

# Story of the Bible

## NIGHT SCHOOL

Week Six



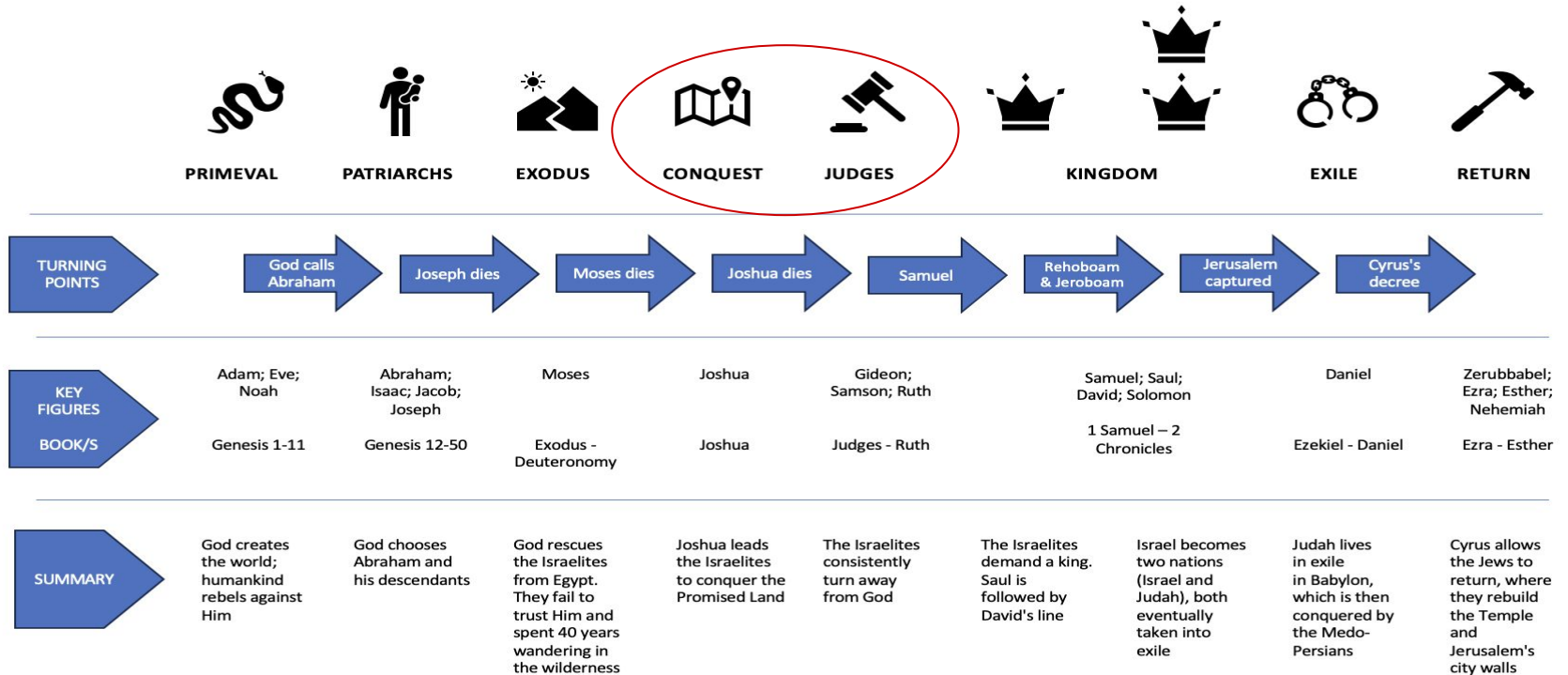
# RECAP

Last week's recap!

Conquest  
+Judges

# Where Joshua & Judges Fit in the Bible Story?

Joshua, Judges, Ruth



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Judges

# Big idea of Joshua

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

- God gives what He promised.
- God fights for His people.
- Obedience brings life in the land.
- Compromise plants seeds of future chaos.

