

# SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



Welcome  
to  
Studio Scriptura

**SOT.3** Joshua,  
Judges, and Ruth





New King James Version,  
1988. Nashville: Holman  
Bible Publishers.

## Logistics & Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will gain a high level understanding of:
  - a. Joshua
  - b. Judges
  - c. Ruth
2. [www.studioscriptura.com](http://www.studioscriptura.com)
3. NEW! *Tract Purchase Program (TPP)*
  - a. What language?
  - b. Who will you distribute to?
  - c. Why are you distributing tracts now?
  - d. How will you follow up?
4. Invite a Friend Program (IAP)
5. Certifications (SSCP)
6. [walter@studioscriptura.com](mailto:walter@studioscriptura.com)
7. Manage your viewing screen

# Joshua - *Be strong and of good courage* Joshua 1:9

- The Book of Joshua is a *historical narrative* and is intended to provide insights into the meaning of life under God's providence and authority as Israel enters the Promised Land.
- We see the public, but not the private, life of Joshua.
- Exodus c.1446 BC. Joshua enters the Land c.1400 BC
- Joshua builds strongly off of the foundations of Deuteronomy
- Relationship with the New Testament: "Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest" Hebrews 4:11

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## Joshua - *Be strong and of good courage* Joshua 1:9

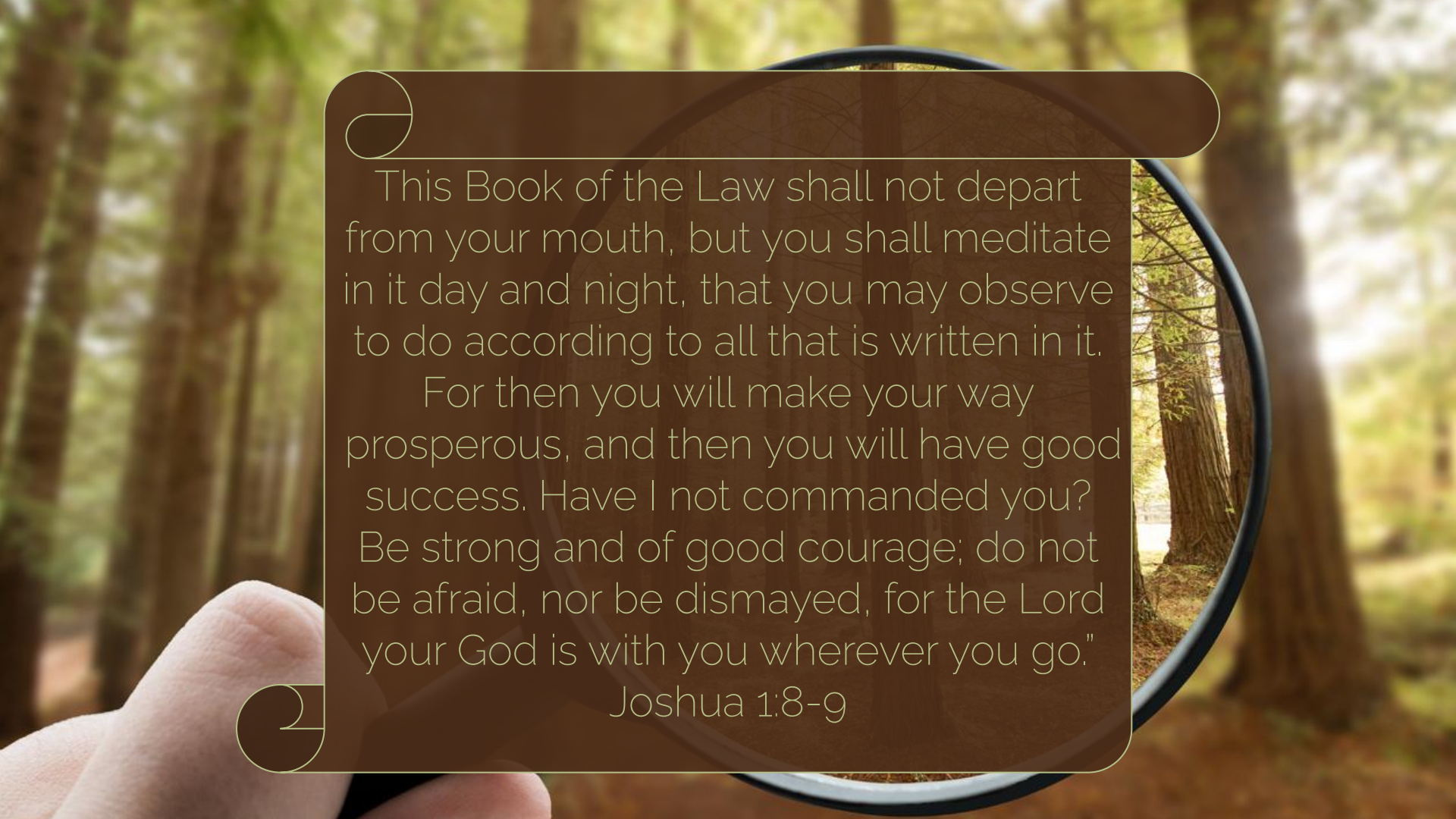


- Joshua has been Moses' aide since his youth (Exod 33: 11; Num 11: 28), and he accompanied Moses up to Mount Sinai (Exod 24: 13).
- He then appears as the military commander who defeats the Amalekites in the wilderness (Exodus 17: 8-13)
- He is one of the twelve spies sent into the land of Canaan. He and Caleb were the only two who brought back a positive report (Numbers 13-14). As a result, only they (of the original generation) were allowed to enter the Promised Land (Num 14: 30,38; 26: 65)."
- "Joshua's name means *Yahweh saves* or *Yahweh delivers*. His name is the same form as Jesus' name in the New Testament."

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## Joshua - Themes

<b><i>A clear task - Take the land</i></b>	<p>"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15 NKJV</p>
<b><i>Courageous leadership</i></b>	<p>"And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness." Acts 4:31 NKJV</p>
<b><i>Entering HIS rest - The Promise Fulfilled</i></b>	<p>"For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His." Hebrews 4:8-10</p>
<b><i>Covenant Obedience</i></b>	<p>"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:" Matthew 7:24-26 NKJV</p>
<b><i>Yahweh - the God Who Fights for Us</i></b>	<p>"I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18b</p>



This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.

