



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

Old Testament Survey

Lesson 16 – The Promise of Better Days to Come in Israel (Ruth; First Samuel 1-7; First Chronicles 1-9)

RUTH

Ruth was a girl from Moab who lived in the time of the judges. She married a man from Judah who had moved to Moab because of a famine. Later, after her husband died, she followed her mother-in-law, Naomi, back to Bethlehem in Judah because of her faith in the God of Israel. The pious Boaz, a distant relative of Naomi, was kind to her and eventually married her. Thus, Ruth became David's great grandmother. The line: Boaz, Obed, Jesse, David.

Ruth is the third of three heathen women who became Israelites and ancestors of our LORD. The first was Tamar, who had a son from her father-in-law, Judah. The second was Rahab of Jericho, who married Salmon of Judah. All three are mentioned in Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1.

The book of Ruth shows us that there were still some God-fearing believers in Israel even during the horribly ungodly period of the judges. God always has a faithful remnant of people who believe in the promise of the Savior.

Read the book of Ruth with the notes below. If you have any questions, ask them.

Ruth 1 – How Ruth, a Moabitess, Came to Bethlehem

Naomi's husband and two sons die in Moab; her daughters-in-law remain alive (vv. 1-7).

Ruth determines to return to Bethlehem with Naomi (vv. 8-22)

"For wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God" (v. ____)

Ruth 2 – How Ruth Became Acquainted with Boaz, a Distant Relative

Ruth happens to glean with the poor in the fields of Boaz (vv. 1-7).

Boaz shows great kindness to Ruth and comforts her (vv. 8-16).

Ruth returns to Naomi and comforts her in her grief (vv. 17-23).

Ruth 3 – How Ruth Asked Boaz to Marry Her and Recovered Her Inheritance in Israel

Naomi advises Ruth to go to Boaz by night (vv. 1-5).

Boaz agrees to redeem the inheritance and marry Ruth if the closer relative refuses (vv. 6-13).

Ruth returns to Naomi with six measures of barley (vv. 14-18).

Ruth 4 – How Ruth Became the Great Grandmother of David

Boaz speaks to the closer relative about the property and Ruth (vv. 1-8).

Boaz buys the property and marries Ruth (vv. 9-12). See Deuteronomy 25:5-6.

Ruth bears a son, Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David (vv. 13-22).

FIRST SAMUEL 1-7

The first seven chapters of 1 Samuel record the end the corrupt priesthood of Eli's sons and the terrible Philistine oppression (1089-1049 BC). Not even the mighty Nazarite Samson was able to put an end to the Philistine oppression, chiefly because he himself became guilty of idolatry and adultery. The probable year for Samson's death is 1051 BC.

But where the Nazarite Samson failed, the Nazarite Samuel succeeded, for Samuel's strength was not in outward power but in inner repentance. Samuel was God's chosen prophet already as a boy, and as a boy, he announced God's judgment on Eli's family. When Israel lost the Ark of the Covenant in the first battle of Ebenezer in 1069 BC, Samuel began his prophetic work in earnest and taught the people: **"If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines"** (1 Samuel 7:3).

Finally, the children of Israel gathered together in Mizpah and confessed their sins to the LORD. The LORD immediately responded by giving them a spectacular victory over the Philistines in the second battle of Ebenezer in 1049 BC. Like John the Baptist preparing the way for the coming of Jesus and His kingdom, Samuel prepared the way for the coming of David and his kingdom, which was a picture and preview of Jesus and His kingdom. Samuel was the first in a new line of prophets through whom God spoke to His people.

Read the First Samuel chapters 1-7 along with the notes below. If you have any questions, ask them.

1 Samuel 1 – The Birth of Samuel as a Nazarite to the LORD

Hannah prays to the LORD for a son and vows to give him back to the LORD (vv. 1-18).

The high priest Eli thought she was drunk because of the way she was praying.

The LORD answers her prayer and gives her a son, Samuel (vv. 19-23).

Hannah brings the little boy Samuel to the high priest Eli in Shiloh (vv. 24-28).

1 Samuel 2 – Hannah's Song and God's Judgment on Eli's House

Hannah sings a song of praise to God (vv. 1-10).

Compare with Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-56).

Eli's sons sin grievously, but Samuel serves the LORD faithfully in Eli's house (vv. 11-26).

A man of God announces God's judgment on Eli's house (vv. 27-36).

"Now this shall be a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them. Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest"

(vv. _____)

The only truly faithful priest is JESUS.

1 Samuel 3 – The LORD Speaks to Samuel and Establishes Him as His Prophet in Israel

The LORD speaks to Samuel in his sleep, and Eli advises him (vv. 1-10).

"You must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears'" (v. ____)

The LORD tells Samuel what will happen to Eli's family (vv. 11-21).

"His sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them" (v. ____)

1 Samuel 4 – The Death of Eli's Sons and the Stealing of the Ark of the Covenant

The Philistines defeat Israel in the first battle of Ebenezer in 1069 BC. (vv. 1-11).

The Israelites thought superstitiously that the mere presence of the Ark would save them.

"The ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli...died" (v. ____)

A messenger reports the sad news to Eli, and he dies (vv. 12-18).

Eli's daughter-in-law bears a son, Ichabod: **"The glory has departed from Israel!"** (v. ____)

1 Samuel 5 – God's Judgment on the Philistines because of the Ark

The false god Dagon must bow to the Ark of the true God (vv. 1-5).

The cities of Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron are plagued with disease because of the Ark (vv. 6-12).

1 Samuel 6 – The Return of the Ark of the Covenant to Israel

The Philistine priests advise them to return the Ark to Israel (vv. 1-9).

Two milk cows return the Ark to Bethshemesh (vv. 10-18).

Men of Bethshemesh are killed, and the Ark is moved to Kirjath Jearim (vv. 19 - 7:2).

1 Samuel 7 – The Second Battle of Ebenezer (Stone of Help): Victory over the Philistines

Israel repents of its idolatry (vv. 1-8).

God gives Samuel and Israel victory over the Philistines (vv. 9-14).

Samuel acts as judge in Israel (vv. 15-17).

FIRST AND SECOND CHRONICLES

The two books of Chronicles give us the same history as other Biblical books but from the viewpoint of the priests. 1 Chronicles begins with Adam and 2 Chronicles ends in 536 BC. The first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles contain only genealogies.

Questions

1. What does the book of Ruth show us about the time of the judges?
2. How did the Moabite girl, Ruth, express her faith in the God of Israel?
3. How did Boaz express his faith in the God of Israel?
4. Why do you think the book of Ruth is included in the Old Testament?
5. What was the inheritance rule among the Israelites when a man died without children?
6. What were the spiritual conditions in Israel when Eli was high priest?
7. What kind of vow did Hannah make to the Lord?
8. How did Eli recognize that God had called Samuel to be His prophet?
9. What was the false hope of Israel with respect to the Ark of the Covenant?
10. What was Eli's great sin? What can parents today learn from this?
11. How did the Lord God show Himself to be true God in Dagon's temple?
12. How was the second battle of Ebenezer different from the first?