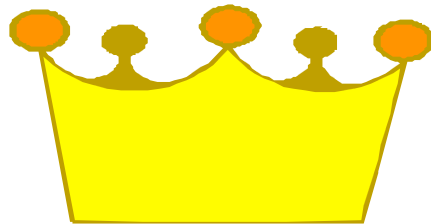


THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE JUDGES - THE FIRST KING



Year 2 - Quarter 1

by

F. L. Booth

© 2005

F. L. Booth
Zion, IL 60099

CONTENTS

| LESSON | PAGE |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 Ehud's Dagger | 1 - 1 |
| 2 Deborah And Barak | 2 - 1 |
| 3 An Angel Visits Gideon | 3 - 1 |
| 4 Gideon And The Midianites | 4 - 1 |
| 5 Jephthah | 5 - 1 |
| 6 Samson's Riddle And Revenge | 6 - 1 |
| 7 Samson And Delilah | 7 - 1 |
| 8 The Story Of Ruth | 8 - 1 |
| 9 The Birth Of Samuel | 9 - 1 |
| 10 Samuel Hears A Voice | 10 - 1 |
| 11 Israel Wants A King | 11 - 1 |
| 12 Saul Chosen As King | 12 - 1 |
| 13 Saul Disobeys God | 13 - 1 |
| Chart of Judges | |

LESSON 1

EHUD'S DAGGER

Judg. 3:12-30

INTRODUCTION. The children of Israel were faithful to the Lord God all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua. These people had seen all the miracles and great works the Lord had done for the Israelites. However, when that generation died, the generation that arose after them did not know the Lord or his marvelous works. These people rebelled and forsook the Lord, intermarrying with the Canaanites, and worshipping the pagan gods Baal (the male god) and Ashtoreth (the female goddess) of the Canaanite people (Judg. 2:7-13).

Thus the Lord became angry with his people, the Israelites, and He delivered them into the hands of their enemies who oppressed them. After some time the people repented of their evil, turned back to the Lord, and cried to him for deliverance. The Lord raised up a judge to deliver them from their enemies, and the people enjoyed peace and rest once again. However, when the judge died the people forsook the Lord once more, turned again to their idolatry, and worshipped their false gods. God then delivered them into the hands of their enemies, and the cycle repeated itself.

This is the story of the judges of Israel—the period of time between the death of Joshua and the establishment of the United Kingdom under Saul, David, and Solomon. During this time the government of Israel was a loose confederation of the tribes gathered around their shrine, the ark of the covenant. There was no national leader such as Moses or Joshua. The judges were merely tribal leaders—leaders of their own and perhaps surrounding tribes. "...every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judg. 17:6; 21:25).

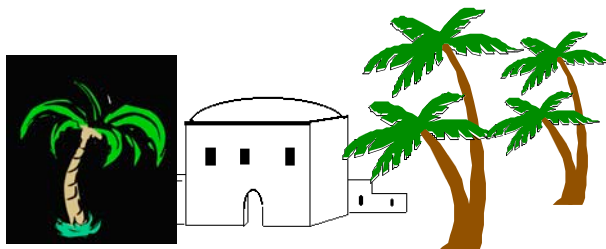
The first enemy to conquer the children of Israel during this period was Cushan-rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia. For eight years Israel served this foreign king, then

they cried to the Lord for deliverance who raised up Othniel, Caleb's younger brother. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Othniel, and he warred against the king defeating him (Judg. 3:7-11).

The next enemy was Eglon, king of Moab, who smote the Israelites and possessed the city of palm trees (Jericho) with his allies, the people of Ammon and Amalek. When the children of Israel cried to the Lord, He raised up Ehud from the tribe of Benjamin.

A. EGLON, THE OPPRESSOR

1. _____ The children of Israel did (Judg. 3:12) a. palm trees
2. _____ The Lord strengthened (Judg. 3:12) b. left-handed
3. _____ Eglon was king of (Judg. 3:12) c. Eglon
4. _____ Eglon gathered unto him the children of (Judg. 3:13) d. Ammon and Amalek
5. _____ They smote Israel and possessed the city of (Judg. 3:13) e. evil
6. _____ The children of Israel served Eglon for (Judg. 3:14) f. tribute, a present
7. _____ The children of Israel cried unto the (Judg. 3:15) g. Ehud
8. _____ The Lord raised up a deliverer named (Judg. 3:15) h. Moab
9. _____ Ehud was (Judg. 3:15) i. Lord
10. _____ The children of Israel sent unto the king of Moab (Judg. 3:15) j. 18 years



B. EHUD, THE DELIVERER

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. _____Ehud made a sword (dagger) that had (3:16) | a. summer parlor (cool room) |
| 2. _____The length of the sword was (3:16) | b. trumpet |
| 3. _____He put the sword under his coat upon his right (3:16) | c. blade |
| 4. _____Eglon was very (3:17) | d. dead |
| 5. _____Ehud paid the tribute, then said he had a secret (3:18-19) | e. two edges (double edge) |
| 6. _____Eglon dismissed all that were with him and was sitting by himself in his private (3:19-20) | f. belly (body) |
| 7. _____Ehud said he had a message from (3:20) | g. God |
| 8. _____Ehud took the sword from his right thigh with his left hand and thrust it into Eglon's (3:21) | h. 10,000 men |
| 9. _____The haft (hilt) went in after the (3:22) | i. fourscore (80) years |
| 10. _____Ehud left through the porch, shut the doors of the room and (3:23) | j. ashamed (embarrassed) |
| 11. _____When Eglon's servants found the doors locked, they believed he was attending to his needs, and they tarried until they were (3:24-25) | k. locked the doors |
| 12. _____Finally they opened the doors with a key and found their lord (3:25) | l. fat |
| 13. _____While they tarried, Ehud escaped to the mountains of Ephraim and blew a (3:26-27) | m. one cubit |
| 14. _____He told the people to follow him, for the Lord had delivered the Moabites to them; they killed (3:28-29) | n. errand (message) |
| 15. _____Moab was subdued, and Israel had rest for (3:30) | o. thigh |

LESSON 2

DEBORAH AND BARAK

Judg. 4

INTRODUCTION. The next judge after Ehud was Shamgar who killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad and saved Israel. At that time oppression was so bad the highways were unsafe, and the people had to travel on the byways or secluded paths (Judg. 3:31; 5:6). This is the first mention of the Philistines as enemies of the Israelites.

Again the Israelites did evil, and the Lord brought Jabin, a king of Canaan, against them who harshly oppressed them for twenty years. The captain of Jabin's army was Sisera who had 900 chariots of iron.

The judge at this time was Deborah, a prophetess and the only woman judge. She lived in the hill country of Ephraim, sitting under a palm tree where the children of Israel came to her for judgment.

Deborah called for Barak out of Naphtali and said God commanded to take 10,000 men of Israel from Naphtali and Zebulun to Mount Tabor. God would draw Sisera and his army to Barak and the Israelites, then deliver the army of Sisera into the hand of Barak. However, there would be no glory for Barak in this undertaking, for the Lord would sell Sisera himself into the hand of a woman.

A. DEBORAH AND BARAK

1. When Ehud was dead, what did the children of Israel do? (Judg. 4:1)
2. Into whose hand did the Lord sell them? (Judg. 4:2)

3. Who was captain of Jabin's host? How many chariots did he have? (Judg. 4:2-3)
4. How long did Jabin oppress Israel? (Judg. 4:3)
5. Who was judge of Israel at this time? (Judg. 4:4)
6. For whom did Deborah send? (Judg. 4:6)
7. How many men did she say that the Lord had commanded him to take with him to Mount Tabor? (Judg. 4:6)
8. Whom did she say that God would deliver into Barak's hand? (Judg. 4:7)
9. What agreement did Barak make with Deborah? (Judg. 4:8)
10. Who would receive the glory for this journey (battle)? (Judg. 4:9)

B. SISERA'S FATE. Barak gathered the Israelite army to Mount Tabor. Below in the valley is the River Kishon. The river often becomes swollen and floods the valley during the rainy season. When Sisera brought his army to the valley for the battle, his chariots became bogged down in the flooded plain, "...The river of Kishon swept them away" (Judg. 5:21).

