

I'M IN THE LORD'S ARMY

Studies in Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, and Ruth

ABSTRACT

This quarter begins with the final words of Moses in Deuteronomy and then moves to the Lord fulfillment of the Land promise in Joshua. After Canaan is conquered, Judges provides more proof that no physical nation can ever be the holy people the Lord is seeking. The quarter ends with a brief look at a beautiful love story that is key to the Davidic/Messianic line.

John R. Gibson

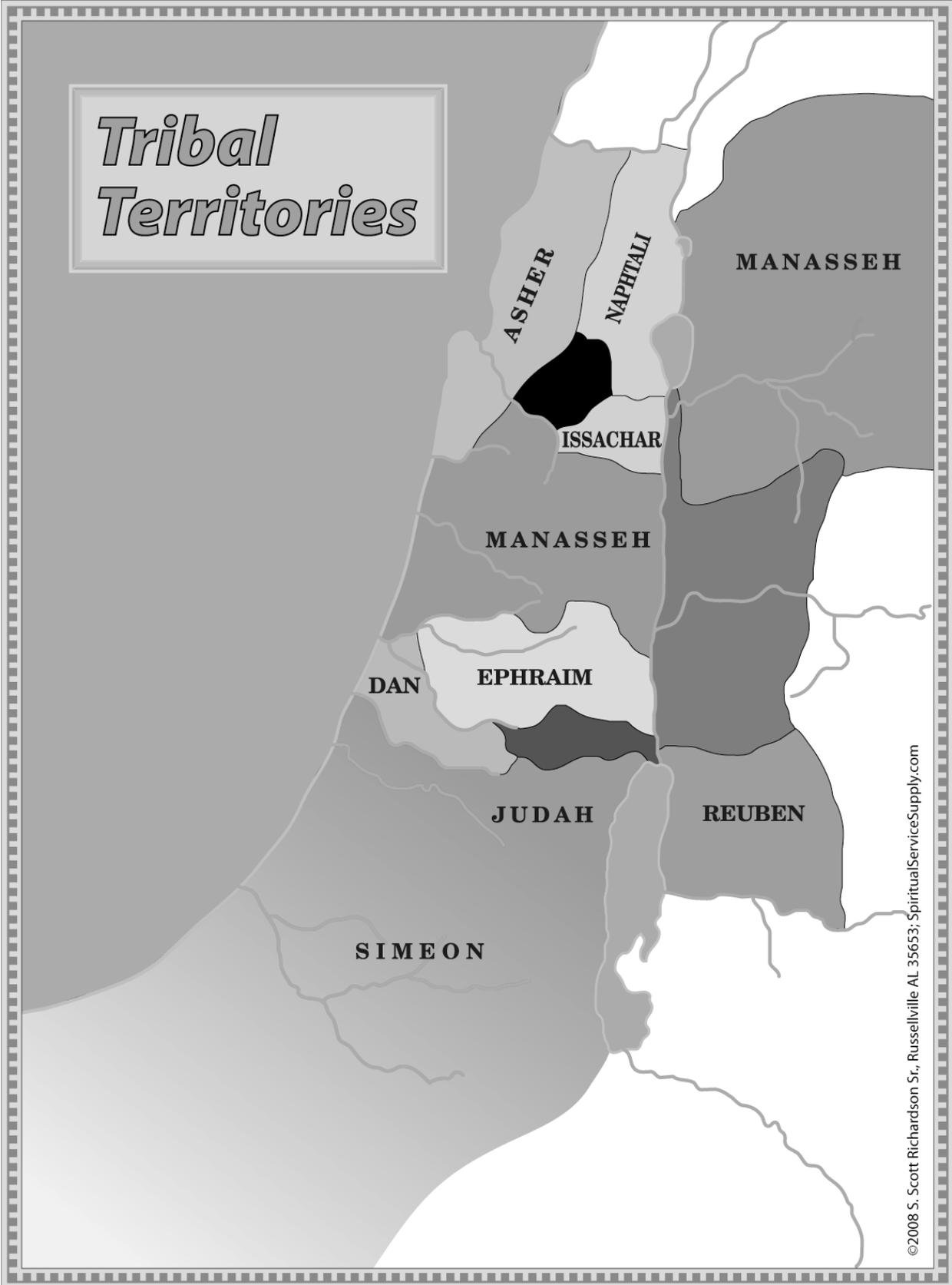
Contents

Maps	2
Memory Passages	7
Lesson One: Loving the Lord from Heart	8
Deuteronomy 1-26 (1:1-8; 4-10; 26)	8
Lesson Two: Committing to the Covenant.....	10
Deuteronomy 28-34.....	10
Lesson Three: Crossing the Jordan River	11
Joshua 1-4	11
Lesson Four: Entering the Promised Land	12
Joshua 5-6	12
Lesson Five: Losing, Then Winning at Ai	13
Joshua 7, 8.....	13
Lesson Six: Fighting on the Lord’s Side	14
Joshua 9, 10.....	14
Lesson Seven: Overcoming the Enemy	15
Joshua 11-17	15
Lesson Eight: Dividing the Land—Deciding About the Lord	16
Joshua 18-24	16
Lesson Nine: Taking the Land as Their Own	18
Judges 1-3	18
Lesson Ten: Using Unusual Weapons	20
Judges 4-8	20
Lesson Eleven: God Helping His People	21
Judges 9-12	21
Lesson Twelve: Getting In and Out of Trouble	23
Judges 13-21	23
Lesson Thirteen: Loving and Being Loved	25
Ruth 1-4.....	25

Maps

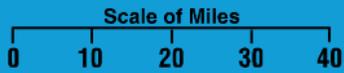


Tribal Territories



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CANAAN IN THE DAYS OF THE JUDGES

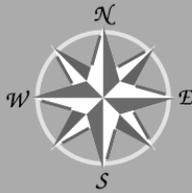


Mediterranean Sea



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The Days of the Judges



Mediterranean Sea



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Memory Passages

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.” Genesis 1:1-3

“Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ ” Genesis 12:1-3

“Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.’ ” Genesis 50:19-20

“And Moses said to the people: ‘Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out of this place.’ ” Exodus 13:3

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.” Exodus 19:5

“Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.” Exodus 40:34

“For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.” Leviticus 11:45

“Now when the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the LORD burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp.” Numbers 11:1

“Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, ‘Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.’ ” Numbers 20:12

Lessons 1-4 “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” Deuteronomy 6:5

Lessons 5-8 “Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.” Joshua 21:45

