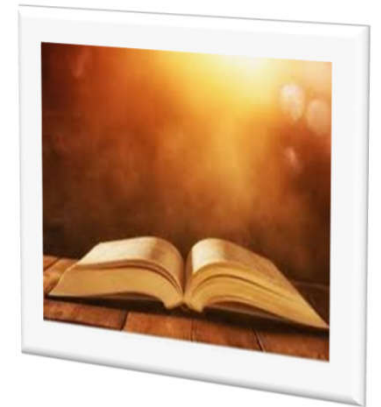
- **Achan was unfaithful and stole some of the things ‘under the ban’.**
- **The result was that all Israel had become accursed and could not stand before their enemies.**
- **They were defeated by a small army at Ai and Joshua went before the Lord. He was told that someone had taken things that were ‘under the ban’.**
- **Chapter 7:10-11: NAS. “So the Lord said to Joshua, “Rise up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face? Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things ‘under the ban’ and have both stolen and deceived. Moreover, they have also put them among their own things.”**

- **Achan's sin was exposed. He and his family and all their possessions were stoned and then burnt with fire.**
- **Israel was consecrated by destroying the things under the ban.**
- **After this, Ai was defeated. It was burned and made a desolation.**
- **Sin has consequences. Look at the examples we have in God's word.**
- **Eve, David, Ananias and Saphira are all examples of those who coveted what was forbidden and suffered severe consequences.**
- **Over and over in Scripture there are stories of how God's people forgot God and His word and suffered terrible consequences.**
- **This is what we are warned of in Hebrews 3:7-12.**

AN ALTAR:

- **Chapter 8:30-35: Joshua built an altar in Mount Ebal and offered burnt offerings on it and sacrificed peace offerings to the Lord, the God of Israel.**
- **He wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses.**
- **Half of the people stood in front of Mount Ebal and half stood in front of Mount Gerazim.**
- **Joshua read all the law of Moses to the people of Israel as a reminder of what the Lord had said in Deuteronomy. They were for when the children of Israel entered Canaan.**
- **The blessings and the curses were so that all the people would know what the consequences were for obedience and for disobedience.**

- **God's word is our lifeblood.**
- **We need to constantly be in God's word.**
- **We need to meditate on His word, even as Joshua was told to do.**
- **2 Timothy 3:16: NAS. "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."**
- **Psalm 1: 1-2: NAS. "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night."**



THE GIBEONITES:

- **When the kings of the land heard about Jericho and Ai, as well as the defeat of Og and Sihon and the drying up of the Jordan River, they gathered to fight against Israel.**
- **They knew that the Lord had commanded Israel to destroy all the inhabitants of the land.**
- **The Gibeonites acted craftily and deceived the leaders of Israel. They pretended to be from a far away land and Israel made a covenant with them.**
- **Chapter 9:14: NAS. “So the men of Israel took some of their provisions and did not ask for the counsel of the Lord.”**
- **The Israelites were deceived by what they saw.**



- **God had forbidden Israel to make any covenant with the inhabitants of the land.**
- **Exodus 23:32: NAS. “You shall make no covenant with them or with their god’s.”**
- **Israel was bound by their covenant to go to the aid of the Gibeonites because of their covenant.**
- **They could not destroy the inhabitants of Gibeon, so they became the slaves of Israel.**

THREE MAJOR CAMPAIGNS:

- **Joshua led three major campaigns in his conquest of Canaan.**
- **The central campaign: Chapter 6:1-9:27: During this campaign the cities captured were Jericho, Ai, Gibeon, Upper Beth-horon, Lower Beth-horon and Azekah.**
- **The southern campaign: Chapter 10:1-43: The cities defeated were Lachish, Debir, Libnah, Eglon, Makkedah, Hebron. All the inhabitants were utterly destroyed.**
- **The southern campaign came about as a result of the Gibeonites deceiving Joshua.**
- **Five kings formed a coalition and were defeated by the Israelites.**
- **It was during this campaign that Israel had to go to the aid of the Gibeonites.**

• **The Lord fought for Israel.**

- **Joshua 10:10-14: NAS. “And the Lord confounded them before Israel, and He slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon and pursued them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. And it came about as they fled from before Israel, while they were at the descent of Beth-horon, that the Lord threw large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died; there were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword. Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, “O sun, stand still at Gibeon, and O moon in the valley of Aijalon.” So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation avenged themselves on their enemies. And there was no day like that before it or after it, when the Lord listened to the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.”**

- **The northern campaign: Chapters 11:1-15: Upon hearing the news of this victory, Jabin, king of Hazor, formed another coalition of kings which led to the northern campaign.**
- **Hazor was defeated.**
- **Joshua now took the whole land and gave it as an inheritance to Israel, as the Lord had spoken to Moses.**
- **The land now had rest from war, but it took a long time. 31 kings were defeated under the leadership of Joshua.**
- **Chapter 11:18: NAS. “Joshua waged war a long time with all these kings.”**