1. How many chariots and people did Sisera gather to him? (Judg. 4:13)

2. When Barak and his army fought against Sisera, what did Sisera do? (Judg. 4:15)

3. What happened to Sisera's army? (Judg. 4:16)

4. To whose tent did Sisera flee? (Judg. 4:17)

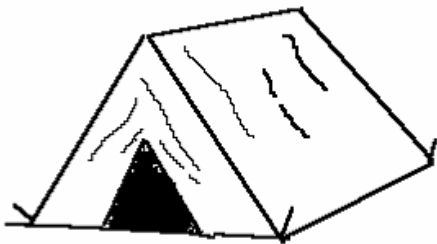
Note. This woman's husband and family who were Kenites were at peace with Jabin, the king. The Kenites were descendants of Moses' father-in-law (Num. 10:29; Judg. 1:16; 4:11).

5. What did Jael do for Sisera? (Judg. 4:18-19)

6. What did Sisera tell her to do if anyone inquired about him? (Judg. 4:20)

7. What did Jael do? (Judg. 4:21)

8. As Barak pursued Sisera, Jael met him. What did she tell him? (Judg. 4:22)



9. What were the children of Israel able to do after the death of Sisera? (Judg. 4:23-24)

10. How long did the land have rest (peace)? (Judg. 5:31)

11. The Hebrew writer states that Barak and others through _____ subdued kingdoms. (Heb. 11:32-33)

LESSON 3

AN ANGEL VISITS GIDEON

Judg. 6

INTRODUCTION. Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord who delivered them into the hand of the Midianites. The Midianites and their allies the Amalekites, both desert nomad tribes, lived in the territory east of the Jordan River. They invaded like locusts the land of the Israelites, destroying their crops and animals, and forcing many of the people to hide and live in caves and dens. The Midianites oppressed Israel for seven years (Judg. 6:1-6).

At last Israel cried unto the Lord. First the Lord sent a prophet to the people to teach and reprove them. The prophet reminded them that God had delivered them many times from the Egyptians and other oppressors. He also reminded them they had disobeyed God and worshipped the idols of the land where they were dwelling (Judg. 6:7-10).

Next the Lord sent his angel to appoint a deliverer and give him courage and confidence. One day as Gideon, a man of Manasseh, was threshing wheat in his winepress in order to hide the grain from enemies who might be roving about, the angel of the Lord appeared to him. The angel told Gideon to save Israel from Midian, assuring him that the Lord would be with him (Judg. 6:11-24).

A. GIDEON'S COMMISSION (Judg. 6:11-24)

1. When the children of Israel did evil, into whose hand did the Lord deliver them? For how long? (Judg. 6:1)

2. Where were the children of Israel forced to live because of the Midianites? (Judg. 6:2)

3. What did the Midianites do to the crops and animals of the Israelites? (Judg. 6:3-4)
4. How many Midianites came against Israel? (Judg. 6:5)
5. To whom did the Israelites cry for help? (Judg. 6:6)
6. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, what did the angel tell him? (Judg. 6:14)
7. Gideon asked how he could save Israel and made two excuses: (Judg. 6:15)
 - a. my family is the _____ in Manasseh
 - b. I am the least in my _____
8. Gideon requested a sign in order that he might know the words of the angel were true. What did Gideon prepare for the angel? (Judg. 6:17-19)
9. The angel instructed Gideon to place the food on a rock. Then what did the angel do? (Judg. 6:20-21)
10. Gideon then believed he had seen whom? (Judg. 6:22)
11. What assurance did the Lord give to Gideon? (Judg. 6:23)
12. What did Gideon build? (Judg. 6:24)

B. GIDEON'S FIRST ASSIGNMENT (Judg. 6:25-32). That night the Lord told Gideon to destroy the altar of Baal set up by his father, build an altar to the Lord in the same place, and offer one of his father's bullocks as a sacrifice.

1. Who aided Gideon in this project? Why did they do it at night? (Judg. 6:27)

2. The next morning when the men of the city discovered that their altar of Baal was broken down and Gideon was responsible, they went to Joash (Gideon's father) demanding Gideon's death. Joash told the men, "Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? . . . if he (Baal) be a _____, let him plead for _____, because one hath cast down his altar." (Judg. 6:31)
3. Gideon was then called Jerubbaal which means what? (Judg. 6:32)

C. GIDEON'S TEST (Judg. 6:33-40). The Midianites with their allies then crossed the Jordan River and camped in the valley of Jezreel. Jezreel is a wide, fertile valley which lay in the inheritance of Issachar. The valley is the only natural east-west pass through the rugged hills of Canaan and is the crossroads of two major routes: the east-west route from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, and the north-south route from Syria and Phoenicia in the north to Judah and Egypt in the south. Because of its strategic location, many battles have been fought in this valley throughout history.

The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon and he blew a trumpet issuing the call to arms. Volunteers for his army came from the tribes of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali. Gideon then asked God a second time for a sign as proof that God would save Israel by Gideon's hand.

The First Test (Judg. 6:36-38)

Gideon put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. The next morning if the fleece was wet with dew and the ground was dry, he would know God would save Israel by his hand.

Results of the Test

The fleece was _____

The ground was _____

The Second Test (Judg. 6:39-40)

Gideon put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. The next morning if the fleece was dry and the ground was wet with dew, he would know God would save Israel by his hand.

Results of the Test

The fleece was _____

The ground was _____

LESSON 4

GIDEON AND THE MIDIANITES

Judg. 7

INTRODUCTION. After Gideon tore down his father's altar of Baal, he blew the trumpet, a call to arms to the Israelites. He sent messengers throughout Manasseh and the neighboring tribes of Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali to join him in fighting the Midianites. Gideon set up his camp at the spring of Harod near the mountains of Gilboa while the Midianite army was camped in the valley of Jezreel nearby.

When Gideon's army gathered, the number assembled was about 32,000. The Lord told Gideon the army was too large, for Israel would not give the glory to God for winning the battle but would boast of their own success. Therefore, God instructed Gideon to reduce the size of his army. Two methods were used.

A. GIDEON'S ARMY (Judg. 7:1-8)

1. When the men of Israel answered Gideon's call and gathered to him, why did the Lord say there were too many? (Judg. 7:2)
2. When the Lord instructed Gideon to send the fearful and trembling home, how many men departed? How many were left? (Judg. 7:3)
3. The Lord said there were still too many, so He devised a test to further reduce the army. The men were brought to the water. Some lapped the water, putting their hand to their mouth, and the rest fell to their knees to drink. How many lapped the water, putting their hand to their mouth? Which group was sent home? (Judg. 7:5-7)

B. GIDEON'S FURTHER ASSURANCE (Judg. 7:9-15). The Lord told Gideon that night to go down to the camp of Midian and eavesdrop.

1. The army of the Midianites and Amalekites numbered how many? (Judg. 7:12)
2. When Gideon came to the edge of the camp, he heard a man telling his dream to another: a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came unto the tent, smiting it so that it fell, turned upside down, and lay flat. What did the second man say the dream meant? (Judg. 7:13-14)

C. GIDEON'S BATTLE (Judg. 7:16-8:21)

1. How did Gideon divide his army? (Judg. 7:16)
2. How were the men armed? (Judg. 7:16)
3. Gideon surrounded the enemy camp with his three companies, and in the beginning of the middle watch (about midnight), what did the men do and say? (Judg. 7:19-20)
4. What did the enemy do? (Judg. 7:21-22)
5. The men of the other tribes joined in the pursuit of the fleeing Midianites. The two princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb, were slain, and two kings, Zebah and Zalmunna, were captured and killed (Judg. 7:23-8:12). How many of the enemy did the Israelites kill? (Judg. 8:10)
6. How long did the land have peace then in the days of Gideon? (Judg. 8:28)

GIDEON'S CHARACTER. Gideon became a leader, not because the people demanded it, not because he desired the task, not because he thought himself capable, but because God called him and he obeyed.

