

genesis history

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creator, maker, cosmos

judges-ruth

April 1

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[[Audio: Steve Gregg Jdg 19-21](#)]

Judges 19

Perveted Benjamites Rape and Kill

19:1 ¶ And it came to pass **in those days, when there was no king in Israel** [cf. [17:6](#), [18:1](#), [21:25](#)], that there was a certain Levite **staying in** the remote mountains of [Ephraim](#). He took for himself a concubine [*slave wife*] from [Bethlehem](#) in [Judah](#).² But his concubine played the **harlot** against him, and went away from him to her father's house at [Bethlehem](#) in [Judah](#), and was there **four [4] whole months**.³ **Then** her husband arose and went after her, to speak kindly to her *and* bring her back, having his servant and a couple of donkeys with him. So she brought him into her father's house; and **when** the father of the young woman saw him, he was glad to meet him.⁴ **Now** his father-in-law, the young woman's father, detained him; and he stayed with him **three [3] days**. So they ate and drank and lodged there.⁵ **Then** it came to pass on the **fourth [4th]** day that they arose **early in the morning**, and he stood to depart; but the young woman's father said to his son-in-law, "Refresh your heart with a morsel of **bread**, and **afterward** go your way."⁶

So they sat down, and the two of them ate and drank together. **Then** the young woman's father said to the man, "Please be content to stay **all night**, and let your heart be merry."⁷

And **when** the man stood to depart, his father-in-law urged him; so he lodged there **again**.⁸ **Then** he arose **early in the morning** on the **fifth [5th]** day to depart, but the young woman's father said, "Please refresh your heart."⁹

So they delayed **until afternoon**; and both of them ate.⁹ And **when** the man stood to depart — he and his concubine and his servant — his father-in-law, the young woman's father, said to him, "Look, **the day** is now drawing toward evening; please spend **the night**. See, **the day** is coming to **an end**; lodge **here**, that your heart may be merry. **Tomorrow** go your way **early**, so that you may get home."¹⁰

However, the man was not willing to spend **that night**; so he rose and departed, and came to opposite [Jebus](#) (that is, [Jerusalem](#)). With him were the two [2] saddled donkeys; his concubine was also with him.¹¹ They were near [Jebus](#), and **the day was far spent**; and the servant said to his master, "Come, please, and let us turn aside into **this city of the Jebusites** and lodge in it."¹²

But his master said to him, "We will not turn aside **here** into a city of foreigners, who are not of the children of Israel; we will go on to [Gibeah](#)."¹³ [Hence, this story occurs before [Jebus](#) was invaded by Israel. See [Judges 1:8](#) vs. [Jos 15:63](#) ~|| [Judges 1:21](#)] ¹³

So he said to his servant, "Come, let us draw near to one of **these places**, and spend **the night** in [Gibeah](#) or in [Ramah](#)."¹⁴

And they passed by [*Jebus*] and went their way; and **the sun went down** on them near [Gibeah](#), which belongs to [Benjamin](#).¹⁵ They turned aside there to go in to lodge in [Gibeah](#). And **when** he went in, he sat down in the open square of the city, for no one would take them into *his* house to spend **the night**.

¹⁶ ¶ **Just then** an old man came in from his work in the field **at evening**, who also was from the mountains of [Ephraim](#); he was **staying in** [Gibeah](#), whereas the men of the place were [Benjamites](#).¹⁷ And **when** he raised his eyes, he saw the traveler in the open square of the city; and the old man said,

"Where are you going, and where do you come from?"¹⁸

So he said to him,

"We are passing from [Bethlehem](#) in [Judah](#) toward the remote mountains of [Ephraim](#); I am from there. I went to [Bethlehem](#) in [Judah](#); now I am going to the house of [Y^{HWH}](#). But there is no one who will take me into his house,¹⁹ although we have both straw and fodder for our donkeys, and bread and wine for myself, for your female servant, and for the young man who is with your servant; there is no lack of anything."²⁰

And the old man said,

"Peace be with you!

However, let all your needs be my responsibility; only do not spend **the night** in the open square."²¹

So he brought him into his house, and gave fodder to the donkeys. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

²² ¶ As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men [*lit.*, "sons of Belial"; idiom: no-good men], surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying,

"Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him carnally!"²³

But the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them,

"No, my brethren!

I beg you, do not act so wickedly!

Seeing this man has come into my house, do not commit this outrage.²⁴ Look, here is my virgin daughter and the man's concubine; let me bring them out now. Humble them, and do with them as you please; but to this man do not do such a vile thing!"²⁵

But the men would not heed him. So the man took his concubine and brought her out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until morning; and **when the day began to break**, they let her go.²⁶ **Then** the woman came as the day was dawning, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, till it was light.²⁷ **When** her master arose in the morning, and opened the doors of the house and went out to go his way, there was his concubine, fallen at the door of the house with her hands on the threshold.²⁸ And he said to her,

“Get up and let us be going.”

But there was no answer. So the man lifted her onto the donkey; and the man got up and went to his place. 29 When he entered his house he took a knife, laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel. 30 And so it was that all who saw it said,

“No such deed has been done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day.

Consider it, confer, and speak up!”

Judges 20

All Israel Comes Against Gibeah

20:1 ¶ So all the children of Israel came out, from Dan [north: Judges 17-18] to Beersheba [south], as well as from the land of Gilead [east of the Jordan], and the congregation gathered together as one man before YHWH at Mizpah [“watchtower”, presumably, in Benjamin]. 2 And the leaders of all the people, all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand [400,000] foot soldiers who drew the sword. 3 (Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.)

Then the children of Israel said,

“Tell us, how did this wicked deed happen?” 4 So the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, “My concubine and I went into Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin, to spend the night. 5 And the men of Gibeah

rose against me, and surrounded the house at night because of me. They intended to kill me, but instead they ravished my concubine so that she died. 6 So I took hold of my concubine, cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of the inheritance of Israel, because they committed lewdness and outrage in Israel. 7 Look! All of you are children of Israel; give your advice and counsel here and now!” 8

So all the people arose as one man, saying,

“None of us will go to his tent, nor will any turn back to his house; 9 but now this is the thing that we will do to Gibeah: We will go up against it by lot. 10 We will take ten men out of every hundred [100] throughout all the tribes of Israel, a hundred [100] out of every thousand [1,000], and a thousand [1,000] out of every ten thousand [10,000],

to make provisions for the people, that when they come to Gibeah in Benjamin, they may repay all the vileness that they have done in Israel.” 11

So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, united together as one man.

Benjamin Refuses to Give Up Gibeah

12 ¶ Then the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, “What is this wickedness that has occurred among you? 13 Now therefore, deliver up the men, the perverted men who are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death and remove the evil from Israel!”

But the children of Benjamin would not listen to the voice of their brethren, the children of Israel. 14 Instead, the children of Benjamin gathered together from their cities to Gibeah, to go to battle against the children of Israel. 15 And from their cities at that time the children of Benjamin numbered twenty-six thousand [26,000] men who drew the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah, who numbered seven hundred [700] select men. 16 Among all this people were seven hundred [700] select men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair’s breadth and not miss. 17 Now besides Benjamin, the men of Israel numbered four hundred thousand [400,000] men who drew the sword; all of these were men of war.

26,700 Take On 400,000

18 ¶ Then the children of Israel arose and went up to the house of God [in Shiloh: 21:12] to inquire of God. They said,

“Which of us shall go up first to battle against the children of Benjamin?”

YHWH said, “Judah first!” 19

So the children of Israel rose in the morning and encamped against Gibeah.

20 And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin, and the men of Israel put themselves in battle array to fight against them at Gibeah. 21 Then the children of Benjamin came out of Gibeah, and on that day cut down to the ground twenty-two thousand [22,000] men of the Israelites. 22 And the people, that is, the men of Israel, encouraged

themselves and again formed the battle line at the place where they had put themselves in array on the first day. 23 Then the children of Israel went up and wept before YHWH until evening, and asked counsel of YHWH, saying, “Shall I again draw near for battle against the children of my brother Benjamin?”

And YHWH said,

“Go up against him.” 24

So the children of Israel approached the children of Benjamin on the second day. 25 And Benjamin went out against them from Gibeah on the second day, and cut down to the ground eighteen thousand [18,000] more of the children of Israel; all these drew the sword.

26 ¶ Then all the children of Israel, that is, all the people, went up and came to the house of God and wept. They sat there before YHWH and fasted that day until evening; and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before YHWH. 27 So the children of Israel inquired of YHWH (the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days, 28 and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days [so this happened in Phinehas’ lifetime]), saying,

“Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of my brother Benjamin, or shall I cease?”

And YHWH said,

“Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand.” 29

Then Israel set men in ambush all around Gibeah. 30 And the children of Israel went up against the children

of Benjamin on the third day, and put themselves in battle array against Gibeah as at the other times. 31 So the children of Benjamin went out against the people, and were drawn away from the city. They began to strike down and kill some of the people, as at the other times, in the highways (one of which goes up to Bethel and the other to Gibeah) and in the field, about thirty [30] men of Israel. 32 And the children of Benjamin said,

“They are defeated before us, as at first.”

But the children of Israel said,

“Let us flee and draw them away from the city to the highways.” 33

So all the men of Israel rose from their place and put themselves in battle array at Baal Tamar [“lord of the palms”].

Then Israel’s men in ambush burst forth from their position in the plain of Geba.

[“hill”; a city in Benjamin (modern ‘Jeba’) that stands on the top of a steep terraced hill, 6 miles (10 km) northeast of Jerusalem and 3 miles (5 km) from Gibeah, on the edge of the Wadi Suweinit looking northward to the opposite village of ancient Michmash (modern Mukhmas)] 34

And ten thousand [10,000] select men from all Israel came against Gibeah, and the battle was fierce. But the Benjamites did not know that disaster was upon them. 35

YHWH defeated Benjamin before Israel. And the children of Israel destroyed that day [probably rounded to 100] twenty-five thousand one hundred [25,100; leaving ~1600, except that 1,000 or so may have been killed in

the prior two days’ fighting?] Benjamites; all these drew the sword. 36 So the children of Benjamin saw that they were defeated. The men of Israel had given ground to the Benjamites, because they relied on the men in ambush whom they had set against Gibeah. 37 And the men in ambush quickly rushed upon Gibeah; the men in ambush spread out and struck the whole city with the edge of the sword. 38 Now the appointed signal between the men of Israel and the men in ambush was that they would make a great cloud of smoke rise up from the city, 39 whereupon the men of Israel would turn in battle. Now Benjamin had begun to strike and kill about thirty [30] of the men of Israel. For they said,

“Surely they are defeated before us, as in the first battle.” 40

But when the cloud began to rise from the city in a column of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them, and there was the whole city going up in smoke to heaven. 41 And when the men of Israel turned back, the men of Benjamin panicked, for they saw that disaster had come upon them. 42 Therefore they turned their backs before the men of Israel in the direction of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them, and whoever came out of the cities they destroyed in their midst. 43 They surrounded the Benjamites, chased them, and easily trampled them down as far as the front of Gibeah toward the east. 44 And eighteen thousand [18,000] men of Benjamin fell; all these were men of valor. 45 Then they turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon

[“pomegranate”; a cliff or inaccessible natural fortress]; and they cut down five thousand [5,000] of them on the highways. Then they pursued them relentlessly up to Gidom [“a cutting down”], and killed two thousand [2,000] of them. 46 So all who fell of Benjamin that day were twenty-five thousand [25,000 = 18,000 + 5,000 + 2,000] men who drew the sword; all these were men of valor. 47 But six hundred [600] men turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, and they stayed at the rock of Rimmon for four [4] months. 48 And the men of Israel turned back against the children of Benjamin, and struck them down with the edge of the sword — from every city, men and beasts, all who were found. They also set fire to all the cities they came to. [26,700 – (25,000 + 600) = 1,100 killed in this last striking?]

Judges 21

Wives Needed for the Final 600

21:1 ¶ Now the men of Israel had sworn an oath at Mizpah, saying,

“None of us shall give his daughter to Benjamin as a wife.” 2

Then the people came to the house of God, and remained there before God till evening. They lifted up their voices and wept bitterly, 3 and said,

“O YHWH, God of Israel, why has this come to pass in Israel, that today there should be one tribe missing in Israel?” 4

So it was, on the next morning, that the people rose early and built an altar there, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. 5 The children of Israel said,

“Who is there among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up with the assembly to YHWH?”

For they had made a great oath concerning anyone who had not come up to YHWH at Mizpah, saying,

“He shall surely be put to death.” 6

And the children of Israel grieved for Benjamin their brother, and said,

“One tribe is cut off from Israel today. 7

What shall we do for wives for those [600] who remain, seeing we have sworn by YHWH that we will not give them our daughters as wives?” 8

And they said,

“What one is there from the tribes of Israel who did not come up to Mizpah to YHWH?”

And, in fact, no one had come to the camp from Jabesh [“dry”] Gilead [a town in the territory of Gilead; according to Eusebius, it is beyond the Jordan, 6 miles (10 km) from Pella, on the mountain road to Gerasa; site unknown but may be modern ‘Wadi Yabes’] to the assembly. 9 For when the people were counted, indeed, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead was there. 10 So the congregation sent out there twelve thousand [12,000] of their most valiant men, and commanded them, saying,

“Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead with the edge of the sword, including the women and children. 11

And this is the thing that you shall do: You shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman who has known a man intimately.” 12

So they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead four hundred [400] young virgins who had not known a man

April 2

[Audio: Steve Gregg [Judges Intro](#)]

[Audio: Steve Gregg [Jdg 1:1-2:5](#)]

Judges 1

Judah, Simeon Attack Canaanites

[The book of Joshua had begun:

“After the death of Moses”]

1:1 ¶ Now after the death of Joshua

[~2581 AB: [Jos 24:29](#)] [new history really starts at [2:10](#) (starting with an overview), after a recap and some additional information here:]

it came to pass that the children of Israel asked YHWH, saying,

“Who shall be first to go up for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?” 2

And YHWH said,

“Judah shall go up. Indeed I have delivered the land into his hand.” 3

So Judah said to Simeon his brother, “Come up with me to my allotted territory, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I will likewise go with you to your allotted territory.”

[Because the territory of Simeon was within that of Judah: [Jos 19:1](#).]

And Simeon went with him. 4 Then Judah went up, and YHWH delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand; and they killed ten thousand [10,000] men at [Bezek](#) [“lightning”]. 5

intimately; and they brought them to the camp at [Shiloh](#), which is in the land of Canaan. 13 Then the whole congregation sent word to the children of [Benjamin](#) who were at the rock of [Rimmon](#), and announced peace to them. 14 So [Benjamin](#) came back at that time, and they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of [Jabesh Gilead](#); and yet they had not found enough for them. 15 And the people grieved for [Benjamin](#), because YHWH had made a void in the tribes of Israel.

Another 200 Wives Needed

16 ¶ Then the elders of the congregation said,

“What shall we do for wives for those who remain, since the women of [Benjamin](#) have been destroyed out of [Benjamin](#)?” 17

And they said,

“There must be an inheritance for the survivors of [Benjamin](#), that a tribe may not be destroyed from Israel. 18 However, we cannot give them wives from our daughters, for the children of Israel have sworn an oath, saying,

“Cursed be the one who gives a wife to [Benjamin](#).” 19

Then they said,

“In fact, there is a yearly feast of YHWH in [Shiloh](#).” (which is north of [Bethel](#), on the east side of the highway that goes up from [Bethel](#) to [Shechem](#), and south of [Lebonah](#).) 20

Therefore they instructed the children of [Benjamin](#), saying,

“Go, lie in wait in the vineyards, 21 and watch; and just when the daughters of [Shiloh](#) come out to perform their dances, then come out from the vineyards, and every man catch a wife for himself from the daughters of [Shiloh](#); then go to the land of [Benjamin](#). 22 Then it shall be, when their fathers or their brothers come to us to complain, that we will say to them,

“Be kind to them for our sakes, because we did not take a wife for any of them in the war; for it is not as though you have given the women to them at this time, making yourselves guilty of your oath.” 23 [A conspiracy to violate an oath by a technicality! Not to mention kidnapping! How far from God they had strayed!]

And the children of [Benjamin](#) did so; they took enough wives for their number from those who danced, whom they caught. Then they went and returned to their inheritance, and they rebuilt the cities and dwelt in them. 24

So the children of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family; they went out from there, every man to his inheritance. 25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. [cf. [17:6](#), [18:1](#), [19:1](#); [De 12:8](#); [Pr 12:15](#), [21:2](#)]

And they found [Adoni-Bezek](#) [“my lord is lightning”] in [Bezek](#), and fought against him; and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. 6 Then [Adoni-Bezek](#) fled, and they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes. 7 And [Adoni-Bezek](#) said,

“Seventy [70] kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off used to gather scraps under my table; as I have done, so God has [for “the gods have”] repaid me.”

Then they took [brought] him to [Jerusalem](#) [“teaching of peace”], and there he died. 8 Now the children of Judah [had] fought against [Jerusalem](#) and took [had taken] it; they [had] struck it with the edge of the sword and [had] set the city on fire. [But see v21. Did this mean only some suburbs of Jerusalem?]

[Previously:]

[Joshua 15:63](#) [~20 years earlier] As for the [Jebusites](#), the inhabitants of [Jerusalem](#), the children of [Judah](#) could not drive them out; but the [Jebusites](#) dwell with the children of [Judah](#) at [Jerusalem](#) to this day.

[Almost verbatim starting 7 lines below with the parallel to the right:]
9 ¶ And afterward the children of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who dwelt in the mountains, in the South, and in the lowland. 10 Then Judah went against the Canaanites who dwelt in Hebron. (Now the name of Hebron was formerly Kirjath Arba.)

And they killed

Sheshai,
Ahiman, and
Talmi. 11

From there they went against the inhabitants of Debir. (The name of Debir was formerly Kirjath Sepher.) 12 Then Caleb said, "Whoever attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give my daughter Achsah ["ankle chain" or "anklet"] as wife." 13 And Othniel ["lion of God"; cf. 3:9] the son of Kenaz ["hunter"], Caleb's younger brother [so her uncle], took it; so he gave him his daughter Achsah as wife. 14 Now it happened, when she came to him, that she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you wish?" 15 So she said to him, "Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water." And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

[So this happened earlier in Joshua's time and is recapped here:]

Part of Judah for Caleb

Joshua 15:

13 ¶ Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of YHWH to Joshua, namely,

Kirjath Arba, which is Hebron.

(Arba was the father of Anak.) 14 Caleb drove out the three [3] sons of Anak from there: Sheshai,

Ahiman, and
Talmi,

the children of Anak. 15

Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of

Debir. (Formerly the name of Debir was Kirjath Sepher.) 16

And Caleb said,

"He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah ["ankle chain" or "anklet"] my daughter as wife." 17

So Othniel ["lion of God"; Jos 3:9] the son of Kenaz ["hunter"], the

brother of Caleb [so her uncle], took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife. 18 Now it was so,

when she came to him, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field.