- **We too are fighting a spiritual battle. We are to utterly destroy the sin in our lives.**
- **We have died to self and our lives are hidden with Christ in God. We are to be dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, greed. We are to put aside anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, lying. All that was part of our old self. (Colossians: 3:3-10:)**

DIVISION OF THE LAND:

- **Joshua was now old and advanced in years and there was still a lot of the land to be conquered.**
- **Chapters 13-22 give instructions for the distributions of portions of the land.**
- **The Israelites did not conquer the whole land. They did not drive out all the inhabitants of the land.**
- **Chapter 13:13: NAS. “But the sons of Israel did not dispossess the Gershurites or the Maacathites; for Geshur and Maacath live among Israel until this day.**
- **Chapter 15:63: NAS. “Now, as for the Gebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the sons of Judah could not drive them out; so the Jebusites live with the sons of Judah at Jerusalem until this day.”**

THE COURAGE OF CALEB:

- **Caleb reminded Joshua of what Moses had said about his inheritance**
- **Chapter 14:7-12: NAS. “I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart. Nevertheless, my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt with fear; but I followed the Lord my God fully. So Moses swore on that day saying, “surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, because you have followed the Lord my God fully.”**



And now behold, the Lord has let me live, just as he spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the wilderness; and now behold, I am eighty-five years old today. I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and for coming in. Now then give me this hill country about which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on the day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out as the Lord has spoken.”



- **Joshua gave Hebron to Caleb as his inheritance.**
- **Not only did Caleb take the hill country of his possession, but according to chapter 15:14 he also drove out three of the sons of Anak.**
- **He knew that the Lord would be with him if he was doing what the Lord had commanded him to do.**
- **After 45 years of faithful service Caleb still chose a hard and difficult assignment. Caleb finished strong.**
- **Some didn't. Lot, Saul, Solomon, Demas and others did not.**
- **Paul did finish the course and keep the faith.**
- **2 Timothy 4 :7: NAS. "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith."**
- **Will we finish the course?**

CITIES OF REFUGE:

- **God established six cities of refuge, 3 on the east of the Jordan and 3 on the west.**
- **Any person who killed someone unintentionally could flee to these cities and they would be safe there.**
- **There would be no fear of retribution.**
- **Christ is our refuge.**
- **Hebrews 6:18b. NAS. “We who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us.”**
- **Psalm 46:1: NAS. “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”**

ALTAR ON EAST OF JORDAN:

- **The two and a half tribes returned to their inheritance on the east of the Jordan River.**
- **They built an altar there as a witness between them that the Lord is God. It was a witness that God was also on their side of the Jordan.**
- **The other tribes confronted them believing that it was rebellion against the Lord but were satisfied that it was a witness for future generations of Israel to remember that they were one nation.**
- **In Chapter 24:26-27, Joshua set up a large stone as a witness against the people, lest they deny their God.**

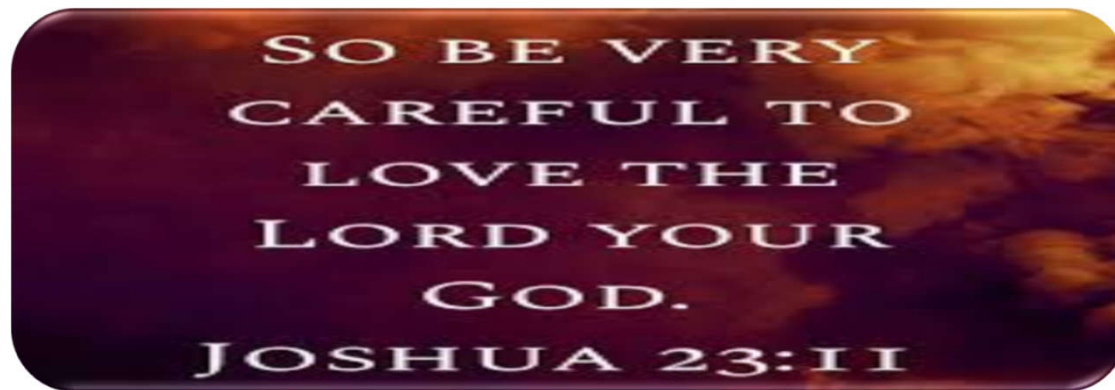


JOSHUA'S FAREWELL:

- **There were still some enemies in the land, but the Lord had given them rest from their enemies.**
- **Chapter 23:5: NAS. “And the Lord your God, He shall thrust them out from before you and drive them out from before you; and you shall possess their land, just as the Lord your God promised you.”**
- **The Lord also gives them a warning through Joshua.**




