

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

STUDY PACK 5A

MEMORIZE: Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Memorize and recite vocabulary to the Supervisor before proceeding to the study pak material

Vocabulary Words

City-states – The form of government of the Canaanites when Israel came into the land. Typically involved a fortified, defensible city at the center of a territory, which would include other villages. It was not uncommon for city-states to join together to fight a common enemy.

Angel of the Lord – An expression often used in the Old Testament to indicate a theophany, or the physical presence of the Lord.

Kinsman-Redeemer – A brother or near relative of a man who died without a son, who redeemed the dead man's property and married his widow.

The nations of Canaan were people groups that dwelt as _____. No single nation was strong enough to defeat the other nations to centralize government. These nations included: the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite (Joshua 9:1). Another people group that later became a dominant force in Canaan was the Philistines. Pharaoh Ramses III used the name _____ to describe a "sea people" he defeated.

Canaanites were _____. Their chief god was called El. He was also called the "father bull" and the creator. They also worshiped his wife, Astheroth, the "queen of heaven", and his son, Baal, who was believed to control heaven, earth and fertility. The Canaanite's idolatrous worship was an abomination to God. God's judgment on the Canaanites would come.

Joshua was God's chosen successor to Moses. Joshua had demonstrated his faith and ability. He and Caleb were confident that their God would give them the victory many years before when they returned from spying out the land. Joshua had proven himself in battle after battle. He was a capable leader.

Joshua's name means "the Lord is salvation." In the New Testament his name is Jesus. **Hebrews 4:8** For if Jesus (Joshua) had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. Joshua is to complete the work Moses started. He will be leading the children of Israel in their conquest of the Promised Land.

Joshua and Caleb are the only spies remaining alive. Joshua is an older man by this time. He is at least 70 years old. He has seen God do many miraculous things, but he still needed

encouragement. No doubt that is why God instructs him in Joshua 1:6-7, "Be strong and of good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest."

Following God's directions, Joshua sent two spies into the city of Jericho. In Jericho, the spies learned that fear of the Israelites had spread among the Canaanites because of God's mighty acts.

Israel is ready to add the only thing they need to become a nation—Land. Israel erected a memorial of unhewn stones to tell future generations that God dried up the Jordan river so they could walk across on dry ground. Israel then circumcised the second generation to roll away the reproach of Egypt. Finally the children of Israel observed the Passover for the first time in Canaan in the plains of Jericho. The manna ceased the day after the people ate corn in the land of Canaan

In Joshua 5, God appears to Joshua in a _____. Like Moses at the burning bush, Joshua is in the presence of Jehovah, the captain of the LORD's host. Joshua can see that victory does not depend on him alone. The LORD is with him in the battle.

God commanded Israel to take nothing from Jericho. It was a cursed city and they were not to take of "the accursed thing". All gold, silver, and vessels of brass and iron were to be consecrated to the Lord and put into the treasury of the Lord. Unfortunately, one Israelite named Achan sinned. Achan did not come before Joshua and confess, but continued to hide his sin until he was found out.

Finally, Achan confessed, (Joshua 7:21) "When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them, and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it."

A similar instance in Genesis reads, "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." The _____ of sin is evident in the words: "saw, coveted, took." Sin destroyed Adam and Eve's relationship with God and the entire human race suffered the consequences as well.

Achan's sin not only affected him and his family, thirty-six other families lost the head of their household because of Achan's sin. Sin destroys relationships, not only for those committing the sin, but also for the generations to come. After Achan's sin had been removed from the camp, God gave Israel a decisive victory over Ai.

After conquering and occupying central Canaan, Joshua assembled all Israel between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim for a holy convocation to hear the reading of the Law of Moses.

After hearing of the great things God had done for Israel, the Gibeonites dressed in old clothes, took old sacks, old wine skins, dry and moldy bread, and came to Joshua desiring to make a peace treaty with him. God had instructed Joshua and the Israelites to completely destroy the Canaanites. Joshua's decision was made based upon _____ instead of on a careful investigation. Joshua and the elders of Israel failed to check the facts of the story of Gibeonites. Joshua and the elders of Israel did not seek counsel from the Lord in their decision.