A. GIDEON'S HUMILITY

1. When the Lord told Gideon to save Israel from Midian, Gideon asked, how "shall I save Israel? behold, my family is _____ in Manasseh, and I am the _____ in my father's house." (Judg. 6:15)
2. When the men of Israel wanted Gideon to rule over them after he had saved them from the Midianites, Gideon said, "I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the _____ shall rule over you." (Judg. 8:23)

B. GIDEON'S DOUBTS

1. When the angel first spoke to Gideon and told him the Lord was with him, Gideon replied, ". . . if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord hath _____ us, and _____ us into the hands of the Midianites." (Judg. 6:13)
2. Gideon asked for signs:
 - a. the food consumed by _____ (Judg. 6:16-21)
 - b. the _____, first wet with dew, then dry (Judg. 6:36-40)
3. The Lord gave a sign to reassure Gideon: the Midianite's _____ (Judg. 7:13-14)

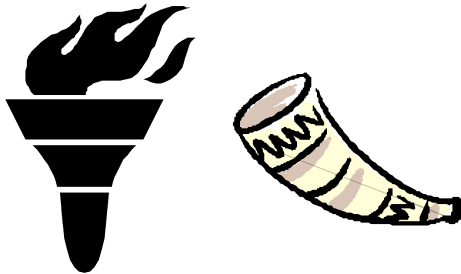
C. GIDEON'S FAITH, OBEDIENCE, AND COURAGE. Gideon is named as one of the great men of faith in the "faith chapter" of Hebrews (Heb. 11:32). Although Gideon asked God for signs to reassure him that God had chosen him to save Israel, he obeyed God's instructions and acted courageously.

1. When the angel of the Lord first appeared to Gideon, he called Gideon a mighty _____ . (Judg. 6:12)

2. When the fire consumed the food, Gideon acknowledged he had seen the _____ face to face. (Judg. 6:22)
3. Gideon demonstrated both his faith and his courage when he broke down the altar of _____ (Judg. 6:25-27), and when he reduced his army to _____ men. (Judg. 7:7-8).
4. After he heard the Midianite's dream and the interpretation of it, Gideon told his army, "Arise; for the Lord hath _____ into your hand the host of Midian." (Judg. 7:15)

D. GIDEON'S DEVOTION. The scriptures specifically state that Gideon worshipped upon two occasions.

1. After the angel of the Lord appeared and fire consumed the food, Gideon built an _____ unto the Lord. (Judg. 6:24)
2. After hearing the Midianite's dream, Gideon _____. (Judg. 7:15)



*And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow...and...cried, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.
Judg. 7:20*

LESSON 5

JEPHTHAH

Judg. 11

INTRODUCTION. The next judge after Gideon was Tola, a man of Issachar, who judged for twenty-three years. After him arose Jair from Gilead who judged for twenty-two years. He had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkey colts and ruled over thirty cities (Judg. 10:1-5).

Again the children of Israel turned away from the Lord and began worshipping Baal and Ashtoreth, and the gods of Syria, Sidon, Moab, Ammon, and the Philistines. The Lord brought the Philistines and Ammonites against Israel who oppressed them for eighteen years (Judg. 10:6-9)

When Israel cried unto the Lord, He reminded them that He had saved them from the Egyptians and others, but they had forsaken him and served other gods. He told them to cry to the gods they were worshipping. However, when Israel repented, acknowledged their sin, and put away their false gods, the Lord had compassion on them and raised a man of valor to save them (Judg. 10:10-18).

Jephthah, the son of a man named Gilead, lived east of the Jordan River in the territory called Gilead. This area, extending about sixty miles from the south end of the Sea of Galilee to the north end of the Dead Sea, was bounded on the north by the Yarmuk River, on the south by the land of Moab, on the east by the desert, and on the west by the Jordan River. This fertile and rich grazing land had been conquered by the Israelites from the Amorite kings, Sihon and Og, and given to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

The land of the Ammonites was north of Moab and east of the Israelite territory of Gilead. The Ammonites claimed Gilead was their land and first attacked the Israelites in Gilead. Later they crossed the Jordan River, invading Judah, Benjamin, and Ephraim also.

Jephthah, cast out of his family by his half-brothers, at first fled to the land of Tob and led a band of men who raided and perhaps robbed. But eventually the elders of Gilead went to Jephthah, asking him to be their commander and to help them fight the Ammonites who had invaded their land. Jephthah made the elders of Gilead agree to make him their chief if the Lord delivered the Ammonites into his hand.

In answer to the Ammonites' claim that Israel had taken their land when they came out of Egypt, Jephthah sent messengers to the king of Ammon. He reminded him that Israel had not taken the land of Moab and Ammon (descendants of Lot), or the land of Edom (descendants of Esau), but had journeyed around Edom and Moab on their way to Canaan. The Lord had delivered to them Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and the land they now possessed they had taken from the Amorites, not the Ammonites. In addition Jephthah said that the Israelites should possess what their God had given them, and the Lord God would judge that day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon. The king of Ammon did not listen to the words of Jephthah.

The Spirit of the Lord then came upon Jephthah as he went on his way to the battle with Ammon, and he made a rash vow to the Lord.

A. JEPHTHAH'S MISSION

1. Jephthah was a mighty man of _____ . (Judg. 11:1)
2. Jephthah fled from his _____ and dwelt in the land of Tob where worthless men joined with him in raiding. (Judg. 11:3)
3. After a while the children of Ammon made war against Israel; then the elders of Gilead went to Tob and asked Jephthah to be their _____. (Judg. 11:5-6)
4. Jephthah asked the elders if they would make him their _____ if the Lord delivered Ammon to him. Did they agree? (Judg. 11:9-10)
5. Jephthah sent messengers to the king of Ammon, saying that the Israelites did not take away the land of _____ or _____. (Judg. 11:14-15)

6. Jephthah said that the Lord God delivered Sihon and his people to Israel who defeated them, so Israel possessed all the land of the _____.
(Judg. 11:21)
7. Jephthah said, whomever the Lord drives out before us, we will _____.
(Judg. 11:24)
8. The king of Ammon _____ to the words of Jephthah. (Judg. 11:28)
9. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah as he passed over to Ammon, and he made a _____ to the Lord. (Judg. 11:29-30)
10. Jephthah vowed that if the Lord delivered Ammon to him, whatever came forth from his house to meet him when he returned in peace should be the Lord's, and he would offer it as a _____. (Judg. 11:30-31)
11. The Lord delivered Ammon to Jephthah, and he defeated them, even _____ cities, with a great slaughter. (Judg. 11:32-33)

B. JEPHTHAH'S DAUGHTER

1. Who came to meet Jephthah when he returned from the battle and victory?
(Judg. 11:34)
2. How many children did Jephthah have? (Judg. 11:34)
3. What did Jephthah do? (Judg. 11:35)
4. What did Jephthah's daughter request? (Judg. 11:37)
5. Jephthah allowed his daughter to go, and when she returned after two months, did Jephthah keep his vow? (Judg. 11:38-39)
6. Did Jephthah's daughter consent and submit to her father's vow? (Judg. 11:39)
7. How long did Jephthah judge Israel? (Judg. 12:7)

C. JEPHTHAH'S VOW. Did Jephthah offer his daughter as a burnt-offering to the Lord? Or did Jephthah devote his daughter to the service of the Lord for the remainder of her life? Bible scholars and students disagree.

1. Jephthah is listed among the faithful who through _____ subdued kingdoms and worked righteousness. (Heb. 11:32-33)
2. An abomination to the Lord which He hates is to burn _____ in the fire to gods. (Deut. 12:31)

CONCLUSION. How can Jephthah be called faithful if he did something that is an abomination to the Lord? When Jephthah made his vow, he said, "...whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me...shall surely be the Lord's..." (Judg. 11:31).

Although a vow once made to the Lord must be kept, the Old Testament law provided and allowed for the redeeming of certain vows. A person dedicated to the Lord by a vow could be redeemed by payment of silver to the priest (Lev. 27:1-8). However, when devotion was added to the vow, the devoted person was holy to the Lord and could not be redeemed (Lev. 27:28).

It is possible, therefore, that Jephthah performed his vow, not by sacrificing his daughter to God as a burnt-offering, but by devoting her to the service of God, unable to marry and bear children for the remainder of her life. In those days a woman who was unable to bear children was considered a reproach, and since Jephthah had no other children besides his daughter, he was unable to pass on his name and family inheritance if she remained childless. Thus, for Jephthah to fulfill his vow in this way, both he and his daughter were required to make a great sacrifice, not a bleeding burnt-offering sacrifice, but a living spiritual sacrifice (Ex. 38:8; I Sam 2:22).