**Joshua 21:45 (NLT)** *“Not a single one of all the good promises the Lord had given to the family of Israel was left unfulfilled; everything he had spoken came true.”*

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# Joshua 1-5: Preparation & Crossing

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

**Leadership Transition:** Moses dies so Joshua steps in.

**Joshua 1:9 (NLT)** *"For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

**Joshua 2: Rahab Story**

**Crossing the Jordan:** The river parts and they walk through on dry ground.

**Joshua 3:17 (NLT)** *"All Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground."*

**Joshua 3:15-16** *But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river's edge, **16** the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho..*

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# Conquest & Holy War (Joshua 6-12)

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

**Jericho Falls:** Not through military strength but through obedience and faith.

**Joshua 6:20 (NLT)** *“When the people heard the sound of the ram’s horns... the walls of Jericho collapsed.”*

**Achan’s Sin (Joshua 7):** Hidden compromise brings national defeat.

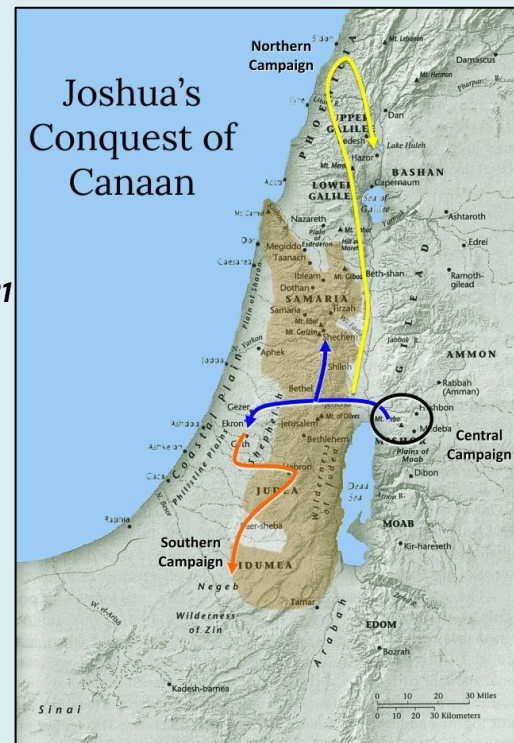
**Joshua 7 20-21 – 20** *Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. 21 Among the plunder I saw a beautiful robe from Babylon, 200 silver coins, and a bar of gold weighing more than a pound. I wanted them so much that I took them. They are hidden in the ground beneath my tent, with the silver buried deeper than the rest.”*

**Jesus through-line:**

One man’s sin brings defeat. One Man’s obedience brings victory

**The Gibeonites (Chapter 9):**

- Israel’s failure to seek God’s guidance
- God’s faithfulness even when his people make mistakes
- *Outsiders can come under the protection of Israel’s God*



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# Covenant Renewal (Joshua 8 & 24)

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

## Joshua 24:15 (NLT)

“But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

The land is not the ultimate gift, relationship with God is.

## Jesus through-line:

Joshua calls for a decision.

Jesus calls for a deeper allegiance — not just land, but lordship.

Last few chapters are about land distribution to the tribes.



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# How Joshua Ends (In Hope & Tension)

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

- Joshua dies. The people served the Lord during his lifetime, but cracks are forming. The Canaanites remain.
- External conquest is incomplete and internal transformation is fragile.

*Joshua has some tough reads - so let's talk about it!*

- *Commentary thoughts*

**BREAK TIME**

# Enter Judges: The Collapse of Compromise

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

**Judges 1–2 Incomplete Obedience:** Israel does not fully drive out the nations. After Joshua died, the people forget God – they worship other gods.

**Judges 2:2 (NLT)** *“But you have disobeyed me. Why did you do this?”*

The land is possessed geographically, but hearts are drifting spiritually.

- people remain in the land who are a ‘thorn in the side’

