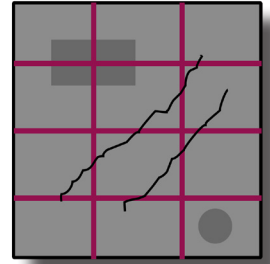


Step 9: The Land Settled (Judges)

Suggested Reading: Judges 1-8; Ruth 1-4



The “days when the judges judged.” (350-400 years!)

1. After 50 years of leadership, Joshua dies. Note the comparison:

“After the death of Moses... the LORD spoke to Joshua.” (Joshua 1:1)

“... after the death of Joshua...” ??? (Judges 1:1)

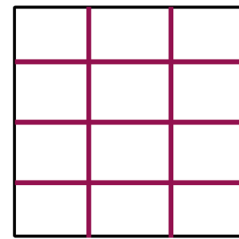
Judges 1:1 Joshua Dead

2:6 Joshua alive!

2:8 Joshua dies without a successor

2. From the beginning, the occupation was, at best, a loose _____.

Twelve tribes loosely
linked together ---->



3. Characteristics of the confederation:

No central _____.

A few occasional tribal alliances to settle the land (e.g., 1:3-17) But, they did not

_____ them _____. (e.g. 1:21)

Disunity: There was no _____ in the land. Everyone did what was

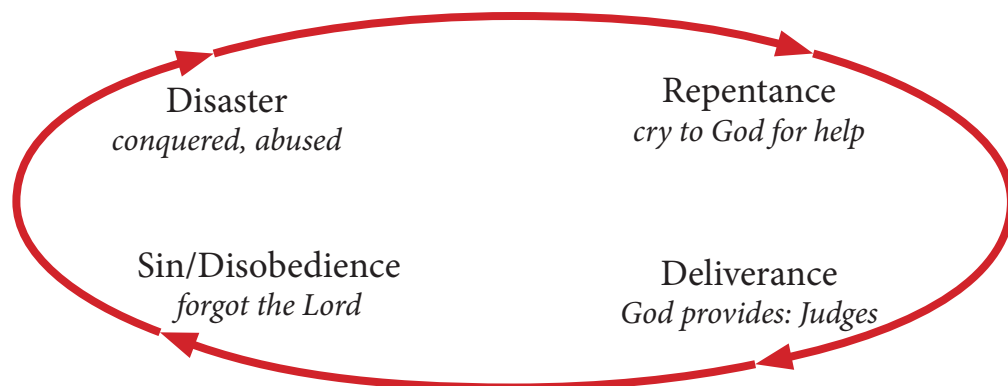
right _____. “Tribalism.” (17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25)

The new generation: 1) did not _____, or...

2) the work He had done _____.

Content of the book of Judges

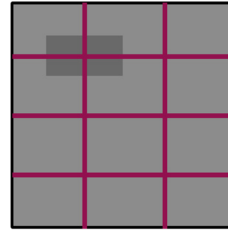
1. Introduction (1:1 - 3:6): Unconquered areas; Tribalism & a Recurring cycle



Cycle of the Judges
(Judges 2:10-19)

2. The Judges (3:7 - 16:31)
 Sample characters in the book of Judges: Ehud, Delilah, etc.
 Characteristics of the judges: They were deliverers who were...

- 1) L _____
 2) O _____
 3) T _____

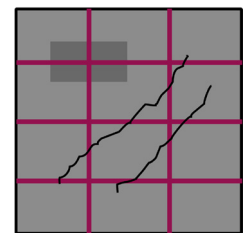


3. Three flashbacks that reveal the state of the nation of Israel (17:1 - 25:22)

Flashback #1: Micah and the Danites (Judges 17-18)

Summary: Gross _____

Flashback #2: The Levite, his Concubine and the Bengaminites (Judges 19-21)



Summary: Gross _____

Flashback #3: A Godly Remnant (Ruth)

“In the days the judges governed...” Ruth 21:1

Ruth the Moabitess (Ruth 1-4)

There is romance in the book of Ruth...

but the central purpose of the book is _____? _____, as

God prepares for a _____? _____

through a _____? _____? _____?

“So much ‘romance’ has been thrown about the simple narrative of this book, as almost to lose sight of its real purpose”
(Edersheim)

“In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.” (17:6)

“In those days there was no king of Israel.” (18:1)

“Now it came about in those days, when there was no king in Israel...” (19:1)

“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” (21:25)

