

One Nation
Under God



HILLCREST BIBLE CHURCH
Sunday School
Fall 2024

One Nation Under God

A Study of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth

*Be strong and of a good courage,
for unto this people
shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land,
which I sware unto their fathers to give them.
Joshua 1:6*

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Introduction

In ceremonies throughout the United States of America, voices are daily raised in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Citizens boldly claim that this is “one nation under God.” Whatever good intentions the Congress had in 1954 when it added “under God” to the pledge, the realities of life in 2024 give the lie to this pious assertion. A more apt description would be that of the prophet Hosea: “...there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land” (Hosea 4:1). While the sovereign rule of God over this and every nation is an unassailable fact, there is no national sense of submission to the rule of the One True God. Consequently, sin reigns and the incomparable blessings of being “one nation under God” are forfeited.

There was a day when that statement was true. However, it is not found in the history books of the United States of America. It is found in the early history of the Bible. More particularly, it is found in the book of Joshua. God had just wrested His people from bondage in Egypt and carried them through the formative years in the wilderness. They were poised on the edge of the Promised Land. They had God’s Law and His promise that they were to be His peculiar people. Under the leadership of Joshua, they were to occupy their inheritance and reside in Canaan as one nation under God. The promises of God’s blessings to them through Moses were amazing. As they lived “under God,” they would prosper in every way. As Joshua prepared to lead the people into the land, the LORD reaffirmed His intention to prosper them. Only, they must meditate upon His Word and obey all that God had spoken to them.

The promise of those days was not long in unraveling. The people soon forgot the

dramatic display of God’s power in transporting the great nation safely across the Jordan and bringing down the invincible walls of Jericho. They liked the consequences of being under God, but they did not like the duty of being under God. They preferred their own way. Too soon the characterization of the day was not “one nation under God,” but “every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”

The process was gradual but relentless. First, it was the sin of Achan after the victory at Jericho. Then, they failed to consult with the LORD in the treaty with the Gibeonites. Later, the individual tribes neglected to expel all the inhabitants in their inheritances. They would remain and be more of an attraction to the people than the wonderful Word of the LORD. At the end of Joshua’s life, he called upon the people to serve the LORD. They readily assented but soon returned to their spiritual decline.

The book of Judges is a contrast between a sinful nation which repeatedly sought to avoid the rule of God and a good God Who graciously drew them back to Himself. The book describes repeated cycles of rebellion, judgment, repentance and deliverance. When the people sinned, God sent an invading enemy to afflict them. When they could not endure their agony, they repented. God then sent a judge to deliver them. Soon, the people returned to their sinful ways and the cycle began again. Thirteen judges provided some measure of deliverance and encouragement to return to the blessing of being a nation under God. The final five chapters of Judges show the depths to which the people had plunged socially and religiously. Religious corruption, immorality and anarchy

Introduction (continued)

ruled the day. God was not in all of their thoughts.

At this time we might remember the warning of Joshua: *“And Joshua said unto the people, ‘Ye cannot serve the LORD: for He is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If ye forsake the LORD and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good”* (Joshua 24:19-20). Nothing remains but for God to pour out His wrath upon this rebellious nation. Instead, the Divine Author shows us a family from Bethlehem in Judah. In the trial of famine, they left the Land of Promise and moved to a nation under God’s curse (Deuteronomy 23:3-4). More than that, the sons married wives from this pagan nation. After the death of the father and sons, one Moabite wife, Ruth, returned to Israel with her mother-in-law. Ruth ultimately became the wife of Boaz, a relative of her father-in-law. From this union ultimately came the Messiah. Here, in the blackness of the days of the judges, God is steadily moving to provide His Messiah to be the Savior of the world. Ruth is a reminder that after all, the Bible is a revelation of God. He had committed Himself to Abraham to bring blessing in all the

earth through the seed of Abraham. The message is clear. Not even the most depraved conduct of a wretched race could prevent the grace of God. Man is undeserving. God’s grace is greater than all our sin. The plan of God remained intact. He would have one nation under God, but it would be under the direct rule of the Son of God Who is the *“restorer of life”* (Ruth 4:15).

The hope of humanity does not rest in our ability to remain under God but in His ability to fulfill His promise. As we study these books, let us keep this perspective. We should not wring our hands in despair at the depravity of the nation Israel even though we know we are made in the same wretched mold. We must rejoice in the God of our salvation. He has decided to bring salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ and the darkest sin will not prevent that plan. Even today as we live in a world where every man does what is right in his own eyes, God is at work. While we may not now live in a nation under God, it is still God’s purpose to put all things under His Son. Our hope is in the offspring of Ruth Whose dominion will be over all of God’s works and finally we will truly be one nation under God.

Schedule

September 1	Lesson 1: Preparing to Enter the Promised Land Joshua 1-2
September 8	Lesson 2: Crossing the Jordan Joshua 3-5
September 15	Lesson 3: Victory at Jericho Joshua 6
September 22	Lesson 4: The Sin of Achan Joshua 7-8
September 29	Lesson 5: The Deceit of the Gibeonites Joshua 9
October 6	Lesson 6: The Land Conquered Joshua 10-12
October 13	Lesson 7: The Land Possessed, part 1 Joshua 13-17
October 20	Lesson 8: The Land Possessed, part 2 Joshua 18-22
October 27	Lesson 9: Joshua's Final Words Joshua 23-24
November 3	Lesson 10: From Joshua to Judges Judges 1-3
November 10	Lesson 11: Deborah the Prophetess Judges 4-5
November 17	Lesson 12: The Sword of the LORD and of Gideon Judges 6-8
November 24	Lesson 13: The Wickedness of Abimelech Judges 9-10
December 1	Lesson 14: Jephthah the Gileadite Judges 11-12
December 8	Lesson 15: Samson the Nazarite Judges 13-16
December 15	Lesson 16: Anarchy in Israel Judges 17-18
December 22	Lesson 17: Civil War in Israel Judges 19-21
December 29	Lesson 18: Ruth the Faithful Moabitess Ruth 1-4

Scripture Memorization

(KJV)

Joshua 1:8

8 This book of the law
shall not depart out of thy mouth;
but thou shalt meditate therein day and night,
that thou mayest observe to do
according to all that is written therein;
for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous,
and then thou shalt have good success.