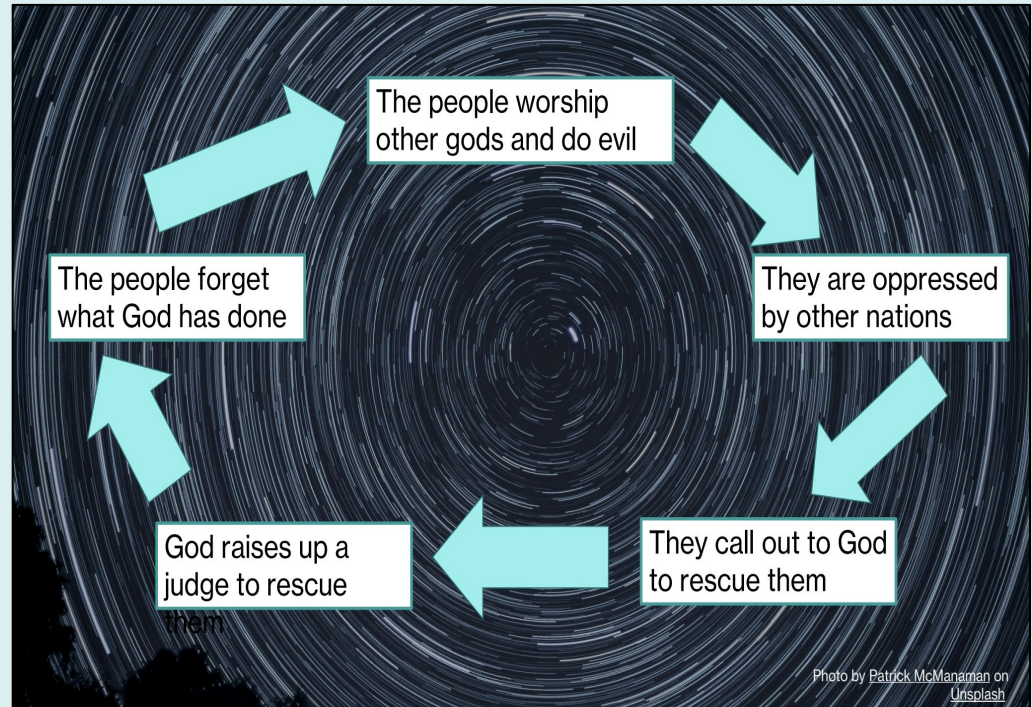
**Judges 2:3 NLT** *“So now I declare that I will no longer drive out the people living in your land. They will be thorns in your sides, and their gods will be a constant temptation to you.”*

God allows the Canaanites to remain because Israel’s disobedience created the condition. The question shifts from “Why does God allow this?” to “What will Israel do when God stops doing everything for them?”

# The Judges Cycle

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

- Repetition in narrative puts a spotlight on the story:
  - God disciplines.
  - God delivers.
  - God remains faithful.
- But the cycles get darker each time.
- The decline get deeper every time
- **Jesus through-line:**
  - Temporary saviors rise and fall.
  - Israel needs a greater Deliverer.



## The Major Judges (Decline in Character)

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

Othniel – strong.

Ehud – clever.

Deborah – faithful.

Gideon – hesitant then compromised.

Jephthah – rash.

Samson – powerful but morally chaotic.

- The deliverers themselves deteriorate. Every time they get more and more terrible.
- The problem is not external enemies but internal corruption.

### **Jesus through-line:**

Every judge is flawed

Jesus is the flawless Judge and Deliverer

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# The Dark Ending (Judges 17-21)

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

- Private idols.
- Corrupt priests
- Severe Sexual violence.
- Echoes the Sodom and Gomorrah story

**Judges 21:25 (NLT)** “In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.”

- The problem is not military weakness
- It is the absence of righteous kingship. Israel needs a king, but not just any king.

## Ruth's declaration of loyalty

- **Ruth 1:16 (NLT)** “But Ruth replied, ‘Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. **Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.**’”

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# The Big Theological Arc

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

**Joshua shows:** God gives inheritance.

**Judges shows:** Inheritance without transformed hearts collapses.

- The land does not save.
- Law does not save.
- Cycles do not save.

Israel needs:

- A faithful and greater divine King.
- A permanent Deliverer.
- A heart-changing covenant.

**Judges 2:1-2 NIV** “The angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land I swore to give to your ancestors. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.’ Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this?”

Tim Keller summary of Judges - *‘God relentlessly offers his grace to people who do not deserve it, do not seek it, and never appreciate it even after they’re saved by it’.*

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# The Jesus Through-Line

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

Joshua → leads into temporary rest.

Judges → exposes the need for a true king.

Jesus:

- Leads into eternal rest (Hebrews 4).
- Breaks the sin cycle permanently.
- Is not just a judge — He is King.
- Does not merely conquer land — He conquers sin and death.

Where Joshua says, “**Choose this day,**”

Jesus says, “**Follow me.**”

Where Judges says, “**Everyone did what was right in their own eyes,**”

Jesus says, “**Not my will, but Yours be done.**”

# SUMMARY

Key Thoughts!

**Q&A**

**THANKS FOR YOUR  
TIME!**

See you next week!