Lessons 9-13 “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” Judges 17:6

Lesson One: Loving the Lord from Heart

Deuteronomy 1-26 (1:1-8; 4-10; 26)

1. While we will only be overviewing Deuteronomy, it is crucial that we understand the gist of this book and what God sought to accomplish with it. (While I want to encourage the reading of ch. 1-26 for this lesson, at a minimum read the opening of ch. 1 and the other chapters in the parentheses.)
 - a. A new generation has risen in the place of those who fled Egypt, entered into the covenant at Mt. Sinai, and then refused to enter the land of Canaan.
 - b. Deuteronomy contains Moses' review of the law and Israelite history as a way of exhorting this new generation to love the Lord and obey Him from the heart. While the name Deuteronomy is taken from a Greek word meaning second law, it does not contain a second law, but reminds them of the law given at Mt. Sinai.
 - c. Take note that as Moses reviews their history he sometimes uses their failures as warning, but at other times He stresses the goodness and power of God to aid them.
 - d. Keep in mind that it was this book Jesus turned to for all three answers to Satan when tempted in Matt. 4.
2. Where was Israel during the speeches and events of Deuteronomy?
3. As you read the history found in the words of Moses, pay careful attention to the purpose behind each story.
4. They were not to _____ or _____ from the Lord's commands. 4:1-2
5. While those twenty and older at the time of the exodus had died, much of what Moses says is directed to those old enough to remember Mt. Sinai. E.g. 4:9-14.
6. What reasons for avoiding idolatry are given in 4:15-24?
7. List the Ten Commandments.
8. The Sabbath was a day for them to remember what?
9. They were to love the Lord with all their _____, _____, and _____.
10. Where and when were they to teach their children?
11. What warning was given regarding the Canaanite nations in 7:1-5.
12. Why was Israel chosen to be the Lord's special people? 7:6-11
13. They were to recall the ten plagues that they might not doubt God's power to do what? 7:17-22

14. Rather than living by bread alone, man must live by what? 8:1-5
15. What might cause them to forget the Lord? 8:11-20
16. Israel was warned to think the land was being given to them because of their own _____; instead, the land was being taken from the Canaanites because of their _____.
17. Read 10:12-13 and list the different things the Lord required of them.
18. They were to circumcise the _____. 10:16
19. What would determine if they received a blessing or a curse from the Lord? 11:26-27
20. They were promised a _____ like Moses (18:15-18). Where in the New Testament is this applied to Jesus?
21. Read 26:16-19.
 - a. What had Israel proclaimed/declared that day?
 - b. What had the Lord proclaimed/declared that day?