Psalm 1

1 Blessed is the man
that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners,
nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight
is in the law of the LORD;
and in his law doth he meditate
day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree
planted by the rivers of water,
that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;
his leaf also shall not wither;
and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

4 The ungodly are not so:
but are like the chaff
which the wind driveth away.

5 Therefore the ungodly
shall not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners
in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knoweth
the way of the righteous:
but the way of the ungodly
shall perish.

Scripture Memorization (continued)

Hebrews 4:9-12

- ⁹ There remaineth therefore
a rest to the people of God.
- ¹⁰ For he that is entered into his rest,
he also hath ceased from his own works,
as God did from his.
- ¹¹ Let us labour therefore
to enter into that rest,
lest any man fall
after the same example of unbelief.
- ¹² For the word of God is quick,
and powerful,
and sharper than any twoedged sword,
piercing even to the dividing asunder
of soul and spirit,
and of the joints and marrow,
and is a discerner of the thoughts
and intents of the heart.

Through the Love of God Our Savior

Mary Peters (1813-1856)

Welsh Melody
Arr. by Hyd Y Nos

1. Through the love of God our Sa - vior, All will be well;
2. Though we pass through tri - bu - la - tion, All will be well;
3. We ex - pect a bright to - mor - row, All will be well;

Free and change - less is His fa - vor, All, all is well;
Ours is such a full sal - va - tion, All, all is well;
Faith can sing, through days of sor - row, All, all is well;

Pre - cious is the blood that heal'd us, Per - fect is the grace that seal'd us,
Hap - py, still in God con - fid - ing, Fruit - ful, if in Christ a - bid - ing
On our Fa - ther's love re - ly - ing, Je - sus e - v'ry need sup - ply - ing,

Strong the hand stretch'd out to shield us, All must be well.
Ho - ly, through the Spi - rit's guid - ing, All must be well.
Or in liv - ing or in dy - ing, All must be well. A - men.

Lesson 1: Preparing to Enter the Promised Land

Joshua 1-2

Memory: Joshua 1:8

Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: *After the death of Moses, the LORD told Joshua to lead the people into the Promised Land. He needed strength and courage for this task, but not as a military leader. He needed strength and courage to obey the Word of the LORD. This was his key to success. Joshua then prepared all twelve tribes to cross the Jordan. He sent two men to view the land. They found Rahab in Jericho who told of the fear the people had for the God of Israel. In return for her help in escaping detection, the spies promised deliverance for Rahab and her family.*

1. What did the LORD tell Joshua to do?

2. What promises did the LORD make to Joshua?

3. What was to be the key to Joshua's success?

4. What did Joshua remind the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh?

5. How did these tribes answer Joshua?

6. Who was Rahab, and what did she do when the two spies came to her house?

7. What did Rahab say about why the people of Jericho were frightened?

8. What agreement did the spies make with Rahab?

9. What report did the spies bring to Joshua?

Lesson 2: Crossing the Jordan

Joshua 3-5

Memory: Psalm 1:1 and review

Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

***SUMMARY:** All Israel crossed over the Jordan on dry land. The priests carried the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD into the Jordan, and the LORD opened a dry pathway for the people to cross. Afterward, Joshua built a memorial of 12 stones from the midst of the river. Since this generation of Israelites had not been circumcised in the wilderness, Joshua circumcised them at this time. The manna, their wilderness food, ceased when the people ate the produce of the land. As they waited before Jericho, the LORD appeared to Joshua.*

1. What did the officers tell the people to do?
2. What did Joshua tell the people?
3. What was the significance of the miracle that was about to be done?
4. What happened when the priests carrying the ark stepped into the Jordan?
5. What was the memorial that Joshua built?
6. What was the purpose of this memorial?
7. What had the people failed to do in their years in the wilderness?
8. What happened the day after the people ate the produce of the land?
9. Who did Joshua meet as they waited before Jericho?

Lesson 3: Victory at Jericho

Joshua 6

Memory: Psalm 1:2 and review

Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: Jericho was securely shut up. The LORD told Joshua to march his soldiers silently around the city following the ark and seven priests blowing trumpets. They must do so once daily and then seven times on the seventh day. After the last circuit, the priests blew a trumpet blast, the people shouted and the walls of Jericho fell flat. The destruction of the city was total. Only Rahab and her family were saved. The city was burned, but the gold and silver were brought into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

1. What unusual instructions did the LORD give for the capture of Jericho?
2. What did Joshua tell the people to do?
3. What did Joshua tell Israel about the people in the city?
4. What did Joshua tell Israel about the spoils of the city?
5. What happened on the seventh day?
6. What did Joshua tell the two men who had spied out Jericho to do?
7. What happened to the city and its contents?
8. What did Joshua say about the rebuilding of Jericho?
9. What was the result of the victory at Jericho?

Lesson 4: The Sin of Achan

Joshua 7-8

Memory: Psalm 1:3 and review

Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: *Fresh from their victory over Jericho, Joshua sent a small contingent of men against Ai. To their great surprise, the Israelites were routed. When Joshua inquired of the LORD about this defeat, the LORD told him that Israel had committed a great sin in their victory at Jericho. The perpetrator of this sin, Achan, was taken with his household and killed. Joshua then led the people to a great victory over Ai. Afterward, Israel celebrated in a ceremony at Mount Ebal which Moses had commanded them in Deuteronomy 27.*

1. Why was the LORD angry with Israel?

2. What happened at the battle against Ai?

3. How did Joshua react to the defeat at Ai?

4. What explanation did the LORD give Joshua?

5. What did the LORD tell Joshua to do?

6. What happened when Achan and his sin were discovered?

7. What was the battle plan in the second attack on Ai?

8. What was the result of this second battle against Ai?

9. Why did Joshua take Israel up to Mount Ebal, and what did they do there?

Lesson 5: The Deceit of the Gibeonites

Joshua 9

Memory: Psalm 1:4 and review

Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

***SUMMARY:** While all the Canaanite kings gathered to fight against Israel, the Gibeonites plotted a different strategy. They pretended to be ambassadors from a distant country. The Israelites were initially suspicious but accepted their story when they saw the worn clothing and moldy bread of the Gibeonites. Without consulting with the LORD, a covenant of peace was made. When the deceit was recognized, the Israelites honored their covenant, but made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the congregation and the altar.*