- **V11-13: NAS. “So take diligent heed to yourselves to love the Lord your God. For if you ever go back and cling to the rest of these nations, these which remain among you, and intermarry with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, know with certainty that the Lord Your God will not continue to drive these nations out from before you; but they shall be a snare and a trap to you, and a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good land which the Lord your God has given you.”**



- **There is no partnership, fellowship, harmony or agreement between believers and unbelievers. 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1:**
- **Joshua gathered the people at Shechem to give Israel his final words.**
- **He reminds them of God's faithfulness, provision, protection and guidance,**
- **Chapter 24:14-15: NAS. "Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."**
- **Joshua died at 110 years of age and he was buried in his inheritance.**

- **Joshua is a book of faith and obedience, of conquest and victory. It is a wonderful example of faith in action.**
- **Oliver Cromwell once told his troops, “Trust in God and keep your powder dry.”**
- **C. H. Spurgeon said, “Pray as if it**
- **all depends on God and work as if it**
- **all depends on you.”**
- **Rest is God’s gift to those who will**
- **put their trust in Him.**
- **Whom will you serve?**
- **Will you put your trust in Him?**





THE BOOK OF
JUDGES:

HISTORY:

- **The book of Judges is the history of a time when every man did what was right in his own eyes, very much like the time we are living in. Judges 17-21:**
- **Samuel is believed to be the author.**
- **The book was written between 1045-1000 BC.**
- **It covers the period from the death of Joshua to the judgeship of Samuel.**
- **There was no king in Israel.**



COMPROMISE WITH PAGANISM:

- **Judges starts well with the people asking God which tribe should be the first to go up and fight against the Canaanites, but immediately, we see the pagan practice of mutilation of an enemy.**
- **Chapter 1:6: NAS. “But Adoni-bezek fled; and they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes.”**
- **He had done this to seventy kings of Israel, and he said that God had repaid him for what he had done.**

DID NOT DRIVE OUT:

- **Joshua had defeated the main cities and leaders, but each tribe needed to destroy those left in their inheritance in order to possess their land.**
- **A repeated statement throughout chapter 1 is, 'did not drive out'.**
- **The tribes did not drive out the enemies as God had commanded them.**
- **They did not utterly destroy the nations of the land.**
- **God said that He would no longer drive out their enemies before them.**
- **Their gods would be a snare to them.**

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD:

- **Israel wept when they were confronted by the angel of the Lord with their disobedience, and they sacrificed to the Lord, but did not truly repent of their disobedience.**
- **Many times, people cry out to God and make promises to Him because they have become aware of the consequences of their actions, but it does not always mean that true repentance has taken place.**
- **When there is true repentance, God will always respond in love, when His people call on His name.**

- **The people have moved from a place of victory to a place of weeping. from Gilgal to Bochim.**
- **It was at Gilgal that God met Abraham, at the oaks of Moreh.**
- **It was where the men of Israel were circumcised.**
- **It was where the commander of the Lord of hosts appeared to Joshua.**
- **It was where the Israelites celebrated their first Passover in the Promised Land.**
- **They wept at Bochim, but it did not change anything.**

THE NEXT GENERATION:

- **As long as Joshua was alive, Israel served the Lord.**
- **They even followed the Lord during the time of the elders after Joshua, but when that generation died, a generation rose up who did not know the Lord or what He had done.**
- **Chapter 2:11-13: NAS. 11 Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals, 12 and they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and they followed other gods from the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them; so they provoked the LORD to anger. 13 They abandoned the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtaroth.**
- **The Israelites turned from worshipping God to idolatry.**

THE LORD RAISED UP JUDGES:

- **Israel groaned during times of oppression and affliction.**
- **The Lord was moved to pity for them and raised up judges to deliver them.**
- **The Lord was with the judge all the judge's life.**



- **2:16-23: NAS. 16 Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. 17 Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had been obedient to the LORD's commands. 18 Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them. 19 But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.**

- **20 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and said, “Because this nation has violated the covenant I ordained for their ancestors and has not listened to me, 21 I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died. 22 I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their ancestors did.” 23 The LORD had allowed those nations to remain; he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua.**



- **One of the reasons the Lord left some of the nations was to test the next generation to see if they would obey Him.**
- **A second reason was to teach war to those who had been born after the conquest of the land under Joshua's leadership.**

Chapter 3:1-2:

- **The result was that the Israelites intermarried with the nations and served their gods.**
- **They failed the test.**

OTHNIEL:



- **Chapter 3:8-9: NAS. 8 Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, so that He sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia; and the sons of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim for eight years. 9 But the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD, and the LORD raised up a deliverer for the sons of Israel to set them free, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.**
- **For eight years Israel suffered because of their evil ways; then the Lord sent a deliverer, Othniel, and the land had rest for forty years.**

EHUD:

- **Chapter 3: Israel again did evil and the Lord strengthened Eglon, the king of Moab, against Israel.**
- **Israel served Eglon for 18 years.**
- **The cried out to the Lord and He raised up a deliverer, Ehud, who was left-handed.**
- **He made a two-edged sword, hid it on his right thigh under his cloak.**
- **He thrust his sword into the belly of the king and killed him.**
- **For eighty years after Ehud had defeated Moab, the land was undisturbed.**
- **After Ehud died the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord.**

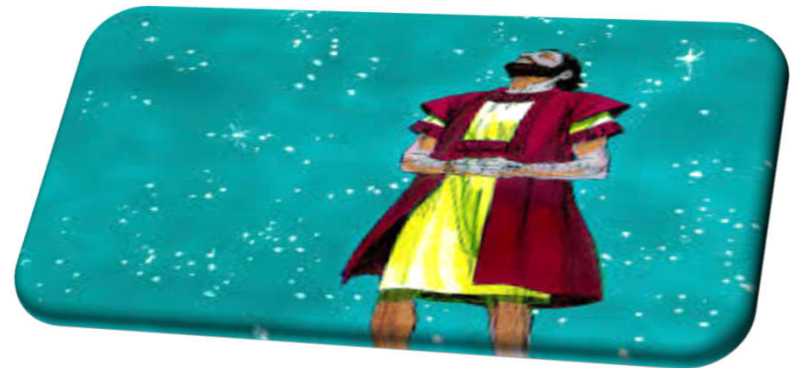
SHAMGAR:

- **Not much is said about Shamgar, but if he killed 600 with an ox goad, then he was a mighty man.**
- **We are told that he also saved Israel.**
- **The Hebrew word for ‘saved’ is the same as the word for ‘delivered’.**



CONTINUOUS CYCLE:

- **Each time a judge died the Israelites turned back to evil.**
- **They turned from righteousness to unrighteousness.**
- **The Lord sold them into the hands of their enemies.**
- **Israel cried out to the Lord.**
- **The Lord raised a judge.**
- **God is faithful to His covenant.**



DEBORAH:

- **Deborah was a prophetess who spoke from the Lord.**
- **She was the first woman to lead Israel.**
- **She sent Barak, the commander of the army to fight against the enemy.**
- **He would not go without her, so she told him that the honor that could have been his would go to a woman who would kill Sisera, the commander of the Canaanite army.**
- **Jabin had oppressed Israel for twenty years.**
- **They had a mighty army with 900 iron chariots.**

- **The Lord drew Sisera out and gave him into Barak's hand.**
- **Sisera fled from the battle, on foot.**
- **He took refuge in the tent of Jael a Kenite, who killed him by driving a tent peg through his temple.**
- **Jael is the woman who got the honour for killing the enemy of Israel.**
- **After their victory Deborah and Barak sang a song of praise to the Lord.**
- **The land was undisturbed for forty years.**



GIDEON:

- **Israel again did evil and the Lord gave them into the hand of Midian for seven years.**
- **The Midianites were powerful and devastated the land.**
- **They destroyed the animals and the produce of the land.**
- **The Israelites hid themselves in the mountains, in the caves.**
- **The sons of Israel cried to the Lord.**



- **Judges 6:7-10: NAS. Now it came about, when the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord on account of Midian, 8 that the Lord sent a prophet to the sons of Israel, and he said to them, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: ‘It was I who brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery. 9 And I rescued you from the hands of the Egyptians, and from the hands of all your oppressors, and I drove them out from you and gave you their land, 10 and I said to you, “I am the Lord your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live.” But you have not obeyed Me.’”**
- **The Lord was reminding them that He was God and there was no other god who could protect them.**
- **He reminded them that they had not obeyed Him.**

VALIANT WARRIOR:



- **The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon.**
- **He called him a valiant warrior.**
- **Gideon was hiding in a winepress to save the wheat he was beating from the Midianites.**
- **He was the youngest of the least family in the tribe of Manasseh.**
- **God chose a man who appeared to be the least likely warrior.**
- **The Lord told Gideon that He would be with him to defeat Midian.**
- **God delights in using what the world may look down on.**
- **Gideon built an altar to the Lord and he named it, ‘the Lord is peace’.**

ALTAR OF BAAL:

- **The Lord told Gideon to tear down his father's idol.**
- **He did so at night because he was still afraid.**
- **The men of the city were upset with what Gideon did.**
- **His father reasoned with the men by saying, 'if Baal is god, let him contend for himself.'**
- **He also named Gideon, Jerubbaal, that is to say, "let Baal contend against him", because he had torn down his altar. (Chapter 6:31-32.)**
- **God's altar cannot be built until Baal's altar is destroyed.**



GIDEON'S FLEECE:



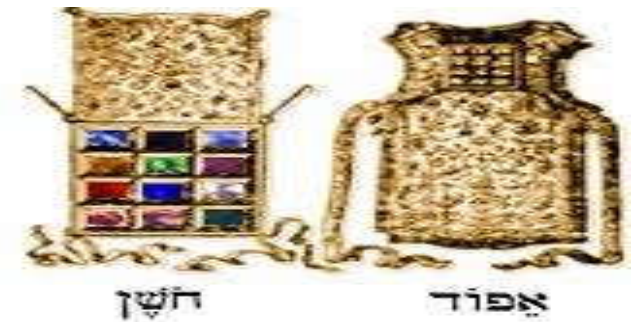
- **His fleece was the test by which the Lord reassured Gideon that he was the one to deliver Israel**
- **Gideon asked the Lord for more reassurance that he was really called to deliver Israel from the Midianites.**
- **This shows the long-suffering and compassion of the Lord to one, to whom he had already appeared and spoken very clearly.**
- **Putting out a fleece is not the way for us to know the will of God for our lives.**
- **The way to know His will is to know Him and to know His word and to follow the leading of His indwelling Spirit.**

THE LORD DELIVERS ISRAEL:

- **The Lord wanted Israel to know that their deliverance from Midian was not of their own doing, so He told Gideon to decrease the number of men from 32,000 to only 300.**
- **First, he sent home those who were afraid and trembling. Fear can be infectious.**
- **Next, those who lapped water instead of kneeling to drink, were chosen to fight.**
- **God chose those who were to fight.**
- **Gideon's 300 men defeated 135,000 Midianites.**
- **Israel did not even have to fight in the battle.**
- **The Lord won the victory.**



GIDEON'S EPHOD:



- **The men of Israel asked Gideon who would rule over them, him, or his son.**
- **Gideon replied that neither he nor his son would rule over them, but God would rule over them.**
- **Chapter 8:22-27: NAS. 22 Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, “Rule over us, both you and your son, your son’s son as well, for you have saved us from the hand of Midian!” 23 But Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you.”**

- **24 Yet Gideon said to them, “I would request of you, that each of you give me an earring from his plunder.” (For they had gold earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.) 25 And they said, “We will certainly give them to you.” So they spread out a garment, and every one of them tossed an earring there from his plunder. 26 The weight of the gold earrings that he requested was 1,700 shekels of gold, apart from the crescent amulets, the ear pendants, and the purple robes which were on the kings of Midian, and apart from the neck chains that were on their camels’ necks. 27 Gideon made it into an ephod, and placed it in his city, Ophrah; but all Israel committed infidelity with it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his household**

- **It is unlikely that Gideon deliberately led the children of Israel into idolatry by making the ephod, but they worshipped the idol, and it became a snare to Gideon and his household.**
- **This is a warning to us. We may have the right motives and think what we are doing is right, but if it is not according to the word of God, it is not right.**
- **The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you.**
- **God guides and He provides for His servants.**
- **The safest place in the world is the center of God's will.**
- **Zechariah 4:6b: NAS. "Not by might, nor by power; but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts.**



- **After the flood Noah and his family built an altar to the Lord.**
- **Abraham built numerous altars to the Lord as did Isaac and Jacob.**
- **Gideon built an altar after meeting the angel of the Lord, but he did not build one in thanksgiving or recognition to the Lord after they had defeated Midian.**
- **The land was undisturbed for 40 years in the days of Gideon.**

ABIMELECH:

- **Abimelech, the son of Gideon by a concubine, killed 69 of Gideon's sons, because he wanted to be king.**
- **He hired worthless fellows to follow him and was made king in Shechem.**
- **He seized leadership and became king, but he was not chosen by the Lord. He ruled for three years.**
- **He razed the city of Shechem and sowed it with salt so that the ground would be unfit for anything in the future.**
- **He also killed about 1,000 men and women who had gathered in the tower of Shechem.**



- **Jotham, Gideons only surviving son, pronounced a curse on Abimelech.**
- **Abimelech's skull was crushed in by a woman throwing a millstone on his head.**
- **His armour-bearer finished killing him with his sword.**
- **It was a disgrace for a woman to kill a man.**

TOLA AND JAIR:

- **After Abimelech died there was a man named Tola of Issachar who rose to 'save' or deliver Israel.**
- **He judged Israel for 23 years.**
- **After him Jair, the Gileadite arose and judged Israel for 22 Years.**

CYCLE OF SIN:

- **After Jair died the Israelites again did evil.**
- **They forsook the Lord and served the Baals, the Ashtaroath and the gods of Aram, Sidon, Moab, the sons of Ammon, and the Philistines. (Chapter 10:6).**
- **The Lord's anger burned against Israel and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and the sons of Ammon.**
- **They afflicted Israel for eighteen years.**
- **The Lord had told them what would happen if they did not obey Him, if they tolerated the nations within their land, if they did not completely destroy the idolatrous nations of Canaan.**

