

# CONQUEST & KINGS: JUDGES & RUTH

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## I. Joshua Review

## II. Judges: Progressive Deterioration & Moral Failure

### Historical Context

- Abraham: ~2000 B.C.
- Exodus: ~1446 B.C.
- Judges ~1350-1050 BC
  - Ruth 1:1a "In the days when the judges ruled"

### Book Outline

- 1) Introduction (1:1-3:6)
  - Part 1 (1:1-2:5)
  - Part 2 (2:6 - 3:6)
- 2) Story of the Judges (3:7-16:31)
- 3) Dark Epilogue (17-21)

**Summary:** *Without a King to lead them, Israel fails to follow God's commands in the promised land and progressively spirals into moral ruin as they do what is right in their own eyes.*

### III. Failures to Obey & God's Unfailing Mercy

#### 1) Failure of the Tribes to Conquer the Land (Judges 1:18-2:5)

**Judges 1:18-19:** Judah also captured Gaza with its territory, and Ashkelon with its territory, and Ekron with its territory. <sup>19</sup> And the LORD was with Judah, and he took possession of the hill country, but he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain because they had chariots of iron.

- Importance of Judah

**Genesis 49:10:** "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples."

**Judges 1:2:** But the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem, so the Jebusites have lived with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day."

**Judges 1:27-28:** <sup>27</sup> Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shean and its villages...<sup>28</sup> When Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not drive them out completely.

**Judges 1:29:**<sup>9</sup> And Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer...

**Judges 1:30:** <sup>30</sup> Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron...

**Judges 1:31:** <sup>31</sup> Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco...

**Judges 1:33:** <sup>33</sup> Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemes...

**Judges 1:34:** <sup>34</sup> The Amorites pressed the people of Dan back into the hill country...

- Echoes of Eden's Fall

**Judges 2:1-3:** "Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, <sup>2</sup>and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done? <sup>3</sup>So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you."

**Genesis 3:13; 17b-18:** Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles is shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat

## 2) Failure of the Tribes to Teach & Remember

**Duet. 6:4-15:** "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.<sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.<sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.<sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.<sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.<sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.<sup>10</sup> "And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build,<sup>11</sup> and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full,<sup>12</sup> then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.<sup>13</sup> It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.<sup>14</sup> You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—<sup>15</sup>for the Lord your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

**Judges 2:10-13** <sup>10</sup> And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel. <sup>11</sup> And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. <sup>12</sup> And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger. <sup>13</sup> They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth.

**Duet. 7:3-4:** You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons,<sup>4</sup> for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the Lord would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.

**Judges 3:6:** <sup>6</sup> And their daughters they took to themselves for wives, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they served their gods.

### 3) God's Unfailing Mercy through Judgement

**Judges 2:14,16-18:** <sup>14</sup> So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies...

Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. <sup>17</sup> Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so. Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them.

## IV. Cycle of the Judges

- 1) The people rebel
- 2) God hands them over to their enemies
- 3) The people cry for mercy & repent
- 4) God raises up a Judge and gives them rest in the land
- 5) Judge dies and people return to wickedness

Major Judges	Minor Judges
Othniel (3:7-11)	Shamgar (3:31)
Ehud (3:12-30)	Tola (10:1-2)
Deborah (4:1-5:31)	Jair (10:3-4)
Gideon (6:1-8:35)	Izban (12:8-9)
Jephthah (10:6-12:7)	Elon (12:11-12)
Samson (13:1-16:31)	Abdon (12:13-15)

## V. Surprising & Temporary Deliverance

### 1) Surprising Delivers

- a. Ehud
- b. Shamgar
- c. Deborah & Jael
- d. Jephthah & Samson
  - i. No rest

### 2) Spiral into Sodom

**Judges 17:6:** In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

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

### 3) Israel's Need for a Stronger Savior

**I Peter 2: 21-25:** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

## VI. Ruth: God's Providence & Provision

### 1) Providential Pain

**Ruth 1:1-5:** In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. <sup>2</sup>The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup>But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

**Ruth 1:16-17:** But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. <sup>17</sup>Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you."

### 2) Providential Provision

**Ruth 2:12:** The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!"

**Ruth 3:9:** He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."

**Duet. 32:10-11:** "He found him (Jacob) in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. <sup>11</sup>Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions,

**Ps. 94:1:** He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

## VII. A King to Come

**Ruth 4:14-17:** Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! <sup>15</sup>He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” <sup>16</sup>Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. <sup>17</sup>And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

## VIII. Application

- 1) Descriptive application vs. prescriptive
- 2) God’s Mercy in Discipline
- 3) God’s Promises & Providence



## **IX. Further Study & Reflection**

- **Read Judges 6-8:35.** How should we remember Gideon? Should we see him as a hero of the faith? Why or why not?
  
- How have you experienced God's difficult providence and also seen him use it for your good?

For more teaching on Judges check out the Podcast: [Bible Talk by 9Marks](#)