

OT-OV

Lesson 74

1. Last week we began a study of the Book of Judges.

2. When time expired last week I was teaching of Israel's many acts of disobedience and defeat.

3. Let's review some of that learned and then we will pick up with new material in our outline at Roman Numeral IV.

3.1 The Book of Judges was written somewhere around 1100 B.C. by an unknown, most of the events recorded in the book occurred between 1400-1100 B.C. It is a story of tribal rights under a theocracy and the success of that system even amidst terrible personal failures on the part of the individual Judges.

3.2 In historical sequence it covers the period of Israel's history between Joshua and Samuel.

3.3 Under Joshua the next generation partially conquered and occupied the land of Canaan. As subsequent generations succumbed to apostasy and idolatry oppression became the order of the day. As so often happens under adversity, Israel appealed to God for deliverance.

3.4 Once more the mighty acts of God were displayed as a number of judges responded to the call of God to lead the Israelites in military exploits to rout the oppressing nations.

3.5 The book describes a series of religious and political cycles of sin, sorrow and supplications. Some of the Judges were contemporaries serving in different parts of the country. God raised up several "Judges" to deliver Israel at various times. Though each judge ruled in his tribe, God in periods of exigency used certain heroes to deliver the nation, sometimes regionally and other times nationally.

3.6 The purpose of the book in presenting this history is definitely didactic and designed to teach divine retribution upon a sinning people and God's mercy in delivering His people, often in miraculous ways.

4. Now let's return to our study of the book of Judges in outline fashion.

I. Israel's failure to dispossess the Canaanites under Joshua. Jdg 1:1-36

A. During Joshua's lifetime Canaan was occupied and divided among the twelve tribes. Substantial pockets of resistance remained, however.

B. The presence of enemy peoples in the midst of Israelite territory and Israel's apostasy produced the geopolitical turmoil described in the book of Judges.

C. As the death of Moses marked the end of Israel's wilderness wandering, so the death of Joshua marked the end of the first phase of the conquest of Canaan.

D. Included in the allotments made by Joshua was much territory still unconquered. The tribes were expected to occupy the territories assigned to them.

E. The term Canaanite is sometimes used of all the inhabitants of Canaan without regard to racial origin.

F. The area occupied by the Canaanites is delineated in Jdg 1:9 as the hill country, the Negev and the western foothills.

G. There is no doubt God could have motivated complete domination of the Promised Land but given Israel's volition, He chose instead to use their error for their benefit.

1. The Canaanites left would serve as "war fodder" for generations of Jews to come in order that they might learn war.

2. God saw their choices and developed a plan for their life which though tainted was perfect. He would use pockets of resistance to train Israel how to wage war effectively.

II. The Angel of The Lord rebukes Israel for their failure to annihilate the Canaanites. Jdg 2:1-5

III. Joshua is eulogized and his death recorded in Jdg 2:7-9.

IV. Disobedience and Defeat - Jdg 2:10-3:6

Jdg 2:11 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:

Jdg 2:12 And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger ...

Jdg 2:14 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

Jdg 2:15 Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.

Jdg 2:16 Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

Jdg 2:17 And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so ...

Jdg 2:20 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice;

Jdg 2:23 Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua.

Jdg 3:1 Now these are the nations which the LORD left, to prove Israel by them, even as many of Israel as had not known all the wars of Canaan;

Jdg 3:2 Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof;

Jdg 3:3 Namely, five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites ...

Jdg 3:4 And they were to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

Jdg 3:5 And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites:

Jdg 3:6 And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods.

V. Oppressing Nations and Israelite Judges

A. Mesopotamia the land between the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers-Othniel, 3:7-11



Jdg 3:7 The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD; they forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asherahs.

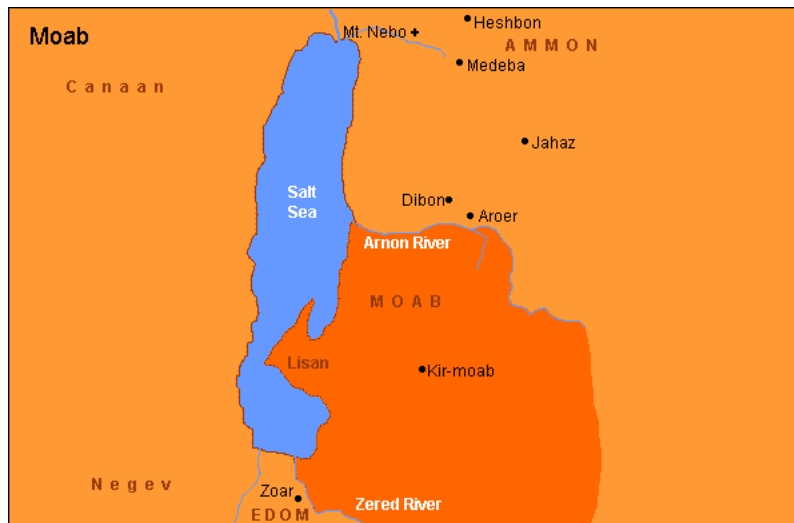
Jdg 3:8 The anger of the LORD burned against Israel so that he sold them into the hands of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram Naharaim, to whom the Israelites were subject for eight years.

