

Old Testament Stories

For Levels 8 - 10

*As told by
Bettye Garrett*

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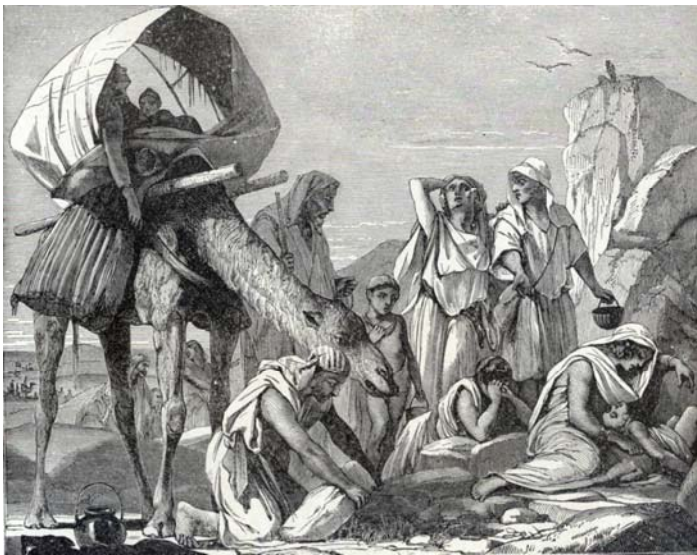
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TROUBLE FOR ISRAEL

Exodus 15:22-18:27

God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in the land of Egypt. The Pharaoh's army was destroyed when God closed up the Red Sea on them. Now Moses led the children of Israel from the Red Sea into the wilderness of Shur. God's cloud went in front of them to show the way.

In the wilderness of Shur the Israelites traveled three days and found no water.



Finally, on the third day, they came to Marah and found a pool of water! But the water at Marah was bitter, and the people could not drink it. They complained to Moses, "What can we drink?" Moses prayed to God, and God showed Moses a certain tree. When Moses put this tree into the water at Marah, the water became sweet and pure, so all the people could drink. God told Moses to tell the people,

"If you listen to the voice of the Lord God, and do what is right in His sight, and keep all His commandments, then the Lord will not bring the diseases on you like those He brought on the Egyptians."

From Marah the Israelites traveled to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees. They camped here for some time. Out in the desert this must have looked like a wonderful place, with all the springs and trees, but this is a huge congregation of people. There were six hundred thousand men, not counting women and children. There must have been two or three million people in this congregation of Israelites. The twelve springs and seventy trees do not sound like much when you consider this huge number of people. From Elim the people traveled on into the wilderness of Sin. They had been traveling about two and a half months by this time.

In the wilderness of Sin, the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron saying, "Why didn't you leave us alone in Egypt? At least there we had plenty of food to eat, and now we are here in this desert with nothing! You just brought us out here to die!

Level 8A

Why didn't you leave us alone?" God spoke to Moses saying, ***"I will rain bread down from heaven for the people to eat in the morning. They will have bread to gather every day, but on the sixth day they will gather double for there will be none on the seventh day. I will test them to see whether or not they will obey Me."***

Moses told the people, "You have not complained against Aaron and me but against God, and He has heard your whining!" He also told them that God would rain bread from heaven in the morning, and He would send meat that night. Suddenly the glory of God was seen in the cloud, and God spoke to Moses giving instructions for the people concerning the bread He would send in the mornings. When evening came, God sent quails into the Israelite camp, so all the people had meat to eat.

The next morning there was a layer of dew on the ground in the camp. When the dew dried, the ground was covered with a white flake-like substance that looked like

frost. When the people of Israel saw it, they said, "Manna?" which means "What is it?" Moses said, "This is the bread which God has sent for you. You are to gather one omer for each person every morning." (An omer is a little less than a gallon.) So the people gathered the manna off the ground in the morning. Moses gave the people more instructions concerning this bread from heaven. They were to gather only as much as they needed for each person each day. No manna could be kept overnight. If kept overnight, it would breed worms and smell bad. On the sixth day they were to gather twice as much as they needed, for there would be no manna on the seventh day. Manna



kept from the sixth day for the seventh day remained fresh and good. For God said, ***"The seventh day shall be a sabbath day of rest for you. You shall do no work on the***

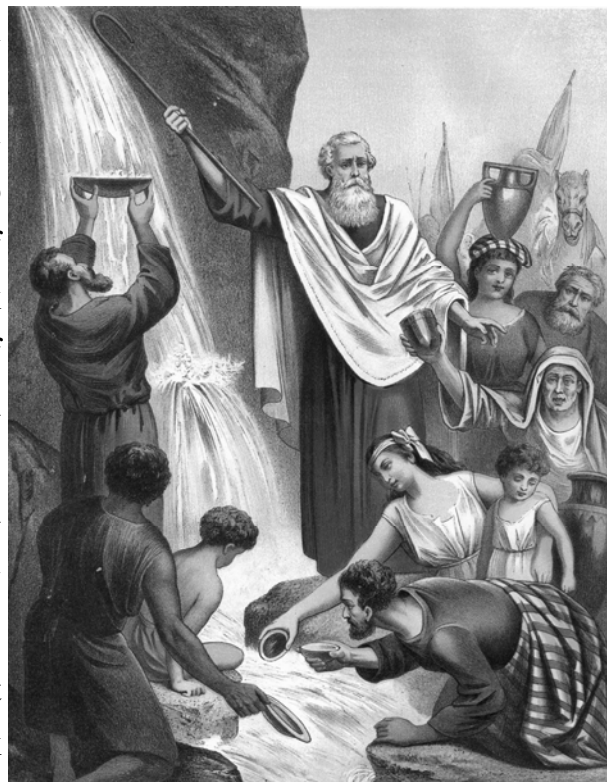
seventh day. You must gather a double portion of manna on the sixth day, and you must prepare your seventh day food on the sixth day.”

Some of the people did not obey God, and they gathered more than they needed, to save it overnight, but in the morning the manna was full of worms and smelled terrible. On the sixth day some of the people did not gather double manna. They saw that the manna had come every day, so they did not do as God commanded. When they went out to gather manna on the seventh day, they found no manna on the ground! When God saw that they disobeyed He said to Moses, ***“How long will these people refuse to listen to me? I have given you the seventh day as a day of rest. There shall be no work on the seventh day, for it is a day of rest.”*** So the children of Israel rested on the seventh day, and there was no work nor traveling done. The Israelites called the bread from heaven “manna” because when they first saw it they said, “What is it?”

God commanded Moses to gather one omer of manna to be kept as a memorial for the people to remember how God gave them food in the wilderness. The Israelites ate manna in the wilderness for forty years.

The Israelites traveled on from the wilderness of Sin and came to Rephidim, and again there was no water for the people. The people complained against Moses and Aaron saying, “Give us water to drink or we will die!” Moses cried out to God for help saying, “What shall I do about these people? They are ready to stone me to death?” God told Moses to pass in front of the people, taking the elders of Israel with him. He was to go to a certain rock at Horeb (Sinai) and hit the rock with the rod of the Lord. Moses did as God commanded and took the elders ahead of the people. Moses found the rock and hit it with the rod, and God sent water pouring from the rock so all the people could drink.

Now the Amalekites came to fight against Israel at Rephidim. Moses told Joshua to pick

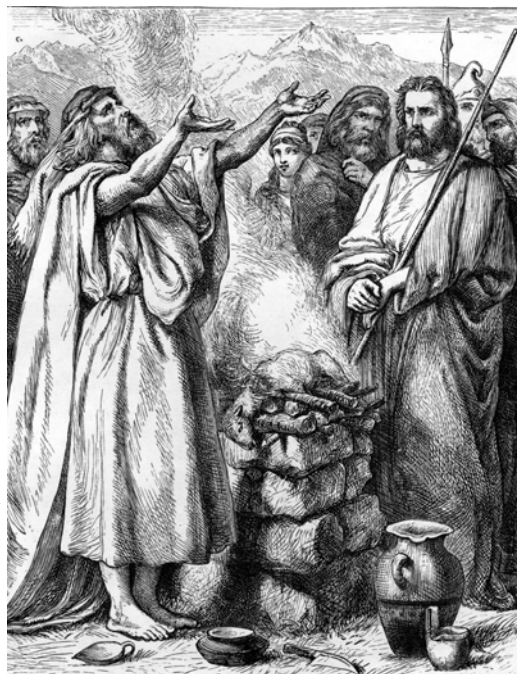




men for an army to go and fight the Amalekites. The next morning Joshua and his army went out to fight. Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up on a hill to watch the battle, and Moses carried the rod of the Lord in his hand. When Moses held the rod of the Lord above his head, Joshua and his men would win the battle. When Moses got tired and put his arms down, Joshua and his men would lose the battle. Aaron and Hur saw what was happening, so they took a large stone and sat Moses on it. Aaron stood on one side of Moses with Hur on the other side. They held Moses' arms up high until night came, so Joshua and the sons of Israel won the victory over the Amalekites. God told Moses to

write down all that happened so the people would always remember how God helped them. God promised to wipe the Amalekites from the face of the earth because they dared to come out against the Israelites.

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought Zipporah and Moses' sons to meet Moses in the desert. (They had returned to Midian while Moses remained in Egypt.) Jethro had heard all the wonderful things God had done for the sons of Israel in Egypt. After talking to Moses for a while, Jethro took a burnt offering and made sacrifices to God. Aaron and all the elders of Israel shared the meal with Jethro. The next morning Moses sat and judged the people from morning until evening. When Jethro saw this he said, "What is this you are doing?" Moses told him that the people brought all their arguments and quarrels to him, and he made judgments for them. Jethro said, "This thing is not good! It is too much for you to do alone. You will wear yourself out! You should be the people's representative before God, but teach the people about

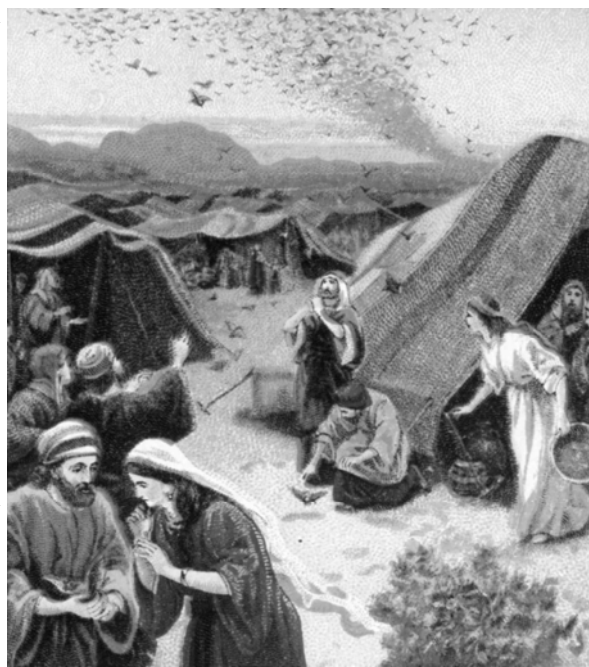


God's laws and commandments. Then select from among them some honest men who fear God, and make them leaders or judges over the people. Let these men make the judgments over the little things, and bring only the more important things to you.” Moses listened to Jethro for it seemed good to him. So Moses selected men to judge over the people and only important matters were brought to him.

God brought the Israelites out of Egypt into the wilderness (which is desert). The people complained against Moses and Aaron every time some trouble or complication occurred. They should have known by now that God was with them and would take care of them. We are just like the Israelites sometimes! We complain and fuss whenever things are not going just like we think they ought. We should learn to trust in God to take care of us.

It is interesting to know some facts about how much food and water it would take to care for three to three and a half million people. Remember there were **six** hundred thousand men of the Israelites, not counting women and children. The congregation must have been close to three million in number.

One expert says, “It would have taken about fifteen hundred tons of food each day to feed the people. It would take two freight trains (each one mile long) to carry that much food. The Israelites were in the desert, but they must have required wood for cooking. This would take about four thousand tons of wood each day. When you multiply these daily figures by forty years, the numbers are unbelievable! Only God could provide such needs in a desert! The people also needed water to drink and to bath, wash dishes, etc. This would require about eleven million gallons of water each day. This would require a freight train of tank cars eighteen hundred miles long! God provided food every



day, and He provided water! When Moses hit the rock, there was no little trickle of water. It had to be a large gushing stream, because all the people were able to drink!

Level 8A

Setting up a camp might have been a problem for the Israelites also. It could have taken about seven hundred fifty square miles for the people to camp. That is an area twenty-five miles wide and one hundred thirty miles long!

Most of us would have given up before we even started on such a journey as the Israelites. But Moses believed in God, and he knew God would take care of the needs of His people. He did not waste time worrying about providing food, water, and fuel. He trusted in God. Moses knew (and we should remember) that with God on our side, we can do anything!

STORY QUIZ

1. How long did the Israelites travel in the desert before finding water?
2. What did Moses put into the water at Marah to make it drinkable?
3. What is the name of the oasis having 12 springs and 70 palm trees?
4. What did the Israelites call the bread God send them in the wilderness?
5. What happened to manna kept over night?
6. How much manna per person could be gathered on the seventh day?
7. What kind of meat did God send for the people in the wilderness of Sin?
8. At Rephidim what caused the people to complain against Moses & Aaron?
9. From where did Moses get water the Israelites at Rephidim?
10. Who came out to war with the Israelites as they passed by Rephidim?

Memory Verse

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

Memory Goal Level 8: The Ten Commandments

See page 136

- ANSWERS:
1. Three days
 2. A tree
 3. Elim
 4. Manna
 5. It spoiled and bred worms
 6. none
 7. quail
 8. lack of water
 9. A rock
 10. Amalekites

AT MOUNT SINAI

Exodus 19-24

Three months after leaving Egypt the Israelites came to the wilderness of Sinai and camped in front of the mountain of the Lord. Moses went up on the mountain, the same mountain where God had spoken to him from a burning bush. God spoke to Moses saying, ***“Tell the children of Israel, ‘You have seen how I have brought you out of the land of Egypt. Now if you will obey My voice and keep My commandments, then you shall be My people, a nation of priests, a holy nation unto God.’”***



Moses called together the elders and all the people and told them what the Lord God had said to him on the mountain. The people said, ***“We will do all that the Lord God says!”*** When Moses went back up Mount Sinai to tell God what the people said, God said, ***“I will come to you in a thick cloud, and all the people will believe in you forever.”***

God told Moses to tell the people to prepare by washing their bodies and their clothes, for on the third day God would come down on the mountain to speak to them. God told Moses to set boundaries around the mountain to keep the people away. He said, ***“Tell the people not to go up on the mountain nor touch its borders. For whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death.”*** So Moses returned from the mountain and gave instructions to the Israelites.