Consider the following:

- The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah as he went to battle and made his vow (Judg. 11:29). Could Jephthah offer a human sacrifice while under the influence of the Spirit?
- The daughter bewailed her virginity (not her death) upon the mountains (Judg. 11:37).
- When she returned to her father, he "did with her according to his vow...and she knew no man" (Judg. 11:39).
- The daughters of Israel commemorated the daughter of Jephthah there (the mountains) for four days each year (Judg. 11:40).
- A burnt-offering could only be offered upon the altar at the tabernacle by a Levitical priest (Lev. 1:1-17; 6:8-13), and a human sacrifice would have been an abomination.
- Jephthah had just defeated the Ammonites who were guilty of the abomination of human sacrifice (I Kings 11:7; Lev. 20:1-5).

LESSON 6

SAMSON'S RIDDLE AND REVENGE

Judg. 14; 15

INTRODUCTION. The next judge was Ibzan who judged for seven years. He had thirty sons and thirty daughters. Next was Elon from the tribe of Zebulun who judged for ten years. After him was Abdon who judged for eight years. He lived in Ephraim and had forty sons and thirty grandsons who rode on seventy donkey colts (Judg. 12:8-15).

Again the children of Israel did evil, and the Lord brought the Philistines against them who oppressed them for forty years. And again God raised a deliverer who began to save the children of Israel from their oppressor. The Philistines were a warlike nation occupying the southwest coastal area of Canaan.

One day the angel of the Lord appeared to a certain woman and her husband Manoah of the tribe of Dan. This couple had no children, and the angel told them they would have a son. He said the child was to be consecrated to God as a Nazarite from the womb. An Israelite taking the Nazarite vow was prohibited from cutting the hair, eating or drinking the fruit of the vine, and eating or touching anything unclean. Men and women might take the vow for a specified time, but this child was to have the vow for life, and even his mother must observe the vow while the child was still in her womb.

Manoah said he would prepare a kid, but the angel said he would not eat. However, he said Manoah could prepare a burnt offering. When Manoah placed the offering on the altar, the angel ascended to heaven in the flame of the sacrifice. Manoah and his wife then fell to the ground and knew that they had talked to an angel. In due time the son was born and was named Samson (Judg. 13).

Samson was extremely strong physically, and his conflicts with the Philistines were personal battles. He never led an army, but he killed many Philistines single-handedly in his lifetime by his miraculous strength.

A. SAMSON'S RIDDLE

1. Samson saw a Philistine woman in Timnah and told his parents to get her for him for a _____. (Judg. 14:1-2)
2. His parents wanted him to take an Israelite wife, but Samson said the woman _____ him. (Judg. 14:3)
3. At that time the Philistines had _____ over Israel. (Judg. 14:4)
4. When Samson and his parents were on their way to Timnah, a young _____ roared against Samson. (Judg. 14:5)
5. The _____ came upon him, and he rent (tore) the lion apart though he had nothing (no weapons) in his hand. He did not tell his parents what he did. (Judg. 14:6)
6. Samson talked with the woman in Timnah, and she pleased him well; later as he returned to take (marry) her, he turned aside and found in the carcass of the lion a _____. (Judg. 14:7-8)
7. He took it, went along _____, and gave some to his parents but did not tell them where it came from. (Judg. 14:9)
8. Samson gave a feast (wedding feast) and _____ companions were invited. (Judg. 14:10-11)
9. At this feast Samson told a riddle. If the guests could declare it within the seven days of the feast, he would give them thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothes. If they could not solve the riddle during that time, they would have to give Samson the thirty garments and thirty changes of clothes (Judg. 14:12-13). Samson's riddle: (Judg. 14:14)

Out of the eater came _____

And out of the strong came _____
10. By the seventh day the guests still had not answered the riddle, so they threatened Samson's wife who _____, accusing Samson of hating, not loving, her. (Judg. 14:15-16)
11. On the _____ day Samson told her the answer to the riddle, and she told it to her people. (Judg. 14:17)

12. Before the sun went down on the seventh day, the men said to Samson: (Judg. 14:18)

What is sweeter than _____?

What is stronger than a _____?

13. Samson told the men, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle. What did Samson mean? (Judg. 14:18)

14. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson and he went to Ashkelon, a Philistine city, and killed _____, taking their clothes and giving them to the ones who explained the riddle; then in anger he went home. (Judg. 14:19)

15. Samson's wife was given to his _____. (Judg. 14:20)

B. SAMSON'S REVENGE. After a while, during the wheat harvest, Samson went to visit his wife. Her father said that he thought Samson hated his daughter, so he gave her to Samson's companion. For revenge Samson caught 300 foxes, tied their tails together and put torches between each pair of tails. Then he turned the foxes loose in the wheat fields (Judg. 15:1-4).

1. What happened to the grain in the fields? (Judg. 15:5)
2. The Philistines then burnt the woman and her father with fire. To avenge this deed, Samson smote the Philistines with a great _____. (Judg. 15:6-8)

C. SAMSON SURRENDERS. The Philistines then threatened to attack a city in Judah if the men of that city did not deliver Samson to them. When the men of Judah confronted Samson, he said he would surrender to them if they did not kill him. They agreed but bound him with two new ropes (Judg. 15:9-13)

1. When the Philistines met Samson, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him. What happened to the ropes binding him? (Judg. 15:14)
2. Samson then found the jawbone of a donkey and killed how many Philistines with it? (Judg. 15:15-16)
3. How long did Samson judge Israel? (Judg. 15:20)

LESSON 7

SAMSON AND DELILAH

Judg. 16

INTRODUCTION. As early as the time of Abraham and Isaac, a group of Philistines lived in the southern area of Canaan (Gen. 20; 26). Another group of Philistines migrated from the regions of the Aegean Sea and settled in the coastal plain of southern Canaan about 1200 B. C. during the days of the judges of Israel. The area where they settled was called Philistia from which came the Greek name *Palestine*. Later the Roman or Latin term for the entire land of Canaan was *Palaestina*. Thus in New Testament times the region is called Palestine, but the older name of Canaan is used in the Old Testament.

The Philistines were warlike and possessed weapons of iron which the Israelites did not have. They were a constant threat to the tribes of Israel from the days of the judges until they were conquered by David around 1000 B. C.

During the twenty years Samson judged in Israel his conflict with the Philistines was a personal one. One time Samson went to Gaza, a Philistine city, and when the men of the city learned he was there, they set an ambush for him. They planned to attack him in the morning when he left the city after the city gates were open, but Samson left during the night, carrying the city gates and their posts on his shoulders up to the top of a hill before Hebron about thirty-eight miles away (Judg. 16:1-3).

Next Samson became involved with another Philistine woman, Delilah. She teased him and pleaded with him to reveal the secret of his strength. When he finally succumbed and told her his strength lay in his uncut hair, the symbol of the Nazarite vow he observed, she betrayed him to the Philistines. The remainder of Samson's life was then tragic, but at his death he looked to God, and his faith enabled him to perform one final act of heroism.

1. Samson loved a woman named _____ . (Judg. 16:4)
2. The Philistines offered to give her _____ of silver to learn the secret of his strength. (Judg. 16:5)
3. Samson had four encounters with Delilah. Each time she begged him to reveal the secret of his great strength. Each time Samson told her the "secret" of his strength. Draw a line from the encounter in the left hand column to the corresponding "secret" in the right hand column:

1st encounter (Judg. 16:6-7)

bind him with new ropes that have never been used

2nd encounter (Judg. 16:10-11)

since he was a Nazarite, no razor had come upon his head; if he was shaven...

