Judges 13 - Ruth
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JUDGES-RUTH

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Revision: 2018-02-04; Download at:
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B. Samson

No Deliverance,
Foreign Woman Kills Israelite Hero
(Chapter 13-16)

a. Angel Announces Samson's Birth, Nazarite Status, and Call to Deliver Israel (13:1-25)

[13:1]And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

[2]¶And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not. [3]And the angel of the Lord appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. [4]Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: [5]For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

[6]¶Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name: [7]But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

[8]¶Then Manoah entreated the Lord, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born. [9]And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband was not with her. [10]And the woman made haste, and ran, and shewed her husband, and said unto him, Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the other day.

[11]And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him, Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, I am. [12]And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him? [13]And the angel of the Lord said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. [14]She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe.

[15]¶And Manoah said unto the angel of the Lord, I pray thee, let us detain thee, until we shall have made ready a kid for thee. [16]And the angel of the Lord said unto Manoah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the Lord. For Manoah knew not that he was an angel of the Lord. [17]And Manoah said unto the angel of the Lord, What is thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour? [18]And the angel of the Lord said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?

[19]So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the Lord: and the angel did wondrously; and Manoah and his wife looked on. [20]For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground. [21]But the angel of the Lord did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the Lord. [22]And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God. [23]But his wife said unto him, If the Lord were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have shewed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these.

[24]¶And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. [25]And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

b. Samson Kills Lion, Philistine Bride of Timnath Learns the Secret of the Honeycomb (14:1-20)

[14:1]And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. [2]And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife. [3]Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well. [4]But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the Lord, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

[5]¶Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. [6]And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done. [7]And he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well.

[8]¶And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion: and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion. [9]And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion.

[10]¶So his father went down unto the woman: and Samson made there a feast; for so used the young men to do. [11]And it came to pass, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him. [12]¶And Samson said unto them, I will now put forth a riddle unto you: if ye can certainly declare it me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty change of garments: [13]But if ye cannot declare it me, then shall ye give me thirty sheets and thirty change of garments. And they said unto him, Put forth thy riddle, that we may hear it. [14]And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle.

[15]And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said unto Samson's wife, Entice thy husband, that he may declare unto us the riddle, lest we burn thee and thy father's house with fire: have ye called us to take that we have? is it not so? [16]And Samson's wife wept before him, and said, Thou dost but hate me, and lovest me not: thou hast put forth a riddle unto the children of my people, and hast not told it me. And he said unto her, Behold, I have not told it my father nor my mother, and shall I tell it thee?

[17]And she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted: and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she lay sore upon him: and she told the riddle to the children of her people. [18]And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day before the sun went down, What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion? And he said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle.

[19]¶And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house. [20]But Samson's wife was given to his companion, whom he had used as his friend.

c. Samson Burns Crops and Kills Philistines with Jawbone (15:1-20)

[15:1]But it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not suffer him to go in. [2]And her father said, I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy companion: is not her younger sister fairer than she? take her, I pray thee, instead of her.

[3]¶And Samson said concerning them, Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure. [4]And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails. [5]And when he had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards and olives.

[6]¶Then the Philistines said, Who hath done this? And they answered, Samson, the son in law of the Timnite, because he had taken his wife, and given her to his companion. And the Philistines came up, and burnt her and her father with fire.

[7]¶And Samson said unto them, Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease. [8]And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam.

[9]¶Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi. [10]And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up against us? And they answered, To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us.

[11]Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us? what is this that thou hast done unto us? And he said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them.

[12]And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said unto them, Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves. [13]And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee. And they bound him with two new cords, and brought him up from the rock.

[14]¶And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands. [15]And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith. [16]And Samson said,

With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps,
with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men.

[17]And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place Ramath-lehi.

[18]¶And he was sore athirst, and called on the Lord, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised? [19]But God clave an hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof En-hakkore, which is in Lehi unto this day.

[20]And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

b. Samson Carries Off City Gate, Philistine Delilah Learns the Secret of Samson's Strength (16:1-20)

[16:1]Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. [2]And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him. [3]And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron.

[4]¶And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. [5]And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver.

[6]¶And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee. [7]And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. [8]Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them. [9]Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known.

[10]And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound. [11]And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. [12]Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And there were liers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread.

[13]And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web. [14]And she fastened it with the pin, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awaked out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web.

[15]¶And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth. [16]And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; [17]That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

[18]And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand. [19]And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. [20]And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him.

c. Samson Kills 3,000 Philistines and Himself (16:21-31)

[16:21]¶But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house. [22]Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.