1. What preparations did the kings of the land make to meet Joshua and Israel?

2. What preparations did the Gibeonites make?

3. What did the Gibeonites tell Joshua?

4. How did the Gibeonites answer the suspicions of the men of Israel?

5. What did Joshua and the men of Israel do after they heard what the Gibeonites said?

6. What did the children of Israel find out about the Gibeonites?

7. Why did the children of Israel murmur against their rulers?

8. What decision did Joshua and the rulers make about the Gibeonites?

9. What explanation did the Gibeonites give for their behavior?

Lesson 6: The Land Conquered

Joshua 10-12

Memory: Psalm 1:5 and review

Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: *The king of Jerusalem came with four other kings to attack Gibeon. Under terms of their covenant with Gibeon, Joshua joined the battle. The LORD delivered the five kings into the hand of Joshua. The slaughter was so great that the LORD lengthened the day to permit Joshua to finish the battle. After this, Joshua led Israel on a successful campaign to defeat and destroy the people of the south. He then led a successful campaign in the north. Joshua completed all that the LORD had instructed through Moses.*

1. What did the king of Jerusalem do when he heard about Ai and Gibeon?

2. Why did Joshua join the battle?

3. What did the LORD do in the battle to defend Gibeon from the five kings?

4. What was unique about that day of battle?

5. What happened to the five kings?

6. What did Joshua do at each of the cities he fought against in the south?

7. What did the kings of the north do when they heard of Joshua's successful campaign in the south?

8. How did the LORD encourage Joshua?

9. Why did all these people come out to make war with Israel?

Lesson 7: The Land Possessed, part 1

Joshua 13-17

Memory: Psalm 1:6 and review

Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: *The LORD commands Joshua to begin allotting the promised land to the tribes of Israel. The tribes which were to the east of the Jordan, Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh received their lot from Moses. Of the tribes to the west of the Jordan, Judah, Ephraim, the other half tribe of Manasseh receive their allotment. Levi also receives no allotment of land, having been given the sacrificial offerings for their inheritance.*

1. What initial distribution of land did Moses make?
2. What inheritance was Levi to receive?
3. What special provision was made for Caleb?
4. What were the boundaries of Judah's allotment?
5. What city and people were Judah not able to drive out?
6. What were the boundaries of the inheritance of the tribes of Joseph, west of the Jordan?
7. What concession was made for Ephraim and Manasseh on account of their size?
8. How is the stage set for future problems in the division of land to Judah and Joseph?

Lesson 8: The Land Possessed, part 2

Joshua 18-22

Memory: Hebrews 4:9 and review Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: *The remaining land was allotted to the seven remaining tribes. The cities of refuge were established and given to the Levites. After this, the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh returned to their possession across the Jordan. At the Jordan, they built an altar. The other tribes feared this was a forbidden altar and prepared to make war. Civil war was avoided when they learned that this was only to be a reminder of their part in the LORD.*

1. What were the final seven tribes, and where did they meet?
2. What did Joshua do to portion out the land for the remaining tribes?
3. What were the cities of refuge?
4. Where were the cities of refuge located?
5. What provision was made for the Levites?
6. What did Joshua tell the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh?
7. Why was there almost civil war in Israel?
8. How was civil war prevented?

Lesson 9: Joshua's Final Words

Joshua 23-24

Memory: Hebrews 4:10 and review Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: *At the end of his life, Joshua gathered the people and exhorted them to serve the LORD. He reminded them of the blessings of God and warned of the wrath of God for those who turn to other gods. They must remain separate from the nations among them. He then called the people to Shechem where they made a covenant to serve the LORD God and set up a memorial stone. After this, Joshua and Eleazar the high priest died and were buried. Mention is made of the burial of Joseph's bones.*

1. What did Joshua remind the leaders of Israel about the goodness of the LORD?
2. What did Joshua tell the leaders of Israel to do and not to do?
3. What did Joshua warn them about?
4. At Shechem, what did Joshua say about their history from Abraham to the wilderness?
5. What did Joshua say about the history of their entry into the land of the Amorites?
6. What did Joshua tell the people they must do, and how did they answer?
7. How did Joshua respond to the people's answer?
8. What did Joshua do before he let the people go?
9. What events are mentioned at the end of the book?

Lesson 10: From Joshua to Judges

Judges 1-3

Memory: Hebrews 4:11 and review Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: *After the death of Joshua, the nation continued to occupy the land and fight against the Canaanites. It was not long before they were in open rebellion against the LORD. In His anger, the LORD delivered them into the hands of their enemies. In mercy, He raised up judges to deliver them. The people did not heed these judges but repeatedly returned to their evil ways. The first of the judges were Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar.*

1. What did Judah do after the death of Joshua?
2. What tribes are mentioned in Judges 1, and how did they deal with the Canaanites?
3. Why did the people weep at Bochim?
4. What did the people do after the death of Joshua?
5. What did the LORD do?
6. How did the people respond to what the LORD did?
7. Who was Othniel, and what did he do?
8. Who was Ehud, and what did he do?
9. Who was Shamgar, and what did he do?

Lesson 11: Deborah the Prophetess

Judges 4-5

Memory: Hebrews 4:12 and review Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: Because of their sin, the LORD gave Israel into the hand of the Canaanite king Jabin who harshly oppressed them for 20 years. The children of Israel cried out to the LORD, Who sent Deborah, a prophetess. She called Barak to lead an army against Jabin's army led by Sisera. Together they routed the Canaanite army. Sisera fled and hid in the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber, who killed him as he slept. Deborah and Barak offered a song of praise to the LORD, and the land had peace for 40 years.

1. What happened after the death of Ehud?
2. Who was Deborah, and what did she do?
3. Who was Barak, and what did he do?
4. What happened in the battle between the armies of Barak and Sisera?
5. What did Sisera do after the battle?
6. Who was Jael, and what did she do?
7. What were the conditions in Israel described in Deborah's song?
8. How did the tribes of Israel respond to Deborah's leadership?
9. How is Jael described, and why?

Lesson 12: The Sword of the LORD and of Gideon

Judges 6-8

Memory: Review

Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: *When Israel sinned, the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian. In their great distress, Israel cried out to the LORD Who first spoke by a prophet and then called Gideon. Gideon was persuaded to lead by a series of signs. He raised an army of 300 who routed the Midianites in a night attack. Ephraim complained and the men of Succoth refused to assist, but the LORD was with Gideon. Afterward, Gideon declined a request that he become king in Israel. He did make an ephod which became a snare to the people.*

1. How did the Midianites oppress the people of Israel?
2. How did the LORD answer when Israel cried out to Him?
3. What questions did Gideon ask when the Angel of the LORD called him?
4. How did the Angel of the LORD satisfy the concerns of Gideon?
5. What was Gideon's first assignment, and how did the people respond?
6. What was the sign of the fleece?
7. How did Gideon end up with an army of only 300 men?
8. What happened in the battle against the Midianites?
9. What happened in the years after the great victory over Midian?

