



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 13. Judges & Ruth

- **Introduction to Judges**

- Author: Samuel?
- Date: Covers ~1386/1385 until mid-11th century BC, probably written 1040-1020 BC
- Context:
 - Joshua passed away and left the people in their inheritance at peace, seeing God's faithfulness on display.
 - This possession was incomplete, so Israel will deal with the consequences of incomplete obedience.
 - The Canaanites God had warned them to eliminate possessed a much more sophisticated culture and much more sexualized religion, both of which they attributed to their false gods, leading to constant temptation for Israel.
- Main themes:
 - The unrelenting nature of sin
 - The need for godly leadership
 - God's design for a faithful ruler

- **How to View the Judges**

- The Judges (with some probable overlap):

Judge	Reference	Oppressor	Period of Oppression	Period of Rest	Total
Othniel	3:7–11	Mesopotamians	8 years	40 years	48 years
Ehud	3:12–30	Moabites	18 years	80 years	98 years
Shamgar	3:31	Philistines			
Deborah	chs. 4–5	Canaanites	20 years	40 years	60 years
Gideon	chs. 6–8	Midianites	7 years	40 years	47 years
Tola	10:1–2			23 years	23 years
Jair	10:3–5			22 years	22 years
Jephthah	10:6–12:7	Ammonites	18 years	6 years	24 years
Ibzan	12:8–10			7 years	7 years
Elon	12:11–12			10 years	10 years
Abdon	12:13–15			8 years	8 years
Samson	chs. 13–16	Philistines	40 years	20 years	60 years ¹

- The term ‘judges’ refers to not just legal, but also _____ and _____ authority in Israel.
- They are not meant to be taken as _____ for us even though they do accomplish some mighty things: God is working to save His people as a whole through flawed human beings.

¹ Chart adapted from: Crossway Bibles, *The ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 437.

- **Introduction to Ruth**

- Author: Unknown
- Date: During the time of the judges, written later
- It is grouped with the 'Writings' in the Tanakh because it relates history in a much more poetic way than surrounding books.
- Context:
 - It is a beautiful story in an ugly period of Israel's history.
 - Leadership in Israel is failing (hence the genealogy at the end to show the origin of the anointed monarchy).
 - Familiarity with the Law and the culture helps to understand why matters are approached the way they are.
- Main themes:
 - *Chesed* (faithful, covenant _____)
 - _____:
 1. Naomi going from 'Mara' ('bitter') to 'Naomi' ('sweet')
 2. Ruth going from Gentile widow to blessed matriarch of David (including how she got there)
 3. Israel going from lawless drought to fruitfulness and a king

Discussion:

1. What does Judges teach us about sin?
2. What does Ruth teach us about love?

Blanks: administrative, military, paragons, love, redemption