For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:8-9







# Joshua - *Outline*

## A. Preparation of the People Chs 1-5

- a. And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Joshua 5:13-14

## B. Central Campaign Chs 6-9

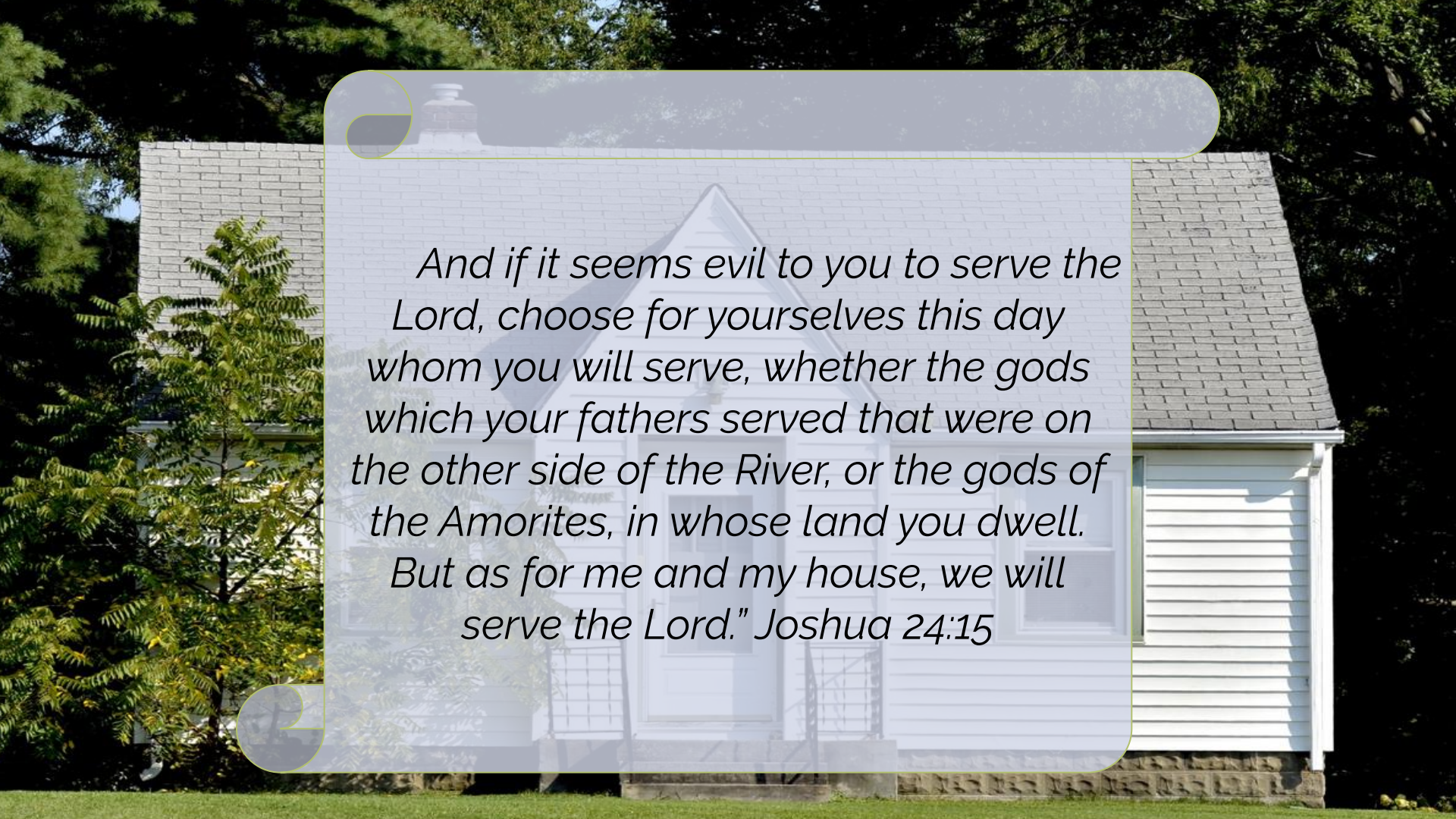
- a. Victory over Jericho, not just through military means but trust/obedience to God.
- b. Defeat of Israel at Ai due to disobedience/sin

# Joshua - *Outline*

- C. Southern Campaign Ch 10
  - a. All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, because the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel. Joshua 10:42
- D. Northern Campaign
  - a. Joshua wins handily due to his tactics of surprise attack
- E. Unconquered Land Ch 13:1-7
  - a. Serves as a harbinger of areas of our life that are not *conquered* by the Holy Spirit.
- F. East Bank Tribes Ch 13:8-33
  - a. Joshua's settlement of the transjordan tribes

# Joshua - *Outline*

- G. West bank Tribes Chs 14-19
  - a. Caleb's reward for his courage and faithful service
  - b. Land divided among tribes on the western side of the Jordan
  - c. Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh
- H. Designated Cities Chs 20-21
  - a. Cities of refuge
- I. Conclusion Ch 22-24



*And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15*

**LEVITICAL CITIES AND  
CITIES OF REFUGE**  
JOSH. 20-21

- Levitical city
- Levitical city (uncertain location)
- City of refuge
- Other city
- ▲ Mountain peak



## Joshua - *A word about warfare*

- “Such language [warfare] in the Bible causes problems for many people. They do not want to talk of a God who wages war. They want only to speak of a God who loves. It is somehow more satisfying to the human mind to have a God who calls for us to love and who demonstrates that love continuously.”
- “It was a divine test to determine the loyalty of a people as well as a divine method to deliver an uncontaminated gift of land to HIS people. It was also a method which cost the inhabitants of the land their confidence, bringing fear to them.” “To protect Israel against the major sin of idolatry, God commanded her not to show mercy to the enemy.”

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## Joshua - A word about warfare (continued)

- “That the Bible reports instances of God using force to rid the world of evil nations does not justify people using God’s name to support military means to fight current battles and destroy current populations. At most, the biblical theologian must in faith say that God’s ways of dealing with evil are justified because God is just.”
- War is a drug in a society ... It dominates culture, distorts memories, corrupts language, and infects everything around it.” It raises “fundamental questions about the meaning, or meaninglessness, of our place on the planet” and “exposes the capacity for evil that lurks not far below the surface within all of us.”