Lesson Two: Committing to the Covenant

Deuteronomy 28-34

1. Note the similarities between Deut. 28 and Lev. 26. One comes at the end of the wandering and the other before the wandering has begun.
2. List the various ways in which Israel would be blessed if they obeyed God.
3. List at least five ways in they would be cursed if they failed to obey the Lord.
4. Why did Israel enter into a covenant with the Lord? 29:12-13
5. The secret things belong to the Lord, but the revealed things belonged to whom?
6. 30:11-16 emphasized their ability to know what the Lord expected of them.
7. "I have set before you life and _____, _____ and cursing.
8. Moses exhorted Joshua to be _____ and of good _____.
9. When was the Law to be read to the entire nation?
10. What did Moses expect Israel to do after they had conquered the land and begun to prosper? 31:19-21
11. In 32:4 the Lord is described as the Rock. What is signified by the Rock?
12. What responsibility did Moses assign Levi in 33:10?
13. What was Moses allowed to view before his death?
14. Moses died on top of what mountain?
15. Where was he buried?
16. How old was he when he died?
17. Though Joshua took over the leadership of the nation, no _____ had arisen that was like Moses in his relationship with God.

Lesson Three: Crossing the Jordan River

Joshua 1-4

1. The Lord promised Joshua, “I will not _____ you or _____ you.”
2. How many times was Joshua told to be strong and of good courage in chapter 1?
3. Upon what was Joshua to meditate day and night?
4. What were the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh to do before enjoying their tribal territory?
5. In what house did the two spies lodge?
6. How did Rahab help the spies escape?
7. The people of Jericho were frightened because they had heard about what two events?
8. What did Rahab ask the spies to do in exchange for her help?
9. What was Rahab required to do if she and family were to be saved?
10. Locate three New Testament references to Rahab.
11. The spies returned to Joshua and reported that the people of the land were _____.
12. How much distance were the people to keep between themselves and the ark of the covenant?
13. When did the waters of the Jordan stop?
14. Why were twelve stones to be placed at their first lodging place in Canaan?
15. In the crossing of the Jordan the Lord was said to have _____ Joshua in the sight of all Israel.
16. When did the waters of the Jordan resume flowing?
17. Israel camped in Gilgal on the _____ day of the _____ month.

Lesson Four: Entering the Promised Land

Joshua 5-6

1. What was the initial reaction of the Amorite and Canaanite kings when they heard about the Lord drying up the waters of the Jordan?
2. When had the Lord first given the covenant of circumcision?
3. When had the children of Israel failed to practice circumcision?
4. Refer back to the story of Dinah and Shechem in Gen. 34 and understand the faith required to leave themselves vulnerable.
5. The first Passover in Canaan was kept on the _____ day of the first month.
6. When did the manna cease?
7. As you read note that 5:13—6:5 should be read as a unit.
8. What did Joshua do when the Commander of the army of the Lord appeared to him?
9. Why did Joshua remove his shoes?
10. Though the Lord had “given” Jericho into their hands, how many times would Israel have to march around the city?
11. What did the seven priests with seven trumpets do each day as they marched?
12. All the inhabitants of Jericho were to be destroyed except for _____ and _____.
13. What were the Israelites to do with the things taken from Jericho?
14. What curse was placed on the one who would rebuild Jericho? Locate the Old Testament fulfillment of this.

Lesson Five: Losing, Then Winning at Ai

Joshua 7, 8

1. What had the Lord commanded concerning the spoils of Jericho?
2. Who had violated this command?
3. Why did Joshua send only three thousand men to Ai?
 - a. Note: The climb from Jericho, which sat at more than 800 feet below sea in the Jordan valley, to Bethel, in the central hill country, was a steep, rigorous climb.
4. How many Israelites were killed in the initial attack on Ai?
5. After this defeat, the _____ of the people melted and became like _____.
6. The Lord informed Joshua that He would no longer be with them unless they did what?
7. What did Joshua beg Achan to do?
8. Achan committed sin because he _____ the things he saw.
9. Who perished with Achan?
10. 8:3 mentions 30,000 and 8:12 has the number 5,000. While some think one of the numbers may have been a scribal error, 8:17 may help us understand the story better. Bethel was separated from Ai by a couple of miles, but the two cities seem to have been allies. One group may have been set to ambush the city of Ai and the other hidden in ambush against the reinforcements from Bethel.
11. What was the signal for Joshua's men to spring the ambush?
12. When did Joshua and his men turn back to fight against Ai?
13. How many were killed in Ai?
14. Where did Joshua build an altar?
15. Cf. Deut. 27. Blessings were read from Mt. _____ and curses from _____.

