

Old Testament Overview

Joshua-Ruth

(Gn 12:2-3, 7)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on "Old Testament Overview."
 - a. We looked last week at Gn - Dt.
 - i. The Torah or Pentateuch.
 - b. Today we will be examining "Joshua-Ruth."
3. We see a number of events take place during these three books.
 - a. We see a time of great conquest (Joshua), a time of great despair (Judges), and a time of courageous faith (Ruth).
 - b. Within these three books we find the fulfillment of many promises by God in **Gn 12:2-3**.
 - i. We find the land promise being fulfilled.
 1. **Gn 12:7** "Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him."¹
 2. **Js 21:43-45** "So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. 44 The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. 45 Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass."
 - ii. We find the lineage continued through Ruth a Gentile.
 1. Here we see courageous faith in Ruth leaving her people for God's people and making the God her God.
 - a. **Ru 1:16** "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."
 - b. **Mt 1:5** "Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse"
4. Let us now look at these three great books.

I. Joshua

- A. The title comes from...
 1. The name of the leader of Israel Joshua.
 - i. Joshua literally means "Jehovah saves."
 1. Joshua is the Hebrew equivalent to Jesus."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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- B. Historical background
 - 1. Picks up with the death of Moses.
 - 2. God then makes Joshua his new leader.
 - 3. The Israelites conquer the promise land.
- C. Outline
 - 1. Chapters 1-12 Conquest & Occupation of Canaan
 - 2. Chapters 12-22 Disposition & Settlement of land allotments
 - 3. Chapters 23-24 Joshua's farewell address
- D. Lessons gleaned from Joshua
 - 1. God always accomplishes His goals.
 - i. **Js 22:4** "And now the LORD your God has given rest to your brethren, as He promised them; now therefore, return and go to your tents and to the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan."
 - ii. **Ne 1:5** "And I said: "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments"
 - iii. **II Pt 3:9** "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."
 - iv. **Ti 1:2** "in hope of eternal life which **God, who cannot lie**, promised before time began" (emphasis mine)
 - 2. God is an awesome (awe inspiring) God.
 - i. **Js 1:3** "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses."
 - ii. **Dt 7:21** "You shall not be terrified of them; for the LORD your God, the great and awesome God, is among you."
 - iii. **Ne 9:32** "Now therefore, our God, The great, the mighty, and awesome God, Who keeps covenant and mercy..."
 - 3. God takes care of His people.
 - i. **Js 1:9** "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
 - ii. **Ps 23:4** "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."
 - iii. **Is 41:10** "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."
 - iv. **I Co 15:55-57** "'O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?' 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

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II. Judges

- A. The title comes from...
 - 1. The description of those that lead God's people during this time.
- B. Historical background
 - 1. Picks up with the death of Joshua the leader of Israel.
 - 2. You then find a roller coaster of ups and downs.
 - i. Judges has often been described as the "sin cycle" of the Bible.
 - ii. They would be good while the judge was alive and then he/she would die and they would fall into apostasy then the cycle would begin again.
- C. Outline
 - 1. Chapters 1-2 Background conditions after Joshua's death
 - 2. Chapter 3-16 Oppressions and the judges
 - 3. Chapter 17-21 Appendix showing the extent of the apostasy
- D. Lessons gleaned from Judges
 - 1. God's for you who can be against you.
 - i. **Jg 15:15** "He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it."
 - ii. **Ps 118:6** "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"
 - iii. **Ps 138:7** "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me."
 - iv. **Ro 8:28** "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me."
 - v. **Ph 4:13** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
 - 2. God's against you who is for you.
 - i. **Jb 11:20** "But the eyes of the wicked will fail, And they shall not escape, And their hope— loss of life!"
 - ii. **I Th 5:3** "For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape."
 - 3. Man will fail when left to his own imagination.
 - i. **Jg 2:11** "Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals"
 - ii. **Jg 3:7** "So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs."
 - a. **Jg 3:12, 15; 4:1; 6:1; 13:1**
 - iii. **Jg 17:6** "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
 - a. **Jg 21:25**
 - 4. There must always be proper faithful leadership.
 - i. Without leaders there is no leadership.
 - ii. This is why God has always had leaders.
 - a. Whether it was judges, priests, prophets, kings, or elders.
 - iii. Leadership is essential to spiritual growth and vitality.

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III. Ruth

- A. The title comes from...
 - 1. The main person of the book, Ruth a Moabite.
- B. Historical background
 - 1. It is set during the time of the Judges.
 - 2. We don't know when it was written but mostly likely around the time of David.
 - 3. It is a breath of fresh air considering this time frame and time of apostasy.
 - 4. It is about a woman named Ruth, a Moabite, who stays with her mother-in-law after her husband, her sister-in-laws husband, and her mother-in-laws husband all passes away.
 - 5. Ruth become an essential part of the scheme of redemption when she marries Boaz and become a part, as a Gentile, of the lineage that leads to Jesus.
- C. Outline
 - 1. Chapter 1 Ruth's resolution
 - 2. Chapter 2 Ruth's relationship with Boaz
 - 3. Chapter 3 Ruth's arrangement to marry
 - 4. Chapter 4 Ruth's marriage and birth of a son
- D. Lessons gleaned from Ruth
 - 1. Even if chaos seems to be everywhere there is always good somewhere.
 - i. Even during this difficult and sinful period of time for the Israelites we find good.
 - ii. **I Ki 19:10, 18** "So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life...18 Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."
 - 2. God cares for everyone Jew & Gentile.
 - i. **Jn 3:16** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
 - ii. **Mk 16:15** "And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."
 - iii. **Ac 2:39** "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."
 - 3. Redemption is so great.
 - i. Type: Boaz redeemed Ruth.
 - a. He was a kinsman-redeemer ie blood relative.
 - b. He paid the price to redeem Ruth.
 - ii. Antitype: Christ redeemed us.
 - a. He became our kinsman-redeemer - **Ro 1:3**
 - b. he paid the price to redeem us - **Ga 2:20; I Co 7:23**

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CONCLUSION

1. Throughout this time frame one thing is clear God's people were consistently inconsistent.
 - a. Question for us to ask ourselves...are we consistently inconsistent?
 - b. If we want to get to heaven we must become consistent in righteousness.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7**
2. Invitation
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**