Session 11: The Time of the Judges	
Remember Acts 17:11	
Outline of the Historical Books (Pre-Exile):  Joshua: The Conquest of the Land  Judges: The Generation After Joshua  Ruth: A Story of Love & Grace  I Samuel:  II Samuel:  I Kings:  II Kings:  II Chronicles:  II Chronicles:  Recap From Joshua:  - The Promised Land Has Been Taken by Israel  Organized Into Regional States Based on Tribe  Divided Into Cities/Farms Based on Clans & Families  Joshua Reminds Israel of its Covenantal  Obligations (Cf. Josh. Ch. 24)	
The Book of Judges:  - Hebrew Root: "Sapat" (To Rule, Govern, Judge) - Attributed to Samuel (Circa 1050 BC) - History of Israel (1380 – 1050BC) - Theocracy ("God is King") - States Governed by Tribal Elders - Judges: Prophetic Chieftains Responsible for Ensuring that God's Will is Carried Out in Israel & Charged with Delivering Israel from their Neighbors - Prelude to the Kingdom & the Biblical Concept of Kingship  Outline: 1-2 (Prologue) Last Days of Joshua (2) Israel's Sin & Judgement 3 – 16 External Persecution & Deliverance 17 – 21 Internal Strife & Disobedience (Ref. Session 3: "The Cyclical Nature of Human Nature")	

Journey Through the Bible: A Year of Our Lord

Central Themes:	
<ul> <li>(Josh) God Called Israel to be a Model of a Moral and Just People that Would Point the World to Him</li> <li>Without Faithfulness to God, the People are the Same as their Pagan Neighbors</li> <li>With Each Cycle, the Corruption Increases</li> <li>Those Who God Chooses are Still Flawed Humans         <ul> <li>God Does Not Necessarily Condone Their Actions</li> </ul> </li> <li>Even When the People Are Not Faithful, God Is</li> <li>You Become Like the God You Worship</li> <li>God Corrects Those He Loves (Heb. 12:6)</li> </ul>	
Prologue(1-2)  - Israel Ignored God's Order to Drive Out the Canaanites  ○ Made Treaties or Made into a Labor Class  - Embraced Canaanite Idolatry  - Became Morally Corrupt  - Participated in Immoral Worship  ○ Sexual Promiscuity & Human Sacrifice  - Israel Adopted Elements of the Canaanite Culture & Intermarried with Them  - With Each Repeat of the Cycle, the Corruption Increases  The Faithful Judges(3-4): Othniel, Ehud, Deborah  - Characterized by Faithfulness to God  - Israel is Oppressed by Arameans, Moabites, Canaanites  - Defeated by God through the Judge & Their Forces	
<ul> <li>Gideon(6-9):</li> <li>Oppressed by the Midianites</li> <li>Asks for Evidence of God's Call</li> <li>Defeats the Midianite Forces with 300 Men</li> <li>Characterized by a Fierce Temper</li> <li>Sets Up an Idol Made from Plundered Gold</li> <li>Establishes a Ruling Dynasty from His Own Family</li> </ul>	

Jeph <u>ti</u> - - - - -	hah(10-12): Illegitimate Son of Gilead (Driven from the City) Oppressed by the Ammonites Promised Political Leadership for Military Service Makes Sacrificial "Deal" with God Defeats the Ammonites Sacrifices Daughter  • Treats God as Part of the Canaanite Pantheon Fought a Civil War Against Ephraim	
Sams	on(13-16):	
-	Dark Reflection of Samuel's Story	
-	Born to a Barron Woman (Dedicated as a Nazarite)	
	<ul> <li>Ritually Set Apart for God: Sobriety, Ritual</li> </ul>	
	Purity, Refrain from Cutting Hai	
	o God Granted Him Extraordinary Strength	
-	Oppression by the Philistines	
-	Characterized by Unrighteous Personality Traits	
	<ul><li>Sexual Promiscuity</li><li>Violent (Wrathful)</li></ul>	
	o Proud	
_	God Remains Faithful to Samson Despite Samson's	
	Unfaithfulness	
	<ul> <li>When Samson's Vow is Completely Broken,</li> </ul>	
	God's Empowerment is Revoked	
-	God Grants Samson One Final Favor which Costs His	
	Life	
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Mıcal	n's Private Temple (17-18):	
-	Stole 1,100 Shekels of Silver from His Mother	
	<ul><li>Returns it and is Forgiven</li><li>His Mother Consecrates the Silver to the Lord so</li></ul>	
	that it May Be Used to Cast an Idol for Him	
	<ul> <li>Creates a Shrine in His Home &amp; Installs a Son as</li> </ul>	
	Priest	
_	A Levite from Bethlehem Travels to Micah's Home	
	<ul> <li>Micah Installs Him as Priest &amp; Offers a Yearly</li> </ul>	
	Income	
	<ul> <li>Soldiers from Dan ask the Levite for a Prophecy</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>They Later Steal the Shrine and Recruit the</li> </ul>	
	Levite	
-	Danites Worshipped the Idol After Their Conquest of	
	Laish	