While Joshua's decision was a bad one, the Israelites honored the deal they had made, and followed through on their commitment to spare the lives of the Gibeonites. People in leadership should ask the following questions; "How am I making my decisions?" "Am I seeking God's wisdom and timing in this decision?" "Do I follow through on the agreements I make even if they cost me?" Get _____ from others _____ you make a decision and give the orders.

Joshua's second military campaign was against the Amorite kings. These kings gathered themselves together to fight against Joshua and Israel. Because of their alliance with the Israelites, five other city-states in the Amorite League attacked the Gibeonites. Not only did the Amorites flee before the Israelites, but God also caused great hailstones to rain down upon them, and caused the sun to stand still for an entire day while Israel defeated their enemies.

When the kings of the North heard about Israel's conquest of the southern part of Canaan, the King of Hazor gathered the kings of the North to fight against Israel at the waters of Merom. Joshua 12 gives a summary of the kings Joshua and the Israelites defeated, listing thirty-one kings who were destroyed. While Joshua did not destroy the inhabitants of Canaan as extensively as Moses instructed, Joshua conquered enough of the land to allocate the land to the 12 tribes.

It is safe to assume that it took Israel five years to conquer the land of Canaan, since in Joshua Caleb said it has been 45 years since Moses promised him the land he had walked upon while spying out the land.

Caleb demonstrates unflinching faithfulness and courage even at 85. As he looked upon Hebron, Caleb cried, "Give me this mountain!" Caleb proves to all of Israel that the Anakims (who were giants) could be driven out because of God's faithfulness to his promises.

Joshua 13-24 records the allotment of the land to the tribes and Joshua's farewell advice. Joshua divided the land by casting lots as a fair, objective method. This decision was undoubtedly under God's direction, and showed that the whole process was being carried out without any outside manipulation.

Joshua first sent surveyors out into the land to gather information on the divisions of the land. We need to gather information and receive counsel from others in making wise and informed decisions.

No approach to decision making should be a substitute for God's clearly revealed will.

We should never violate the clear teaching of Scripture. Casting lots and other similar methods was the way Joshua could ensure fairness, integrity, and objectivity. Sometimes casting lots (or drawing straws, etc.) avoids and ends conflicts.

After Joshua established the twelve tribes' boundaries, he designated six cities of refuge, three on each side of the Jordan. Forty-eight cities were set aside for the Levites to live in, so they could be scattered throughout the land to meet their teaching responsibilities in religious service.

The tabernacle was erected at Shiloh, which was designated as the religious center of Israel. Before his death, Joshua assembled the children of Israel at Shechem, and issued a challenge that is fitting even for today.

The Hebrew title for Judges is _____, which means "judges, rulers, deliverers, or saviors." The judges deliver the people and then they rule over them and administer justice. God had warned Israel in Deuteronomy that obedience brings blessing, but disobedience results in God's discipline and oppression.

Traditionally, it is believed that Samuel wrote the book of Judges, but its authorship is uncertain. There is some indication that Samuel may have assembled some of the accounts from the period of the judges and prophets like Nathan and Gad may have had a hand in editing the material.

Judges bridges the gap between Joshua and the establishment of the monarchy under Saul and David. It gets its name from the judges whom God raised up to deliver Israel from their oppressors.

When Joshua died, there was no apparent successor. As a result, there was a recurring cycle of rebellion and rescue of God's people. God raised up nations to bring _____ on Israel and then sent judges to deliver them. The cycle Israel went through repeatedly in Judges may simply be characterized by the words: sin, sorrow, supplication, and salvation.

Israel's real problem with the Canaanites was Israel's compromising associations with them. This led them into apostasy and idolatry. The judges were not jurists, as we use the term today, but were tribal leaders who were generally military heroes. During the days of Israel's spiritual backsliding, the neighboring nations invaded areas of the land of Israel, taking their crops, occupying the land, impoverishing the people, and burdening them with taxes.

Ultimately, God was Israel's Judge and Deliverer. It was God Himself who would allow the times of oppression as discipline for Israel's apostasy, and then raise up judges to bring deliverance after the nation repented and cried out for help

_____ of the _____, Barak, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson and Samuel are listed among the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11.

