

**OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY**  
**PERIOD FOUR**  
**JUDGES - JUDGES AND RUTH**  
**LESSON 18**

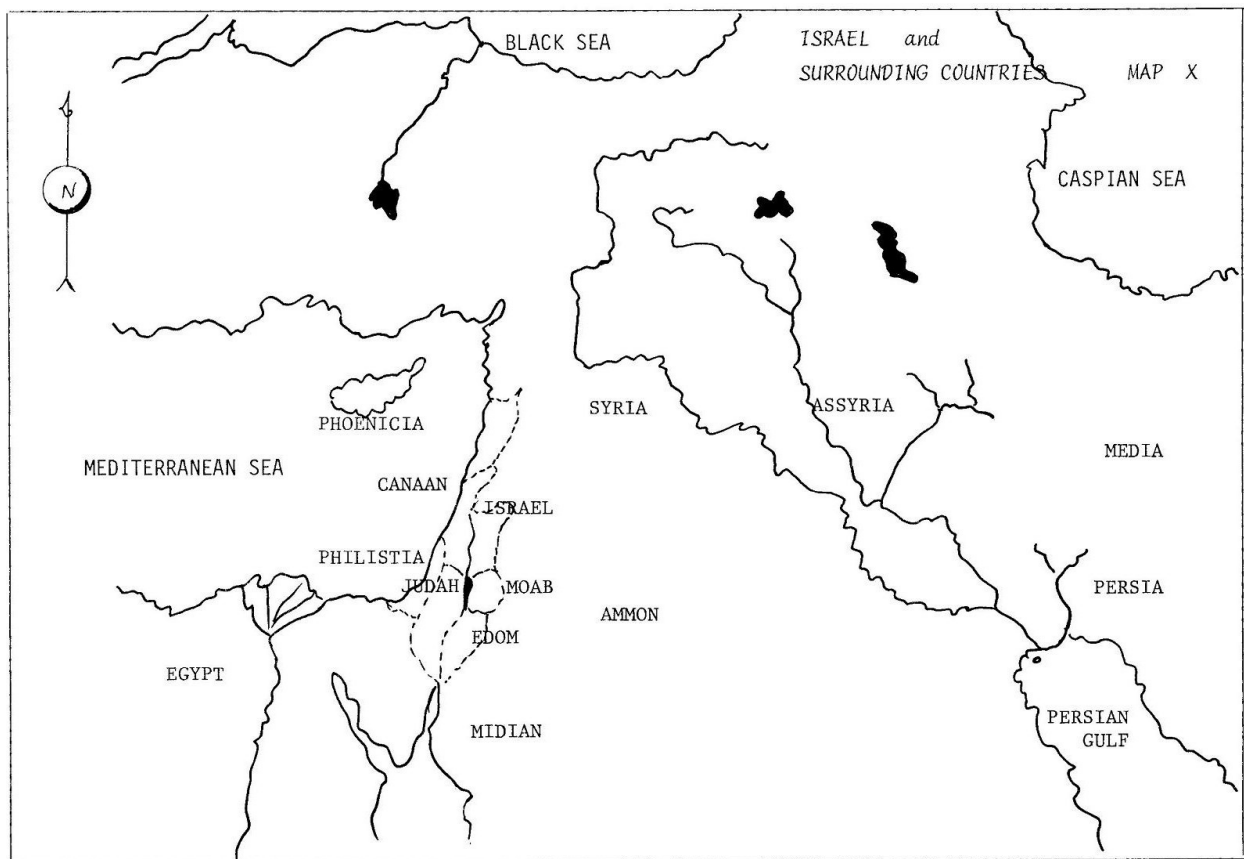
Time	PERIOD FOUR	JUDGES
Main thought	LEARNING TO LIVE IN A NEW LAND	
Books that tell of each part	JUDGES	RUTH
What this part tells about		

**BOOK OF JUDGES**

**A. What the country of Israel was like, Judges 1:1 - 3:7.**

- **Land to be taken, Judges 1:1 - 2:5.**

The people of Israel killed the kings and leaders of the nations in Canaan. Yet, many people of those nations were still living. Joshua told the people of Israel to take all the land. Moses had told them to destroy all the people and **all** their gods (Deuteronomy 7:2-5). Only Judah, Simeon and Ephraim drove out some of the people. The other tribes did not drive out the people of the country.