The Israelites prepared themselves, and early in the morning of the third day there was lightning and thunder on the mountain. A thick cloud came down on the mountain, and a loud trumpet sounded! When the people saw and heard these things they were terrified, but Moses brought them out of the camp, up near the mountain to meet with God. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because God descended on it in fire, and the mountain quaked violently! The sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then

Level 8B

Moses called out to God, and God answered with thunder! God came down on the mountain and called for Moses. Moses went again up Mount Sinai. God told Moses to go down and warn the people against coming too near the mountain. Moses assured God that the boundaries were set so no one could come up to Him. God told Moses to bring Aaron up on the mountain. Moses went down from the mountain to instruct the people and to get Aaron. Then all the children of Israel heard the voice of the Lord God speaking to them.

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me.

You shall not make for yourselves any graven images of any kind to worship them.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother and your life will be long in the land which I will give you.

You shall not kill.

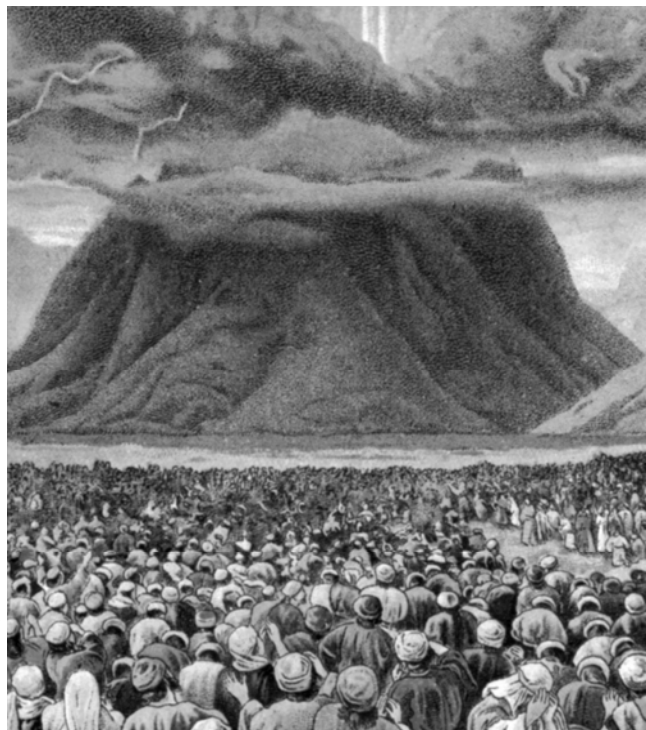
You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness.

You shall not covet.”

When the children of Israel heard God speaking and saw the lightning and smoke, they were terrified. They said to Moses, “Let God speak to you, and you tell us what He says. If He speaks to us we will surely die!” Moses told the people not to be afraid because God had come to tell them all the things He wanted them to know, but the people were afraid and stood back, away from the mountain. Moses went back up Mount Sinai into the smoke to speak with God. God gave Moses many laws for the



people. He gave instructions about all the commandments He had spoken to the people, and He gave other instructions for the Israelites.

God told Moses to go down and bring Aaron, Aaron's sons (Nadab and Abihu), and the seventy elders of Israel to the mountain to worship. God told Moses that he was to come near to worship, but Aaron and the others were to stay at a distance to worship. Moses went down and told the people all the laws of God, and the people said, "All the words which God spoke we will do only do not let Him talk to us!"

Moses wrote down the words and commands of the Lord, and the next morning he made an altar, with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel, at the foot of the mountain. Moses commanded that the people make sacrifices to God, and Moses sprinkled the sacrifice blood on the altar and on the people. Moses read the book which he had written, and all the people promised to obey the words of the Lord. Moses said, "You have made a covenant of blood with the Lord God to keep all His commandments."



Moses took Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the seventy elders up the mountain, and they worshiped God there, eating a covenant meal on the mountain. God called, "***Moses come up to me to the top of the mountain. I will give you tablets of stone with the laws and commandments for the people, which I will write for them.***" Moses told the elders and others to stay away from the top of the mountain. He instructed Aaron and Hur to watch over the people and make any judgments necessary while he was on the mountain. Moses took Joshua and went higher into the mountain of God. God's cloud remained on the mountain for six days, and on the seventh day God called Moses to come nearer. Moses left Joshua and entered into the middle of the cloud at the top of the mountain. Moses remained on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

God gave Moses instructions concerning every part of their lives. The Israelites were chosen people, chosen to be God's children through whom God would send His Son, Jesus. God gave Moses the same commandments He had spoken

Level 8B

directly to the people. He also gave many other instructions about what the people could eat, how to keep clean, how to treat diseased people, how to treat servants, and how to treat one another. God gave these instructions to help the people stay pure and healthy. Many of the laws concerning cleanliness probably seemed strange to the people, but today we know that God's instructions kept the Israelites from getting many diseases and illnesses. God knew how to take care of His people. He still takes care of us today.

STORY QUIZ

1. How long did it take the Israelites to get from Egypt to Mount Sinai?
2. How long did the Israelites prepare themselves for God's coming on the Mount?
3. How did God come down on the Mount?
4. What sound did the Israelites hear coming from the mountain?
5. When Moses called out to God, how did God answer him?
6. Who heard God speaking His commandments for the Israelites?
7. How did the Israelites feel when they heard God speaking to them?
8. Who went with Moses up on Mount Sinai?
9. What did the Israelites say they would do concerning God's commandments?
10. How long did Moses stay on Mount Sinai talking to God?

Memory Verse Level Eight

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

Memory Goal Level Eight

The Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods before Me.
You shall not make nor worship any graven images.
You shall not speak the Lord's name in vain.
Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not kill.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not bear false witness.
You shall not covet.

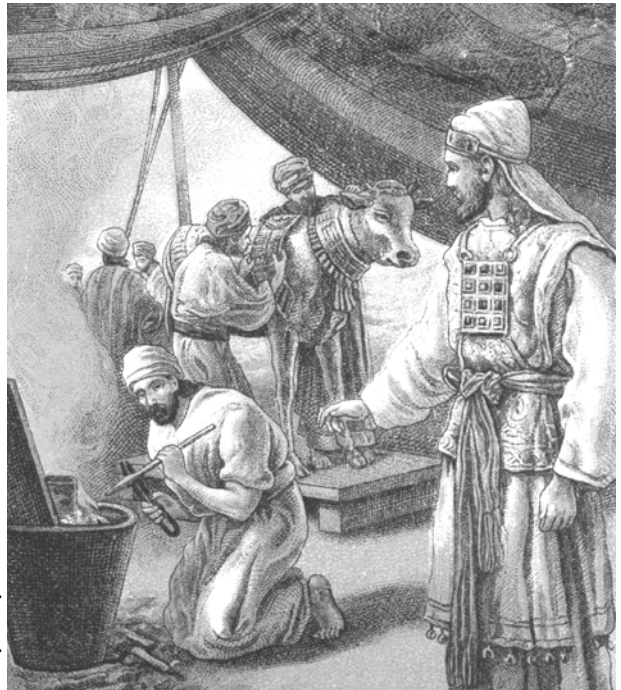
ANSWERS: 1. three months 2. three days 3. fire and cloud
4. trumpets 5. with thunder 6. all the Israelites 7. terrified
8. Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, Joshua, & 70 elders 9. obey 10. 40 days and nights

THE GOLDEN CALF

Exodus 32-34

God came down on Mount Sinai in a cloud of smoke and fire. He gave His laws and commandments to the people of Israel, telling them how to live right in His sight. God called Moses up onto the mountain, and Moses remained there, talking with God, for forty days and nights. God wrote His commandments on tablets of stone and gave them to Moses to keep for the people.

When the people saw that Moses was gone for such a long time, they went to Aaron saying, “Come and make us a god who will go with us. We do not know what has become of this man, Moses. We do not even know if he is still alive!” So Aaron told the people to give him all their gold earrings. Aaron took the earrings and melted them together, then he used a graving tool to form a golden calf from the metal. When the people saw the calf of gold, they said, “Look, this is the god who brought us out of the land of Egypt.” Aaron built an altar in front of the calf and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast day unto



the Lord!” The next day the people rose up early and offered burnt offerings on the altar which Aaron had built. They all sat down to eat and drink, then they got up to dance and play.

On the mountain God said to Moses, ***“Go down at once for your people have sinned greatly! They have not listened to My words, and they have made for themselves a god in the form of a calf. These people are very hard-headed and stubborn! Leave Me alone now so My anger can burn against them. I will destroy these people completely, and I will make you, Moses, into a holy nation of people.”***

Moses said, “Lord, please do not be angry with these people. You brought them out of the land of Egypt with great power. If You destroy them now the Egyptians

Level 8C

will say that You brought them out here to kill them. The other nations will make fun of You and say You did not have the power to save Your people. Please do not destroy them! Please remember Your promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Remember that



You promised to give the land of Canaan to their descendants.” God listened to Moses and did not destroy the Israelites.

Moses went down from the mountain and carried the tablets of stone on which God had written the commandments for the people. These stone tablets had God's words written on both sides. When Joshua heard the sound from the camp, he said, “There must be a war in the camp!” Moses said, “No, it is sound of singing and partying.” When Moses came down off the mountain, he saw the golden calf and the people dancing. He became so angry that he threw down the tablets of stone and broke them!

Moses took the golden calf, melted it with fire, ground it into a powder, put it in the water, and made the people drink it. Then Moses said to his brother, Aaron, “What is this thing the people have done? What did they do to you to make you commit such a great sin?” Aaron said, “Do not be angry. You know how these people are. They are always looking for trouble. They came to me saying, 'Make us a god for we do not know what has become of Moses.'” I told them to bring their gold earrings to me, then I threw them into the fire, and this calf jumped out of the fire!”

Moses could see that the people were completely out of control because of what Aaron had done. He stood at the gate of the camp and said, “Whoever is an God's side join me here.” All the men from the tribe of Levi repented and came to Moses. Moses told them to take their swords and go through the camp. They were to kill every person who refused to repent. The sons of Levi killed about three thousand men that day because they would not repent of their idol worship. The next day Moses told the people that they had committed a very great sin. He promised to speak with God and beg Him

to forgive the wickedness of the people.

Moses begged God to forgive the people for their sin, and he said, “If you will not forgive them, then do not forgive me either.” God told Moses that He would forgive those who deserved forgiveness and punish those who did not repent. He instructed Moses to take the Israelites on into Canaan, the land He had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God promised to send His angel before them to drive out the people who lived in the land of Canaan.

Moses set up a tent outside the camp, and he called it the *Tent of Meeting*. Moses would enter this tent when he wanted to talk to God. When the people saw Moses enter this tent they would all watch, and each one worshiped at the door of his own tent when the cloud of the Lord came down on the tent of meeting. Moses asked God to allow him to actually see God, but God said, “*No man may see the face of God and live, but I will show you a certain place on the mountain; stand there and I will pass by. I will touch you with My hand, and you will see My back, but you shall not see My face.*”

God told Moses to form two new tablets of stone like the ones he had broken. Moses took these new stone tablets up on Mount Sinai, and again God came down on the mountain. He passed by Moses, and Moses bowed and worshiped Him. Moses remained on Mount Sinai for forty more days and nights. God again wrote the laws and commandments on the stone tablets for the people. During these forty days with God, Moses neither ate nor drank! When Moses came down from the mountain his face was shining so much that the people were afraid and could not look at him. He had been in God's presence and had actually seen God's back; therefore, God's glory was reflected in Moses' face! Moses told Aaron and the people all the things God had commanded them, then he covered his



Level 8C

face with a veil. When he would enter the tent of meeting Moses removed the veil, but he wore it when he was with the people.

The Israelites forgot God's commandments very quickly! About six weeks after God actually talked to them, they broke His commandments by making an idol to worship. Many times we behave just like the Israelites. We remember God and think about His laws and commandments on Sunday, but during the week we forget about Him. God was very angry with the Israelites when they forgot His commandments, and I'm sure He gets very angry with us today when we forget Him.

STORY QUIZ

1. Where did Moses to meet with the Lord in the wilderness?
2. How long did Moses stay up on the mountain meeting with God?
3. What did God give Moses on the Mount of God?
4. What did the Israelites want Aaron to make for them?
5. What did Aaron tell the people to bring him to use in making a god?
6. What did the Israelites do after the gold calf was built?
7. Who told Moses that the people of Israel were worshipping an idol?
8. What did Aaron say when Moses asked him why he built the idol god?
9. What people did Moses ask to stand with him at the edge of the camp?
10. What did Moses ask God to allow him to see?

Memory Verse Level Eight

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

Memory Goal Level Eight: The Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make or worship any graven images.
3. You shall not take the Lord's name in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness.
10. You shall not covet.

ANSWERS: 1. Mount Sinai
2. 40 days 3. tablets of stone
4. a god 5. gold earrings
6. They worshipped it. 7. God
8. It jumped out of the fire.
9. Those on God's side. 10. God

THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 25-31

While Moses was on Mount Sinai God gave him instructions and laws for the children of Israel. Some of these laws concerned man's relationship with God, his relationship with his parents, and his relationship with other people. Many of God's laws were given to keep the children of Israel pure and healthy. God gave Moses complete, detailed instructions for building a place of worship for the Israelites.

Moses followed God's instructions and told the people to bring gifts of gold, silver, bronze, all kinds of fine fabrics, oils, and spices for use in the place of worship. The people were very happy when they knew they were to have a place of worship, and they brought all their rich gifts to Moses. They brought so much that Moses had to tell them to stop! They were happy to give their riches for God's use.



The worship place was called the TABERNACLE which means TENT. It was a tent-like structure, portable and easy to move. Remember the Israelites were living and traveling in the desert at this time. God gave many of the Israelite men and women special knowledge about how to make the furniture and other items of the Tabernacle. The people gladly worked many hours preparing this new place of worship.



The Tabernacle was fifteen feet wide, forty-five feet long, and fifteen feet high. The inside walls were made of fine linen, embroidered with cherubim, draped over a trellis-like frame. The linen was covered with a goatskin covering, which was covered with a ram's skin (dyed red), which was covered with a water repellent animal skin. The Tabernacle was divided into two rooms, separated by a linen

Level 8D

curtain embroidered with cherubim. The first room was about thirty feet long, and it was called the HOLY PLACE. The second room was only fifteen feet long, and it was called the HOLY OF HOLIES or the MOST HOLY PLACE. All priests could enter the Holy Place, but only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies, and he could go there only once a year, on the Day of Atonement.

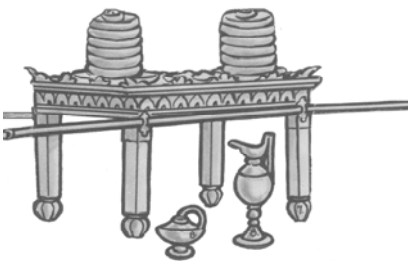
The Tabernacle was surrounded by a large courtyard, one hundred fifty feet long and seventy-five feet wide. The Altar of Burnt Offerings was in the courtyard. This



is where the people brought their animal sacrifices to the priests to be given to God in worship. The Brazen Laver was also



used by the priests to wash their hands and feet before entering the Tabernacle.