[23]Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand. [24]And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us.

[25]And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars. [26]And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.

[27]Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport. [28]And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.

[29]And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. [30]And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.

[31]Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the buryingplace of Manoah his father.

[31b]And he judged Israel twenty years.

III. Conclusion: Israel Breaks All Commandments and Self-Destructs

There Was No King,
and No Judge Is Mentioned
(Chapters 17-21)

A. Tribe of Dan

Abandons Land of Inheritance
and Turns to Idolatry
(Chapter 17-18)

- *Micah makes himself an idol and hires a Levite priest (17:1-13)*

[17:1]And there was a man of mount Ephraim, whose name was Micah. [2]And he said unto his mother, The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from thee, about which thou cursedst, and spakest of also in mine ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it. And his mother said, Blessed be thou of the Lord, my son.

[3]And when he had restored the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, I had wholly dedicated the silver unto the Lord from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image: now therefore I will restore it unto thee. [4]Yet he restored the money unto his mother; and his mother took two hundred shekels of silver, and gave them to the founder, who made thereof a graven image and a molten image: and they were in the house of Micah.

[5]And the man Micah had an house of gods, and made an ephod, and teraphim, and consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.

[6]**In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes**.

[7]¶And there was a young man out of Beth-lehem-judah of the family of Judah, who was a Levite, and he sojourned there. [8]And the man departed out of the city from Beth-lehem-judah to sojourn where he could find a place: and he came to mount Ephraim to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.

[9]And Micah said unto him, Whence comest thou? And he said unto him, I am a Levite of Beth-lehem-judah, and I go to sojourn where I may find a place.

[10]And Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten shekels of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals. So the Levite went in. [11]And the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons. [12]And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah. [13]Then said Micah, Now know I that the Lord will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to my priest.

- *Dan sees Micah's priest while spying out Laish for conquest (18:1-10)*

[18:1]**In those days there was no king in Israel**:
[1b]and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.

[2]And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their coasts, men of valour, from Zorah, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said unto them, Go, search the land: who when they came to mount Ephraim, to the house of Micah, they lodged there.

[3]When they were by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man the Levite: and they turned in thither, and said unto him, Who brought thee hither? and what makest thou in this place? and what hast thou here? [4]And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.

[5]And they said unto him, Ask counsel, we pray thee, of God, that we may know whether our way which we go shall be prosperous. [6]And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the Lord is your way wherein ye go.

[7]¶Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that were therein, how they dwelt careless, after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure; and there was no magistrate in the land, that might put them to shame in any thing; and they were far from the Zidonians, and had no business with any man.

[8]And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What say ye? [9]And they said, Arise, that we may go up against them: for we have seen the land, and, behold, it is very good: and are ye still? be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land. [10]When ye go, ye shall come unto a people secure, and to a large land: for God hath given it into your hands; a place where there is no want of any thing that is in the earth.

- *Dan takes Micah's idol and hires his priest (18:11-25)*

[18:11]¶And there went from thence of the family of the Danites, out of Zorah and out of Eshtaol, six hundred men appointed with weapons of war. [12]And they went up, and pitched in Kirjath-jearim, in Judah: wherefore they called that place Mahaneh-dan unto this day: behold, it is behind Kirjath-jearim. [13]And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.

[14]¶Then answered the five men that went to spy out the country of Laish, and said unto their brethren, Do ye know that there is in these houses an ephod, and teraphim, and a graven image, and a molten image? now therefore consider what ye have to do. [15]And they turned thitherward, and came to the house of the young man the Levite, even unto the house of Micah, and saluted him.

[16]And the six hundred men appointed with their weapons of war, which were of the children of Dan, stood by the entering of the gate. [17]And the five men that went to spy out the land went up, and came in thither, and took the graven image, and the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image: and the priest stood in the entering of the gate with the six hundred men that were appointed with weapons of war. [18]And these went into Micah's house, and fetched the carved image, the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image. Then said the priest unto them, What do ye? [19]And they said unto him, Hold thy peace, lay thine hand upon thy mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest: is it better for thee to be a priest unto the house of one man, or that thou be a priest unto a tribe and a family in Israel? [20]And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the graven image, and went in the midst of the people. [21]So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before them.

[22]¶And when they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men that were in the houses near to Micah's house were gathered together, and overtook the children of Dan. [23]And they cried unto the children of Dan. And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, What aileth thee, that thou comest with such a company? [24]And he said, Ye have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and ye are gone away: and what have I more? and what is this that ye say unto me, What aileth thee?