Lesson Six: Fighting on the Lord's Side

Joshua 9, 10

1. What did most of the kings in Canaan do when they heard about Israel's early victories?
2. What did the people of Gibeon do?
3. What military victories did the Gibeonites mention? Why didn't they mention the more recent battles?
4. Joshua and the men of Israel entered into a covenant with the Gibeonites without doing what?
5. When did the Israelites learn that they had been deceived?
6. How were the Gibeonites punished for their deception?
7. Why was the king of Jerusalem upset about what the Gibeonites had done?
8. List the five kings that attacked the men of Gibeon?
9. Many of the Amorites were killed by _____ as they fled.
10. Why did Joshua ask the Lord to extend the day?
11. Where did the five kings attempt to hide?
12. What did the captains of Israel do before the five kings were killed?
13. List the different cities defeated in 10:28-39.

Lesson Seven: Overcoming the Enemy

Joshua 11-17

1. Who organized a coalition to fight against Israel in ch. 11?
2. The Canaanites gathered at the waters of _____ to battle Israel.
3. Which northern city did Joshua burn with fire?
4. Joshua left _____ undone of all that the Lord had commanded _____.
5. Who were the only Canaanites to make peace with Israel?
6. How many kings were defeated before the death of Moses? How many were defeated by Joshua and the armies of Israel after crossing into Canaan?
7. Understanding 13:1-7. We learn from Josh. 14:6-10 that the fighting has lasted about six years this point (cf. Josh. 11:18), so though there are still pockets of Canaanites remaining in the land, the Israelites can begin dividing the land among the different tribes. After the division of the land they were to continue to drive out the Canaanites, but unfortunately we will find that they failed in this.
8. Which tribes received their inheritance east of the Jordan?
9. How old was Caleb when he approached Joshua to request his inheritance?
10. What was he given as his inheritance?
11. How did Othniel earn the right to marry Caleb's daughter?
12. Learn the locations of Reuben, Gad, Manasseh, Ephraim, and Judah.

Lesson Eight: Dividing the Land—Deciding About the Lord

Joshua 18-24

1. Why was Joshua unhappy with seven of the tribes at the beginning of ch. 18?
2. How did Joshua determine which portion of land each tribe would receive?
3. Whose inheritance fell within the borders of another tribe?
4. Learn the locations of the twelve tribes.
5. Where was Joshua given an inheritance?
6. What was the purpose of the cities of refuge? List the six cities of refuge.
7. How many cities were the Levites given? How many were given to the priests?
8. Pay careful attention to 21:43-45. The land promise was completely fulfilled.
9. What did Joshua tell the 2 ½ tribes to do when they returned home? 22:5
10. What did the 2 ½ tribes do that almost caused a war?
11. While the armies were prepared for war, who was sent to talk to the 2 ½ tribes?
12. Joshua exhorted the people to be _____ and to do all that was _____ in the Book of the Law of _____.
13. If they were faithful to the Lord one man would be able to chase _____.
14. What would the people of the land become to Israel if they made marriages with them?
15. Joshua gathered the tribes to _____ for his farewell address.
16. Their ancestors, including Terah, had served _____.
17. Esau was given the mountains of _____ as his possession.
18. List the “victories” the Lord had given Israel as found Josh. 24:5-13.
19. Joshua called on the people to _____ the Lord and serve Him in _____ and in _____.
20. Though they had the freedom to choose other gods, what were Joshua and his house going to do?
21. Israel was warned that the Lord was a _____ and _____ God who would not overlook their transgressions.

