

Bethel Bible Series

Judges Forestall Threats

Week 11

Welcome & Announcements

Opening - What important lessons did God try to teach Israel during the Conquest?

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Week

Spies From Kadesh Barnea

What was the report from the spies after touring Canaan?

What was the problem with this report?

What was God's judgment as a result of the Israelites' response?

Conquer of Eastern Territory

Why did Israel go around Edom, Moab & Ammon rather than through on The King's Highway?

Who was Sihon & what territory came with his defeat?

Who was Og & what territory came with his defeat?

Crossing the Jordan

Why didn't Moses cross the Jordan?

On what condition were the tribes of Reuben & Gad allowed to settle east of the Jordan?

How did God honor Joshua to put His mark on the transfer of power from Moses?

What significant events happened immediately after crossing the Jordan?

Conquer of Jericho

How did the Israelites penetrate the strong fortress of Jericho?

What was the significance of the *Rahab* & *The Spies* story?

Conquer of Ai

Why did the Israelites lose their first battle against Ai?

What important lesson was made by this story?

What strategy was used to conquer Ai?

Conquer of Southern Coalition

Why was it wrong for Israel to enter into treaty with Gibeon?

How did this lead to war against the southern coalition?

How did God intervene in these battles?

How did God use evil for good in this story?

Conquer of Northern Coalition

How did God prepare the northern area for quick conquest by Israel?

How did Joshua defeat the huge force?

Joshua's Last Days

Had the Israelites completed their mission from God?

What were Joshua's last words before sending them home?

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The Conquest - Picture Concepts

Masses Emerging From Desert = Israel comes to conquer
Great Sword East of Jordan = Kingdoms of Sihon and Og are crushed
Dual Swords West of Jordan = Jericho and Ai crumble
Sword Attached to Five Crowns = Southern coalition is defeated
Sword at Base of Sea of Galilee = Northern coalition is routed
Figure on Rock Ledge = Israel is master of Canaan, Joshua urges loyalty to true God
Red Tinges on Western Seacoast = Some areas remain untaken and threaten Israel's destiny

Lesson - Judges Forestall Threats

After Joshua

What charge did Joshua give to the Israelites near the end of his life?
Joshua 23:6-8, 12-13 = Be faithful to God, Keep separate from others and their gods
How did the Israelites respond to Joshua's call?
Joshua 24:24 = *We will serve the Lord our God and obey Him.*
How faithful did the Israelites remain?
Judges 2:7, 10-13 = They forgot God after a generation
Why did the Israelites continue to fall from God?
Judges 3:5-6 = Lived among other nations & intermarried & served their gods

How did God handle this?
Judges 2:14-15 = He punished them with raiders & allowed defeat by enemies
How did God respond to Israel's cries?
Judges 2:16, 18 = He raised up judges to save them
Did the judges have a lasting effect on Israel's faithfulness?
Judges 2:19 = After the judge died, they returned to evil & became more corrupt
What did God decide as a result of this response?
Judges 2:20-22 = Allow other nations to remain to test Israel

The Cycle = See extra Lecture Notes

Trouble - Judge - Peace Cycle = Master Plan cycle, Similar to Israel in wilderness & Genesis 4-11
Alphabet Cycle: Apostasy, Battered, Cry Out, Deliverer, Emancipate, Forget

Leadership

What kind of leadership did Israel have after Joshua? = 300-400 years from Joshua to Samuel
Judges 21:25 = *In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit*
What was the Israelites' opinion of a king?
Judges 8:22-23 = God is our king, no man can be king
How tight was the confederacy between tribes?
Judges 1:3 (1:17, 6:35, 20:1) = Banded together to fight enemies
Judges 20:35 (5:17, 8:1, 12:1) = Fought with each other
Vacant throne, unclaimed crown and robe = Israel was a loose confederacy without king or central gov't

