

## I. Framing questions

### A. Why are these books in the Bible?

1. Tell Israel's story between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Why should I study these books?

1. What do these stories say about us? we are free
  - a) God desires to use us as \_\_\_\_\_ of His story
  - b) We choose not to be used as agents of His story
  - c) How we choose matters in \_\_\_\_\_
2. What do these stories say about God?
  - a) He is \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) He is \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) He cares about His people \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) God's plan is to redeem the whole world, using his people

## II. Introduction to the Historical books

- A. Israel was unique in ANE with her emphasis on history.
- B. Other cultures primarily mythological
- C. Biblical history culminates in the Kingdom of God (whether garden, messiah, etc)

## III. Joshua: "the realization of Torah promises, setting apart God's people"

### A. Joshua the person

1. Joshua: "the Lord \_\_\_\_\_" (renamed from "he has saved")
2. Warrior: First mentioned as Moses' general (Ex 17.8-13)
3. Holy: Kept separate from Israel's sin with Golden Calf (Ex 32.17)
4. \_\_\_\_\_: Moses gave his authority by laying hands, wisdom came (Ex 34.9)
5. \_\_\_\_\_: One of the few given the title "servant of the Lord"
6. Courageous: Theme of Joshua the book.
7. Humble: cf Achan's sin (Josh 7)

### B. Joshua the book

1. Organization
  - a) Chapters 1-12: conquest of land
  - b) Chapters 13-24: dividing the land
2. Themes
  - a) Be strong and courageous, obey my word (Josh 1.7)
  - b) Ending the Exodus (Josh 3-4)
    - (1) Second Red Sea--the Jordan River
    - (2) Another Passover--Ends manna
  - c) Remember what the Lord has done
    - (1) Altars
    - (2) Circumcision
    - (3) Covenant renewal at Schechem (Josh 24)
  - d) Blessings for keeping covenant, or how to conquer the promised land
    - (1) When following God, undefeatable.
    - (2) Few mishaps (Achan's sin, Josh 7)
    - (3) People acted as a unified body (including two half-tribes who weren't officially part of Israel).
    - (4) One of the only times cities of Refuge were actually enacted.
    - (5) Looking to be a blessing to whole world: Rahab (ch 2)
  - e) Joshua's farewell
    - (1) Look back to move forward (remember what God has done) 23.1-16
    - (2) Transfer the faith (24.31)
    - (3) Choose whom you will serve (24.25)
3. Difficulties
  - a) Lack of archaeological evidence for Jericho

b) Why does a loving God command genocide?

#### IV. Judges: "God is merciful"

##### A. What is a judge?

1. Temporary, geographic
2. Charismatic: "The spirit of the Lord came upon him/her"
3. Deliverer
4. Not necessarily a good model

##### B. Playing by our own rules

1. Israel began breaking covenant within one generation of Joshua
2. Chief sin: \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) whether idolizing ourselves
  - b) or compromising by worshipping neighbor's gods.

##### C. Cycle of judgment:

1. \_\_\_\_\_: "the Israelites did evil in the Lord's eyes", "everyone did as they saw fit".
2. Judgment: "The Lord sold them into the hands of X"
3. \_\_\_\_\_: "But when the israelites cried out to the Lord"
4. \_\_\_\_\_: "he raised up for them a deliverer, Y, who saved them"
5. Peace: "The land had peace for Z years, until they did what was right in their eyes"

##### D. Themes:

1. Division of the people, division of the Land
2. Role of \_\_\_\_\_
3. God's mercy triumphs over qualification: compare judges actions with their character (i.e. Samson)
4. Progression toward anarchy
  - a) Solution: give us a king
  - b) Reality: no political system will work as long as the covenant community disobeys

#### V. Ruth "the simple life (compared to sordid affairs in Judges)"

##### A. Background

1. Takes place during the period of \_\_\_\_\_
2. The story of one exception to "doing what is right in their own eyes"

##### B. The Story

1. Naomi: widow who loses two sons, so nobody to provide for her, no inheritance
  - a) Has two daughters in law: one leaves, one stays
2. Ruth: The one who stayed
  - a) Even though not \_\_\_\_\_, stayed to care for Naomi (loved others)
    - (1) Forsook chance to start life over to care for a widow
    - (2) Chooses a life of begging (gleaning- God's provision for dispossessed)
  - b) Boaz:
    - (1) Older man, cares for God's commands (gleaning, kinsman redeemer)
    - (2) Demonstrates love for others by marrying Ruth
      - (a) Thus keeping inheritance for Naomi's sons
      - (b) Could have taken advantage of land by marrying Naomi and keeping land for his own sons
      - (c) Did what was right in \_\_\_\_\_ eyes.
        - i) including offering another suitor for Ruth

##### c) Consequences

- (1) Because of their noble actions, Ruth and Boaz blessed with son immediately
- (2) Become ancestors to David, and Jesus