22. How old was Joshua when he died?
23. Where were the bones of Joseph buried?

Lesson Nine: Taking the Land as Their Own

Judges 1-3

1. Overview of the Judges.
 - a. As a period of history the judges extends to 1 Samuel 8 when the people demand a king. Though there is some uncertainty about the dates, Othniel to the anointing of Saul probably covers ca. 1350 to 1050 B.C.
 - b. Judges 17:6 and 21:25 truly capture the spirit of that age. Israel was called to be a holy nation, but the period of the judges is largely the story of their failure to be that people.
 - c. There is a cycle of sin, oppression, repentance, deliverance, and peace that is repeated throughout the period.
 - d. The term judge often, though not exclusively, referred more to their rendering judgment for Israel against their enemies than sitting as judge in the affairs of the nation.
 - e. The book of Judges is largely chronological in ch. 1-16, but ch. 17-21 contain two appendices of events that probably took place early in the period of the judges.
 - f. The *Shaping Hearts* books do not list Abimelech as one of the judges, while others do. When we reach ch. 10 we will look at this question more closely.
2. Judges 1:1—3:6 tell of Israel's failure to complete the task given them by the Lord. When Joshua died the entire land was under Israel's control, but there were still a number of areas where Canaanites resided and needed to be driven out. See the address of Joshua in Josh. 23.
3. The Angel of the Lord came to Bochim and warned that the Canaanites would be _____ in their sides.
4. Note: Jdgs. 2:6-10 is a parenthetical explanation for why the situation of 2:1-5 has arisen.
5. How long did the people remain faithful to the Lord?
6. A generation arose that did not know _____ nor the _____ He had done for Israel.
7. The Lord determined to use the remaining nations as a way to _____ Israel's commitment to obeying Him. 2:20—3:4
8. What sins did Israel commit in 3:6?
9. Othniel prevailed over _____, king of Mesopotamia.
10. Who helped Moab oppress Israel for eighteen years?
11. Ehud buried his sword in the _____ of Eglon.

12. How many Moabites did Ehud and his army kill?
13. What was Shamgar's weapon of choice?

Lesson Ten: Using Unusual Weapons

Judges 4-8

1. Who oppressed Israel after the death of Ehud?
2. Where did Deborah sit and render judgments for Israel?
3. Barak would only go to war if Deborah did what?
4. What two tribes accompanied Barak into battle?
5. Where did Sisera flee for refuge? How was he killed?
6. Judges 5:2 points to something God's people in every age must have to be successful, viz. leaders who lead and people who willingly offer their service.
7. How long did the Midianite oppression of Israel last?
8. Who was allied with the Midianites in their attacks on Israel?
9. Where was Gideon when the angel first appeared to him?
10. How did Gideon describe himself when told that he would save Israel from the Midianites?
11. What was Gideon's first assignment?
12. Describe the way the Lord used the fleece to assure Gideon He would be with him?
13. Why did the Lord want the army of Gideon reduced in number? How did they do the reduction?
14. What final faith-building sign was Gideon given before going into battle?
15. What did he and his three hundred men take into battle?
16. What tribe became angry that they were not called for the initial battle?
17. How were the cities of Succoth and Peniel punished for their unwillingness to help Gideon and his army?
18. Though Gideon declined the offer to become king of Israel, he did accept a large gift of _____.
19. How many sons did Gideon have?

Lesson Eleven: God Helping His People

Judges 9-12

1. Ch. 9 tells the story of Abimelech, the wicked son of Gideon. While his story is told in Judges, many omit him from the list of judges since he was not chosen by the Lord to judge Israel.
 - a. While I understand that reasoning, the wording of 10:1-3 leads me to believe we are to think of him as one of the judges, albeit a self-appointed one.
 - b. But in the end it makes little difference if we list him as one of the judges, for the main point is to see again what happens when there is no commitment to God's rule and authority. 17:6
2. Where did Abimelech live? Where did most of Gideon's sons live?
3. Where did the men of Shechem get the silver Abimelech used to hire his wicked helpers?
4. The men of _____ made Abimelech king.
5. Jotham, the one son who escaped, told a story about the trees anointing a king. What trees/plants declined the kingship? What plant ended up being king over the trees?
6. "Let fire come from _____ and devour the men of _____ and _____; and let fire come from the men of _____ and _____ and devour _____.
7. How long did Abimelech reign in Shechem?
8. Who led the revolt against Abimelech?
9. How was Abimelech killed?
10. How long did Tola serve as a judge?
11. How did the number thirty factor into the story Jair?
12. Why did the Lord allow the Ammonites and Philistines to oppress Israel? 10:6-7
13. To whom did the Lord tell the people to turn when they cried for help? 10:10-14
14. Why did the brothers of Jephthah send him away?
15. Who went to Jephthah to bring him back?
16. What did Jephthah do to try to avoid war with Ammon?
17. According to Jephthah, how long had Israel been dwelling in the region just north of the Arnon?