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Enemies

Who were Israel's enemies? = Table of Judges - Mesopotamia, Moab, Canaan, Midian, Ammon, Philistia
Disheveled figure on bottom right = Israel's political enemies during period of judges
Figure holds stone axe = Israel's enemies were small powers of the immediate locale

What was Baal? = Various male gods for places or purposes, Son of Canaanite chief god El
Judges 2:11 = Priests & priestesses would have sex to encourage gods, Fertility Cult
What were Ashtoreth & Asherah? = Called Ishtar - Babylon, Ashtarte & Aphrodite - Greek, Venus - Roman
Judges 2:13 = Female consorts of Baal & El, respectively

Who were the judges? = Not judicial judges - Local heroes raised by God for specific needs
6 major, 7 minor = Based on volume of info we have, See Table of Judges
Exodus 18 = Judges instituted under Moses
Hebrews 11:32-34 = *Through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice ...*

Figure with ripped tunic and broken axe handle in hand = Small powers were defeated by the judges
Six figures in center = The six major judges of Israel
Scrap of tunic in other figures' hands = Judges defeated specific enemy, didn't eliminate all enemies

Othniel

(Judges 1:11-15, 3:7-11)

Who was Othniel and where was his first victory?
Judges 1:12-13 = Caleb's nephew, Captured Kiriath-Sepher (Debir) to be Caleb's son-in-law
Who did Othniel defeat when God called him as a judge?
Judges 3:10-11 = Cushan-Rishathaim, king of Aram (Syria, Mesopotamia)
Judge with raised arm = Othniel delivered Israel from Mesopotamian oppression

Ehud

(Judges 3:12-30)

Who was Israel's next oppressor? = City of Palsm was name for area of Jericho
Judges 3:12-13 = Eglon, king of Moab, with Ammonites & Amalekites
Judge with sword in hand = Ehud saved from Moabites, Sword symbolic of gift to Eglon
What is represented by the sword with the ribbon?
Judges 3:20-22 = Ehud used a hidden sword to kill the fat king
How did Ehud then conquer 10,000 Moabites?
Judges 3:27-30 = Gathered Ephraimites and killed Moabites trying to cross Jordan

Deborah

(Judges 4-5)

Who was the oppressor at Deborah's time?
Judges 4:2-3 = Jabin, king of Canaan in Hazor (in Galilee), Army commander was Sisera
Judge with tent spike in hand = Deborah defeated Canaanites
What was wrong with Barak wanting Deborah to go along?
Judges 4:8-9 = He was trusting Deborah, not God
What is represented by the tent spike?
Judges 4:21-22 = Jael killed Sisera with tent spike, Barak didn't get to kill Sisera himself

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Gideon

(Judges 6-9)

Who was Israel's next oppressor? = Midian – son of Abraham & Keturah

Judges 6:1 = The Midianites - Nomadic people from Sinai desert, Moses' in-laws

Judge with lamp & trumpet in hand = Gideon defeated Midianites

How did God reveal Himself to Gideon?

Judges 6:17, 21 = Fire from rock consumed sacrifice of meat & bread

Judges 6:36-40 = Fleece wet & ground dry one day, ground wet & fleece dry next day

Why did God reduce Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300?

Judges 7:2 = So Israel would know victory was from God, not by man's powers

What is represented by the lamp & trumpet?

Judges 7:20-21 = Surrounded Midianites, lit lamps & blew trumpets; confused enemies

Jephthah

(Judges 10:6-12:7)

Who did God use to punish the Israelites in Jephthah's day?

Judges 10:6-7 = Philistines & Ammonites

Judge with manuscript in hand = Jephthah defeated Ammonites

What is represented by the manuscript?

Judges 11:30-31 = Jephthah made a rash vow to sacrifice whatever first came out of his house

Judges 11:34-35 = His daughter, an only child, was first out of his house

Samson

(Judges 13-16)

Who oppressed Israel in Samson's day?

Judges 13:1 = Philistines

Judge with jawbone in hand = Samson defeated the Philistines

How was Samson set apart by God even before birth?