So she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her,

"What do you wish?" 19

She answered,

"Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water."

So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

[End of the parallel.]

16 Now the children of the Kenite ["smith"], Moses' father-in-law [Jethro], went up from the City of Palms [Jericho, per commentators] with the children of Judah into the Wilderness of Judah, which lies in the South near Arad ["a wild ass"; cf. Nu 33:40]; and they went and dwelt among the people. 17

And Judah went with his brother Simeon, and they attacked the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath ["watchtower"], and utterly destroyed it.

So the name of the city was called Hormah ["devotion"]. 18

Also Judah took Gaza ["the strong"] with its territory, Ashkelon ["the fire of infamy: I shall be weighed"] with its territory, and Ekron ["emigration" or "torn up by the roots"] with its territory. 19

So YHWH was with Judah. And they drove out the mountaineers,

Failures of Tribes to Drive Out ... but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the lowland, because they had chariots of iron [really due to a lack of faith]. 20 And they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had said. Then he expelled from there the three [3] sons of Anak [repeat: v10|Jos 15:13-14].

21 ¶ But the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem; so the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day. [cf. 1:8]

Exception: Joseph – Bethel (Luz)

22 And the house of Joseph [Ephraim & ½ Manasseh] also went up against Bethel, and YHWH was with them. 23 So the house of Joseph sent men to spy out Bethel ["house of God"].

(The name of the city was formerly Luz ["almond tree"].) 24

And when the spies saw a man coming out of the city, they said to him, "Please show us the entrance to the city, and we will show you mercy." 25 So he showed them the entrance to the city, and they struck the city with the edge of the sword; but they let the man and all his family go. 26 And the man went to the land of the Hittites, built a city, and called its name Luz [site unknown], which is its name to this day. 27

However, Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shean ["house of ease"]

and its villages, or

Taanach ["sandy"]

and its villages, or

the inhabitants of

Dor ["generation"]

and its villages, or

the inhabitants of

Ibleam ["devouring the people"]

and its villages, or

the inhabitants of

Megiddo ["place of crowds"]

and its villages;

for the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land. 28 And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites under tribute, but did not completely drive them out. 29

Nor did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer [“portion”]; so the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them. 30

Nor did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron [“incense”] or the inhabitants of Nahalol [“pasture”]; so the Canaanites dwelt among them, and were put under tribute. 31

Nor did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Acco [“his straitness”] or the inhabitants of Sidon [“hunting”], or of Ahlab [“fertile place”], Achzib [“desceit”], Helbah [“fertile”], Aphik [“enclosure”], or Rehob [“broad place”]. 32 So the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out. 33

Nor did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh [“house of the sun” or “sun-temple”] or the inhabitants of Beth Anath [“house of response (or affliction)”]; but they dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. Nevertheless the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath were put under tribute to them. 34

And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley; 35 and the Amorites were determined to dwell in Mount Heres [Mount “the sun”], in Aijalon [“field of deer”], and in Shaalvim [“place of foxes”]; yet when the strength of the house of Joseph became greater, they were put under tribute. 36

Now the boundary of the Amorites was from the Ascent of Akkrabbim [“scorpions”], from Sela [“crag (or cliff or rock)”], and upward.

Judges 2

Consequences of Disobedience

2:1 ¶ Then the Angel of YHWH came up from Gilgal [where He had been meeting with Joshua] to Bochim, and said: “I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said,

‘I will never break My covenant with you. 2 And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’

But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? 3 Therefore I also said,

‘I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’ 4

So it was, when the Angel of YHWH spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept. 5 Then they called the name of that place Bochim [“weeping”]; and they sacrificed there to YHWH.

[This column parallels the next:]

Joshua Dismisses the People

6 ¶ And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land. 7

Israel Served YHWH for a While

So the people served YHWH all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of YHWH, which He had done for Israel.

Joshua Dies

8 Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of YHWH, died at one hundred and ten years [110] old. 9

And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres [“portion of the sun”], _____ in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash [“quaking”]. [1:] said this was after Joshua’s death, but obviously it is starting with a recap. Next is the history following.]

[< Audio: Steve Gregg Jdg 2:6-3:31]

Joshua 24:28

28 So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance.

Joshua 24:31

Israel Served YHWH for a While

31 Israel served YHWH all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of YHWH, which He had done for Israel.

Joshua 24:29

Joshua Dies

29 ¶ Now it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of YHWH, died at one hundred and ten [110] years old [if Joshua was about the same age as Caleb (we are never told but they were spies together into Canaan), this would be in about 2581 AB: JOS 14:7]. 30 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Serah [“abundant provision”], which is in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash [“quaking”].

[End of the parallel.]

Overview of After Joshua's Death:

Israel Falls Away; Consequences

10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know YHWH nor the work that He had done for Israel [cf. 2:7]. 11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of YHWH, and served the baals ["lords"; supreme male divinities of the Phoenicians or Canaanites]; 12 and they forsook YHWH, God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked YHWH to anger. 13 They forsook YHWH and served Baal and the Ashtoreths ["Stars"; goddesses in the Canaanite religion, usually related to a fertility cult]. 14 And the anger of YHWH was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. 15 Wherever they went out, the hand of YHWH was against them for calamity, as YHWH had said, and as YHWH had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed. 16

YHWH Raises Up Deliverers

Nevertheless, YHWH raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. 17 Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of YHWH; they did not do so. 18 And when YHWH raised up judges for them, YHWH was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for YHWH was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them. 19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way. 20 Then [again] the anger of YHWH was hot against Israel; and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant that I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice, 21 I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died, 22 [reason:] so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of YHWH, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not." 23 Therefore YHWH left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He [earlier] deliver them into the hand of Joshua.

Judges 3

The Nations Not Driven Out

3:1 ¶ Now these are the nations that YHWH left, [reason:] that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan [so this sounds like about 40 years (as in the desert) after Joshua died; Jones calculates 44 yrs since the 7-year Conquest; see the [Timeline of Judges](#)] 2 (this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war [be skilled in warfare], at least those who had not formerly known it), 3 namely, five [5] lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath. 4 And they were left, [reason:] that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of YHWH, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. 5 Thus the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 6 And [they violated those commandments in that:]

they took their daughters to be their wives, and they gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods. 7 So [in this way] the children of Israel did evil in the sight of YHWH: they forgot YHWH their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs.

Israel Repeatedly Fails the Test:

[Starting in 2605AB (1400BC): [11:26](#)]

Israel Sins: Mesopotamia Oppresses

8 ¶ Therefore the anger of YHWH was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Cushan-Rishathaim ["twice-wicked Chushan"] king of Mesopotamia [or Aram-Naharaim: "Aram of the two rivers" (the Euphrates and Tigris)]; and the children of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim eight [8] years [into 2613 AB: [11:26](#)].

Deliverer: 1st Judge Othniel

9 When the children of Israel cried out to YHWH, YHWH raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them: Othniel ["lion of God"] the son of Kenaz ["hunter"], Caleb's younger brother [cf. [1:9-15](#) // [Jos 15:13-19](#)]. 10 The Spirit of YHWH came upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and YHWH delivered Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand;

and his hand prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim. 11 So the land had rest [for] forty [40] years.¹ Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

[40 years total, including the first 8. Thus, ending in 2645 AB: 11:26.]

Israel Sins: Moab Oppresses

12 ¶ And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of Y^{HWH}. So Y^{HWH} strengthened Eglon [“calf-like”] king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of Y^{HWH}. 13 Then he gathered to himself the people of Ammon and Amalek, went and defeated Israel, and took possession of the City of Palms [Jericho, per commentators]. 14 So the children of Israel served Eglon king of Moab eighteen [18] years [into 2663 AB: 11:26].

Deliverer: 2nd Judge Ehud

15 But when the children of Israel cried out to Y^{HWH}, Y^{HWH} raised up a deliverer for them:

Ehud [“I will give thanks:

I will be praised”]

the son of Gera [“a grain”],

the Benjaminite,

a left-handed man.

By him the children of Israel sent tribute to Eglon king of Moab. 16 Now Ehud made himself a dagger (it was

¹ For the years to add up correctly to match 1Ki 6:1 (479 years from the exodus to the start of the temple) and Judg 11:26 (300 years from Moses’ conquest of Heshbon to Jephthah), the sense must be “So the land had rest. Forty years had passed, then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.” The “for” is not in the Hebrew, so should have been italicized by the NKJ translators.

double-edged and a cubit [~18 inches] in length) and fastened it under his clothes on his right thigh. 17 So he brought the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. (Now Eglon was a very fat man.) 18 And when he had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who had carried the tribute. 19 But he himself turned back from the stone images that were at Gilgal, and said, “I have a secret message for you, O king.”

He said, “Keep silence!”

And all who attended him went out from him. 20 And Ehud came to him (now he was sitting upstairs in his cool private chamber). Then Ehud said, “I have a message from God for you.” So he arose from his seat. 21 Then Ehud reached with his left hand,

took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. 22

Even the hilt went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not draw the dagger out of his belly; and his entrails came out. 23 Then Ehud went out through the porch and shut the doors of the upper room behind him and locked them. 24 When he had gone out, Eglon’s servants came to look, and to their surprise, the doors of the upper room were locked. So they said, “He is probably attending to his needs in the cool chamber.” 25

So they waited till they were embarrassed, and still he had not opened the doors of the upper room. Therefore they took the key and opened them.

And there was their master, fallen dead on the floor. 26 But Ehud had escaped while they delayed, and passed beyond the stone images and escaped to Seirah [“the shaggy”]. 27 And it happened, when he arrived, that he blew the trumpet in the mountains of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mountains; and he led them. 28 Then he said to them, “Follow me, for Y^{HWH} has delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand.”

So they went down after him, seized the fords of the Jordan leading to Moab, and did not allow anyone to cross over. 29 And at that time they killed about ten thousand [~10,000] men of Moab, all stout men of valor; not a man escaped. 30 So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest [for] eighty [80] years. [The land had rest. Eighty [80] years had passed (as in v11).]

[40 + 80 years, so 120 total. Thus, ending 2725 AB: 11:26.]

The Philistines: 3rd Judge Shamgar

31 ¶ After him was Shamgar [“sword”] the son of Anath [“answer”], who killed six hundred [600] men of the Philistines with an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel.

[No addition time noted, so still 146 years total, but possibly more.]

April 3 Ruth

[Video Overview: Pt1, Pt2]

[Ruth 4:18-22 // 1Ch 2:3-15 indicate the overall timeline for Ruth’s story:]

Judah’s Descendants

Sons indicated by indentation:

Judah	[cf. Ge 38 // 1Ch 2:3-15]
(by Shua’s daughter, his first wife)	
Er	[died in Canaan]
Onan	[died in Canaan]
Shelah	[went to Egypt w/Judah]
(by Tamar)	
Perez	[cf. Ge 38:24-30]
Hezron	[cf. Ru 4:18-22]
Ram	[1 st son born in ↓]
Amminadab	[Egypt]
Nahshon	
Salmon [Mt 1:5a]	
(by Rahab)	
Boaz [Ru 4:13]	
(by Ruth)	
Obed	
Jesse	
David	
Elisheba (daughter)	
[↑ Aaron’s wife]	
Hamul	
Zerah	

[Amminadab was Aaron’s father-in-law, Nahshon his brother-in law, and Elisheba the daughter of Amminadab his wife: Ex 6:23]

[Jones reasons that the events of the Book of Ruth occurred early in the story of Deborah, the next judge.]

[Audio: Steve Gregg [Ru 1](#)]

Ruth 1

Move from Bethlehem to Moab

1:1 ¶ Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. 2 The name of the man was Elimelech ["King is my God"], the name of his wife was Naomi ["my delight"], and the names of his two sons were

Mahlon ["sick"/"weak"] and

Chilion ["pining"/"faint"]

— Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there. 3 Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. 4

Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah ["gazelle"], and the name of the other Ruth ["friendship"; wife of Mahlon: 4:10]. And they dwelt there about ten [~10] years. 5 Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman [Naomi] survived her two sons and her husband.

Return to the Land of Judah

6 ¶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that YHWH had visited His people by giving them bread. 7 Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. 8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law,

"Go, return each to her mother's house [as opposed to her mother-in-law's]. YHWH deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9 YHWH grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her [presumed new] husband."

Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. 10 And they said to her,

"Surely we will return with you to your people." 11

But Naomi said,

"Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? 12 Turn back, my daughters, go — for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons, 13 would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of YHWH has gone out against me!" 14

Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law [and departed], but Ruth clung [devotedly] to her. 15 And she said,

"Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." 16

But Ruth said:

"Entreat me not to leave you, Or to Turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, ... my God. 17

Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried.

YHWH do so to me [likely with a death gesture], and more also, If anything but death parts you and me." 18

When she saw that

she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.

Arrived Bethlehem

19 ¶ Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" 20

But she said to them,

"Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara ["bitterness"], for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. 21 I went out full, and YHWH has brought me home again empty [except for Ruth...]. Why do you call me Naomi, since YHWH has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?" 22

So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

[So, about Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread time: [Le 23](#),

Likely right afterward (in April):]

[Audio: Steve Gregg [Ru 2-4](#)]

Ruth 2

Ruth Gleans in Boaz's Field

2:1 ¶ There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz ["fleetness"]. 2 So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi,

"Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor."

And she said to her,

"Go, my daughter." 3

Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened [Godspeed!] to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

Boaz Meets and Blesses Ruth

4 ¶ Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers,

"YHWH be with you!"

And they answered him,

"YHWH bless you!" 5

Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers,

"Whose young woman is this?" 6

So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said,

"It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 And she said,

'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.'

So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house." 8

Then Boaz said to Ruth,

"You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. 9 Let your eyes be on the field that they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

10 So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I *am* a foreigner?” 11

And Boaz answered and said to her, “It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. 12 YHWH repay your work, and a full reward be given you by YHWH, God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.” 13

Then she said,

“Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants.” 14

Now Boaz said to her at mealtime,

“Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar.”

So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back. 15 And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying,

“Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. 16 Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her.”

Ruth Returns Home to Naomi

17 ¶ So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah [about 40 liters] of barley. 18 Then she took it up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied. 19 And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you.”

So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, “The man’s name with whom I worked today is Boaz.” 20

Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “Blessed be he of YHWH, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!”

And Naomi said to her,

“This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives.” 21

[^ Hebrew: goelim, Le 25:25]

Ruth the Moabitess said,

“He also said to me,

‘You shall stay close by my young men [Boaz said “women”: v8; as does Naomi: v22, 3:2] until they have finished all my harvest.’” 22

Types:

Boaz: Christ, kinsman redeemer

Ruth: the church, esp. Gentiles

Goel: closest/first, the Law —

“I cannot redeem...” (4:6)

but not so identified in the NT.

And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law,

“It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field.” 23

So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, [with the intent] to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest [the latter started roughly 50 days after the barley harvest started, about Pentecost time, so likely May- June timeframe]; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

Ruth 3

Naomi Matches Ruth With Boaz

3:1 ¶ Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her,

“My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? 2

Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight [so perhaps nearing Pentecost?] at the threshing floor. 3

Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4

Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do.” 5

And she said to her,

“All that you say to me I will do.”

Boaz Accepts the Duty of Redeemer

6 ¶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. 7 And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. 8 Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. 9 And he said,

“Who are you?”

So she answered,

“I am Ruth, your maidservant.

Take your maidservant under your wing,² for you are a close relative.” 10

Then he said,

“Blessed are you of YHWH, my daughter!

For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men [implying that he is significantly older than she], whether poor or rich. 11

And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman. 12

Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. 13 Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you — good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as YHWH lives! Lie down until morning.”

So she lay down at his feet, and he uncovered his feet, and she lay down. 14

And he said, “I am a close relative, but there is a relative closer than I. 15 Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you — good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as YHWH lives! Lie down until morning.”

So she lay down at his feet, and he uncovered his feet, and she lay down. 14

And he said, “I am a close relative, but there is a relative closer than I. 15 Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you — good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as YHWH lives! Lie down until morning.”

So she lay down at his feet, and he uncovered his feet, and she lay down. 14

² The Hebrew idiom is literally, “put the corner of your garment over me”. Also used in Eze 16:8.

A Gift from Boaz to Naomi

14 ¶ So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said,

“Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.” 15

Also he said,

“Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it.”

And when she held it, he measured six [6] ephahs [6 days' worth of work for her: 2:17; wow, that would be 240 liters; could she lift that much?] of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city. 16 So when she came to her mother-in-law, she said,

“Is that you, my daughter?”

Then she told her all that the man had done for her. 17 And she said,

“These six [6] ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, ‘Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.’” 18

Then she said,

“Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day.”

Ruth 4

Boaz Follows Through That Day

4:1 ¶ Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative [Hebrew: goel] of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, “Come aside, friend, sit down here.” So he came aside and sat down. 2 And he took ten [10] men of the elders of the city, and said, “Sit down here.”

So they sat down. 3 Then he said to the close relative,

“Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land that belonged to our brother Elimelech.

4 And I thought to inform you, saying, ‘Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people.’

If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.”

And he said,

“I will redeem it.” 5

Then Boaz said,

“On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance.”

[NLT: “Of course, your purchase of the land from Naomi also requires that you marry Ruth, the Moabite widow. That way, she can have children who will carry on her husband’s name and keep the land in the family.”] 6

And the close relative said,

“I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it.” 7

(Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel. [This note was, no doubt,

inserted by a later editor to explain a prior custom. Indeed, the custom had already changed since Moses’ time: De 25:5-10] However, here it is different: Boaz, not Ruth, is negotiating.) 8

Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself.”

So he took off his sandal.

9 ¶ And Boaz said to the elders and all the people,

“You are witnesses this day

that I have bought all that was

Elimelech’s, and all that was Chilion’s and [became ^κ] Mahlon’s,

from the hand of Naomi. 10 Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off

from among his brethren and from his position at the gate.

You are witnesses this day.” 11

And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said,

“We are witnesses.

Y^{HWH} make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. 12

May your house be like the house of Perez [“breaking out”], whom Tamar [“palm-tree”] bore to Judah [“praised”],

because of the offspring that

Y^{HWH} will give you from this young woman.”

[Judah, Tamar, and Perez were Boaz’s ancestors (v18), and this was fulfilled in his descendant David (v22), and eventually Jesus.]

Naomi Gets a Grandson: Obed

13 ¶ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, Y^{HWH} gave her conception, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi,

“Blessed be Y^{HWH}, who has not left you this day without a close relative [i.e., her new grandson via Ruth: v16]; and may his name be famous in Israel! 15

And may he be to you

a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age;

for your daughter-in-law,

who loves you,

who is better to you

than seven [7] sons,

has borne him.” 16

Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. 17 Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying,

“There is a son born to Naomi.”

