

# Bethel Bible Series

## Judges Forestall Threats

### Study 11

*Leaders do not inflict pain – they bear pain. - PK*

Welcome

Opening - What important lessons did God try to teach Israel during the Conquest?  
Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer  
InDepth Concept Review

### **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 and what territory came with his defeat?
- Who was Og and what territory came with his defeat?

Crossing the Jordan

- Why didn't Moses cross the Jordan?
- On what condition were the tribes of Reuben and 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 and 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 (Yahweh) our God and obey Him.*  
How faithful did the Israelites remain?  
Judges 2:7, 10-13 = They forgot God after a generation, worshiped other gods  
Why did the Israelites continue to fall from God?  
Judges 3:5-6 = Lived among other nations and intermarried and served their gods  
  
How did God handle this?  
Judges 2:14-15 = He punished them with raiders and 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 and became more corrupt  
What did God do as a result of this response?  
Judges 2:20-22 = Allow other nations to remain to test Israel

The Cycle = See extra Lecture Notes

Sin – Judgment – Grace Cycle = Similar to Israel in wilderness and 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 and 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 and 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 Palms was name for area of Jericho

Judges 3:12-13 = Eglon, king of Moab, with Ammonites and 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 happened when she called on Barak, a Naphtali warrior, to lead an army to attack Sisera?

Judges 4:8-9 = Barak wanted Deborah to go along, He was trusting Deborah, not God

What is represented by the tent spike?

Judges 4:21-22 = Jael (woman) 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 and Keturah

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

*Judge with lamp and trumpet in hand* = Gideon defeated Midianites

How did God reveal Himself to Gideon?

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

Judges 6:36-40 = Fleece wet and ground dry one day, ground wet and 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 and trumpet?

Judges 7:20-21 = Surrounded Midianites, lit lamps and 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 and 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 and the Danites - Judges 17-18

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

Ruth

InDepth Research: *Why were the practices of the Canaanites considered so detestable by God?*

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 11 and Assignment

Next Week - *The Philistine Menace*

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### 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 and Caleb

#### Conquer of Eastern Territory

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

God commanded to avoid confrontation, God gave land to descendants of Esau and Lot

Who was Sihon and what territory came with his defeat?

Amorite king of Heshbon, Arnon Gorge to Jabbok River

Who was Og and 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 and 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 and God crumbled the walls

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

First time opponents were not wiped out entirely, made pact

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### 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 and 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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### 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 and returns to Apostasy

#### Othniel

Caleb's nephew and 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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### 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 and 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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### 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  
Revenged 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