

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

We are now entering the twelve History books of the Old Testament: *Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther*. There is history in almost all books of the Bible, but these are distinctly historical, and cover the history of Israel from their arrival in the Promised Land until their demise and defeat at the hands of the Assyrian Empire, and then later the Babylonian Empire. What a way to end a history lesson. But thankfully, the history books also include Ezra and Nehemiah describing the return of the Jewish people back to their land, and their return to God as a nation.

Joshua

Author: _____

Key Words: Courage, Land, Give, Possess, Serve

Key Chapters:

1. Chapter 1 – The Lord’s instructions and promise to Joshua
2. Chapter 23 – Joshua’s last address to Israel

Key Verses: 1:6-9 – God’s promise He will be with Joshua; 24:14, 15 – Joshua’s proclamation to serve the Lord only

Themes:

1. How to be _____ in the Battle of Life.
2. Our possessions are _____ for us to be claimed.
3. There is not a single blessing God puts beyond our reach.
4. We can have God’s blessings if we meet God’s conditions but it is God’s mercy that provides us with the obtainable conditions.

Key People: Joshua, Caleb, Achan

Key Places: Jordan River Crossing, Jericho, Ai, Gibeon

General Thoughts and Overview of Joshua

1. This book serves as the connecting link between the five books of the Pentateuch and the later historical books. It is the first book of the Jewish division of the _____. It also appears as the first of the _____ historical books.
2. Its name is derived from the principal character, Joshua.
3. Chapters 1 to 23 describe the _____ of the land and its division among the tribes of Israel. In the final chapters (23-24), Joshua, exhorts the people "to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses," (Joshua 23:6) and earnestly challenges them to maintain their covenant commitment to God.
4. The Hebrew name “Joshua” is the same as the name “Jesus” in Greek! They both mean “_____!”
5. **Date of Writing:** The Book of Joshua was likely written around _____ B.C.
6. This book covers a period of about _____ years
7. The Book of Joshua provides an overview of the military battles to conquer the land that God had promised to Abraham and his sons through Isaac.
 - a. At the beginning of the Book of Joshua, the new nation is now ready to enter the Promised Land, conquer the inhabitants and occupy the territory.
 - b. The Book itself gives only selective details of many of the battles and the manner in which the land was not only conquered, but how it was divided into tribal areas.

8. Joshua is a great example of the result of effective _____. For years Joshua followed Moses closely. He watched Moses as he followed God in an almost flawless manner.
- He learned from Moses how to truly _____. He learned how to obey through the example of Moses. Joshua also learned from Moses' sin of anger and the _____ of it.
 - The truth is, as long as you are alive, you are a mentor – a teacher. Someone, somewhere, is watching you. Some younger person or someone that you are influencing is seeing how you live and how you react to life's problems. Someone is learning from you. Someone will follow your example.
 - Discipleship (mentoring) is far more than the words that are spoken by the mentor. His or her entire life is on display for all to see.
 - Joshua was able to effectively lead Israel because he himself had been a good follower at first. All of his life had prepared him for this challenge.
9. If we want continual people to lead, we need to have leaders.
10. Joshua's greatest failure is not preparing a _____ to follow him and lead the people after his death. The people were to follow God, but didn't have an example to follow, so after Joshua's death, they did whatever they thought was good in their eyes to do.
11. Canaan represents God's _____, given to the believer and claimed by faith. It also represents the _____ Christian life.
- The victorious Christian life is a life of battles and blessings, but it is also a life of rest.
12. Originally Joshua's name was Oshea or Hoshea, which means "salvation", but Moses changed it to Jehoshua (or Joshua), which means "Jehovah is salvation."
13. When his parents gave the baby the name "Salvation" or Hoshea, they were bearing witness to their faith in God's promise of redemption for His people.
14. He was a _____ in Egypt and served as Moses' minister during the journeys of the nation. He also led the army in the battle against Amalek.
15. Joshua was one of the two spies who had the _____ to enter Canaan when the nation rebelled in Numbers 14:6.
16. Jewish tradition says that Joshua was 85 years old when he took Moses' place at the head of the nation and that he died at 110 years old.
17. The N.T. makes it clear that Joshua is a type of _____. Just as Joshua conquered earthly foes, so Christ has defeated every enemy through His death and resurrection.
18. It was Joshua, not Moses, who brought Israel into Canaan. It is Jesus who leads us into spiritual rest and victory.
19. As Joshua assigned the tribes their inheritance, so Christ has given us our inheritance.
20. Two major purposes for the book of Joshua:
- To _____ the history of Israel and to demonstrate God's faithfulness to His covenants, settling the tribes in their promised homeland.
 - To see God's holiness in His judgment upon the sinful Canaanites and in His insistence that Israel must put away _____ evil.
21. The immoral character of the Canaanite deities was seen in the most demoralizing rites which included: _____ prostitution by _____ sexes, _____ worship, and _____ sacrifices.
22. Joshua tells us how to be strong and courageous as we face our enemies and march forward to claim new territory for the Lord.
23. General Douglas MacArthur said, "In _____ there is no _____ for victory." Joshua would have agreed with him.
24. We see that the secret of Joshua's victories was not his _____ with the sword but his _____ to the Word of God (1:8) and to the God of the Word. (5:13-15)
25. Joshua was a slave, servant, soldier, spy, and a successor.