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## Joshua - A word about warfare (continued)

- The preponderance of the message of both the Old Testament and the New Testament is a message of trusting in God and a message of peace, rather than military might
- “Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” **Genesis 18:25**
- “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **Ephesians 6:10-13**





## Joshua - A word about warfare (continued)

- For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, **2Corinthians:3:1-5**
- “Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, Who trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the Lord!” **Isaiah 31:1**
- “Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, Will save them by the Lord their God, And will not save them by bow, Nor by sword or battle, By horses or horsemen.” **Hosea 1:7**



# Joshua - A word about warfare (continued)

## ➤ Just War Theory

- May go back as far as Egypt - Under the *divine* office of the Pharaohs who believed they were the executor of the will of the gods. As such they held the exclusive legitimacy in *justly* initiating a war. Truth, morality, and justice were generally cited as supporting the Pharaohs' (and the god's) support for wars that were more often for territorial expansion for commercial interests.
- The Just War Theory expanded through the ages and also included the justification of "fighting them there" in order to protect our civilization from the violent tribes. War was justified as the population became convinced they were fighting evil itself.
- Not much has changed, as world leaders have generally held that the war they are initiating is being waged because *truth, morality, justice, and the fight against evil*. This gives them *just* cause for the *best little war* they are about to start.
- "The word *pacifism* is derived from the word *pacific*, which means *peace making*". It includes a reverence for life and commitment to peace that is not strictly opposed to war. But it is opposed to militarism, which is the thought process of utilizing means of war as the first and best option. Fiala, Andrew, "Pacifism", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Fall 2023 Edition), Edward N. Zalta & Uri Nodelman (eds.), URL - <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2023/entries/pacifism/>.
- Does a society work as hard at avoiding grievances, preventing war, and finding peaceful solutions - as it does at amassing armaments and starting wars under the faulty thinking of the Pharaohs and Caesars?



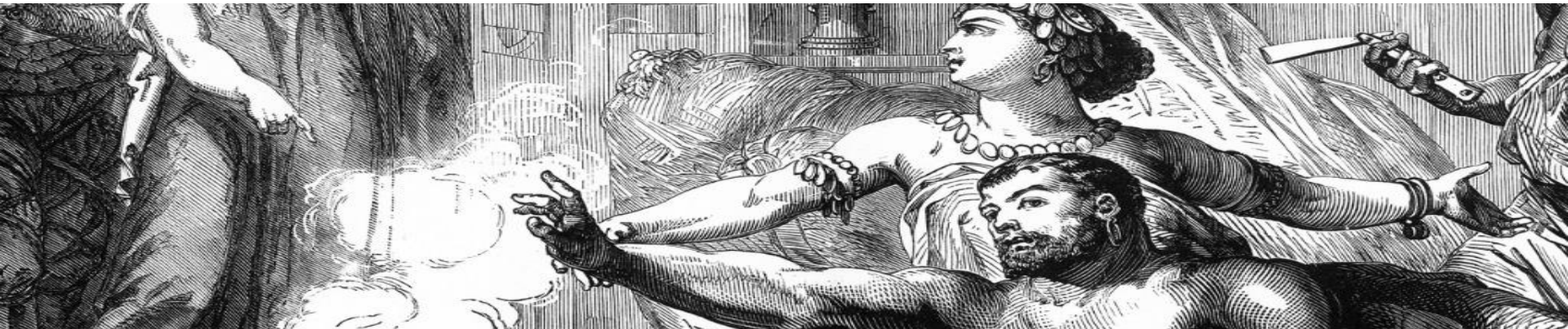
*Judges - Everyone did what was right in his own eyes Judges 21:25*



# Judges - *Everyone did what was right in his own eyes* Judges 21:25

- The ongoing conquest of Canaan is presented through the death of Josua in Chapter 2. The people quickly slide into apostasy: "They forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. Judges 2:13 "Nevertheless, the Lord raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them." Judges 2:16
- The purpose of Judges is to show the failure of the Israelites to keep their part of the Covenant. God demonstrated His power and mercy by delivering them time after time when His justice had demanded that He bring punishment.
- As might be expected, the people would eventually cry out to the Lord to deliver them ... They cried for help, but with the exception of Judges 10:10–16, there is no indication that true repentance or reform accompanied that cry.
- The leadership of the Judges did not succeed in helping the people repent or remain faithful to covenant obedience.