3rd encounter (Judg. 16:13)

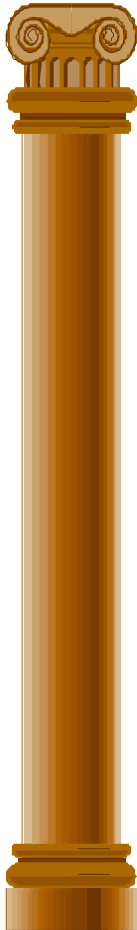
bind him with seven green withes (fresh bowstrings)

4th encounter (Judg. 16:15-17)

weave the seven locks of his hair into the web of the loom

4. Each time the Philistines were lying in wait, and the first three times Delilah did what Samson told her. Each time she said, the _____ are upon you. (Judg. 16:9, 12, 14)
5. What did Samson do the first three times? (Judg. 16:9, 12, 14)
6. The fourth time Delilah told the Philistines that Samson had told her all his heart, and they brought the _____ in their hand. (Judg. 16:18)
7. When Samson went to sleep, Delilah called for a man who _____ the seven locks of Samson's head. (Judg. 16:19)
8. When Samson awoke, he did not know the Lord had _____ from him. (Judg. 16:20)

9. The Philistines put out Samson's _____, bound him with brass (bronze) _____, and put him in the _____ to grind. (Judg. 16:21)
10. However, his hair began to _____ again. (Judg. 16:22)
11. The Philistines gathered to offer a _____ to their god Dagon and to rejoice that they had captured Samson. (Judg. 16:23)
12. When their hearts were merry, they called for Samson to perform for them, and they set him between the _____. (Judg. 16:25)
13. Samson asked the lad who had him by the hand to let him feel the pillars that supported the _____. (Judg. 16:26)
14. There were about _____ men and women on the roof of the temple watching Samson. (Judg. 16:27)
15. Samson called to the Lord to _____ him once more. (Judg. 16:28)
16. What did Samson then do? What happened to Samson? (Judg. 16:29-30)
17. Samson slew more Philistines at his _____ than he slew in his _____. (Judg. 16:30)
18. Samson judged Israel for _____ years. (Judg. 16:31)



LESSON 8

THE STORY OF RUTH

Ruth

INTRODUCTION. The short book of Ruth takes place during the days of the judges. In contrast to that dark time when the children of Israel continually turned away from God to worship idols, this is a refreshing story of love, loyalty, and faith in God.

During a famine an Israelite man named Elimelech with his wife Naomi and two sons left their home in Bethlehem and moved to Moab. After some time the man died, and the two sons married Moabite women. One of the women was Orpah and the other Ruth. After about ten years the two sons died, and the three women, Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth, were left as widows.

Naomi decided to return to her home in Israel and told her daughters-in-law to return to their families. The daughters-in-law wept and said they would go with her, but Naomi urged them to remain in Moab. Again as the women wept, Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth refused to leave Naomi.

Naomi accompanied by Ruth then returned to Bethlehem, arriving during the time of barley harvest. Since Naomi and Ruth were widows and had no means of support, they were poor. Ruth, therefore, went into the fields after the reapers to gather what grain was left in order to find food for Naomi and herself.

It happened that Ruth gleaned in the field belonging to Boaz, a relative of Naomi. He had been informed of Ruth's loyalty to Naomi, and he treated Ruth kindly, giving her food and water and allowing her to glean in his fields. He told his workers to leave extra grain for her and not to harm her.

In Israel the law required the nearest kinsman (relative) of a dead man to buy the dead man's land, provide for his family, and even marry his widow. At Naomi's direction, Ruth appealed to Boaz to fulfill his right as near kinsman and marry her. However, there was a nearer kinsman who had a prior claim. When the unnamed

man gave up his right to Boaz before witnesses, then Boaz was free to honor the requirements of the law and marry Ruth.

Eventually a son was born to Ruth and Boaz. Their son Obed was the father of Jesse who was the father of David. Thus this tender love story plays an important part in God's plan to fulfill his spiritual promise to Abraham. Ruth, the Moabite woman, was the great-grandmother of David, the great king of Israel, who was the earthly ancestor of Jesus Christ, the son of God.

A. NAOMI AND RUTH

1. Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons left Bethlehem and moved to Moab because there was: (Ruth 1:1-2)
 - a. a war
 - b. a famine
 - c. a fire
2. Elimelech died and the two sons married Moabite women named: (Ruth 1:3-4)
 - a. Naomi
 - b. Orpah
 - c. Ruth
3. After ten years the two sons died also, and Naomi returned to Bethlehem accompanied by: (Ruth 1:22)
 - a. Orpah
 - b. Ruth
 - c. grandchildren
4. When they arrived in Bethlehem it was the time of: (Ruth 1:22)
 - a. Passover feast
 - b. barley harvest
 - c. grape harvest
5. A relative of Naomi's husband was named: (Ruth 2:1)
 - a. Mahlon
 - b. Chilion
 - c. Boaz

6. Boaz was a: (Ruth 2:1)
 - a. soldier
 - b. man of great wealth
 - c. priest
7. Ruth went to the field belonging to Boaz to: (Ruth 2:2-3)
 - a. glean after the reapers
 - b. glean with the reapers
 - c. beg for some grain
8. When Boaz saw Ruth, he told her to: (Ruth 2:8-9)
 - a. glean in someone else's field
 - b. glean only in his field
 - c. get a drink when she was thirsty
9. Boaz commanded his young men to: (Ruth 2:9, 15-16)
 - a. not touch Ruth
 - b. allow Ruth to glean even among the sheaves
 - c. let fall handfuls of grain on purpose for Ruth to glean
10. Ruth gleaned in Boaz' field: (Ruth 2:23)
 - a. for one week
 - b. for one month
 - c. unto the end of barley and wheat harvest

B. RUTH AND BOAZ

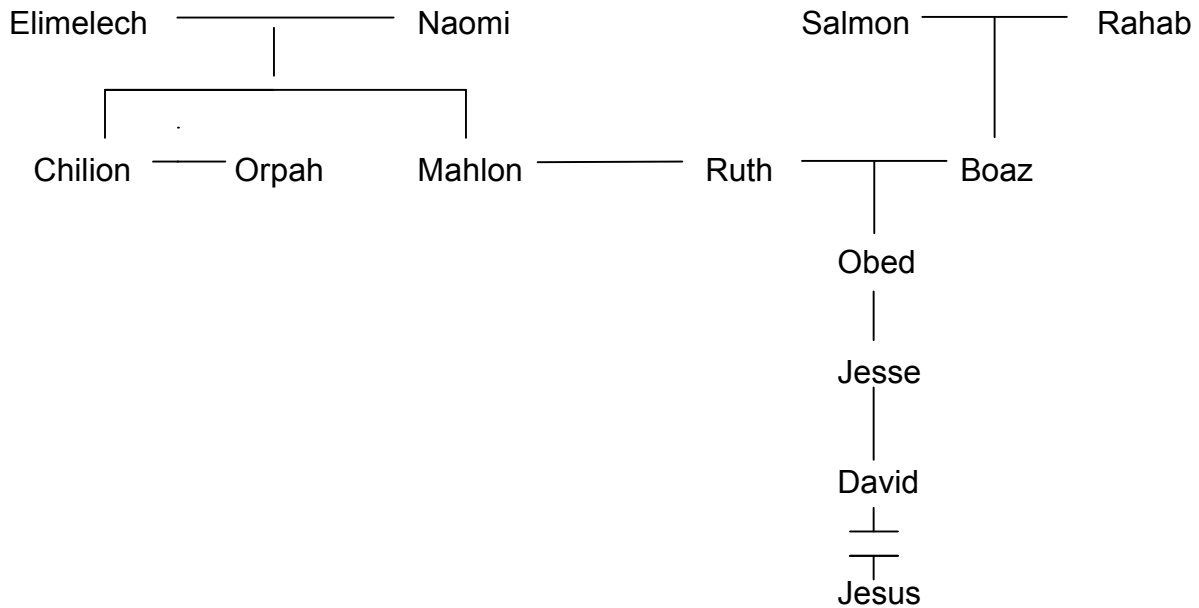
1. Naomi directed Ruth to appeal to Boaz to exercise his right as near kinsman. When Ruth followed Naomi's instructions, Boaz told Ruth to fear not, he would do all she said, for all the city knew she was a _____ woman. (Ruth 3:11)
2. He told Ruth it was true he was a near relative, but there was a relative _____ than he. (Ruth 3:12)

3. Boaz told Ruth he would meet with the near relative in the morning. If the near relative did not want to perform the duty of near kinsman (marry Ruth), then he (Boaz) would perform the duty. He sent Ruth away with _____ of barley. (Ruth 3:15)

Note. Since Boaz gave Ruth the grain already threshed, this was a substantial gift.