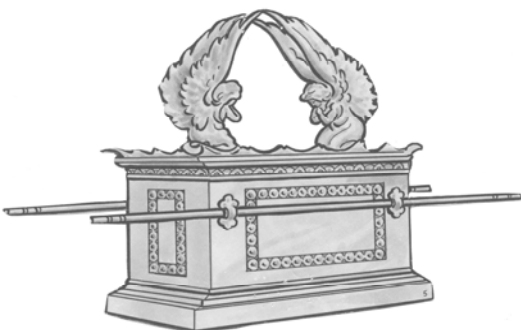
The Holy Place held the Table of Showbread, the Golden Lampstand (or Candlestick), and the Altar of Incense. The Table of Showbread was made of wood and covered with gold. It held twelve loaves of bread (renewed each Sabbath) which was eaten during the week by the priests. The Golden Lampstand or Candlestick was kept



burning, as a light inside the Tabernacle. The Altar of Incense was also covered with gold. Here the priests continually burned a special mixture of incense.



The Holy of Holies held only the Ark of the Covenant.

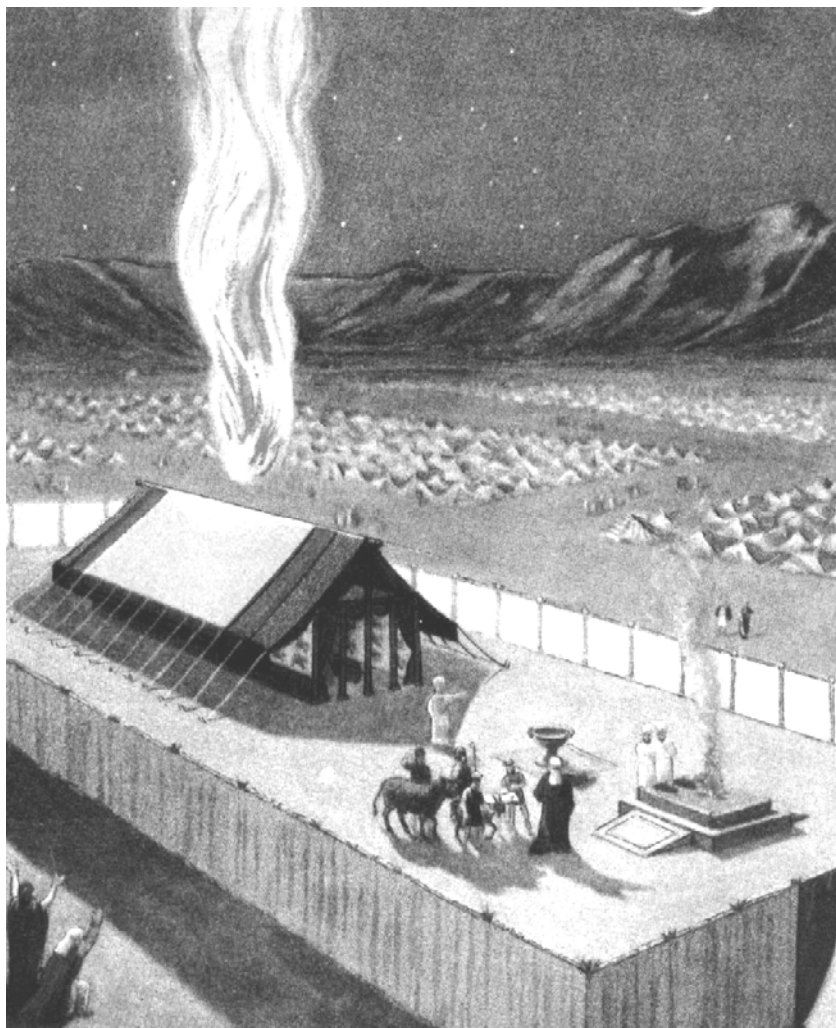


This wooden box was covered with pure gold. Its lid had two cherubim, with outspread wings, molded on the top. The tablets of stone and the memorial omer of manna were kept in the Ark.

Moses and the Israelites followed God's exact instructions for making the Tabernacle. When it was finished they set it up in the center of the camp. Aaron was the high priest and his sons

were priests. All the people of the tribe of Levi were chosen to take care of worship. Some were priests, some had responsibility for moving and setting up the different parts of the Tabernacle.

Moses and Aaron followed God's commands in dedicating it. They commanded



that sacrifices be brought to God in worship. The blood of the sacrifices was sprinkled on all the items of the Tabernacle and on the priests. When the Tabernacle was complete and dedicated, the cloud of God moved over it and entered into the Holy of Holies. The cloud remained over the Tabernacle while the Israelites were in the wilderness. When the cloud moved, the people knew that God wanted them to move to a new place. When the cloud stopped, they knew that God wanted them to make camp.

To learn more about the Tabernacle and its furniture you should read the booklet, “The Tabernacle And The Church. It will tell you all about the furniture and how it was used in worship. The book shows that the items of Tabernacle worship were physical representatives of items in spiritual New Testament worship.

The Israelites were very happy to give their time and their riches for God's use. We should learn from them and be happy to give our money and time to God's work.

STORY QUIZ

1. To whom did God give His laws for the children of Israel?
2. What place of worship did God instruct Moses to build?
3. Where was Moses to get the materials for building the Tabernacle?
4. What does TABERNACLE mean?
5. How did the people know how to make the Tabernacle?
6. How many rooms were in the Tabernacle?
7. Where was the Tabernacle set up in the camp?
8. What was done with the blood of the sacrifices brought when the Tabernacle was first set up?
9. What came into the Tabernacle and filled it so the people had to go out?
10. The Tabernacle was a physical representation of what?

Memory Verse Level Eight

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

Memory Goal Level Eight

The Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make or worship any graven images.
3. You shall not take the Lord's name in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness.
10. You shall not covet.

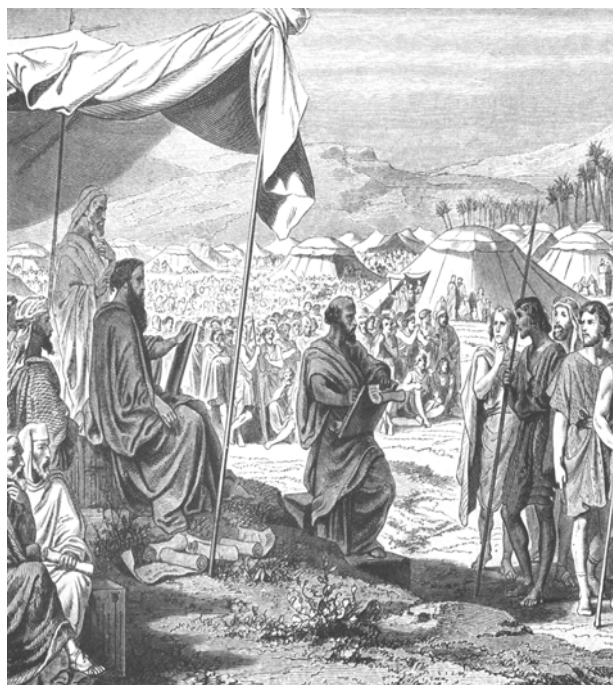
ANSWERS: 1. Moses 2. Tabernacle 3. From the Israelites
4. Tent 5. God gave them knowledge 6. Two
7. In the middle of the camp 8. It was sprinkled on the furniture and the priest.
9. God's cloud 10. The spiritual church

THE SPIES

Numbers 13-14

When the Israelites came to Mount Sinai, God commanded Moses to make a counting of the people. This count was to be made by tribes. There were twelve tribes of Israel, plus the tribe of Levi which was dedicated to the priesthood. Jacob had promised that Joseph's sons would inherit equally with his own sons. Since Levi was set apart for special duty, there were still only twelve tribes who would receive a land inheritance. The counting is found in the book of Numbers. The chart below shows the total number of men over nineteen years old in each tribe. These are the men who were capable of going into battle for Israel.

Judah.....	74,600
Issachar.....	54,400
Zebulun.....	57,400
Levites carrying the Tabernacle	
Reuben.....	46,500
Simeon.....	59,300
Gad.....	45,650
Levites with Tabernacle furniture	
Ephraim.....	40,500
Manasseh.....	32,200
Benjamin.....	35,400
Dan.....	62,700
Asher.....	41,500
Naphtali.....	53,400
Total number.....	603,550



The Levite males from one month old and older were counted in a separate census. The number of male Levites was 22,273. They could not go to battle but were dedicated to God's work.

The Israelites camped at Mount Sinai for one year, then the cloud over the Tabernacle moved, and the Israelites traveled until the cloud stopped again. Many of the people complained because of the trouble of moving, and God sent fire into the camp. Some of the people were burned, but Moses prayed and God took the fire away. Then the people complained about the food. They said they were tired of manna, and they

Level 8E

wanted some meat to eat. Moses cried out to God for help saying that he could not handle all the problems by himself. God had Moses appoint men to help him solve problems for the Israelites. Then God sent quail (for the second time) into the camp. There were so many quail that they laid two cubits (3 feet) deep in the ground! The people were very greedy and stuffed themselves on the quail meat. God became angry with the people and killed many of them with a plague. Moses called the place “Kibroth-hattaavah” because they buried many greedy people there.



The Israelites moved on up to Haseroth and made camp there. While here, Miriam and Aaron complained against Moses' wife because she was not an Israelite. They told Moses that they were prophets, just like him. God was not pleased with Miriam and Aaron, so He caused Miriam to be covered with leprosy. Moses prayed for her, so God cured her, but she had to remain outside the camp for seven days. From Haseroth the Israelites moved into the wilderness of Paran.

At Kadesh-Barnea, in the wilderness of Paran, God told Moses to send spies into the land of Canaan to look over the land and the people. Moses picked one man from each of the twelve tribes to be spies. Moses said to the twelve, “Go into the south country and the hill country of Canaan. Look over the land and the people. See if the



land is good. See if the people are many or few, strong or weak. Look over the cities to see if they are walled or open camps. Then bring me word concerning the land.”

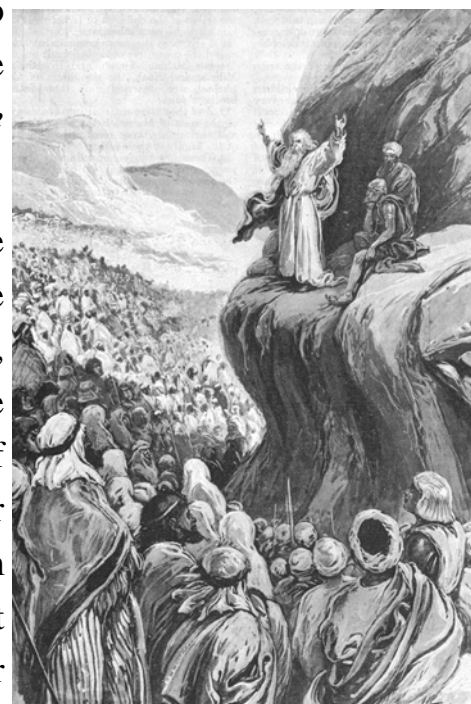
The twelve spies went into Canaan to look over the land. They traveled over the entire land of Canaan to see how it was and how the people lived. They were gone for forty days and nights, then they returned to Moses carrying a single cluster of grapes which was so big it took two men to carry it on a pole between them. They also brought back some figs and some pomegranates.

They showed the fruit to Moses and Aaron and all the assembly of Israelites, and they said, “We went into Canaan, and indeed it is a wonderful land. This is fruit from the land. But the people who live there are strong, and the cities are walled and very large.” Caleb (the spy from the tribe of Judah) said, “Let's go up at once and take possession of the land, for with God's help we are able.” The other spies said, “No! The people there are like giants, and we are like grasshoppers in their sight. They are too strong for us!” Joshua (the spy from the tribe of Ephraim) wanted to go on into Canaan and take



the land, but the people listened to the ten spies who gave a bad report. They cried all that night, and they complained against Moses and Aaron. They said, “Why didn't you leave us alone in Egypt? Why did you bring us out here to die?” They said to one another, “If we go into the land we will be killed. Let's appoint a new leader to take us back to Egypt!” Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes and begged the people to listen to them. They begged the people not to rebel against God, saying, “God has given us this land. Let's go up and take it!” But the people wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb. Then the Lord appeared in the cloud and said to Moses, “***How long will these people refuse to listen to Me?***”

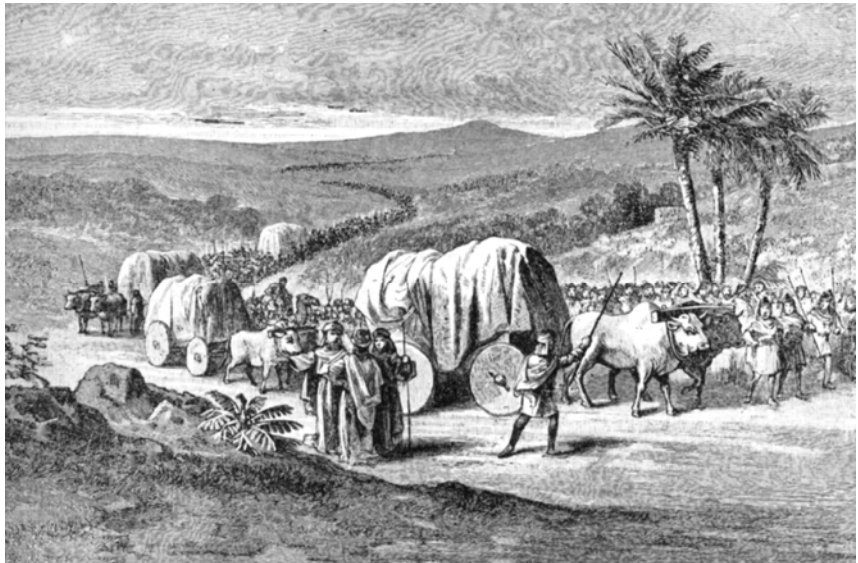
God told Moses that He was tired of the people and their unbelief. He said he would destroy all the Israelites. Moses again talked to God saying, “Lord, please do not do this thing. Please listen to me. You have brought these people this far by Your great power, and if you destroy them now the Egyptians and people of other lands will say “Their God was not able to give them the land He promised them.” The Egyptians will laugh at You, saying You could not keep Your promises to Your



Level 8E

people. Please forgive these people now, and do not destroy them.” God listened to Moses and promised that He would not destroy the people. God said, ***“I will not kill all the people now, but they will not enter into the land I promised to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They have not believed My voice and did not trust in Me; therefore, they shall all die in the wilderness. I tell you that every person twenty years old and older (except Joshua and Caleb) will die in the wilderness and shall not enter the land flowing with milk and honey. Joshua and Caleb believed in Me, and they will enter the land of Canaan, but all the others will die in the wilderness. Israel will wander forty years in the wilderness, and their children will take over the land I promised to give them.”***

When Moses told the people that God said they would all die in the wilderness, they were very sad. God sent a plague on the ten spies who brought a bad report, and they died before the Lord. The next morning the people said, “We have sinned a great sin. Now let's go up into the land and take it.” Moses said, “You would not believe and go up when God told you to go. Now I beg you, do not go! You will not succeed and many will die.”



