

# The God Who Leads

**Review from last time?** Over time, Israel becomes slaves in Egypt. Moses is raised up to lead them out of slavery in the great Exodus. They end up at Mt Sinai, receive the 10 commandments, and were supposed to be heading into the Promised Land. They rebel and continually whine and complain with unbelief in God's plan. The entire generation of whiners are stuck wandering in the wilderness until they and Moses all die natural deaths. We ended with the Israelites camped out on the plains of Moab, ready to cross the Jordan and enter the Promised Land. Moses has died and they are in need of a leader.

## The Book of Joshua

- **What do you think the book of JOSHUA is about?** The book takes its name from the primary character, Joshua. **Who was Joshua's predecessor?** Moses. Joshua is the son of Nun, who was Moses Aide.
- **If we step all the way back to Abraham, what was promised to his descendants?** The land of Canaan. **So what is fixing to happen as they prepare to cross the Jordan and enter Canaan?** God is fulfilling his promise. **Read 21:43-45.** This book documents how the Great God's promise to the patriarchs and Moses to give the land of Canaan to the chosen people of His kingdom is now being historically fulfilled.
- **The tribes are still camped on the east side of the Jordan River and God has commanded who to lead the Israelites in their next steps?** Read 1:6 What does Joshua do? 2:1-3 Two Spies are sent to check out the land, especially Jericho. Rahab helps them and is spared what is to come.
- Joshua sends instructions that they will cross the Jordan in 3 days. God provides dry land to cross the Jordan and Joshua leads them into the Promised Land. They all cross and word spreads that God's people have arrived. **How do the kings react? Read 5:1 Why would the kings be in such fear?** They did believe in the God of Israel, but not as Him being the one and only supreme God. They saw and heard about the things the Hebrew God has done. **Does this sound like a lot of people in the world today??**
- The Israelites reach Jericho, heavily fortified and secure. God gives specific instructions on how they will defeat them. After marching around the city once for six days in silences except for the blowing of trumpets, day seven arrives. They march around the city seven times with the seven priests blowing their seven trumpets, then a long blast on the trumpets followed by a huge shout by the entire Israelite, and the walls collapse. They then go "UP" and "STRAIGHT INTO" Jericho. **What is the significance of the sevens? Could God be signaling the beginning of a new order in the world with reference to the seven days of creation?**
- The victories of Joshua and the Israelites are documented through Chapters 8-12. Note: Not all of Canaan is taken yet still!
- **Check out 12:2-5, 12:9-24, and so on... Does this read like a mythological story or a very detailed biography?** The bible is very historical and can often be cross-checked by what secular history says. Very specific details of kings that were conquered and their boundaries as well as the tribal allotments of land. Chapter 12-22. This reads more like a history book, not a mythological book.

- **Joshua has done his work, is old, and knows he is close to death.** Joshua's farewell to Israel is contained in Chapter 23. Joshua reminds the people that God is a jealous God. (Talk about Oprah discussion and difference between being jealous OF or FOR you. That's what people often do, turn God's goodness and holiness into something opposite)

### The Book of Judges

- The title of this book refers to the leaders Israel had from the time of the elders who outlived Joshua to the time of the Monarchy.
- **Why would God need to send leaders to help "revive" the Israelites? Read 2:10-Verse 2:16** best expresses the purpose of Judges "Then the Lord raised up Judges who saved them out of the hands of.... raiders."
- **How many judges are documented in the bible during this time after Joshua? 12.** Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon and Samson
- On one hand, Judges is an account of frequent apostasy, provoking divine chastening. On the other hand, it tells of urgent appeals to God in times of crisis, moving the Lord to raise up leaders "judges" through whom he throws off foreign oppressors and restores the land to Israel time and time again.

The Israelites constantly attached themselves to Canaan's people, together with their morals, gods, and religious beliefs and practices. **What is the problem with this?** God was setting the Israelites apart from the rest of the world, bringing in a new world order, setting things up for Christ to come. **What kind of religious practices did the Israelites start attaching themselves to?**

- ☒ Child sacrifice (with at least some of it in fire)
- ☒ Incest
- ☒ Bestiality
- ☒ Homosexual practices
- ☒ Cultic prostitution--both male and female.

**If the Israelites were going to detach themselves from God, then what is to be expected?** They lose God's backing. Even after the Israelites constantly turn away from Him, what does He continually do? Send judges to get them back on the right path.

- Samson is one of these judges God lifts up to lead the Israelites.

### The Book of Ruth

- Ruth, a Moabite woman, proves to be a model of faithfulness in Israel during the time of the Judges.
- From Ruth will come Jesse and eventually King David and ultimately Jesus Christ.

### The Books of Samuel

- **What happens in Kings 8:4-9?** Israel asks for a King. God warns it won't be pretty at times.
- **Who is "in charge" of Israel at the time this happens?** Samuel. Samuel is from the clan of Ephraim and is used to establish Monarchy in Israel. He not only anoints Saul and David, the first two kings, but he also gives new order of God's rule over Israel.

- Samuel's own sons are dishonest and evil, so he appoints Saul from the Benjamite tribe. Things start well, but Saul turns evil and Samuel and the Lord Himself rebukes him.
- Samuel anoints David, David serves under Saul for a while, but Saul starts to fear him. He tries to kill David but David eventually forgives him twice but Saul finally takes his own life. King David now rules over the Israel nation.
- David reigns for 40 years. Under King David (ultimately the Lord's rule), the United Kingdom prospers, defeats its enemies, and, in fulfillment of his promise (see Genesis 15:18) to extend its borders from Egypt to the Euphrates (Chapter 8)
- Chapters 1-8 describes David's rule in its glory and success.
- Chapters 9-20 describes the darker side of his reign and describes David's weaknesses and failures.
- The book ends with David's own words of praise to God who had delivered him from his enemies and with words of expectation for the fulfillment of God's promise that a King will come from the house of David.

### **The Books of Kings 1 & 2**

- After David dies, and puts his son Solomon as King of Israel who asks for wisdom from the Lord. Solomon is blessed with everything one could ever dream of.
- Solomon dies and a rebellion brews between Israel's own tribes. END LESSON HERE.
- 2 kings emerge and the people are split. Israel in the north, Judah in the south.
- What follows are dozens of kings one after another, very few with any good in them, most of all of them very evil and corrupt.
- Without God's blessing, protection, and power, Israel is taken into exile by The Assyrians first. About 30 years later, the Babylonians rise in power and take Judah into exile after Jerusalem is taken in 586BC
- The Persians rise in power, and as already predicted by the bible, Cyrus would be led to begin sending the Israelites back to their homeland to begin rebuilding the temple and the cities.
- The Old Testament ends with this rebuilding going on. Unfortunately, Jerusalem and the Israelite nation would one day fall for good in AD70 by the Romans.