

JOB AND HIS FRIENDS

Job 2:11 - 37:24

News of Job's great losses was not long in reaching the ears of his friends. Read now to see what happened when they heard this news:

A. The Arrival of the Friends: Read Job 2:11-13:

1. When some of Job's friends heard of his losses, what did they do? Job 2:11

2. What shows the terrible extent of Job's disease? Job 2:12a

3. What did the friends do when they arrived? Job 2:12b-13

B. Job's First Speech: Read Job 3:1-26:

1. What did Job do in his first speech? Job 3:1

2. How was this different from what Satan had said he would do? Job 1:11

3. Three great wishes are expressed in this speech. Summarize each briefly:

a. Job 3:3 _____

b. Job 3:11 _____

c. Job 3:10-21 _____

C. The Friends' Answers: Job 4-37:

1. Who was the first to answer Job? Job 4:1 (See Genesis 36:15-16 for a clue as to who this man may have been.)

2. Read Job 4:7-8, 17-19, Job 5:6-8, 17-19. Of what did he accuse Job? See especially verse 8.

3. In Job's answer, what was his main complaint? Job 6:14-15, 27

4. How long did Job's afflictions last? Job 7:3 (Notice in Job 7:5 and 13-14 the extent to which he suffered.)

5. Who was the next to speak? Job 8:1 (See Genesis 25:2, I Chronicles 1:32 for a possible clue as to who he was.)

6. To what did he compare Job's speeches? Job 8:2

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7. Read Job 8:3, 6, 11-13, 20. Of what did he accuse Job, especially in verse 13?

8. Read Job 9:32-35. In Job's answer, of what did he seem to be acutely aware? Job 9:32-32

9. What did he ask God to do? Job 10:2b

10. Who was the third friend to speak? Job 11:1 (We have no clue in the Bible as to who this man was.)

11. Read Job 11:1-6, 13-15. Of what did he accuse Job, especially in verse 3?

12. What did Job answer to all of his friends? Job 12:2-3, 13:2, 13

13. What did Job say about God? Job 13:15a

14. In Chapters 15-31 these three friends spoke again, two or three times each, and Job answered them. However, no new arguments were presented. When they had ceased, who then spoke? Job 32:2a

15. Why had he not spoken before? Job 32:4

16. Why was he angry with Job? Job 32:2b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Did Job's friends know the real reason for Job's sufferings? Did Job himself know?

2. What should be my attitude when I cannot understand my sufferings? See Job 23:10, Job 13:15a

JOB'S LATER LIFE

Job 38-42

In their speeches, Job's four friends presented every explanation for his suffering that human reasoning could think of. Now see what happened next:

A. God's Words to Job: Read Job 38:1, 42:6

1. Out of what did God speak to Job? Job 50:1

2. What did God tell Job to do? Job 38:5

3. Read again Job 36:4-11, 16-24, 35-41, 59:13, 26, 27. What do these verses teach you about God?

4. How do you feel after you have read all of God's great questions?

5. What did Job realize about him self as a result of God's words? Job 40:4a

6. What did he decide never to do after this? Job 40:4b-5

7. Notice that after this, God asked Job another set of questions.
 - a. Read again these found in Job 40:8-14.
 - b. What animal do you think God is describing in Job 40:15-24? See especially verse 23. _____
 - c. What kind of animal is described in chapter 41? Note especially verses 7, 10, 15-17, 31-35. _____
 - d. See Job 15:26. Do you think god had to write out His speeches? _____
8. What did Job know about God as a result of all that he had been through? Job 42:2

9. What relationship with God did Job have now, that he had not had before? Job 42:5

10. How did he feel as a result of this? Job 42:6

B. God's Words to Job's Friends: Read Job 42:7-9

1. How did God feel toward Job's friends? Why? Job 42:7

2. What did He tell them to do? Job 42:8a (Note how this indicates the age in which Job lived. Who would have made these sacrifices after the time of Moses? Exodus 21:8, Leviticus 1:5-8)

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3. What was Job to do for them? Job 42:8b
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C. God's Provision for Job: Read Job 42:10-17

1. What did the Lord do for Job when he prayed for his friends?
 - a. Job 42:10a _____
 - b. Job 42:10b _____
2. Who then came to visit Job and to comfort him? Job 42:11a

3. What did each one bring with him? Job 42:11b

4. What was the end result of all Job's sufferings? Job 42:12a

5. How did his possessions at this time compare with what he had had before? Job 1:3, 42:12 b

6. What other blessing did God give to Job? Job 42:16-17 (Note how Job's life span indicates the age in which he lived. Compare his age with that of Abraham's ancestors listed in Genesis 11:10-32; Abraham, Genesis 25:7; Jacob, Genesis 47:28; Joseph, Genesis 50:22; and Moses, Deuteronomy 34:7. About when would you say from this he lived?)