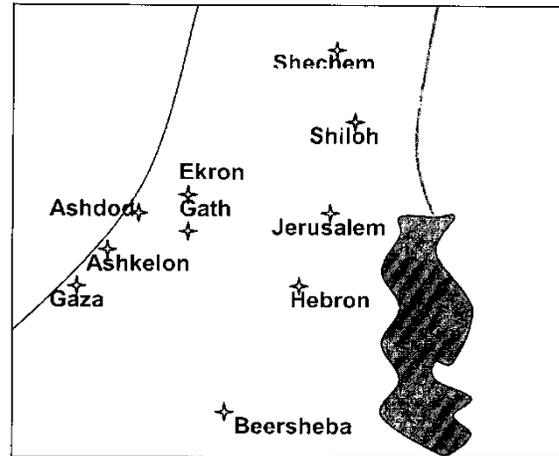
Christians point to Gideon as being the example of determining God's will for our lives. Determining God's will is paramount to living the Christian life. Gideon twice laid out a fleece before the Lord.

Gideon was a man who was full of hesitation, doubt, and fear. God had already told him what to do. Gideon wanted a confirming sign. The fleece of Gideon points toward a lack of faith rather than a zeal to know God's will. Gideon does not serve as a pattern for how to depend upon God for guidance.

God calls us to think clearly based upon our relationship with Him and our faithfulness to His Word. We are human beings who are responsible for working our way through life in accordance with God's revealed will. We must learn all we can about His precepts and principles, and then act accordingly.

The cities of the Philistines were: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, and Gath. The Philistines had weapons of iron that were superior to the Israelites' weapons and their threat to Israel continued for centuries, even up to the fall of Jerusalem in 587 B.C.

The judge who performed great feats against the Philistines was Samson. Samson was gifted with great strength, but he was not a much disciplined man. Samson is a sobering reminder that great abilities are not the same great faith



The last five chapters of Judges and the events that take place during the book of Ruth show the poor spiritual _____ during this period. Micah made his own house of gods and hired a Levite for his priest. In Judges 18, the tribe of Dan was looking for land because they did not have their inheritance. They confiscated the gods of Micah and took the Levites to be their priest. At the conclusion of Judges, a great civil war arises as a result of the immorality of the men of Gibeah. The result was the death of all but 600 of the men of Benjamin. Israel had experienced great spiritual decline since the days of Joshua as evidenced by this history. The spiritual condition of Israel is characterized in the words of the last verse of Judges. Judges 21:25, "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

The book of Ruth is named for its main character. It is uncertain who the author of Ruth is, though Jewish tradition points to Samuel. We are not told the date of the book of Ruth, but it was no doubt during the time of the Judges. The story that illustrates God's providence for Ruth is listed in the genealogy of Jesus. She is the great-grandmother of King David.

The story of Ruth is one of _____ and _____ during a time of anarchy, selfishness, and depravity. Because of its idolatry, Israel experienced times of great famine as a judgment of God. As a result of one such famine, a couple from Israel (Elimelech and his wife, Naomi), move to Moab with their two sons. The two sons marry but tragically both sons and Naomi's husband die. Destitute, Naomi decides to return to her own people.

Naomi encourages her two daughters-in-law to return to their own people. One leaves Naomi but Ruth refuses making one of the most beautiful statements of devotion in the Bible: And Ruth said (to Naomi), “Intreat 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:” Ruth 1:16

After returning to Israel, Ruth assumes the responsibility for caring for Naomi. In submission to Naomi, Ruth gleanes in the field of Boaz, a kinsman to Naomi, who eventually marries Ruth. The story of Ruth also illustrates the provision of a kinsman redeemer in the Law of Moses (Leviticus 25).

To fulfill that office a person must meet certain qualifications. The Kinsman-Redeemer must be a _____ of those he redeems. The Kinsman-Redeemer must be able to pay the price of redemption. The Kinsman-Redeemer must be willing to redeem or pay the price for redemption. The Kinsman-Redeemer must be free himself.

Historical Sequence of the Old Testament

(All dates below are B.C.)