4. Meanwhile in the morning Boaz went to the _____ of the city and met with the near relative. (Ruth 4:1)
5. _____ elders of the city sat down with them. (Ruth 4:2)
6. Boaz stated that Naomi was selling the _____ belonging to her husband Elimelech. (Ruth 4:3)
7. Boaz asked this near relative of Naomi if he wished to purchase Naomi's land and marry Ruth. The man told Boaz he could not redeem it (purchase the land and marry Ruth) lest he ruin his own _____. (Ruth 4:6)
8. The man gave up his right of redemption to Boaz, and in order to confirm their agreement, as was the custom regarding redeeming and exchanging, the man took off his _____ and gave it to Boaz. (Ruth 4:7-8)
9. Boaz then told the ten elders present they were witnesses that he had bought all that belonged to Elimelech, his two sons, and Naomi, and he had acquired Ruth to be his _____. (Ruth 4:9-10)
10. When a son was born to Ruth and Boaz, the women told Naomi that the Lord had blessed her, and her daughter-in-law who loved her was better to her than _____. (Ruth 4:15)

THE FAMILY OF BOAZ AND RUTH



One of the most beautiful and often quoted passages in the Bible is that spoken by Ruth to Naomi:

*Intreat me not to leave thee,
Or to return from following after thee:
For whither thou goest, I will go;
And where thou lodgest, I will lodge:
thy people shall be my people,
and thy God my God:
Ruth 1:16*

LESSON 9

THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL

I Sam. 1

INTRODUCTION. After the death of Joshua, the children of Israel did not have a national leader. The twelve tribes, although related through their common ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, were not united, but were rather an unorganized and loose confederation. The judges raised by God to deliver the people from their enemies were generally tribal leaders, not national rulers. The judges ruled over a period of some 200-400 years, and the book of Judges names twelve. Some lists of the judges also include the usurper Abimelech, known as the “Bramble King,” who reigned for three years at Shechem (Judg. 9). The book of I Samuel opens by introducing Eli who was a priest and served for forty years as a judge. The last and by far the most outstanding judge was Samuel who also served as priest and prophet.

One time while Elkanah, a Levite, and his wife Hannah, who was childless, were worshipping at the tabernacle in Shiloh, Hannah prayed earnestly for a son. She vowed that if the Lord granted her request, she would give the child to the Lord. In due time Hannah gave birth to a son whom she named Samuel. When the child was weaned, Hannah kept her vow and took Samuel to Shiloh, leaving him there with the priests to minister in the service of the Lord (I Sam. 1; 2:1-11).

A. KNOW THE CHARACTERS

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. _____ A man of mount Ephraim (I Sam. 1:1) | a. Phinehas |
| 2. _____ The man's two wives (I Sam. 1:2) | b. Elkanah |
| 3. _____ The wife who had children (I Sam. 1:2) | c. Hannah |
| 4. _____ Eli's two sons who were priests (I Sam. 1:3) | d. Peninnah |
| 5. _____ The man loved this wife (I Sam. 1:5) | e. Hophni |

B. THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL

1. Elkanah went to Shiloh yearly to: (I Sam. 1:3)
 - a. sacrifice
 - b. worship
 - c. play football
2. Hannah was in bitterness of soul at the house of the Lord in Shiloh, and she: (I Sam. 1:9-11)
 - a. prayed unto the Lord
 - b. wept sore
 - c. vowed a vow
3. She vowed that if the Lord gave her a son: (I Sam. 1:11)
 - a. she would give the child to the Lord all the days of his life
 - b. no razor should come upon his head
 - c. she would bring the child to Shiloh each year
4. When she prayed, her lips moved but her voice was not heard; therefore, Eli thought she was: (I Sam. 1:12-13)
 - a. crazy
 - b. drunk
 - c. ill
5. When Hannah assured Eli that she was praying, Eli said to her: (I Sam. 1:17)
 - a. go eat
 - b. go in peace
 - c. the God of Israel grant thee thy petition
6. Hannah went her way and was no longer: (I Sam. 1:18)
 - a. sad
 - b. jealous
 - c. angry
7. Sometime after Elkanah and his family returned home, Hannah had a son and called him: (I Sam. 1:20)
 - a. Saul
 - b. Samson
 - c. Samuel

8. When Elkanah and his household next went to offer the yearly sacrifice, Hannah told her husband she would go when: (I Sam. 1:21-22)
 - a. the child was weaned
 - b. the child may appear before the Lord
 - c. the child may remain there forever

9. When Hannah had weaned Samuel, she took him unto the house of the Lord to Eli and took with her: (I Sam. 1:24)
 - a. three bullocks
 - b. one ephah of flour
 - c. a bottle of wine

10. Hannah told Eli she was the woman who prayed to the Lord for a child, and He granted her petition; therefore, she lent (granted) him to the Lord: (I Sam. 1:26-28)
 - a. for two years
 - b. for ten years
 - c. as long as he lived

11. Each year when Hannah came for the yearly sacrifice she brought to Samuel: (I Sam. 2:18-19)
 - a. shoes
 - b. an ice cream cone
 - c. a robe

12. The Lord rewarded Hannah and she had _____ sons and _____ daughters. (I Sam 2:21)

13. The child Samuel grew and increased in favor both with the _____ and with _____. (I Sam. 2:26)

14. What other child is described in this manner? (Luke 2:52)

LESSON 10

SAMUEL HEARS A VOICE

I Sam. 3

INTRODUCTION. When Samuel was weaned, his mother Hannah took him to the tabernacle in Shiloh in fulfillment of her vow. She left Samuel there to minister in the service of the Lord with Eli who was the high priest and a descendant of Aaron.

Eli had two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who were wicked. Although Eli reproved his sons for their sins, they did not listen to him. One day a man of God came to Eli and told him the Lord would judge his house (his family) because he did not discipline his sons. The Lord promised to remove Eli's family from the office of priesthood and give the priestly duties to another descendant of Aaron. As a sign to Eli that the prophecy was true, Eli's two sons would die the same day.

When Samuel was still a child, the Lord called him one night as he slept. The Lord repeated to Samuel the message given to Eli regarding the judgment of his house.

A. THE LORD CALLS SAMUEL

1. What did the child Samuel do? (I Sam. 3:1)
2. Why was the word of the Lord precious in the days of Samuel? (I Sam. 3:1)
3. When Eli was old, what affliction did he have? (I Sam. 3:2)
4. Who called to Samuel in the night? (I Sam. 3:3-4)

5. When Samuel ran to Eli, what did Eli tell him? (I Sam. 3:5)

6. The Lord called Samuel a second time, and again Samuel arose and went to Eli. Why did Samuel not know it was the Lord calling him? (I Sam. 3:6-7)

7. The next time the Lord called Samuel, what did Eli perceive (understand) and tell the young boy? (I Sam. 3:8-9)

8. When the Lord called Samuel the fourth time, what did Samuel say? (I Sam. 3:10)

B. THE LORD'S MESSAGE TO SAMUEL

1. The Lord told Samuel He would perform all He had spoken concerning Eli's house, and He would _____ Eli's house forever. (I Sam. 3:12-13)

2. Eli knew the iniquity of his sons, but he did not _____ them. (I Sam. 3:13)

3. In the morning when Samuel opened the doors of the house of the Lord, he was _____ to show Eli the vision. (I Sam. 3:15)

4. When Eli insisted that Samuel tell him the words of the Lord, Samuel told him everything. Eli then said that the Lord should do what seems _____ to him. (I Sam. 3:17-18)

5. As Samuel grew, the Lord was with him, and all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew he was established to be a _____ of the Lord. (I Sam. 3:19-20)

6. The Lord appeared again in Shiloh, revealing himself to Samuel by the _____ . (I Sam. 3:21)
7. After a time, a portion of the prophecy spoken by God regarding the house of Eli came to pass. (I Sam. 4:10-11)
- a. Who fought against the Israelites? _____
 - b. How many Israelites were slain? _____
 - c. What did the Philistines capture? _____
 - d. Who else was slain? _____
8. What happened to Eli when he heard the news of the battle? (I Sam. 4:16-18)
9. When Eli died:
- a. he was _____ years old (I Sam. 4:15)
 - b. his eyes were _____ (I Sam. 4:15)
 - c. he was old and _____ (I Sam. 4:18)
 - c. he had judged Israel _____ (I Sam. 4:18)

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Prov. 22:6

LESSON 11

ISRAEL WANTS A KING

I Sam. 8

INTRODUCTION. As Samuel grew, the Lord was with him, and all Israel knew he was established to be a prophet of God. The Lord appeared again in Shiloh and revealed his word to Samuel (I Sam. 3:19-21).

