Preface

These lessons were first compiled over a three year period from April 1988 through March 1991. The then Westside church of Christ in Tallahassee, Florida (Now the Centerville Road church relocated to 4015 Centerville Road in Tallahassee) determined to place all their Sunday morning Bible classes on the Amplified Bible Curriculum (Hereafter referred to as ABC) developed by JoLinda Crump and Cathy Valdes.

While their curriculum recommended materials from preschool through senior high, we desired to place our college, young adult, and adult classes on the same schedule. The volume of material in L.A. Mott’s studies, recommended in the ABC for source material and lesson development, did not easily lend itself to a once a week study since he designed his lessons to be studied twice each week.

Considering these factors, I took it upon myself to compile these lessons. We used them successfully while cycling through the curriculum twice in our senior high, college, young adult, and adult classes from April 1988 through March 1994. They were edited and revised prior to the second study of them. They have been revised a second time and reformatted in 1997.

I have tried to parallel the ABC as much as possible so that adults and children would be studying the same lesson at the same time only on different levels. But this series, or any one of its twelve study guides, may be used independently.

Each lesson contains a schedule for daily Bible reading. It can be used as a format for family devotionals in the home even if the whole family is not on the curriculum.

I hope you enjoy your study.

Gene Taylor
July 1997
# Table of Contents

Preface .................................................................................................................................................... 1

Table of Contents .................................................................................................................................... 2

**Lesson One:** Entering Canaan ........................................................................................................ 3

**Lesson Two:** Conquering Canaan ................................................................................................... 5

**Lesson Three:** Achan’s Sin ................................................................................................................ 7

**Lesson Four:** The Gibeonites .......................................................................................................... 8

**Lesson Five:** The Division of Canaan ............................................................................................ 9

**Lesson Six:** The Promise Fulfilled .................................................................................................. 11

**Lesson Seven:** The Judges - I ........................................................................................................ 13

**Lesson Eight:** The Judges - II ......................................................................................................... 15

**Lesson Nine:** The Judges - III ......................................................................................................... 16

**Lesson Ten:** The Judges - IV .......................................................................................................... 18

**Lesson Eleven:** The Judges V .......................................................................................................... 19

**Lesson Twelve:** Ruth and Naomi .................................................................................................... 21

**Lesson Thirteen:** Ruth and Boaz .................................................................................................... 23

Lesson One: Entering Canaan

Lesson Text
Joshua 1:1 - 4:18

Daily Bible Reading

Monday
Joshua 1

Tuesday
Joshua 2:1-14

Thursday
Joshua 2:15-24

Friday
Joshua 3

Saturday
Joshua 4

God’s Charge to Joshua (1:1-9)
1. Who was Moses’ successor as leader of Israel? What was his great task?

2. What encouragement was this successor given? Why should he be “of good courage” and not “afraid?”

3. Describe the circumstances at the opening of this book.

4. What condition was to be met that would guarantee success and prosperity?

Preparation for Crossing the Jordan (1:10-11)
5. What order did Joshua give to the people?

The Message to the Reubenites, Gadites and Half-Tribe of Manasseh (1:12-18; Numbers 32; Deuteronomy 3:12-20)
6. Why were these two and a half tribes treated as a special group?


8. What order was given to the two and a half tribes? What was their response?

Rahab and the Spies (2:1-24)
9. What was the mission of the spies?

10. What kept the spies from being discovered?


12. What three conditions were given for the spies to preserve Rahab’s family?

13. What was the effect of the spies’ mission?

Lesson Concept

FAITH
Seeking God’s protection
The Crossing of the Jordan (3:1-17)
14. What was to go before the people? In the light of Exodus 25:1-22, what was the significance of this?

15. Describe the manner in which the Jordan was crossed. What made this an especially great miracle? What similar occurrence had taken place forty years before?

16. What was the purpose of the miraculous crossing?

Memorial Stones (4:1-18)
17. In what two places were stones set up? What was the purpose of the stones?

18. Compare these stones with:
   a. The Passover with respect to purpose. (Exodus 12:14, 26-27; 13:3-10)
   b. The Lord’s Supper for Christians. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

19. What is the meaning of “feared” in verse 14?
Lesson Two: Conquering Canaan

The Effect of the Miraculous Crossing on the Kings of Canaan (5:1)
1. What was the effect of the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River on the heathen kings?

