

# LESSON 5 A Home for the People of God

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God's people had been set free from their bondage in Egypt by the mighty hand of God. They had received God's instructions for organizing their life and worship according to His design. After the delay caused by doubt, they had assembled on the plains of Moab and listened to Moses' words. But then Moses died. Who would lead them into the land so that they could possess it?

As you study this lesson and read in your Bible of the events, you will become acquainted with the man God chose to lead His people forward. You will follow the people as they enter into the land and win many victories. You will also see them go through darkness and difficulty and see how God continued to guide them into fulfilling His purpose for them as a nation. He desired that their family life, worship, and prosperity be a witness of himself, the only true God, to all the peoples of the earth.

Your study of this lesson will help you understand the various experiences God's people had during the first years they possessed and lived in their land. As you understand these experiences, you can learn many lessons for your own life.

## ***lesson outline***

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The Leader and the Land

The Lessons Learned in Darkness

The Light Given for the Future

## ***lesson objectives***

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When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

- Match descriptions of the events in Joshua's life to their importance in his preparation for leadership.
- Describe the physical features of the land of Palestine.
- Explain why Israel was commanded to conquer the land of Canaan.
- On a map of Palestine, identify the areas gained by the conquest.
- Identify facts about the area each tribe was given.
- Given a description of the cycle of judgment and deliverance, identify examples of it in the book of Judges.
- State the historical and spiritual significance of the book of Ruth.
- Show why God judged Eli.
- Describe Samuel's character and the nature of his leadership of Israel.

## ***learning activities***

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1. Read from the books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and 1 Samuel as directed by the lesson.
2. Study the lesson development as usual, paying special attention to the maps and diagrams of Palestine. Answer the study questions, complete the self-test, and check all your answers.

## ***key words***

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cross-section  
cycle  
debauchery  
era

inhabitant  
inheritance  
invaders  
league

parallel  
plateau  
successor

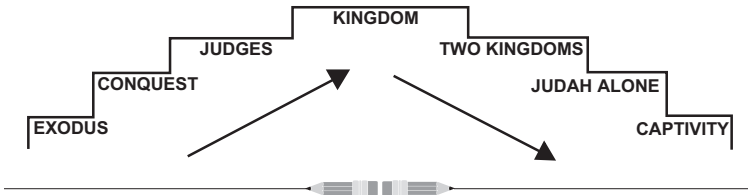
## lesson development

The diagram below outlines the major eras of Israel's history. This diagram shows the progression was upward to the kingdom era of David and Solomon as Israel increased in prosperity and success. Then the course was downward from the division of the kingdom to the Babylonian captivity.

We have already studied the *Exodus*. This lesson deals with the Conquest and the times of the *Judges*. In the rest of the lessons in this course you will study the events that take place during the remaining eras of the *Kingdom*, the *Two Kingdoms*, *Judah Alone*, and the *Captivity*.

## Application

**1** Study this diagram carefully and memorize it. Then without looking at it, draw it in your notebook with the seven steps and the name of the era each one represents.



## THE LEADER AND THE LAND

### Joshua—His Preparation and Ministry

#### Read Joshua 1

**Objective 1.** Match descriptions of the events in Joshua's life to their importance in his preparation for leadership.

God had prepared a man to lead His people into the land of promise—Joshua, son of Nun, a man who had been chosen earlier to spy out Canaan. Caleb, another one of the spies, and Joshua were the only ones who had brought back a good report (Numbers 11:1–14:10). It was to Joshua that God said these words: “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all

these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites” (Joshua 1:2).

## **Application**

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**2** In your Bible, read each of the Scriptures about Joshua given in the references below (right side). Then match it to the statement which best expresses its importance in Joshua’s preparation to be the successor of Moses (left side).

- |              |  |                     |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| ... <b>a</b> | Was chosen by God to succeed Moses   | 1) Exodus 17:10–16  |
| ... <b>b</b> | Spent time in the Tent of the Lord’s presence                                      | 2) Exodus 33:11     |
| ... <b>c</b> | Declared his faith and confidence in God in front of Israel                        | 3) Numbers 13:16    |
| ... <b>d</b> | Had experience in helping Moses  | 4) Numbers 14:5–10  |
| ... <b>e</b> | Had his name changed from Hoshea (“salvation”) to Joshua (“the Lord is salvation”) | 5) Numbers 27:18    |
| ... <b>f</b> | Was acknowledged by Moses as his successor in front of all the people              | 6) Numbers 27:22–23 |
| ... <b>g</b> | Had experience in leading a battle and defeating the enemy                         |                     |
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Though Joshua’s preparation can be followed in the books of Exodus and Numbers, it is in the book of Joshua that we read about his years as leader of the nation of Israel. We may divide the book of Joshua into two main parts:

1. Chapters 1–12 describe the conquest of Canaan;
2. Chapters 13–24 tell how the land was divided among the various tribes.