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Did Job benefit in any way from the sufferings he experienced?

2. What should I remember in every suffering I experience? Romans 8:28

SECTION THREE: FROM EGYPT TO CANAAN.

THE BIRTH AND GROWTH OF THE NATION

Exodus 1 - Joshua 24

We have seen how Abraham's family began to increase, and was preserved through Joseph. Read now what happened to them after they went to Egypt:

A. Abraham's Family in Egypt: Read Exodus 1:1-22:

1. By what name did Abraham's descendants come to be known in Egypt? Exodus 1:7, 9
(See Genesis 32:27-28)

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2. Why did they not return to Canaan as soon as the famine was over? Genesis 15:13-16, 46:3, 50:24

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3. What happened to them in Egypt? Genesis 47:27, Exodus 1:7

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4. After Joseph died, what part of Genesis 15:13-16 was fulfilled? Exodus 1:11-14
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B. The Deliverance From Egypt: Exodus 3-14:

1. When God saw the condition of the people, what did He do? Exodus 2:23-25, 3:4, 10

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2. What did God have to send to make Pharaoh willing to let His people leave Egypt? See Exodus 11:1

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3. How long had they stayed in Egypt? Exodus 12:40, 41 (See Genesis 15:13d)

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4. What great miracle did God perform for them as they were leaving Egypt? Exodus 14:22
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C. The Journey to Canaan: Exodus 15 - Deuteronomy:

1. How did the people know which route to take to Canaan? Exodus 13:21, Numbers 9:15-23

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2. When they reached Mt. Sinai, what two important things did God give them?

a. Exodus 19:5, 21:1

b. Exodus 25:9

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3. When the 12 spies brought back their report on the land, what did the people do? Numbers 14:1-4
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4. What happened to them because of this? Numbers 14:32-33
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D. The Conquest and Division of Canaan: Joshua 1-24:

1. Why was Moses not permitted to lead the people into the land of Canaan? Numbers 27:12-14, 20:1-13
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2. Notice the three phases of the conquest under Joshua:
- a. The central campaign, centered around Jericho: Joshua 6-8.
 - b. The southern campaign, centered around Beth-horon: Joshua 10.
 - c. The northern campaign, centered around Lake Merom: Joshua 11.
3. List the great miracles God performed for them:
- a. As they entered the land: Joshua 3:14-17 _____
 - b. At Jericho: Joshua 6:20 _____
 - c. At Beth-horon: Joshua 10:11 and 12-14 _____
4. What did Joshua do with the land of Canaan after he had conquered it? Joshua 11:23b
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5. Look up the word “nation” in a large dictionary, and notice the requirements for a nation. How many of these did Israel now have?
- a. Exodus 1:7, 9, 12 _____
 - b. Genesis 42:23 _____
 - c. Exodus 1:17a, 25:9 _____
 - d. Exodus 19:5, 21:1 _____
 - f. Joshua 11:23b _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was there any part of God’s prediction to Abraham which was not fulfilled?
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2. How should I feel about the promises God has given to me? Hebrews 10:23b, Romans 4:21.
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THE SONG OF MOSES AND MIRIAM

Exodus 13:17 - 15:21

One of the best known events of this period of Israel's history is that which took place just as they were leaving the land of Egypt after the Ten Plagues had spoiled the Egyptians. Review briefly this event, and study the song which grew out of it:

A. The Crossing of the Red Sea: Read Exodus 13:17 - 14:31

1. On the map on page 18, trace the journey of the Israelites from the land of Goshen in Egypt to the edge of the Red Sea. See Exodus 13:20, 14:2 for the names of the places they passed through.