The people did not listen to Moses because they did not want to live in the wilderness for forty years. They went into Canaan and met the Amalekites and Canaanites in battle, but Moses would not go with them. The children of Israel were badly beaten because God was not with them. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years, because they refused to obey God and trust in Him.

Even though the children of Israel had seen the power of God in His many miracles, they still refused to trust in Him. They would not believe that God was with them, so they refused to enter the land God promised to give them! When we study these lessons, we sometimes think the Israelites were very weak people, but many times

we behave just like they did. God has given us so much. He has been with us and helped us, but still we refused to trust in Him. We need to learn from the Israelites. We need to remember that God always keeps His promises, and He has promised to be with us and take care of us.

STORY QUIZ

1. Which tribe of Israel was set apart for purposes of worship & priesthood?
2. For how long did Israel camp at Mount Sinai?
3. What did God send into camp when the people complained about the manna?
4. What happened to Miriam when she complained against Moses' wife?
5. From where did Moses send the spies into Canaan?
6. How many spies did Moses send into the land of Canaan?
7. How many spies wanted to go on into Canaan and take the land?
8. Who were the two faithful spies who trusted in God?
9. What did God want to do to the Israelites because of their unbelief?
10. For how long would the Israelites have to wander in the wilderness?

Memory Verse Level Eight

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

Memory Goal Level Eight

The Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods before Me.
 You shall not make or worship any graven images.
 You shall not take the Lord's name in vain.
 Remember the Sabbath day, keep it holy.
 Honor your father and your mother.
 You shall not kill.
 You shall not commit adultery.
 You shall not steal.
 You shall not bear false witness.
 You shall not covet.

- ANSWERS: 1. Levi
 2. a year
 3. quail
 4. She got leprosy.
 5. Kadesh-Barnea
 6. 12
 7. two
 8. Joshua & Caleb
 9. destroy them
 10. 40 years

Aaron's Budding Stick

Numbers 17 & 20

In our last lesson we learned about Moses sending twelve spies into the land of Canaan. Ten of the spies brought back a bad report, and the Israelites refused to obey God and enter the land of promise. God punished them by making them live in the wilderness for forty years, until all the men twenty years old and older at the time of the spying died. Joshua and Caleb, the two spies who believed and trusted God, would be the only two of the original adult Israelites to enter into Canaan.

You will remember that God chose Aaron and his sons to be the priests for the



Israelites. The men of the tribe of Levi were chosen by God to take care of the Tabernacle. Once a man named Korah, from the tribe of Levi, rebelled against Moses and Aaron because he wanted to be a priest. Because of his rebellion against God's chosen leaders, God caused the earth to open up and swallow Korah and his family and the other two men who were leading the rebellion against Aaron. Two hundred fifty people who joined in the rebellion were killed by fire from God. The next day all the Israelites blamed Moses for the deaths, so God sent a plague into the camp. Aaron quickly offered incense to God for the people, and the plague was stopped, but 14,700 people died before the plague stopped.

God told Moses to tell the Israelites that the leader of each of the twelve tribes was to bring a rod or stick to Moses. Each stick had the tribal leader's name carved on it. Moses placed the sticks in the Ark of the Covenant with the stone tablets and pot of manna. God said that He would show the man HE chose to be the high priest by causing that man's stick to come alive again. The next morning Moses went into the Tabernacle and took out the thirteen rods. Aaron's stick had budded, and it- even had ripe almonds growing on it, but the other sticks were just like they had been when placed in the Ark. In this way God showed the people that

Aaron and his sons were the ones chosen to the priesthood. God told Moses to place the budded rod back in the Ark of the Covenant, to be kept as a reminder for the people. Moses obeyed God and placed Aaron's budded rod in the Ark.



The children of Israel lived in the wilderness and traveled about as God led them. The cloud of the Lord over the Tabernacle (which was like fire at night) would move when God wanted the people to travel, and it would stop when God wanted them to camp. Sometimes they would camp for just one night, but other times they camped for a week or a month or even a year in the same place.

Moses (the writer of the first five books of the Bible) does not tell us about the thirty-seven years between the time of the spies until the end of the forty years. We can assume that many of the Israelites died in the wilderness during this time. All the men who had been twenty or older at the time of the spies had to die in the wilderness.

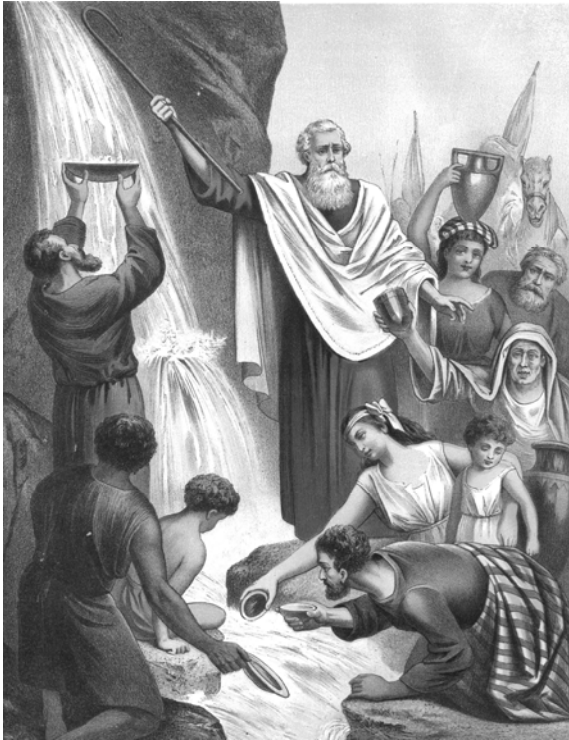
In the first month of the fortieth year, the children of Israel came to the wilderness of Zin and camped at Kadesh. Miriam (Moses' older sister) died and was buried at Kadesh. The Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron at Kadesh, because there was no water. They said the same things their fathers had said thirty-nine years before them “Why did you bring us out here to die in this wilderness? Why didn't you leave



us alone in Egypt? This land is not good, there is no grain and no fruit. There is not even water for us to drink!!” Moses and Aaron went to the door of the Tabernacle, and God spoke to Moses saying, ***“Take your rod and Aaron and all the people to the rock I will show you. You will speak to the rock and it will pour out water for all the people and their animals.”***

Level 8F

Moses and Aaron did as God commanded. They gathered all the people and went to the rock. Moses then said, “You people are rebels!! Now we will have to get water for you from this rock!” Then Moses took his rod and hit the rock twice. Water came



pouring out of the rock and all the people and animals drank.

God spoke to Moses and Aaron saying, ***“You have not glorified Me. You have taken credit for giving the people water, but it was I who gave them water. Because you have not glorified Me, you will not be allowed to enter into the land of promise which I will give these people.”*** Moses and Aaron had led the Israelites for forty years, but they would not be allowed to enter the land God had promised to give the people. They were punished because they tried to take credit for the miracle, instead of giving God the glory.

From Kadesh the Israelites traveled to Mount Hor. God had told Moses that they were to be very careful when crossing the land of Edom, because this land belonged to the descendants of Esau, and God had given it to Esau as an inheritance. At Mount Hor God told Moses to take Aaron and his son Eleazar up on Mount Hor, because Aaron was about to die, and his son was to become the new high priest. Moses took them up the mountain as God commanded, and he took Aaron's high priest garments and put them on Eleazar. Then Aaron died on Mount Hor. When Moses and Eleazar went down the mountain, the people saw that Aaron was dead, and they mourned for thirty days.

We see in this lesson that God always does what He says He will do. He made the Israelites live in the wilderness for forty years just as He had promised. Moses and Aaron sinned when they tried to take credit for God's miracle, so God punished them by not allowing them to enter the land of Canaan. We are on a journey to the new promised land, Heaven. We must be very careful to obey God and trust in Him, or we will be like the Israelites and not allowed to enter the promised land.

STORY QUIZ

1. Which tribe of Israel was set apart for purposes of worship & priesthood?
2. What Levite led a rebellion against God's chosen leaders?
3. What did Moses tell each tribal leader to bring to him at the Tabernacle?
4. What did Moses do with the sticks brought by the men?
5. What happened to the stick belonging to Aaron?
6. What was in the Ark of the Covenant?
7. What did God tell Moses to do to get water for the people at Kadesh?
8. What did Moses do to get water from the rock at Kadesh?
9. What was Moses and Aaron's punishment for taking credit for God's miracle?
10. Who became the high priest when Aaron died at Mount Hor?

Memory Verse Level Eight

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

Memory Goal Level Eight

The Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods before Me.
 You shall not make or worship any graven images.
 You shall not take the Lord's name in vain.
 Remember the Sabbath day, keep it holy.
 Honor your father and your mother.
 You shall not kill.
 You shall not commit adultery.
 You shall not steal.
 You shall not bear false witness.
 You shall not covet.

ANSWERS: 1. Levi 2. Korah 3. An almond stick 4. Put them in the Ark
 5. It budded and grew ripe almonds. 6. Tablets of stone, an omer of manna, and Aaron's
 stick. 7. Speak to the rock 8. Hit the rock 9. They could not enter Canaan
 10. Eleazar

TROUBLE FOR ISRAEL

Numbers 21 & 25

In our last lesson we learned that Aaron died on Mount Hor. From there the Israelites traveled south to go around the land of the Edomites (Esau's descendants). The people became impatient and tired of traveling, and they complained against Moses and God saying, “Why have you brought us out into this miserable place? There is no food



and no water, and we are sick of eating this manna!” God was angry with the people, and He sent poisonous snakes into the camp, and they bit the people and many people died. The Israelites said to Moses, “We have sinned against you and against God. Please speak to God for us so He will take away these snakes.” Moses spoke to God for the people, and God told Moses to make a serpent of brass and put it on a pole in the middle of the camp. Anyone who had been bitten by the snakes could look at the brass serpent and be well. Moses did as God commanded and set the brass serpent on the pole in the middle of the camp. Those who believed

and looked at the brass serpent were healed of snake bite.

In the New Testament Jesus said He is like the brass serpent. He was lifted up on the cross and if we look to Him we will be healed and will not die.

The children of Israel traveled on, being led by God in the cloud. They fought with the Amorite king and lived in the cities of the Amorites. They traveled on and camped at the edge of the land of Moab. They were not allowed to fight against the Moabites because they were descendants of Lot (Abraham's nephew). God did not allow Israel to enter the land of the Ammonites for they were Lot's descendants also. While the people were camped at the borders of Moab the children of Israel began to join the Moabites in worshiping idols.

God told Moses to kill the leaders so the people could see the anger of God. Moses commanded the judges to kill all who worshiped idols. One man of Israel came and brought one of the foreign women to the Tabernacle where the people were weeping over the dead idol worshipers. Phinehas, son of Eleazar, saw the man, and he took a spear and killed the man and the foreign woman. Because of Phinehas' love for God, God caused the death of the people to stop, but 24,000 people died that day because they worshiped the idols of Moab. God blessed Phinehas greatly because he defended God against idol worshipers.



After this God told Moses to take another counting of the children of Israel. All men twenty years old and older were counted. These men were counted because they were the men of war, who would fight while taking over Canaan. Moses took the counting of the men, and they numbered 601,730. When Moses had counted at Mount Sinai (at the beginning of the wilderness years) there were 603,550 men of war. Of the 603,550 numbered at Sinai, there were only two alive and counted in this second counting. These two were Joshua and Caleb.

God told Moses that the land of Canaan was to be divided among the children of Israel according to the tribes. The land was to be divided by casting lots. We do not know exactly what casting lots was but it was probably something like drawing straws or throwing dice. The tribes with the larger number of families would receive more land than tribes of fewer families.

The Israelites fought and destroyed the people in the land east of the Jordan River (north of Moab). The men of the tribes of Reuben and Gad asked Moses to let them have the land east of Jordan. Moses told them that they could not remain in safety while the others went into Canaan and fought for the land. He accused them of being like their fathers, who had not been allowed to enter Canaan. The men of Reuben and Gad promised to go with the others into Canaan, but they asked for permission to leave their families and animals on the east side of the Jordan. Moses gave them the land they wanted, and they promised to help their brothers fight until all the land was won.

Level 8G

God told Moses to tell the people that they were to destroy or drive out all the people living in Canaan. They were to destroy all the people and all the idols and gods of Canaan. God promised that if they did not drive out all the people living in Canaan, He would allow the Canaanites to become like thorns in the sides of the Israelites. God told Moses exactly how the land was to be divided and what the borders of the promised land were to be. God also commanded that the Levites be given cities in every tribal land with pastures around the cities.



The Israelites camped at the bottom of the mountains of Pisgah, across the river from Jericho. Moses told all the Israelites the things God wanted them to do in taking over the land. Moses gave special instructions to Joshua, for he was to become the new leader of Israel. Then Moses begged God saying, “You have shown me many signs and wonders. I have seen Your great power! Now I beg of You, let me cross over the Jordan and see this wonderful land to which You have brought Your people.” But God was angry with Moses and said, ***“That is enough! Do not speak to me about it again!”*** God told Moses to go to the top of Mount Nebo (one of the mountains of Pisgah) and look over into the land of Canaan. But he was not allowed to enter into the land, because he had not given God the glory for providing water for the people at Kadesh.

After leading the people and taking care of them for forty long years in the wilderness, Moses was at the end of his journey. God would not let him enter Canaan, but he would be allowed to see it from the mountain top. The Israelites are very near the end of their journey. They must have been very anxious to go on into the wonderful land God had promised to give them.

As we continue our study you will learn how the Israelites capture the land of Canaan and what happens to them because they do not follow God's instructions about killing or driving out the sinful Canaanites.

STORY QUIZ

1. Why did God send poison snakes into the Israelite camp?
2. What did God tell Moses to put on a pole in the middle of the camp?
3. What did the Israelites have to do to be cured of snake bite?
4. Who said he is like the brass serpent?
5. Whose land could the Israelites not enter because they were descendants of Lot?
6. Who defended God by killing a man & woman who were committing sin at the Tabernacle?
7. Who were two Israelites counted in both of the census?
8. What tribes asked Moses for land on the east side of Jordan?
9. What did God say the Israelites should do about those living in Canaan?
10. Where did God tell Moses to go so he could see the land of Canaan?

Memory Verse Level Eight

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

Memory Goal Level Eight

The Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods before Me.
You shall not make or worship any graven images.
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Remember the Sabbath day, keep it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not kill.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not bear false witness.
You shall not covet.

ANSWERS: 1. The people complained
against Moses. 2. A brass snake
3. Look at the brass serpent 4. Jesus
5. Moab and Ammon 6. Phinehas
7. Joshua and Caleb 8. Reuben and
Gad 9. Drive them out or kill them
10. Mount Nebo

JOSHUA., THE NEW LEADER

Joshua 1-5

Moses, the servant of God, led the children of Israel from Egypt through the forty years of wilderness wanderings. God chose Joshua, the son of Nun, of the tribe of



Ephraim, to replace Moses as the leader of the Israelites. Moses gave Joshua instructions from God, then Moses went up on Mount Nebo to look over into the promised land of Canaan. God allowed Moses to see the land, but he could not enter because he had tried to take the glory and credit for God's miracle. Moses died on Mount Nebo when he was one hundred twenty years old, and God buried him there on the mountain. Even though Moses was old when he died, his eyesight was still clear, and he was a very healthy man. The Israelites mourned Moses for thirty days, but now they listened to Joshua, as God had commanded.