This book gives evidence of being a genuine historical account; some 300 cities and towns are mentioned in it. The events it describes took place over a time span of about 25

years. Joshua's final speech to Israel, which is recorded in chapters 23 and 24, shows the godly character of this man who trusted supremely in the Lord and relied upon Him.

## Canaan—Its Description, Conquest, and Partition

### *The Features of the Land*

**Objective 2.** *Describe the physical features of the land of Palestine.*

The land of Canaan was God's choice for His people. Learning some facts about it will help you understand the Scriptures better. The events that took place there will become more alive to you.

Canaan was named after the fourth son of Ham, who was the ancestor of its first inhabitants (Genesis 9:18). However, to avoid confusion, I will refer to the physical land itself as Palestine. During Old Testament times, the area of Palestine had an average width of 65 miles, measuring 100 miles at the widest part. Its greatest length was 180 miles. So it was no larger than a state or province in many countries today.

As the land God chose for His people, it had four special features.

1. *It was isolated.* A glance at the map will show that on the west was the sea, on the south and east were deserts, and on the north were mountains. This isolation was to help God's people to develop according to His plan. The nations surrounding Israel were idolatrous. But to Israel was given the revelation of the true God.
2. *It was central.* Although it was isolated, Palestine was located in the center of all the great powers of the ancient world. It was used as a land bridge for travel between them. The nations of Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Persia, Greece, and Rome all grew around it, Israel's location was important because God had raised it up to be a witness to the world.
3. *It was limited.* The small size of the land made it unsuitable for anyone who had political ambitions. God did not call Abraham to simply be the founder of another nation, but to be the man through whom all the families of the earth would be blessed.

4. *It was fruitful.* Even the faithless spies saw the agricultural produce of Palestine. It was capable of producing all that God's people would need as long as they would walk in obedience.

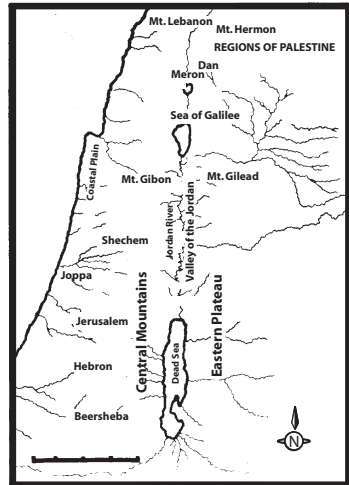
## **Application**

**3** The feature of the land of Palestine which made it especially suited for a people who had a message to give to the world was its

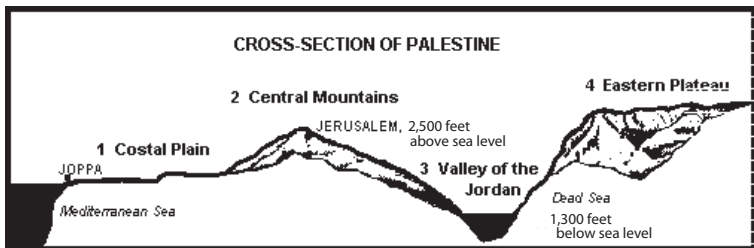
- a) isolation.
- b) centrality.
- c) limited size.
- d) fruitfulness.

The land falls roughly into a pattern of four parallel strips:

- 1 A maritime or coastal plain on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea
- 2 A central range of mountains along the western edge of the Jordan Valley
- 3 The Jordan River Valley
- 4 The plateau and mountains of eastern Palestine, which stretch on the east side of the Jordan Valley from Mt. Hermon in the north to Mt. Hor in the South



A diagram of a cross-section of the land looks like this:



## Application

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- 4** Refer to the map and diagram, and circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement. Then in your notebook, rewrite each FALSE statement so that it is TRUE.
- a)** Jerusalem is north of Hebron.
  - b)** Mount Gilead and Mount Gilboa are both located in the central mountainous range.
  - c)** The Dead Sea is higher in elevation than the Mediterranean Sea.
  - d)** The Jordan valley extends south from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea.
  - e)** The four main physical areas of the land of Palestine extend in parallel strips from east to west.
  - f)** The coastal plain is lower than the plateau of eastern Palestine.
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## *The Inhabitants of the Land*

**Objective 3.** *Explain why Israel was commanded to conquer the land of Canaan.*

There were about seven tribes or nations occupying Canaan at the time Israel was ready to enter it. The Hittites were the most prominent and came from the formerly great empire of that name. They lived near Hebron in Abraham's time and later mingled with the Amorites in the mountains of what became Ephraim. The Canaanites lived on the sea coast, the Hivites near Shechem, the Perizzites in central and southern Palestine, the Girgashites near the Sea of Galilee, the Amorites in the eastern plateau, and the Jebusites in the central highlands around their capital which later became known as Jerusalem. The term "Canaanites" is often used to refer to all of these tribes or nations.

