

Summer Study -- A Bible Overview With A Jesus Focus

Lesson 5: Jesus in Judges, Ruth & 1 Samuel

Note: an on-line site like <https://biblehub.com/> -- enables rapid navigation to listed texts

- The scene for Judges was set by **Joshua 24:31**: *Israel had served the LORD throughout the days of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him*. Unfortunately, those elders would only last so long.

Jesus in Judges

- The Jews were supposed to conquer the land, but they failed to do so (**v1:27-36**)
- The book of Judges speaks of humanity's need for an eternal deliverer--whereas, all the judges herein are only human, **Psalms 110** points forward to the great Judge who will be King & Savior of His people
 - A five-part cycle would be repeated thru **Judges**: sin, servitude, supplication, salvation, silence
 - **Chapter 2** summarizes the entire book: God repeatedly showing His love to a "stiff-necked" people who repeatedly turned from Him to worship the gods of the people they did not destroy
 - Two features seem to characterize the problem & relate it to the same issue today: 1) parents not following God's directions for raising children (**Deuteronomy 6:7,20-25; Ephesians 6:4**); 2) accommodating to the culture (**Ephesians 2:2**), which weakens love for Jesus (**Revelation 2:4-5**)
 - Jesus will judge all people (**John 5:22**): believers not for sin, since their slates have been wiped clean, but for reward based upon how each has served Him (**1 Corinthians 3:12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10**)
 - Jesus will judge non-believers from the great white throne (**John 3:18; Revelation 20:11-15**)
- *Angel of the LORD (v2:1)*--again, held to be the pre-incarnate Jesus, especially with all the "I", "My", etc.
- *The Israelites again did evil in the eyes of the LORD. (v4:1; 6:1. . .)* leading to oppression, crime & conflict
 - People in our world today also fall to the consequences of sin, but we are no longer enslaved to Satan, because Jesus has won the victory! (**John 16:33; Romans 8:37; 11:26**)
 - God often sends an Othniel or a Deborah into our lives to empathize, encourage, support & see us thru; He also uses each of us in such manner for someone else (**Hebrews 3:13-14**)
- Gideon, the "mighty warrior" (**v6:12**) was hiding, threshing wheat in a winepress when the "angel of the LORD" appeared; God pared Gideon's army to 300 to show that God would bring the victory (**v7:7,9,15**)
 - God uses unlikely people to do great things thru His power (**Luke 5:8-11; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31**)
- Samson was a flawed hero, but still did mighty deeds thru the Spirit of the LORD (**v14:6,19; 15:14**)
 - Samson's flaws left him weak, blind & captured (**Galatians 6:7-8**) until he called on the LORD (**v16:28**)
 - Jesus displayed power in overcoming sin, disease & demons (**2 Corinthians 13:4**); like Samson, His greatest victory came just when His enemies thought He had been totally defeated
- Israel failed to recognize their almighty, faithful & loving God as their king (**v17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25**)
 - Their response to God was like that of so many today: "No thanks, we will do things our own way!"
 - Jesus expressed what must have been the core of God's lament since Adam & Eve (**Luke 13:34-35**)

Jesus in Ruth

- The story of Ruth occurs during the time of the judges (**v1:1**), a period of repeated worshipping of idols
- Ruth & the other three women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus (**Matthew 1:3-6**) were all Gentiles--an early indication that Jesus came for **all** people!
- Boaz was a *type* of Christ--as kinsman-redeemer for Naomi & Ruth (**v3:9; 4:9-10**) just as Jesus is for us
 - Boaz extended favor (grace) to Ruth (**v2:8-9, 14-16; 3:11-13**), as Jesus graces us (**Ephesians 2:4-10**)
 - *Redemption*--used 23 times in Ruth; Jesus paid a heavy price for our redemption (**Colossians 1:12-14**)
- The book of Ruth ends with the birth of her son, Obed (**v4:13-17**) & then the line of David (**v4:18-22**)
 - God Had promised the Messiah would come from Judah's family, but the law did not allow the descendant of an illegitimate child to lead God's people until the 10th generation (**Deuteronomy 23:2**)

- Note that David, as the 10th generation starting from Perez, meets that requirement; God used ordinary, sinful people to carry on the family line to His sinless Son, who would redeem us from sin's bondage
- Bethlehem ("house of bread") was a small, ordinary village: where Rachel died, Ruth & Boaz met, David was born & where the Jews knew the Messiah would be born (**Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:5-6**)