The Outline of the Events of Joshua

- I. **Entering the Land (Chapters 1-5)**
 - A. Joshua Charged (1)
 - B. Jericho Spied (2)
 - C. Jordan Crossed (3-4)
 - D. Gilgal Occupied (5)
- II. **Overcoming the Land (Chapters 6-12)**
 - A. Fall of Jericho (6)
 - B. Sin of Achan (7)
 - C. Sack of Ai (8)
 - D. Gideon (9)
 - E. Rout of Foes (10-12)
- III. **Occupying the Land (Chapters 13-24)**
 - A. Division of Canaan (13-19)
 - B. Cities of Refuge (20)
 - C. Portion of Levites (21)
 - D. Altar of Witness (22)
 - E. Farewell to Joshua (23-24)



Judges

Author: Possibly _____

Key Words: Did Evil, Served, Forsaken, Forsook

Key Chapters:

1. Chapter 2 – Without a leader the Israelites were a mess
2. Chapter 17 – Micah and the Levite
3. Chapter 21 – Wives for the tribe of Benjamin

Key Verses: 2:16-19 – God raises up judges to help Israel; 17:6; 21:25 – Every man did that what was right in his own eyes.

Themes:

1. You can make a _____.
2. Compromise causes _____. Anytime you compromise you are fixing to fall.

Key People: Samson, Deborah, Gideon, Jael, Jephthah

Key Places: All throughout the land of Israel

The Date of Writing: The Book of Judges was likely written about _____ B.C.

General Thoughts and Overview of Judges

1. This Book is named after the people called "the Judges of Israel." They are the _____ leaders whose deeds it records, this book covers a period of time from the death of Joshua to the birth of Samuel, an era often called "the dark ages" of Hebrew history.
2. Here is a story, on the human side, of disobedience and disaster, and on the divine side, of direction and deliverance.
3. Of the _____ judges named, only 3 are well known: _____, _____, and _____.
4. The Book of the Judges covers about _____ years of history.
5. The Book of Judges does not specifically name its author. The tradition is that the Prophet Samuel was the author of Judges. Internal evidence indicates that the author of Judges lived shortly after the period of the Judges. Samuel fits this qualification.
6. **Purpose of Writing:** To provide a historical account of the struggles of the Jews against their enemies from both without and within. They had trouble following God, and ultimately will demand a king to lead them instead of God. But until a king finally reigned, Israel would have to learn just how quickly they could fall into sin, and how much they needed godly leadership.
7. The Book of Judges is an account of how God was taken for granted by His people year after year, century after century. Yet, God has never _____ to help His people whenever they repented from their wicked ways and call upon His name.
8. After the death of Joshua and his contemporaries the Israelites returned to serving Baal and Ashtaroth. God seeing this allowed the Israelites to be controlled by those whom they worshiped. It was then that the people of God would cry out to Jehovah for help.
9. God then sent His children _____ to lead them in righteous living. But time after time they would turn their back on God and return to their lives of wickedness.
10. However, keeping with His part of the covenant with Abram God would save His people from their oppressors throughout the span of The Book of Judges.
11. Probably the most notable judge was the 12th judge, _____, who came to lead the Israelites after a 40-year captivity under the rule of the ruthless Philistines. Samson led God's people to victory over the Philistines where he lost his own life after 20 years as judge of Israel.