18. What did Jephthah vow to do if the Lord gave him deliverance?
19. What request did his daughter make?
20. Why did the men of Ephraim become angry with Jephthah?
21. How did the Gileadites test those who denied being from Ephraim?
22. Note that no details are given about the work of Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon.

Lesson Twelve: Getting In and Out of Trouble

Judges 13-21

1. The workbooks for the children do not include the stories of ch. 17-21, but we will include a brief look at these two stories which serve to illustrate the attitude of the time.
2. To whom did the angel first announce the coming of Samson?
3. As a Nazirite, what was his mother to avoid during her pregnancy? For more on the Nazirite vow see Num. 6.
4. What did the Angel of the Lord do when Manoah offered a burnt offering to the Lord?
5. Why did Samson's parents not want him to marry the woman from Timnah?
6. Where was Samson when a young lion came roaring at him? How did he deal with the lion?
7. What riddle did Samson ask the thirty companions brought to be with him?
8. How were the men able to solve his riddle?
9. Where did Samson get the clothes to fulfill his end of the bargain?
10. Why did Samson tie the tails of 300 foxes together?
11. What did the 3,000 men of Judah do when Samson took refuge in the rock of Etam?
12. At Lehi Samson used a _____ to slay a thousand men.
13. Why was Samson in Gaza when he pulled up the doors of the city gate?
14. How much money was Delilah offered if she could find out the secret of Samson's strength?
15. Name the three things Samson told her before he confessed the truth to her.
16. How did the Philistines treat Samson after capturing him?
17. How did Samson get his vengeance on the Philistines?
18. Note on ch. 17-21.
 - a. These five chapters are comprised of two appendices to the book and actually take place early in the period of the judges.
 - b. While neither fit directly into the storyline of Judges, God's inspiration had them included as further demonstrations of how far Israel had fallen from the holy nation the Lord had called them to be.

19. What was done with the silver Micah had taken from his mother?
20. A Levite left _____ and came to live with Micah where he served as a _____.
21. Why did some from Dan move to the north and settle around Laish?
22. Why did the Levite leave Micah's house and go with the Danites?
23. What was the hometown of the Levite's concubine?
24. Why did the Levite not want to spend the night in Jebus/Jerusalem?
25. Who showed hospitality to the Levite when he was in Gibeah?
26. What sin did the men of Gibeah want to commit? What horrific crime did they commit?
27. How did the Levite get the people stirred up to go to battle?
28. Why did Israel fight the entire tribe of Benjamin?
29. How many men of Benjamin were left when the war ended?
30. Where did Israel go to get wives for the men of Benjamin?

Lesson Thirteen: Loving and Being Loved

Ruth 1-4

1. The book of Ruth can be read as a third appendix to the book of Judges, but it is so different from the two found in Jdgs. 17-21.
 - a. Ruth, a Moabite, shows faithfulness to Naomi and the Lord.
 - b. Boaz, in stark contrast to the men of Gibeah, shows kindness and respect to Ruth.
 - c. And at the end we find that Ruth is in the lineage of David.
2. Why did Elimelech and his family leave Bethlehem and move to Moab?
3. How long did the family live in Moab?
4. What did Naomi tell her daughters-in-law to do when she decided to return to Bethlehem?
5. Ruth said to Naomi, “Your _____ shall be my _____, and your _____ my _____.”
6. What name did Naomi urge everyone to call her?
7. Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of what harvest?
8. For some background on the gleaning done by Ruth, see Lev. 19:9; 23:22; Deut. 24:19-22.
9. What initial kindness did Boaz show Ruth and why?
10. What special favor did Boaz have his young men do for Ruth?
11. Describe the way in which Ruth’s “proposed” to Boaz?
12. Why wasn’t Boaz able to promise that night to take Ruth under his wing?
13. What reason did the other close relative give for not redeeming the field that had once belonged to Elimelech?
14. The people expressed a desire that Ruth be like _____ and _____, and his house like that of _____.
15. Boaz and Ruth had a child named _____.
16. Note that in Matt. 1 Ruth is one of only five women listed in the genealogy of Jesus.