At that time the Israelites' enemies were the Philistines, a warlike people who settled along the Mediterranean coast in southern Canaan about 1200 B. C. during the time of the judges. The Philistines defeated the Israelites in one of their conflicts and captured the ark of the covenant. Eli's two sons were killed in the battle, and when Eli heard the news, he fell off his seat backward, broke his neck and died. When the Lord sent a plague upon the Philistines, they returned the ark of the covenant to Israel. The ark was eventually taken to Kirjath Jearim where it remained for twenty years until David removed it to Jerusalem (I Sam. 4-7:2).

When Samuel was old, the people of Israel asked for a king. Although Samuel warned the people of the evils and responsibilities of a monarchy, they refused to listen. God assured Samuel that the people had not rejected Samuel as their leader, but they were rejecting him (the Lord) as their king.

A. THE PEOPLE DEMAND A KING

1. Samuel made a circuit each year judging in the cities of _____, _____ and _____, then returning to his home in Ramah where he judged and built an altar to the Lord. (I Sam. 7:15-17)
2. When Samuel was old, he made his sons _____ over Israel. (I Sam. 8:1)

3. The sons of Samuel were guilty of: (I Sam. 8:3)
 - a. turning aside after _____
 - b. taking _____
 - c. perverting _____
4. The elders of Israel demanded a king, and gave three reasons: (I Sam. 8:5)
 - a. Samuel was _____
 - b. his sons did not _____ in his ways
 - c. they wanted a king to _____ them like all the nations
5. By desiring a king, whom had the people rejected? (I Sam. 8:7)
6. The Lord told Samuel to show the people the manner (behavior) of the king that would reign over them:
 - a. he will take your sons for his _____ to be his horsemen (I Sam. 8:11)
 - b. he will appoint them captains over _____ and captains over _____ (I Sam. 8:12)
 - c. he will set them to _____ his ground and _____ his harvest (I Sam. 8:12)
 - d. they will make his instruments (weapons) of _____ (I Sam. 8:12)
 - e. he will take your daughters to be _____, _____, and _____ (I Sam. 8:13)
 - f. he will take your _____, _____, and _____ and give them to his servants (I Sam. 8:14)
 - g. he will take a tenth of your _____ and your _____ and give to his officers and servants (I Sam. 8:15)

- h. he will take your _____ and _____,
your finest young _____ and your _____ and put
them to his work (I Sam. 8:16)
- i. he will take a tenth of your _____ and ye shall be his
_____ (I Sam. 8:17)
- j. you shall _____ out in that day for the king you have chosen,
but the Lord will not _____ you (I Sam. 8:18)
7. The people refused to listen and gave three more reasons they wanted a king:
(I Sam. 8:20)
- a. to be like the _____
 - b. a king to _____ them
 - c. a king to go before them and _____ their battles
8. When Samuel told the Lord all these words, the Lord told him to listen to them
and make them a _____. (I Sam. 8:21-22)

B. THE PROPHECY. God allowed the people to have a king, but He did not approve. Many years later when Israel became very wicked and idolatrous, God spoke a prophecy to the people through the prophet Hosea: (Hos. 13:11)

I gave thee a king in mine _____, and took him away in my _____.

*Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at his foot-
stool; for he is holy. Moses and Aaron among his
priests, and Samuel among them that call upon his
name; they called upon the Lord, and he answered
them.*

Ps. 99:5-6

LESSON 12

SAUL CHOSEN AS KING

I Sam 9; 10

INTRODUCTION. The people of Israel demanded a king to rule over them, thus rejecting God as their king. Although God permitted them to have a king, He did not approve, nor did He allow the people to choose the king. Rather, the Lord selected the man and then ordered and directed the prophet Samuel to anoint him king.

One day Saul, a Benjamite, was searching for his father's donkeys. He came to Ramah where Samuel lived to inquire of him about the missing animals. Samuel detained Saul, and the next day at God's direction, Samuel privately anointed Saul as king. Later Samuel anointed Saul publicly before a gathering of the people of Israel in Mizpah. Saul was tall and handsome, and when he proved to be a capable military leader, the people enthusiastically accepted him as their king.

A. SAMUEL ANOINTS SAUL AS KING

1. Describe Saul, the son of Kish, a Benjamite. (I Sam. 9:2)
2. Saul and his servant were looking for what? (I Sam. 9:3)
3. When the donkeys could not be found and Saul wanted to return home, his servant suggested that they see a man of God for what purpose? (I Sam. 9:5-6)
4. What present did the servant suggest that they give to the man of God? (I Sam. 9:7-8)

5. What was a prophet called beforetime? (I Sam. 9:9)

6. As Saul and his servant went up to the city, who came out to meet them? (I Sam. 9:14)

7. What had the Lord told Samuel the day before? (I Sam. 9:15-16)

8. When Samuel saw Saul, what did the Lord tell Samuel? (I Sam. 9:17)

9. Samuel identified himself when Saul asked where he could find the seer's house. What did Samuel tell Saul about the lost donkeys? (I Sam. 9:19-20)

10. Samuel held a feast, and Saul and his servant sat in the place of honor among about thirty guests. The next day as Saul and his servant were leaving the city, Samuel told Saul to bid his servant to pass on before them. When the two of them were alone, Samuel then poured oil on Saul's head and said the Lord had anointed him (Saul) to be what? (I Sam. 10:1)

11. Later Samuel gathered the people together in Mizpah and told them they had rejected the Lord by asking for a king. Nevertheless, the Lord would grant their request, and in some manner the selection of the king was made among the tribes and families. Which tribe was selected? (I Sam. 10:19-20)

12. Next the family of Kish was selected and the lot fell upon Saul, but he could not be found. Where was Saul? (I Sam. 10:21-22)

13. Describe Saul as he stood among the people. (I Sam. 10:23)

14. When Samuel told the people that Saul was the man the Lord had chosen, what did the people shout? (I Sam. 10:24)

15. What did some worthless men (rebels) say about Saul? (I Sam. 10:27)

B. SAUL'S FIRST BATTLE. The Ammonites, old enemies of Israel, besieged the town of Jabesh Gilead, east of the Jordan River. When the men of the city asked for a league, the leader of the Ammonites threatened to put out the right eyes of all the men who submitted. The men of Jabesh then asked for a seven-day truce and sent messengers to all Israel and Saul.

1. When Saul heard the words of the messengers, what occurred? (I Sam. 11:6)

2. Saul took a yoke of oxen, cut them in pieces and sent them throughout Israel, saying that the same thing would be done to the oxen of whoever did not come after Saul and Samuel. How many of Israel gathered to Saul? How many of Judah? (I Sam. 11:7-8)

3. The messengers were sent back to Jabesh to tell the people they would be delivered on the morrow. The next day Saul divided his army into three companies and attacked in the morning watch, smiting the Ammonites until the heat of the day. Describe the Ammonites after the battle. (I Sam. 11:11)

4. Some of the Israelites wanted to put to death the men who had scoffed at Saul, but Saul said no man should be put to death because the Lord had worked a great deliverance (salvation) that day. Samuel then told the people to go to Gilgal, and there they would renew the kingdom. At Gilgal Israel

made Saul _____ before the Lord, offering sacrifices and rejoicing. (I Sam. 11:14-15)

LESSON 13

SAUL DISOBEYS GOD

I Sam. 15

INTRODUCTION. Saul's first battle with the Philistines took place following his defeat of the Ammonites at Jabesh Gilead. First, Saul's son Jonathan conducted a successful raid on the Philistine garrison at Geba, a strategic city located in the territory of Benjamin (I Sam. 13:1-4). The Philistines then assembled a large army and camped in Michmash while the Israelites camped in Gilgal (I Sam. 13:5-7).

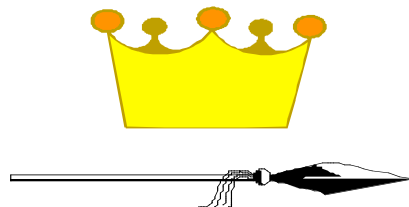
As Saul prepared for the battle, his first conflict with Samuel occurred. Samuel directed Saul to wait for him at Gilgal for seven days. When Samuel delayed, Saul became anxious because his army was deserting. To keep his army together, Saul offered a burnt offering instead of waiting for Samuel to come and offer the sacrifice. When Samuel arrived late on the seventh day, he reproved Saul for his disobedience and told him his kingdom would not continue (I Sam. 13:8-15).