When the book of Judges was written, these other nations lived all around Israel. The Philistines lived along the Mediterranean Sea. The Amalekites lived south of the Philistines. The Canaanites lived north of the Philistines. The Aramean people lived in Damascus, north east of Israel. The Amorites lived east of the Jordan River. The Moabites lived south of the Amorites. The Edomites lived by the Dead Sea.

Israel started to mix with these other nations. They began to marry people of these nations. Then they forgot about God. They started to worship the gods of the other nations. Because Israel forgot the Lord, the Lord did not drive out the other nations. God let these nations give Israel trouble (Judges 2:1-3).

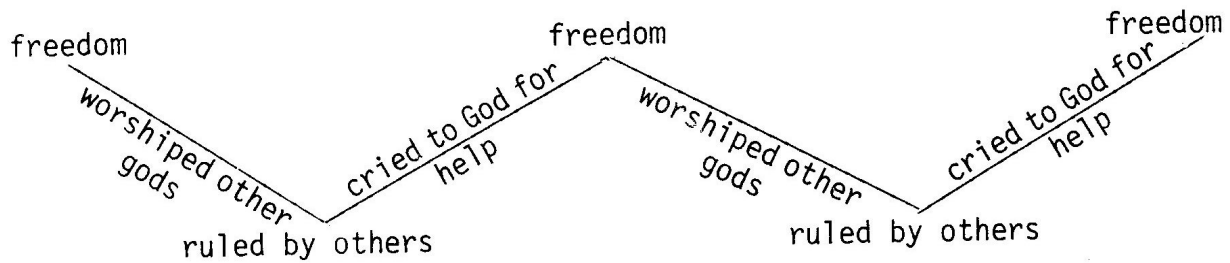
- **Religion and government**, Judges 2:6 - 3:7.

READ CAREFULLY JUDGES 2:6 - 3:6.

Sometimes the people of Israel lived in victory. They worshipped the Lord. They obeyed the Lord. They were free and happy. This was like living on a hill where the sun shines. But then the people of Israel would forget the Lord. They worshipped other gods. Their enemies would come and rule over them. This was like living in a dark valley.

After the enemies ruled the people of Israel, the people repented. They called to God for help. This was like climbing up a hill.

The Lord used certain men to set the people of Israel free from their enemies. These men were called judges. As soon as the judge died, the people worshipped other gods again.



The first two chapters of Judges speak about Joshua. How long did the people serve the Lord after Joshua died (Judges 2:10,11)?

When Joshua lived, the people must not have taught their children the things of God. We see this by the way the children turned away from God so soon.

What did the Lord do to Israel for worshipping other gods (Judges 2:14,15)?

After the Lord punished Israel, what did He do (Judges 2:16)?

Did Israel obey the Lord after this (Judges 2:17)?

Judges chapter 2 tells what the rest of the book of Judges is like. What were the nations to do to Israel (Judges 2:21,22 )?

What are trials to do to Christians (1 Peter 1:6,7)?

**B. Israel was troubled and then set free, Judges 3:7 - 16:31.**

- **First troubler**, Judges 3:7-11.

READ JUDGES 3:7-11.

What nation came to trouble Israel (Judges 3:8)?

How long did this nation trouble Israel?

Who set the people of Israel free (Judges 3:9)?

How long did the people of Israel have peace (Judges 3:11)?

- **Second troubler**, Judges 3:12-30.

READ JUDGES 3:12-30.