In Deuteronomy 20:16–18 God told the Israelites to destroy all the inhabitants of the land which He had given them. This command raises a serious question in many people's minds: How could a just God order Israel to do this? A great deal of misguided sympathy has been wasted upon the destruction

of the Canaanites. Much more attention has been given to the judgment God sent upon them than to their character. As we study the Scriptures we find that there were reasons for God's command.

1. God knew that if these wicked nations were not destroyed they would teach Israel to sin against Him (Deuteronomy 18:9–13; Deuteronomy 20:18).
2. Canaan had been promised to Abraham and his children. Since the earth is the Lord's, He gives possession to whomever He pleases. When Jacob was dying in Egypt, he asked his sons to bury him in the land of Canaan as evidence of the hope that one day the promise would be fulfilled (Genesis 49:29–33).
3. Any right the Canaanites had to the land by having had possession of it for a long time was lost because of their wickedness. We must remember that these people also had descended from a godly line through Noah's sons. They were an example of a civilization which had followed the course described in Romans 1.
4. The moral depravity of the Canaanite peoples at this time demanded swift judgment. One writer of ancient history has said, "No other nation has rivaled the Canaanites in the mixture of blood and debauchery." Their life was so foul that 1500 years later in wicked Rome its practices were condemned. Sodom, where not even ten righteous men could be found, was an example of the cities of this civilization. The practices of the Canaanites are described in Leviticus 18:21–23 and Deuteronomy 12:30–32.
5. The driving out of the Canaanites is always shown in the Scriptures to be a punishment for their sins (Leviticus 18:24–25). The Israelites were warned that if they sinned and forsook their covenant with the Lord, they would suffer the same punishment (Joshua 23:11–13).
6. In His mercy, God had waited long for repentance among these nations. They had had the witness of righteous men



like Melchizedek (Genesis 14) and the patriarchs who lived among them. They had been warned by the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:23–25). They had heard of the wonders by which the Israelites had been delivered from Egypt. They had even watched Israel’s presence for almost forty years in the nearby desert.

## **Application**

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**5** The Amorites, one of the Canaanite tribes, are mentioned in God’s message to Abraham about the future of his descendants. Read Genesis 15:13–21 and answer the following questions.

**a)** How long would Abraham’s descendants be slaves in a foreign land?

.....

**b)** Why would it be this amount of time before Abraham’s descendants would return to the land that was promised to them?

.....

**c)** What does this show about God’s attitude towards the people of the land?

.....

**6** Circle the letter in front of the statement which gives the main reason why God told Israel to conquer Canaan and destroy its inhabitants.

**a)** The Canaanites had no godly witness among them and were very wicked and immoral.

**b)** God had given the Canaanites time to repent, but they had continued in their sin.

**c)** The Israelites were more numerous than the Canaanites, and they deserved a good place to live.

**d)** After they left Egypt the Israelites had no land, so it was right for them to conquer Canaan.



## **The Area of Conquest (Read Joshua 2–12)**

**Objective 4.** *On a map of Palestine, identify the areas gained by the conquest.*

The people of Israel prepared to enter the land, following Joshua, the leader God had chosen for them. At this time Joshua was eighty years old. A great challenge lay ahead. The old civilizations were decaying. Could a new civilization based on a holy purpose to serve God be built? In Joshua 1:1–9 we read what God said to Joshua at this important time.

### **Application**

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**7** Read Joshua 1:1–9. Then in your notebook answer the following questions.

- a)** What promises did God give to Joshua?
- b)** What advice did God give to Joshua?
- c)** According to verse 8, what three things did Joshua need to do in order to have success?

**8** Read Joshua 3:7–17 and answer this question. What sign did the Lord perform to show Israel that He was with Joshua just as He had been with Moses?

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The war of conquest took about seven years, and there were many difficulties. The cities were walled and great. There were leagues of kings and armed men with iron chariots. Yet the moral decay of the Canaanite tribes had produced a weakness in them like an internal disease.

Joshua's military campaign was well planned. It was a direct push for the heart of the land, cutting the Canaanite tribes into two parts. The Israelites moved quickly, and God was with them. Remember, this is not simply a history of a courageous people. It is an account of the powerful miracles of a covenant-keeping God!

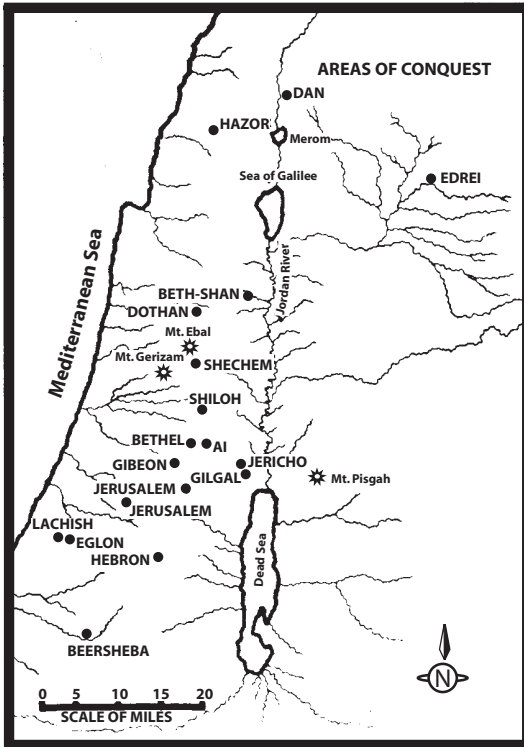
The first area of conquest included the cities of Jericho, Ai, Bethel, Shiloh, Shechem, and Dothan. It included all the land west of these cities to about five miles from the Mediterranean Sea, and all of the land east to the other side of the Jordan.