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The Levite's Concubine(19-21):	
- Traveling (with Concubine) to Restore His Marriage	
<ul> <li>Unable to Find Accommodations</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Concubine is Raped &amp; Dies</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Levite Dismembers Her and Sends 12 Pieces</li> </ul>	
Throughout Israel	
- Incites Tribes to Obliterate Benjamin	
o Only 600 Left	
<ul> <li>Assist in Choregraphed Kidnapping to Save the</li> </ul>	
Tribe	
The Degradation of Women:	
Benchmark for Increasing Cultural Depravity	
- Deborah (Leader of Israel)	
- Jepthah's Daughter (Victim of Spiritual Ignorance)	
- The Concubine (Human as Object)	
The Book of Ruth:	
- Formerly Part of <u>Judges</u>	
- Attributed to Samuel	
- Setting: Bethlehem (Faithful Community)	
- Establishes the Background of the Royal Line	
Outline:	
1 The Challenge & the Resolve of Love	
- Ruth's Conversion & Loyalty to Naomi	
- Ruth's Conversion & Loyalty to Naomi  The Return & Provision of Love	
2 The Return & Provision of Love	
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Goel (Cont.):	
- Legal Qualifications	
<ul> <li>Male Next of Kin</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Willing to Assume Responsibility</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Capable of Ensuring Care of the Family's</li> </ul>	
Destitute & Property (Debts & Resources)	
± •	
<ul> <li>No Conflicting Responsibilities</li> </ul>	
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Levirate (Deut. 25:5-10):	
- If a Husband Dies Prior to Having an Heir	
<ul> <li>The Oldest Brother Marries His Widow</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Offers Her His Resources and Protection</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Raises a Son in the Name of the Deceased</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Redeems the Deceased's Land for the Children</li> </ul>	
Considerations:	
- Gentile Marriage (Especially Moabite) was Forbidden	
(Ref. Deut. 7:2-3; 23:3)	
- God Also Works Through Grace	
(Ref. Rom. 8:3; John 6:37; Eph. 2:11-19)	
- Bethlehem was a Conservative Exception to Judges	
(Ref. Judges 2:11-19)	
Prophetic Types (Ch. 1):	
Naomi: Israel, Returning to the Land After a Period of	
Desolation.	
Ruth: The Church, Gentile Bride Brought into the Family	
of God. First, Through Faith then Through	
Marriage.	
Boaz: Christ, Kinsman-Redeemer Who Redeems the Land	
and Formalizes the Bride as a Member of the Family	
and Welcomes Her into the Land of His Father as	
Her New Home.	
Law of Gleaning and Provision (2:2)	
- The Owner of a Field Could Only Harvest in 1 Pass	
and Had to Leave the Corners Unharvested	
- The Remainder & The Scattered Was Available for the	
Poor, the Widow, and the Traveler	
(Lev. 19:9-10; Deut. 24:19-21)	

<ul> <li>Threshing Floor: Large Flat Area Where the Wind Can Separate the Grain from the Chaff</li> <li>Prophetically Symbol of Judgement</li> </ul>	
The Proposal (3:9) Hem of a Robe (Ornate Bottom Strip) - Blue Thread Included as Sign of Mosaic Covenant - Pattern Symbolizing Tribe and Family - Identifies Authority within a Community - to "Spread your skirt" was to Bring Under Your Protection Ref. Ezk. 16&39	
For Discussion:  Share Reading and Journal Highlights.  Consider Along with the Bible:  What is Your Idea of Kingship?  What Defines a Godly Leader?  What Defines a Prophet?	