[Born ~2734 AB, or 9 years into the next story: Deborah as judge. (Jones)] And they called his name Obed [“serving”].

[Jewish tradition: Samuel wrote this book. Perhaps it was written initially by an eyewitness, selected by Samuel as history of David, and he added the final verses:]

He is the father of

Jesse [“I possess”],

the father of

David [“beloved”].

April 4

1 Chronicles 2:3-8

From Judah to Boaz to David

The sons of **Judah** were
 Er ["awake"],
 Onan ["strong"], and
 Shelah ["a petition"].
 ... [cf. *Ge 38:30ff*] 4
 And **Tamar**, his [Judah's]
 daughter-in-law, bore him
Perez ["breach"] and
Zerah ["rising"].

All the sons of Judah were five. 5
 [v5 moved to precede v9 →]

6 The sons of Zerah were [cf. *1Ki 3:31*:]
Zimri ["my music"],
Ethan ["enduring"],
Heman ["faithful"],
Calcol ["sustaining"; or *Ch...*], and
Dara ["the arm"]
 — five of them in all.

7 (The son of Carmi ["my vineyard"]
 was **Achar** ["troubler", aka *Achan*],
 the troubler of Israel, who trans-
 gressed in the accursed thing.)

Joshua 7

Achan Brings Trouble to Israel

7:1 ¶ But the children of Israel
 committed a trespass regarding
 the accursed things, for
Achan ["troubler"] the son of
Carmi ["my vineyard"], the son of
Zabdi ["endowment"], the son of
Zerah ["rising"], of the tribe of
Judah ["praise"],
 took of the accursed things;
 so the anger of **YHWH** burned
 against the children of Israel.

8 The son of **Ethan** was
Azariah ["YHWH has helped"].

[This column parallels the next:]

Ruth 4:18-22 ||

[See the table of Judah's
 Descendants preceding *Ruth 1:1*.
 It is based on *Ruth 4:18-22* ||
1Ch 2:5,9-15, paralleled here:]

18 Now this is the genealogy of Perez
 ["breaking out"; cf. *Ge 38:24-30*]:

Perez begot

Hezron ["surrounded by a wall"]; 19

Hezron begot [in *Egypt*:]

["may God have pity"] →

Ram ["high" or "exalted"], and
 ["my caged one"; aka "dog"] →

Ram begot Amminadab

["noble is my kinsman";

Aaron's father-in-law: *Ex 6:23*]; 20

Amminadab begot Nahshon

["enchanter"; leader at the first
 census (2515 AB: *Nu 1:7,2:3*) just
 after the Exodus, when Judah was
 74,600 strong; *Nu 10:14*], and

Nahshon begot Salmon ["garment"]; 21

Salmon begot Boaz ["fleetness"]

[by Rahab: *Mt 1:5a*], and

Boaz begot Obed ["serving"]; 22

Obed begot Jesse ["I possess"], and

Jesse begot

["(my) father is God"] →

["noble/willing is my father"] →

["fame"] →

["God-given"] →

["trampling"] →

["I shall hasten them"] →

David. ["beloved"] →

[← In connection with what?]

1 Chronicles 2:5, 9-15

[Full Family Trees after the TOC.]

The Genealogy of Perez

5 [from the first column]

The sons of Perez were

Hezron and

Hamul. 9

Also the sons of Hezron

who were born to him were

Jerahmeel, [[^] in *Egypt*]

Ram, and

Chelubai [aka Caleb: v18]. 10 ↘

Ram begot Amminadab, and

Amminadab begot Nahshon,

leader of the children of Judah; 11

Nahshon begot Salma, and

Salma begot Boaz; 12

Boaz begot Obed, and

Obed begot Jesse; 13

Jesse begot

Eliab his firstborn,

Abinadab the second,

Shimea the third, 14

Nethanel the fourth,

Raddai the fifth, 15

Ozem the sixth, and

David the seventh.

[However, an eighth son is indicated
 in *1Sa 16:10* and *17:12*]

[Derived Family Trees near the end.]

1 Chronicles 2:16-55

Many More Relations, Generations

16 Now their sisters were
 [Jesse's daughters:]

Zeruiah ["balsam"] and
 Abigail ["my father is joy"].

And the sons of

Zeruiah were

Abishai ["my father is a gift"],

Joab [^{YHWH} is father"], and

Asahel ["God-made"]

— three. 17

Abigail bore

Amasa ["burden"]; and the father of Amasa was Jether

["abundance"] the Ishmaelite.

[Hezron had more sons later: v21]

18 ¶ Caleb [aka Chelubai: *1Ch 2:9,42*]

the son of Hezron
 had children by Azubah ["forsaken"],
 his wife (and by Jerioth ["cur-
 tains"; any children not listed]).

Now these were her [Azubah's] sons:

Jeshar ["upright"],

Shobab ["rebellious"], and

Ardon ["subduer: fugitive"]. 19

When Azubah died,

Caleb took Ephrath ["ash-heap:
 place of fruitfulness"] as his wife,
 who bore him

Hur ["hole"]. 20 And Hur begot

Uri ["fiery"], and Uri begot

Bezalel ["in the shadow
 (protection) of God"; called
 artisan for the Tabernacle:
Ex 31:2].

[Derived Family Trees near the end.]

[From here to 1Ch 4:23, we substitute "leader" for "father" when the word is used of a city or town, not a son (as the city founder or leader).]

21 Now afterward Hezron went in to the daughter of Machir [“sold”] the leader of Gilead [“rocky region”; Nu 26:29-33], whom he married when he was sixty [60] years old; and she bore him Segub [“exalted”]. 22 Segub begot Jair [“he enlightens”], who had twenty-three [23] cities in the land of Gilead. 23 (Geshur [“proud beholder”] and Syria [“exalted”] (aka Aram, so Arameans, Aramaic)) took from them the towns of Jair, with Kenath [“possession”] and its towns — sixty [60] towns.) All these belonged to the sons of Machir the leader of Gilead. 24

After Hezron died in Caleb-Ephrathah [“dog” or “ash-heap”], Hezron’s wife Abijah [“YHWH is (my) father”] bore him Ashhur [“black”] the leader of Tekoa [“a stockade” (a place)]. 25

The sons of Jerahmeel, the firstborn of Hezron, were Ram [“exalted”], the firstborn, and Bunah [“intelligence”], Oren [“cedar”], Ozem [“I shall hasten them”], and Ahijah [“YHWH is (my) brother”]. 26 Jerahmeel had another wife, whose name was Atarah [“a crown”]; she was the mother of Onam [“vigorous”]. 27

The sons of Ram, the firstborn of Jerahmeel [“may God have pity”], were Maaz [“wrath”], Jamin [“right hand”], and Eker [“offspring”]. 28

The sons of Onam were Shammai [“desolate”] and Jada [“He knows”].

The sons of Shammai were Nadab [“generous”] and Abishur [“a wall is my father”]. 29 And the name of the wife of Abishur was Abihail [“might is my father”], and she bore him Ahban [“brother of an understanding (intelligent) one”] and Molid [“begetter”]. 30

The sons of Nadab were Seled [“exultation”] and Appaim [“nostrils”]; Seled died without children. 31

The son of Appaim was Ishi [“He saves me”], the son of Ishi was Sheshan [“noble”], and Sheshan’s child [daughter: v34] was Ahlai [“O! would that”]. 32

The sons of Jada, the brother of Shammai, were Jether [“abundance”] and Jonathan [“YHWH has given”]; Jether died without children. 33 The sons of Jonathan were Peleth [“swiftness”] and Zaza [“brightness” or “fulness”].

These were the sons of Jerahmeel [cf. v25 above]. 34

Now Sheshan [v31b] had no sons, only daughters. And Sheshan had an Egyptian servant whose name was Jarha [“the month of sweeping away”]. 35 Sheshan gave his daughter [Ahlai] to Jarha his servant as wife, and she bore him Attai [“opportune”]. 36 Attai begot Nathan [“giver”], and Nathan begot Zabad [“he endows”]; 37 Zabad begot Ephlal [“intercessor”], and Ephlal begot Obed [“serving”]; 38 Obed begot Jehu [“YHWH is He”], and Jehu begot Azariah [“YHWH has helped”]; 39 Azariah begot Helez [“he has saved”], and Helez begot Eleasah [“God has made”]; 40 Eleasah begot Sismai [“water crane” or “swallow”], and Sismai begot Shallum [“retribution”]; 41 Shallum begot Jekamiah [“YHWH raises”], and Jekamiah begot Elishama [“my God has heard”]. 42

The sons [descendants] of [see v9] Caleb the brother of Jerahmeel were Mesha [“deliverance”], his firstborn, who was the father of Ziph [“battlement”], and [The translators differ on the following four versions of v42b.] [1st: NKJ, AV, NRS:] the sons of Mareshah the father of Hebron. [i.e., Mareshah was Caleb’s son and Caleb adopted Mareshah’s sons (his grandsons), including Hebron.]

[2nd: NAS, NIV:] his [NLT: second] son was Mareshah, the father of Hebron. [3rd: RSV:] the sons of Mareshah: Hebron. [4th: MSG:] Meshah had Ziph; Ziph’s son was Mareshah the father of Hebron. 43

The sons of Hebron were Korah [“bald”], Tappuah [“the apple city”], Rekem [“variegation”], and Shema [“hear”]. 44 Shema begot Raham [“belly”] the leader of Jorkoam [“the people empty”], and Rekem [“variegation”] begot Shammai [“desolate”]. 45 And the son of Shammai was Maon [“habitation”], and Maon was the leader of Beth Zur [“house of the rock”]. 46 Ephah, Caleb’s concubine, bore Haran [“mountaineer”], Moza [“fountain”], and Gazez [“shearer”]; and Haran begot Gazez [“shearer”]. 47

[No prior mention. Why?] And the sons of Jahdai were Regem [“friend”], Jotham [“perfect is YHWH”], Geshan [“lump”], Pelet [“deliverance”], Ephah [“gloominess”], and Shaaph [“division”]. 48

Maachah, **Caleb**'s concubine, bore Sheber ["*breaking*"] and Tirhanah ["*favor*"]. 49 She also bore Shaaph ["*division*"] the **leader** of **Madmannah** ["*dunghill*"], Sheva ["*YHWH contends*"] the **leader** of **Machbenah** ["*bond*"] and the **leader** of **Gibea** ["*hill*"]. And the daughter of **Caleb** was Achsah ["*ankle chain*" or "*anklet*"]. 50

These were the descendants of Caleb: The sons of Hur, [*Caleb's wife*], the firstborn of Ephrathah, were

Shobal ["*flowing*"] the **leader** of **Kirjath Jearim** ["*city of forests*"], 51

Salma ["*garment*"] the **leader** of **Bethlehem** ["*house of bread*"], and Hareph ["*a plucking off*"] the **leader** of **Beth Gader** [*map?*] ["*house of the wall*"]. 52

And **Shobal** the **leader** of **Kirjath Jearim** had [son and/or] descendants: Haroeh ["*vision*"], and half of the families of Manuhoth ["*resting place*"]. 53

The families of **Kirjath Jearim** were the Ithrites ["*a remnant: excellence*"], the Puthites ["*openness*"], the Shumathites ["*the exalted*"], and the Mishraites ["*touching evil*"]. From these came the **Zorathites** ["*hornets*"] and the Eshtaolites ["*I will be entreated*"]. 54

The sons of **Salma** [v51] were Bethlehem ["*house of bread*"], the Netophathites ["*dropping*"], Atroth Beth Joab ["*house of Joab*"], half of the Manahethites ["*causing to forget*"], and the Zorites ["*hornets*"]. 55

And the families of the scribes who dwelt at **Jabez** ["*sorrow/pain*"] were the Tirathites ["*men of the gates*"], the Shimeathites ["*reports*"], and the Suchathites ["*bush-men*"]. These were the Kenites ["*smiths*"] who came from **Hammath** ["*fortress*"], the **leader** of the house of **Rechab** ["*rider*"].

 [1Ch 3:1-9 starts at 2Sa 3:1-5]

1 Chronicles 4:1-23
 4:1 ¶ The descendants [sons] of Judah were [8 generations:]

Perez ["*breach*"], **Hezron** ["*surrounded by a wall*"], **Carmi** ["*my vineyard*" aka *Caleb?*"], **Hur** ["*hole*"], and **Shobal** ["*flowing*"]. 2 And **Reaiah** ["*YHWH has seen*"] the son of **Shobal** begot **Jahath** ["*He will snatch up*"], and **Jahath** begot **Ahumai** ["*a water reed: brother of waters*"] and **Lahad** ["*oppression*"].

These were the families of [see 2:53] the **Zorathites** ["*hornets*"]. 3

[Derived **Family Trees** near the end.]

[No prior mention. Why?]
 These were the sons of the **leader** of **Etam** ["*lair of wild beasts*"]: **Jezreel** ["*God sows*"], **Ishma** ["*desolation*"], and **Idbash** ["*stout*"]; and the name of their sister was **Hazeleponi** ["*facing the shade*"]; 4 and [By a different wife?] **Penuel** ["*God-facing*"] the **leader** of **Gedor** ["*wall*"], and **Ezer** ["*treasure*"] the **leader** of **Hushah** ["*haste*"].

These were the sons of Hur (the firstborn of Ephrathah) the **leader** of **Bethlehem** ["*house of bread*"]. 5

And Ashhur the **leader** of **Tekoa** had two wives, **Helah** ["*rust*"] and **Naarah** ["*maiden*"]. 6

Naarah bore him **Ahuzzam** ["*possessor*"], **Hepher** ["*a well*"], **Temeni** ["*southern*"], and **Haahashtari** ["*I will diligently observe the searching*"]. These were the sons of **Naarah**. 7

The sons of **Helah** were **Zereth** ["*splendor*"], **Zohar** ["*tawny*"], and **Ethnan** ["*hire of unchastity*"]; 8

and

[Derived **Family Trees** near the end.]

[No prior mention. Why?]
Koz ["*thorn*"] begot **Anub** ["*confederate*"], **Zobebah** ["*the slow*"], and the families of **Aharhel** ["*a following host*"] the son of **Harum** ["*exalted*"].

[No prior mention of Jabez except as a city (1Ch 2:55). Why?]
The Prayer of Jabez
 9 Now **Jabez** ["*sorrow/pain*"] was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." 10
 And Jabez called on the **God** of Israel saying, "Oh, that **You** would **bless** me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that **Your hand** would be with me, and that **You** would keep me from evil, that I may **not cause pain!**"
 So **God** granted him what he requested.

[Derived **Family Trees** near the end.]

[Derived Family Trees near the end.]

More Miscellaneous Relations

11 ¶ [No prior mention. Why?]
Chelub [“caged”] the brother of
Shuhah [“wealth”] begot
Mehir [“price”], who was the father of
Eshton [“effeminate”]. 12
And Eshton begot
Beth-Rapha [“house of healing”],
Paseah [“limper”], and
Tehinnah [“supplication”]
the **leader** of
Ir-Nahash [“city of a serpent”].
These were the men of **Rechah**
[“uttermost part”]. 13

[Cf. **Judg 1:13** || **Jos 15:17**, **Judg 3:9b**:]

The sons of **Kenaz** [“hunter”] were
Othniel [“God’s lion”] and
Seraiah [“YHWH is ruler”].
The sons of **Othniel** were
Hathath [“fearful”], 14 and
Meonothai [“my habitations”]
who begot
Ophrah [“fawn”].
Seraiah begot
Joab [“father YHWH”]
the **leader** of **Ge Harashim** [map?]
[“valley of craftsmen”],
for they were **craftsmen**. 15

[Who was the father of Jephunneh?
Jether? 1Ch 7:38?]

The sons of **Caleb** the son of
Jephunneh [“He will be facing”] were
Iru [“watch”],
Elah [“an oak”], and
Naam [“pleasantness”].
The son of **Elah** was
Kenaz [“hunter”]. 16

[No prior mention. Why?]
The sons of **Jehallelel** were
Ziph [“battlement”],
Ziphah [“battlement”],
Tiria [“fear”], and
Asarel [“God holds”]. 17

[No prior mention. Why?]
The sons of **Ezrah** were
Jether [“abundance”],
Mered [“rebellion”],
Epher [“a calf”], and
Jalon [“YHWH lodges”].
And **Mered**’s wife [v18b] bore
Miriam [“rebellion”],
Shammai [“desolate”], and
Ishbah [“he will praise”]
the **leader** of **Eshtemoa**
[“I will make myself heard”]. 18
(His [**Mered**’s?] wife Jehudijah
[“YHWH’s Jewess”] bore
Jered [“descent”]
the **leader** of **Gedor** [“wall”],
Heber [“comrade”]
the **leader** of **Sochoh** [“bushy”], and
Jekuthiel [“God’s cleansing”]
the **leader** of **Zanoah** [“cast off”].)
And these were the sons of Bithiah
[“YHWH’s daughter”]
the daughter of Pharaoh,
whom **Mered** took. 19

[No prior mention. Why?]
The sons of Hodiah’s
[“YHWH’s majesty”] wife,
the sister of Naham [“comfort”],
were the fathers/**leaders** of
Keilah [“fortress”]
the Garmite [“bony”] and of
Eshtemoa
[“I will make myself heard”]
the Maachathite [“pressure”;
lit., “she has pressed”]. 20

[No prior mention. Why?]
And the sons of Shimon [“desert”]
were
Amnon [“faithful”],
Rinnah [“shout”],
Ben-Hanan [“son of favor”], and
Tilon [“gift”].

[Not the Ishi of 1Ch 2:31?]
And the sons of Ishi [“He saves me”]
were
Zoheth [“releasing”] and
Ben-Zoheth [“son of Zoheth”].
[should be “the son of Zoreth”?] 21

The sons of Shelah [“a petition”; 2:3]
the son of Judah were
Er [“awake”] [., map?]
the **leader** of **Lecah** [“journey”],
Laadah [“order”]
the **leader** of **Mareshah** [cf. 1Ch 2:42]
[“crest of a hill”], and
the families of the house of the linen
workers of the house of Ashbea
[“I shall make to swear”]; 22 also
Jokim [“YHWH raises up”],
the men of **Chozeba** [“falsehood”], and
Joash [“given by YHWH”];
Saraph [“to burn”/“fiery serpent”],
who ruled in **Moab**, and
Jashubi-Lehem [“returner of bread”].

Now the records [copied above] are
ancient. 23 These were the potters and
those who dwell at
Netaim [“among plants”] and
Gederah [“hedge”];
there they dwelt with the king
[which??] for his work.

[Derived Family Trees near the end.]

