

Old Testament Survey

Session Twelve

The Book of Judges & Ruth



The Book of the Judges – General

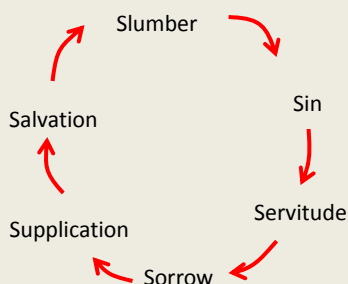
- The Book of Judges (שופטים) *Shaphatim*
- Author: Samuel (most likely)
 - Moral tone points to a prophetic authorship
- Date:
 - Composed after the death of Joshua (2:7)
 - Composed after the days of the Judges (17:6; 18:1)
 - Composed prior to seventh year of king David's reign
- Covers: 1392 – 1043 BC
 - Death of Joshua thru death of Samson

The Book of the Judges Major Themes

- God's sovereign rule and longsuffering
- Israel's incomplete obedience and its resulting consequences
- The Judges
 - Major Judges - Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson
 - Minor Judges - Shamgar, Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon
- "There was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
- The Angel of the Lord

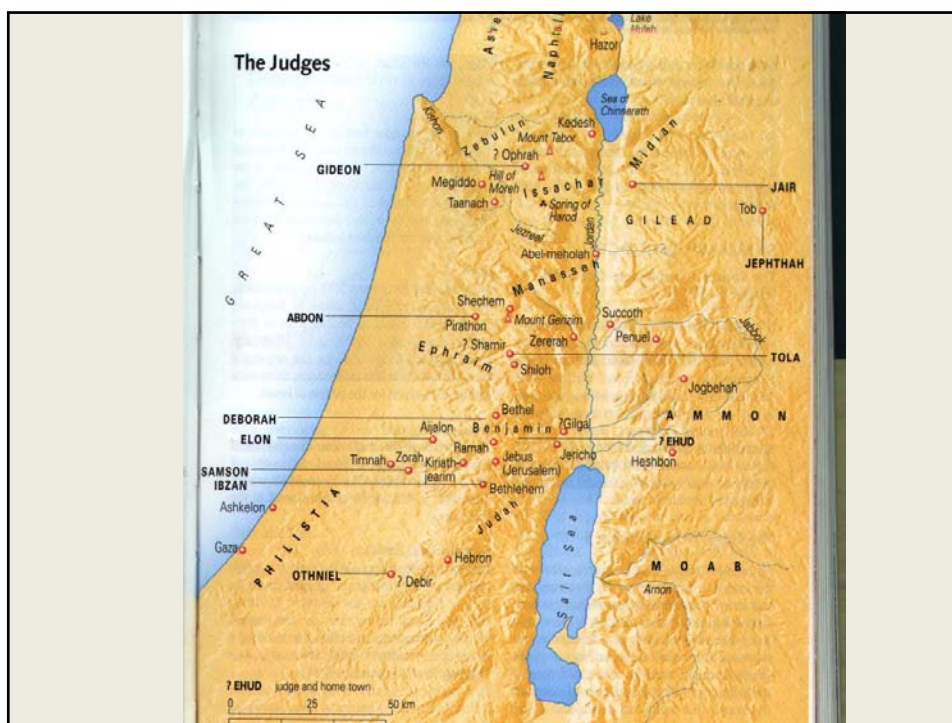
The Book of the Judges – Cycles

- Judges 2:6-23 provides a good summary of the book.