Lesson 13: The Wickedness of Abimelech Judges 9-10

Memory: Review

Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: Gideon's son Abimelech killed his brothers and made himself king. Only one son, Jotham, survived and he pronounced a curse on Abimelech and the men of Shechem who assisted him. In the years that followed, there was discord in this unholy alliance and both the men of Shechem and Abimelech were killed according to Jotham's curse. After this, Tola and Jair judged Israel. The people soon returned to their evil ways. God judged by an Ammonite invasion. The people again cried to the LORD and put away their idols.

1. How did Abimelech become king?
2. Who was Jotham, and what did he do?
3. What happened between Abimelech and the men of Shechem?
4. What happened in the battle between Gaal and Abimelech?
5. What happened to the men of Shechem and Abimelech?
6. Who were Tola and Jair, and what did they do?
7. Why did the children of Israel come under oppression from the Ammonites?
8. What did the children of Israel do when they faced the Ammonite invasion?

Lesson 14: Jephthah the Gileadite Judges 11-12

Memory: Review

Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: *Jephthah, an illegitimate son of Gilead, was cast out by his brethren. When the Gileadites faced a military threat, they offered to make him king if he would help them. The Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah as he prepared for battle. He made a vow to the LORD that ultimately cost him his daughter after his victory. His rule was marred by civil war with Ephraim. After Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon and Abdon judged Israel.*

1. Who was Jephthah, and why did he flee from Gilead?
2. Why did Jephthah return and under what conditions?
3. Why did the king of Ammon come to fight against Israel?
4. How did Jephthah answer the king of Ammon?
5. What happened to Jephthah as he prepared for battle, and what vow did he make?
6. What happened to Jephthah's daughter?
7. Why was there civil war in Israel?
8. What was the outcome of the civil war?
9. What are we told about the three judges, Ibzan, Elon and Abdon?

Lesson 15: Samson the Nazarite

Judges 13-16

Memory: Review

Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: *The birth of Samson came with great expectation. He would be a Nazarite to God who would deliver Israel from the Philistines. The Spirit of the LORD was mightily upon him, and he became a man of great physical strength. Tragically, Samson's victories over the Philistines came in situations where he sought pagan women. One such woman, Delilah, uncovered the secret of his great strength, and he was captured and blinded by his enemies. He died when the LORD restored his strength. Brought to a celebration of the pagan god Dagon, he collapsed the temple and died with a great multitude of Philistines.*

1. What did the Angel of the LORD tell the wife of Manoah?
2. What did Manoah learn about the Man of God who visited his wife?
3. Why did Samson go with his parents to Timnah?
4. How was Samson's riddle solved, and what happened after it was solved?
5. What happened when Samson returned to get his Philistine wife?
6. What happened when the Philistines came to get Samson from Judah?
7. How did Delilah discover the secret of Samson's great strength?
8. What happened when the Philistines learned Samson's secret?
9. How did Samson die?

Lesson 16: Anarchy in Israel

Judges 17-18

Memory: Review

Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: *Micah of Ephraim stole silver from his mother. After he returned it, she made it into an idol. Micah built a shrine in his home and consecrated his son as priest. Later, he replaced him with the wandering Levite Jonathan. Danites, in search of more territory passed through and took the idol and priest for themselves. They established a settlement in northern Israel and served Micah's idol with the family of Jonathan as their priesthood.*

1. What did Micah's mother do when he returned the 1100 shekels of silver to her?

2. What was distinctive about Israel in those days?

3. How did Micah get his own priest, and what significance did he make of this?

4. What were the five men of Dan doing when they came to Micah's house?

5. How did Micah's priest help the men of Dan?

6. What report did the five spies bring back to their brethren?

7. What did the Danites do when they came again to the house of Micah?

8. What happened when Micah tried to recover his possessions?

9. What happened when the Danites came to northern Israel?

Lesson 17: Civil War in Israel

Judges 19-21

Memory: Review

Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: *These were dark days in Israel's history. An unnamed Levite from Ephraim sought to restore his broken marriage. This was a commendable act, but his careless conduct led to a sequence of sins, each more vile than the next. Eventually, civil war erupted. The loss of life on both sides was huge and the tribe of Benjamin was almost annihilated. The surviving tribes sought to rebuild Benjamin and this led to further injury to many. There was no king in Israel and everyone did what seemed right in his own eyes.*

1. Why did the Levite from Ephraim go to Bethlehem in Judah?

2. Why did the Levite go to Gibeah, and what happened when he arrived there?

3. What happened to the Levite's concubine?

4. Why did the children of Israel gather together to make war against Benjamin?

5. What preparations did Israel make for battle on the first day, and what happened?

6. What happened on the second day of battle?

7. How did Israel prepare for the third day of battle, and what happened?

8. How did the children of Israel try to restore the tribe of Benjamin?

9. What characterized those days in Israel?

Lesson 18: Ruth the Faithful Moabitess

Ruth 1-4

Memory: Review

Hymn: "Through the Love of God Our Savior"

SUMMARY: *In the days of the judges, there was a famine in the land. Elimelech took his wife, Naomi, and two sons to Moab. While there, the two sons married Moabite women. In the course of time, both father and sons died. Naomi returned to Judah. One daughter-in-law, Ruth, insisted upon going with her. Back in the land, Ruth faithfully served Naomi. She came to the attention of a wealthy farmer, Boaz. As a relative of Elimelech, he became the kinsman–redeemer to fulfill the responsibility to preserve the inheritance of Elimelech. Together, Boaz and Ruth had a son, Obed, who became the grandfather of King David.*