Jdg 3:9 But when they cried out to the LORD, he raised up for them a deliverer, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who saved them.

Jdg 3:10 The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. The LORD gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him.

Jdg 3:11 So the land had peace for forty years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died.

B. Moab-Ehud, 3:12-30



Jdg 3:12 Once again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and because they did this evil the LORD gave Eglon king of Moab power over Israel.

Jdg 3:13 Getting the Ammonites and Amalekites to join him, Eglon came and attacked Israel, and they took possession of the City of Palms (Jericho).

Jdg 3:14 The Israelites were subject to Eglon king of Moab for eighteen years.

Jdg 3:15 Again the Israelites cried out to the LORD, and he gave them a deliverer--Ehud, a left-handed man, the son of Gera the Benjamite. The Israelites sent him with tribute to Eglon king of Moab.

Jdg 3:16 Now Ehud had made a double-edged sword about a foot and a half long, which he strapped to his right thigh under his clothing.

Jdg 3:17 He presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab, who was a very fat man.

Jdg 3:18 After Ehud had presented the tribute, he sent on their way the men who had carried it.

Jdg 3:19 At the idols near Gilgal he himself turned back and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." The king said, "Quiet!" And all his attendants left him.

Jdg 3:20 Ehud then approached him while he was sitting alone in the upper room of his summer palace and said, "I have a message from God for you." As the king rose from his seat,

Jdg 3:21 Ehud reached with his left hand, drew the sword from his right thigh and plunged it into the king's belly.

Jdg 3:26 Ehud got away. He passed by the idols and escaped to Seirah.

Jdg 3:27 When he arrived there, he blew a trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went down with him from the hills, with him leading them.

Jdg 3:28 "Follow me," he ordered, "for the LORD has given Moab, your enemy, into your hands." So they followed him down and, taking possession of the fords of the Jordan that led to Moab, they allowed no one to cross over.

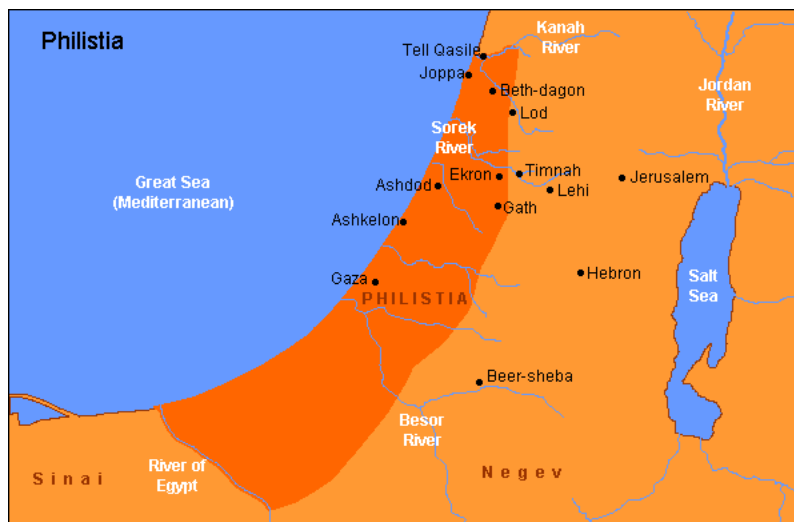
Jdg 3:29 At that time they struck down about ten thousand Moabites, all vigorous and strong; not a man escaped.

Jdg 3:30 That day Moab was made subject to Israel, and the land had peace for eighty years.

C. Philistia-Shamgar, 3:31

Shamgar

Jdg 3:31 After Ehud came Shamgar son of Anath, who struck down six hundred Philistines with a whip and/or club used to motivate an ox. He too saved Israel.



D. Canaan (Hazor)-Deborah and Barak, 4:1-24

Jdg 4:1 After Ehud died, the Israelites once again did evil in the eyes of the LORD.

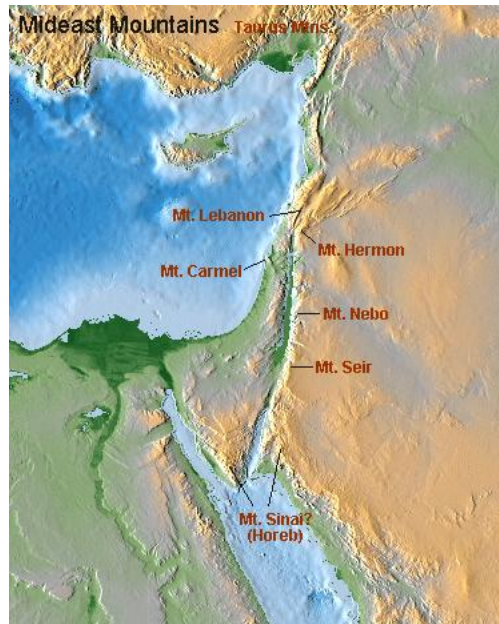
Jdg 4:2 So the LORD sold them into the hands of Jabin, a king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera ...