The second area of conquest was to the south. It included the cities of Gibeon, Jerusalem, Jarmouth, Lachish, Eglon, Hebron, and Beersheba. It stretched west to within five miles of the Mediterranean Sea and east to within about five miles of the south end of the Dead Sea.

The third area of conquest was to the north. It included the cities of Beth-shan, Hazor, and Dan. It stretched east and west from about five miles east of the Jordan to within five miles of the Mediterranean Sea. It stretched north and south from about ten miles south of Beth-shan to ten miles north of Dan.

## **Application**

9 On the following map, use your pencil to lightly outline each of these areas.

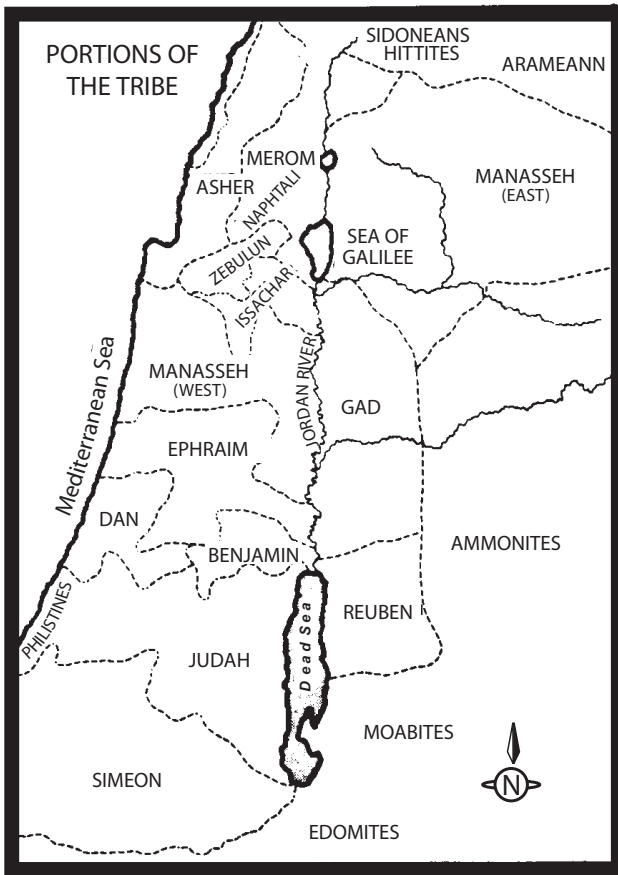


This war of conquest had far-reaching effects. We have received many benefits because of it, for it was from the little nation of Israel that the Bible and Jesus the Christ came. So the Israelites, in a sense, fought for us. Values we hold as precious were passed on to us from them: the worth of the individual, the importance of the home, and the worship of one God who is Creator and Father of all. We could almost say that the war they fought has had more effect on our lives than any other war that has been fought.

### *The Division of the Land (Read Joshua 13–24)*

**Objective 5.** *Identify facts about the area each tribe was given.*

After the conquest of Canaan, each tribe was given a portion of land. This represented a spiritual as well as a physical inheritance. The Levites were given no land but received 48 cities with their suburbs. The total of 12 tribes was kept (since Levi was eliminated) by dividing the tribe of Joseph into the two sections of Ephraim and Manasseh. God's challenge to Joshua, "There are still very large areas of land to be taken over" (Joshua 13:1) was appropriate; the boundaries given in Joshua 13 were not realized until the time of Solomon, 500 years later. Study the following map and answer question 10.



### **Application**

**10** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement below.

- a)** The tribe of Manasseh had an area about as large as that of Judah and Simeon combined
- b)** The tribe of Dan had two areas, both of them in the Jordan river valley.
- c)** The tribe of Asher shared its eastern border with that of Naphtali.
- d)** The tribe of Reuben was the furthest south on the west side of the Jordan river and the Dead Sea.

## THE LESSONS LEARNED IN DARKNESS

God's people went through a difficult transition time after the death of Joshua until Samuel became their leader. This time of transition was one of change, adjustment, and rearrangement. It lasted about 400 years.