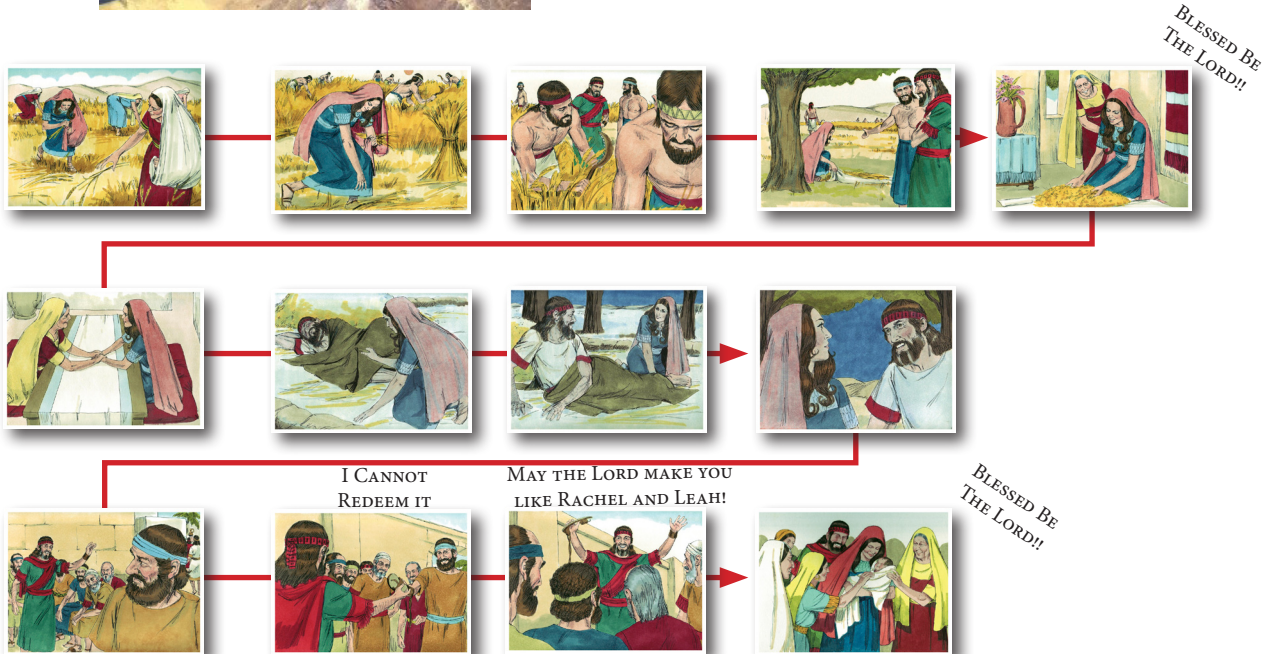


1) Elimelech + Naomi travel to Moab
Mahlon + Ruth (Ruth 4:10)
Chilion + Orpah

2) Elimelech + Naomi travel to Moab
Mahlon + Ruth (Ruth 4:10)
Chilion + Orpah

3) Naomi + Ruth
“Where you go, I go” “Where you stay, I stay”
“Your God, my God” “Where you die, I die”

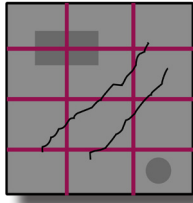
4) Naomi (“Mara”) + Ruth (The “Moabitess”)
travel back to Bethlehem



Conclusion: God is at work!

The central purpose of the book is _____.

as God is preparing a _____ through a _____.



In the midst of gross idolatry and gross immorality, we meet a group of nice, godly people through whom God will work.

How can/should God's people function in the midst of a "wicked and perverse" culture?

"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life...."
Philippians 2:14-16

Note the "children of God" characteristics in the book of Ruth:

Review Questions & Vocabulary: Step 9, The Land Settled

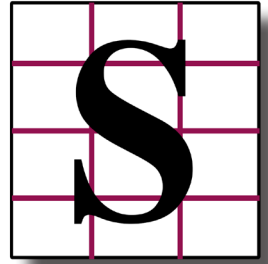
1. Describe and explain the "recurring cycle" that marked the period of the Judges.
2. Summarize the political nature of the office of the Judges who judged the land.
3. How do the flashbacks in Judges 17-21 illustrate the state of the nation?
4. The central purpose of God in the book of Ruth is political, Explain.
5. What advice and/or lesson is there in the book of Ruth for a godly remnant which lives in a nation characterized by idolatry and immorality?
6. Sketch out the specifics of a graphic illustration of Step 9.

Step Nine (the Land Settles; Judges & Ruth) Concepts

1. 350 - 400 years
2. Confederation
3. No King?
4. Tribalism
5. Judges
6. Ehud
7. Delilah
8. Micah
9. Danites & Benjaminites
10. Jabesh Gilead
11. Ruth, Naomi, & Boaz
12. Kinsman Redeemer
13. Philippians 2:14-16

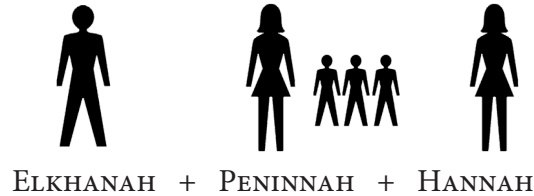
Step 10: Unification (Samuel)

Suggested Reading: 1 Samuel 1-8



A man and his _____ wife are about to have a baby!