Jdg 4:3 Because he ... had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the LORD for help.

Jdg 4:4 Deborah, a prophetess ... was leading Israel at that time.

Jdg 4:5 She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came to her to have their disputes decided.

Jdg 4:6 She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead the way to Mount Tabor.



Jdg 4:7 I will lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands."

Jdg 4:8 Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."

Jdg 4:9 "Very well," Deborah said, "I will go with you. But because of the way you are going about this, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will hand Sisera over to a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh,

Jdg 4:10 where he summoned Zebulun and Naphtali. Ten thousand men followed him, and Deborah also went with him.

Jdg 4:11 Now Heber the Kenite had left the other Kenites, the descendants of Hobab, Moses' brother-in-law, and pitched his tent by the great tree in Zaanannim near Kedesh.

Jdg 4:12 When they told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor,

Jdg 4:13 Sisera gathered together his nine hundred iron chariots and all the men with him, from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River.

Jdg 4:14 Then Deborah said to Barak, "Go! This is the day the LORD has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the LORD gone ahead of you?" So Barak went down Mount Tabor, followed by ten thousand men.

Jdg 4:15 At Barak's advance, the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera abandoned his chariot and fled on foot .

Jdg 4:16 But Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim. All the troops of Sisera fell by the sword; not a man was left ...

1. Judges 4:9 predicts Sisera would be killed by a woman and not by Barak.

2. Jael a Kenite from Hazor welcomed Sisera into her home. Sisera had secretly left his army and sought shelter among the Kenites at Hazor.

3. There was no love lost however between the Kenites and Sisera so when Sisera was deep in sleep Jael drove a nail through his temple thus fulfilling the prophecy of Jdg 4:9.

E. Midian-Gideon, 6:1-7:25

Gideon

Jdg 6:1 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites (modern Saudi Arabia).

Jdg 6:2 Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds.

Jdg 6:3 Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country.

Jdg 6:4 They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys.

Jdg 6:5 They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count the men and their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it.

Jdg 6:6 Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the LORD for help ...

Jdg 6:11 The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.

Jdg 6:12 When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

Jdg 6:13 "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian."

Jdg 6:14 The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

Jdg 6:27 So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD told him. But because he was afraid of his family and the men of the town, he did it at night rather than in the daytime.

Jdg 6:28 In the morning when the men of the town got up, there was Baal's altar, demolished, with the Asherah pole beside it cut down and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar!

Jdg 6:29 They asked each other, "Who did this?" When they carefully investigated, they were told, "Gideon son of Joash did it."

Jdg 6:30 The men of the town demanded of Joash, "Bring out your son. He must die, because he has broken down Baal's altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it."

Jdg 6:31 But Joash replied to the hostile crowd around him, "Are you going to plead Baal's cause? Are you trying to save him? Whoever fights for him shall be put to death by morning! If Baal really is a god, he can defend himself when someone breaks down his altar."

Jdg 6:32 So that day they called Gideon "Jerub-Baal," saying, "Let Baal contend with him," because he broke down Baal's altar.

Jdg 6:33 Now all the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples joined forces and

crossed over the Jordan and camped in the Valley of Jezreel.

Jdg 6:36 Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised--
Jdg 6:37 look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said."

Jdg 6:38 And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew-- a bowlful of water.

Jdg 6:39 Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece. This time make the fleece dry and the ground covered with dew."

Jdg 6:40 That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

Gideon Defeats the Midianites

Jdg 7:1 Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh.

Jdg 7:2 The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her,

Jdg 7:3 announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

Jdg 7:4 But the LORD said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

Jdg 7:5 So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink."

Jdg 7:6 Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

Jdg 7:7 The LORD said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place."

Jdg 7:8 So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites to their tents but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others. Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley.

Jdg 7:9 During that night the LORD said to Gideon, "Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands.

Jdg 7:10 If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah

Jdg 7:11 and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp." So he and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp.

Jdg 7:16 Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.

Jdg 7:17 "Watch me," he told them. "Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp,

do exactly as I do.

Jdg 7:18 When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon.'

Jdg 7:19 Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands.

Jdg 7:20 The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!"

Jdg 7:21 While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.

Jdg 7:22 When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the LORD caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords ...

Jdg 7:23 Israelites from Naphtali, Asher and all Manasseh were called out, and they pursued the Midianites.

Jdg 7:24 Gideon sent messengers throughout the hill country of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against the Midianites and seize the waters of the Jordan ...

End Lesson