### Judges—Cycles of Despair

*Read Judges 1–16; 21*

**Objective 6.** *Given a description of the cycle of judgment and deliverance, identify examples of it in the book of Judges.*

The period of transition we read about in the book of Judges was a time of great spiritual darkness of Israel. But though the book of Judges tells us about this very dark time in Israel's history, it is still part of the Bible canon. Its events are referred to in many other places in the Bible. The name *Judges* comes from the name given to the heroes of Israel whose deeds are the central theme of the book.

In general, Israel begins in humble dependence upon God (Judges 1:1–2:5) and then falls away into the depths of sin. The horrors described in the last four chapters show that the condition of Israel had reached the worst state imaginable.

You may ask, How could God's people sink so low? After Canaan was settled, the tribes seemed to fall apart. There was no central government and no single leader as there had been with Moses and Joshua. It seems that the eldership and priesthood failed to hold the tribes together in unity. There were also the problems of repelling invaders and keeping the land quiet.

God's Word gives some other simple and basic reasons which explain why this was such a dark time.

### Application

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**11** Read each of the following verses of Scripture. Then in your notebook, write an answer to this same question for each one: What evil does it say that Israel committed?

- a) Judges 1:27–28, 30–31, and 3:6
- b) Judges 2:10
- c) Judges 2:12
- d) Judges 2:17, 19

**12** Read chapters 17 and 21 of Judges. You will find that there is a verse in chapter 17 which is repeated in chapter 21. What do both of these verses say?

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This description sums up the spirit of this era in Israel’s history.


Throughout the book of Judges the same pattern or cycle was repeated several times; Judges 2:11–19 gives a general summary of this pattern. There were four main stages in the cycle each time.

1. Sin—Israel fell into sin and idolatry.
2. Punishment—God let their enemies overtake them.
3. Repentance—They cried out to the Lord.
4. Deliverance—The Lord raised up a judge to deliver them.

### Application

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**13** Read Judges 2:11–19 and Judges 3:7–11, which is an example of this cycle. Then beside each stage listed below, give the references of the verses from Judges 3:7–11 in which it is found.

- a) Sin. ....
  - b) Punishment. ....
  - c) Repentance. ....
  - d) Deliverance. ....
- 
- 

This cycle expresses a simple outline of God's dealing with Israel throughout the book of Judges. There are fourteen judges mentioned in the book (one of these, Abimelech, was not raised up by God). However, the thirteen separate administrations represented can be grouped into seven actual cycles of punishment.

## Application

**14** The seven cycles are given in the references below. Find and read the verses that describe each one. Then in your notebook, write each reference on the left-hand side. Opposite each reference, list the following: a) the name or names of the conqueror; b) the length of time Israel was ruled by the conqueror; c) the names of the judges God raised up to deliver Israel; and d) the length of time of rest that followed. The first is written in as an example.

Reference	Conqueror	Length	Judge	Time of Rest
<b>1</b> 3:1-11	<i>Cushan Rishathaim</i>	<i>8 yrs.</i>	<i>Othniel</i>	<i>40 yrs.</i>
<b>2</b> 3:12-31				
<b>3</b> 4:1-5:31				
<b>4</b> 6:1-8:32				
<b>5</b> 8:33-10:5				
<b>6</b> 10:6- 12:15				
<b>7</b> 13:1- 16:31				

Chapters 17 through 21 tell of other events that happened during this time. As we have mentioned already, they show to what depths of sin the nation had fallen. But there is also another story that took place during this time.



## Ruth—Promise of Life

### *Read Ruth 1–4*

**Objective 7.** *State the historical and spiritual significance of the book of Ruth.*

The beautiful and romantic story told in the book of Ruth concerns events that happened in the life of a simple Israelite family who lived during the period of the Judges (Ruth 1:1). The father made a decision to leave the land of promise during a famine. The results seemed terrible for his family. But the story of Ruth shows that God’s hand of providence was upon His people in spite of their faithlessness as seen in the book of Judges.

The book of Ruth may be divided into three major sections.

1. Naomi and Ruth return to Bethlehem (1:1–22).
2. Ruth meets Boaz (2:1–3:18).
3. Boaz marries Ruth (4:1–22).

### ***Application***

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**15** Read the book of Ruth. Find the city of Bethlehem, the land of Judah, and the land of Moab on the map. Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a)** Both Orpha and Ruth went to Bethlehem with Naomi.
  - b)** Boaz was a relative of Ruth’s husband, who had died.
  - c)** The Moabites were one of the tribes of Israel who lived east of the Dead Sea.
  - d)** Boaz allowed Ruth to gather grain from his fields.
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But the book of Ruth is more than just a beautiful story. It is the Bible’s clearest picture of the person whom Israelite law called the “kinsman-redeemer.” When a man died, his nearest relative could make a claim for him since he could no longer act for himself. This man was called the kinsman-redeemer or the relative who brings back or restores. As we read Ruth’s story we

see that this is just exactly what Boaz did. Because he was Ruth's relative, he was able to restore to her the property belonging to Mahlon, marry her, and raise up a son to carry on the family line (Ruth 4:9–15). Boaz is thus a picture of Christ, our kinsman-redeemer.