April 5

[Audio: Steve Gregg Jdg 4-5]

Judges 4

Israel Sins: The Canaanites Oppress

4:1 ¶ When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of Y^{HWH}. 2 So Y^{HWH} sold them into the hand of Jabin [“whom God observes”; not same as Jos 11:1, probably a title] king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor [“castle”]. The commander of his army was Sisera [“battle array”], who dwelt in Harosheth Hagoyim [“the woodland” of “the nations”]. 3 And the children of Israel cried out to Y^{HWH}; for Jabin had nine hundred [900] chariots of iron, and for twenty [20] years he harshly oppressed the children of Israel. [+20 years, so ending 2745 AB: 3:30]

Deliverer: 4th Judge Deborah

4 ¶ Now Deborah [“bee”], a prophetess [first use of the term], the wife of Lapidoth [“torches”], was judging Israel at that time. 5 And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah [“hill”] and Bethel [“God’s house”] in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment. 6 Then she sent and called for Barak [“lightning (flash)”] the son of Abinoam [“delight is my father”] from Kedesh [“holy place”] in Naphtali, and said to him,

“Has not Y^{HWH} God of Israel commanded, ‘Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor [“mound”]; take with you ten thousand [10,000] men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun; 7 and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon [“winding”]; and I will deliver him into your hand?’” 8

And Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!” 9

So she said, “I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for Y^{HWH} will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.

10 ¶ And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; he went up with ten thousand [10,000] men under his command, and Deborah went up with him. 11 Now Heber [“comrad”] the Kenite, of the children of Hobab [“cherished”] the father-in-law of Moses [aka Reuel, Jethro: Ex 2:18, 3:1], had separated himself from the Kenites and pitched his tent near the terebinth tree at Zaanaim [“removings”], which is beside Kedesh. 12

And they reported to Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor. 13 So Sisera gathered together all his chariots, nine hundred [900] chariots of iron, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth Hagoyim to the River Kishon. 14

Then Deborah said to Barak, “Up! For this is the day in which Y^{HWH} has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not Y^{HWH} gone out before you?”

So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand [10,000] men following him [Heb.: on foot]. 15 And Y^{HWH} routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled away on foot. 16 But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.

17 ¶ However, Sisera had fled away on foot to the tent of Jael [“mountain goat”], the wife of Heber the Kenite; for there was peace between Jabin king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. 18 And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, “Turn aside, my lord.

Turn aside to me — do not fear.” And when he had turned aside with her into the tent, she covered him with a blanket. 19 Then he said to her, “Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty.”

So she opened a jug of milk [a sleep aid], gave him a drink, and covered him. 20

And he said to her, “Stand at the door of the tent, and if any man comes and inquires of you, and says,

‘Is there any man here?’ you shall say, ‘No.’” 21

Then Jael, Heber’s wife, took a tent stake [peg] and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the stake [peg] into his temple, and it went down into the ground; for he was fast asleep and weary. So [in this way] he died. 22

And then, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said to him, “Come, I will show you the man whom you seek.”

And when he went into her tent, there lay Sisera, dead with the stake [peg] in his temple. 23

So [in this way] on that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan in the presence of the children of Israel. 24 And the hand of the children of Israel grew stronger and stronger against Jabin king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

Judges 5

The Song of Deborah and Barak

5:1 ¶ Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying: 2

When leaders lead in Israel,
When the people
willingly offer themselves,

Bless YHWH! 3

Hear, O kings! [non-Israelites]

Give ear, O princes! [non-Israelites]

I, even I, will sing to YHWH;

I will sing praise to

YHWH, God of Israel. 4

YHWH, when You went out from Seir,

When You marched from
the field of Edom,

The land [earth] trembled and
the heavens poured,

The clouds also poured, water; 5

The mountains gushed
before YHWH,

This Sinai,
before YHWH, God of Israel.

6 ¶ [↓ 3rd Deliver: 3:31]

In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath,

In the days of Jael,

The highways were deserted,

And the travelers walked
along the byways. 7

Village life ceased,
it ceased in Israel,

Until I, Deborah, arose,
Arose a mother in Israel. 8

They chose new gods;

Then there was war in the gates;

Not a shield or spear was seen among
forty thousand [40,000] in Israel. 9

My heart is with the rulers of Israel

Who offered themselves willingly
with the people.

Bless YHWH! 10

Speak, you

who ride on white donkeys,
Who sit in judges' attire, And
Who walk along the road. 11

Far from the noise of the archers,
among the watering places,

There they shall recount
the righteous acts of YHWH,

The righteous acts for
His villagers in Israel;

Then the people of YHWH
shall go down to the gates.

12 ¶

Awake, awake, Deborah!

Awake, awake, sing a song!

Arise, Barak, and
lead your captives away,

O son of Abinoam! 13

Then the survivors came down,
the people against the nobles;

YHWH came down for me
against the mighty. 14

From Ephraim were those
whose roots were in Amalek.

After you, Benjamin, with your peoples,

From Machir rulers came down,

And from Zebulun those
who bear the recruiter's staff. 15

And the princes of Issachar
were with Deborah;

As Issachar, so was Barak

Sent into the valley under his command;
Among the divisions of Reuben

There were great resolves of heart. 16
Why did you sit among the sheepfolds,
To hear the pipings for the flocks?

The divisions of Reuben have
great searchings of heart. 17

Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan,

And why did Dan remain on ships?

Asher continued at the seashore,
And stayed by his inlets. 18

Zebulun is a people who jeopardized
their lives to the point of death,

Naphtali also,
on the heights of the battlefield. 19

The kings came and fought,

Then the kings of Canaan fought

In Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo;

They took no spoils of silver. 20

They fought from the heavens;

The stars from their courses

fought against Sisera. 21

The torrent of Kishon

swept them away,

That ancient torrent,

the torrent of Kishon.

O my soul, march on in strength! 22

Then the horses' hooves pounded,

The galloping, galloping of his steeds. 23

'Curse Meroz ["refuge"]',

said the Angel of YHWH,

'Curse its inhabitants bitterly,
Because they did not come

to the help of YHWH,

to the help of YHWH

against the mighty.'

24 ¶

Most blessed among women is Jael,

The wife of Heber the Kenite;

Blessed is she among women in tents. 25

He asked for water, she gave milk;

She brought out cream in a lordly bowl. 26

She stretched her hand
to the tent stake [peg],

Her right hand
to the workmen's hammer;

She pounded Sisera,
she pierced his head,

She split and struck

through his temple. 27

At her feet he sank, he fell, he lay still;

At her feet he sank, he fell;

Where he sank, there he fell dead. 28

The mother of Sisera

looked through the window,

And cried out through the lattice,

'Why is his chariot so long in coming?

Why tarries

the clatter of his chariots?' 29

Her wisest ladies answered her,

Yes, she answered herself, 30

'Are they not

finding and dividing the spoil:

To every man a girl or two;

For Sisera, plunder of dyed garments,

Plunder of garments

embroidered and dyed,

Two pieces of dyed embroidery

for the neck of the looter?' 31

Thus let all Your enemies perish,

O YHWH!

But those who love Him be like the sun

When it comes out in full strength."

So the land had rest [for] forty [40]

years. [So the land had rest. Forty

years had passed (as in 3:11).]

[120 + 40 years, so 160 total. Thus,
ending 2765 AB: 11:26.]

[Audio: Steve Gregg Jdg 6-7]

Judges 6

Israel Sins: Midian Oppresses

6:1 ¶ Then the children of Israel did evil
in the sight of YHWH. So YHWH delivered

them into the hand of Midian for seven

[7] years, 2 and the hand of Midian

prevailed against Israel. Because of the

Midianites, the children of Israel made

for themselves

the dens,

the caves, and

the strongholds
that are in the mountains. 3

So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up, also Amalekites, and the people of the East would come up, against them. 4 Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the land [earth] as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey. 5 For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it. 6 So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to YHWH.

Deliverer: 5th Judge Gideon

7 ¶ And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to YHWH because of the Midianites, 8 that YHWH sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them,

“Thus says YHWH God of Israel:

“I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; 9 and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10 Also I said to you,

“I am YHWH your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.” But you have not obeyed My voice.”

11 ¶ Now the Angel of YHWH came and sat under the terebinth tree that was in Ophrah [“fawn”], which belonged to Joash [“given by YHWH”] the Abiezrite [“help is my father”], while his son Gideon [“hewer”] threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the Angel of YHWH appeared to him, and said to him, “YHWH is with you, you mighty man of valor!” 13 [Cf. *1Sa 16:18* re young David] Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if YHWH is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles that our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not YHWH bring us up from Egypt?’

But now YHWH has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.” 14

Then YHWH turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?” 15

So he said to Him, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” 16

And YHWH said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.” 17

Then he said to Him, “If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. 18 Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You.”

And He said, “I will wait until you come back.” 19 So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah [~40 liters] of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them. 20 The Angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth.” And he did so. 21 Then the Angel of YHWH put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of YHWH departed out of his sight.

22 Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of YHWH. So Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord YHWH [Adonai YHWH]! For I have seen the Angel of YHWH face to face.” 23

Then YHWH said to him, “Peace be with you; do not fear; you shall not die.” 24

So Gideon built an altar there to YHWH, and called it YHWH-Is-Peace [YHWH Shalom]. (To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.)

25 ¶ Now it came to pass the same night that YHWH said to him, “Take your father’s young bull, the second bull of seven [7] years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it; 26 and build an altar to YHWH your God on top

of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image that you shall cut down.” 27

So Gideon took ten [10] men from among his servants and did as YHWH had said to him. But because he feared his father’s household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night. 28 And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, there was the altar of Baal, torn down; and the wooden image that was beside it was cut down, and the second bull was being offered on the altar that had been built. 29 So they said to one another, “Who has done this thing?” And when they had inquired and asked, they said,

“Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing.” 30

Then the men of the city said to Joash, “Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has torn down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the wooden image that was beside it.” 31 But Joash said to all who stood against him,

“Would you plead for Baal? Would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning!

If he is a god, let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down!” 32

Therefore on that day he [Joash, his father] called him [Gideon, his son] Jerubbaal [“let Baal contend”], saying,

“Let Baal plead against him, because he has torn down his altar.”

33 ¶ Then all the Midianites and Amalekites [and—see v3, AV, etc.] the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel [“God sows”]. 34 But the Spirit of YHWH came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him. 35 And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh [both halves], who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them. 36 So Gideon said to God, “If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said — 37 look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.” 38 And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water. 39 Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew.” 40 And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.

April 6

Judges 7

Gideon Defeats the Midianites

7:1 ¶ Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod [“trembling”], so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh [“teacher”] in the valley. 2 And YHWH said to Gideon, “The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’ 3 Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.’” And twenty-two thousand [22,000] of the people returned, and ten thousand [10,000] remained. 4 But YHWH said to Gideon, “The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall go with you’, the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, ‘This one shall not go with you’, the same shall not go.” 5 So he brought the people down to the water. And YHWH said to Gideon, “Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink.” 6

And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred [300] men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water. 7

Then YHWH said to Gideon, “By the three hundred [300] men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place.” 8 So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all the rest of Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred [300] men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

9 ¶ It happened on the same night that YHWH said to him, “Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand. 10 But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah [“bough”] your servant, 11 and you shall hear what they say; and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp.”

Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outpost of the armed men who were in the camp. 12 Now the Midianites and Amalekites [and—see 6:3, AV, etc.] all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude. 13 And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, “I have had a dream: To my surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the

camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed.” 14

Then his companion answered and said, “This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon, the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp.” 15 And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, “Arise, for YHWH has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.”

16 ¶ Then he divided the three hundred [300] men into three [3] companies, and he put a trumpet into every man’s hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. 17 And he said to them, “Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: 18 When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say,

“The sword of [cf. v20b] YHWH and of Gideon!” 19

So Gideon and the hundred [100] men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands. 20 Then the three [3] companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers — they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing — and they cried,

“The sword of YHWH and of Gideon!” 21

And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. 22

When the three hundred [300] blew the trumpets, YHWH set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to

Beth-Shittah [*"house of the acacia tree"*], toward

Zererah [*"oppression"*], as far as the border of

Abel Meholah

[*"meadow of dancing"*], by

Tabbath [*"celebrated"*].

23¶ And the men of Israel gathered together from

Naphtali,

Asher, and all [both halves of]

Manasseh,

and pursued the Midianites. 24 Then Gideon sent messengers throughout all the mountains of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against the Midianites, and seize from them the watering places [fords] as far as Beth Barah [*"house of (the) ford"*] and the Jordan."

Then all the men of Ephraim gathered together and seized the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan. 25 And they captured two princes of the Midianites,

Oreb [*"raven"*] and

Zeeb [*"wolf"*].

They killed

Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and

Zeeb they killed

at the winepress of Zeeb.

They pursued Midian and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan.

[Audio: Steve Gregg Jdg 8-9]

Judges 8

8:1 ¶ Now the men of Ephraim said to him,

"Why have you done this to us by not calling us when you went to fight with the Midianites?"

And they reprimanded him sharply. 2 So he said to them,

"What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer? 3

God has delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. And what was I able to do in comparison with you?"

Then their anger toward him subsided when he said that.

4 ¶ When Gideon came to the Jordan, he and the three hundred [300] men who were with him crossed over, exhausted but still in pursuit. 5 Then he said to the men of Succoth [*"booths"*], "Please give loaves of bread to the people who follow me, for they are exhausted, and I am pursuing

Zebah [*"sacrifice"*] and

Zalmunna [*"shade denied"*],

kings of Midian." 6

And the leaders of Succoth said,

"Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?" 7

So Gideon said,

"For this cause, when YHWH has delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briars!" 8

Then he went up from there to Penuel [*"God-facing"*] and spoke to them in the same way. And the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered. 9 So he also spoke to the men of Penuel, saying,

"When I come back in peace, I will tear down this tower!" 10

Now Zebah and Zalmunna were at Karkor [*"foundation"*], and their armies with them, about fifteen thousand [~15,000], all who were left of all the army of the people of the East; for one hundred and twenty thousand [120,000] men who drew the sword had fallen.

11 Then Gideon went up by the road of those who dwell in tents on the east of

Nobah [*"barking"*] and

Jogbehah [*"lofty"*];

and he attacked the army while the camp felt secure. 12 When Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued them; and he took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and routed the whole army. 13

Then Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle, from the Ascent of Heres [*"sun"*]. 14 And he caught a young man of the men of Succoth and interrogated him; and he wrote down for him the leaders of Succoth and its elders, seventy-seven [77] men. 15 Then he came to the men of Succoth and said,

"Here are Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom you ridiculed me, saying,

'Are the hands of Zebah and

Zalmunna now in your hand,

that we should give bread

to your weary men?'" 16

And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briars, and with them he taught the men of Succoth. 17 Then he tore down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city.

18 ¶ And he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, "What kind of men were they whom you killed at Tabor?"

So they answered,

"As you are, so were they: each one resembled the son of a king [had the bearing of a king]." 19

Then he said,

"They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. As YHWH lives, if you had let them live, I would not kill you." 20

And he said to Jether [*"abundance"*] his firstborn,

"Rise, kill them!"

But the youth would not draw his sword; for he was afraid, because he was still a youth. 21 So Zebah and Zalmunna said,

"Rise yourself, and kill us; for as a man is, so is his strength."

So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescent ornaments that were on their camels' necks.

22 ¶ Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, both you and your son, and your grandson also; for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian."

23 But Gideon said to them,

"I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; YHWH shall rule over you." [Gideon knew that God was King of Israel.] 24

Then Gideon said to them,
“I would like to make a request of you,
that each of you would give me the
earrings from his plunder.”

For they had gold earrings, because they
[the Midianites] were Ishmaelites. 25
So they answered,
“We will gladly give them.”

And they spread out a garment, and each
man threw into it the earrings from his
plunder. 26 Now the weight of the gold
earrings that he requested was one
thousand seven hundred [1,700] shekels
of gold³, [did they give these too?]

besides the
crescent ornaments,
pendants, and
purple robes
that were on the kings of Midian,
and
besides the
chains that were around
their camels' necks. 27

Then Gideon made it into an ephod and
set it up in his city, Ophrah [“fawn”].
And all Israel played the harlot with it
there. It became a snare
to Gideon and
to his house. 28

Thus Midian was subdued before the
children of Israel, so that they lifted
their heads no more. And the country
was quiet [for] forty [40] years in the
days of Gideon. [So the land had rest.
Forty years had passed (as in 3:11) in
the days (as judge) of Gideon.]

[160 + 40 years, so 200 total.
Thus, ending 2805 AB: 11:26.]

Gideon's 70 + 1 Sons:

Usurper “King” Abimelech
29 ¶ Then Jerubbaal [aka Gideon]
the son of Joash went and dwelt in his
own house. 30 Gideon had seventy
[70] sons who were his own offspring,
for he had many wives. 31 And his
concubine who was in Shechem
[“back” or “shoulder”] also bore him
a son [the 71st], whose name he called
Abimelech [“king is my father”]. 32
Now Gideon the son of Joash died at a
good old age, and was buried
in the tomb of Joash his father,
in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. 33

So it was, as soon as Gideon was dead,
that the children of Israel again
played the harlot with the Baals, and
made Baal-Berith their god.
[↑ “the covenant lord”]

34 Thus the children of Israel
did not remember Y^{HWH} their God,
who had delivered them
from the hands
of all their enemies
on every side; 35

nor did they show kindness
to the house of Jerubbaal (Gideon)
in accordance with
the good he had done
for Israel.

Judges 9

9:1 ¶ Then Abimelech the [71st] son
of Jerubbaal went to Shechem, to his
mother's brothers, and spoke with them
and with all the family of the house of
his mother's father, saying, 2

“Please speak in the hearing of all the
men of Shechem:

‘Which is better for you,
that all seventy [70] of the sons
of Jerubbaal reign over you, or
that one reign over you?’

Remember that I am your own flesh
and bone.” 3

And his mother's brothers spoke all
these words concerning him in the
hearing of all the men of Shechem;
and their heart was inclined to follow
Abimelech, for they said,

“He is our brother.” 4

So they gave him

seventy [70] shekels of silver⁴
from the temple of Baal-Berith,
with which Abimelech hired worthless
and reckless men; and they followed
him. 5 Then he went to his father's
house at Ophrah and killed his brothers,
the seventy [70] sons of Jerubbaal, on
one stone. But Jotham [“perfect is
Y^{HWH}”] the youngest son [the 70th] of
Jerubbaal was left, because he hid him-
self. 6 And all the men of Shechem
gathered together, all of Beth Millo
[“house of rampart (or mound)”], and
they went and made Abimelech king
[not deliverer/judge]

beside the terebinth tree
at the pillar that was in Shechem.

7 ¶ Now when they told Jotham, he went
and stood on top of Mount Gerizim
[“cuttings off”], and lifted his voice
and cried out. And he said to them:

“Listen to me, you men of Shechem,

That God may listen to you! 8

The trees once went forth
to anoint a king over them.

