

## OLD TESTAMENT LITERATURE - Dr. Chris Miller

### Session 3 - JUDGES & RUTH (part 2) Comparing the leadership of David and Boaz

Judges and Ruth have to fit together - 2 part masterpiece on redemption.

Cycle of Sin - Oppression - Distress - Deliverance

#### Jephthah: The *Impulsive* Deliverer Chapters 10-12

*"Jephthah made a vow to the Lord, 'If you give me the Ammonites into my hands, whatever comes out of the door of my house to meet me when I return... will be the Lord's and I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering.'" (Baal worship... God, do you want human sacrifice?) ... he did to her what he had vowed. (figuratively, he "sacrificed" his daughter to a convent and she never could get married. Others say yes, he killed her. God hates that) Judges 11:30,39*

Progress? The leaders don't know who God is.

Feel? Maybe the next guy will understand God and women... Samson...(nope)

Women? Killed by those who should protect them.

#### The Self-centered Deliverer Chapters 13-16

**His miraculous birth Judges 13:1-25** (Jesus, John the Baptizer, Isaac, Samuel... Samson)

Congratulations! "It's a Nazirite" Especially dedicated to God.

No grapes because we'll be in control at all times...

No haircuts because we'll be unashamed of our dedication

No dead things because death & sin are enemies

Samson breaks every one of these.

#### His marriage & vengeance on the Philistines Chapters 14-15

*Samson went down to Timnah (2 ½ hour hike- intentional) and **saw** (he's always seeing things) there a young Philistine woman.... Then Samson's wife threw herself on him, sobbing, "You hate me! You don't really love me. You've given my people a riddle, but you haven't told me the answer." "I haven't even explained it to my father or mother," he replied, "so why should I explain it to you?" (Genesis 1 & 2 - cleave to your wife) Judges 14:1,16*

Notice his view of women

#### His humiliation and vengeance on the Philistines Chapter 16

Jaw bone of the donkey was off limits.

*One day, Samson (judge of Israel) went to Gaza.... (behind the plain of the Philistines) where he **saw** a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. But Samson lay there only until midnight. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron. (40 miles east, 3300 ft up, 500 lbs... miracle) Judges 16:1-3*

If the Spirit of God was there enabling Samson to do this incredible, supernatural feat of carrying this gate up to Hebron... Why wasn't the Spirit of God there to help him say no to the prostitute in the first place?

God gives you the choice to make every day. Am I going to use the power or not? Will we use the life that God has given us and all that goes with it for his glory or our own.

**The Delilah Affair Chapter 16:5–22.** She betrays him every time. After he is captured, thanks to Delilah, they cut off his hair & the power leaves him. He's carried back to Gaza, (humiliated) they poke out his eyes so he can't "see" and is forced to do the work of a woman by grinding grain. He then dies the death of a suicide bomber and kills more philistines out of personal vengeance for his eyes (16:28) than he did the rest of his life.

*Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "Sovereign LORD, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." Judges 16:28*

His final act of desperation does not come from a repentant spirit but a vengeful one, for his eyes.

## **A Religious & Moral Disorder Chapters 17-21**

### **Two perfect stories...**

*In those days **there was no king in Israel**, but **every man did that which was right in his own eyes**. Judges 17:6 (KJV)*

*In those days **there was no king in Israel** 18:1*

*And it came to pass in those days, when **there was no king in Israel** 19:1*

*In those days **there was no king in Israel**, **every man did that which was right in his own eyes**. 21:25*

Is there a cause and effect relationship?

Cause... we don't have a king. Effect... every man did what was right in his own eyes.

## Corruption in Worship Chapters 17 - 18

### Major Players

Levite from Bethlehem, tribe of Dan

Micah - steals money from his mom, confesses because he doesn't want to be cursed. Mom makes an idol "to the Lord" for him. Makes other household gods, ordains his own son as a household priest..

*Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will prosper me, because I have a Levite as priest." (he's stupid, he's broken all of the rules in Deuteronomy)*

Tribe of Dan steals his idols and priests & promotes them to priest of a whole tribe.