- **Chapter 10:10-16: NAS. 10 Then the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord, saying, “We have sinned against You, for indeed, we have abandoned our God and served the Baals.” 11 And the Lord said to the sons of Israel, “Did I not save you from the Egyptians, the Amorites, the sons of Ammon, and the Philistines? 12 And when the Sidonians, the Amalekites, and the Maonites oppressed you, you cried out to Me, and I saved you from their hands.**
- **13 Yet you abandoned Me and served other gods; therefore I will no longer save you. 14 Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them save you in the time of your distress.” 15 Then the sons of Israel said to the Lord, “We have sinned, do to us whatever seems good to You; only please save us this day.” 16 So they removed the foreign gods from among them and served the Lord; and He could bear the misery of Israel no longer.**

- **These verses are different from any others in the whole book of Judges.**
- **The Lord reminded them of the enemies from whom He had delivered them in the past.**
- **Even though Israel admitted their sin, the Lord told them to seek deliverance from the other gods they had chosen.**
- **He had delivered Israel from the Egyptians, Ammorites, Ammonites, Philistines, Sidonians, Amalekites, and Moabites. (Midianites).**
- **When Israel turned from their idols and served the Lord, He responded with mercy and compassion.**

JEPHTHAH

- **Israel had no leader to fight against the sons of Ammon.**
- **Jephthah was a valiant warrior, but he was the son of a harlot.**
- **His brothers had driven him out of their father's house.**
- **Worthless men gathered around him and he led them.**
- **The elders of Gilead asked Jephthah to be their leader and he consented.**
- **He made an agreement with the men of Gilead that if the Lord gave Ammon into his hand, he would be the head of Gilead.**

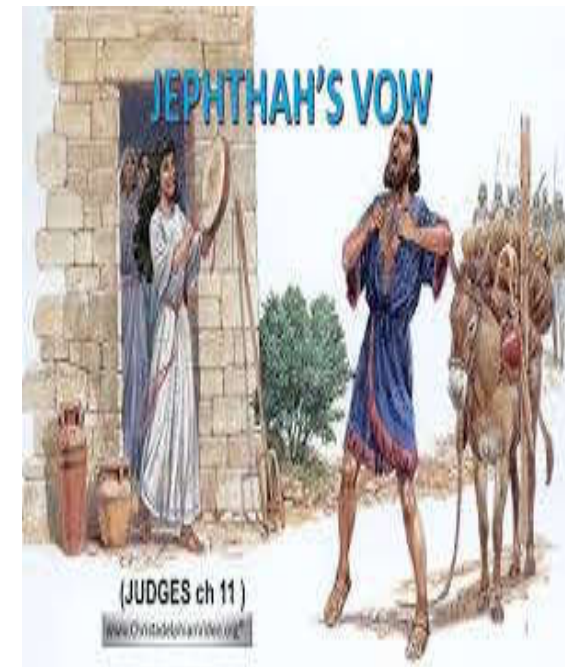


- **Judges 11:21-27, tell us what Jephthah knew about the Lord.**
- **He is addressing the enemy.**
- **21 And the Lord, the God of Israel, handed Sihon and all his people over to Israel, and they defeated them; so Israel took possession of all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country. 22 So they possessed all the territory of the Amorites, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok, and from the wilderness as far as the Jordan. 23 And now the Lord, the God of Israel, has driven out the Amorites from His people Israel; so should you possess it? 24 Do you not possess what Chemosh your god gives you to possess? So whatever the Lord our God has dispossessed before us, we will possess it.**

- **25 Now then, are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever contend with Israel, or did he ever fight against them? 26 While Israel was living in Heshbon and its villages, and in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities that are on the banks of the Arnon, three hundred years, why did you not recover them within that time? 27 So I have not sinned against you, but you are doing me wrong by making war against me. May the Lord, the Judge, judge today between the sons of Israel and the sons of Ammon.”**

- **The Lord was the one who gave Sihon and his land to Israel.**
- **He drove out the Ammonites.**
- **He is the God of Israel and His people should possess whatever He drove out.**
- **The Lord is the judge, the deliverer of His people.**
- **Jephthah reasoned with the king of Ammon that in 300 years of possessing the land of the Amorites, no one had tried to take it from Israel.**
- **The wrong was not done by Jephthah and Israel, but by Ammon in trying to take the land that the Lord, the God of Israel, had given long ago to His people.**

- **The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah and he made a foolish vow to the Lord.**
- **He promised to offer as a burnt offering to the Lord, the first thing that came out of the door of his house to meet him when he returned home in peace. (V29-31.)**
- **When Jephthah returned home his daughter came out to meet him and Jephthah fulfilled his vow to the Lord.**
- **V39 says that ‘he did to her according to his vow.’**
- **Jephthah judged Israel only six years.**



IBZAN, ELON AND ABDON:

- **Ibzan of Bethlehem judged after Jephthah for 7 years.**
- **He gave his sons and daughters to marry outside the family.**
- **Elon of the tribe of Zebulun judged Israel for 10 years after Ibzan.**
- **Abdon from the tribe of Ephraim judged Israel for 8 years.**
- **The judges were not perfect people, but they were used mightily of the lord to deliver His people.**
- **God can use anyone who is willing and obedient.**

SAMSON:



- **Samson was the answer to the prayer of devoted parents.**
- **His mother was barren.**
- **The angel of the Lord appeared to her, and later to Manoah, and told them that they would have a son and that he was to be a Nazarite to God from birth to the day of his death.**
- **She was to drink no wine or eat any unclean thing.**
- **He would begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.**

- **A Nazarite was separated unto God.**
- **He was to drink no wine or strong drink. He was to eat no unclean thing.**
- **No razor was to touch his hair.**
- **The Lord blessed Samson and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir in him.**
- **Samson saw a woman in Timnah – a Philistine.**



- **God had forbidden the sons of Israel to intermarry with the idolatrous nations.**
- **Samson told his parents to get her for him. “For she looks good to me.”**
- **His parents did not know that this was of the Lord. It was God’s plan.**
- **On their journey to Timnah, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson mightily and he tore a lion apart. Chapter 14:6:**
- **God gave Samson strength.**



- **He made a riddle and made a bet with his thirty companions they would not be able to solve the riddle.**
- **Samson's wife told the secret of his riddle to his thirty companions on the 7th day.**
- **Again, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily and he killed 30 men of the Philistines. V19:**
- **The Lord had said before he was born that he would begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines.**





- **Samson's wife was given to another man, one who had been his friend.**
- **When Samson discovered this, he burned the Philistines grain, vineyards and groves.**
- **He tied torches to the tails of 300 foxes and sent them into the crops.**
- **The Philistines then burned his wife and her father.**
- **This led Samson to a great slaughter of Philistines for revenge.**

DOWNWARD SPIRAL:

- **The Philistines sent 3,000 men against him.**
- **His own people betrayed him. and bound him and gave him to the enemy.**
- **Samson killed 1,000 men with the jawbone of a donkey.**
- **Chapter 15:14-16: NIV. 14 As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. 15 Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men.**
- **16 Then Samson said, “With a donkey’s jawbone I have made donkeys of them. With a donkey’s jawbone I have killed a thousand men.”**

- **Judges 15:20: NAS. “So he judged Israel 20 years in the days of the Philistines.”**
- **There were 20 years of peace and stability.**
- **Samson went to a harlot in the city of Gaza, a city of the Philistines.**
- **The enemies go to her and bribe her to find out the secret of Samson’s strength so that they could capture him.**
- **Delilah sold him out and eventually wore him down so that he told her that he would have no strength if his hair was cut.**



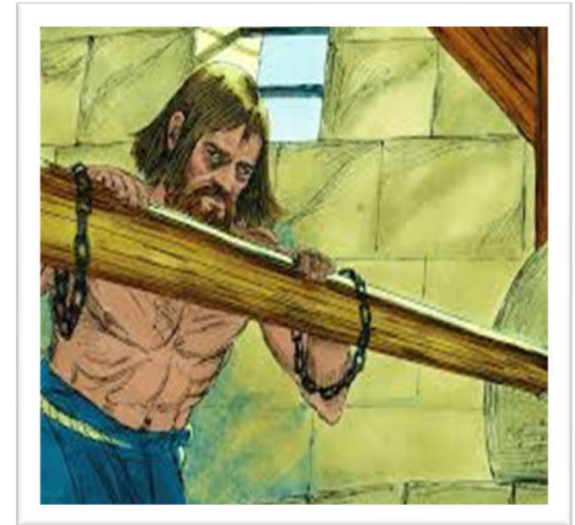
SQUANDERED OPPORTUNITY:

- **Samson lacked wisdom and discipline.**
- **He wasted his potential.**
- **He had God-fearing parents, a unique birth and lifestyle.**
- **He had great strength.**
- **He was anointed of the Holy Spirit as a deliverer.**



GOD DID NOT GIVE UP ON SAMSON:

- **Samson is taken to Gaza with no hair and no eyes.**
- **The Lord had departed from him when his hair was shaved.**
- **His strength came from the Lord and was also gone.**
- **He was blinded, enslaved and impoverished.**
- **His hair grew while he was bound in prison.**



- **He returned to God in repentance and God heard his cry.**
- **He called to the Lord to give him strength to bring vengeance on the Philistines.**
- **His strength returned.**
- **Samson killed more in death than in life.**
- **There were 3,000 people just on the roof and many more inside.**
- **He killed all the Lords of the Philistines when he died.**
- **Hebrews 11 says that he was a man of faith.**



MICAH:

- **Everyone did what was right in his own eyes!**
- **Micah took silver from his mother and she rejoiced when he admitted it.**
- **She dedicated the silver to the Lord for Micah to make an image.**
- **This was right in their own eyes but evil in the eyes of God.**
- **The Lord had commanded that they were to make no images.**



- **Micah also consecrated one of his sons as a priest and made an ephod.**
- **Micah was from the tribe of Ephraim, and the priests of the Lord were to come only from the tribe of Levi and the line of Aaron.**
- **The high priest was the only one who could consecrate a priest unto the Lord.**

- **Chapter 17:6: NAS. “In those days, there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.”**
- **A young man who was a Levite left his home in Bethlehem to look for a place to stay.**
- **Micah paid him to be his priest.**
- **Micah took it upon himself to consecrate a priest for his own household, thinking that the Lord would prosper him for it.**



THE TRIBE OF DAN:

- **The tribe of Dan was seeking an inheritance because they did not take from the Amorites the land that had been given to them for their inheritance. (Judges 1:34-35.)**
- **They did not drive out the Amorites as God had commanded them.**
- **Most of the Danites, but not all, went north toward the hill country of Ephraim.**
- **The five spies went first, then 600 warriors went to take the land for a possession.**
- **They took what they wanted: Micah's priest, idols, ephod, etc.**

- **After taking Laish the Danites rebuilt it and named it Dan.**
- **They set up Micah's idol.**
- **They were doing what was right in their own eyes and it was all an abomination to the Lord. Chapter 18:**



THE LEVITE AND THE CONCUBINE:

- **A Levite and his concubine were on their way back to Ephraim from Bethlehem.**
- **They stopped in Gibeah to spend the night.**
- **The men of Gibeah, who were of the tribe of Benjamin, tried to take the man for homosexual sin, but instead they were given his concubine.**
- **She died from her ordeal, and the Levite cut her into twelve pieces and sent her throughout the territory of Israel.**
- **Nothing like that had ever taken place in Israel before. Chapter 19:30:**

- **This chapter gives a good description of what was happening in Israel in the time of the judges.**
- **There was nothing holy about this Levite or the people of Israel he encountered.**
- **There was immorality, infidelity, lust, homosexuality, and sexual brutality.**



TOLERANCE OF SIN AND CIVIL WAR:

- **Israel gathered as one man to the Lord at Mizpah to decide what was to be done about the sin of the men of Gibeah.**
- **Chapter 20: 1-3: NIV. 1 Then all Israel from Dan to Beersheba and from the land of Gilead came together as one and assembled before the LORD in Mizpah. 2 The leaders of all the people of the tribes of Israel took their places in the assembly of God's people, four hundred thousand men armed with swords. 3 (The Benjamites heard that the Israelites had gone up to Mizpah.) Then the Israelites said, "Tell us how this awful thing happened."**

- **The decision was to go to war because the Benjamites were not willing to put the perpetrators to death.**
- **12 The tribes of Israel sent messengers throughout the tribe of Benjamin, saying, “What about this awful crime that was committed among you? 13 Now turn those wicked men of Gibeah over to us so that we may put them to death and purge the evil from Israel.” But the Benjamites would not listen to their fellow Israelites.**

“O Lord , The God Of
Israel,” They Cried, “Why
Has This Happened To
Israel? Why Should One
Tribe Be Missing From
Israel Today?”

Judges 21-3

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- **Twice Israel suffered loss, about 40,000, as they fought against Benjamin, but after Phineas the High Priest, inquired of the Lord, Israel killed all but 600 men from the tribe of Benjamin.**
- **These internal battles, brought on by sin, brought death to over 65,000 of the people who were to be holy to the Lord.**
- **This was what the nation of Israel had degenerated into at the time of the judges.**

RESTORING THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN:

- **Israel had sworn an oath at Mizpah that none of them would give their daughters to a man of Benjamin in marriage.**
- **We are not told in Chapter 21 that they inquired of the Lord.**
- **They came up with their own solution.**
- **Israel had destroyed the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead, except 400 virgins, since no one from there had made the oath.**
- **They still needed two hundred more wives for the men of Benjamin.**
- **They let the men of Benjamin take virgins from the feast of the Lord at Shiloh.**
- **They were doing what was right in their own eyes.**

- **Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.**
- **There is a high cost to low living.**
- **Sin does not have to have the last word in our life.**
- **Joshua is a book of victory, conquest, faithful obedience.**
- **God's word is central.**
- **They are united in following God.**
- **Judges is a book of failure, defeat, unbelief, disobedience, division, and ultimately anarchy.**
- **God's word is neglected and disobeyed.**

- **Judges is a record of man's sin, God's judgement and His grace and deliverance.**
- **We see God's compassionate delivery of His people in spite of sin and rejection.**
- **This is a picture of Christ on the cross.**
- **He died to deliver all people from sin.**
- **All who believe are delivered.**

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