12. **Practical Application:** The life of a believer is not intended to be a life of failures, judgments, and restorations. Yes, we all fail. Yes, we all need restoration and renewal from God, but the Book of Judges should not be a description of our _____ walk with Christ.
13. Judges begins with the _____ of Joshua and ends with the coronation of Saul – the beginning of the monarchy.
14. Judges is the sequel to Joshua. The two books are linked together by the repeated record of Joshua’s death (2:6-9; 24:29-31)
15. The word “Judge” means:
- To act as a _____ or governor (rule or govern).
 - To _____ upon controversy (judge).
 - To _____ judgment (to vindicate, condemn, and punish).
16. Judges was a general term for leader and for leadership.
17. The judges of Israel were primarily _____ and _____ leaders, with strict judicial functions.
18. The purpose of Judges was to demonstrate _____ judgment on Israel’s apostasy.
19. Israel’s disobedience to God and her worship of Canaanite gods resulted in her _____ to experience divine _____ and the full conquest of her _____.
20. Judges deals with three areas:
- _____ – They developed indifference (1-2). Apathy opens the door to the devil.
 - _____ – They deployed idolatry (3-16) – their wants and their desires rather than God’s.
 - _____ – They desired independence (17-21).
21. Judges deals with Israel’s inability to drive out all the inhabitants of the land and Israel’s _____. It is a book of incomplete victory and a failure of God’s people to trust His Word and claim His power.
22. Israel first stomached the enemy, then _____ tribute (taxes) from the enemy, then socialized with the enemy, and finally _____ to the enemy.
23. Joshua is a record of _____ efforts. Judges records a _____ nation no longer devoted to the Lord and distant and forgetful of the covenant they made at Mt. Sinai.
24. Four reasons God permitted the heathen nations to be left in the land:
- To _____ Israel – (2:3, 20, 21)
 - To _____ Israel – (2:22; 3:4)
 - To _____ Israel with experience in warfare (3:2)
 - To _____ the land from becoming a wilderness (Deuteronomy 7:20-24)
25. The nation didn’t yield to God and obey Him. They looked to the _____ helpers that He sent to them.
26. Too many Christians run to the pastor or to friends for help instead of first getting _____ with God.
27. The challenge of the book of Judges is to be aware and don’t ever say that what Israel experienced will never happen to you. This book shows how God, as a loving father, _____ His children when they disobey and go astray.
28. God still works through people:
- Who _____ His Word – putting the Bible reading into practice.
 - Who _____ to His Spirit – consecration – yielding every day!
 - Who _____ His bidding – ready to witness and give an answer.
29. George Santayana said, “Those who cannot remember the _____ are condemned to _____ it”

Outline of the Events of the Book of Judges

I. Introduction (1:1-3:6)

- A. Efforts and difficulties in occupying Canaan (1:1-2:5) – many failures
- B. Life after Joshua (2:6-3:6) – much disobedience

II. First Series of Judges (3:7-8:32)

- A. Ohniel (3:7-11) – the first judge after Joshua
- B. Ehud (3:12-30) – Fought the Moabites
- C. Shamgar (3:31) – Fought the Philistines
- D. _____ (4:1-5:31) – female prophetess – the only female judge – directed Balak to fight the Canaanites
- E. Gideon (6:1-8:35) – defeated the Midianites with only 300 men
- F. Abimelech (9:1-57) – became leader through treachery

III. Second Series of Judges (10:1-16:31) -

- A. Tola (10:1-2)
- B. Jair (10:3-5)
- C. Jephthah (10:17-12:7) – lost his daughter due to a rash vow
- D. Ibzan (12:8-10)
- E. Elon (12:11-12)
- F. Abdah (12:13-15)
- G. Samson (13:1-16:31) – fought the Philistines singlehandedly

IV. Epilogue (17:1-21:25)

- A. The Migration of Dan (17:1-18:31) – both to the extreme North and the South
- B. The Near-Destruction of the Tribe of Benjamin (19:1-21:24)
- C. Conclusion (21:25)

*There were two more judges to come in 1 Samuel: _____ and _____.