Judges 13:5 = He was to be a Nazirite his entire life

What is represented by the jawbone?

Judges 15:15 = He killed 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey

How was Samson victorious even at death?

Judges 16:29-30 = He knocked down the temple, killing more Philistines than he had while alive

Related Stories

Abimelech - Judges 9

Micah's Idols & the Danites - Judges 17-18

The Levite, His Concubine & the Benjamites - Judges 19-21

Ruth

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 11 and Assignment 12

Next Week - *The Philistine Menace*

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The Conquest

Review Notes - Page 1/2

Spies From Kadesh Barnea

- What was the report from the spies after touring Canaan?
 - Land was terrific, inhabitants were too powerful
- What was the problem with this report?
 - Spies didn't Trust in the Lord
- What was God's judgement as a result of the Israelites' response?
 - No males over 20 would enter promised land except Joshua & Caleb

Conquer of Eastern Territory

- Why did Israel go around Edom, Moab & Ammon rather than through on The King's Highway?
 - God commanded to avoid confrontation, God gave land to descendants of Esau & Lot
- Who was Sihon & what territory came with his defeat?
 - Amorite king of Heshbon, Arnon Gorge to Jabbok River
- Who was Og & what territory came with his defeat?
 - King of Bashan, Jabbok River to Mount Hermon

Crossing the Jordan

- Why didn't Moses cross the Jordan?
 - God's punishment for not honoring Him in the Water from Rock incident
- On what condition were the tribes of Reuben & Gad allowed to settle east of the Jordan?
 - That their men join Israelites in fight to capture Canaan
- How did God honor Joshua for the transfer of power from Moses?
 - Moses passed power to Joshua, Parted the Jordan River
- What significant events happened immediately after crossing the Jordan?
 - Built memorial with stones from Jordan River
 - All males were circumcised
 - Celebrated the Passover
 - Manna stopped
 - Joshua met angel - *Where you are standing is holy ground*

Conquer of Jericho

- How did the Israelites penetrate the strong fortress of Jericho?
 - Marched around city 6 days, On 7th blew trumpets & God crumbled the walls
- What was the significance of the *Rahab* & *The Spies* story?
 - First time opponents were not wiped out entirely, made pact

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The Conquest

Review Notes - Page 2/2

Conquer of Ai

- Why did the Israelites lose their first battle against Ai?
 - Achan had stolen Jericho plunder that was dedicated to God
- What important lesson was made by this story?
 - Have to remove evil tumors from body so they won't spread, separation within family
- What strategy was used to conquer Ai?
 - Retreat to draw out of city, Destroy city with ambush, Cut down army

Conquer of Southern Coalition

- Why was it wrong for Israel to enter into treaty with Gibeon?
 - God commanded not to; Israel would be tempted & would stray
- How did this lead to war against the southern coalition?
 - Southern cities banded against Gibeon, Israel fought to protect Gibeon
- How did God intervene in these battles?
 - Large hailstones on fleeing Amorites, Stopped sun 24 hours to find retreaters
- How did God use evil for good in this story?
 - Evil - entering treaty with Gibeon, Good - Israel captured southern territory

Conquer of Northern Coalition

- How did God prepare the northern area for quick conquest by Israel?
 - Kings joined forces to fight against Israel
- How did Joshua defeat the huge force?
 - Surprise attack while forces were banding together, God sent confusion

Joshua's Last Days

- Had the Israelites completed their mission from God?
 - No, they left large areas of land unconquered
- What were Joshua's last words before sending them home?
 - Stay faithful to God, avoid other nations' gods, *Choose this day whom you will serve*

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Judges

Lecture Notes - Page 1/3

Alphabet Cycle

Apostasy = Unbelief, Rebellion
Battered = Beat upon by enemies
Cry Out = Call to God
Deliverer = God raises a judge
Emancipate = Judge frees Israel from oppression
Forget = Israel forgets what God did & returns to Apostasy