Jesus in 1 Samuel

- 1 Samuel teaches what it means to be "the LORD's anointed"--anointing of priests, kings & prophets suggested that they had been consecrated by God for a special function & endowed by Him with power.¹
 - Offices of prophet, priest & king came together in the Messiah, who embodied fulfillment of all three
- Samuel's birth (**v1:5,20**) was a miracle, as were those of Isaac, Joseph, Samson, John the Baptist & Jesus
 - Note the similarities in the stories of Hannah & Mary: willing servants of God; received revelations sent from God; gave miraculous births; life's work was to raise a child prepared to serve God; responded to God's message in submission, trust, obedience & glory to God (**v2:1-10; Luke 1:46-55**)
 - Samuel was the last judge of Israel until Christ returns as Priest, Judge & King
 - Samuel is a *type* of Christ in being a faithful priest (**v2:35; Hebrews 2:17; 3:1-3,6; 7:24-25**)
 - Samuel anointed Saul & David as kings & pointed to King Jesus (**v2:10; Matthew 28:18; John 12:15**)
- Samuel listened for & heeded God's word (**v3:10,19**); we listen to God in many ways, including thru prayer, the Holy Spirit, Bible study, God's works in our lives, sermons & teachings, sounds of nature, etc.
- The people asked Samuel for a king, another indication of their rejecting God's rule over them (**v8:7,22**)
 - They forgot/ignored how God brought victories & wanted to be like other nations with a king
 - Saul looked like a king to them (**v9:2, 10:23**), but God looks at the heart (**v13:14; Psalm 78:70-72**)
 - Saul was not devoted to God, unlike Jesus, who demonstrated unwavering commitment (**Luke 22:42**)
 - We act as they did when we conform to the world or go our own way (**Psalm 78:56-64; Romans 12:2**)
 - The people feared God's anger (**v12:16-19**) but God wants our love (**Romans 8:1-2; 1 John 4:15-19**)
 - We are to focus on God's kingdom (**John 18:36**) & tell others the good news about Jesus (**Acts 1:7-8**)
- David was anointed as Saul's replacement (**v16:13**) but waited for God's timing & action to be king
 - God chose David based on his heart (**v16:7**); Jesus wasn't chosen for appearance either (**Isaiah 53:2-3**)
 - Israel's greatest king until the Messiah; Jesus ("Son of David"--**Matthew 9:27**), though descended from David (**Matthew 1:6; Luke 3:31**) was David's Lord (**Psalm 110:1; Matthew 22:41-46**)
 - Saul was jealous & fearful of David; Jesus challenged the Jews' religious, political & financial standing
 - Jonathan was David's best friend despite his father's hatred (**v20:42**) & knowing David, not he, would be king (**v23:17**); Jesus is our best friend despite our sin (**Matthew 11:19**)
- As Israel's champion, David defeated Goliath thru God's power (**v17:37,45-47**); as our champion, Jesus defeated the Goliaths of Satan & his world (**John 16:33**); we also have victory in Jesus (**1 John 4:4,5:5**)
 - Saul was Israel's "Goliath-like idol"--tall, handsome, one to have faith in! But he cowered (**v17:11**)
- David took the consecrated bread (**v21:4,6**) which was restricted in use by the Law (**Leviticus 24:5-9**); but Jesus cited this incident in justifying His disciples picking grain on the Sabbath (**Matthew 12:3-6**)
 - The Jews had greatly expanded the Law; in trying to define how the Law applied to everything, they lost sight of the type of behavior that God really desired the Law to encourage (**Matthew 12:7-8**)
- Each time David spared Saul's life (**v24:10; 26:11**) Saul expressed remorse, but that didn't last long; true repentance requires **action** for real change (**Matthew 4:17; 16:24; Acts 26:20; 2 Corinthians 7:10**)
- Abigail smoothed things over with David after her husband Nabal insulted David (**v25:10-11,32-35**)
 - Like Nabal, each of us has unwisely rejected God's goodness, but Jesus interceded & took our penalty
- Saul's failure was his consistently half-hearted obedience (as in **v15:3,22-23**) which led to his rejection
 - Jesus set our mark & model for obedience (**John 14:15; Philippians 2:6-11; Hebrews 10:5-10**)

¹ The Knowing Jesus Study Bible, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids MI, 1999, page 339