

Bethel Bible Series

The Philistine Menace

Study 12

Only those who see the invisible can do the impossible. - PK

Welcome

Opening - Why did God raise up judges during Israel's early years in the promised land?

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

InDepth Concept Review

InDepth Presentations:

Christina Ronshaussen-Terrell:

Why were the practices of the Canaanites considered so detestable by God?

June Milligan: Jephthah's tribal background

Review of Last Weeks

Review - *The Conquest*

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

Size of Area

Mediterranean Sea to Jordan River = ~40 mi (Downtown Houston to Galveston Causeway)

Dead Sea to Sea of Galilee = ~40 miles

Philistia = ~10 miles wide (Less than West 610 to East 610)

Kingdoms were city-states = Not organized or strong enough to withstand Israel

Review - *Judges Forestall Threats*

After Joshua

How long were the Israelites faithful after Joshua? = A generation

How did God handle Israel's unfaithfulness? = Punished and defeated by raiders

How did God respond to Israel's repentance and cries for help? = Raised up judges to save

Did the judges have a lasting effect? = After judge died, returned to evil

What cycle was displayed in Judges?

ABCDEF = Apostasy – Battered – Cry Out – Deliverer – Emancipate – Forget

What did God decide as a result? = Allowed nations to remain as tests

Background

What kind of leadership followed Joshua? = No king or central government, all did as saw fit

Who were Israel's enemies? = Small local powers

Who were the judges? = Local heroes raised by God for specific needs

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Judges Forestall Threats - Picture Concepts: Sandy Hempel (InDepth)

Vacant Throne, Unclaimed Crown and Robe = Israel was loose confederacy without king or central gov't

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

Figure with Ripped Tunic and Broken Axe Handle = Small powers were defeated by judges

Six Figures in Center = The six major judges of Israel

Scrap of Tunic in Hands = Judges defeated specific enemy, didn't eliminate all enemies

Judge with Raised Arm = Othniel delivered Israel from Mesopotamians

Judge with Sword = Ehud saved Israel from Moabites, Sword was secret gift to Eglon

Judge with Tent Spike = Deborah defeated Canaanites, Tent spike killed Sisera by woman

Judge with Lamp and Trumpet = Gideon defeated Midianites using 300 with lamps and trumpets

Judge with Manuscript = Jephthah defeated Ammonites after making rash vow

Judge with Jawbone = Samson defeated Philistines (1000 with jawbone, thousands at his death)

Lesson - The Philistine Menace

The Philistines

From whom did the Philistines descend? = Migrated from Egypt to Canaan along seacoast

Genesis 10:1, 6, 13-14 = Noah - Ham – Mizraim (Egypt) – Casluhites (Crete) – Philistines

Philistines invaded Egypt in 1200 BC (period of Judges) and were defeated by Rameses III

Migrated in mass to southern Canaan at that time = Smaller presence since Abraham (2100 BC)

What interactions did the Patriarchs have with the Philistines? = Wives as sisters both times

Genesis 21:22-24, 31, 34 = Abraham treated with Abimelech and stayed in land of Philistines

Genesis 26:1, 6 = Isaac lived in land of Philistines during a time of famine

Why didn't the Exodus go along the shorter highway through Philistia? = String of Egyptian fortresses

Exodus 13:17-18 = Not ready, *If they face war, they might return to Egypt*

How much of Philistia remained untaken after Joshua? = Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, Ekron

Joshua 13:1-3 = All the regions of the Philistines, of the 5 rulers

Why did God leave the Philistines?

Judges 3:1-4 = Teach warfare to Israel, Test Israel's faithfulness

What judges contended with the Philistines?

Judges 3:31 = Shamgar killed 600 Philistines with an oxgoad (prod)

Judges 10:7; 11:32 = Significant Philistine trouble began at Jephthah's time (before Samson)

Judges 13:1, 5; 15:20; 16:30 = Samson saved Israel from Philistines, 20 yrs

Looking ahead, how do the Philistines interact with Saul and David?

1 Samuel 13:4 = Upon becoming king, Saul attacked Philistines at Geba

1 Samuel 14:13-14 = Jonathan, Saul's son, and his armor-bearer killed 20 Philistines

1 Samuel 17:4, 50 = David killed Goliath, a 9-foot Philistine

1 Samuel 27:1-2, 6-12 = David in Philistia 16 months conducting raids

1 Samuel 31:8-10 = Philistines killed Saul and displayed his body

2 Samuel 5:17-19, 25; 8:1 = David defeated and subdued Philistines

What challenge did the Philistines present to Israel during the time of the judges?

1 Samuel 13:5 = Massive military force, Well-organized

1 Samuel 13:19-22 = Monopoly on metal work to keep Israel without weapons

The Philistines were a very advanced civilization; Strong economy, shipping industry

Philistia had become a major power that threatened all of Israel = Not just small local skirmishes

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The Battle at Ebenezer

How successful were the Israelites against the Philistines at Ebenezer?