The Circumcision of the Israelites (5:2-9)
2. What had to be done after the crossing of the Jordan? Why was it necessary?
3. What was the significance of the circumcision? (See Genesis 17:1-4)
4. What would seem to be demonstrated by the circumcision of the Israelites on this occasion? What is meant by “the reproach of Egypt?” Why was the reproach of Egypt upon them? What now takes that reproach away?

The Keeping of the Passover and the Cessation of the Manna (5:10-12)
5. What feast was kept in Gilgal? What was its purpose?
6. When did the manna cease and why?

Joshua’s Vision (5:13-15)
7. Who appeared to Joshua? Is this appearance connected in any way with Exodus 3:5?
8. What is meant by “the host of the Lord?” (v. 14) (cf. 1 Kings 22:19; Psalm 103:19-21; 148:2)
9. What is the purpose of this appearance?

The Conquest and Destruction of Jericho (6:1-27)
10. Describe how Israel captured the city of Jericho. Was there any natural connection between the things commanded to be done and the fall of the walls? Explain.
11. What was shown by Israel’s obedience? (See Hebrews 11:30)

12. What warning was given in connection with the taking of Jericho? What is meant by “the devoted thing”?

13. Who was spared when the city fell? Why?

14. What warning did Joshua give about rebuilding Jericho? What happened when someone attempted to rebuild the city? (1 Kings 16:34)
Lesson Three: Achan’s Sin

Lesson Text
Joshua 7:1 - 8:35

Daily Bible Reading

Monday
Joshua 7:1-15

Tuesday
Joshua 7:16-26

Thursday
Joshua 8:1-9

Friday
Joshua 8:10-23

Saturday
Joshua 8:24-35

Lesson Concept

OBEDIENCE
Knowing the consequence of sin

Achan’s Sin and the Defeat at Ai (7:1-26)
1. Why was God angry at Israel? (Compare verse one with 6:17-19)

2. Describe the first effort to take the city of Ai.

3. What two things does Joshua express concern about?

4. What had caused Israel to lose its power? What did God demand be done about it?

5. Since one man was able to rob Israel of its power, can an individual today rob the church of its strength? Explain.

6. How should the people of God deal with sin in their midst today? (See 1 Corinthians 5)

7. How was the guilty party at Ai exposed?

8. List the steps in Achan’s sin. What can we learn about the nature of sin from this incident?

9. Since in verses 22 through 26 we are told that Achan’s family were stoned and burned along with him, do you suppose they were innocent? Explain.

The Conquest and Destruction of Ai (8:1-29)
10. Describe the strategy used of the conquest of Ai.

11. How many companies were involved?

Renewal of the Covenant (8:30-35)
12. Describe Joshua’s actions after the battle of Ai. (Also use Deuteronomy 27 for background.)
## Lesson Four: The Gibeonites

### Lesson Text

**The Gibeonite Treaty (9:1-27)**

1. How did the Gibeonites deceive Israel? Why did they deceive them?

2. What did the Gibeonites want?

3. What difference did it make to the Israelites whether these people lived in the land or were from a far country? (See Exodus 23:31-32; 34:12; Numbers 33:55; Deuteronomy 7:1-5; 20:10-18)

4. What was behind Israel’s mistake? How could it have been prevented? (See Numbers 27:21)

5. What was done when the deception was discovered? What was the position assigned to the Gibeonites?


6. What was the occasion for the battle described in this section? How did Israel become involved?

7. What was the result of the battle? What did God do to help Israel?

8. What was unusual about the day of the battle?

9. What became of the five kings who had banded together against Israel?

10. What is the meaning of the symbolic action taken in verse 24? (Compare 1 Corinthians 15:25)

**Other Victories in the South (10:28-43)**

11. Briefly summarize the other victories given to Israel in the southern portion of Canaan.

12. What explanation is given to account for Joshua’s success?
Lesson Five: The Division of Canaan

Lesson Text

Joshua 13:1 - 17:18

Daily Bible Reading

Monday
Joshua 13:1-23

Tuesday
Joshua 13:24 - 14:5

Thursday
Joshua 14:6 - 15:12

Friday
Joshua 16:1 - 17:6

Saturday
Joshua 17:6-18

Lesson Concept

FAITH
Knowing God keeps His promises

The Command to Divide the Land Among the Tribes (13:1-7)