Another family with problems! (1 Sam. 1:1-2)



Hannah prays in the temple (1:9-11)

Question: Why might Eli have assumed that Hannah was drunk?

1. Answer #1: Consider the times _____

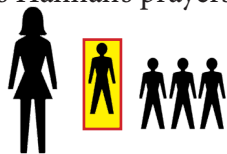
2. Answer #2: Consider the contrast between his sons and Hannah:

Hophni & Phinehas: “Despising the sacrifice” (2:17);
“they lay with the women” (2:22)

Hannah

“My heart exults in the Lord... There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. The LORD kills and makes alive; he brings down... and raises up. He makes rich and poor; he raises... and lifts... and keeps... For not by might shall a man prevail; He will give strength to his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.” (2:1-10)

God answers Hannah’s prayers and she fulfills her vow (1:21-28)



Consider the marked contrast between Eli’s sons and Samuel:

1. Hophni & Phinehas
“My sons... the report is not good which I hear... his sons brought a curse... and he did not rebuke them.” (2:24, 3:13)

- Samuel
The report on Samuel was good:

“The boy Samuel grew in stature and in favor both with God and man.” (2:26) “I will raise up for myself a faithful priest who will do according to what is in my heart and in my soul; and I will build him an enduring house.” (2:35)

God spoke directly to Samuel (rare in those days): “Samuel! Samuel!”
“Speak, LORD, for thy servant is listening.” (3:3, 6, 8, 10-14)

Judgement on Eli, Hophni, and Phineas (4:16-18)

“Samuel judged _____ Israel all the days of his life” (7:15)

“The Lord was with him and let none of his words fail and all Israel from Dan to Beersheba...” (3:19)

“Thus the word of Samuel came to all Israel...” (4:1)

“Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel” (7:3)

“gather all Israel” (7:5)

“Samuel judged the sons of Israel” (7:6)

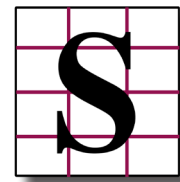
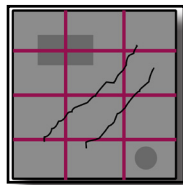
“sons of Israel” (7:7)

“sons of Israel” (7:8)

“Samuel cried to the LORD for Israel” (7:9)

“...so that [the Philistines] were routed before Israel.” (7:10)

“Now Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life... annually on circuit... and he judged Israel all the days of his life”. (7:15)



Compare:

Samuel was unique among the judges of Israel:

- The other judges were _____, _____, and _____.

- Samuel:

The Transition

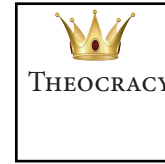
- There was no satisfactory successor for Samuel.

“When Samuel was old...” (8:1)

“Your sons do not walk in your ways”

2. Much earlier, God had anticipated a time when Israel would have a King.

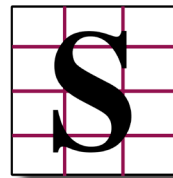
“When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you... and you say, I will set a king over me like all the nations around me; you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your GOD chooses...” (Deut. 17: 14-15)



3. Unfortunately, the kind of king the people wanted was not the kind God wanted. They said...

“Appoint a king for us to judge us like _____!” (8:5)

Compare --->



Samuel led the people under God's control



The people wanted a king like those of the other nations, e.g., Nahash (1Sam. 12:12)

THE LORD



God's Choice was a theocracy



The people's choice was a monarchy

God has always done His work through men (prophets, priest, judges, kings, etc.), so there is nothing, in itself, wrong with the idea of a king.

But...

... Israel was the only nation of the face of the earth offered a theocracy, and they wanted something else!

Question: Will God give them what they want?

YES

NO

Stay Tuned!

4. Samuel was “displeased” with the people’s request, (8:6) but the Lord said, “it is not you they have rejected...

... but they have rejected _____ as king.” (8:7)

5. So, Samuel warns them what it will be like to have a “king like the nations” (8:11-18) by noting that the king would take their...

Sons and daughters... feed, seed, fields, servants, donkeys, and flocks,
and “he is going to want...

6. The people reply to Samuel:

“There shall be a king over us -- to judge us and go out before us and fight our battles that we also may be like the nations.” (8:19-20)

7. The Lord’s reply to Samuel:

“Appoint them a _____.” (8:22)

Review Questions & Concepts: Step 10, Unification (Samuel)

1. How did Samuel differ (in his role in Israel) from the previous judges of Israel?
2. What was wrong about the people’s desire for a king? Explain.
3. Sketch out the specifics of a diagram of steps 8-10.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Elkhanah | 5. “Rare” in those days |
| 2. Hannah & Penninah | 6. “Samuel, Samuel!” |
| 3. Eli | 7. Nahash |
| 4. Hophni & Phinehas | |