1 Samuel 4:1-2 = Philistines won, killed about 4000 Israelites

What did Israel believe was the cause of their defeat? What did they do?

1 Samuel 4:3-4 = God wasn't with them, Went and got the ark

Why had Israel lost in the first place? = God wasn't with them

Judges 3:10 = God raised up a judge to lead in victory

1 Samuel 4:1b = Israel went out to fight, no mention of calling on God

What effect did the presence of the ark have on the Israelites?

1 Samuel 4:5 = They were thrilled that God was present, a great shout

What effect did the presence of the ark have on the Philistines?

1 Samuel 4:6-9 = They were afraid of fighting God

Did the ark have the intended effect?

1 Samuel 4:10-11 = No, Israel lost 30,000; ark was captured

Massive Army Posed in Background = Israel was threatened by a major power, Philistia

Warriors with Iron Weapons = Philistia was well-organized military power, different than other enemies

Gloating King and Arrogant Warriors = Philistia captures Israel's most prized possession, the ark

Figure with Tears in Eyes = The ark's loss brought a feeling of hopeless despair - thought they lost God

The Tour of the Ark

What effects did the ark have on the Philistines?

1 Samuel 5:1-4 = Philistine god Dagon fell on face before ark, broke apart 2nd time

1 Samuel 5:6-8 = Tumors on people of Ashdod (*and rats* in some versions)

1 Samuel 5:9-12 = Tumors in Gath and Ekron

What did the Philistines decide to do to stop the problems?

1 Samuel 6:1-2 = Return the ark to its place

Who were the Philistines trying to appease? The Israelites?

1 Samuel 6:3-5 = Israel's God

How did Israel respond when the ark was returned?

1 Samuel 6:13-14 = *Rejoiced at the sight*, sacrificed cows to God

What happened when Israelites curiously looked into the ark?

1 Samuel 6:19 = 70 died from looking into the ark; didn't honor or respect "presence of God"

Lessons From the Loss of the Ark

How did the Israelites respond to the whole incident? = Had lost the "presence of God"

1 Samuel 7:2 = All the people mourned and sought after the Lord

What was significant for the Israelites about Samuel's name?

1 Samuel 1:20 = Samuel means *ask of God*

What was the central lesson for the Israelites? = Same thing God always wants

1 Samuel 7:3 = Return to God, get rid of foreign gods

How did the Israelites respond to Samuel's message?

1 Samuel 7:4-6 = They threw out idols, met at Mizpah and fasted and confessed sins

Had the Israelites learned the lesson when the Philistines then came to attack?

1 Samuel 7:7-9 = Yes, they called on God before proceeding

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More Lessons From the Loss of the Ark

Was God with the Israelites in the Battle at Mizpah?

1 Samuel 7:10-12 = Yes, Israel routed the Philistines

How did God bless Israel after they returned to Him?

1 Samuel 7:13-14 = Philistines no longer invaded Israel, captured towns returned, had peace

Did Samuel's calling by God and leadership qualify him as a judge?

1 Samuel 7:15-17 = *Samuel continued as judge over Israel all his life*

Israel Asks for a King

Figure Clasping Cloak of Weeping Man = Others saw answer in government

Vision of Throne with King = Philistine experience led to concept of king

Why did Israel want a king?

1 Samuel 8:4-5 = Wanted a leader, didn't trust God for another judge

1 Samuel 8:19-20 = Like other nations, Go before us and fight battles

Did Samuel approve of appointing a king?

1 Samuel 8:6, 11-18 = No. He warned of what a king would do

Did God oppose appointing a king?

1 Samuel 8:6-9 = No. They're just being themselves by rejecting me

1 Samuel 8:21-22 = *Listen to them and give them a king*

1 Samuel 9:15-17 = God chose Saul to be the first king over Israel

1 Samuel 16:1 = God chose David to be the second king over Israel

Is God against government?

Romans 13:1-7 = God has established all governments, Leaders are God's servants

1 Timothy 2:1-3 = Pleases God for us to pray for our leaders

1 Peter 2:13-14 = Submit yourself to your leaders

Summary - *The Philistine Menace*

Massive Army Posed in Background = Israel was threatened by a major power, Philistia

Warriors with Iron Weapons = Philistia was well-organized military power, diff than other enemies

Gloating King and Arrogant Warriors = Philistia captures Israel's most prized possession, the ark

Figure with Tears in Eyes = The loss of the ark created a feeling of hopeless despair

Figure Clasping Cloak of Weeping Man = Others saw answer in government

Vision of Throne with King = Philistine experience led to concept of king

InDepth Research: *What interactions did the Israelites have with the ark of the covenant during their history?*

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 12 and Assignment

Next Week - *Review of Studies 10-12*