Othniel

Caleb's nephew & son-in-law - Both had spiritual discernment
Captured Kiriath-Sepher (became Debir) to win Caleb's daughter as wife
Defeated Cushan-Rishathaim to free Israel from Mesopotamia

Ehud

Ehud delivered tribute (regular payment to ruling nation) to Eglon
Met privately with Eglon to deliver secret message
 Secret was sword stabbed into body
 Was left handed to allow use of sword without notice
Guarded Jordan River fords, killed 10,000 Moabites
 Made Moab subject to Israel

Deborah

Held court in Ephraim to settle disputes
Called Barak to fight against Sisera (commander of King Jabin's army)
 Barak required Deborah to go along
 Because of Barak's lack of faith, Sisera would be killed by a woman
Barak attacked Sisera from Mount Tabor
 Wiped out all of Sisera's troops

Sisera hid in tent of Jael, a Kenite wife
 Kenites were descendants of Moses' father-in-law Jethro
 Jael drove tent peg through Sisera's temple while he slept
Israelites eventually destroyed Jabin

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Judges

Lecture Notes - Page 2/3

Gideon

Midianites descended on Israel like locusts and ravaged the land
God called Gideon while he was threshing wheat while hiding from Midianites
 Asked for sign of proof - Fire from rock consumed meal
Destroyed father's altar to Baal & Asherah pole
 Called Jerub-Baal - *Let Baal contend*

Asked for proof that God was with Israel
 Fleece wet, ground dry - 1st day
 Ground wet, fleece dry - 2nd day
God reduced force from 32,000 to 300 to show His hand

Men surrounded enemies, all broke jars, lit torches, blew trumpets
 Enemy was confused and turned on itself
When asked to lead Israel, Gideon said God is Israel's king

Jephthah

Jephthah was illegitimate son of Gilead
 Was driven away by legitimate brothers
 Formed band of adventurers
 Called back by Gilead elders when Ammonites attacked
Ammonite king wanted Arnon to Jabbok territory
 Said Israel took it from him
 Jephthah explained how God had protected Ammon
 Land had been taken from Amorites (Sihon)

Jephthah made rash vow for sacrifice if Israel won
 Israel was victorious
 J's daughter was first out of house, so he had to sacrifice her

Ephraim tribe was upset that they weren't asked to join the fun
 J's Gileadites fought and defeated Ephraimites
 Set roadblocks at Jordan to catch fleeing Ephraimites
 Listened for "accent" to detect Ephraimites

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Judges

Lecture Notes - Page 3/3

Samson

Born to childless wife of Manoah
Dedicated to God as a Nazirite

First wife - A Philistine
Killed lion bare-handed, carcass later had honey
Used story as riddle in wager for clothes
Wife cheated and gave away answer
Samson got clothes by killing 30 Philistines
Wife was given to another man
Revenge by sending 300 foxes with torches thru Philistine grain fields & vineyards
Philistines chased Samson to Judah
Judah turned Samson over
Samson killed 1000 Philistines with donkey's jawbone

Fell in love with Delilah
Delilah tried 3 times to learn Samson's secret of strength
On fourth time, he told her about his hair
Philistines cut his hair, blinded him & threw him in jail

Samson was displayed at huge Philistine celebration
His hair had grown back & strength returned
Pushed down central pillars of temple
Killed thousands of Philistines & rulers

Related Stories

Abimelech - Judges 9

CARGO - Leadership is chosen by God, not by man or heredity

Micah's Idols & the Danites - Judges 17-18

CARGO - Israelites were so misled, they thought God came with a Levite & his idols
Similar misunderstanding as Barak needing Deborah present to fight Canaanites
Also – Israelites later carry ark into battle with Philistines - & lose it

The Levite, His Concubine & the Benjamites - Judges 19-21

CARGO - Remove the cancer from the body; Body must be whole, but well

Ruth

CARGO - Importance is devotion to God, not being Israelite
Who were some of Ruth's descendants?
David, Solomon, Jesus