And they said to the olive tree,

‘Reign over us!’ 9

But the olive tree said to them,

‘Should I cease giving my oil,

With which they honor God and men,

And go to sway over trees?’ 10

Then the trees said to the fig tree,

‘You come and reign over us!’ 11

But the fig tree said to them,

‘Should I cease my sweetness

and my good fruit,

And go to sway over trees?’ 12

Then the trees said to the vine,

‘You come and reign over us!’ 13

But the vine said to them,

‘Should I cease my new wine,

Which cheers both God and men,

And go to sway over trees?’ 14

Then all the trees said to the bramble,

‘You come and reign over us!’ 15

And the bramble said to the trees,

‘If in truth you anoint me

As king over you,

Come, take shelter in my shade;

But if not,

Let fire

come out of the bramble And

devour the cedars of Lebanon!’ 16

[I.e., trees don't need a king, Israel
doesn't need a king (and today,
the Church doesn't need a king).]

³ A gold shekel may have been ~1/60th of
a pound, so 16/60 x ~\$800 = \$213.33, so
1,700 shekels = ~\$362,667 in 2008 dollars.

⁴ A silver shekel may have been ~1/60th of
a pound, so 16/60 x ~\$10.80 = \$2.88, so
70 shekels = ~\$202, in 2008.

Now therefore,
 if you have acted in truth and sincerity
 in making Abimelech king, and
 if
 you have dealt well
 with Jerubbaal
 and his house,
 and have done to him as he deserves
 — 17 for my father
 fought for you,
 risked his life, and
 delivered you
 out of the hand of Midian; 18
 but you have risen up
 against my father's house this day,
 and killed his seventy [70] sons
 on one stone,
 and made Abimelech,
 the son of his female servant,
 king over the men of Shechem,
 because he is your brother — 19
 if then
 you have acted in truth and sincerity
 with Jerubbaal and
 with his house
 this day, then
 rejoice in Abimelech, and
 let him also rejoice in you. 20
 But if not,
 let fire come from Abimelech
 and devour the men of
 Shechem and
 Beth Millo; and
 let fire come
 from the men of Shechem and
 from Beth Millo
 and devour Abimelech!" 21

And Jotham ran away and fled; and he
 went to Beer ["well"] and dwelt there,
 for fear of Abimelech his [half] brother.

April 7

Judges 9:22

God Repays Abimelech's Wickedness

22 ¶ After Abimelech had reigned [lord-
 ed: not as judge] over Israel three [3]
 years, 23 God sent a spirit of ill will
 between Abimelech and the men of
 Shechem; and the men of Shechem
 dealt treacherously with Abimelech, 24
 [reason, in YHWH's plan:] that the crime
 done to the seventy [70] sons of Jerub-
 baal [Gideon] might be settled and
 their blood be laid on Abimelech their
 brother, who killed them, and on the
 men of Shechem, who aided him in the
 killing of his brothers. 25 And the men
 of Shechem set men in ambush against
 him on the tops of the mountains, and
 they robbed all who passed by them along
 that way; and it was told Abimelech. 26

Now Gaal ["loathing"] the son of Ebed
 ["servant"] came with his brothers and
 went over to Shechem; and the men of
 Shechem put their confidence in him.
 27 So they went out into the fields, and
 gathered grapes from their vineyards
 and trod them, and made merry. And
 they went into the house of their god, and
 ate and drank, and cursed Abimelech.
 28 Then Gaal the son of Ebed said,
 "Who is Abimelech, and who is
 Shechem, that we should serve him?
 Is he not the son of Jerubbaal, and
 is not Zebul ["exalted"] his officer?
 Serve the men of Hamor ["he-ass";
 Ge 33:19] the father of Shechem; but

why should we serve him? 29 If only
 this people were under my authority!
 Then I would remove Abimelech."

So he said to Abimelech,
 "Increase your army and come out!" 30
 When Zebul, the ruler of the city, heard
 the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his
 anger was aroused. 31 And he sent mes-
 sengers to Abimelech secretly, saying,
 "Take note! Gaal the son of Ebed and
 his brothers have come to Shechem;
 and here they are, fortifying the city
 against you. 32 Now therefore, get up
 by night, you and the people who are
 with you, and lie in wait in the field. 33
 And it shall be, as soon as the sun is
 up in the morning, that you shall rise
 early and rush upon the city; and when
 he and the people who are with him
 come out against you, you may then do
 to them as you find opportunity." 34
 So Abimelech and all the people who
 were with him rose by night, and lay in
 wait against Shechem in four [4] com-
 panies. 35 When Gaal the son of Ebed
 went out and stood in the entrance to the
 city gate, Abimelech and the people who
 were with him rose from lying in wait.
 36 And when Gaal saw the people, he
 said to Zebul,
 "Look, people are coming down from
 the tops of the mountains!"
 But Zebul said to him,
 "You see the shadows of the mountains
 as if they were men." 37
 So Gaal spoke again and said,
 "See, people are coming down from
 the center of the land, and another
 company is coming from
 the Diviners' Terebinth Tree." 38

Then Zebul said to him,
 "Where indeed is your mouth now,
 with which you said,
 'Who is Abimelech,
 that we should serve him?'
 Are not these the people whom you
 despised? Go out, if you will, and
 fight with them now." 39
 So Gaal went out, leading the men of
 Shechem, and fought with Abimelech.
 40 And Abimelech chased him, and he
 fled from him; and many fell wounded,
 to the very entrance of the gate. 41
 Then Abimelech dwelt at Arumah
 ["I shall be exalted"], and Zebul drove
 out Gaal and his brothers, so that they
 would not dwell in Shechem. 42 And
 it came about on the next day that the
 people went out into the field, and they
 told Abimelech. 43 So he took his peo-
 ple, divided them into three [3] com-
 panies, and lay in wait in the field.
 And he looked, and there were the
 people, coming out of the city; and he
 rose against them and attacked them. 44
 Then Abimelech and the company that
 was with him rushed forward and stood
 at the entrance of the gate of the city;
 and the other two [2] companies rushed
 upon all who were in the fields and
 killed them. 45 So Abimelech fought
 against the city all that day; he took the
 city and killed the people who were in
 it; and he demolished the city and sowed
 it with salt. 46 Now when all the men of
 the tower of Shechem had heard that,
 they entered the stronghold of the temple
 of the god Berith ["covenant"]. 47 And
 it was told Abimelech that all the men
 of the tower of Shechem were gathered

together. 48 Then Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon ["shady"; aka Mt. Ebal], he and all the people who were with him. And Abimelech took an ax in his hand and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it and laid it on his shoulder; then he said to the people who were with him,

"What you have seen me do, make haste and do as I have done." 49

So each of the people likewise cut down his own bough and followed Abimelech, put them against the stronghold, and set the stronghold on fire above them, so that all the people of the tower of Shechem died, about a thousand [~1,000] men and women.

50 ¶ Then Abimelech went to Thebez ["conspicuous"], and he encamped against Thebez and took it. 51 But there was a strong tower in the city, and all the men and women — all the people of the city — fled there and shut themselves in; then they went up to the top of the tower. 52 So Abimelech came as far as the tower and fought against it; and he drew near the door of the tower to burn it with fire. 53 But a certain woman dropped an upper millstone on Abimelech's head and crushed his skull. 54 Then he called quickly to the young man, his armor-bearer, and said to him,

"Draw your sword and kill me, lest men say of me,

"A woman killed him."

So his young man thrust him through, and he died. 55 And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed, every man to his place. 56

Thus God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech, which he had done to his father by killing his seventy [70] brothers. 57 And all the evil of the men of Shechem God returned on their own heads, and on them came the curse of Jotham the [youngest] son of Jerubbaal [Gideon].

[200 + 3 years (9:22), so 203 total. Thus, ending 2808 AB: 11:26.]

[Audio: Steve Gregg Jdg 10-11]

Judges 10

6th Judge Tola ben Puah ben Dodo

10:1 ¶ After Abimelech there arose to save Israel

Tola

the son of Puah,

the son of Dodo,

a man of Issachar;

and he dwelt in Shamir ["a point" / "thorn"] in the mountains of Ephraim.

2 He judged Israel twenty-three [23] years; and he died and was buried in Shamir.

[203 + 23 years, so 226 total. Thus, ending 2831 AB: 11:26.]

7th Judge Jair

3 After him arose

Jair ["he enlightens"],

a Gileadite;

and he judged Israel twenty-two [22] years. 4 Now he had

thirty [30] sons who rode on

thirty [30] donkeys

[hence, wealthy, influential];

they also had

thirty [30] towns,

[of those] which are called

[cf. 30 of 60: 1Ki 4:13;

Nu 32:41~De 3:14]

"Havoth Jair"

["villages of" Jair]

to this day, which are in the land of Gilead. 5 And Jair died and was buried in Camon ["raised"; one of those villages].

[226 + 22 years, so 248 total.

Thus, ending 2853 AB: 11:26.]

Israel Sins: Ammon Oppresses

6 ¶ Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of YHWH, and served

the Baals ["lords"] and

the Ashtoreths ["stars"],

the gods of Syria,

the gods of Sidon,

the gods of Moab,

the gods of the people of Ammon,

and

the gods of the Philistines;

and they forsook YHWH and did not serve Him. 7 So the anger of YHWH

was hot against Israel; and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and

into the hands of the people of Ammon. 8

From that year they harassed and oppressed the children of Israel for eighteen [18] years —

[Jones sees this as the last 18 of Jair's 22 years; that seems contrary to the wording to me, but I'll go with it until I can prove it one way or the other, because the numbers work out as expected.]

all the children of Israel who were on the other side of the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, in Gilead. 9 Moreover the people of Ammon crossed over the Jordan to fight

against Judah also,

against Benjamin, and

against the house of Ephraim,

so that Israel was severely distressed.

10 ¶ And the children of Israel cried out to YHWH, saying,

"We have sinned against You,

because we have both

forsaken our God and

served the Baals!" 11

So YHWH said to the children of Israel,

"Did I not deliver you

from the Egyptians and

from the Amorites and

from the people of Ammon and

from the Philistines? 12

Also the

Sidonians and

Amalekites and

Maonites

oppressed you; and you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hand.

13 Yet you have

forsaken Me and

served other gods.

Therefore I will deliver you no more. 14

Go and cry out to the gods that you have chosen; let them deliver you in your time of distress." 15

And the children of Israel said to YHWH,

"We have sinned!

Do to us whatever seems best to You; only deliver us this day, we pray." 16

So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served YHWH. And His soul could no longer endure the misery of Israel. 17 Then the people of Ammon gathered together and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled together and encamped in Mizpah ["watchtower"]. 18 And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another,

"Who is the man who will begin the fight against the people of Ammon? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

[Answer: Jephthah, the next judge, but first the story of Samson's birth.]

[Judges 11-13:1 follow Isa 1-3 below.]

[Both Samson and Samuel were born either near or a few years before the next judge, Jephthah. The story of Samson's birth (Judg 13:2-25) is placed first because Samuel's birth (1Sa 1) is closely followed by an event in his youth (1Sa 3:1-18), and so that the latter two events stay adjacent.]

[Audio: Steve Gregg Jdg 12-14]

Judges 13:2-25

Samson Born (to be the 12th Judge)

2 Now there was a certain man from Zorah ["hornet"], of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah [“rest”]; and his wife was barren and had no children. 3 And the Angel of YHWH appeared to the woman and said to her,

"Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. 4 Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean. 5 For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite [“consecrated or devoted one”]; Nu 6:1-21; Samuel: 1Sa 1:11; John the Baptist: Lu 1:15; Paul's vow: Ac 18:18] to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." 6

So the woman came and told her husband, saying,

"A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name. 7 And He said to me,

‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now drink no wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’”

[She added this last phrase and omitted the deliverance issue.]

8 ¶ Then Manoah prayed to YHWH, and said,

"O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born." 9

And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. 10 Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him,

"Look, the Man who came to me the other day has just now appeared to me!" 11

So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him,

"Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?"

And He said,

"I am." 12

Manoah said,

"Now let Your words come to pass!

What will be

the boy's rule of life, and his work?" 13

So the Angel of YHWH said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. 14 She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe."

[But He didn't answer Ma-Noah's two questions.]

15 ¶ Then Manoah said to the Angel of YHWH,

"Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You." 16

And the Angel of YHWH said to Manoah, "Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to YHWH."

(For Manoah did not know He was the Angel of YHWH.) 17

Then Manoah said to the Angel of YHWH, "What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?" 18

And the Angel of YHWH said to him,

"Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?" [Beyond understanding, incomprehensible to you; Is 9:6 "... His Name will be called Wonderful ..."; Ge 32:29 (Jacob wrestling)] 19

So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to YHWH. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on — 20 it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar — the Angel of YHWH ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. 21 When the Angel of YHWH appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of YHWH. 22 And Manoah said to his wife,

"We shall surely die, because we have seen God!" [Emotional reaction.] 23

But his wife said to him,

"If YHWH had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted

a burnt offering and a grain offering

from our hands,

nor would He have shown us

all these things,

nor would He have told us

such things as these

at this time." [Rational response.]

Samson Born

24 ¶ So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson [*“like the sun”*]; and the child grew, and Y^{HWH} blessed him. 25 And the Spirit of Y^{HWH} began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan [*“camp” “judge”*] between Zorah [*“hornet”*] and Eshtaol [*“entreaty”*].

[Judges 14 resumes with Samson’s adult life.]

Notes:

Re: Samuel’s parents: *Is 4:1* (should be last verse of ch. 3) re polygamy. Often, then, men killed in war resulted in many women without husbands, hence support. And it was a reproach to be a widow.

Hence, Elkana & Samuel were Levites: (as to tribe)

[Audio: Steve Gregg *1Sa 1-2*]

1 Samuel 1

Samuel’s Parents: Elkanah, Hannah

1:1 ¶ Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim [*“double height of the watchers”*; short form: Ramah (*“height”, 1:19, 2:11*)], of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah [*“possessed by God” or “created by God”*]

the son of Jeroham [*“showing pity”*], the son of Elihu [*“He is my God”*], the son of Tohu [*“lowly”/“formless”*], the son of Zuph [*or Aophai: “honeycomb”*],

1 Chronicles 6:35-38

the son of Zuph [*“honeycomb”*], the son of Elkanah [*“possessed (or created) by God”*; v25], the son of Mahath [*“gasping”*], the son of Amasai [*“burdensome”*], 36 the son of Elkanah [*“possessed (or created) by God”*], the son of Joel [*“Y^{HWH} is God”*], the son of Azariah [*“Y^{HWH} has helped”*], the son of Zephaniah [*“Y^{HWH} has treasured”*], 37 the son of Tahath [*“station”*], the son of Assir [*“prisoner”*], the son of Ebiasaph [*“my father has gathered”*], the son of Korah [*“bald”*], 38 the son of Izhar [*“shining oil”*], the son of Kohath [*“assembly”*], the son of Levi [*“joined to”*], the son of Israel [*“God prevails”*; aka Jacob].

[Note that there are three Elkanahs in this family line.]

an Ephraimite [*by location, not tribe*]. 2 And he had two [2] wives: the name of one was Hannah [*“grace”*], and the name of the other Peninnah [*“jewel”*]. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. 3 This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to Y^{HWH} of Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli [*“ascension”*], Hophni [*“pugilist”*] and Phinehas [*“mouth of brass”*], the priests of Y^{HWH}, were there. 4 And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although Y^{HWH} had closed her womb. 6 And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because Y^{HWH} had closed her womb. 7 So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of Y^{HWH}, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat. 8 Then Elkanah her husband said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?”

Hannah Prays for a Son

9 ¶ So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the [high] priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the

tabernacle of Y^{HWH}. 10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to Y^{HWH} and wept in anguish. 11 Then she made a vow and said, “O Y^{HWH} of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to Y^{HWH} all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.” 12

[Nazirite from the womb: *Nu 6:1-21*]

And it happened, as she continued praying before Y^{HWH}, that Eli watched her mouth. 13 Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. 14 So Eli said to her,

“How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!” 15 And Hannah answered and said, “No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink [*like Samson’s mom: Jud 13:4*], but have poured out my soul before Y^{HWH}. 16 Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now.” 17

Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him.” 18

And she said, “Let your maidservant find favor in your sight.” So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

April 8

1 Samuel 1:19

YHWH Gives Hannah a Son

19 ¶ Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before YHWH, and returned and came to their house at Ramah [cf. 1:1]. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and YHWH remembered her. 20 So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name

Samuel [or Shemuel: “El is his name” or “asked of God”], saying,

“Because I have asked for him from YHWH.” 21

Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to YHWH the yearly sacrifice and his vow. 22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before YHWH and remain there forever.”

And Elkanah her husband said to her, 23 “Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let YHWH establish His word.” [NLT: may YHWH help you keep your promise.]

So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

Hannah Lends Samuel to YHWH

24 Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three [3] bulls, [~ 40 litres] one [1] ephah of flour, and a [1] skin of wine,

and took him to the house of YHWH in Shiloh. And the child was young [~5 years old, perhaps]. 25 Then they

slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. 26 And she said,

“O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to YHWH. 27 For this child I prayed, and YHWH has granted me my petition that I asked of Him. 28 Therefore I also have lent him to YHWH; as long as he lives he shall be lent to YHWH.”

So they worshiped YHWH there.

1 Samuel 2

Hannah’s [Inspired] Praise

2:1 ¶ And Hannah prayed and said:

“My heart rejoices in YHWH;

My horn [power] is exalted in YHWH.

I smile at my enemies [e.g., Peninnah],

Because I rejoice in Your salvation. 2

No one is holy like YHWH,

For there is none besides You,

Nor is there any rock like our God. 3

Talk no more so very proudly;

Let no arrogance come from your mouth,

For YHWH is the God of knowledge;

And by Him actions are weighed. 4

The bows of the mighty men are broken,

And those who stumbled are

girded with strength. 5

Those who were full have

hired themselves out for bread,

And the hungry have ceased to hunger.

Even the barren has borne seven [7],

And she who has many children

has become feeble. 6

YHWH kills and makes alive;

He brings down to the grave and

brings up. 7

YHWH makes poor and makes rich;

He brings low and lifts up. 8

He raises the poor from the dust
And lifts the beggar from the ash heap,
To set them among princes
And make them inherit
the throne of glory.

For the pillars of the land [earth]
are YHWH’s, [~ of men]

And He has set the world upon them. 9

He will guard the feet of His saints,

But the wicked shall be silent in darkness.

For by strength no man shall prevail. 10

The adversaries of YHWH

shall be broken in pieces;

From heaven

He will thunder against them.

YHWH will judge

the ends of the lands [earth].

He will give strength to His king,

And exalt the horn of His anointed.”

[Allusion to the coming Messiah;

cf. Lu 1:46-55 “The Magnificat”.]