After Moses died God spoke to Joshua and told him to be strong and courageous for God was with him. God told Joshua to be careful to always do the things He commanded, and He would take them into the land of Canaan and give them happiness in their new home. God said, "***Joshua, be strong and do not be afraid. I will go with you wherever you go.***" God said that He would raise Joshua in the sight of the people so they would know that God was with him just as He had been with Moses. Joshua told the people to prepare themselves for they would soon cross over the Jordan River and enter into the land God had promised to Abraham and his descendants. He reminded the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh that they must



Level 9A

enter Canaan with their brothers to fight for the land. The Israelites told Joshua they would obey him and follow him just as they had followed Moses.

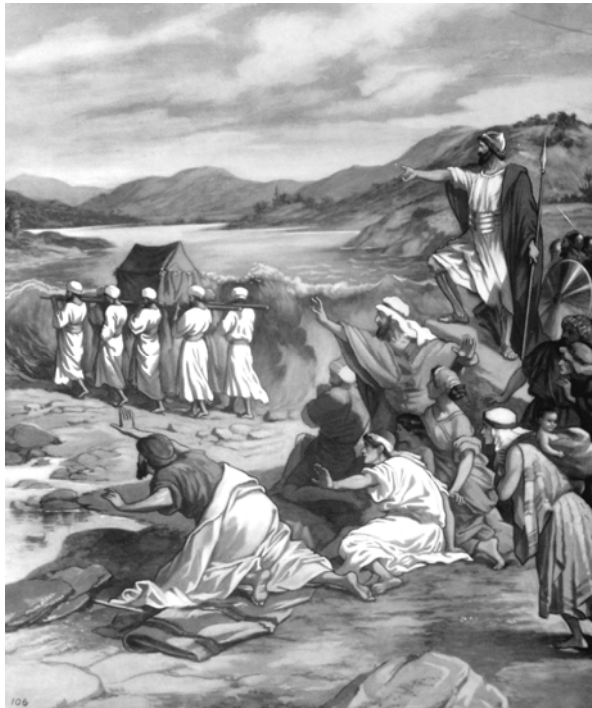
Joshua sent two men into Canaan to spy out the land. He told them to look especially at the city of Jericho the first city they would come to after crossing the Jordan. The two spies went into Jericho and went to the house of Rahab, an innkeeper. Rahab hid the men on her rooftop under some flax. Some men told the king of Jericho that men of Israel were in the city and staying at Rahab's house. The king sent a message to Rahab saying, "Send out the men who have come to spy out our city." Rahab told the king that the men had come to her house but she did not know where they had come from. She said, "The men left the city. Go quickly now, before the gates closed for the night. You should be able to catch them!" So the king's men went out of the city toward the Jordan searching for the spies.

Rahab went up on the roof and said to the spies, "I know that God has given this land to *you*. We have heard how God opened the Red Sea and let you pass over. We also know what you did to the Amorite kings east of Jordan. When we heard these things we were very afraid because your God is the God of heaven and earth. Now, I beg of you! Since I have been kind and helped you, please deal kindly with me and my father's household when your people come into this city to destroy it." The spies agreed to this saying, "Since you have saved our lives, we will save yours." Rahab told the men to go into the mountains and stay for three days, until the king's men stopped looking for them. She helped the men down from her window, for her house was on the walls of the city. The men told Rahab to tie a red cord from her window and leave it there to identify her house. They told her to bring her father's household into her house, and they all would be saved when the Lord gave the city of Jericho to the Israelites. The spies also told



Rahab that she must tell no one about them. If she told about them, they would not be obligated to keep the promise they had made to save her. Rahab promised to keep the secret, and the men went into the mountains.

After hiding for three days, the spies returned to Joshua and told the people that God had indeed given them the city, and the people of Jericho were very much afraid of the sons of Israel. The Israelites moved up and camped at the edge of the Jordan River. Joshua sent the commanders of the *people* through the camp, and they told the people to



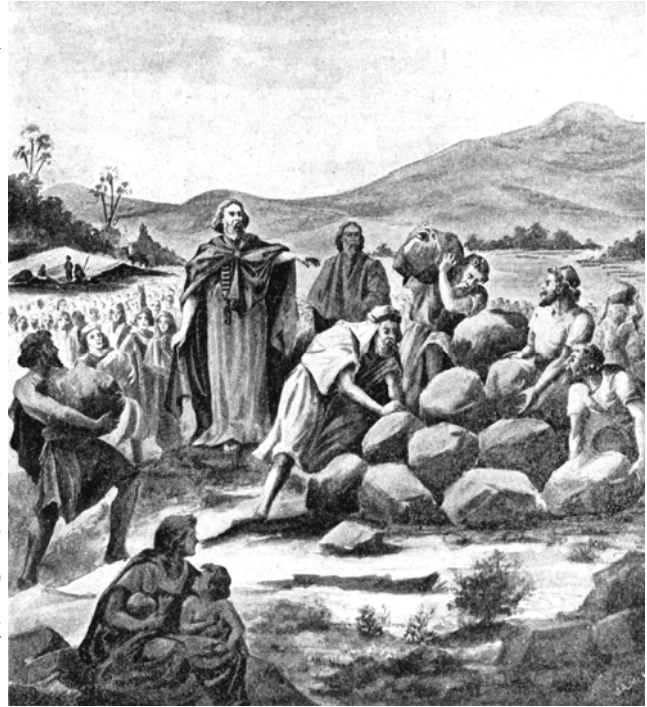
prepare, because the next day they would cross the Jordan. The people were told to follow the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant. Joshua told the priests to take the Ark and move out ahead of the people. Joshua spoke to all the Israelites saying, “Hear, all of you, the words of God. You will know that God is among you when He gives over the enemies of Canaan to you. Now the Ark of the Covenant is crossing ahead of you into the Jordan. It will happen that the waters of the Jordan will be cut off when the feet of the priests touch the water. You will cross the Jordan on dry ground.”

The Jordan was in flood stage and was overflowing its banks when the priests carrying the Ark stepped into it! When their feet touched the water of the Jordan, the water flowing down the river stood up in a heap and was cut off completely! The priests stood in the middle of the river until all the Israelites had crossed over on the dried up riverbed.

God commanded Joshua to have one man from each of the twelve tribes go to the middle of the Jordan, where the priests were standing, and each of them take a stone from the river. God commanded that the stones be taken with them until they made camp that night, then they were to set the stones up as a memorial for the people. Joshua did as the Lord God commanded, and the men took the twelve stones out of the river. Then Joshua set up a twelve stone memorial in the middle of the Jordan, where the priests stood. When all this was finished God told Joshua to tell the priests to come up

Level 9A

out of the river. The priests obeyed, and when their feet came up from the river's edge, the water of Jordan returned to its place, as it had been before God cut the waters off for Israel. So Israel crossed Jordan on dry ground and entered into Canaan on the tenth day of the first month. They made their camp at Gilgal, and Joshua commanded the twelve stones to be set up in memorial. Joshua told the people to remember how God had opened the Jordan River so they could cross it. He told them to tell their children about it and never forget how God had helped them.



The children of Israel observed the feast of the Passover at Gilgal on the fourteenth day of the first month. The next day they ate the fruit of the land of Canaan and the manna did not come again, for they could now eat from the land of Canaan. God fed the Israelites for forty years with the manna, but now they did not need it.



God kept His promise to Abraham and brought the children of Israel, the descendants of Abraham, back into Canaan. This is the land He had given to Abraham God always keeps His promises!!

Today, we are on a journey toward the promised land that is heaven. God has promised to let us enter the promised land if we will be faithful and true to Him. Just like He kept His promise to Abraham and his descendants, He will keep His promises to us.

STORY QUIZ

1. Who was chosen to lead the Israelites when Moses died?
2. Where did Moses die?
3. How many spies did Joshua send into the land of Canaan?
4. To what city did the two spies go to spy out especially?
5. To whose house did the spies go in the city of Jericho?
6. Who told Rahab to send the spies out of her house?
7. Where did Rahab hide the spies?
8. What did Rahab put in her window to identify her house?
9. Who went in front when the Israelites crossed Jordan?
10. Where did the Israelites camp and celebrate Passover when they entered Canaan?

Memory Verse Level Nine

But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

Memory Goal Nine

Marching Order of the Tribes

Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Levites with the tent,
 Reuben, Simeon, Gad, Levites with the furniture,
 Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin, Dan, Asher, Naphtali

ANSWERS: 1. Joshua 2. Mount Nebo 3. Two 4. Jericho 5. Rahab's 6. King of Jericho 7. On her roof 8. A red cord 9. Priests carrying the Ark 10. Gilgal

CAPTURING JERICHO

Joshua 6-8

In our last lesson we learned about the death of Moses and how God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites. We also learned about the two spies who went into Jericho and how they were helped by Rahab. God opened the Jordan River and the Israelites crossed the river, just like their fathers had crossed the Red Sea, on dry land. The Israelites celebrated the Passover feast in Gilgal, and they began to eat the food from the land of Canaan. God had been feeding the people with manna for forty years, but now the manna stopped coming.

When Joshua was near Jericho, he saw a man standing near him. This man was dressed in battle clothes and had his sword drawn out. Joshua said to him, “Are you for us or against us?” The man said, ***“I am not your enemy! I have come to be the captain of the Lord’s army!”*** Then Joshua fell down and bowed himself to the man saying, “What has my Lord



to say to His servant?” The man told Joshua, ***“Remove your shoes from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”***

God had promised to send His angel ahead to help Joshua and the Israelites take over the land of Canaan. Now Joshua had come face to face with that angel. God told Joshua, ***“See, I have given Jericho to you! The city is shut up tight because they fear you and the sons of Israel. You shall march around the city, circling it once each day for six days. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times. All the men of war shall march. Seven priests blowing on seven ram’s horns shall march in front of the Ark of the Covenant. Armed men shall march before and after the priests carrying the Ark. As you march, there shall be***



NO word spoken, only the sound of the rams' horns shall be heard. Then on the seventh day, when you hear the signal, all the people shall shout with a great shout and the walls of Jericho will fall down flat!"

So Joshua commanded the priests to take up the Ark of the Covenant and seven priests marched in front with the ram's horns. Armed men of war marched in front and behind the Ark. So they marched, every day, once around the city for six days. On the seventh day, they marched around Jericho seven times. Then Joshua said, "Shout!!!". All the people shouted, and the walls of Jericho fell down flat.

Joshua told the Israelites that everything in the city was under ban. That meant that the people were not to take anything from the city. Everything was to be destroyed except the gold, silver, bronze, and iron. These metals were to be taken to the Tabernacle. Every man, woman, child, and animal in the city was to be killed except Rahab and those of her family who were at her house. Joshua sent the two spies to get Rahab and her people to safety. Rahab was taken into the Israelite camp, and she became part of the Israelite people. She married Salmon, a man of Judah, and they had a son named Boaz, who married Ruth.

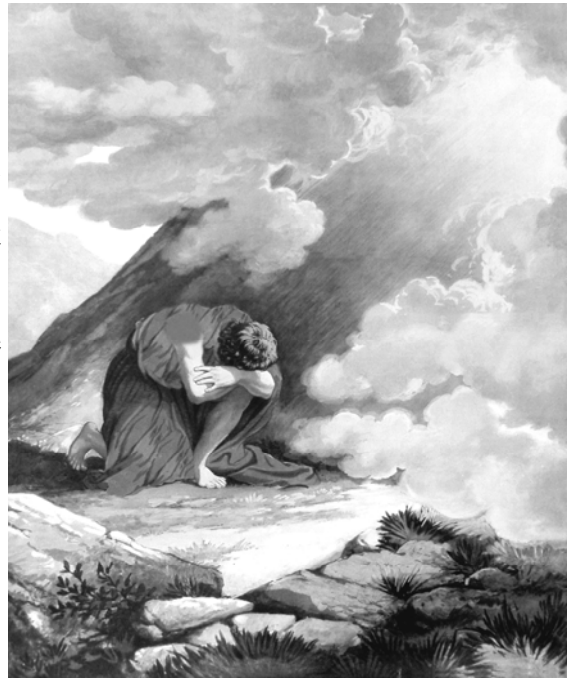
Joshua and the Israelites took the city of Jericho, saving only Rahab and her family. Achan, a man of the tribe of Judah, took a mantle (a robe-like garment), some gold bars, and two hundred shekels of silver from Jericho and buried them in his tent. This displeased God and He was angry with Israel, because Achan took things that were under the ban,



Level 9B

but Joshua did not know what Achan had done.

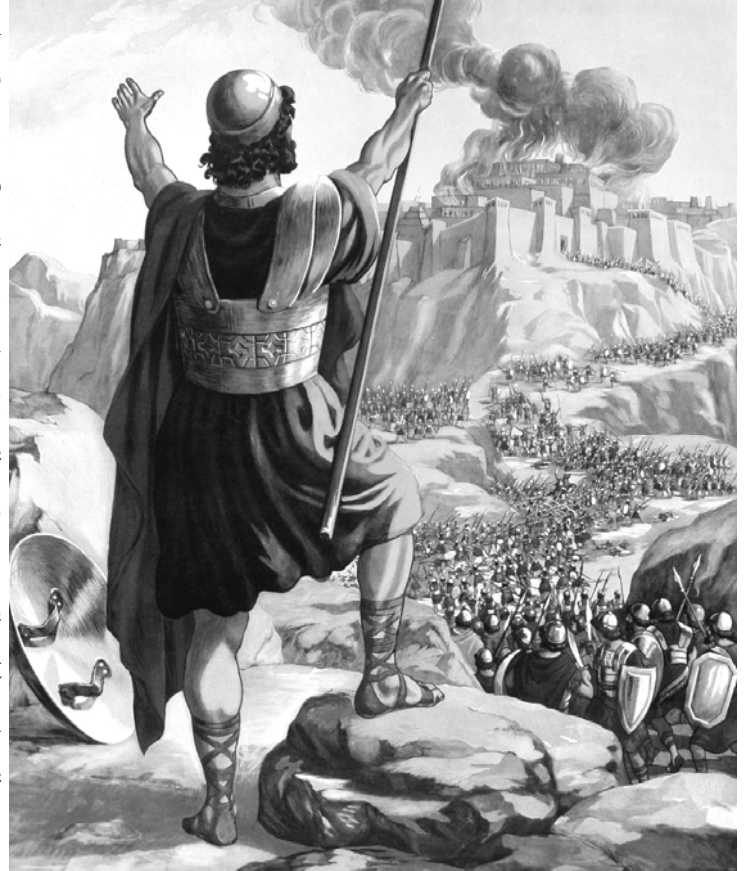
Joshua sent spies into the city called Ai. They returned saying, “This is a small city. You need only two or three thousand men to fight this time. Don't take the whole army.” So Joshua took three thousand men and went up to Ai, but they were badly beaten in the battle and had to retreat. Joshua tore his clothes and fell on his face before the Ark of the Covenant saying, “O Lord, Why? Why did you bring us over the Jordan to be destroyed by the Amorites? All the people of this land will hear how we are defeated here and they will turn strong against us!” God told Joshua that the children of Israel had sinned by taking things under the ban in Jericho. He told Joshua that the guilty ones must be destroyed or He would not be with them and help them take the land of Canaan. God commanded Joshua to bring all the people before Him, and He would show Joshua who was guilty.



