

Discipleship University Bible Reading Guide

Middle Old Testament History: Judges 19-21, Ruth, 1 Sam. 1-12

The next reading guide will be available on May 7

Judges 19-21: Unspeakable Horror Leads to Civil War and the Near Extermination of the Tribe of Benjamin

1. What event in Genesis is Judges 19 similar to? _____. What makes Judges 19 worse? _____. For what reason was the horrible story of Judges 19 included in the Bible? _____. What is the significance that this atrocity happened in Gibeah? _____
2. Why did the children of Israel attack the whole tribe of Benjamin instead of just killing the evil men of Gibeah who had abused the woman, leaving her to die? _____
3. How successful was Israel at punishing Benjamin the first two days of attacking? _____
4. How many survivors of the tribe of Benjamin were left by the end of Judges 20? _____
5. Why did Israel kill all of the women and children of the tribe of Benjamin? _____
6. From what two cities were virgins given to the surviving men of Benjamin in order to preserve their tribe in Israel? _____ and _____. Why were most of the inhabitants of Jabesh-Gilead slaughtered? _____ Why are the events of Judges 19-21 even in the Bible? _____

Ruth: A Most Unexpected Love Story

The story of Ruth may have taken place before the horrible events of Judges 19-21. This story provides a nice contrast showing that individuals can choose to be different and rise above the perversity of the culture around them. In other words, God always has a remnant of faithful ones even in times of apostasy.

1. Why was there a famine in the land? _____
2. What evidence in chapter one indicates that Naomi had lost her faith? _____
3. What evidence can you see *in chapter one* for Ruth, a Moabite, being a follower of the God of Israel? _____. What is your favorite verse in chapter one? _____
4. Why did Boaz think it best for Ruth to only glean in his fields? _____
5. In chapter 2, why was Boaz so impressed with Ruth? _____
6. How does 2:23 reveal the passage of some time? _____
7. What does the uncovering of Boaz's feet, and Ruth's request for him to take her under his wing (spread the corner of his garment over her) symbolize? _____
8. Why didn't the closer relative want to fulfill the role of kinsman-redeemer? _____
9. Why was Perez, the son of Judah, mentioned at the end of Ruth? _____
10. What was the relationship between Ruth and David? _____
11. How was Boaz like Jesus? _____

1 Samuel 1 and 2:1-11: Samuel as a Little Child

1. Why did Hannah give Samuel to Eli for temple service when he was so young? _____
2. What is the overall message in Hannah's poetic prayer? _____

***Suggested Reading, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 55 (pages 569-574)

1 Samuel 2:12-36: The Problem of Eli and His Sons

1. What evil things did Eli's sons do? _____
2. Why weren't Eli's rebukes of his sons sufficient? What should he have done? _____
_____. Who is set up in contrast to Eli's sons here? _____.
3. Who came with a warning message and prophecy to Eli? _____. What did he say made Eli guilty of idolatry? Or what were Eli's idols? _____.
4. What was prophesied about Hophni and Phinehas? _____

***Suggested Reading, *PP*, chapter 56 (pages 575-580)

1 Samuel 3-7: The Fall of the House of Eli, the Capture of the Ark, the leadership of Samuel the Prophet

1. What was Samuel's first prophetic message? _____. How did Eli persuade Samuel to give him such bad news? _____.
2. What made the Philistines so fearful so they fought extra hard against Israel? _____
3. What were some of the awful results of this battle? _____
4. What two persons died as a result of the bad news? _____
5. What was the significance of all the things that happened while the Philistines had the Ark of the Covenant? What did these events prove? _____
6. What was different between how the Philistines regarded the Ark compared to the Israelites at Beth Shemesh? Who showed more respect? _____. Who knew more about its sacredness? _____
7. What good resulted from the disaster at Beth Shemesh? _____
8. When the Philistines heard that Israel was gathered at Mizpah, they came to attack. How did God intervene for Israel so they had a great victory? _____

***Suggested Reading, *PP*, chapter 57 (pages 581-591, **especially p. 589**)

***Suggested Reading, *PP*, chapter 58 (pages 592-602)

1 Samuel 8-12: The Appointment of Saul as King of Israel and the Unification of the Tribes

1. What would be a good reason for Israel thinking they needed a king? _____
2. What reason for wanting a king made it wrong? _____
3. What were prophets called before they were called prophets? _____. Why is that significant? _____
4. What made Saul appear to be a good choice for a king? _____
5. What did God do to make Saul fit to be the king of Israel? _____
6. What evidences can be seen in chapters 8-10 to show that Saul was a humble man?
7. What does 1 Sam. 10:25 indicate would be different about Israel's monarchy compared to a typical monarchy of other nations? _____
8. Why should it be surprising that Saul was from Gibeah? _____
9. What city did Saul rescue from the Ammonites by raising up a huge army? _____
10. After the great victory, it was suggested that those who opposed Saul becoming king should be killed. What does Saul's response show about his character? _____
11. In Samuel 11:14-12:25 Samuel leads Israel in renewing the covenant and making Saul their king. What kind of events did he review and why? _____

***Suggested Reading, *PP*, chapter 59 (pages 603-615)