Contrast Eli’s Sons with Samuel

11 ¶ Then Elkanah went to his house at Ramah [cf. 1:1]. But the child ministered to YHWH before Eli the priest. 12

Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know YHWH. 13 And the priests’ custom with the people was that when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest’s servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling. 14 Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up. So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. 15 Also, before they burned the fat, the priest’s servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed,

“Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw.” 16

And if the man said to him,

“They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires”,

he would then answer him,

“No, but you must give it now; and if not, I will take it by force.” 17

Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before YHWH, for men abhorred the offering of YHWH [i.e., they hated worship because of the priests].

18 But Samuel ministered before YHWH, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.

19 Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

20 And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say,

“YHWH give you descendants [“seed”] from this woman for the loan that was given to YHWH.”

Then they would go to their own home.

21 And YHWH visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three [3] sons and two [2] daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before YHWH.

22 Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 23 So he said to them, “Why do you do such things?

For I hear of your evil dealings

from all the people. 24

No, my sons!

For it is not a good report that I hear.

You make YHWH’s people transgress.

25 If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against YHWH, who will intercede for him?" Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father, because YHWH desired to kill them. 26 And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with YHWH and men. [Cf. Lu 2:52]

A Prophetic Message to Eli

27 ¶ Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says YHWH: 'Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father [Aaron] when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? 28 Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to offer upon My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me? And did I not give to the house of your father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire? 29 Why do you kick at [desire or scorn] My sacrifice and My offering that I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?' 30 Therefore YHWH God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me [be priests] forever.'

But now YHWH says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise [lightly esteem] Me shall be [dispsied] lightly esteemed. 31 Behold, the days are coming [soon] that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house [they will all die young]. 32 And you will see an enemy [the Philistines] in My dwelling place [the Tabernacle, Shiloh] [1Sa 4:10-18], despite all the good that God does for Israel. And there shall not be an old man in your house forever. 33 But any of your men whom I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age. 34 Now this shall be a sign to you that will come upon your two [2] sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them. 35 Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest [Zadok: 2Sa 8:17; 1Ki 2:27] who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever. 36 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left in your house will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and say, 'Please, put me in one of the priestly positions, that I may eat a piece of bread.'"

[Audio: [Steve Gregg 1Sa 3-4](#)]

1 Samuel 3

YHWH Calls Samuel
3:1 ¶ Then the boy Samuel ministered to YHWH before Eli. And the word of YHWH [prophetic messages] was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. 2 And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see [hence, dependent upon Samuel], 3 and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of YHWH [double entendre?] where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, 4 that YHWH called Samuel [as prophetic leader, before the lamp went out]. And he answered, "Here I am!" 5 So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down. 6 Then YHWH called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." 7 (Now Samuel did not yet know YHWH, nor was the word of YHWH yet revealed to him.) 8 And YHWH called Samuel again the third [3rd] time. Then he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me."

Then Eli perceived that YHWH had called the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, YHWH, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 Now YHWH came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears." [↑ Samuel omitted "YHWH".]

Another Prophetic Message to Eli

11 ¶ Then YHWH said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. 12 In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity that he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them. 14 And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever." 15 So Samuel lay down until morning, and opened the doors of the house of YHWH. And Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision. 16 Then Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son!" And he answered, "Here I am." 17

[Samuel's first test: will he give a hard message to someone he loves?]

And he said,

“What is the word that Y^{HWH} spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. God do so [gesture] to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the things that He said to you.”¹⁸ Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him; and he [Eli] said, “It is Y^{HWH}.

Let Him do what seems good to Him.”¹⁹ [This latter event may have happened during Jephthah's term as judge (next), but we do not know the exact birth date of either Samson or Samuel, or how old Samuel was at this time.]

¹⁹ ¶ So Samuel grew, and Y^{HWH} was with him ... [resumes after Judg 13:1]

[Return to Judges:]

[Audio: Steve Gregg Jdg 10-11]

Judges 11

Deliverer: 8th Judge Jephthah

^{11:1} ¶ Now Jephthah [“he opens”] the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, but he was the son of a harlot; and Gilead [not the son of Machir: too late in the chronology] begot Jephthah.² Gilead's wife bore sons; and when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out, and said to him, “You shall have no inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman.”³

Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and dwelt in the land of Tob [“good”]; and worthless men banded together with Jephthah and went out raiding with him.

⁴ ¶ It came to pass after a time that the people of Ammon made war against Israel.⁵ And so it was, when the people of Ammon made war against Israel, that the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob.

⁶ Then they said to Jephthah, “Come and be our commander, that we may fight against the people of Ammon.”⁷

So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, “Did you not hate me, and expel me from my father's house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?”⁸ And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “That is why we have turned again to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the people of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”⁹

So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, “If you take me back home to fight against the people of Ammon, and Y^{HWH} delivers them to me, shall I be your head?”¹⁰

And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “Y^{HWH} will be a witness between us, if we do not do according to your words.”¹¹

Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and commander over them; and Jephthah spoke all his words before Y^{HWH} in Mizpah. [He repeated all that he (and the leaders?) had said, to entreat Y^{HWH} to help?]

[11:12-26 copied to follow Nu 21:26]
¹² ¶ Now Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the people of Ammon, saying, “What do you have against me, that you have come to fight against me in my land?”¹³

And the king of the people of Ammon answered the messengers of Jephthah, “Because Israel took away my land when they came up out of Egypt, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok, and to the Jordan. Now therefore, restore those lands peaceably.”¹⁴

So Jephthah again sent messengers to the king of the people of Ammon,¹⁵ and said to him,

“Thus says Jephthah:

“Israel did not take away the land of Moab, nor the land of the people of Ammon [cf. De 2:16-23];¹⁶ for when Israel came up from Egypt, they walked through the wilderness as far as the Red Sea and came to Kadesh.¹⁷ Then [cf. Nu 20:14-21, De 2:1-7] Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying,

“Please let me pass through your land.”

But the king of Edom would not heed. And in like manner they sent to the king of Moab [cf. De 2:8-15], but he would not consent. So Israel remained in Kadesh.¹⁸ And they went along through the wilderness and bypassed the land of Edom and the land of Moab, came to the east side of the land of Moab, and encamped on the

other side of the Arnon. But they did not enter the border of Moab, for the Arnon was the border of Moab.¹⁹ Then [cf. Nu 21:21-26] Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, king of Heshbon [“stronghold”]; and Israel said to him,

“Please let us pass through your land into our place.”²⁰

But Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his territory. So Sihon gathered all his people together, encamped in Jahaz [“trodden down”], and fought against Israel.²¹ And Y^{HWH} God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they defeated them. Thus Israel gained possession of all the land of the Amorites, who inhabited that country.²² They took possession of all the territory of the Amorites, from the Arnon to the Jabbok [“emptying”] and from the wilderness to the Jordan.²³ And now Y^{HWH} God of Israel has dispossessed the Amorites from before His people Israel; should you then possess it?²⁴ Will you not possess whatever Chemosh

[“subduer”; the national deity of the Moabites and a god of the Ammonites; also identified with Baal-peor, Baal-zebul, Mars, & Saturn] your god gives you to possess? So whatever Y^{HWH} our God takes possession of before us, we will possess.²⁵ And now, are you any better than Balak [“devastator”] the son of Zippor [“sparrow”], king of Moab?

Did he ever strive against Israel?
Did he ever fight against them? 26
While Israel dwelt

in Heshbon and its villages,
in Aroer ["ruins"] and its villages, and
in all the cities

along the banks of the Arnon,
for three hundred [300] years,
[began in 2553 AB (Nu 21:21-26)
when Moses conquered Heshbon,
plus 52 years to Othniel (see the
Timeline of Judges below), then
248 years to Jephthah, so 2853 AB.
This is a chronological anchor to
many other dates re the judges:
2605 AB + 248 years = 2853 AB.]

why did you not recover them within
that time? 27 Therefore I have not
sinned against you, but you wronged
me by fighting against me. May YHWH
the Judge render judgment this day
between

the children of Israel and
the people of Ammon." 28

However, the king of the people of
Ammon did not heed the words that
Jephthah sent him.

April 9

Judges 11:29

Jephthah Vows, Defeats Ammon

29 ¶ Then the Spirit of YHWH came upon
Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead
and Manasseh, and passed through
Mizpah of Gilead; and from Mizpah of
Gilead he advanced toward the people
of Ammon. 30 And Jephthah made a
vow to YHWH, and said,

"If You will indeed deliver the people
of Ammon into my hands, 31 then it
will be that whatever comes out of the
doors of my house to meet me, when
I return in peace from the people of
Ammon, shall surely be YHWH's, and
[or] I will offer it up as [I would offer]
a burnt offering [fully dedicated]." 32

So Jephthah advanced toward the people
of Ammon to fight against them, and
YHWH delivered them into his hands. 33
And he defeated them from Aroer as far
as Minnith ["distribution"] — twenty
[20] cities — and [even] to Abel
Keramim ["meadow" "vineyard"],
with a very great slaughter. Thus the
people of Ammon were subdued before
the children of Israel. 34

When Jephthah came to his house at
Mizpah, there was his daughter, coming
out to meet him with timbrels and danc-
ing; and she was his only child. Besides
her he had neither son nor daughter. 35
And it came to pass, when he saw her,
that he tore his clothes, and said,
"Alas, my daughter!
You have brought me very low!
You are among those who trouble me!
For I have given my word to YHWH,
and I cannot go back on it." 36

So she said to him,

"My father, if you have given your word
to YHWH, do to me according to what
has gone out of your mouth, because
YHWH has avenged you of your enemies,
the people of Ammon." 37

Then she said to her father,

"Let this thing be done for me:
let me alone for two [2] months,
that I may go and wander on the
mountains and bewail my [perpetual]
virginity, my friends and I." 38

So he said,

"Go."

And he sent her away for two [2] months;
and she went with her friends, and
bewailed her [perpetual] virginity [not
her death] on the mountains. 39 And
it was so at the end of two [2] months
that she returned to her father, and he
carried out his vow with her that he had
vowed [namely, that]: she knew no
man. [Not that he burned her as an
offering.] And it became a custom in
Israel 40 that the daughters of Israel
went four [4] days each year to honor
[lament] the daughter of Jephthah the
Gileadite. [Because she would never
have offspring, nor her father have
progeny.]

[Audio: Steve Gregg Jdg 12-14]

Judges 12

12:1 ¶ Then the men of Ephraim gathered
together, crossed over [the Jordan
River] toward Zaphon ["north"], and
said to Jephthah,

"Why did you cross over to fight against
the people of Ammon, and did not call
us to go with you? We will burn your
house down on you with fire!" 2

And Jephthah said to them,

"My people and I were in a great struggle
with the people of Ammon; and when
I called you [not recorded above], you
did not deliver me out of their hands.

3 So when I saw that you would not
deliver me, I took my life in my hands
and crossed over against the people of
Ammon; and YHWH delivered them into
my hand. Why then have you come up
to me this day to fight against me?" 4

Now Jephthah gathered together all
the men of Gilead and fought against
Ephraim. And the men of Gilead
defeated Ephraim, because they said,
"You Gileadites are fugitives of
Ephraim among the Ephraimites
and among the Manassites." 5
[Not clear what that is about.]

The Gileadites seized the fords of the
Jordan before the Ephraimites arrived.
And when any Ephraimite who escaped
said,

"Let me cross over",
the men of Gilead would say to him,
"Are you an Ephraimite?"

If he said,

"No", 6

then they would say to him,

"Then say, 'Shibboleth!'"

And he would say,

"Sibboleth",

for he could not pronounce it right.

Then they would take him and kill him
at the fords of the Jordan. There fell at
that time forty-two thousand [42,000]
Ephraimites. 7

And Jephthah judged Israel six [6] years.
Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and
was buried in among the cities of Gilead.
[248 + 6 years, so 254 total.]

10th Judge Ibzan

8 ¶ After him, **Ibzan** [*“their tin, as white” or “their whiteness”*] of **Bethlehem** [possibly not of Judah] judged Israel. 9 He had thirty [30] sons. And he gave away thirty [30] daughters in marriage, and brought in thirty [30] daughters from elsewhere for his sons. He judged Israel seven [7] years. 10 Then **Ibzan** died and was buried at **Bethlehem**. [254 + 7 years, so 261 total.]

10th Judge Elon

11 After him, **Elon** [*“terebinth, mighty”*] the **Zebulunite** judged Israel. He judged Israel ten [10] years. 12 And **Elon** the **Zebulunite** died and was buried at **Aijalon** [*“field of deer”*] in the country of **Zebulun**. [261 + 10 years, so 271 total.]

11th Judge Abdon

13 After him, **Abdon** [*“servile”*] the son of **Hillel** [*“praising”*] the **Pirathonite** [*“princely”*] judged Israel. 14 He had forty [40] sons and thirty [30] grandsons, who rode on seventy [70] young donkeys. He judged Israel eight [8] years. 15 Then **Abdon** the son of **Hillel** the **Pirathonite** died and was buried in **Pirathon** in the land of **Ephraim**, in the mountains of the Amalekites. [271 + 8 years, so 279 total.]

Judges 13:1

Israel Sins: The Philistines Oppress

13:1 ¶ Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of **YHWH**, and **YHWH** delivered them into the hand of the **Philistines** for forty [40] years.

[**Jones** sees this as starting at **Ibzan**’s 6th year (~1141 BC) & ending just after **Samson** dies destroying the **Philistine** temple, when **Samuel** leads Israel to overcome the **Philistines** at **Mizpah**.]

[13:2-25 moved above for chronology.]

[Audio: [Steve Gregg 1Sa 3-4](#)]

1 Samuel 3:19-4:1a

Samuel Established as a Prophet

19 ¶ So **Samuel** grew, and **YHWH** was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground [he was the real thing]. 20 And all Israel from **Dan** [north] to **Beer-sheba** [south] knew that **Samuel** had been established as a prophet of **YHWH**. 21 Then **YHWH** appeared again in **Shiloh**. For **YHWH** revealed Himself to **Samuel** in **Shiloh** by the word of **YHWH**. 4:1a And the word of **Samuel** came to all Israel.

1 Samuel 4

Philistines Defeat Israel

4:1b ¶ Now Israel went out to battle against the **Philistines** [not at **Samuel**’s word, none of which “fell to the ground”], and encamped beside **Ebenezer** [*“stone of help”*; apparently so named later: 7:12b]; and the **Philistines** encamped in **Aphek** [*“enclosure”*]. 2 Then the **Philistines** put themselves in battle array against Israel. And when they joined battle, Israel was defeated by the **Philistines**, who killed about four thousand [~4,000] men of the army in the field. 3 And when the people had come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, “Why has **YHWH** defeated us today before the **Philistines**? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of **YHWH** from **Shiloh** to us, that when it comes

among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies.”

[They didn’t enquire of **YHWH**, but tried to use the ark as a magic charm.] 4

So the people sent to **Shiloh**, that they might bring from there the ark of the covenant of **YHWH** of hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. And the two sons of **Eli**, **Hophni** and **Phinehas**, were there with the ark of the covenant of **God**. 5 And when the ark of the covenant of **YHWH** came into the camp, all Israel shouted so loudly that the land [earth] shook. 6 Now when the **Philistines** heard the noise of the shout, they said, “What does the sound of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews mean?” Then they understood that the ark of **YHWH** had come into the camp. 7 So the **Philistines** were afraid, for they said, “The gods have [God has] [v8b] come into the camp!” And they said,

“Woe to us! For such a thing has never happened before. 8 Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness. 9 Be strong and conduct yourselves like men, you **Philistines**, that you do not become servants of the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Conduct yourselves like men, and fight!”

The Ark of God is Captured

Hophni, Phinehas Die; Eli Dies at 98

10 ¶ So the **Philistines** fought, and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent. There was a very great slaughter, and there fell of Israel thirty thousand

[30,000] foot soldiers. 11 Also the ark of **God** was captured; and the two sons of **Eli**, **Hophni** and **Phinehas**, died.

12 ¶ Then a man of **Benjamin** ran from the battle line the same day, and came to **Shiloh** with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. 13 Now when he came, there was **Eli**, sitting on a seat by the wayside watching, for his heart trembled for the ark of **God**. And when the man came into the city and told it, all the city cried out. 14 When **Eli** heard the noise of the outcry, he said, “What does the sound of this tumult mean?”

And the man came quickly and told **Eli**. 15 **Eli** was ninety-eight [98] years old, and his eyes were so dim that he could not see. 16 Then the man said to **Eli**, “I am he who came from the battle. And I fled today from the battle line.”

And he said, “What happened, my son?” 17 So the messenger answered and said, “Israel has fled before the **Philistines**, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Also your two sons, **Hophni** and **Phinehas**, are dead; and the ark of **God** has been captured.” 18 Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of **God**, that **Eli** fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty [40] years [as high priest, coincident with most of the prior five judge’s terms preceding the death of **Abdon** and the beginning of **Samson**’s 20 years: **Jones**. See the [Timeline of Judges](#).]

Phinehas' Wife Bears Ichabod

19 ¶ Now his daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, due to be delivered; and when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and gave birth, for her labor pains came upon her. 20 And about the time of her death the women who stood by her said to her, "Do not fear, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer, nor did she regard him [except:]. 21 Then she named the child Ichabod ["no glory"], saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband. 22 And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured." [More concern for Israel and the ark than for God Himself.] [Tabernacle moved to Gibeon now? 2Ch 1:2-6]

[Audio: [Steve Gregg 1Sa 5-8](#)]

1 Samuel 5

The Philistines Take the Ark of God; Their God Dagon Falls on its Face

5:1 ¶ Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it [south] from Ebenezer to Ashdod ["powerful"]. 2 When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the temple of Dagon ["a fish"; a Philistine deity of fertility; represented with the face and hands of a man and the tail of a fish — a "mer-man"] and set it by Dagon. 3 And when the people of Ashdod arose early in the morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the ground [earth] before the ark of YHWH. So they took Dagon and set it

in its place again. 4 And when they arose early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the ground before the ark of YHWH. The head of Dagon and both the palms of its hands were broken off on the threshold; only Dagon's torso was left of it. 5 Therefore neither the priests of Dagon nor any who come into Dagon's house tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day [an indication that the story is being compiled or written at a later time, or that this statement was added later].