1. What two circumstances were present when this command was given?

The Limits of the Inheritance of the Two and a Half Tribes East of Jordan (13:8-33)

2. Who had formerly controlled this territory east of the Jordan? When had this territory been conquered?

3. How did this territory come to be allotted to these two and a half tribes? (See Numbers 32)

4. Who distributed the eastern land among these tribes?

5. What is said about the inheritance of the tribe of Levi?

The Introduction to the Distribution of the Land West of the Jordan River (14:1-5)

6. Who distributed this land?

7. How were the portions assigned to particular tribes? (v. 2 with 15:1; 16:1; 17:1; etc.)

8. How did it come about that there were twelve tribal portions even though the tribe of Levi received none?

Caleb's Inheritance (14:6-15)

9. Who was Caleb? Why was he singled out for special consideration?

10. Using verses seven and ten, compute how long it took Israel to get possession of Canaan.

11. Why, judging from the context, did Caleb mention his strength?

12. What city was given to Caleb?
The Inheritance of the Tribe of Judah (15:1-63)
13. Describe the inheritance of Judah in terms of its borders.

14. Who was Achsah and how was she involved in Bible history?

15. Who were the Jebusites? What is said about them? Who finally drove them out? (See 2 Samuel 5:6-10)

The Inheritance of the Sons of Joseph (16:1 - 17:18)
16. What two tribes were descended from Joseph?

17. Describe the inheritance of Ephraim.

18. What explanation of the tribe of Manasseh is given in 17:1-2?

19. Describe the borders of the inheritance of Manasseh.

20. What was the complaint of the sons of Joseph? What was Joshua’s answer to them?
Lesson Six: The Promise Fulfilled

The Inheritance Divided at Shiloh (18:1 - 19:51)
1. Where was the tabernacle erected?

2. Why did certain tribes need to be admonished by Joshua?

3. Describe the procedure by which the remainder of the land was divided among the tribes.

4. Consider the following:
   a. The inheritance of Benjamin. (18:11-28)
   b. The inheritance of Simeon. (19:1-9)
   c. The inheritance of Zebulon. (19:10-16)
   d. The inheritance of Issachar. (19:17-23)
   e. The inheritance of Asher. (19:24-31)
   f. The inheritance of Naphtali. (19:32-29)
   g. The inheritance of Dan. (19:49-50)

5. Where was Joshua’s inheritance?

The Cities of Refuge (20:1-9; cf. Numbers 35; Deuteronomy 19:1-3)
6. What was a city of refuge?

7. What are the implications, if any, with respect to human life in the fact that an avenger of blood was permitted to pursue someone who killed a person accidentally?

8. Name the six cities of refuge. Give their location.

The Inheritance of the Levites (21:1-45; Numbers 35:1-8)
9. Who were the Levites? What was their function in Israel?

10. How did the inheritance of the Levites differ from that of the other tribes? (cf. 14:3-4 and 18:7)
11. How does this chapter show the faithfulness of God?

12. What effect does the passing of long periods of time have on the promises of God? Explain. (cf. 2 Peter 3:8-10).

Relations of the Western Tribes with the Tribes East of Jordan (22:1-65)

13. What commandment had Moses given the two and a half tribes who settled east of Jordan?

14. Now that Israel possessed Canaan, what are these two and a half tribes permitted to do?

15. What action was taken by the eastern tribes causing a problem with the western tribes?

16. In relation to the altar built east of the Jordan River:
   a. What was the objection to it?
   b. Why was the matter regarded so seriously by the western tribes? (cf. Leviticus 17:8-9; Deuteronomy 12:1-14; 13:12-18)
   c. What defense of their actions was made by the eastern tribes?
   d. What was the final result of this incident?
Lesson Seven: The Judges - I

Lesson Text

Summary of the Canaanite Wars (1:1-36)
1. How was the conquest of the land incomplete?