*"And he said, "You take my gods that I made and the priest, and go away, and what have I left? Judges 17:2-5,13, 24 (How about Yahweh?)*

WAIT, how can you do this???? (**no king in Israel**)

## Corruption in Morals Chapters 19-21

**The wickedness of Benjamin** - Judges 19 looks just like Sodom & Gomorrah Genesis 19.

*But the men would not listen to him. So the man took his concubine and sent her outside to them, (shoved her out the door) and they raped her and abused her throughout the night, and at dawn they let her go. At daybreak the woman went back to the house where her master was staying, fell down at the door and lay there until daylight. When her master got up in the morning and opened the door of the house and stepped out to continue on his way, there lay his concubine, fallen in the doorway of the house, with her hands on the threshold. He said to her, "Get up; let's go." But there was no answer. Judges 19:25-28*

No identity, just property. Cuts her up into 12 pieces and sends her off to the 12 tribes of Israel. Went to war, Benjamites reduced to 600 guys who now need wives. They went to Jabesh-Gilead, killed everyone except the women they needed.

**The destruction of Benjamin** - 20

**The provision for Benjamin** - 21 - Jabesh-Gilead? So sorry... we need 400 orphans.  
Girls at Shiloh for another 200

**As we move through the stories look for three things:**

1. Progress from one story to the next, i.e., what changes take place? Male leadership evaporate
2. Your own affective response, i.e. How does the story make me feel? Sick & Empty
3. How does the role of women relate to the main theme? Women especially suffer the effects of sin when the culture decays. The nation's relationship with God is accurately measured by the treatment of women. (ungodly)

Land... Nation... still no Leader.

## Judges & Ruth

- These two books are so different...
- One is about corruption in the nation,
- The other is about a personal love story. Are they connected in some way???
- **“In the days when the judges ruled... “ Ruth 1:1**

**Naomi emptied.** Bethlehem “House of Bread” moves to Moab.

### Ruth shows her loyalty 1:16-18

#### Ruth & Naomi return

*But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, (to Israel) she stopped urging her. Ruth 1:16-18*

*“Don’t call me **Naomi**,” she told them. “Call me **Mara**, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away **full**, but the Lord has brought me back **empty**.” Ruth 1:20-21*

### Ruth & Boaz Meet, 2:1-23

#### We meet Boaz: Ruth begins work 2:1-7

*Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, “The LORD be with you!” “The LORD bless you!” they answered. (shows his character) Ruth 2:4*

#### Boaz showed kindness to Ruth 2:8-16

*So Boaz said to Ruth, “My daughter. Don’t go and glean in another field and don’t go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls. Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled.” (turned upside down)*

*At mealtime (empty) Boaz said to her, “Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar.” When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. (full) As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, “Even if she gathers among the sheaves, don’t embarrass her.” Ruth 2:8-9, 14-15*

### Ruth returns to Naomi 2:17-23

*“The LORD bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our **kinsman-redeemers**.”*

## Ruth Goes to Boaz 3:1-18

Would you be my kinsman-redeemer? Would you marry me and provide for me?

*Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her and added, "He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, 'Don't go back to your mother-in-law **empty**-handed.'". Ruth 3:16-17*

## Boaz Redeems... Ruth 4:1-12

## Conclusion Naomi "filled" 4:13-17

*The women living there said, "**Naomi** has a son?" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. Ruth 4:17*

## Genealogy of David 4:18-22

As we move through the stories look for three things:

1. Progress from one story to the next, i.e., what changes take place? Looking up
2. Your own affective response, i.e. How does the story make you feel?  
Sick & Empty to... Healthy & Full

3. How does the role of women relate to the main theme?

Women suffer the effects of sin  
When the culture decays. In fact,  
The treatment of women can be  
Seen as a barometer of the  
Nation's relationship with God.

Women flourish and help others  
flourish when men play their  
rolls as well

## Structure of the book

<u>First</u> verse	"When Judges ruled"	Despair
<u>Middle</u> verse	"Kinsman Redeemer"	Hope
<u>Last verse</u> (and word)	"David"	Like a Boaz with a bigger platform

## Two levels in Ruth

Boaz, Personal  
David, National - Speaks to the solution of the period of the Judges

**What does it mean to be human?** - To be human doesn't mean to be sinful.

**God** - God's Image - Rational - Relational - Physical/sexual - Rulers - New Life

**Ruth** - a leader in the heart of Boaz and David - promise of another leader

**Not-God** (Sin) Sub-Human - Irrational - Anti-Relational - Death & abuse - Abusive Rulers  
**Judges**