2. Who followed the Israelites to this point? Exodus 14:5-9

3. How did the Israelites feel when they saw these people? Exodus 14:10

4. What was Moses' answer to them? Exodus 14:13-14

5. What were the people of Israel then able to do? Exodus 14:16, 21-22, 29

6. What happened to the Egyptians when they tried to follow them? Exodus 14:23-28

7. What effect did this event have upon the people of Israel? Exodus 14:30-31

8. If you had seen what the Israelites saw, what would you feel like doing?

9. What did the Israelites do? Exodus 15:1a

B. The Song of Moses and the Children of Israel: Read Exodus 15:1-21

1. To whom did the people give the credit for this great victory? Exodus 15:1b

2. What had the Lord been to Israel before this time? Exodus 15:2a

3. What had He become to them through this experience? Exodus 15:2b

4. What new concept of God did they have now, that they had not had before? Exodus 15:3

5. Notice how verses 4 - 10 summarize the whole event briefly. To what two things were the armies of Pharaoh compared as they sank into the sea? Exodus 15:5, 10

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6. Notice the questions in verse 11. What is the answer to them?

7. Do you think this experience taught the Israelites anything about their God?
What?

8. What nations would hear about this event? Exodus 15:14-15 (Locate these on the maps,
pages 12 and 18.)

9. How would they feel as a result? Exodus 15:14-16

10. What did the Israelites confidently expect as a result of this? Exodus 15-17

11. Notice the climax of the song in verses 18-19. After this, who joined in the song?
Exodus 15:20-21

12. Notice their words in verse 21. What verse contains these same words?

13. Which *two* underlined words on page 10 describe these words? (THINK!)

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do you think God was pleased with this song which was sung to Him?

2. What do I do after God has done some great thing for me? Psalm 107:1, 2, 8

A SONG OF ISRAEL'S JOURNEY

Numbers 21:16-18

During all the journeys of the Israelites toward their Promised Land, and during their forty years of wandering in the wilderness, one great problem kept arising over and over again. Read below to see what this problem was, and how the people felt about it:

A. The Great Problem of the Wilderness: Locate each place on the map, page 18.

1. Immediately after the people left the Red Sea, what great problem arose? Exodus 15:22

2. What was the problem at Marah, their next stop? Exodus 15:23-24

3. How did the Lord solve the problem there? Exodus 15:25

4. What refreshing thing did they find at Elim, their next stop? Exodus 15:27

5. What was one great problem at Rephidim? Exodus 17:1-4

6. How did the Lord meet their need there? Exodus 17:5-7

7. After their year's stay at Mt. Sinai (during which time they received the Ten Commandments and built the Tabernacle) and after the spies had brought back the evil report and the forty years of wandering had begun, what problem arose when they reached Kadesh? Numbers 20:2-5

8. What different instructions did God give Moses for getting water from the rock at this time? Numbers 20:8

9. What did Moses do to get the water? Numbers 20:11

10. What did God say would happen to him because of this? Numbers 20:12

11. When they reached Horman, what problem again arose? Numbers 21:3-5

12. What did the Lord do to the people because they complained at this time? Numbers 21:6

13. What remedy did God provide for the people after this? Numbers 21:7-9

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14. After they had crossed the Arnon River, which separates the Moabites from the Amorites (see map, page 23) what did they find? Numbers 21:16

15. How do you think you would feel about this if you had been through all that the Israelites had been through? (THINK!)

16. What did the Israelites do on this occasion? Numbers 21:17a

B. The Song After the Wilderness Journeys: Read Numbers 21:16-18

1. Who had dug this well? Numbers 21:18a

2. What tools did they use in digging it? Numbers 21:18c

3. How did they know where to dig it? Numbers 21:18b

4. How had he known that there was water in this place? Numbers 21:16

5. What was the people's song to the well? Numbers 21:17

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What had God promised Israel before they began this journey? Exodus 6:8. How should they have felt when needs arose?

2. Have I learned to trust God to meet my needs, or do I murmur and complain until the need is met? Can I sing beforehand, or only afterwards?