## **Application**

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**16** Boaz's position as Ruth's kinsman-redeemer best illustrates the fact that Christ

- a)** did all things according to the will of His father.
- b)** was related to us as a human being and as such could help us.
- c)** performed earthly miracles to demonstrate His divinity.
- d)** was proved to be God's Son by being raised from the dead.

**17** Read Ruth 4:18–22 and Matthew 1:1–17. Circle the letter in front of the name of each person who descended from Ruth and Boaz.

- a)** Abraham
  - b)** David
  - c)** Noah
  - d)** Christ
  - e)** Judah
  - f)** Isaac
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Ruth, a gentile (non-Israelite), was outside of hope. Yet her decision to worship the true God (Ruth 1:16) placed her in a position to be in the line of Christ the Messiah. She represents all sinners who by faith become a part of the people of God.

## **THE LIGHT GIVEN FOR THE FUTURE**

### **Eli—A Man Judged by God**

*Read 1 Samuel 1–4*

**Objective 8.** *Show why God judged Eli.*

There are two additional judges in Israel—Eli and Samuel—who appear in the book of 1 Samuel. Eli held the office of both

high priest and judge. He was a man of personal virtue. Yet he did not stop his sons from misusing their position as priests to commit great sin. The behavior of these sons, Hophni and Phinehas, show the awful condition of the priesthood at this time (1 Samuel 2:12–17). This condition caused the people to fall away from worshipping God, which was their only bond of national unity. Through a prophet, God warned Eli of the judgment coming upon his house (1 Samuel 2:27–36). God also warned him through the boy Samuel, who was being raised in the tabernacle, the tent of the Lord’s presence (1 Samuel 3:10–18).

But Eli’s sons continued in their evil ways, and God brought about the judgment of which Eli had been warned. The Philistines came against Israel at the battle of Aphek, the Ark of the Covenant was captured, Hophni and Phinehas were killed in battle, and Eli died when he received the news (1 Samuel 4:1–22).

### ***Application***

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**18** Find the land of the Philistines on the map and fill in the missing names in the sentence below.

The land of the Philistines had the tribe of . . . . .  
to the north, the tribes of . . . . . and . . . . .  
to the east, and the . . . . . on the west.

**19** Circle the letter in front of each statement which gives a reason why Eli and his family were judged by God.

- a)** Eli refused to take care of the boy Samuel.
- b)** Hophni and Phinehas would not let people bring sacrifices.
- c)** Eli misunderstood Hannah’s distress at first.
- d)** Eli’s sons treated the Lord’s sacrifices with disrespect.
- e)** Eli allowed his sons to continue in their sin.

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The victory of the Philistines brought about twenty years of oppression for Israel (1 Samuel 7:2–5). This twenty-year

bondage, however, became one of the most important times for God's people. The judgment of God had fallen upon the priestly line of Eli. But God had raised up another leader, Samuel, who was eventually acknowledged by all Israel to be a prophet of the Lord (1 Samuel 3:19–21). The darkness of the time of oppression was turned to light because of the faithfulness of this man, the last judge of Israel.

## Samuel—A Man Born for the Future

### *Read 1 Samuel 5–7*

**Objective 9.** *Describe Samuel's character and the nature of his leadership of Israel.*

The name *Samuel* means “asked of God.” He was born in response to the prayers of a devout but barren woman, Hannah. She gave him to the Lord to be raised at the tabernacle by Eli. God spoke in an audible voice to Samuel when he was still a child about the judgments that were to come upon the house of Eli. Samuel became one of the noblest men in Bible history, a man equal in greatness to Abraham, Moses, and David. He was a mighty man of prayer and faith. He became judge, reformer, statesman, and writer.

During the time of oppression by the Philistines, he challenged the people to return to the Lord with all their hearts. He called all Israel to meet him at Mizpah, and there the people repented and turned to God. When the Philistines attacked, God helped the Israelites to win a great victory.

## ***Application***

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**20** Read 1 Samuel 7:1–17 and answer the following questions in your notebook.

- a)** What action did the Israelites take at Mizpah to demonstrate their repentance?
- b)** What was Samuel doing when the Philistines attacked?
- c)** What did Samuel say when the Philistines were defeated?
- d)** What reminder of the victory did Samuel raise and what did he call it?

**21** In your notebook, describe some occasion or time in your life when you realized, like Samuel did, that the Lord had helped you all the way.