The next day all the people came before Joshua. The tribe of Judah was chosen then the family of Achan was chosen. Joshua told Achan, “I beg you to tell me what you have done.” Achan told Joshua that he had taken the mantle, gold and silver from Jericho and buried them in his tent. Joshua sent men to Achan's tent and they found the items and brought them to Joshua. Joshua took Achan and all his family and all his belongings, including the things he had taken from Jericho, into the valley of Achor. The Israelites came there and stoned Achan and his family with stones until they died, then they burned them. They placed stones over them and left them there in the valley. Now God's anger against Israel was stopped because the sinful ones had been found and punished.

God told Joshua not to be afraid now to go into Ai for He would give it to Israel. God gave Joshua instructions for capturing the city. Joshua sent five thousand men out at night and told them to hide behind the city until Joshua gave them a signal, then they were to enter the city of Ai and capture it. Joshua and his twenty-five thousand

men camped in the valley on the north side of Ai. When the king of Ai saw them, he gathered his army and went out to fight. Joshua and his men pretended to be beaten and retreated (ran away). The Ai army came after them, away from the city. Then God told Joshua, “Hold out your spear toward Ai, for I have given the city to you.” Joshua held out his spear and the five thousand men waiting behind Ai went quickly into the city and set it on fire. Joshua and his men stopped running away and turned to fight the Ai army. When the men of Ai saw their city burning, they turned to go home, but they were caught between the Israelites. The Israelites killed all the men of Ai, but they saved the king alive and brought him to Joshua. Joshua hung the king in a tree and left his body there until sunset, then he threw the king's body at the gates of the destroyed Ai. God allowed the Israelites to keep the animals and the riches of Ai. Joshua set up an altar of stones at Mount Ebal and worshiped God, giving thanks for the victory over Jericho and Ai.



We can see that God is surely keeping His promise to give the land of Canaan to the Israelites. He made it very easy for them to capture Jericho even though the city was surrounded by walls. But God does not like it when people disobey Him. Achan disobeyed God by taking things from Jericho. Not only did he disobey, he really stole from God since the things he took were supposed to go to the Tabernacle. God did not help the Israelites until they got the sinful person out of the camp! God still gets angry when people disobey Him. We need to be careful to do what God commands us or we will find ourselves getting a great punishment just like Achan.

STORY QUIZ

1. Who did Joshua meet one day when he was near Jericho?

Level 9B

2. How many times did God tell Joshua to march the army around Jericho?
3. Who was suppose to march in front of the Ark of the Covenant?
4. What happened when the horns blew and the people shouted?
5. What did God command that the Israelites do with all the precious metals of Jericho?
6. What people of Jericho were saved alive?
7. What man broke the 'ban' and took gold and silver for himself?
8. What little town defeated the Israelites because of Achan's sin?
9. What happened to Achan and all his household?
10. Who told Joshua the plan to use in capturing Ai?

Memory Verse Level Nine

But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fore-fathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

Memory Goal for Level Nine Marching Order of the Tribes

Judah, Issachar, Zebulon, Levites with tabernacle tent and poles,
Reuben, Simeon, Gad, Levites with holy items,
Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin. Dan, Asher, Naphtali.

ANSWERS: 1. Captain of the Lord's army
2. 13
3. Seven priests with rams horns
4. Jericho's walls fell
5. Take it to the Tabernacle
6. Rahab and her family
7. Achan
8. Ai
9. They were stoned.
10. God

Conquering Canaan

Joshua 9-24

We have learned about Joshua and the sons of Israel taking the cities of Jericho and Ai. Now all the kings of the land of Canaan came together to make war against Joshua and Israel.

Among the nations of people living in Canaan were the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, the Jebusites, and the Philistines.

The people of the city called Gibeon (they were of the Hivite nation) heard what Joshua had done at Jericho and Ai, so they made plans to protect themselves. They sent



out men dressed in old, worn-out clothes and sandals. These men took worn-out wine sacks and stale, crumbling bread and went to the Israelite camp at Gilgal. They told Joshua and the men of Israel that they had come from a far off country, and they wanted to make a covenant with Israel.

The men of Israel said, "Maybe you live right here in this land! How can we make a covenant with you?" Joshua said, "Who are you and from where did you come?" The Gibeonites told Joshua they lived in a far away country, but they had heard how the God of Israel had brought the people out of Egypt, and had given them the cities of their enemies. The Gibeonites said, "Our elders told us to take food and drink and go out to meet you and make a covenant with you. See this stale bread, it was fresh, hot from the oven, when we left home. Our wines sacks were new, but look at them now! Even our clothes and sandals are completely worn-out because our journey has been so long!"

Level 9C

Joshua and the leaders of Israel believed the Gibeonite's story and did not talk to God about it. They made a covenant with the men of Gibeon, promising not to kill the Gibeonites.

Three days after making the covenant, the Israelites learned that the city of Gibeon was nearby, right in Canaan. The Israelites went to Gibeon but they could not fight with them because they had made a covenant. The Israelites let the people of Gibeon live, but they made them like

slaves to cut wood and carry water for Israel. Joshua asked the men of Gibeon why they had come to him with their lies. They told Joshua they knew how God had promised to give the land to Israel, and they were afraid. They decided to trick Joshua into making a covenant rather than being destroyed in a battle. Joshua told the Gibeonites that they would be servants to Israel forever.



Joshua failed when he did not talk to God before making a covenant with the men of Gibeon. After making a covenant, Israel could not kill the Gibeonites, even though that is what God had told them to do. The Israelites should have remembered God's warnings about destroying the *enemy* they should have talked to God before making their decisions!

When the King of Jerusalem and four other Amorite kings heard that the Gibeonites had a covenant with Israel, they came together to fight Gibeon. The men of Gibeon sent a message to Joshua begging for help. God told Joshua not to be afraid because God would give the Amorites over to Joshua's army. Joshua and his men made a surprise attack, and the Amorites became confused and retreated. God rained huge hailstones down on the Amorites and killed more Amorites than the Israelite army killed.

Joshua prayed to God saying, "O sun, stand still at Gibeon. O moon, stand still in the valley of Aijalon." The sun stood still in the middle of the day and did not go down



for the space of about one day, until Israel defeated the Amorite kings. There never was a day like this in all history. The Lord listened to the voice of Joshua and HE fought for Israel!!

After this Joshua and the army of Israel fought against all the cities and kings in the southern part of Canaan, from Kadesh-Barnea and Gaza to Gibeon and Ai. They captured all these cities easily because God was fighting for them. Then the kings of the north came to fight Israel. God told Joshua not to be afraid because He would give these enemies over to Israel also. Joshua and Israel destroyed all the armies of the northern kings. For about five years the sons of Israel, led by Joshua, battled the kings in the land of Canaan, but with God's help Israel took the land.

In all they defeated thirty-one kings.

When Joshua was old, the Lord told him to give the land by allotment to the sons of Israel. Some of the cities had not yet been captured, but God told Joshua to go ahead and divide it because God would drive the enemy out. Some of the people living in the cities were allowed to remain there, but this was not pleasing to God.

Joshua and the Israelites set up the Tabernacle in Shiloh, in the territory of Ephraim, and the people gathered there. Joshua sent men to map out the whole land. Joshua then divided the land by casting lots. The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh had already received land east of the Jordan. The land west of the Jordan was divided and given to the nine and half tribes which had not yet received land. The



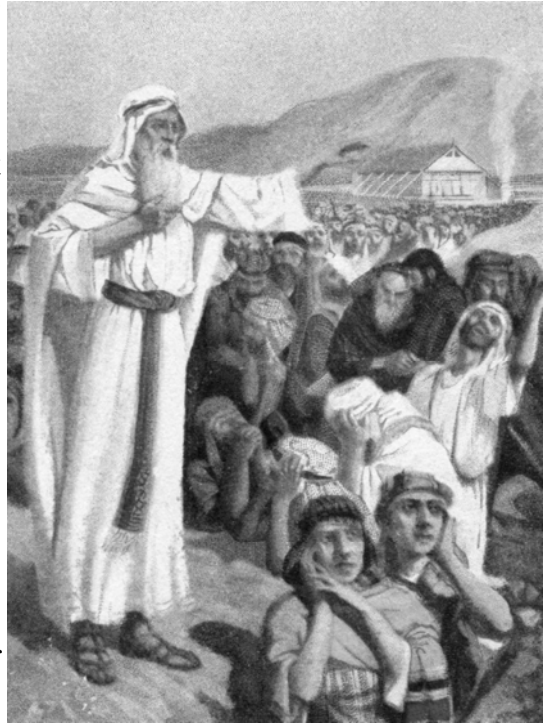
Level 9C

amount of land given to each tribe was determined by the number of families or households in each tribe. Joshua gave the city of Hebron to Caleb because he had faithfully served God.

The Levites received no inheritance of land because they were privileged to take care of the things concerning the Tabernacle and worship. They did receive 48 cities throughout the land, with the pasture land surrounding those cities. God kept His promises. He helped Israel win the battles against the enemies. He made it easy for them to take the cities in Canaan. God always keeps His promises.

Just before his death, Joshua called together all the elders and leaders of Israel. He told them, "You have seen how our God has given this land to you. He has fought for you. Now you must remain faithful and always keep the laws written in the books of Moses. Be careful! Always love the Lord your God. Keep away from the people of this land. Do not marry them. Do not make friends with them, or they will turn you away from God. If you leave God to serve the gods of this land, God's anger will turn on you, and you will die."

Joshua warned them not to serve the idol gods of the Canaanites and Amorites. Joshua said, "Choose you this day whom you will serve but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua died at one hundred ten years old. The Israelites served God faithfully all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who had lived



with Joshua. They took the bones of Joseph, which they had brought from Egypt, and buried him at Shechem. Eleazar, son of Aaron, died and was buried in Canaan.

God fought for Israel and they took the land which God had promised to Abraham. Our journey to heaven may seem hard to us sometimes, like the Israelites' journey, but God is always there to help us. He will give us rest in the promised land if we are faithful.

STORY QUIZ

1. What land did God give to the sons of Israel?
2. What city sent men out to make a covenant with Joshua?
3. What did the Gibeonites carry to make the Israelites believe their lies?
4. What is a covenant? (*As the word is used in this lesson*).
5. What big mistake did Joshua make in dealing with Gibeonites?
6. What jobs did Joshua give the Gibeonites?
7. To whom did the Gibeonites send a message begging for help against the Amorites?
8. Who helped Joshua and the Gibeonites fight the Amorites?
9. What did Joshua ask of God?
10. Where did Joshua have the Tabernacle set up?

Memory Verse Level Nine

But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fore-fathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

Memory Goal for Level Nine

Marching Order of the Tribes

Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Levites with tabernacle tent and poles,
 Reuben, Simeon, Gad, Levites with holy items,
 Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin. Dan, Asher, Naphtali.

ANSWERS: 1. Canaan 2. Gibeon 3. stale bread and old wine sacks 4. peace treaty
 5. He did not pray. 6. woodcutters and water carriers 7. Joshua 8. God
 9. To stop the sun 10. Shiloh

The Judges Othniel – Deborah

Judges 1-5

Under the leadership of Joshua the Israelites took possession of the land of Canaan just as God had promised. Joshua died at one hundred ten years old, after dividing the land of Canaan among the twelve tribes of Israel.

The Israelites displeased God when they did not drive out all the people living in the land. God spoke to the people saying, *“I brought you out of the land of Egypt into this land which I promised to Abraham. I told you to make no covenants with these people of Canaan. I told you to tear down their idols and destroy them, but you have not obeyed My voice. Now I will not help you! I will not drive your enemies out of the land. You will have many troubles because you have not obeyed Me.”*

After Joshua and all the older men of that generation died, the Israelites forgot God and served the Baals (idol gods) of the nations living in Canaan. The Israelites married people of Canaan and bowed down to worship idols. God's anger burned against Israel, and He allowed them to be troubled and beaten by their enemies.

God allowed the king of Mesopotamia to conquer Israel, and Israel served this foreign king for eight years. The people of Israel cried out to God for help, so God raised up judges to deliver the people from the enemy. The first judge was OTHNIEL. With God's help Othniel led the people, and they defeated the king of Mesopotamia. Israel had peace for forty years.

When Othniel died, the Israelites again turned against God. God allowed Eglon, king of Moab, to come against Israel, and Israel served Eglon for eighteen years. Again Israel cried to God for help, so God raised up EHUD (a left-handed man) to be the second judge over Israel. Ehud was sent by the Israelites to pay tribute (taxes) to the king of Moab. Ehud made himself a dagger about 9 inches long and



Level 10A

sharpened on both sides of the blade. He tied the dagger to his right thigh under his clothes.

Ehud took the tribute payment to Eglon who was a very fat man. After paying the tribute, Ehud told Eglon that he had a secret message for the king. Eglon sent everyone out of the room and told Ehud to state the message. Ehud said, "I have a message for you from God, O King." Then Ehud reached with his left hand to his thigh and took the dagger which was tied there. Ehud pushed the dagger into Eglon's fat belly so deep that the handle of the knife went into the fat and would not come out! Ehud left the king's room and locked the door. After he was gone the king's servants found the door locked, but they thought King Eglon was resting in his room. After a while the servants became worried, so they opened the door and found the dead king!

Ehud escaped from Moab and returned to Canaan. He sent an army down to stop the Moabites at the Jordan River. Israel won the battle against Moab, and there was peace for eighty years. Then the Philistines came against Israel.