THE PROPHECIES OF BALAAM

Numbers 22 - 24

One of the most unusual incidents in the history of Israel took place as they completed their journey and encamped just outside the Promised Land. Read about this incident and the literature which was written at this time:

A. The Problem of the Moabites: Read Numbers 22:1-41

1. Where were the people encamped at this time? Numbers 22:1 (Locate this place on the maps, pages 12 and 18).

2. How did the Moabites feel about this? Numbers 22:3-4

3. To whom did their king send for help at this time? Numbers 22:4b-6

4. What reputation did this man have? Numbers 22:6b

5. When the messengers arrived, what did Balaam tell them? Numbers 22:8

6. What was God's message to Balaam? Numbers 22:12

7. When a second group of messengers came, what did God permit Balaam to do?
Numbers 22:20

8. How did God feel about his going with them? Numbers 22:22

9. What miraculous thing took place as he journeyed? Numbers 22:22-33

10. What did Balaam then realize about his action? Numbers 22:34

11. What final caution did God give Balaam before he reached Moab? Numbers 22:35

B. The Prophecies of Balaam: Read Numbers 23:1 - 24:25

1. What did Balaam do before he spoke to Balak? Numbers 23:1, 3-5

2. Read Balaam's first prophecy in Numbers 23:7-10. What was his main question?
Numbers 23:8

3. What was his main prediction concerning Israel? Numbers 23:10

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4. What did Balak ask Balaam to do after this? Numbers 23:13

5. What did Balaam again do before he spoke? Numbers 23:15

6. Notice Balaam's wonderful words about God in his second prophecy, verse 1c. What did he predict Israel would do? Numbers 23:24

7. When Balaam saw that God would only bless Israel and not curse them, what did he do at the next place? Numbers 24:1

8. What happened to him anyway? Numbers 24:2b

9. Read Balaam's third prophecy, Numbers 24:3-9. What did he predict at this time? Numbers 24:8

10. Before Balaam returned to his own land, about what did he tell the king of Moab? Numbers 24:14

11. Read Balaam's fourth prophecy, Numbers 24:15-24. About whom do you think Balaam is talking in verses 17 and 19?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Could anyone or anything stop God from fulfilling His promises to Israel?

2. What should I remember about all of God's promises to me? Numbers 23:19

THE FAREWELL SONG AND BLESSING OF MOSES

Deuteronomy 32 -34

After leading the Israelites from Egypt right up to the edge of the Promised Land, Moses again gave the law for the benefit of the new generation of Israelites who had grown up during the forty years of wilderness wanderings. Study now the words with which he closed his discourses and his ministry as Israel's leader:

A. Moses' Farewell Song: Read Deuteronomy 32:1-43

1. Notice the parallelisms with which Moses opened his speech, verses 1-2. About whom did he then speak? Deuteronomy 32:3-4

2. What had the people of Israel done against God? Deuteronomy 32:5-6

3. What did Moses call the people to remember? Deuteronomy 32:7-8

4. List all of the wonderful things God had done for Jacob (or Israel): Deuteronomy 32:10, 12

1. Notice all the things God had provided for Israel: Deuteronomy 32:13-14

2. In spite of all this, what had Israel done? Deuteronomy 32:15-18 (Jeshurun is another name for Jacob or Israel: See Isaiah 44:2)

3. How did the Lord feel when He saw this? Deuteronomy 32:19-25

4. What was the only reason God had not destroyed them completely? Deuteronomy 32:2;6-27

5. What did God wish they would do? Deuteronomy 32:29

10. Read verses 35-43. What did God say He would do unto His people? Deuteronomy 32:36a

6. What did God tell Moses on the same day that he spoke the above song to Israel? Deuteronomy 32:48-52

B. The Fatherly Blessing of Moses: Read Deuteronomy 33:1-29

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1. With a description of what did Moses begin his blessing? Deuteronomy 33:2-3

2. Notice the simplicity of the blessing for Reuben: Deuteronomy 33:6
3. Notice the two chief parts to Judah's blessing: Deuteronomy 33:7a-b