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After the victory against the Philistines at Mizpah, Samuel returned to his home at Ramah and built an altar (1 Samuel 7:17). It was probably during this time that Samuel founded schools for recruiting and training young men in the worship of God. In 1 Samuel 19:18–19 you will see the place Naioth in Ramah. *Naioth* is a word which suggests the idea of huts or dwellings where students could live. The phrase in Ramah also leads us to conclude that Samuel probably gave his own house over to the purpose of teaching. It was likely that he taught writing, law, and music, all directed towards the true worship of God. And no doubt he encouraged men to seek a prophetic word from God. In 1 Samuel 19:18–24 is a description of the powerful manifestation of the Lord's presence which was experienced at the school in Ramah.

It was probably at these schools that the Psalms first began to be written. David, for example, associated with the school in Ramah (1 Samuel 19). These schools were called schools of the prophets later on, and during the time of Elijah they existed at Bethel, Jericho, and Gilgal (2 Kings 2:1–5; 4:38–41).

Samuel grew old and made his sons judges. However, they did not follow his example and were very corrupt. It was at this time that Israel demanded a king, much to Samuel's disappointment (1 Samuel 8:1–9).

## ***Application***

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**22** Review this section on the life of Samuel and read the following Scriptures: 1 Samuel 3:10–18; 7:3–6, 15–17; 19:18–24. Then write a short description of the character of Samuel and his leadership in Israel.

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## **self-test**

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- 1** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
- a)** The first battle in which Joshua participated was the seven-year war of conquest.
  - b)** Moses had a special ceremony to show the people that Joshua would be his successor.
  - c)** The second area of conquest was towards the south, taking in the city of Beersheba.
  - d)** Because the land of Palestine was isolated, this made it impossible for Israel to communicate with other nations.
  - e)** The tribe of Levi inherited a portion of land about the same size as that of the tribe of Reuben.
- 2** Suppose a friend were to say to you: “I think God was very cruel and unfair to command the Israelites to completely destroy all the inhabitants of Canaan.” Which of the following statements would be the best reply?
- a)** The Canaanites had been in the land for many years. It was time for someone new to take over. And since Abraham settled in Palestine, it was natural for the nation which descended from him to have the right to return there.
  - b)** God had given the Canaanites a chance to repent, but they continued their wicked ways. So God brought the judgment they deserved upon them by using the Israelites to destroy them. If Israel sinned, they would be judged in the same way.
  - c)** The ancestors of the tribes of Israel had been promised the land of Canaan. So when Israel had been set free from the Egyptians, they had the authority to do whatever they wanted to when they came into the promised land.
- 3** In the book of Judges each time after the Lord delivered the Israelites from their oppressors they
- a)** turned away from their sin.
  - b)** continued to serve the Lord.
  - c)** forgot the Lord and served idols.

- 4** Circle the letter in front of each conclusion we can draw from the events recorded in the book of Judges.
- a)** God had great patience with the Israelites and raised up many judges to deliver them time after time.
  - b)** God is unforgiving because He allowed the Israelites to be punished and overrun by their enemies.
  - c)** It was not important to God that the Israelites sinned as long as they eventually repented.
  - d)** The judges needed God's help and direction to deliver Israel from oppression.
  - e)** After the people had sinned God did not pay attention to their cry for deliverance.
- 5** Boaz was able to restore to Ruth her property and give her a place among the Israelites because he
- a)** was her near relative.
  - b)** loved her and wanted to help.
  - c)** knew about her family.
- 6** One of the important values of the story of Ruth and Boaz is that it is a beautiful illustration of Christ as the
- a)** sinless one who suffers.
  - b)** near kinsman who restores.
  - c)** perfect sacrifice which is offered.
  - d)** divine Son who experiences death.
- 7** According to Ruth 4:13–22., Ruth was David's
- a)** mother.
  - b)** grandmother.
  - c)** great-grandmother.
- 8** Of which of the following principles would the story of Eli and his family be the best example?
- a)** God is very patient with sinners and those who disobey Him.
  - b)** A person who turns from his sin will experience God's mercy.
  - c)** When God's people cry out to Him for help, He hears them.
  - d)** God expects parents to correct and discipline their children.

**9** Match the name of the leader of Israel (right side) to each phrase which describes him (left side). If a phrase applies to both leaders, write 3 in front of it.

- |              |  |           |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| ... <b>a</b> | Called Israel to repent at Mizpah              | 1) Joshua |
| ... <b>b</b> | Set up a memorial stone called "Stone of Help" | 2) Samuel |
|              |  | 3) Both   |
| ... <b>c</b> | Led Israel across the Jordan river             |           |
| ... <b>d</b> | Spent time in the Tent of the Lord's Presence  |           |
| ... <b>e</b> | Was the leader of the prophets at Ramah        |           |
| ... <b>f</b> | Lived before the times of the judges           |           |
| ... <b>g</b> | Showed faith and trust in God                  |           |