[25]And the children of Dan said unto him, Let not thy voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows run upon thee, and thou lose thy life, with the lives of thy household.

[26]And the children of Dan went their way: and when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back unto his house.

- *Dan Conquers and Settles at Laish (18:27-31)*

[18:27]And they took the things which Micah had made, and the priest which he had, and came unto Laish, unto a people that were at quiet and secure: and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and burnt the city with fire. [28]And there was no deliverer, because it was far from Zidon, and they had no business with any man; and it was in the valley that lieth by Beth-rehob. And they built a city, and dwelt therein. [29]And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born unto Israel: howbeit the name of the city was Laish at the first.

[30]¶And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh [Moses NIV], he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land. [31]And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

B. Tribe of Benjamin

Defends Rape and Murder
and Is Nearly Destroyed
(Chapter 19-21)

- *Town of Gibeah Abuses and Kills a Levite's Concubine (19:1-30)*

[19:1]And it came to pass in those days, **when there was no king in Israel**, that there was a certain Levite sojourning on the side of mount Ephraim, who took to him a concubine out of Beth-lehem-judah. [2]And his concubine played the whore against him, and went away from him unto her father's house to Beth-lehem-judah, and was there four whole months. [3]And her husband arose, and went after her, to speak friendly unto her, and to bring her again, having his servant with him, and a couple of asses: and she brought him into her father's house: and when the father of the damsel saw him, he rejoiced to meet him. [4]And his father in law, the damsel's father, retained him; and he abode with him three days: so they did eat and drink, and lodged there.

[5]¶And it came to pass on the fourth day, when they arose early in the morning, that he rose up to depart: and the damsel's father said unto his son in law, Comfort thine heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward go your way. [6]And they sat down, and did eat and drink both of them together: for the damsel's father had said unto the man, Be content, I pray thee, and tarry all night, and let thine heart be merry. [7]And when the man rose up to depart, his father in law urged him: therefore he lodged there again. [8]And he arose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart: and the damsel's father said, Comfort thine heart, I pray thee. And they tarried until afternoon, and they did eat both of them.

[9]And when the man rose up to depart, he, and his concubine, and his servant, his father in law, the damsel's father, said unto him, Behold, now the day draweth toward evening, I pray you tarry all night: behold, the day groweth to an end, lodge here, that thine heart may be merry; and to morrow get you early on your way, that thou mayest go home.

[10]But the man would not tarry that night, but he rose up and departed, and came over against Jebus, which is Jerusalem; and there were with him two asses saddled, his concubine also was with him. [11]And when they were by Jebus, the day was far spent; and the servant said unto his master, Come, I pray thee, and let us turn in into this city of the Jebusites, and lodge in it. [12]And his master said unto him, We will not turn aside hither into the city of a stranger, that is not of the children of Israel; we will pass over to Gibeah. [13]And he said unto his servant, Come, and let us draw near to one of these places to lodge all night, in Gibeah, or in **Ramah**. [14]And they passed on and went their way; and the sun went down upon them when they were by Gibeah, which belongeth to Benjamin. [15]And they turned aside thither, to go in and to lodge in Gibeah: and when he went in, he sat him down in a street of the city: for there was no man that took them into his house to lodging.

[16]¶And, behold, there came an old man from his work out of the field at even, which was also of mount Ephraim; and he sojourned in Gibeah: but the men of the place were Benjamites. [17]And when he had lifted up his eyes, he saw a wayfaring man in the street of the city: and the old man said, Whither goest thou? and whence comest thou? [18]And he said unto him, We are passing from Beth-lehem-judah toward the side of mount Ephraim; from thence am I: and I went to Beth-lehem-judah, but I am now going to the house of the Lord; and there is no man that receiveth me to house. [19]Yet there is both straw and provender for our asses; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for thy handmaid, and for the young man which is with thy servants: there is no want of any thing. [20]And the old man said, Peace be with thee; howsoever let all thy wants lie upon me; only lodge not in the street. [21]So he brought him into his house, and gave provender unto the asses: and they washed their feet, and did eat and drink.

[22]¶Now as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial, beset the house round about, and beat at the door, and spake to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him. [23]And the man, the master of the house, went out unto them, and said unto them, Nay, my brethren, nay, I pray you, do not so wickedly; seeing that this man is come into mine house, do not this folly. [24]Behold, here is my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; them I will bring out now, and humble ye them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you: but unto this man do not so vile a thing.