1. Why did Elimelech go to Moab, who did he take, and what happened there?

2. How did Naomi's daughters-in-law react to her plan to return to Judah?

3. What testimony did Naomi give of her sojourn in Moab?

4. Why did Boaz show special favor to Ruth?

5. What special favors did Boaz do for Ruth?

6. How did Naomi respond to Ruth's news about the kindness of Boaz?

7. What did Naomi tell Ruth to do, and how did Boaz react to this?

8. How did Ruth become the wife of Boaz?

9. How did people react to the marriage of Boaz and Ruth and the birth of their first son?

Outline of the Book of Joshua

- I. The Conquest of the Land (Joshua 1-12)
 - A. Introductory chapter — the commission of Joshua (Joshua 1).
 - B. The spies' mission to Jericho — Rahab (Joshua 2).
 - C. The crossing of the Jordan River — Israel's entry into Canaan (Joshua 3, 4).
 - 1. The preparation (3:1-13).
 - 2. The crossing (3:14-17).
 - 3. The memorials (4:1-24).
 - D. The preparation for the conquest of the land of Canaan (Joshua 5).
 - 1. Circumcision (5:1-9).
 - 2. Passover (5:10-12).
 - 3. The Captain of the Lord's host (5:13-15).
 - E. The victory over Jericho (Joshua 6).
 - F. The defeat at Ai — God's judgment on Achan (Joshua 7).
 - G. The victory over Ai (Joshua 8).
 - H. The deception of the Gibeonites (Joshua 9).
 - I. The conquest of southern Canaan (Joshua 10).
 - J. The conquest of northern Canaan (Joshua 11).
 - 1. The northern campaign (11:1-15).
 - 2. A summary of the conquest (11:16-23).
 - K. A summary of Israel's victories east and west of the Jordan River (Joshua 12).
- II. The Division of the Land (Joshua 13-21).
 - A. The land remaining to be possessed (Joshua 13:1-6).
 - B. The land to be given to each tribe (Joshua 13:7-19:51).
 - 1. A survey of all the land (13:7-14).
 - 2. The division of the land east of the Jordan (13:15-33).
 - a. To Reuben (13:15-23).
 - b. To Gad (13:24-28).
 - c. To the half tribe of Manasseh (13:29-31).
 - d. The concluding statement regarding the land east of the Jordan (13:32, 33).
 - 3. The division of the land west of the Jordan (14:1-19:51).
 - a. A preliminary explanation (14:1-5).
 - b. The request of Caleb for his inheritance (14:6-15).
 - c. To Judah (15:1-63).
 - (1) The boundaries (15:1-12).
 - (2) The inheritance of Caleb (15:13-19).
 - (3) The four areas of Judah's inheritance (15:20-63).
 - (a) The negev, or the south (15:20-32).
 - (b) The shephelah, or the lowlands (15:33-47).
 - (c) The mountains (15:48-60).
 - (d) The desert (15:61-63).
 - d. To the tribes of Joseph (16:1-17:18).
 - (1) The territory to be divided (16:1-4).

Outline of the Book of Joshua (continued)

- (2) The part to be given to Ephraim (16:5-10).
 - (3) The part to be given to Manasseh (17:1-13).
 - (4) The objection of the tribes of Joseph with Joshua's answer (17:14-18).
 - e. The survey conducted by the three representatives of each of the remaining seven tribes (Joshua 18:1-9).
 - f. The division by lot of the remaining portion of the land (18:10-19:51).
 - (1) To Benjamin (18:10-28).
 - (2) To Simeon (19:1-9).
 - (3) To Zebulun (19:10-16).
 - (4) To Issachar (19:17-23).
 - (5) To Asher (19:24-31).
 - (6) To Naphtali (19:32-39).
 - (7) To Dan (19:40-48).
 - (8) The special inheritance of Joshua (19:49, 50).
 - (9) The concluding statement (19:51).
 - C. The cities of refuge (20:1-9).
 - D. The cities of the priest (21:1-42).
 - 1. Their request (21:1, 2).
 - 2. The numbers of the cities given to each of the families of Levi (21:3-8).
 - a. To Kohath — 23 cities (21:3-5).
 - b. To Gershon — 13 cities (21:6).
 - c. To Merari — 12 cities (21:7, 8).
 - 3. The names of the cities given to each of the families of Levi (21:9-42).
 - a. To Kohath (21:9-26).
 - (1) To the children of Aaron (21:9-19).
 - (2) To the remainder of the Kohathites (21:20-26).
 - b. To Gershon (21:27-33).
 - c. To Merari (21:34-40).
 - d. The summary (21:41,42).
 - E. The conclusion to division of the land (21:43-45).
- III. The Possession of the Land (Joshua 22-24).
- A. The return of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh to their land east of the Jordan River — the trouble over the altar (Joshua 22).
 - B. Joshua's last words to Israel (Joshua 23:1-24:28).
 - 1. Exhortations and warnings regarding their life in the land (23:1-16).
 - 2. A review of God's dealings with them from Abraham's day to their occupation of the land — also their covenant to serve the LORD (24:1-25).
 - 3. The stone set up as a witness (24:26-28).
 - C. Conclusion (24:29-33).
 - 1. The death of Joshua (24:29-31).
 - 2. The bones of Joseph (24:32).
 - 3. The death of Eleazar (24:33).

Outline of the Book of Judges

- I. The Introduction to the Judges (Judges 1:1-3:5).
 - A. Conquests and failures (Judges 1).
 - B. Judgment, death, and judges (Judges 2:1-3:5).

- II. Five Judges in Israel (Judges 3:6-5:31).
 - A. Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar (Judges 3:6-31).
 - B. Deborah and Barak (Judges 4).
 - C. The song of Deborah (Judges 5).

