

Walking Through the Word

Creation to Judges (Week 9)

Story: **Conquering and Dividing** (E: Because Achan Stole, The Sun and the Moon Stand Still, The Israelites Settle in Canaan, and Joshua's Farewell, p 136-147)

Location: **Joshua 7-11, 14, 20, 22-24**

Bios & definitions

Ai: in Hebrew means "the ruin"; about 15 miles from Jericho, it was a key stronghold for the Canaanites, the place where the Israelites met defeat because there was "sin" in the camp, later attacked and destroyed by the Israelites

Achan: son of Zerah of the tribe of Judah who took plunder from the city of Jericho; he and his family and everything he owned was taken outside the city and stoned and burned

Note: After the battle of Jericho, the people were commanded to keep nothing for themselves because the city was under God's judgment for idolatry. After the battle at Ai the people were allowed to take whatever they wanted from that city because Ai was not a city that was under judgment by God for idolatry

Gibeon: city just north of Jerusalem; the land of the people who made a peace treaty with Joshua by deceiving him into thinking they were strangers; it was during this battle that the sun and the moon stood still

Note: There is evidence to prove that this actually happened

Shiloh: the tabernacle was moved here after the Israelites settled Canaan

Shechem: the place of Joshua's farewell address and his often quoted "Choose you this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house we will serve the LORD."

Walking Through the Word

Creation to Judges (Week 9)

Story: **Judges** (E: The Israelites Forget God, Ehud Judges Israel, Deborah Leads Israel, Gideon Tears Down an Altar of Baal, Gideon and the Fleece, Gideon Attacks the Midianites, Samson's Birth is Announced, Samson Chooses a Wife, Samson Angers the Philistines, Samson and Delilah, and Samson Dies, p 153-160 and 164-171)

Location: **Judges 1-21**

Bios & definitions

Judges: this Old Testament book covers a period of over three hundred years, during which time Israel was conquered by other nations; people God rose up to deliver Israel

Othniel: nephew of Caleb; led Israelites to victory over king of Mesopotamia; 1st judge of Israel; judged 40 years

Ehud: the second judge; he delivered the Israelites from King Eglon of Moab after 18 years by killing him and defeating the army; he was from the tribe of Benjamin and was left-handed (a perceived weakness); judged 80 years

Shamgar: third judge of Israel; killed 600 Philistines with an *oxgoad* (a long stick with a small flat piece of iron on one side and a sharp point on the other)

Deborah: fourth judge of Israel; only female judge; judged 40 years; only judge said to have been a prophet

Barak: brave soldier Deborah called to lead ten thousand men against Sisera and Jabin's army; declined to go into battle without Deborah even though he was told that the LORD would give him victory

Jael: wife of Heber the Kenite who informed Sisera of Barak's military preparations; killed Sisera after luring him into thinking that he had found safety as he retreated from the battle; the "woman" Deborah claimed would take Sisera

Gideon: son of Joash; fifth judge of Israel, called to deliver the Israelites from the Midianites; tore down an altar of Baal; put out a "fleece" for God; defeated the 135,000 strong Midianite Army with only 300 men; judged Israel for 40 years

Manoah and his Wife: among the Israelites who served the LORD during the time the Israelites were worshiping the Philistine god Dagon; visited by an angel who said their son would deliver Israel from the Philistines

Note: Scripture tells us that Manoah's wife was sterile and childless

Samson: son of Manoah; a Nazarite from birth; began the deliverance of the Israelites from the Philistines (this deliverance continued through King Saul and ended with David); known for his strength – killed a lion with his bare hands, killed 1000 Philistines with jawbone of a donkey, destroyed Philistine temple and all the people in it

Nazarite: from a Hebrew word meaning "separated" or "dedicated"; a person who took a vow to be set apart for God's service; could not cut their hair, touch a dead body, or drink anything containing alcohol

Delilah: a Philistine woman who became Samson's wife; betrayed the secret of Samson's strength to the Philistines who captured him

Walking Through the Word

Creation to Judges (Week 9)

Story: **Ruth** (E: Ruth Goes with Naomi, Ruth Gleans in Boaz' Field, Boaz Marries Ruth, p 171-176)

Location: **Ruth 1 - 4**

Bios & definitions

Elimilech: took his wife and children to Moab because of the famine in Bethlehem; died in Moab

Naomi: widow of Elimilech; moved back to Bethlehem from Moab after the death of her sons and the famine was over

Orpah: Moabite woman who married Kilion, son of Naomi and Elimilech; returned to Moab at Naomi's encouragement

Ruth: Moabite woman; wife of Mahlon, son of Elimilech and Naomi; accompanied her mother-in-law (Naomi) back to Bethlehem after the death of her husband; cared for Naomi; well known for her commitment to her mother-in-law and the God of Israel; married Boaz, a kinsman-redeemer

Boaz: a wealthy farmer in Bethlehem; showed great kindness to Ruth because she had shown great kindness to Naomi (a relative of his); kinsman-redeemer of Naomi and Ruth

Note: Under the law, when a woman's husband died she could marry a brother of her dead husband. If there were no brothers, the nearest relative to the deceased husband could become a kinsman-redeemer and marry the widow. If he chose not to the next nearest relative could take his place. If no one chose to help the widow, she would probably live in poverty the rest of her life because in Israelite culture the inheritance was passed on to the son or nearest male relative, not to the wife

Kinsman-Redeemer: a relative who volunteered to take responsibility for the extended family; Jesus Christ is our kinsman-redeemer

Obed: the son of Boaz and Ruth