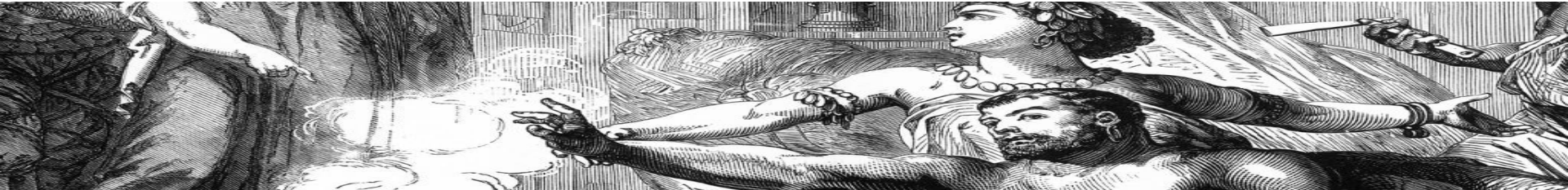
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## Judges - *Everyone did what was right in his own eyes* Judges 21:25

- Given a thirteenth-century date for the exodus, the Judges period would cover most of the twelfth and eleventh centuries BC. This corresponds roughly to what archaeologists have called *Iron Age I*.
- Since (a)the territory occupied by the Israelites was primarily confined to the hill country, (b)away from the major trade routes, and (c)the struggles of the empires had little impact on Israel - the result was there were no international powers threatening the peoples of Palestine.
- This opened the way for the growing influence of the Philistines (one of the groups of the Sea Peoples who settled on the southern coast of Palestine) and the infiltration of the Aramaean tribes from the northeast.

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## Judges - *Everyone did what was right in his own eyes* Judges 21:25

- The office of Judge in this period of Israelite history is not easy to define. The *Judges* were not elected, nor did they inherit their office. They were not appointed in any official way. They were charismatic leaders who took leadership when the need arose. Thus, it can be affirmed that God raised them up to deliver Israel.
- We are wise to not to place the Judges on too high a pedestal. There were unquestionably some unethical things done by certain Judges. The the Bible does not express approval - it presents real people in real and challenging times.
- The Spirit of the Lord plays a prominent role in the book of Judges. The Spirit was viewed as "the hand of the Lord". The Spirit did not explicitly indwell believers in Old Testament times as the Holy Spirit does after Pentecost in New Testament times.




# Judges - *Everyone did what was right in his own eyes* Judges 21:25

## THE JUDGES

- Othniel (3:7-11)
- Ehud (3:12-31)
- Deborah (4-5)
- Gideon (6-8)
- Jephthah (10:6-12)
- Samson (13-16)

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In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was **right in his own eyes**. Judges 21:25

There is a way that **seems right** to a man, But its end is the way of **death**. Proverbs 14:12



Ruth - Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David. Ruth 4:21b-22

# The Book of **Ruth**

...story set in the period of the judges. An Israelite  
...during a famine. The husband died,  
...the mother (Naomi) returned  
...accompanied Naomi  
...Boaz, a wealthy

## Ruth - Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David. Ruth 4:21b-22

- Theme - God's faithfulness and loyalty is stimulated by people's faithfulness and loyalty to one another.
- The concept of kinsman-redeemer is introduced - a relative who, at his own expense, pays off the debts of another.
- The purpose of Ruth is to show that when people are faithful, God is faithful. It provides a contrast to the book of Judges, showing that faithfulness survived in Israel among some of the common folk. God preserved such **families of faithfulness** that are the very background and lineage from which David comes.

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So What &  
Now What?



- ❑ Written Short Answers - 30 to 50 words (*for Certification*)
  - ❑ What are the *themes* of the Book of Joshua?
  - ❑ How do those *themes* apply to your Christian life?
  - ❑ What is a *kinsman redeemer*?
  - ❑ What is the key verse of the Book of Judges and how does it apply to your society today?

OTS.3

*Joshua & Judges*

Thursday February 8

7pm (PT U.S.)