What nation came to trouble Israel (Judges 3:12)?

How long did this nation trouble Israel (Judges 3:14)?

Who set the people of Israel free (Judges 3:15)?

How long did the people of Israel have peace (Judges 3:30)?

- **Third troubler**, Judges 3:31.

READ JUDGES 3:31.

What nation troubled the people of Israel (Judges 3:31)?

Who set the people of Israel free (Judges 3:31)?

How did he set Israel set free (Judges 3:31)?

- **Fourth troubler**, Judges 4:1 - 5:31.

READ JUDGES 4:1 - 5:31.

What nation troubled the people of Israel (Judges 4:2)?

How long did this nation trouble Israel (Judges 4:3)?

Which two people set the people of Israel free (Judges 4:4,6)?

How long did the people of Israel have peace (Judges 5:31)?

- **Fifth troubler**, Judges 6:1 - 8:35.

READ JUDGES 6:1 - 8:35.

What nation troubled the people of Israel (Judges 6:2)?

How long did this nation trouble Israel (Judges 6:1)?

Who set the people of Israel free (Judges 6:12-14)?

How did he know that God called him (Judges 6:36-40)?

What did God tell Gideon to do before he went to fight (Judges 6:25,26)?

How many men did Gideon use to fight Midian (Judges 7:8)?

Notice how God chose Gideon's men.

Gideon and his men made a circle around the camp of the people of Midian. Gideon's men broke the pitchers (jugs), held up the torches and blew the trumpets. This scared the men of Midian. The men of Midian began to kill each other (Judges 7:19-22).

How long did the people of Israel have peace (Judges 8:28)?

- **Sixth troubler**, Judges 9:1 - 10:5.

READ JUDGES 9:1 - 10:5.

What man caused trouble in Israel (Judges 9:1,56)?

He wanted to make himself boss over Israel. Who ruled in his place (Judges 10:1)?

How long did Tola judge the people (Judges 10:2)?

- **Seventh troubler**, Judges 10:6 - 12:7.

READ JUDGES 10:6 - 12:7.

What two nations troubled Israel (Judges 10:7)?

How long did these nations trouble Israel (Judges 10:8)?

Who set the people of Israel free (Judges 11:6)?

What did Jephthah promise God if he won the battle (Judges 11:30,31)?

His daughter came out to meet him (Judges 11:34). Jephthah could have given his daughter to the Levites to work in the temple. Instead he gave her as a burnt sacrifice. This was not a strange sacrifice. People were sometimes sacrificed in those days. God did not want the people of Israel to sacrifice people (Deuteronomy 12:30-32).

- **Judges - Ibzan, Elon, Abdon**, Judges 12:8-15.

READ JUDGES 12:8-15.

Who were the three judges that followed Jephthah?

- Judges 12:8
- Judges 12:11
- Judges 12:13

They judged Israel 25 years in all.

- **Eighth troubler**, Judges 13:1 - 16:31.

READ JUDGES 13:1 - 16:31.

What nation troubled the people of Israel (Judges 13:1)?

How long did they trouble the people of Israel (Judges 13:1)?

The Lord asked Samson to help set the people of Israel free. He was a very strong man. Samson showed how strong he was when he killed a lion (Judges 14:6). The Spirit of the Lord gave Samson the strength (Judges 14:6).

A woman made him lose his strength. What was the woman's name (Judges 16:18,19)?

Samson killed many Philistines when he died. He pulled the roof of a house down on 3,000 people (Judges 16:28-30).

### **C. The people of Israel did what was right in their own eyes, Judges 17:1 - 21:25.**

- **Micah made an image**, Judges 17:1-13.

No one taught the people of Israel about God. The people did not know right and wrong. Micah and his mother thought they were giving to the \_\_\_\_\_ when they made the image. (As used here, image is a likeness of a god. People bowed down to these images and worshipped them.)