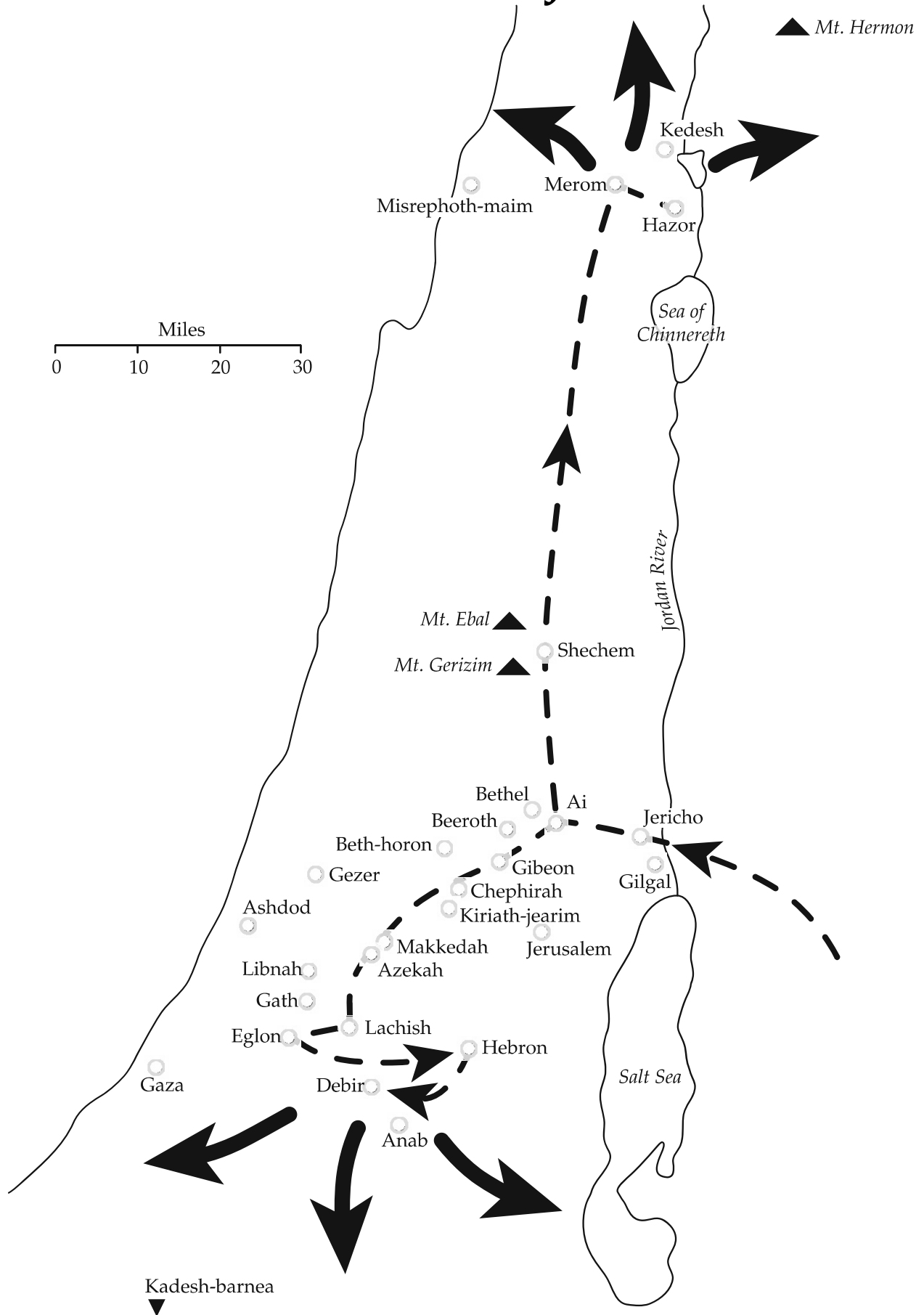
- III. One Judge in Israel: Gideon (Judges 6-8).
 - A. The call, the courage, and the confrontation (Judges 6).
 - B. The division, the dream, and the deliverance (Judges 7).
 - C. The dissension, the discipline, and the disobedience (Judges 8).

- IV. Seven Judges in Israel (Judges 9-12).
 - A. Abimelech (Judges 9).
 - B. Tola and Jair (Judges 10:1-5).
 - C. Jephthah (Judges 10:6-12:7).
 - D. Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon (Judges 12:8-15).

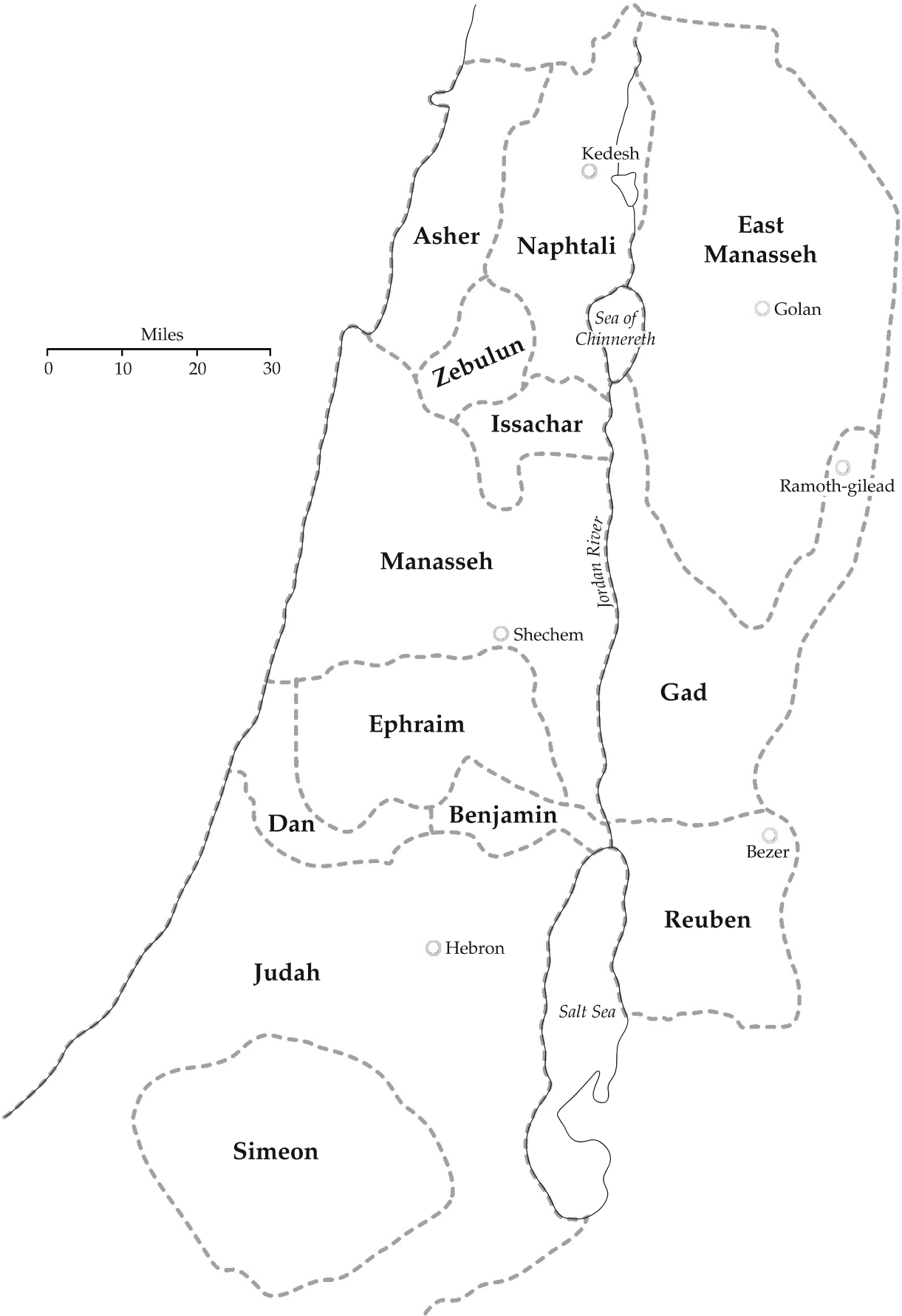
- V. One Judge in Israel: Samson (Judges 13-16).
 - A. The personal history (Judges 13).
 - B. The Philistine marriage (Judges 14).
 - C. The Philistine judgment (Judges 15).
 - D. The harlot and Delilah (Judges 16).