The Philistines at Michmash then began sending out raiding parties to pillage and loot the country (I Sam. 13:16-18). Meanwhile Jonathan and his armorbearer surprised the remaining Philistine garrison at Michmash, causing the enemy to panic. Saul and his army joined the battle and defeated the confused and terrified Philistines, driving them back to Aijalon, a town some distance away. The fighting then ceased and both sides went home (I Sam. 14).

The conflict between Saul and Samuel continued when Saul later went to battle against the Amalekites. Samuel told Saul to utterly destroy those people and their animals. Instead Saul spared the king and the animals, telling Samuel the people took the animals to sacrifice them to the Lord. Samuel told Saul that because of his disobedience, God had given his kingdom to another. Samuel then left Saul and came to see him no more, mourning for him (I Sam. 15).

A. SAUL'S BATTLE WITH THE AMALEKITES

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. _____ Samuel anointed Saul king over (15:1) | a. Amalek |
| 2. _____ As Israel came out of Egypt, they were ambushed by (15:2) | b. destroyed |
| 3. _____ Samuel told Saul that all belonging to Amalek—men, women, children, animals—were to be (15:3) | c. sword |
| 4. _____ Saul gathered his army which numbered (2 answers) (15:4) | d. ears |
| 5. _____ He came to a city of Amalek and lay wait in the (15:5) | e. commandments |
| 6. _____ Saul smote the Amalekites and took alive the king whose name was (15:7-8) | f. Lord |
| 7. _____ He destroyed all the people of Amalek with the (15:8) | g. animals |
| 8. _____ Saul and the people of Israel spared Agag and the best of the (15:9) | h. Agag |
| 9. _____ The Lord told Samuel He regretted setting up Saul as king, for he had not kept his (15:10-11) | i. sacrifice to the Lord |
| 10. _____ Saul told Samuel he had performed the commandment of the (15:13) | j. 200,000 foot soldiers |
| 11. _____ Samuel asked Saul, What is the bleating of sheep and lowing of oxen I hear in my (15:14) | k. Israel |
| 12. _____ Saul said the people spared the best of the sheep and oxen to (15:15) | l. 10,000 men of Judah |
| | m. valley |

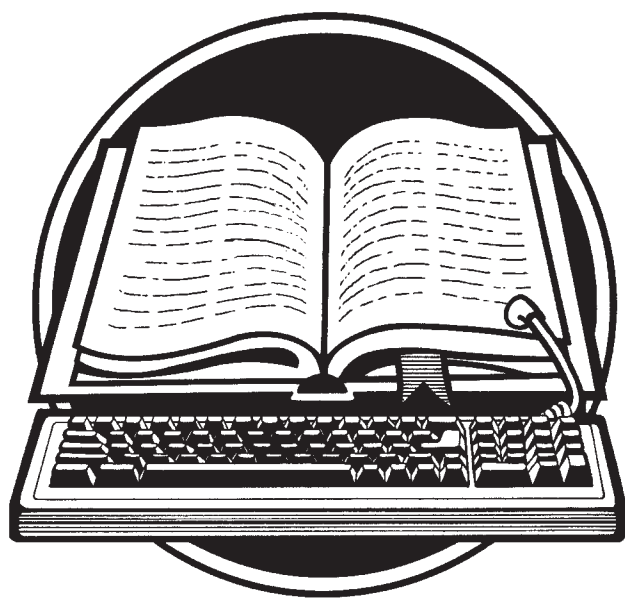


B. SAMUEL'S REBUKE AND JUDGMENT

1. Samuel told Saul that the Lord has greater delight in obeying his voice than burnt offerings and sacrifices. To _____ is better than sacrifice, and _____ is better than the fat of rams. (I Sam. 15:22)
2. Because Saul had rejected the word of the Lord, the Lord rejected Saul from being _____. (I Sam. 15:23)
3. Saul said he had sinned because he _____ the people. (I Sam. 15:24)
4. Saul asked Samuel to _____ his sin and return with him that he might worship the Lord. (I Sam. 15:25)
5. Samuel refused to worship with Saul, and as he turned to go away, Saul caught his robe and it _____. (I Sam. 15:26-27)
6. Samuel said the Lord had torn the kingdom from Saul and had given it to a _____ who was better than he. (I Sam. 15:28)
7. Again Saul said he had sinned and asked Samuel to worship the Lord with him. So Samuel turned again after Saul, and Saul _____ the Lord. (I Sam. 15:30-31)
8. Samuel then _____ Agag before the Lord in Gilgal. (I Sam. 15:32-33)
9. Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death, but he _____ for Saul. (I Sam. 15:35)
10. The Lord _____ He had made Saul king over Israel. (I Sam. 15:35)

JUDGES OF ISRAEL

| JUDGE | TRIBE | ENEMY | YEARS VEXED | BATTLES | YEARS AT REST | COMMENTS |
|---|--|--|-------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Othniel Judg. 3:7-11 | Judah | King of Mesopotamia | 8 yrs. | Defeated king | 40 yrs. | Caleb's brother; Spirit of Lord upon him |
| Ehud Judg. 3:12-30 | Benjamin | Eglon, king of Moab | 18 yrs. | Killed Eglon with sword; 10,000 Moabites killed | 80 yrs. | Left-handed |
| Shamgar Judg. 3:31 | Son of Anath; Naphtali (?), Judg. 1:33 | Philistines | | Killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad | | Saved Israel |
| Deborah Judg. 4:1-5:31 | Prophetess in Ephraim | Jabin, king of Canaan; Sisera, captain of army, with 900 iron chariots | 20 yrs. | 10,000 of Naphtali and Zebulun defeated Sisera at River Kishon | 40 yrs. | Barak, captain of Israel army; Sisera killed by Jael with tent pin through skull |
| Gideon Judg. 6-8 | Manasseh | Midian; Amalek | 7 yrs. | Defeated Midian with 300 men armed with torches, empty pitchers, trumpets | 40 yrs. | Spirit of Lord upon him |
| Tola Judg. 10:1-2 | Issachar | | | | Judged 23 yrs. | |
| Jair Judg. 10:3-5 | Gilead - Manasseh | | | | Judged 22 yrs. | 30 sons rode 30 donkey colts and ruled 30 cities |
| Jephthah Judg. 10:6-12:7 | Gilead - Manasseh | Ammon; Philistines | 18 yrs. | Defeated Ammon with a great slaughter | Judged 6 yrs. | Spirit of Lord upon him; made a rash vow to Lord |
| Ibzan Judg. 12:8-10 | Lived in Bethlehem Judah (?) Zebulun (?) | | | | Judged 7 yrs. | 30 sons and 30 daughters |
| Elon Judg. 12:11-12 | Zebulun | | | | Judged 10 yrs. | |
| Abdon Judg. 12:13-15 | Ephraim | | | | Judged 8 yrs. | 40 sons and 30 grandsons rode 70 donkey colts |
| Samson Judg. 13-16 | Dan | Philistines | 40 yrs. | Personal battles with Philistines | Judged 20 yrs. | Nazarite from birth, great strength; killed more at death than in life |
| Eli I Sam. 1-4 | Levi; descendant of Ithamar, son of Aaron | Philistines | | 30,000 Israelites killed; Philistines captured ark | Judged 40 yrs. | Died at news of two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, killed in battle |
| Samuel I Sam. 1-16; 25:1; 28 | Levi; judge, priest, prophet | Philistines; Amalek | | Ark returned; Philistines defeated; Saul vs. Amalek | | Anointed Saul, first king of Israel; Saul rejected by Lord; anointed David king |



www.padfield.com

Sermon Outlines
Bible Class Books
Bible Class Curriculum
PowerPoint Backgrounds
Bible Land Photographs
Church Bulletin Articles

This booklet is protected by Federal Copyright Laws. Individuals and local congregations are allowed to reprint this book. No one is allowed change the contents. This book may not be placed on any other Web site, nor is it allowed to be sold.