**answers to study questions**

**12** There was no king in Israel and everyone did as he pleased (or a similar answer).

**1** Your diagram should look like the one in the lesson.

**13 a)** Verse 7

**b)** Verse 8

**c)** Verse 9

**d)** Verses 9–11

**2 a)** 5) Numbers 27:18

**b)** 2) Exodus 33:11

**c)** 4) Numbers 14:5–10

**d)** 2) Exodus 33:11

**e)** 3) Numbers 13:16

**f)** 6) Numbers 27:22–23

**g)** 1) Exodus 17:10–16

**14** Your chart should look like this:

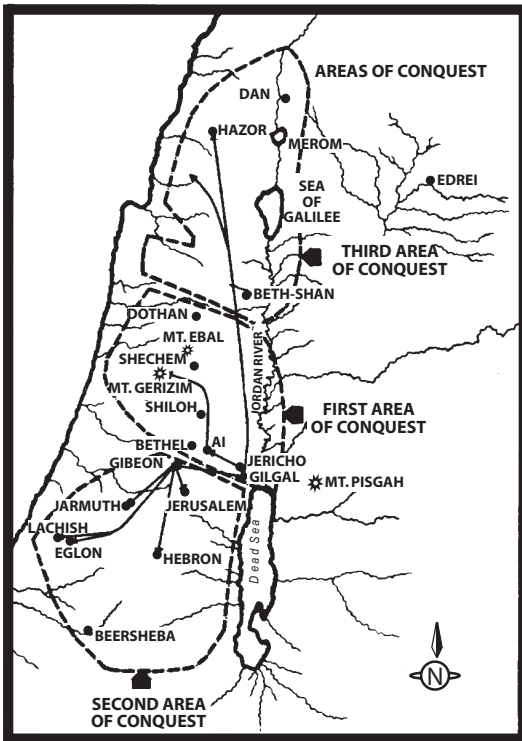
Reference	Conqueror	Length	Judge	Time of Rest
<b>1</b> 3:1–11	Cushan Rishathaim of Mesopotamia	8 yrs.	Othniel	40 yrs.
<b>2</b> 3:12–31	Eglon, king of Moab and the Philistines	18 yrs.	Ehud, Shamgar	80 yrs.
<b>3</b> 4:1–5:31	Jabin, king of Canaan	20 yrs.	Deborah, Barak	40 yrs.
<b>4</b> 6:1–8:32	Midianites	7 yrs.	Gideon	40 yrs.
<b>5</b> 8:33–10:5	Civil war, etc.	not given	Abimelech, Tolar, Jair	not given
<b>6</b> 10:6–12:15	Ammonites	18 yrs.	Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon	not given
<b>7</b> 13:1–16:31	Philistines	40 yrs.	Samson	20 yrs.

**3 b)** centrality.

- 15 a)** False  
**b)** True  
**c)** False  
**d)** True
- 4 a)** True  
**b)** False; Mount Gilead is located in the plateau of eastern Palestine, and Mount Gilboa is located in the central mountainous region.  
**c)** False; the Dead Sea is lower in elevation than the Mediterranean Sea.  
**d)** True  
**e)** False; the four main physical areas of the land of Palestine extend in parallel strips from north to south.  
**f)** True
- 16 b)** was related to us as a human being and as such could help us.
- 5 a)** 400 years  
**b)** Because by that time the Amorites would have become so wicked that it would be necessary for God to drive them out.  
**c)** He was patient with them but one day His patience would come to an end if they continued in their wickedness.
- 17 b)** David  
**d)** Christ
- 6 b)** God had given the Canaanites time to repent, but they had continued in their sin.
- 18 Dan, Judah, Simeon, Mediterranean Sea**
- 7 a)** God promised Joshua 1) His presence, 2) continued victory, 3) the entire land, and 4) leadership of Israel. (Your answer should be similar to this.)  
**b)** God advised Joshua to 1) be determined and confident, 2) be sure to obey, read, and study the whole Law, 3) remember that God had commanded him to be determined and confident, and 4) not be afraid or

discouraged. (Your answer should be similar to this.)

- c) Joshua needed to read the book of the law, study it day and night, and obey everything written in it
- 19 d) Eli's sons treated the Lord's sacrifices with disrespect.  
e) Eli allowed his sons to continue in their sin.
- 8 He caused the Jordan to cease flowing while the Israelites crossed.
- 20 a) They got rid of their idols and worshipped the Lord.  
b) He was offering a sacrifice to God.  
c) "Thus far has the Lord helped us."  
d) A memorial stone which he called "stone of help."
- 9 The areas on your map should correspond or be similar to this one.



- 10 a)** True
- b)** False
- c)** True
- d)** False

**22** Your answer should include the following ideas. Samuel obeyed the Lord and told Eli the message God had given him. He called the people to repentance at Mizpah, won a victory over the Philistines, and was recognized as a prophet of the Lord. He was a ruler and judge in Israel, and the leader of the prophets at Ramah.

- 11 a)** They did not drive out the Canaanites but intermarried with them and worshipped their god.
- b)** They forgot the Lord and what He had done.
- c)** They stopped worshipping the Lord and began to worship other gods.
- d)** They disobeyed their leaders and worshipped other gods.