The Appearance of the Angel of God (2:1-5)
2. How did Israel disobey God? (Compare these verses with Deuteronomy 7:1-5 and Joshua 23:1-16)
3. What would be the consequence of this disobedience?

The Passing of Joshua’s Generation (2:6-10)
4. Since Judges 2:6-10 is a repetition of Joshua 24:28-31, what do you think was the purpose of this repetition?
5. What is said of the people during the time of Joshua? What happened to them after his death? Why do you think this happened?

The Apostasy after Joshua (2:11-15)
6. Since the generation after Joshua did not know God, what filled the void left by that lack of knowledge?
7. What was the consequence of this departure from God?

The Judges (2:16-19)
8. Who were the judges?
9. What was the attitude of the people toward the judges?

The Nations Left in Canaan (2:20-3:6)
10. List two reasons why God left a remnant of Canaanites in the land.
11. Using the whole passage (2:6-3:6), explain the cycle of events that was to recur all through the period of the judges.

Bible Survey Section Four: Joshua, Judges, Ruth

Gene Taylor

-13-
12. During the period of the judges:
   a. What caused Israel’s troubles?
   b. What brought the Israelites into such close connection with heathen peoples?

**The Early Judges (3:7-31)**

13. What is meant by “the Baalim and the Asheroth?” (KJV: “groves”)

14. Name the first three judges.
Lesson Eight: The Judges - II

Lesson Text
Judges 4:1 - 5:31

Daily Bible Reading

Monday
Judges 4:1-11

Tuesday
Judges 4:12-24

Thursday
Judges 5:1-11

Friday
Judges 5:12-23

Saturday
Judges 5:24-31

Lesson Concept

FAITH
Following God’s plan

Deborah (4:1-24)
1. Identify the following:
   a. Jabin.
   b. Sisera.
   c. Hazor.
   d. Deborah.
   e. Barak.
   f. Jael.

2. According to verses four and five, what two functions did the judges have? (See also Judges 2:16 with 3:9, 15)

3. What is meant in verse nine, “...for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman?” (Consider the whole story before you answer.)

Deborah’s Song of Victory (5:1-31)
I. Historical Introduction (1)

II. A Call to Praise God (2)

III. The Significance of the Victory (3-11)
   A. The glorious time when Israel was made the nation of God. (3-5)
   B. The disgraceful decline of the nation in recent times. (6-8)
   C. The joyful change upon Deborah’s appearance. (9-11)

IV. Introductory: A Fresh Call to Rejoice in the Victory (12)

V. A Vivid Description of the Conflict and Victory (13-21)
   A. The gathering of the brave to battle. (13-15)
   B. The cowardice of those who stayed away from the battle. (15-17)
   C. The bravery of Zebulon and Issachar. (18)

VI. Account of the Glorious Issue of the Battle and the Victory (22-30)
   A. The flight of the enemy. (22)
   B. The curse of Meroz. (23)
   C. Praise for Jael. (24-27)
   D. The disappointment of Sisera’s mother. (28-30)

Conclusion
The hope that all the enemies of God may perish while His friends shine as the sun. (v. 31)
Lesson Nine: The Judges - III

Lesson Text
Judges 6:1 - 8:35

Daily Bible Reading

Monday
Judges 6:1-24

Tuesday
Judges 6:25-40

Thursday
Judges 7

Friday
Judges 8:1-28

Saturday
Judges 8:29-35

Lesson Concept

OBEDIENCE
Following God's law specifically

Oppression by the Midianites and the Humiliation of Israel (6:1-6)
1. How did the Midianites oppress Israel?

2. Describe or illustrate the low condition to which Israel was reduced.

The Prophet to Israel (6:7-10)
3. Seeing that the people had to understand why they were humbled before the Midianites, what explanation does the prophet make in this regard?

The Call of Gideon (6:11-32)
4. Why did Gideon find it hard to believe that God was with him? What is the answer to his question, “Why then has all this happened to us?”

5. What assurance does Gideon request?

6. What sign convinced Gideon that it was God who was speaking to him?

7. What did Gideon have to do before carrying out the task to which he was called? What must be done before we can serve God?