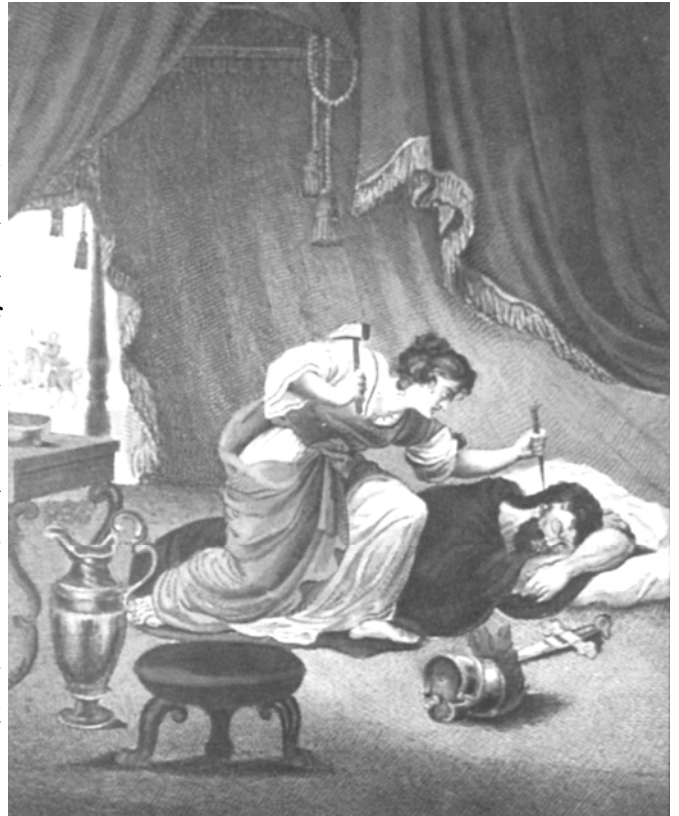
SHAMGAR, the third judge, battled the Philistines and saved Israel. One time he killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad. After his death, the Israelites turned from God yet again. God sent Jabin, King of Canaan, against Israel. Jabin's army commander (Sisera) had nine hundred chariots of iron, and he terrorized Israel for twenty years.

DEBORAH (a prophetess) was judge of Israel at this time. Deborah sent for Barak and told him that God said, "Go, march to Mount Tabor with ten thousand men, and I will give Sisera to you!" Barak told Deborah, "I will go if you go with me, but if you will not go, neither will I."

Deborah said that God would give Sisera over to be killed by a woman since



Barak refused to go to battle without her. Barak took his army of ten thousand men and Deborah went with them to Mount Tabor. Sisera heard about Barak's army and gathered his entire army to fight against Barak at Mount Tabor. Deborah told Barak, "Go now! This is the day the Lord will give Sisera and his army to you!" Barak and his men met Sisera's men in battle, and the Lord was with Barak and his men. When Sisera saw that his army was defeated, he jumped from his chariot and ran away on foot. He went to the tent of Jael, wife of Heber the Kenite, who was his friend. Jael invited Sisera into the tent to rest. She gave him milk to drink and covered him with a blanket so he could sleep. Sisera asked Jael to stand guard and if anyone asked about him she was to tell them he was not there. While Sisera was sleeping, Jael slipped quietly into the tent and hammered a tent peg through Sisera's temple, into the ground beneath his head!



Later, Barak came to Jael's tent looking for Sisera. Jael took him into her tent and showed him the dead body of Sisera. The Canaanite commander had been killed by a woman, just as Deborah had said he would be. Barak and his men defeated the Canaanite army, and Israel had peace for forty years.

If Israel had obeyed God's commandment, they would never have had so much trouble in their lives. They disobeyed God, so He allowed their enemies to trouble them. But God loved them and sent JUDGES to help them. When things got better, they forgot about God until they needed His help and protection again. Sometimes we are like the Israelites. We do what we want to do until something happens and we need God to get us out of trouble. We should learn from these stories and be faithful to God always.

STORY QUIZ

1. Who did God raise up to help the Israelites after Joshua died?
2. Who was the first judge over Israel?
3. What left-handed man was the 2nd judge?
4. How did Ehud kill King Eglon of Moab?
5. What judge killed 600 Philistines with an oxgoad?
6. Who was the commander of Jabin's army?
7. Who was the only woman to serve as a judge of Israel?
8. What man did Deborah tell to take Israel's army to fight Sisera?
9. Deborah told Barak that who would have the honor of killing Sisera?
10. Who killed Sisera, commander of the Canaanite army?

Memory Verse Level Ten

Ruth 1:16

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."

Memory Goal Level Ten The Judges of Israel

Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson, Samuel

ANSWERS: 1. Judges 2. Othniel 3. Ehud 4. Stabbed him 5. Shamgar 6. Sisera 7. Deborah 8. Barak 9. A woman 10. Jael

GIDEON, The 5th Judge

Judges 6-8

We have learned about the first four judges whom God raised up to lead Israel against their enemies. The Israelites had peace for forty years under the leadership of the prophetess Deborah, but again the people did evil, so God turned His anger toward them and allowed them to be troubled by the Midianites.

The power of the Midianites against Israel was very strong, and Israel served Midian for seven years. To escape them, the Israelites made hiding places in the mountains and in caves. When the Israelites planted crops the Midianites would come into the land and take the crops or destroy the fields. The Bible tells us that the number of Midianites who troubled Israel was too many to count, and they had a great number of camels and livestock.

Israel cried out to God for help. God sent a prophet to the people telling them that He was the God who had helped them and brought them out of the land of Egypt. God said, ***“But you have not obeyed Me!”***

Gideon, son of Joash (of the tribe of Manasseh), was in Ophrah beating out the wheat in a winepress. This was not the usual place for beating wheat, but the Israelites had to hide the crops from the Midianites. In Ophrah, an angel of God appeared to Gideon and said, ***“The Lord is with you, brave warrior.”*** Gideon said, ***“If the Lord is with us, why has all this trouble come on us? Where are all the miracles of God which our fathers talk about? Why has the Lord forgotten us and given us into the hand of the Midianites?”*** The angel said, ***“Gideon, go and lead Israel out of the hand of the Midianites.”*** Gideon said, ***“How can I be a leader of Israel? My family is the least important of the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my family.”*** The Lord said, ***“Surely I will be with you, and you shall***



defeat Midian as if they were one man!"

Gideon asked for a sign proving that this was really God's angel speaking to him. He asked the angel to remain while he went to get an offering. Gideon brought the offering and laid it on a rock in front of the angel. The angel touched the offering with his rod and fire came up from the rock and consumed the offering. Then, the angel disappeared from sight. Gideon realized that this had truly been an angel of God, and he was filled with a great fear because he had actually seen God's angel face to face. God



spoke to Gideon and told him not to be afraid, and Gideon built an altar at that place.

That same night God spoke to Gideon and told him to take a seven year old bull and go to the altars of Baal and Asherah. God told Gideon to tear down the altar of Baal and build an altar to God. Then Gideon was to tear down the wooden idol Ashereh and use it for wood to burn the bull on the altar

as a burnt offering to God. Gideon was afraid of what his father and the other men would do to him, so he took ten of his friends at night and destroyed the idols as God commanded.

When the men of the city came the next morning and saw that Baal was torn down and Asherah was burned, they were very angry. They found out that Gideon was responsible for the destruction, and they demanded that his father send him out so they could kill him. Gideon's father, Joash, said to the men, "Why are you trying to defend Baal? If he is god let his fight for himself!" Joash gave Gideon a new name... Jerubbaal which means "Let Baal fight against him."

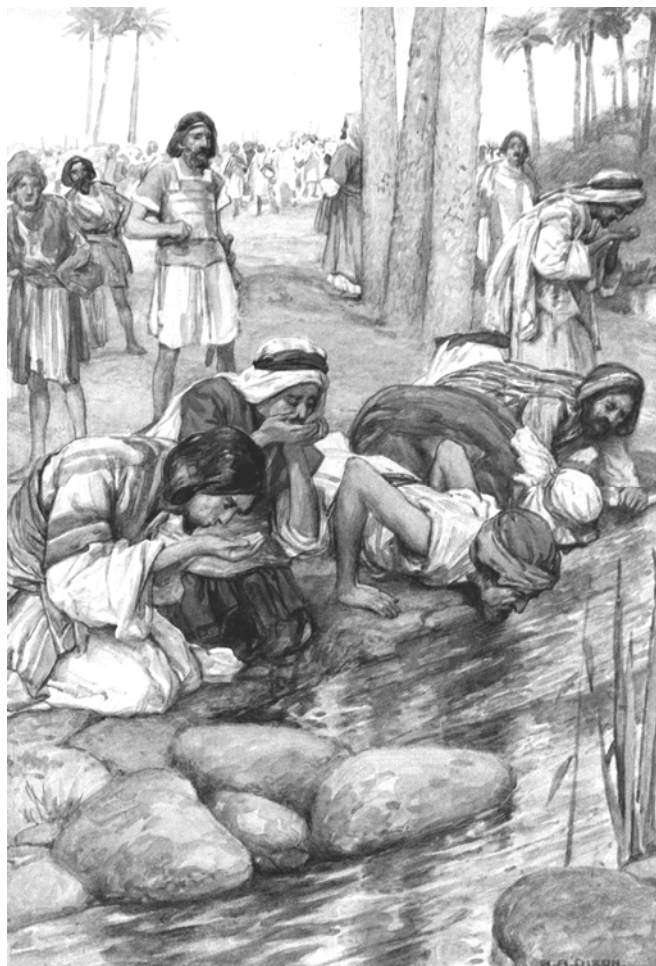
The Midianites and Amalekites gathered a great army in the valley of Jezreel. God's spirit came upon Gideon and he gathered an army together. He sent messengers to the tribes of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and thirty-two thousand men

came to join Gideon's army. Gideon said to God, "If you will deliver Israel from the Midianites through me, please give me a sign." Gideon said he would put a piece of fleece (lamb's wool) on the ground overnight. He said, "If the fleece is wet with dew and all the ground around it is dry, then I will know that You are with me." So Gideon laid out the fleece. The next morning the fleece was soaking wet with dew, but the ground around it was completely dry. Gideon said, "Please do not be angry with me Lord, but please let me make one more test. This time let the fleece be dry while the ground is wet around it." The next morning Gideon found the ground wet with dew, but the fleece was dry. Gideon now knew for certain that God was with him and would help him lead Israel against the Midianites.

Gideon and his army of thirty-two thousand men moved their camp near the Midianite camp. God spoke to Gideon saying, "***Your army is too large, Gideon. The Israelites will think they won the battle by themselves! Tell every man who is afraid to go home!***" Gideon told his men, "Everyone who is afraid may go home to their families." Twenty-two thousand men went home! This left Gideon with only ten thousand men to fight against an army so large you couldn't count them.

God said, "***Your army is still too large. Take them to the spring of water. Every man who kneels down to drink will be sent home. Keep only the men who cup the water in their hands and lap it like a dog.***" Gideon took his men down to the spring and let them drink. Three hundred men cupped the water in their hands, but the others knelt down to drink. Gideon sent all the men home except the three hundred who cupped the water.

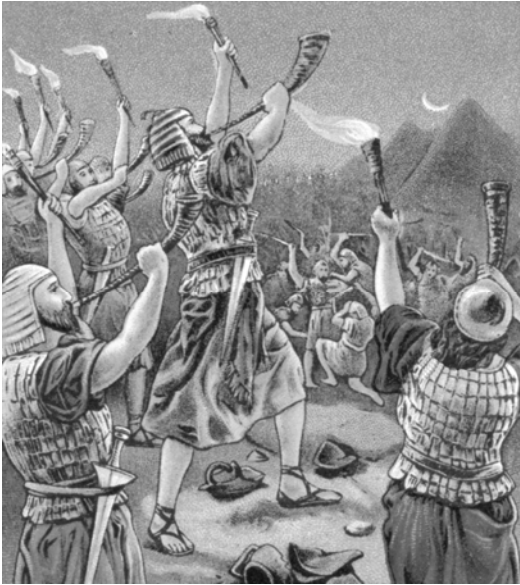
(We do not know why God chose this method to decide which men would stay and



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which would go home. Perhaps, the men who cupped the water up in their hands were more alert and watchful than those who knelt down with their faces in the water.)

That night God told Gideon, ***“Get up now and take over the Midianite camp, for I have given them to you.”*** God told Gideon, ***“If you are still afraid, take your friend, Purah, and go near the Midianite camp and listen to what your enemy is saying.”***



Gideon and Purah went quietly near the Midianite camp and listened. They heard one man telling the others about a dream he had had. He said, “I dreamed that a loaf of bread came rolling into our camp, and it hit a tent and knocked it upside down.” One of the men listening said, “That means that God has given our camp over to Gideon and the men of Israel!” When Gideon heard this he bowed down and worshiped God. He returned to his own camp and told his men to prepare for the Lord had given the Midianite army to them.

Gideon divided his three hundred men into three companies (or groups). Each man carried a ram’s horn (also called a trumpet), a pitcher, and a torch. The pitchers were placed over the torches until they were needed. Gideon said, “When you hear my company blow their trumpets, everyone must blow your trumpet and shout.”

So the little army surrounded the Midianite camp while the Midianites were sleeping. At midnight Gideon's men blew on their trumpets, and the other companies blew their trumpets, and they all shouted, “The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!” Then they broke their pitchers so the torches could be seen. All this noise awakened the sleeping Midianites, and it must have looked like a huge army surrounded them. The Midianites began to run about in great confusion. They were so confused that they killed one another! Gideon and his three hundred men defeated the huge Midianite army because God was fighting for them! So Israel was, once again, rescued from their enemies, and there was peace for forty years while Gideon judged over Israel.

God promised to be with Gideon and help him defeat Israel's enemy, and God kept His promise. God has promised to be with us and take care of us if we will obey

His commandments. God always keeps His promises!

STORY QUIZ

1. What enemy of Israel raided the land and destroyed the crops?
2. Who spoke to Gideon while he beat out wheat in Ophrah?
3. What idols did God tell Gideon to destroy?
4. How many men of Israel joined Gideon's army at first?
5. How many signs did Gideon ask God to provide?
6. How many of Gideon's men were afraid and went home?
7. Why did God want Gideon to have a small army?
8. How many men did Gideon keep in his army?
9. What unusual weapons did Gideon give his men?
10. What did Gideon shout when the Israelites attacked the Midianites?

Memory Verse Level Ten

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. Ruth 1:16

Memory Goal Ten

The Judges of Israel

Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson, Samuel

ANSWERS: 1. Midianite 2. An angel 3. Baal and Asherah 4. 32,000 5. three
6. 22,000 7. So they would give credit to God. 8. 300
9. Torch, pitcher, and rams horn 10. The sword of the Lord and of Gideon.

SAMSON

Judges 13-16

So far/ in our study of the judges of Israel, we have learned about the first five judges whom God raised up to lead His people against their enemies. These five judges were Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, and Gideon. We will not be studying the next six judges. If you wish, you may read about them in your Bible. They can be found in Judges, chapters 9-12. These six judges are Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon. They judged Israel over a period of more than one hundred years.

After Abdon died, the Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord, and God gave them over to the Philistines for forty years. An angel of God appeared to the wife of Manoah, of the tribe of Dan, and told her that she was going to have a baby son. This son would be a NAZIRITE, and he would lead Israel against the Philistines. When the woman told her husband about it, he prayed asking God to send the “man” again to tell them more about how to raise this son they were expecting. Manoah and his wife did not realize that the “man” was really an angel from God. God sent the angel again, and he told Manoah’s wife that she should not drink wine or eat any unclean food until the child was born, for the child was to be a Nazirite. A Nazirite was a man with a special purpose and dedication to God. He could drink no wine, eat no unclean foods, nor could he have his hair out off. A Nazirite would make a vow promising himself to the service of the Lord. Manoah and his wife realized that the man who visited them was an angel when he went up to heaven in the smoke of their sacrifice.



Manoah's wife gave birth to a son, and they called him SAMSON. The child grew, and the Lord was with him and blessed him.