YHWH Sends Tumors (and Rats)

6 ¶ But the hand of YHWH was heavy on the people of Ashdod, and He ravaged them and struck them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territory. 7 And when the men of Ashdod saw how it was, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for His hand is harsh toward us and Dagon our god." 8 Therefore they sent and gathered to themselves all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" And they answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried away to Gath ["winepress"]." So they carried the ark of the God of Israel away. 9 So it was, after they had carried it away, that the hand of YHWH was against the city with a very great destruction; and He struck the men of the city, both small and great, and tumors broke out on them. 10 Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron ["emigration" or "torn up by the roots"]. So it was, as the ark of God came to Ekron,

that the Ekronites cried out, saying, "They have brought the ark of the God of Israel to us, to kill us and our people!" 11

So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go back to its own place, so that it does not kill us and our people." For there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there. 12 And the men who did not die were stricken with the tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

1 Samuel 6

How to Send Back the Ark of God

6:1 ¶ Now the ark of YHWH was in the country of the Philistines seven [7] months [the first months of Samson's 20-year judgeship: 2884 AB: [Judg 15:20, 16:31b](#)]. 2 And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, "What shall we do with the ark of YHWH? Tell us how we should send it to its place." 3 So they said, "If you send away the ark of the God of Israel, do not send it empty; but by all means return it to Him with a trespass offering. Then you will be healed, and it will be known to you why His hand is not removed from you." 4 Then they said, "What is the trespass offering that we shall return to Him?" They answered, "Five [5] golden tumors and five [5] golden rats, according to the number [5] of the lords

of the Philistines. For the same plague was on all of you and on your lords. 5 Therefore you shall make images of your tumors and images of your rats that ravage the land, and you shall give glory to the God of Israel; perhaps He will lighten His hand from you, from your gods, and from your land. 6

Why then do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? When He did mighty things among them, did they not let the people go, that they might depart? 7 Now therefore, make a new cart, take two milk cows that have never been yoked, and hitch the cows to the cart; and take their calves home, away from them. 8 Then take the ark of YHWH and set it on the cart; and put the articles of gold that you are returning to Him as a trespass offering in a chest by its side. Then send it away, and let it go. 9 And watch: if it goes up the road to its own territory, to Beth Shemesh ["house of the sun" or "sun-temple"], then He has done us this great evil. But if not, then we shall know that it is not His hand that struck us — it happened to us by chance." [Evolution! ☺]

The Philistines Send the Ark Back

10 ¶ Then the men did so; they took two milk cows and hitched them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home. 11 And they set the ark of YHWH on the cart, and the chest with the gold rats and the images of their tumors. 12

April 10

[Audio: Steve Gregg Jdg 12-14]

Judges 14

Samson Wants a Philistine Wife

14:1 ¶ Now Samson went down [from Zorah] to Timnah [“portion”], and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. 2 So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, “I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.” [Not even a “please”.] 3 Then his father and mother said to him, “Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” And Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she pleases me well.” [Again, no “please”.] 4

God’s Plan is Supreme

But his father and mother did not know that it was of YHWH — that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel [13:1].

Samson Tears a Lion Apart

5 So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came to the vineyards of Timnah. Now to his surprise, a young lion came roaring against him. 6 And the Spirit of YHWH came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not

tell his father or his mother what he had done [apparently he had been behind or far ahead?]. 7 Then he went down and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well. 8

After some time, when he returned to get [marry] her, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. And behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the carcass of the lion. 9 He took some of it in his hands and went along, eating. When he came to his father and mother [apparently he had been behind again], he gave some to them, and they also ate. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion [unclean: Le 11:27].

Samson Gets Married, Separated

10 ¶ So his father went down to the woman [presumably to prepare the wedding]. And Samson gave a feast there, for young men used to do so. 11 And it happened, when they [the woman’s family, or the townspeople?] saw him, that they brought thirty [30] [Philistine] companions to be with him. 12 Then Samson said to them, “Let me pose a riddle to you. If you can correctly solve and explain it to me within the seven [7] days of the feast, then I will give you thirty [30] linen garments and thirty [30] changes of clothing. 13 But if you cannot explain it to me, then you shall give me thirty [30] linen garments and thirty [30] changes of clothing.” And they said to him, “Pose your riddle, that we may hear it.” 14

Then the cows headed straight for the road to Beth Shemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and did not turn aside to the right hand or the left. And the lords of the Philistines went after them to the border of Beth Shemesh. 13

Now the people of Beth Shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest [~June] in the valley; and they lifted their eyes and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it. 14 Then the cart came into the field of Joshua [“YHWH is salvation”] of Beth Shemesh, and stood there; a large stone was there. So they split the wood of the cart and offered the cows as a burnt offering to YHWH. 15 The Levites took down the ark of YHWH and the chest that was with it, in which were the articles of gold, and put them on the large stone. Then the men of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings and made sacrifices the same day to YHWH. 16

So when the five [5] lords of the Philistines had seen it, they returned to Ekron the same day. 17 These are the golden tumors that the Philistines returned as a trespass offering to YHWH:
one for Ashdod [“powerful”],
one for Gaza [“the strong”],
one for Ashkelon [“the fire of infamy: I shall be weighed”],
one for Gath [“winepress”],
one for Ekron [“emigration”]
[the five key cities of the Philistines]; 18 and the golden rats, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five [5] lords, both fortified cities and country villages,

even as far as the large stone of Abel [“meadow”] on which they set the ark of YHWH, which stone remains to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh.

YHWH Strikes Beth Shemesh

19 ¶ Then He struck the men of Beth Shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of YHWH. He struck fifty thousand and seventy [50,070] men of the people, and the people lamented because YHWH had struck the people with a great slaughter. 20 And the men of Beth Shemesh said, “Who is able to stand before this holy YHWH God? And to whom shall it go up from us?” 21 So they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath Jearim [“city of forests”], saying, “The Philistines have brought back the ark of YHWH; come down and take it up with you.”

1 Samuel 7:1-2

The Ark Goes to Kirjath Jearim

7:1 ¶ Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of YHWH, and brought it into the house of Abinadab [“noble/willing is my father”] on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar [“helped by God”] his son to keep the ark of YHWH. 2 So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty [20] years [coincident with Samson’s judgeship: 2884-2903 AB (Jones)]. And all the house of Israel lamented after YHWH. [1Sa 7:3ff] [Back to Judges:]

So he said to them:
 “Out of the eater
 came something to eat, And
 Out of the strong
 came something sweet.”
 Now for three [3] days they could not explain the riddle. ¹⁵ But it came to pass on the seventh [7th] day that they said to Samson’s wife,
 “Entice your husband, that he may explain the riddle to us, or else we will burn you and your father’s house with fire. Have you invited us in order to take what is ours? *Is that not so?*” ¹⁶ Then Samson’s wife wept on him, and said,
 “You only hate me!
 You do not love me!
 You have posed a riddle
 to the sons of my people, but you have not explained it to me.”
 And he said to her,
 “Look, I have not [even] explained it to my father or my mother;
 so should I explain it to you?” ¹⁷
 Now she had wept on him the seven [7] days while their feast lasted. And it happened on the seventh [7th] day that he told her, because she pressed him so much. Then she explained the riddle to the sons of her people. ¹⁸ So the men of the city said to him on the seventh [7th] day before the sun went down:
 “What is sweeter than honey? And:
 What is stronger than a lion?”
 And he said to them:
 “If you had not plowed with my heifer,
 You would not have solved my riddle!”
¹⁹ Then the Spirit of Y^{HWH} came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon [“the fire of infamy: I shall be weighed”] and killed thirty [30] of their

men, took their apparel, and gave the changes of clothing to those who had explained the riddle. So his anger was aroused, and he went back up to his father’s house. ²⁰ And Samson’s [abandoned] wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.

[Audio: Steve Gregg Jdg 15-16]

Judges 15

Samson Burns Fields via Foxes

^{15:1} ¶ After a while, in the time of wheat harvest [~June], it happened that Samson visited his wife with a young goat. And he said,
 “Let me go in to my wife,
 into her room.”
 But her father would not permit him to go in. ² Her father said,
 “I really thought that you thoroughly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. *Is not her younger sister better than she?*
 Please, take her instead.” ³
 And Samson said to them,
 “This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines if I harm them!” ⁴
 Then Samson went and caught three hundred [300] foxes; and he took torches, turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails. ⁵
 When he had set the torches on fire, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves. ⁶
 Then the Philistines said,
 “Who has done this?”
 And they answered,
 “Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion.”

So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire. ⁷ Samson said to them,
 “Since you would do a thing like this, I will surely take revenge on you, and after that I will cease.” ⁸
 So he attacked them hip upon [and] thigh [ruthlessly, tearing them limb from limb] with a great slaughter; then he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of Etam [“lair of wild beasts”].

Samson Kills 1,000 With a Jawbone

⁹ ¶ Now the Philistines went up, encamped in Judah, and deployed themselves against Lehi [“jawbone”].
¹⁰ And the men of Judah said,
 “Why have you come up against us?”
 So they answered,
 “We have come up to arrest Samson, to do to him as he has done to us.” ¹¹
 Then three thousand [3,000] men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam [probably in the Valley of Sorek?], and said to Samson,
 “Do you not know
 that the Philistines rule over us?
 What is this you have done to us?”
 And he said to them,
 “As they did to me,
 so I have done to them.” ¹²
 But they said to him,
 “We have come down to arrest you, that we may deliver you into the hand of the Philistines.”
 Then Samson said to them,
 “Swear to me that you will not kill me yourselves.” ¹³
 So they spoke to him, saying,
 “No, but we will tie you securely and deliver you into their hand; but we will surely not kill you.”

[Literally, “killing we will kill you not”.]
 And they bound him with two [2] new ropes and brought him up from the rock. ¹⁴ When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him.

Then the Spirit of Y^{HWH} came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands. ¹⁵ He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand [1,000] men with it. ¹⁶ Then Samson said:
 “With the jawbone of a donkey,
 Heaps upon heaps,
 With the jawbone of a donkey
 I have slain a thousand [1,000] men!” ¹⁷
 And so it was, when he had finished speaking, that he threw the jawbone from his hand, and called that place Ramath Lehi [“height of a jawbone”].

¹⁸ ¶ Then he became very thirsty; so he cried out to Y^{HWH} and said,
 “You have given this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant; and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?” ¹⁹
 So God split the hollow place that is in Lehi, and water came out, and he drank; and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore he called its name En Hakkore [“spring of one calling”], which is in Lehi to this day. ²⁰

And he judged Israel twenty [20] years in the days of the Philistines. [cf. 16:31b] [279 + 20 years, so 299 total.]

Judges 16

Samson Goes to a Harlot in Gaza

16:1 ¶ Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her. 2 When the Gazites were told, "Samson has come here!", they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. They were quiet all night, saying, "In the morning, when it is daylight, we will kill him." 3 And Samson lay low till midnight; then he arose at midnight, took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two gateposts, pulled them up, bar and all, put them on his shoulders, and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron [~37 mi (60km)!].

Samson Falls for Delilah

4 ¶ Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek ["choice vines"], whose name was Delilah ["feeble"; by later cutting his hair, she enfeebled Samson]. 5 And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred [1100] pieces of silver⁵." 6 So Delilah said to Samson,

"Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you." 7

(1) Bowstrings

And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven [7] fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man." 8

So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven [7] fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him with them. 9 Now men were lying in wait, staying with her in the room. And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire. So the secret of his strength was not known. 10 Then Delilah said to Samson, "Look, you have mocked me and told me lies. Now, please tell me what you may be bound with." 11

(2) New Ropes

So he said to her, "If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man." 12 Therefore Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!"

And men were lying in wait, staying in the room. But he broke them off his arms like a thread. 13 Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with."

(3) Seven Locks of Hair in a Loom

And he said to her, "If you weave the seven [7] locks of my head into the web of the loom ..." 14 So she wove it tightly with the batten of the loom, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep, and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom. 15 Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you', when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three [3] times, and have not told me where your great strength lies." 16

(4) Shave Off My Seven Locks

And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death, 17 that he told her all his heart, and said to her, "No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man." [Symbolic of his being a Nazirite: Nu 6:1-21]

Samson Captured and Blinded

18 ¶ When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart." So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand. 19 Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven [7] locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. 20 And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that YHWH had departed from him. 21 Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

Samson Regains His Strength

22 ¶ However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven. 23 Now the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon ["a fish"; a Philistine deity of fertility; represented with the face and hands of a man and the tail of a fish (a "mer-man")] their god, and to rejoice. And they said: "Our god has delivered into our hands Samson our enemy!" 24

⁵ Perhaps each was a silver shekel, which may have been ~1/60th of a pound, so 16/60 x ~\$10.80 = \$2.88, so 1100 shekels = ~ \$3,868, in 2008 dollars, from each of probably five lords: Judg 3:3 & 1Sa 6:4b; so \$19,340 total.

When the people saw him, they praised their god; for they said:

“Our god has delivered into our hands our enemy,

The destroyer of our land,

And the one who multiplied our dead.”²⁵

So it happened, when their hearts were merry, that they said,

“Call for Samson, that he may perform for us.”

So they called for Samson from the prison, and he performed for them.

And they stationed him between the pillars. ²⁶ Then Samson said to the lad who held him by the hand,

“Let me feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I can lean on them.”²⁷

Now the temple was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there — about three thousand [~3,000] men and women on the roof watching while Samson performed. ²⁸

Then Samson called to YHWH, saying,

“O Lord YHWH [Adonai YHWH]:

Remember me, I pray!

Strengthen me, I pray,

just this once, O God,

that I may with one blow

take vengeance on the Philistines

for my two eyes!”²⁹

And Samson took hold of the two [2] middle pillars that supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left.

³⁰ Then Samson said,

“Let me die with the Philistines!”

And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life. ³¹ And

his brothers and all his father’s household came down and took him, and brought him up and buried him between

Zorah [“hornet”] and

Eshtaol [“entreaty”]

[where YHWH had begun

“to move upon him”: 13:25]

in the tomb of his father Manoah.

He had judged Israel twenty [20] years.

[Same 20 as 15:20.]

[279 + 20 years, so 299 total.]

End of Accounts of Judges, except for Samuel (and his sons)

[For chronology:

Judges 17:1-18:31 follows Jos 19:48

The story of Micah and the 600

Danite robbers.

Judges 19:1-21:25 precedes Judg 1:1

The story of the reduction of the tribe of Benjamin to 600.

]

April 11

Forward to: [1Samuel](#)

Schedule of Readings

Date	Judges-Ruth	Exceptional	
Apr.	Start	End	Exceptional
1	19:1	21:25	Moved fwd.
2	1:1	3:31	
3	Ruth 1:1	4:17	
4	-	-	1Ch 2:3-8
	Ruth 4:18	4:22	1Ch 9-15
	-	-	1Ch 2:16-55
5	4:1	6:40	
6	7:1	9:21	
7	9:22	10:18	
	13:2	13:25	
	1Sa 1:1	1:18	
8	1Sa 1:19	3:19	
	11:1	11:28	
9	11:29	13:1	
	1Sa 3:19	7:2	
10	14:1	16:31	17:1-18:31 moved to Jud

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Timeline of Judges

1 Kings 6:1 Next major milestone: *Exodus to the Temple: 479 Years, 2 months*

6:1 ¶ And it came to pass **in the four hundred and eightieth [480th] year** after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, **in the fourth [4th] year** of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv ["brightness"], which is **the second [2nd] month**, that he **began** to build the house of **YHWH**.
 [So **2993 AB** (After the Beginning; bc dates below are deduced from later data, working back from 586 BC.)]

The 479 Years (per Jones)

JUDGE/KING NAME	JUDGESHIP LENGTH	OPPRESSOR	DURATION	Dates BC	Dates AB	JUDGE'S TRIBE	Reference or WHO FOUGHT BESIDE THEM
Moses (Heshbon taken in the 39th year : <u>Nu 21:21-31</u>)	40			← 1491 The Exodus ← 1452 Heshbon taken	2514 2553	Levi	<u>Ex 6:16-20</u>
Joshua	27			← 1451 The Conquest	2554	Ephraim	<u>1Chr 7:20-27</u>
Elders Who Outlived Joshua	24			← 1424 The Elders	2581	various?	
1. Othniel (Caleb's younger bro.)	40	Mesopotamia	8	← 1400 Othniel	2605	Judah	<u>3:8-11</u>
2. Ehud	80	Moab	18	← 1360 Ehud ← Events of Ruth ~ Ehud end?	2645 ~2712	Benjamin to ~2613?	<u>3:14-30</u> <u>Ruth 3:31</u>
3. Shamgar	0	Philistines	0	(no times given; part of Ehud?)	~2725	Judah? (killed Philistines)	<u>3:31</u>
4. Deborah (and Barak)	40	Canaanites	20	← 1280 Deborah	2725	Ephraim Ash, Ben, Dan, Iss, Reu, Zeb	<u>4:1-5:31</u>
5. Gideon (aka Jerubbaal)	40	Midian	7	← 1240 Gideon	2765	Manasseh Ash, Eph, Naphtali, Zeb	<u>6:1-8:28</u>
Abimelech (Gideon's son)	3	None mentioned	–	← 1200 ("king", not judge)	2805	Ephraim? (Shechem)	<u>8:29-9:57</u>
6. Tola	23	None mentioned	–	← 1197 Tola	2808	Issachar	<u>10:1-2</u>
7. Jair (↓ Judges 11:26)	22	Philistines, Ammon	18	← 1174 Jair	2831	(Gilead)	<u>10:3-5</u>
(300 years back to a year before before Joshua: Heshbon taken)				~1153 Samson, Samuel born	~2852		
8. Jephthah	6	Ammon	?	← 1152 Jephthah	2853	(Gilead)	<u>10:6-18</u> ; <u>11:1-12:7</u>
9. Ibzan (Last 2 years of Ibzan: 40-year Philistine domination began)	7	Philistines	2	← 1146 Ibzan ← 1141 Philistine Domination	2859 2864	Judah (Bethlehem)	<u>12:8-10</u> <u>13:1</u>
10. Elon	10	cont'd Philistines	10	← 1139 Elon	2866	Zebulun	<u>12:11-12</u>
11. Abdon	8	cont'd Philistines	8	← 1129 Abdon	2876	Ephraim	<u>12:13-15</u>
12. Samson	20	cont'd Philistines	20	← 1121 Samson	2884	Dan	<u>13:2-16:31</u>
		Philistines total	40	← 1101 End Phistine Dom.	2904		<u>13:1</u>
(Othniel through Samson: 299 years = the main period covered by the book of Judges; totals: 113 years of oppression, 210 of prosperity = 323 from Joshua)							
Samuel's first 6 years as prophet	6			← 1101 Samuel's 1 st six years	2904		
Saul as 1 st king	40	Jones reasons that:		← 1095 Saul king	2910	Benjamin	<u>1Sa 9:1</u>
David as 2 nd king	40	Samuel died at ~92, ~2944 AB		← 1055 David king	2950	Judah	<u>Ru 4:18-22</u>
Solomon starts the temple (in his 4 th & the 480 th year)	3 479			← 1015 Solomon king ← 1012 the temple started	2990 2993	Judah	<u>1Ki 6:1</u> above
So the temple was started in 2993 AB [Ex 12:40-42, Feb 4]				← 975 Rehoboam king	3030		
Tribes not mentioned, as such, in Judges: Simeon (except 1:1-19), Levi, Gad							

Family Trees

[Back: [Derived from Ruth 4:18-22 // 1Ch 2:3-15](#)]

Judah's Descendants [sons indented, grandsons indented more, etc.]			
<i>Sons indicated by indentation:</i>			
Judah	[cf. Ge 38 // 1Ch 2:3-15]		
	[by Shua's daughter, Judah's first wife]		
Er	[died in Canaan]		
Onan	[died in Canaan]		
Shelah	[cf. 1Ch 2:3 ; 1Ch 4:21 :]		
Er	[leader of Lecah]		
Laadah	[leader of Mareshah (cf. 1Ch 2:42)]		
	"the families of the house of the linen workers of the house of Ashbea"		
Jokim			
	"the men of <u>Chozeba</u> "		
Joash			
Saraph	[who ruled in Moab]		
Jashubi-Lehem			
	[by Tamar, Judah's second wife]		
Perez	[Ge 38:24-30 :] [also 1Ch 4:1]		
Hezron	[born just before the move to Egypt; Ru 4:18-22 :]		
Jerameel	[1Ch 2:9 ; firstborn: 1Ch 2:25]		
/ /	[his descendants are given on thenext page]		
Ram	[born in Egypt, and his son:]		
Amminadab	[Aaron's father-in-law]		
Nahshon	[Aaron's brother-in-law]		
Salmon	[by wife Rahab: Mt 1:5a :]		
Boaz	[by wife Ruth: Ru 4:13 :]		
Obed			
Jesse	[1Ch 2:13-15 :] [Cont'd next column.]		