The Gathering of Armies (6:33-35)
8. Where were the enemy forces encamped?

The Signs of God’s Presence (6:36-40)
9. How did God assure Gideon of His presence? How may we know that God is with us?

Gideon’s Army (7:1-8)
10. How was Gideon’s faith tested? Is our faith tested in similar ways today? Explain and/or illustrate your answer.

11. Why did God want to reduce the size of Gideon’s army? What lesson was taught by this battle? (See 2 Corinthians 12:9)

12. How many were in the army of the enemy? (7:12; 8:10)
Assurance of Victory (7:9-14)
13. How does God provide Gideon with assurance of victory? What is the purpose of this assurance?

The Attack on the Midianite Camp (7:15-23)
14. Describe Gideon’s battle strategy.

Ephraim’s Part in the War (7:24 - 8:3)
15. What was Ephraim’s part in the war? Why were they dissatisfied? How did Gideon calm them down?

Pursuit of the Enemy (8:4-21)
16. What cities are mentioned as not aiding Gideon in his pursuit of the enemy? Is there any indication why they would not help him? How were they punished?

17. Who were Zebah and Zalmunna? What became of them?

Gideon’s Last Days (8:22-35)
18. What was Gideon’s life like after the defeat of the Midianites? (Include at least three points.)

19. What happened “as soon as Gideon was dead?”
Lesson Ten: The Judges IV

Jephthah the Head of Gilead (11:1-11)
1. Describe Jephthah’s background and the kind of man he was.

2. How did Jephthah come to be the leader of the Gileadites? Why was he so reluctant to accept their offer?

Jephthah’s Negotiations with the Ammonites (11:12-22)
3. What reason did the Ammonites give for their invasion of Israelite territory?

4. List and analyze each of the four arguments found in the following passages that Jephthah made to support Israel’s claim to the land east of the Jordan River and to refute the Ammonite claim to that same land.
   c. Verse 25.

5. How did Jephthah conclude his negotiations?

Jephthah’s Vow and the Victory Over the Ammonites (11:29-40)
6. What was Jephthah’s vow? Did he really offer his daughter as a sacrifice or was the vow fulfilled in another way? Explain.

7. Would a human sacrifice have been in harmony with the will of God? (Leviticus 18:21; 20:1-5; Deuteronomy 12:31; 18:10) Explain.

8. What lessons do you think might be learned from this incident?

The War Between Gilead and Ephraim (12:1-6) and the Death of Jephthah (12:7)
9. What was Ephraim’s complaint?

10. Define “shibboleth” in terms of the context.
Lesson Eleven: The Judges V

Lesson Text

Judges 13:1 - 16:31

The Birth of Samson (13:1-25)
1. What is a Nazarite? (cf. Numbers 6)
2. Why was Samson raised up by God? What are the implications of the last line in verse five?
3. Would that which Manoah was concerned about in verses 8 through 14 be a good point for any prospective parent to consider? Did he take this concern to the right source for information? What can modern parents learn from him?
4. What did Manoah come to realize about the identity of the one who had appeared to him? Of what was he afraid? What common sense reassurance did his wife provide?
5. What kind of people were the parents of Samson? Cite Scripture to support your answer.

The Marriage of Samson (14:1-20)
6. What does Samson’s choice of a wife reveal about him?
7. How was God able to use this marriage to serve His own purpose?
8. What two exhibitions of strength are described in this chapter?
9. What became of Samson’s wife?

Samson and the Philistines (15:1-20)
10. What was Samson’s grievance against the Philistines? How did he retaliate?
11. What was the attitude of the Israelites toward Samson? What indicates their lowly condition?
12. What was Samson’s rule of action against the Philistines? (v. 11) What is the rule prescribed by Jesus? (Matthew 7:12)
13. Describe Samson’s great victory over the Philistines. Who did he credit for the victory?
**Samson’s Downfall and Death (16:1-31)**

14. What more can be known of Samson’s character from the first three verses of this chapter?

15. How did the Philistines try to trap Samson? How did he mock them?

16. How did Samson’s love for Delilah lead to his downfall?

17. Was Delilah a Philistine woman? Explain.

18. What was the source of Samson’s strength? Was it his long hair in itself? Contrast the statements in verses 17 and 19 with that in verse 20 about what departed from him.