[25]But the men would not hearken to him: so the man took his concubine, and brought her forth unto them; and they knew her, and abused her all the night until the morning: and when the day began to spring, they let her go. [26]Then came the woman in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her lord was, till it was light.

[27]And her lord rose up in the morning, and opened the doors of the house, and went out to go his way: and, behold, the woman his concubine was fallen down at the door of the house, and her hands were upon the threshold. [28]And he said unto her, Up, and let us be going. But none answered. Then the man took her up upon an ass, and the man rose up, and gat him unto his place.

[29]¶And when he was come into his house, he took a knife, and laid hold on his concubine, and divided her, together with her bones, into twelve pieces, and sent her into all the coasts of Israel. [30]And it was so, that all that saw it said, There was no such deed done nor seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt unto this day: consider of it, take advice, and speak your minds.

- *Benjamin defends Gibeah, Israel nearly destroys Benjamin (20:1-48)*

[20:1]Then all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one man, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, with the land of Gilead, unto the Lord in Mizpeh. [2]And the chief of all the people, even of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand footmen that drew sword.

[3](Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel were gone up to Mizpeh.) Then said the children of Israel, Tell us, how was this wickedness? [4]And the Levite, the husband of the woman that was slain, answered and said, I came into Gibeah that belongeth to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to lodge. [5]And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and beset the house round about upon me by night, and thought to have slain me: and my concubine have they forced, that she is dead. [6]And I took my concubine, and cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the country of the inheritance of Israel: for they have committed lewdness and folly in Israel. [7]Behold, ye are all children of Israel; give here your advice and counsel.

[8]¶And all the people arose as one man, saying, We will not any of us go to his tent, neither will we any of us turn into his house. [9]But now this shall be the thing which we will do to Gibeah; we will go up by lot against it; [10]And we will take ten men of an hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and an hundred of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand, to fetch victual for the people, that they may do, when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, according to all the folly that they have wrought in Israel. [11]So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, knit together as one man.

[12]¶And the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, What wickedness is this that is done among you? [13]Now therefore deliver us the men, the children of Belial, which are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death, and put away evil from Israel. But the children of Benjamin would not hearken to the voice of their brethren the children of Israel: [14]But the children of Benjamin gathered themselves together out of the cities unto Gibeah, to go out to battle against the children of Israel.

[15]And the children of Benjamin were numbered at that time out of the cities twenty and six thousand men that drew sword, beside the inhabitants of Gibeah, which were numbered seven hundred chosen men. [16]Among all this people there were seven hundred chosen men lefthanded; every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss. [17]And the men of Israel, beside Benjamin, were numbered four hundred thousand men that drew sword: all these were men of war.

[18]¶And the children of Israel arose, and went up to the house of God, and asked counsel of God, and said, Which of us shall go up first to the battle against the children of Benjamin? And the Lord said, Judah shall go up first. [19]And the children of Israel rose up in the morning, and encamped against Gibeah. [20]And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin; and the men of Israel put themselves in array to fight against them at Gibeah. [21]And the children of Benjamin came forth out of Gibeah, and destroyed down to the ground of the Israelites that day twenty and two thousand men. [22]And the people the men of Israel encouraged themselves, and set their battle again in array in the place where they put themselves in array the first day.

[23](And the children of Israel went up and wept before the Lord until even, and asked counsel of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up again to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother? And the Lord said, Go up against him.) [24]And the children of Israel came near against the children of Benjamin the second day. [25]And Benjamin went forth against them out of Gibeah the second day, and destroyed down to the ground of the children of Israel again eighteen thousand men; all these drew the sword.

[26]¶Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept, and sat there before the Lord, and fasted that day until even, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. [27]And the children of Israel inquired of the Lord, (**for the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days**, [28]And **Phinehas**, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days,) saying, Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother, or shall I cease? And the Lord said, Go up; for to morrow I will deliver them into thine hand.

[29]And Israel set liers in wait round about Gibeah. [30]And the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day, and put themselves in array against Gibeah, as at other times. [31]And the children of Benjamin went out against the people, and were drawn away from the city; and they began to smite of the people, and kill, as at other times, in the highways, of which one goeth up to the house of God, and the other to Gibeah in the field, about thirty men of Israel.

[32]And the children of Benjamin said, They are smitten down before us, as at the first. But the children of Israel said, Let us flee, and draw them from the city unto the highways. [33]And all the men of Israel rose up out of their place, and put themselves in array at Baal-tamar: and the liers in wait of Israel came forth out of their places, even out of the meadows of Gibeah. [34]And there came against Gibeah ten thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and the battle was sore: but they knew not that evil was near them. [35]And the Lord smote Benjamin before Israel: and the children of Israel destroyed of the Benjamites that day twenty and five thousand and an hundred men: all these drew the sword.