4. What did Moses say that the tribe of Levi would do? Deuteronomy 33:10

5. Notice the tenderness in the blessing for Benjamin: Deuteronomy 33:12

6. After many blessings for the tribe of Joseph, to what two animals was he compared? Deuteronomy 33:17

7. Where would Zebulun and Issachar get their treasures? Deuteronomy 33:19

8. To what animals were Gad and Dan compared? Deuteronomy 33:20, 22

9. How was Naphtali described? Deuteronomy 33:23

10. What wonderful promise was given to Asher? Deuteronomy 33:25b

11. About whom did Moses speak in closing his blessing to Israel? Deuteronomy 33:26-29

12. What happened to Moses just after this blessing was ended? Deuteronomy 34:1-12

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What was the outstanding theme of both Moses' song and his blessing?
2. _____
2. Am I so aware of the perfection's of my God that my thoughts, songs, speeches, and writings are filled with such praises as Deuteronomy 33:26-29?

THE UNUSUAL COMMAND OF JOSHUA

Joshua 9 - 10

One of the most unusual pieces of literature in all history was written in connection with the conquest of the land of Canaan by Joshua and his armies. Read below about this literature and the events which gave rise to it:

A. Joshua's First Conquests: Joshua 6-8

1. What was the name of the first great city which Joshua and his army conquered after entering Canaan? Joshua 6:1, 21, 24

2. What happened as a result of this victory? Joshua 6:27

3. What was the name of the second city that Joshua and his armies conquered? Joshua 8:1-2

B. The Reaction of Other Cities to These Conquests: Read Joshua 9:1 - 10:5

1. What did all the other kings do when they heard of Joshua's victories? Joshua 9:1-2

2. What did the inhabitants of the city of Gibeon do? Joshua 9:3-6, 15

3. Why did they do this? Joshua 9:24

4. When the King of Jerusalem heard of all these things, how did he feel? Joshua 10:1-2

5. To how many kings did he send for help? Joshua 10:3 (Locate their cities on the map, page 23)

1. What did all these kings decide to do? Joshua 10:4, 5b

C. The Battle for Gibeon: Read Joshua 10:6-14

1. To whom did the people of Gibeon send for help? Joshua 10:6

2. What did God tell Joshua before this battle? Joshua 10:8

3. What happened at the battle of Gibeon? Joshua 10:10a

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4. To what cities did Joshua chase the people as they fled from the battle? Joshua 10:10b
(Locate these cities on the map, page 23)

5. What miracle did God perform to help Israel at Both-horon? Joshua 10:11

6. As the battle progressed, on whom did Joshua call? Joshua 10:12a

7. What most unusual command did Joshua then give? Joshua 10:12b

8. Was there any human possibility of this command being obeyed? Had anything like this ever happened before? Joshua 10:14

9. Notice that Joshua' command and the result in Joshua 10:12-13 are poetry, quoted from the book of Jasber, probably a book of secular history. Since they are quoted in the Bible, however, we know that they are accurate.

10. What happened as a result of Joshua's command? Joshua 10:13-14

11. What were Joshua and his armies able to do because of this? Joshua 10:13

12. What were they later able to do? Joshua 10:40, 42a

13. What was the secret of their success at this time? Joshua 10:14b, 42b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What did it take on the part of Joshua to give such a command as this?

2. Do I have faith to call upon the Lord for impossible things which I need in order to accomplish my work for Him? Jeremiah 33:3

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SECTION FOUR: THE ERA OF THE JUDGES: THE DARK AGES OF THE NATION

Judges 1 - Ruth 4

Although under Joshua all the great kings of Canaan were subdued, and the land was assigned to the various tribes as their inheritance, there still was a great deal to be done before the land would belong completely to the Israelites. Find in the passages below what was to be done, and what was actually accomplished toward this goal:

A. God's Promises to Israel:

1. How much of Canaan had God promised to Israel? Genesis 15:18-21, Genesis 17:8

2. What had God promised He would do to the inhabitants of the land? Exodus 23:30

3. On what condition would God do this? Exodus 23:22a

B. God's Command to Israel:

1. What was Israel's part in bringing to pass God's promises?
 - a. Exodus 23:24b _____
 - b. Exodus 23:24c _____
 - c. Exodus 23:32 _____
 - d. Exodus 23:33 _____
2. What would happen if they did not do their part? Joshua 23:13
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