				Eliab 1 st
				Abinadab 2 nd
				Shimea 3 rd
				Nethanel 4 th
				Raddai 5 th
				Ozem 6 th
				David 7 th [<i>for 8th: 1Sa 16:10, 17:12</i>]
				Zeruiah [<i>a sister: 1Ch 2:16-17:]</i>]
				Abishai
				Joab
				Asahel
				Abigail [<i>a sister: 1Ch 2:16-17:]</i>]
				Amasa [<i>father: Ismaelite Jether</i>]
				Elisheba [<i>sister of Nahshon; Aaron's wife: Ex 6:23</i>]
				Chelubai [1Ch 2:9 ; aka Caleb: 2Ch 2:18 ; see his progeny below]
				Hamul
				Zerah [1Ch 2:6 :]
				Zimri
				Ethan
				Azariah
				Heman
				Calcol
				Dara
				[1Ch 4:2e,3 seems to add (re Zerah, leader of Etam?):]
				Jezreel
				Ishma
				Idbash
				Hazeleponi [<i>their sister</i>]
				... [<i>unknown connection other than "of the tribe of Judah"</i>]
				Zerah [<i>Different Zerah from Judah's son: Jos 7:1,18</i>]
				Zabdi
				Carmi
				Achan [<i>aka Achar in 1Ch 2:7</i>]

Hezron [[1Ch 2:9:](#)] [[also 1Ch 4:1](#)] [*descendants of Jerameel, Chelubai:*]
 Jerameel [*firstborn: 1Ch 2:25:*]
 | Ram [[1Ch 2:27:](#)]
 | Maaz
 | Jamin
 | Eker
 | Bunah
 | Oren
 | Ozem
 | Ahijah
 | [*by Jerameel's wife Atarah; 1Ch 2:26:*]
 | Onam [[1Ch 2:28a:](#)]
 | Shammai [[1Ch 2:28b:](#)]
 | Nadab [[1Ch 2:30:](#)]
 | Seled [*died without children*]
 | Appaim [[1Ch 2:31](#)]
 | Ishi
 | Sheshan [*no sons, 1Ch 2:34-41:*]
 | Ahlai [*one daughter, married to Egyptian Jarha*]
 | Attai
 | Nathan
 | Zabad
 | Ephlal
 | Obed
 | Jehu
 | Azariah
 | Helez
 | Eleasah
 | Sismai
 | Shallum
 | Jekamiah
 | Elishama
 | Abishur [*by wife Abihail; 1Ch 2:29:*]
 | Ahban
 | Molid
 | Jada [*brother of Shammai; 1Ch 2:32:*]
 | Jether [*died without children*]
 | Jonathan [[1Ch 2:33:](#)]
 | Peleth
 | Zaza

Ram [See his progeny in the family tree above]
 [Continued from prior column (Jerameel is his brother).]
 Chelubai aka Caleb [the brother of Jerameel; [1Ch 2:42-45:](#)]
 [apparently aka Carmi: [1Ch 4:1](#)]
 Mesha [firstborn; father of Ziph, who founded a town called Ziph?]
 | Ziph
 Mareshah [text seems ambiguous here]
 | Hebron
 | Korah
 | Tappuah
 | Rekem
 | | Shammai
 | | Maon [leader of Beth Zur]
 | Shema
 | | Raham [leader of Jorkoam]
 [by concubine Ephah: [1Ch 2:46:](#)]
 Haran
 | Gazez
 Moza
 Gazez
 [by wife Azubah; [1Ch 2:18:](#)]
 Jeshar
 Shobab
 Ardon
 [by wife Ephrathah: [1Ch 2:50](#)]; [1Ch 2:19:](#)]
 Hur [firstborn of Ephrathah: [1Ch 2:50](#)] [[1Ch 4:1](#); [1Ch 2:20:](#)]
 | Uri
 | | Bezalel [Called artisan for the Tabernacle: [Ex 31:2](#)]
 | [[1Ch 2:50-51](#) seem to add:]
 Shobal [leader of Kirjath Jearim; [1Ch 4:1](#); [1Ch 2:52-53:](#)]
 | Haroeh
 | | “half of the families of Manuhoth”
 | | [[1Ch 4:1-2](#) seems to add:]
 | Reaiah
 | | Jahath
 | | Ahumai
 | | Lahad [Continued this column below:]

| | Salma [*leader of Bethlehem; [1Ch 2:54](#):*]
 | | | Bethlehem
 | | | “the Netophathites”
 | | | Atroth Beth Joab
 | | | “half of the Manahethites”
 | | | “the Zorites”
 | | Hareph [*leader of Beth Gader*]
 | | [*1Ch 4:4 seems to add:*]
 | | Penuel [*leader of Gedor*]
 | | Ezer [*leader of Hushah*]
 | [*by Caleb’s concubine Maachah; [1Ch 2:48-49](#):*]
 | Sheber
 | Tirhana
 | Shaaph [*leader of Madmannah*]
 | Sheva [*leader of Machbenah and Gibeon*]
 | **Achsah** [*daughter of Caleb; context may mean Maachah = mother*]
 Kenaz [*Caleb’s younger brother; [Judg 1:13a](#); [1Ch 4:13](#):*]
 | **Othniel** [*wife: **Achsah**; [Judg 1:13b](#); 1st judge after Joshua: [Judg 3:9b](#)*]
 | | Hathath
 | | Meonothai
 | | Ophrah
 | Seraiah
 | | Joab [*leader of Ge Harashim*]
 [*at 60, by wife: daughter of Machir the leader of Gilead; [1Ch 2:21-22](#):*]
 Segub
 | Jair [*who had 23 cities in the land of Gilead*]
 | [*so not the 8th judge, who had 30 cities in Gilead? [Judg 10:3](#)*]
 [*by wife Abijah, just after Hezron died; [1Ch 2:24](#)*]
 Ashhur [*who became the leader of Tekoa; [1Ch 2:24b](#), [4:5-7](#)*]
 [*by wife Naarah; [1Ch 4:6](#)*]
 Ahuzzam
 Hopher
 Temeni
 Haahashtari
 [*by wife Helah; [1Ch 4:7](#)*]
 Zereth
 Zohar
 Ethnan

Introduction to the Book of Judges (shophetim)

by Steve Gregg, Summer 2011

I. Authorship and time of writing

A. Attributed to Samuel by Jewish tradition

B. Time markers:

1. After the removal of the tabernacle and the ark from Shiloh (18:31; 20:27)
2. After Saul became king (17:6 / 18:1; 19:1; 21:25)
3. Before David conquered Jerusalem (1:21)
4. After the “captivity of the land” ??? (18:30)

II. Period covered

A. Dates: approx. 1425 to 1100 BC (325 years) [exact: 1424 to 1101: 324]

Contrast total number of given oppressions and judgeships (410 years)

Some judgeships overlapped in different areas [See [Timeline](#) above.]

B. Political character of Israel:

1. Theocracy: Ruled by God (8:22-23), primarily through the persons of the High Priest (not mentioned in Judges), prophets (4:4; 6:8; 1Sa 3:20), and occasional judges (2:16, etc.);
2. Amphictyony; like a republican confederacy, with tribes or cities recognizing the leadership of elders and “princes” [NKJV “leaders”] (2:7; 8:15; 11:5).

III. What was a “Judge” (Heb. shophet)?

A. The career of a Judge: Lead military missions; arbitrate in legal disputes

B. The number of Judges

Twelve men, plus “Deborah the prophetess”, plus Abimelech the usurper Eli and Samuel were also Judges, after the close of this book

IV. Structure of the book

A. *Introductions* (ch.1-2):

1. Preliminary introduction ([1:1-2:5](#))
2. Second introduction ([2:6-3:7](#)) [Ed: I see this as more of an Overview of the entire book; 2:6-9 parallels Jos 24:28-31]

B. *Main body: The cycles of sin and deliverance* (3:8—chapter 16)

1. Othniel ([3:8-11](#))
2. Ehud and Shamgar ([3:12-31](#))
3. Deborah and Barak ([chs.4-5](#))
4. Gideon ([chs.6-8:28](#)) and Abimelech ([8:29-ch.9](#)); Tola and Jair ([10:1-5](#))
5. Jephthah ([10:6—12:7](#)); then Ibzan & Elon & Abdon ([12:8-15](#))
6. Samson ([chs.13-16](#)) [but first Samuel starts as prophet: [1Sa 3:19-7:2](#)]

C. *Two Appendices* (chs.17-21)

1. Micah and the Danites (chs.17-18) [follows [Jos 19:48](#)]
2. The Levite and the concubine ([chs.19-21](#))

V. Lessons of the book

- A. Israel’s utilitarian attitude toward religion: no love for God, just looking to Him for occasional deliverances;
- B. God preferred to allow people to do what was right in their own eyes than to impose a monarchical authority;
- C. God will discipline His own children, when they need it;
- D. God works through men upon whom the Spirit rests and through the Spirit’s gifting;
- E. Charismatic men often are flawed characters.

1 Chronicles 2:47,53,55 loose ends

[No prior mention. Why?] 47

And the sons of **Jahdai** were Regem [“friend”], Jotham [“perfect is **YHWH**”], Geshan [“lump”], Pelet [“deliverance”], Ephah [“gloomy”], and Shaaph [“division”]. 48

53 The families of **Kirjath Jearim** were the Ithrites [“a remnant: excellence”], the Puthites [“openness”], the Shumathites [“the exalted”], and the Mishraites [“touching evil”].

From these came the Zorathites [“hornets”] and the Eshtaolites [“I will be entreated”]. 54

55 And the families of the scribes who dwelt at **Jabez** [“sorrow/pain”] were the Tirathites [“men of the gates”], the Shimeathites [“reports”], and the Suchathites [“bush-men”].

These were the Kenites [“smiths”] who came from **Hammath** [“fortress”], the **leader** of **the house of Rechab** [“rider”].

1 Chronicles 4 loose ends

3 [No prior mention. Why?]

These were the sons of the **leader** of **Etam** [“lair of wild beasts”]:

Jezreel [“God sows”], Ishma [“desolation”], and Idbash [“stout”]; and the name of their sister was Hazeleponi [“facing the shade”]; 4 and [By a different wife?]

Penuel [“facing God”] the **leader** of **Gedor** [“wall”], and Ezer [“treasure”] the **leader** of **Hushah** [“haste”].

These were the “sons” of **Hur** (the firstborn of **Ephrathah**) the **leader** of **Bethlehem** [“house of bread”]. 5 ...

8 and [No prior mention. Why?]

Koz [“thorn”] begot Anub [“confederate”], Zobebah [“the slow”], and the families of Aharhel [“a following host”] the son of Harum [“exalted”].

[No prior mention except as a city (2:55). Why?]

9 Now **Jabez** [“sorrow/pain”] was more honorable than his brothers, ...

11 ¶ [No prior mention. Why?]

Chelub [“caged”] the brother of Shuhah [“wealth”] begot Mehir [“price”], who was the **father** of Eshton [“effeminate”]. 12

And Eshton begot Beth-Rapha [“house of healing”], Paseah [“limper”], and

Tehinnah [“supplication”]

the **leader** of

Ir-Nahash [“city of a serpent”].

These were the men of **Rechah** [“uttermost part”]. 13 ...

15 [Who was the father Jephuneh???

The sons of **Caleb** the son of Jephuneh [“He will be facing”] were Iru [“watch”],

Elah [“an oak”], and Naam [“pleasantness”].

The son of **Elah** was Kenaz [“hunter”]. 16

[No prior mention. Why?]

The sons of **Jehallelel** were Ziph [“battlement”], Ziphah [“battlement”],

Tiria [“fear”], and Asarel [“God holds”]. 17

[No prior mention. Why?]

The sons of **Ezrah** were Jether [“abundance”], **Mered** [“rebellion”], Ephher [“a calf”], and Jalon [“**YHWH** lodges”].

And **Mered’s** wife [v18b] bore Miriam [“rebellion”], Shammai [“desolate”], and Ishbah [“he will praise”]

the **leader** of **Eshtemoa** [“I will make myself heard”]. 18

(His [**Mered’s**?] wife Jehudijah [“Jewess”] bore Jered [“descent”]

the **leader** of **Gedor** [“wall”], Heber [“comrade”]

the **leader** of **Sochoh** [“bushy”], and

Jekuthiel [“cleansing of God”] the **leader** of **Zanoah** [“cast off”].)

And these were the sons of Bithiah [“**YHWH**’s daughter”] the daughter of Pharaoh, whom **Mered** took. 19

[No prior mention. Why?]

The sons of Hodiah’s [“majesty of **YHWH**”] wife, the sister of Naham [“comfort”], were the **leaders** of **Keilah** [“fortress”] the Garmite [“bony”] and of **Eshtemoa** [“I will make myself heard”] the Maachathite [“pressure”; lit., “she has pressed”]. 20

[No prior mention. Why?]

And the sons of Shimon [“desert”] were

Amnon [“faithful”], Rinnah [“shout”], Ben-Hanan [“son of favor”], and Tilon [“gift”].

[Not the Ishi of 2:31?]

And the sons of Ishi [“He saves me”] were Zoheth [“releasing”] and Ben-Zoheth [“son of Zoreth”]. 21 ...

22f

Now the records are ancient. 23 These were the potters and those who dwell at **Netaim** [“among plants”] and **Gederah** [“hedge”]; there they dwelt with the king [which???] for his work.

1 Kings 6:1 Next major milestone:
Exodus to the Temple: 479 Years, 2 months

6:1 ¶ And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth [480th] year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth [4th] year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv ["brightness"], which is the second [2nd] month, that he began to build the house of Y^{HWH}.

[So 2993 AB (After the Beginning; BC dates below are deduced from later data, working back from 586 BC.)]

The 479 Years (per Jones)

JUDGE/KING NAME	JUDGESHIP LENGTH
Moses (Heshbon taken in the 39th year: Nu 21:21-31)	40
Joshua	27
Elders Who Outlived Joshua	24
3. Othniel (Caleb's younger bro.)	40
4. Ehud	80
3. Shamgar	0
4. Deborah (and Barak)	40
5. Gideon (aka Jerubbaal)	40
Abimelech (Gideon's son)	3
6. Tola	23
7. Jair (Judges 11:26) (300 years back to a year before before Joshua: Heshbon taken)	22
8. Jephthah	6
9. Ibzan (Last 2 years of Ibzan: 40-year Philistine domination began)	7
10. Elon	10
11. Abdon	8
12. Samson	20
(Othniel through Samson: 299 years = the main period covered by the book of Judges)	
Samuel's first 6 years as prophet	6
Saul as 1st king	40
David as 2nd king	40
Solomon starts the temple (in his 4th & the 480th year) 479 So the temple was started in 2993 AB [Ex 12:40-42, Feb 4]	3

Samuel's Lineage

OPPRESSOR	DURATION	Dates BC	Dates AB	JUDGE'S TRIBE
Israel - to Egypt @ 130 (Ge 47:9) aka Jacob - died @ 147 (Ge 47:28)		← 1491	The Exodus 2514	Levi
Levi - died @ 137 (Ex 6:16)		← 1452		
Kohath - died @ 133 (Ex 6:18)		← 1413		
Izhar - Bro. Amram died @ 137 (6:20)		← 1374	The Conquest 2554	Ephraim
Korah - died as rebel in wild. (Nu 16)		← 1474	The Elders 2581	various?
- cuz. Moses died @ 120 (De 34:7)		← 1400	Othniel 2605	Judah
Mesopotamia		← 1400	Ehud 2645	Benjamin
Moab		← 1360		
Assir		← Events of Ruth ~ Ehud end?	~2723	
Tahath				
Philistines	0	(no times given; part of Ehud?)	~2725	Judah? (killed)
Zephaniah		← 1280	Deborah 2725	Ephraim Ash
Canaanites	20	← 1240	Gideon 2765	Manasseh
Azariah		← 1200		
Midian	7	← 1200		Ephraim? (S)
Joel		← 1197	Tola 2808	Issachar
Elkanah		← 1174	Jair 2831	(Gilead)
None mentioned		← 1174		
None mentioned		← 1174		
Philistines, Ammon	18	← 1174		
Amasai				
Maath				
Elkanah				
(last 18 of Jair's 22 yrs)			2835	
~1153 Samson, Samuel born		← 1152	Jephthah 2853	(Gilead)
Zuph		← 1146	Ibzan 2859	Judah (Bethl)
Ammon		← 1141		
Philistines		← 1141		
Jeroham		← 1139		
Elkanah		← 1139	Elon 2866	Zebulun
cont'd Philistines	10	← 1129	Abdon 2876	Ephraim
Samuel		← 1121	Samson 2884	Dan
cont'd Philistines	20	← 1101	End Phistine Dom. 2904	
Philistines total	40	← 1101		
← 1101 Samuel's 1st six years			2904	
Jones reasons that:		← 1095	Saul king 2910	Benjamin
Samuel died at ~92, ~2944 AB		← 1055	David king 2950	Judah
		← 1015	Solomon king 2990	Judah
(479 + 2514 AB = 2993 AB)		← 1012	the temple started 2993	
← 975 Rehoboam king			3030	

