

BOOKS OF JUDGES AND RUTH –A STUDY GUIDE.

I. INTRODUCTION.

- a. Two books to be studied together.
 - i. Belong to same period of history.
 - ii. Jewish tradition in “Talmud” attributes both to same author.
- b. Book of Judges named for series of leaders raised up by God after Joshua.
- c. Book of Ruth named for Moabite woman who is central figure of book.
- d. Judges covers approximately 300 year period—from Joshua to Samuel.

II. BACKGROUND TO BOOKS OF JOSHUA AND RUTH.

- a. Author of both thought to be Samuel.
- b. Period covered—Approx. 1385-1050 B.C.
- c. Book of Ruth—likely written 1,000 B.C. (approx.) and relates incident in life of King David’s great-grandmother which occurred in period of the Judges.
- d. Unconquered tribes not utterly destroyed as God commanded.
 - i. Read Judges 1:19, 21,27,30,31 and 33.
 - ii. Result of disobedience of God: Remaining people used by God to afflict and punish Israel. Read Judges 2:1-3.

III. LESSONS FROM JUDGES AND RUTH.

a. WHEN “EVERYONE DOES RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES!”

- i. God’s word stresses that man needs direction from Him.
- ii. Read Judges 17:6, Jeremiah 10:23 and Proverbs 16:25.
- iii. Man needs clearly defined order & authority in his life.
 1. Families thrive better when Bible roles are followed and God’s word is heeded. (Ephesians 6:1-4)
 2. Nations are “under God” and have authority only from God. (Romans 13:1-2)
 3. Spiritual life—Bible is “Instruction Book” that comes with man. (II Tim. 3:16-17)

b. WHY DID GOD HAVE SUCH FIERCE ANGER AGAINST PEOPLE OF CANAAN?

- i. Israel had been commanded by God to “utterly destroy” the Canaanites.
- ii. God had a purpose in issuing that command to His people. (See Deut. 20:16-18)
- iii. Disobedience to God led them to immorality, idolatry and grief for generations.

c. LOYALTY AND LOVE OF RUTH FOR HER MOTHER-IN-LAW, NAOMI.

- i. With death of her husband and mother-in-law’s husband, Ruth chose to go with Naomi back to her homeland. She showed great love for Naomi and her Jewish religion.
- ii. In Israel, Ruth married Boaz (a close relative), and was thus brought into the lineage of David and consequently, of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 1:1,5)
- iii. Beautiful passage showing Ruth’s love and loyalty to Naomi is Ruth 1:16-17.

IV. CONCLUSION.