[36]So the children of Benjamin saw that they were smitten: for the men of Israel gave place to the Benjamites, because they trusted unto the liers in wait which they had set beside Gibeah. [37]And the liers in wait hasted, and rushed upon Gibeah; and the liers in wait drew themselves along, and smote all the city with the edge of the sword. [38]Now there was an appointed sign between the men of Israel and the liers in wait, that they should make a great flame with smoke rise up out of the city. [39]And when the men of Israel retired in the battle, Benjamin began to smite and kill of the men of Israel about thirty persons: for they said, Surely they are smitten down before us, as in the first battle.

[40]But when the flame began to arise up out of the city with a pillar of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them, and, behold, the flame of the city ascended up to heaven. [41]And when the men of Israel turned again, the men of Benjamin were amazed: for they saw that evil was come upon them. [42]Therefore they turned their backs before the men of Israel unto the way of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them; and them which came out of the cities they destroyed in the midst of them. [43]Thus they inclosed the Benjamites round about, and chased them, and trode them down with ease over against Gibeah toward the sunrising. [44]And there fell of Benjamin eighteen thousand men; all these were men of valour.

[45]And they turned and fled toward the wilderness unto the rock of Rimmon: and they gleaned of them in the highways five thousand men; and pursued hard after them unto Gidom, and slew two thousand men of them. [46]So that all which fell that day of Benjamin were twenty and five thousand men that drew the sword; all these were men of valour.

[47]But six hundred men turned and fled to the wilderness unto the rock Rimmon, and abode in the rock Rimmon four months. [48]And the men of Israel turned again upon the children of Benjamin, and smote them with the edge of the sword, as well the men of every city, as the beast, and all that came to hand: also they set on fire all the cities that they came to.

- *Israel destroys town of Kirath-Jearim to provide wives for survivors of Benjamin (21:1-25)*

[21:1]Now the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpeh, saying, There shall not any of us give his daughter unto Benjamin to wife. [2]And the people came to the house of God, and abode there till even before God, and lifted up their voices, and wept sore; [3]And said, O Lord God of Israel, why is this come to pass in Israel, that there should be to day one tribe lacking in Israel?

[4]And it came to pass on the morrow, that the people rose early, and built there an altar, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. [5]And the children of Israel said, Who is there among all the tribes of Israel that came not up with the congregation unto the Lord? For they had made a great oath concerning him that came not up to the Lord to Mizpeh, saying, He shall surely be put to death.

[6]And the children of Israel repented them for Benjamin their brother, and said, There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day. [7]How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing we have sworn by the Lord that we will not give them of our daughters to wives?

[8]¶And they said, What one is there of the tribes of Israel that came not up to Mizpeh to the Lord? And, behold, there came none to the camp from Jabesh-gilead to the assembly. [9]For the people were numbered, and, behold, there were none of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead there. [10]And the congregation sent thither twelve thousand men of the valiantest, and commanded them, saying, Go and smite the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword, with the women and the children.

[11]And this is the thing that ye shall do, Ye shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman that hath lain by man. [12]And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead four hundred young virgins, that had known no man by lying with any male: and they brought them unto the camp to Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan. [13]And the whole congregation sent some to speak to the children of Benjamin that were in the rock Rimmon, and to call peaceably unto them. [14]And Benjamin came again at that time; and they gave them wives which they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh-gilead: and yet so they sufficed them not. [15]And the people repented them for Benjamin, because that the Lord had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

[16]¶Then the elders of the congregation said, How shall we do for wives for them that remain, seeing the women are destroyed out of Benjamin? [17]And they said, There must be an inheritance for them that be escaped of Benjamin, that a tribe be not destroyed out of Israel. [18]Howbeit we may not give them wives of our daughters: for the children of Israel have sworn, saying, Cursed be he that giveth a wife to Benjamin.

[19]Then they said, Behold, there is a feast of the Lord in Shiloh yearly in a place which is on the north side of Beth-el, on the east side of the highway that goeth up from Beth-el to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah. [20]Therefore they commanded the children of Benjamin, saying, Go and lie in wait in the vineyards; [21]And see, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in dances, then come ye out of the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin. [22]And it shall be, when their fathers or their brethren come unto us to complain, that we will say unto them, Be favourable unto them for our sakes: because we reserved not to each man his wife in the war: for ye did not give unto them at this time, that ye should be guilty. [23]And the children of Benjamin did so, and took them wives, according to their number, of them that danced, whom they caught: and they went and returned unto their inheritance, and repaired the cities, and dwelt in them.