C. Israel's Reaction to God's Promises and Commands: Read Judges 1:1 - 2:2

1. How did the tribe of Judah react to God's command? Judges 1:19

2. Find the names of seven other tribes who reacted in the same way: Judges 1:21-34

3. How did God sum up the reaction of all the tribes? Judges 2:2b

4. What do you think was Israel's reaction to God's promises?

D. The Results of Israel's Reaction: Read Judges 2:3-23

1. What did God say would happen because of Israel's actions? Judges 2:3
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

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2. What did the people do after the death of Joshua?
 - a. Judges 2:11 _____
 - b. Judges 2:12a _____
 - c. Judges 2:12b _____
3. What did God do because of this? Judges 2:14

4. When they were distressed and cried to God, what did God do? Judges 2:16

5. In spite of God's help, what happened after this? Judges 2:19

2. The above cycle was repeated over and over again during the era of the Judges. Read Judges 17:6, 21:25 for a summary of this period.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What caused this very dark period in Israel's history? What would have happened if Israel had reacted differently to God's promises and commands? See Isaiah 48:18.

2. Do I ever react to God's promises and commands as Israel did?

THE SONG OF DEBORAH AND BARAK

Judges 4 - 5

The most outstanding literature of the era of the Judges was written in connection with the work of two who lived near the beginning of this era. Read below about their work, and the literature which grew out of it:

A. The Rise of Deborah and Barak: Read Judges 4:1-9

1. What had the people of Israel done at this time? Judges 4:1

2. What did the Lord do to them as a result? Judges 4:2

3. What did they do after this? Judges 4:3a

4. Who was the judge of Israel at this time? Judges 4:4

5. Whom did she say God had called to lead the forces of Israel against the enemy? Judges 4:6

6. What had God promised would be the outcome of this battle? Judges 4:7

3. On what condition did this man agree to lead Israel into battle? Judges 4:8

8. What did Deborah then tell him? Judges 4:9

B. The Battle With Sisera: Read Judges 4:10-24

1. Where did the two opposing armies pitch camps? Israel, Judges 4:12, Sisera, Judges 4:13. (Locate these places on the map, page 25)

2. Who began the battle and why? Judges 4:14

3. Who was winning the battle and why? Judges 4:15

4. What was the result of the battle? Judges 4:16b

5. Who alone escaped? Judges 4:17a

6. To whose tent did he go? Judges 4:17, 11

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7. What did she do for him? Judges 4:19b

8. After this, what did she do? Judges 4:21

C. The Song of Deborah and Barak: Read Judges 5:1-31

1. Who received the glory for this victory? Judges 5:2-3

2. What had been the people's part in winning this victory? Judges 5:2b, 9

3. What had been the conditions in Israel before Deborah became judge? Judges 5:6-8

4. Notice the account of what happened as the men were called to battle. Judges 5:20-21

5. Notice the account of Jael's part in the victory: Judges 5:24-27. What new detail is recorded here? Judges 5:25b

6. Notice how the singers pictured in their minds the mother of Sisera and how she would feel about his not returning from battle: Judges 5:28-30

4. What was their prayer as they concluded this song? Judges 5:32

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. With the leaders and equipment that Israel had, could she ever have hoped to win this battle herself? See Judges 4:4, 8, 5:8

2. What must I have if I am to gain the victory in the battle as of my life? See Judges 5:14, 15a, 23; II Corinthians 2:14.

THE SAYINGS OF SAMSON

Judges 13 - 16

One outstanding judge, who lived near the end of the era, was famous for his poetic sayings. Read about his life below, and see how these sayings grew out of it:

A. Samson's Birth: Read Judges 13:1-25

1. What enemy did Israel serve at this time? Judges 13:1

2. What did God promise about Samson before he was even born? Judges 13:5b

3. What happened to Samson as he grew up? Judges 13:25

B. Samson's Riddle: Read Judges 14:1 - 15:8

1. After Samson's first visit to the land of the Philistines, what did he ask his father to do? Judges 14:1-2

2. As Samson returned to the land of the Philistines with his father and mother, what great thing did he do? Judges 14:5-6

3. How was he able to do this? Judges 14:6a

4. When he returned to take his wife, what did he find? Judges 14:8-9

5. At his marriage feast, what did Samson tell to his thirty companions? Judges 14:12

6. What was to be their prize if they could discover the meaning within the seven days of the feast, and his prize if they could not? Judges 14:12-13