19. Describe the death of Samson. What reason did he give for killing Philistines? What understanding did he express about the source of his strength?

**A Summary of Samson**

20. What kind of man was Samson?


22. What “flaw” in Samson’s character led to his downfall?

23. What lessons or warning should we draw from Samson with regard to:
   a. Attitudes toward God’s gifts to us?
   b. Overconfidence? The possibility of a fall? (cf. 1 Corinthians 9:27)
Lesson Twelve: Ruth and Naomi

Lesson Text
Ruth 1:1 - 2:23

Daily Bible Reading

Monday
Ruth 1:1-15

Tuesday
Ruth 1:16-25

Thursday
Ruth 2:1-7

Friday
Ruth 2:8-16

Saturday
Ruth 2:17-23

Lesson Concept
FAITH
Building family love

The Sojourn in Moab (1:1-5)
1. When did the events of this book take place?

2. Identify the following characters.
   a. Elimelech.
   b. Naomi.
   c. Mahlon.
   d. Chilion.
   e. Orpah.
   f. Ruth.

3. What caused Elimelech to take his family into Moab? What does Leviticus 26:3-5, 14-20 indicate about such times?

4. In the light of 4:11; Genesis 35:19; Genesis 48:7; and Micah 5:2, what is the meaning of “Ephrathites” in verse two?

Naomi and Ruth (1:6-18)
5. Were the decisions made by Orpah and Ruth only a matter of loyalty to their mother-in-law or did they involve spiritual considerations too? Explain your answer and support it by Scripture.

6. List characteristics of Ruth paying special attention to qualities brought to light by the situation she was in.

7. How did Ruth react to her situation? How could she have reacted? What kind of woman did she show herself to be?

The Return to Judah (1:19-22)
8. Why did Naomi say “Do not call me Naomi, call me Mara?” (v. 20)

9. What evidence is given with regard to the time of year the women returned to Bethlehem?
Gleaning in the Field of Boaz (2:1-23)
10. How did God provide for the poor people? What is “gleaning?” (See also Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:19-22)

11. Who was Boaz? What kind of man was he? How did he treat Ruth? What reason did he give for showing her such favor?

12. What is meant by “under whose wing you have come for refuge?” (v. 12) Does this chapter provide evidence of God’s protection over those who come to Him for refuge? Explain. (Compare also Genesis 15:1; Psalm 34:7; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 8:28)
Lesson Thirteen: Ruth and Boaz

**Lesson Text**

Ruth 3:1 - 4:22

**The Part of a Kinsman (3:1-18)**

1. What did Naomi want to do for Ruth? What was her plan to accomplish this purpose?

2. Was there something indiscreet or unwise in Naomi’s advice to Ruth? Do you see risks to which Ruth was subjected in this plan? Explain.

3. What is “winnowing?” How was it done?

4. What was Ruth asking Boaz about in verse nine? Explain.

5. What was there about Ruth that greatly impressed Boaz?

6. Does Boaz seem careful to preserve the reputation of Ruth? How would his caution tend to protect Ruth from the risks to which she was exposed by Naomi’s indiscretion (even though her indiscretion was well-intended)?

7. Describe the character of Boaz.

**The Marriage of Ruth to Boaz (4:1-22)**

8. What was necessary for Boaz to do before he could marry Ruth? Why?

9. What two transactions are bound together in verses one through six?

10. Why did “the near kinsman” say he could not redeem the property? What did he mean?

11. What was the significance of removing and handing over the man’s shoe? (cf. Deut. 25:5-10)

12. What purpose was served by the “ten men of the elders of the city?”

13. What blessing was pronounced upon Ruth by the people? Why did they refer to Perez? (cf. Genesis 38, esp. v. 29)

14. What did the women say about Ruth?

15. What consequences did Ruth’s marriage have for Naomi?

16. What famous men descended from Ruth and Boaz? Who else was descended from them (Matthew 1:1-16, esp. vv. 2-6a)?

17. What does the book of Ruth add to our understanding of the period of the judges?
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