- VI. Moral Decline During the Judges (Judges 17-21).
 - A. Micah's idols and priest (Judges 17).
 - B. The Danites steal Micah's idols and priest (Judges 18).
 - C. The Levite and the concubine (Judges 19).
 - D. The war between Israel and Benjamin (Judges 20).
 - E. The preservation of Benjamin (Judges 21).

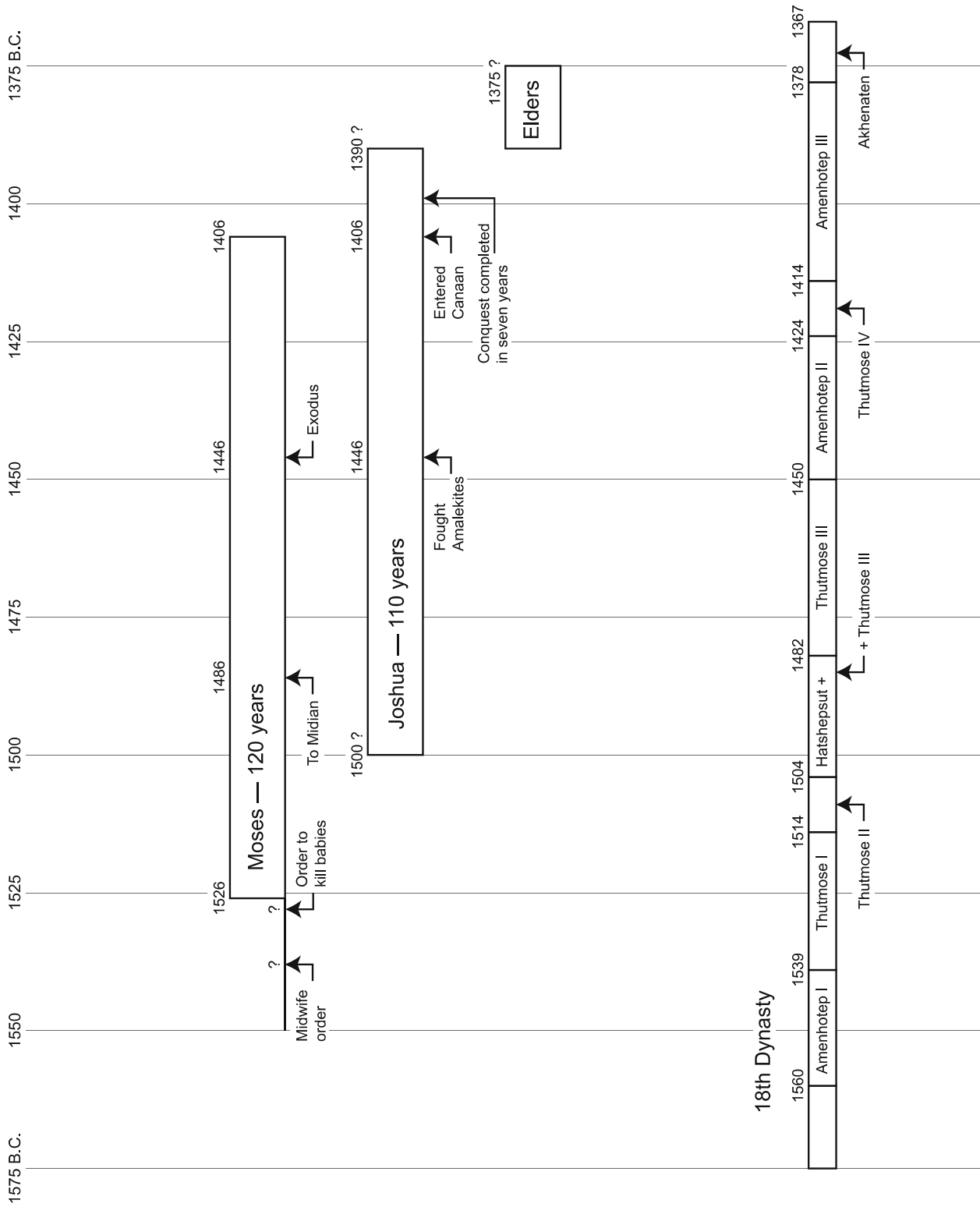
The Route of Joshua



The Twelve Tribes of Israel

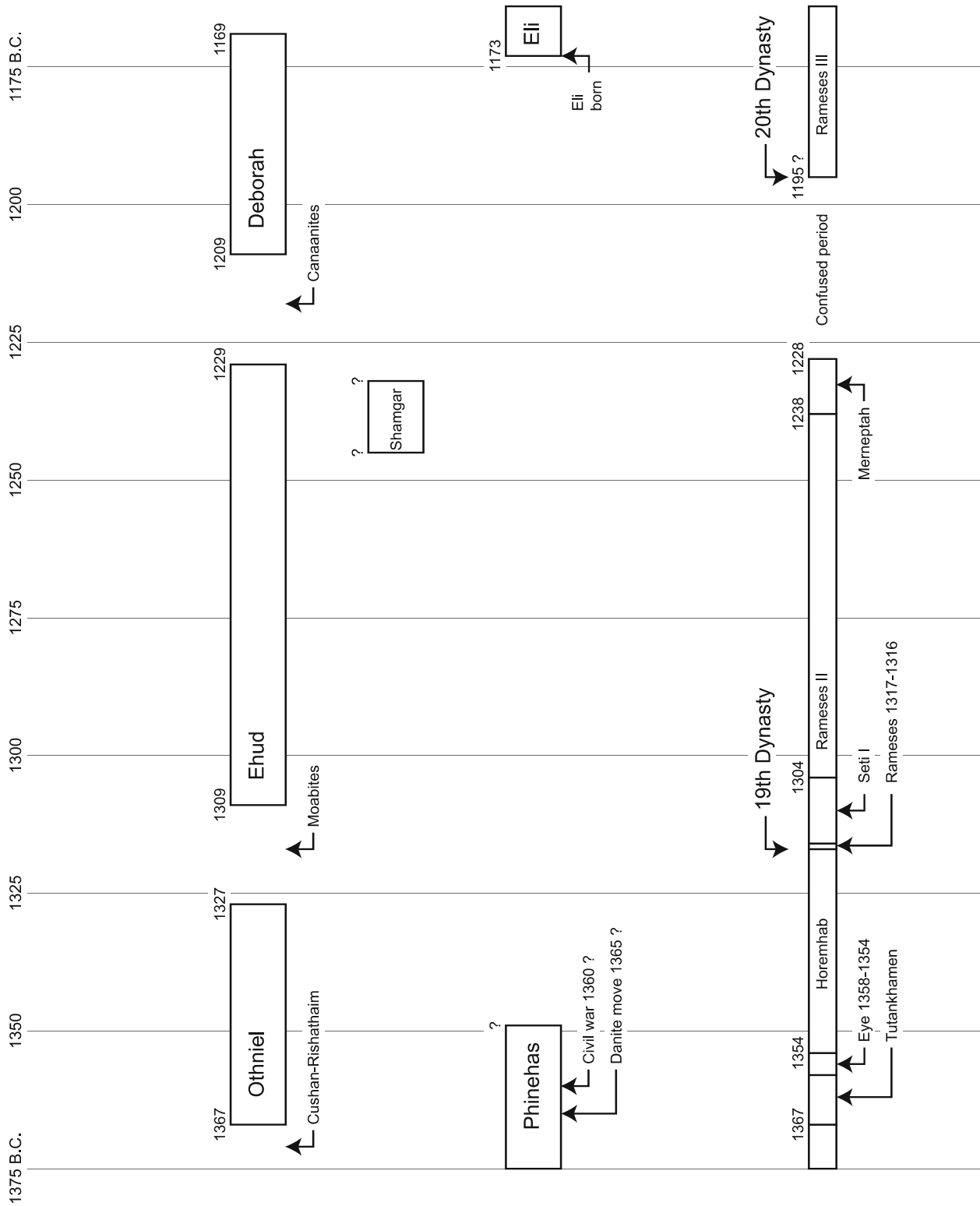


The Days of Joshua



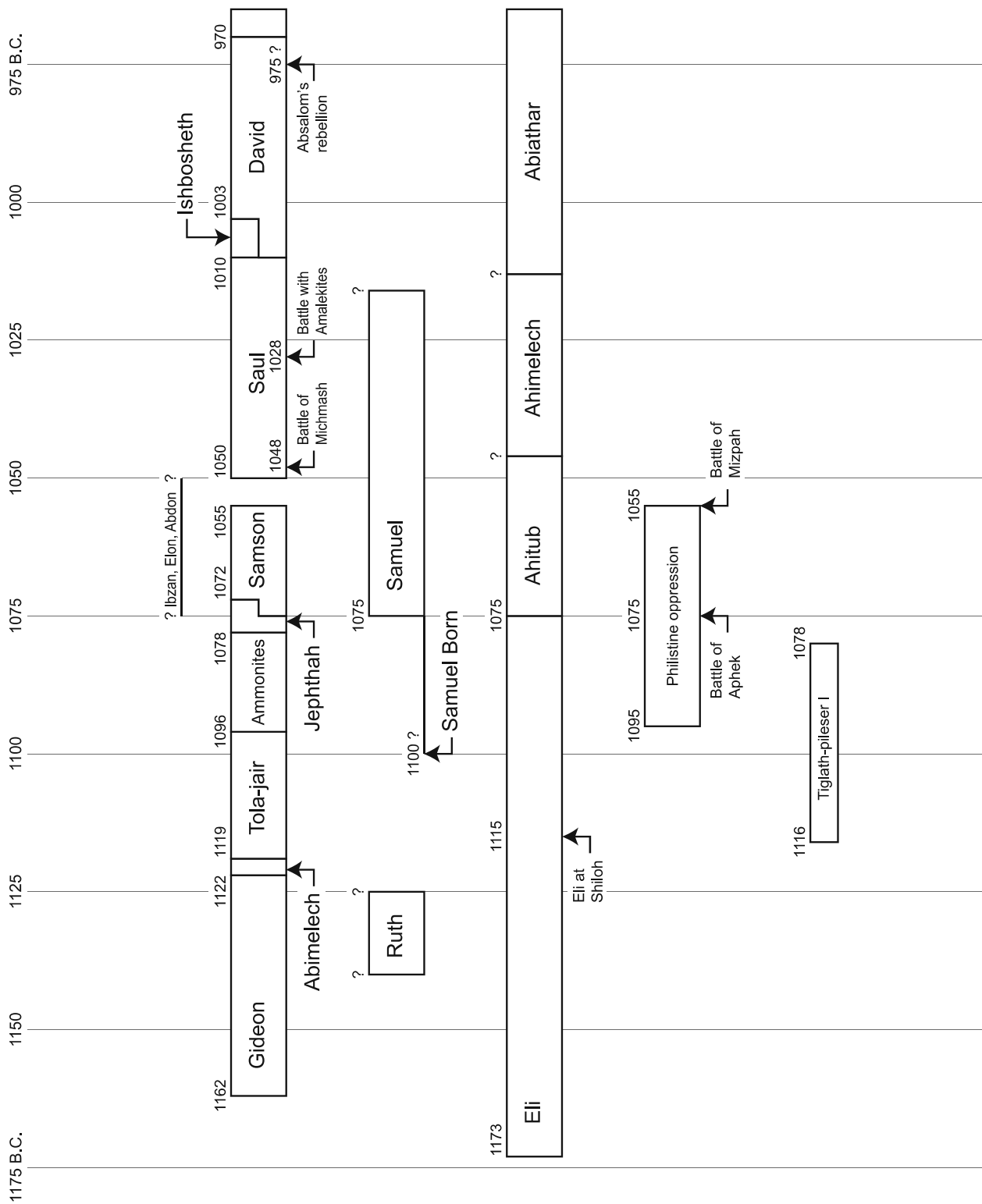
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