



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

WEEK 20

May **12****Judges Ch. 15**

Samson's personal feelings and desire for revenge that began in chapter 14 now turn into a conflict between nations. The men of Judah, who were attacked by the Philistines, bound Samson and handed him over to the Philistines (vv. 12-13). The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson while he was bound, and the rope fell from his hands. Samson picked up the jawbone of a donkey and began to strike the Philistines, killing a thousand of them. Samson thought he had accomplished all this by his own strength, but he soon realized how weak he was. Even though he was strong enough to kill a thousand Philistines at once, he could not move because there was no water. Only then did Samson cry out to God. This was Samson's first prayer. God heard Samson's prayer and gave him water from a hollow place in Lehi. What did Samson call the spring?

- Samson's prayer was a simple cry for survival, but it was also an acknowledgement of his weakness and seeking God's help. Like Samson when he cried to God for water, we too live a thirsty life. When we approach God with our thirst, God always opens a spring of water and answers.

**Ch. 16**

This chapter records the shame, pain, and death of Samson after he fell for Delilah's temptation (sin). In Judges 13, when Samson was born, what was his mission? (Judges 13:5)

- Samson did not keep the Nazirite rules and lived according to his own will, emotions, and mistakes, but God did not give up on Samson, and allowed him to fulfill his mission as a Nazirite and a judge with faith in his death.

May **13****Ch. 17**

Chapters 17-21 is an appendix to the Book of Judges, showing social and religious corruption and disorder of Israel, and the dark side of the nation during the Judges era. Chapter 17 records syncretism of the family of Micah from the tribe of Ephraim (offering silver to the Lord to make an idol) and the unlawful practice of appointing priests arbitrarily. What is the cause of this moral and spiritual decline? (Verse 6)

**Ch. 18**

Chapter 17 records sins (idolatry) of Micah's family. This chapter records the spread of idolatry from Micah's family to the tribe of Dan. The Levite who served Micah's family is an example of a corrupt spiritual leaders who moves to another tribe, the tribe of Dan, for better conditions. In the last verse, verse 30, the Bible introduces the genealogy and name of the Levite who became the priest of Micah's family and later became the priest of the tribe of Dan. Who was that man? (v. 30)

- The author of Judges reveals a shocking fact here. The Levite from Bethlehem was none other than Moses's grandson. This shows that even the family of Moses, God's chosen leader of Israel, could not escape the corruption of that fallen age, and that being a descendant of a noble family had no positive influence on Israel.

May **14****Ch. 19**

This chapter deals with the incident of the Levite's concubine caused by the scoundrels (wicked, worthless men) of the city of Gibeah, and shows how extreme the moral corruption of Israel was at the time. The Levite's concubine died a pitiful death, and her body was mutilated. The fact that the main character, the Levite, had a concubine, that the concubine committed adultery and ran away, and that on the way back, he gave the concubine to the scoundrels, are all aspects of the corrupt times. From the scoundrels of Gibeah who committed the crime to the Levite and the old man, it seems that there is not a single moral person. Why does the Bible tell such a terrible story?

Verse 1 states "In those days, when there was no (.....) in Israel." In other words, it is to show what the result would be if each person became a king and lived according to their own opinion instead of serving God as king.

## Ch. 20

Eleven tribes of Israel (all tribes except Benjamin) gathered together to discuss the death of the Levite concubine in Gibeah and demanded that the tribe of Benjamin hand over the perpetrators. However, when the tribe of Benjamin refused. Thus, the other tribes of Israel went to war with Benjamin. This was a civil war with the tribe of Benjamin on one side and the other eleven tribes of Israel on the other side. Benjamin won the first two days, but on the third day, Israel strategically captured Gibeah and almost completely destroyed Benjamin.

- 1) Number of Israel's casualties on the first day (v. 21):
- 2) Number of Israel's casualties on the second day (v. 25):
- 3) Number of Benjamin's casualties on the third day (v. 35):

- There was no winner in this Gibeah civil war that took place within Israel (tribe of Benjamin vs. other eleven tribes). They fought for what they thought was right. However, neither one of them won. God did not recognize any of them as right. This war was God's judgment on Israel for living according to their own opinions and doing evil in God's eyes.

## Ch. 21

This chapter is the last chapter of the book of Judges, and concludes the period of the Judges by saying, "In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes." For that phrase "There was no king in Israel," who is this king that is being referred to? (See 1 Samuel 8:7 for the answer.)

## Ruth Ch. 1

This chapter records the life of Elimelech's family who immigrated to Moab during the period of the Judges. What were the difficulties Naomi faced at that time?

- 1) Verse 1: Famine
- 2) Verse 3:
- 3) Verse 5: Death of two sons Mahlon and Chilion

- When Naomi (meaning: sweet) returned to Bethlehem after losing her family during her 10-year life as an immigrant in Moab, she told others to call her Mara (meaning: bitter). When Naomi and Ruth returned, it was the beginning of the barley harvest. (Verse 22) When you come to God with empty hands and repent (the word 'return' in verse 22 also means 'repent'), God will fill you with abundant grace.

## Ch. 2

In this chapter, Boaz hears about Ruth's love and kindness toward her mother in law Naomi. He shows special kindness and consideration by blessing her (vv. 11-12). "The Lord (.....) you for what you have done, and a full (.....) be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!"

## Ch. 3

Ruth, who came to seek refuge under the shadow of the wings of the Lord (2:12), now seeks refuge under the shadow of the wings of Boaz, her redeemer (v. 9). Boaz promises to fulfill his responsibility as a redeemer to Ruth, while also providing for her financial needs. What did Boaz put in Ruth's outer garment?

## Ch. 4

When Boaz decides to redeem the inheritance, all the people and elders at the gate come out and sang, "may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the (.....) will give you by this young woman." (v. 12) Tamar was a Canaanite woman and Judah's first daughter-in-law. After many twists and turns, Tamar disguises herself as a prostitute and has a relationship with Judah, giving birth to descendants (Genesis 38). The tribe of Judah begins with such a shameful story. However, God used even the shameful history of the tribe of Judah to fulfill His salvation history.

The people of Bethlehem saw in Ruth, Tamar. Ruth was a foreign woman, like Tamar; a widow whose husband died and came to Bethlehem. However, God redeemed Ruth through the redeemer Boaz, and they expect that, like Tamar and Judah, the Lord will bestow great blessings through Ruth and Boaz. The first chapter of the book of Ruth is full of sorrow, but the last four chapters are full of joy. The life that God leads begins with death and ends with life.