Today many people worship the wrong god. They do this because they do not know the right God.

The Levites were supposed to teach the people about God. What did the Levite do when he came to Micah's house (Judges 17:12)?

- **Dan looked for new land**, Judges 18:1-31.

The tribe of Dan did not take all the land they were to take. The tribe of Dan sent five men to northern Israel to find new land.

Later 600 men from the tribe of Dan went to take land in northern Israel. These men came to Micah's house. Then the five men told the others about the images in Micah's house. The 600 men took the images and the priest with them (Judges 18:18,19,20,27).

- **Sin and fighting in Israel**, Judges 19:1 - 21:25.

The men of Gibeah raped the Levite's concubine (Judges 19:16-28) . The woman died. Then the Levite cut the woman into 12 pieces. He sent one piece to each tribe of Israel (Judges 19:29). The tribes of Israel were very angry when they heard of this sin (Judges 20:7-11).

The men of Gibeah belonged to the tribe of Benjamin. These men of Gibeah had done a great sin. They were not sorry for the wrong they did. The men of Benjamin fought against the other tribes. God let the other tribes of Israel defeat the tribe of Benjamin.

## **BOOK OF RUTH, A BEAUTIFUL LIFE**

### **READ THE BOOK OF RUTH**

Ruth lived during the time of the judges. The book of Ruth tells about her.

The people of Israel did that which was right in their own eyes. In other words, they did what they thought was right. Yet, some people loved the Lord. Elimelech and Naomi

loved the Lord. They went to live in the land of Moab because there was no rain in Canaan. While they lived there, their sons, Mahlon and Chilion, married Moabite girls. Ruth was one of these girls.

Elimelech, Mahlon and Chilion died in Moab. Naomi wanted to go back to her country. Her two daughters-in-law followed her along the road. She told them to stay with their own people.

Which girl went back to her people (Ruth 1:12-15)?

Who went with Naomi (Ruth 1:16)?

We see Ruth's faith in God by the words she said to Naomi (Ruth 1:16,17).

Ruth was a good worker. She went to pick up grain. This helped her and Naomi to have food. Ruth went to the field of (Ruth 2:3).

Ruth loved the Lord. She also loved Naomi. The Lord blessed Ruth because she had faith and was kind. Not long after that Ruth married Boaz.

In Bible times, when a woman's husband died before they had children, a close relative of the husband was to marry the woman. Boaz was a relative of Ruth's husband.

One night Ruth laid down at Boaz' feet. He was sleeping at the threshing floor. If we read carefully, we see that Boaz and Ruth did not sleep together that night. Ruth laid at Boaz' feet to say, "Take me as your wife, because you are my close relative." Boaz wanted to take Ruth as his wife, but there was a closer relative to Ruth's husband. Boaz had to see this relative first. Maybe this relative wanted to marry Ruth. Did this relative want to marry Ruth (Ruth 4:6)?

Who did marry Ruth?

Boaz and Ruth must have taught their children about the Lord. Their children loved the Lord. Who was the great grandson of Boaz (Ruth 4:17)?

What happened in the days of the judges is also true today. The people who know and love the Lord teach their children to know and love the Lord like Ruth and Boaz did. Most of these children grow up loving the Lord. All around Ruth and Boaz were people who did not love the Lord. Their children turned away from the Lord. This is true today. When the parents do not teach the children about the Lord, the children often will not love the Lord.

## **WORDS TO LEARN**

1. concubine - a woman who lives with a man, but is not married to him.



2. image - a dead god (as used in this lesson); a likeness.
3. rape - when a man sleeps with a woman when she does not want to.
4. relative - someone of a near family - like cousins, uncles, aunts.
5. torches - burning sticks.
6. victory - to win a fight, to win in a hard work.

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY Volume 1 by Joseph F. Pope. Copyright©1979 by Northern Canada Evangelical Mission Inc. Box 3030 Prince Albert SK S6V 7V4