[24]And the children of Israel departed thence at that time, every man to his tribe and to his family, and they went out from thence every man to his inheritance. [25]**In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes**.

END OF JUDGES – RUTH FOLLOWS

C. RUTH

Naomi's Sojourn in Moab

(Chapter 1)

- *Naomi's travel to Moab and her situation there (1:1-5)*

[1:1]Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem-judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. [2]And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Beth-lehem-judah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there. [3]And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. [4]And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. [5]And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

- *Ruth insists on accompanying Naomi back to Israel (1:6-18)*

[1:6]¶Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread. [7]Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah. [8]And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. [9]The Lord grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept. [10]And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people. [11]And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? [12]Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons; [13]Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord is gone out against me. [14]And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her. [15]And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. [16]And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: [17]Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me. [18]When she saw that she was steadfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

- *Naomi returns to Bethlehem empty (1:19-22)*

[1:19]¶So they two went until they came to Beth-lehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Beth-lehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi? [20]And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. [21]I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the Lord hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me? [22]So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Beth-lehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

Boaz Treats Ruth Kindly When She Gleans in His Field

(Chapter 2)

- *Ruth gleans in Boaz's field (2:1-3)*

[2:1]And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz. [2]And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter. [3]And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.

- *Boaz is told her identity by his servants (2:4-7)*

[2:4]¶And, behold, Boaz came from Beth-lehem, and said unto the reapers, The Lord be with you. And they answered him, The Lord bless thee. [5]Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this? [6]And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab: [7]And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house.

- *Boaz treats Ruth kindly because of her kindness to Naomi (2:8-14)*

[2:8]Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens: [9]Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn. [10]Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger? [11]And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore. [12]The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust. [13]Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens. [14]And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.

- *Boaz instructs his servants to treat Ruth kindly (2:15-17)*

[2:15]And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: [16]And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not. [17]So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley.

- *Ruth reports to Naomi on her day (2:18-23)*

[2:18]¶And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed. [19]And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz. [20]And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the Lord, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen. [21]And Ruth the Moabitess said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest. [22]And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field. [23]So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.

Naomi's Plan for Boaz to Marry Ruth

(Chapter 3)

- *Naomi's plan for Ruth to prompt a marriage proposal (3:1-5)*

[3:1]Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? [2]And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor. [3]Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. [4]And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do. [5]And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do.

- *Ruth lays down next to Boaz (3:6-7)*

[3:6]¶And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her. [7]And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down.

- *Boaz promises to marry Ruth if closer kinsmen do not (3:8-13)*

[3:8]¶And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet. [9]And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman. [10]And he said, Blessed be thou of the Lord, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. [11]And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman. [12]And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I. [13]Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the Lord liveth: lie down until the morning.

- *Boaz gives Ruth a large quantity of barley before she leaves (3:14-15)*

[3:14]¶And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another. And he said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor. [15]Also he said, Bring the veil that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her: and she went into the city.

- *Ruth reports to Naomi on her night (3:16-18)*

[3:16]And when she came to her mother in law, she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her. [17]And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law. [18]Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.

Boaz Purchases Naomi's Field and the Right to Marry Ruth

(Chapter 4)

- *Nearer kinsman agrees to redeem Naomi's field (4:1-4)*

[4:1]Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down. [2]And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down. [3]And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's: [4]And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy it before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to redeem it beside thee; and I am after thee. And he said, I will redeem it.

- *Nearer kinsman declines when Ruth is included (4:5-8)*

[4:5]Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance. [6]¶And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it. [7]Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel. [8]Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.

- *Boaz purchases Naomi's field and the right to marry Ruth (4:9-12)*

[4:9]¶And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi. [10]Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day. [11]And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The Lord make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Beth-lehem: [12]And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the Lord shall give thee of this young woman.

- *Ruth bears a son Obed (4:13-17)*

[13]¶So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bare a son. [14]And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. [15]And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him. [16]And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. [17]And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

- *Genealogical list fro Judah to David (4:18-22)*

[4:18]¶Now these are the generations of Pharez: Pharez begat Hezron, [19]And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab, [20]And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon, [21]And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed, [22]And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.

END

Judges 13 - Ruth
Judges 13 - Ruth
Judges 13 - Ruth