7. Read Samson's riddle in verse 14. What characteristic of Hebrew poetry do you notice? (See page 10)

8. When the young men could not in three days find the meaning of the riddle, whose help did they seek? Judges 14:15a

9. What did they threaten to do if she did not discover the meaning for them? Judges 14:15b

10. How did she discover the meaning? Judges 14:16-17

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11. When the young men told Samson the meaning of his riddle, what did he say? Judges 14:18b

7. This is a second famous saying of Samson. What do you think it means?

12. How did Samson obtain the reward he had promised for answering his riddle? Judges 14:19

8. When Samson's wife was given to his friend, what did Samson do to the Philistines? Judges 15:3-5

When the Philistines burned his wife and her father, what did Samson do to get even with them? Judges 15:6-8

C. Samson's Great Strength: Read Judges 15:9-20

1. What happened when the men of Judah bound Samson to deliver him to the Philistines? Judges 15:14-15

2. Read Samson's third famous saying in verse 16. What characteristic of Hebrew poetry do you find?

3. Read Judges 16:4-20. Why did Samson lose his strength? Judges 16:20b

4. How did Samson's life end? Judges 16:21-30

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What great weakness of Samson led to his downfall both in riddle-telling and in serving the Lord? See Judges 14:16-17; 16:15-27

2. Will I allow some weakness or besetting sin of mine to limit or end my usefulness in the Lord's service? Romans 6:12-14

THE BOOK OF RUTH: RUTH'S DECISION

Ruth 1

One of the most beautiful pieces of literature of all time is the book of Ruth. As you read this moving story (which could be called an epic - see page 1) be sure to see each scene in your mind's eye, and to feel what the various characters must have felt. Think, too, about what is said, and why:

A. The Years in Moab: Read Ruth 1:1-5

1. When did the story of Ruth take place? Ruth 1:1a

2. What condition existed in the land of Israel at the beginning of the story? Ruth 1:1b

3. What did one Israelitish family do because of this? Ruth 1:1c

4. Who were the members of this family? Ruth 1:2a

5. Locate their hometown on the map, page 25, and trace the way you think they would have journeyed to their new home.

6. What happened not too long after they arrived in this new country? Ruth 1:3

7. Then what did the two sons of the family do? Ruth 1:4a

8. What command had God given to the Israelites long before this time? Deuteronomy 7:3, 23:3

9. What happened after about ten years? Ruth 1:4b-5

10. Why did Naomi feel that all this had happened to her? Ruth 1:13b, 20b, 21b

B. The Great Decisions: Read Ruth 1:6-18

1. After this, what news reached Naomi about her own homeland? Ruth 1:6b

2. What did she decide to do? Ruth 1:6a, 7

3. As they began the journey, what did Naomi suggest that he daughters-in-law do? Ruth 1:8

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4. What did she trust would happen to them if they did this? Ruth 1:9

5. Who would ordinarily marry them if they should return to Israel? See Deuteronomy 25:5

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What caused Ruth to give up all in order to go with Naomi?

2. Do I ever have to make decisions such as the one Ruth made? See Genesis 2:24; Luke 9:23; Matthew 13:44-46.

RUTH'S REWARD

Ruth 2 - 4

After Naomi and Ruth had returned to Bethlehem, they had to have some means of earning a living. Read now to see what they did, and what the results of this were:

A. Ruth's Labor: Read Ruth 2:1-23

1. What did Ruth decide to do to earn a living for herself and her mother-in-law? Ruth 2:2
(Look up this work in a dictionary)

2. What people had the special privilege of doing this? Leviticus 19:9-10

3. Who owned the field Ruth "happened" to choose? Ruth 2:3

4. What kind of man was he? Ruth 2:1

5. What can you tell about him from his greeting to his reapers? Ruth 2:4

6. How did he treat Ruth when he discovered her in his fields? Ruth 2:8-9, 13

7. What three things had he heard about Ruth that made him want to help her?
 - a. Ruth 2:11a _____
 - b. Ruth 2:11b _____
 - c. Ruth 2:12b _____
8. Who did he pray would reward her fully for all this? Ruth 2:12a