When Samson was grown, he saw a Philistine woman in Timnah that he wanted

for his wife. He told his parents to get her for him even though they wanted him to marry an Israelite woman. When Samson insisted on having the Philistine woman, his parents agreed to get her for him. Samson's parents did not know it, but the Lord was working in this matter. He was going to use this woman against the Philistines.

Samson and his parents went down to Timnah and made arrangements for the wedding. On this trip to Timnah, Samson met a young lion. God's spirit came upon him, and he killed the lion with his bare hands, as easily as if it were nothing. Samson told no one what had happened. Later, Samson returned to Timnah to see the woman, and he stopped to look at the body of the lion. A swarm of bees had made a comb in the lion's body and there was honey in it. Samson ate some of the honey, but he still told no one about the lion.



Samson made a feast for the young men of Timnah. This was a party for the bridegroom before his marriage. Thirty young lords of the Philistines came to Samson's feast. Samson said, "I will tell you a riddle. If you can tell me the meaning of the riddle within the seven days of this feast, I will give each of you a new linen wrap and a new set of clothes. If you cannot tell me the meaning within the seven days, then each of you must give me a linen wrap and a set of clothes." This is the riddle Samson told the Philistines:

OUT OF THE EATER CAME SOMETHING TO EAT;

OUT OF THE STRONG CAME SOMETHING SWEET.

The young men could not figure out what the riddle meant. On the fourth day of the feast, they went to Samson's wife-to-be and told her that she must make Samson tell her the meaning of the riddle, or they would burn down her father's house. The woman begged Samson saying, "You do not love me! If you loved me, you would tell me the meaning of the riddle. Please tell me!" Samson refused to tell her, and she continued to beg and cry. Finally, on the seventh day, he grew tired of her crying and begging, so he told her the meaning of the riddle. The woman, then, told the thirty Philistine lords. They

Level 10C

went to Samson and said, “Here is the meaning of your riddle! What is sweeter than honey, and what is stronger than a lion?” Samson knew that they had forced his bride to tell them the meaning of the riddle. God's spirit came on Samson, and he went to Ashkelon, where he killed thirty Philistines. He took their linen wraps and clothes and took them to the young lords in Timnah. Samson was very angry when he returned to his father's house.

The next time Samson went to Timnah to see his wife-to-be, he found that she had



been given to another man. Samson was furious, and he said, “Do not blame me for what I will do to the Philistines now!” He went out and caught three hundred foxes, tied their tails together, put torches between each pair of foxes, and set fire to the torches. He set the foxes loose in the Philistines fields, and all the crops, vineyards, and groves were burned up. The Philistines found out that

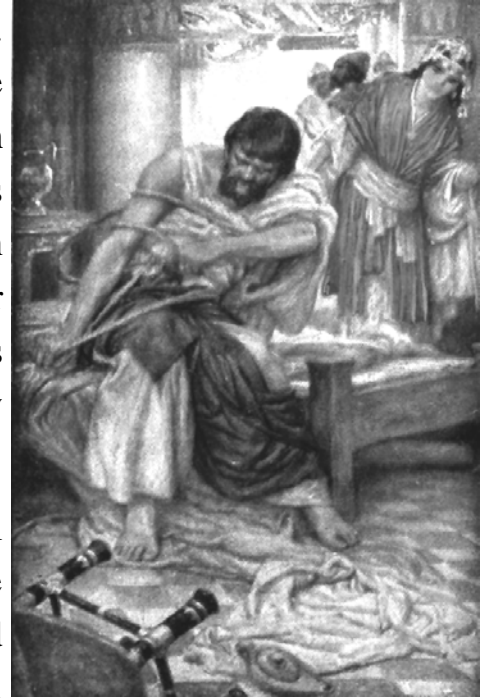
Samson had done this, so they burned down the house of Samson's bride and the house of her father. Samson killed many of the Philistines, then he went to live in a cave at Elam.

The Philistine army came to war against Israel because of Samson. Three thousand men of Judah went to ask Samson to surrender to the Philistines. They tied Samson and gave him to the Philistines. When the enemy saw that they had captured Samson, they shouted with great joy. Then, God's spirit came upon Samson, and the rope, with which he was tied, burned and dropped off! Samson picked up a jawbone of a donkey, which was lying on the ground, and he killed one thousand Philistines with the jawbone.

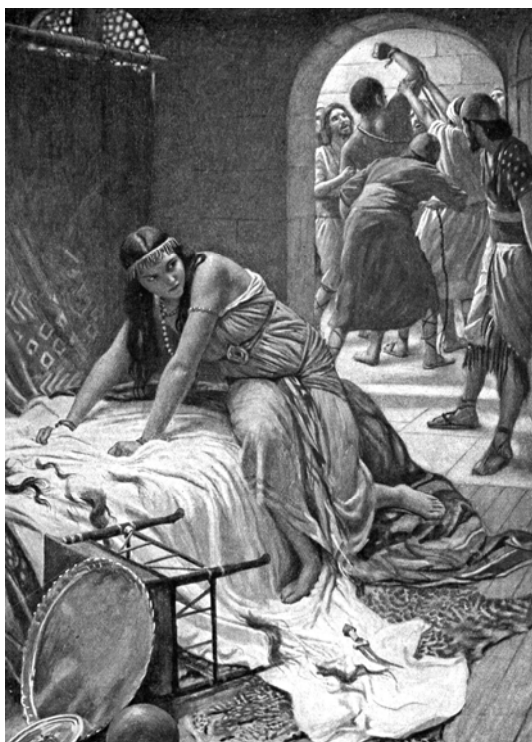
Later, Samson went down to Gaza and stayed at an inn. The men of Gaza found out he was there, and they decided to surround the inn and wait for Samson to go out. During the night, Samson went out and pulled down the gates of the city, with their posts, and walked out of the city!

Samson fell in love with another Philistine woman named Delilah. The lords of the Philistines told Delilah that they would pay her eleven hundred pieces of silver if she

could find out the secret of Samson's great strength. Delilah asked Samson to tell her about his strength. He told Delilah that he could be captured if he was tied with seven fresh ropes that had not been dried. The Philistines brought Delilah seven fresh ropes, and she tied Samson with them. The Philistines were waiting outside the door when Delilah said, "Wake up, Samson! The Philistines are here!" Samson stood and broke the ropes as if they were strings so his secret was not discovered.



Delilah said to Samson, "You lied to me! Now tell me how you can be captured!" Samson told her that he could be captured if he was tied with new rope that had never been used. Delilah tied Samson with a new rope, but Samson broke it easily! Delilah begged Samson to tell her the secret of his strength. Samson told her that he would have no strength if his hair was woven and pin it with a pin. While Samson slept, Delilah weaved his hair and pinned it. When Samson woke, he took the pin from his hair for this was not the secret of his strength.



Delilah begged and pleaded and cried to Samson saying, "How can you say you love me and still tell me these lies? Three times you have lied to me! Please tell me your secret." She cried and begged until Samson grew tired of hearing it, so he told her, "I am a Nazirite. I made a vow to God, and my hair has never been cut off. If I break my vow and cut my hair, then I will be weak like other men." This time Delilah knew that Samson told the truth. She sent for the Philistine men, and they brought her the money they had promised her.

When Samson was sleeping Delilah called for a man, and he cut off Samson's long, thick hair. Then Delilah cried out, "Wake up, Samson! The Philistines are here!" Samson's strength had left him, because he

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had broken the Nazirite vow, and the Philistines captured him easily. They gouged out Samson's eyes and took him to Gaza. They tied him with bronze chains and made him turn the grindstone in the prison. Soon Samson's hair began to grow again.



The Philistines gathered their people to celebrate a feast to their god, Dagon. They wanted to praise their idol god for helping them capture Samson. They brought Samson from the prison so they could mock him and make fun of him. Samson asked the boy who led him (remember he was now blind) to let him stand between the two large pillars which were the main support of the temple of Dagon. The temple was full of people and there were three thousand people on the roof! They were all laughing and making fun of Samson. Samson called out to God, "O Lord God, please remember me, and give me strength this one last time!" Samson pushed against the two pillars with

all his might, saying, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Samson pushed, and the temple of Dagon fell down killing all the people who were in it. Samson killed thousands of Philistines that day and he died with them. Samson's family took his body and buried him in the family tomb.

Samson, the thirteenth judge of Israel, died. He killed more Philistines at his death than he did during his life. Samson judged Israel for twenty years. God gave him special strength and power so he could defeat the Philistines. The Lord was with Samson as long as he kept his vow (or promise) to God. God will be with us today if we love and obey Him.

STORY QUIZ

1. Who was the thirteenth judge of Israel?
2. An angel told Manoah's wife that her child would be a what?
3. What was Samson's most outstanding feature?
4. To whom did Samson tell a riddle about a lion and a honey comb?
5. What beautiful woman did Samson love?
6. Who offered to pay Delilah for the secret of Samson's strength?
7. Who cut Samson's hair?
8. What did the Philistines do with Samson after capturing him?
9. Who was the god of the Philistines?
10. TRUE OR FALSE Samson's long hair gave him extra strength.

Memory Verse Level Ten

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. Ruth 1:16

Memory Goal Ten

The Judges of Israel

Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson, Samuel

ANSWERS : 1. Samson 2. Nazirite 3. Strength 4. 30 Philistines 5. Delilah
6. The Philistines 7. A Philistine 8. Put him into prison 9. Dagon 10. False

RUTH

Ruth 1-4

During the days of the judges there was a famine in the land of Canaan. A man called Elimelech, from the tribe of Judah, took his wife, Naomi, and their two sons and went to live in the land of Moab. Elimelech died in Moab, so Naomi was left there with her two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. Mahlon married a Moabite woman named Ruth, and Chilion married Orpah who was also a Moabite.

After about ten years, Mahlon and Chilion died. When Naomi heard that the famine was over in Canaan, she took her two daughters-in-law and started on the journey back to the land of Judah. Before leaving Moab, Naomi said to her daughters-in-law, "Please leave me now and return to the house of your fathers. Find new husbands for yourselves and raise up children." Orpah and Ruth cried and said they wanted to go with Naomi to Canaan. Naomi insisted that they return to the house of their father, so Orpah kissed Naomi and left. However, Ruth refused to leave Naomi saying, "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." When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go, she took Ruth to Bethlehem in the land of Judah.



Naomi and Ruth came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest. Ruth asked Naomi to let her go into the fields and glean grain for them to eat. (Gleaning grain is gathering grain. Poor people could go into the fields and pick up any grain which was left by the harvesters.) Naomi agreed, so Ruth went into the fields to glean food for herself and Naomi. Ruth went into a field which belonged to a man named Boaz who was a close kinsman of Naomi's husband. While Ruth was in the field, Boaz came to see how his workers were doing and saw Ruth. He asked his head servant, "Who is the young

woman gleaning in my field?” The servant said, “She is Ruth, the Moabite, the daughter-in-law of Naomi.” Boaz told Ruth to stay in his fields and glean behind his harvesters. He told her to stay close to his women servants so she would be safe. When Ruth asked Boaz why he was being so kind to her, he said he had heard about her kindness to Naomi, how she had left her home and family to stay with Naomi. When mealtime came, Boaz asked Ruth to come and eat with him and his servants. Ruth ate and saved some of her food to take home to Naomi. When Ruth was back in the field, Boaz told his servants to leave behind extra grain so that Ruth could gather plenty for herself and Naomi.

That night, Ruth took the grain she had gathered to Naomi and told her all that had happened and how Boaz had been so kind to her. Naomi told Ruth that it was good for her to stay with the women who gathered for Boaz. So, Ruth worked in Boaz's field throughout the harvest of barley and through the wheat harvest.



It was the custom of the Israelites that if a man died before he had children, his unmarried brother must marry the widowed wife and have children for the dead man. If the man had no brother, the nearest kinsman had a right to marry the widow and take over any land the first husband had owned.

After the wheat harvest, Naomi said to Ruth, “I want you to have security. You are young and need a family. You have been working for Boaz, and he is a near kinsman. Tonight bathe yourself and put on your best clothes. Go down to the barn where Boaz is working. After he has eaten and has lain down to sleep, go very quietly and lie at his feet.” Ruth listened to Naomi and did as she said. During the night, Boaz awoke and found Ruth lying at his feet. Ruth said to Boaz, “Please, cover me with your blanket.” Boaz understood that Ruth was asking him to take her for his wife because he was a near kinsman. Boaz told Ruth that everyone knew she was a good woman, and he would gladly

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marry her, but there was another man who was nearer kin than Boaz. This other man had the right to marry Ruth and take over the land left by Mahlon. Boaz told Ruth that he would see the other man and ask him if he wanted to redeem the land and marry Ruth. Ruth slept at Boaz's feet until it was almost morning, then she slipped away to go home while it was still dark.

Boaz went to the gate of the city and sat until he saw the man who was Naomi's near kinsman. He called the man to come and sit with him. Boaz asked ten elders of the city to sit with them, then Boaz said, "Naomi, the wife of your kinsman, Elimelech, has come



back from Moab. She must sell the land which belonged to her husband and sons. If you want to buy the land, do so now, with these elders for witnesses. If you do not want to buy the land, I will buy it for I am the next near kinsman." The man told Boaz that he would buy the land. Boaz said, "If you buy the land you must marry Ruth, the wife of Mahlon, and raise up children for Mahlon." The man said, "I cannot buy the land, for I already have a wife." So, Boaz said he

would buy the land and marry Ruth.

Now it was the custom in Israel that a man would take off his sandal and give it to another to show that he was giving up his rights to purchase land according to inheritance rights. Boaz's kinsman took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz, and the ten elders witnessed the purchase of the land. The elders blessed Boaz and Ruth and wished for them great happiness and many children.

Boaz married Ruth. They had a son and called him Obed. Obed became the father of Jesse, and Jesse was the father of King David.

God showed great love for Ruth because she was good and kind to her mother-

in-law. Ruth, a Moabite, was the great-grandmother of David, king of Israel. She is one of the five women listed in the New Testament bloodline to Christ. We can see from this lesson that loving kindness is rewarded. God blessed Ruth. He will bless us also when we are kind and loving to other people.

STORY QUIZ

1. During what period of Israel's history did Elimelech and Naomi live?
2. To what country did Elimelech and Naomi go when a famine came in Canaan?
3. Who were the daughters-in-law of Naomi?
4. Which of the young women begged Naomi to allow her to go into Canaan?
5. At what city in Judah did Naomi and her daughter-in-law live?
6. What did Ruth do to get food for herself and Naomi?
7. In whose field did Ruth glean?
8. According to Israelite custom who had the right to buy Elimelech's land?
9. Who was the son of Ruth and Boaz?
10. Who was the great-grandson of Ruth and Boaz?

Memory Verse Level Ten

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. Ruth 1:16

Memory Goal Ten

The Judges of Israel

Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson, Samuel

3. Ruth and Orpah
7. Boaz
10. David the King.

2. Moab
6. Gleaned
9. Obed

ANSWERS: 1. Judges
4. Ruth
5. Bethlehem
8. The nearest kinsman