The Book of the Judges Structure

- Judg 1: Failure of Israel to Complete the Conquest
- Judg 2: God's Judgment for this Failure
- Judg 3-16: The Seven Cycles of Deliverance
 - From Mesopotamians (3:7-11)
 - From Moabites, Ammonites, Amalekites, and Philistines (3:12-31)
 - From Canaanites (4:1 – 5:31)
 - From Midianites (6:1 – 8:32)
 - From Abimelech (8:33 – 10:5)
 - From Ammonites (10:6 – 12:15)
 - From Philistines (13:1 – 16:31)
- Judg 17-21: Israel's Failure – Becoming Like the Canaanites
 - The Failure of Israel through Idolatry (17:1 – 18:31)
 - The Failure of Israel through Immorality (19:1-30)
 - The Failure of Israel through War between the Tribes (20:1 – 21:25)



The Book of Ruth – General

- The Book of Ruth (רוּת) *Ruth*
- Author: Samuel (most likely)
 - Moral tone points to a prophetic authorship
- Date:
 - Composed after the days of the Judges (1:1)
 - Composed after the birth of David (4:18-22)
 - Composed prior to birth of Solomon (4:18-22)
- Covers: 1122? – 1010 BC
 - Lives of Boaz, Obed, Jesse, and David

Ruth Chapter 1

- Love's Resolve: Ruth cleaves to Naomi
- Elimelech – God is my king
- Naomi – Pleasant
- Mahlon – Unhealthy, to blot out
- Chilion – Puny, to perish

- Orpah – Fawn
- Ruth - Desirable

Ruth Chapter 2

- Love's Response: Ruth gleaning
- The Law of Gleaning (Lev 19:9; Deut 24:19-22)
 - Provision for the destitute
- Happens upon the field of Boaz
 - Boaz – “in him is strength” (temple pillar)
 - Introduced by an unnamed servant
 - Protection + handfuls on purpose
- *Goel* – Kinsman redeemer
 - Law of redemption (Lev 25:47-50)
 - Law of Levirate Marriage (Deut 25:5-10)

Ruth Chapter 3

- Love's request
- The Threshing Floor
- Naomi recognizes an opportunity
 - For the redemption of her land
 - For a new life for Ruth
 - She instructs Ruth on what to do
- Ruth approaches Boaz
 - To fulfill the role of a *Goel*
- A nearer kinsman in the way
- 6 measures of barley = a code for Naomi
 - 6 is a sign of work (7th he rests)

Ruth Chapter 4

- Love's reward: land to Naomi, marriage to Ruth
- Boaz confronts the nearer redeemer
 - He is willing to redeem the property
 - He is not willing to take Ruth as his bride
 - He yields his shoe to relieve the obligation
- Boaz steps up
 - He purchases the land for Naomi
 - He “purchases” Ruth as a bride
 - “May your house be like Pharez

Kinsman Redeemer

- *Goel* – Kinsman redeemer
- Boaz
 - Lord of the Harvest
 - The Kinsman-redeemer
- Naomi
 - Israel
- Ruth
 - Gentile Bride

Kinsman Redeemer – The Requirements

- Must be Related
 - Hence “Kinsman” Redeemer
 - Followed Levirate Marriage Principle.
 - Not kin, owner not obligated to allow.
- Must be Freeborn
 - Must pay your own debts first.
 - Can give your free-self in other’s place.
 - Cannot place yourself in debt twice.
- Must be Able to Redeem
 - Must have 100% of required price.
 - Worth of your offering set in eyes of owner.
- Must be Willing to Redeem
 - Cannot be forced to pay.
 - Not by owner.
 - Nor by owned.

Ruth Summary

- In order to bring Ruth to Naomi, Naomi had to be exiled from her land
- What the Law could not do, Grace did
- Ruth does not replace Naomi
- Ruth learns of Boaz's ways through Naomi
- Naomi meets Boaz through Ruth
- No matter how much Boaz loved Ruth, he had to wait for *her* to move
- Boaz, not Ruth, confronts the "Nearer Kinsman"

Ruth Summary (cont.)

- Ruth always read at Feast of Pentecost (Church)
- You really cannot understand Revelation 5 without understanding the book of Ruth
- You and I are also beneficiaries of a love story, that we written in blood, on a wooden cross, erected in Judea almost 2,000 years ago

Old Testament Survey

End Session Twelve

Question Time!