5. What special provision did Boaz make for Ruth at meal time? Ruth 2:14

10. What command did Boaz give his reapers concerning Ruth? Ruth 2:15-16

11. How much did she glean the first day? Ruth 2:17. (This was about a bushel. Think how long that would last for two.)

12. When Ruth told her mother-in-law where she had gleaned, what additional fact did she learn about Boaz? Ruth 2:20b

13. How long did Ruth continue to glean in Boaz's fields? Ruth 2:23

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B. Naomi's Plans: Read Ruth 3:1-18

1. At the end of this time, what responsibility did Naomi feel for her daughter-in-law?
Ruth 3:1

2. Since Boaz was their near kinsman, what duty did he have? See Deuteronomy 25:5-6.

3. When Ruth, in obedience to Naomi, reminded Boaz of this duty, how did he feel about it? Ruth 3:10 (Note: It was the custom for a widow to lie down at the feet of her husband's relative to indicate her willingness to marry him.)

4. Why was he glad to do what she requested? Ruth 3:11

5. Why could he not do this immediately? Ruth 3:12-13

C. Boaz's Action: Read Ruth 4:1-22

1. When Boaz reminded the nearest kinsman of his duty, what did the kinsman decide?
Ruth 4:6 (Notice what he did to signify this: Ruth 4:7-8. See Deuteronomy 25:5-10).

2. What did Boaz then do? Ruth 4:9-13

3. What two famous people were later descended from Boaz and Ruth?
 - a. Ruth 4:17b, 22b _____
 - b. Matthew 1:5, 16 _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Which was greater - what Ruth gave up to come to Canaan, or what she gained?

2. How do the things I give up to become a Christian compare with the things that I gain by doing so? See Romans 8:18; II Corinthians 4:17-18.

THE SONG OF HANNAH

1 Samuel 1 - 2

At the very end of the era of the Judges, another beautiful piece of literature was written. Read below about its author, and the events which caused it to be written:

A. Hannah's Problems: Read 1 Samuel 1:1-8

1. Who is the man in this story? 1 Samuel 1:1

2. Where did he live? 1 Samuel 1:1a, 19 (Locate this city of Ramah on the map, page 25).

3. What was peculiar about his family, in contrast to families of our culture? 1 Samuel 1:2a

4. What was the first great problem of his wife Hannah? 1 Samuel 1:2b

5. Where did this man go every year? 1 Samuel 1:3a (Locate this city on a map)

6. When he made his sacrifices, why did he always give Hannah more than he gave his other wife and her children? 1 Samuel 1:4, 5

7. What was Hannah's second great problem? 1 Samuel 1:6

8. What did Hannah do because of these problems? 1 Samuel 1:7b

B. Hannah's Prayer: Read 1 Samuel 1:9-18

1. After the sacrifices were eaten, what else did Hannah do about her problems? 1 Samuel 1:10

2. For what did she ask the Lord? 1 Samuel 1:11a

3. What did she promise to do if God would grant her request? 1 Samuel 1:11b

4. What did Eli, the priest, think was wrong with Hannah? 1 Samuel 1:12-15

5. When he learned of her true condition, what did he say to her? 1 Samuel 1:17

6. How did Hannah feel after this? 1 Samuel 1:18

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C. Hannah's Purpose: Read 1 Samuel 1:19-28

1. What happened after this family returned to their home? 1 Samuel 1:20

2. How long did Hannah keep her son? 1 Samuel 1:22, 24

3. Then what did she do with him? 1 Samuel 1:24b, 28

D. Hannah's Song: Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11

1. How did Hannah feel as she gave her son to the Lord? 1 Samuel 2:1-2

2. About whom did Hannah speak in her prayer? 1 Samuel 2:3-5

3. What is the main theme of her song in verses 6-10?

E. Hannah's Reward: Read 1 Samuel 2:18-21

1. What did Samuel do as a child? 1 Samuel 2:11, 18

2. What did his mother do for him each year? 1 Samuel 2:19

3. How did the Lord reward Hannah for giving her son to Him 1 Samuel 2:20-21

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How would Hannah have felt if she had not kept her promise to the Lord? What would have been her reward?

2. Have I kept all the promises I have made to the Lord in my times of distress? (See Ecclesiastes 5:4-5)
