

## WEEK 12 — FAITHFULNESS AND UNFAITHFULNESS IN THE PROMISED LAND

**Date:** about 1400 to perhaps roughly 1149 BC

**The Story:** God has been faithful to Israel, fulfilling his promise to Abraham to give his descendants the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:7). But will Israel be faithful to God? After Israel completes the allotment of the promised land to its twelve tribes, Joshua speaks to Israel one last time, calling the people to serve no other gods but the one who rescued them from Egypt. Then Joshua dies, and for a while Israel remains faithful to God. Eventually, though, Israel's faith falters; the people repeatedly do what is evil in the eyes of the Lord (watch for this recurring theme in Judges). What will God do? Will he abandon these unfaithful people? Will he ignore their sin and let it continue unabated? Neither! God, like a loving parent, disciplines his people and restores them. But will they learn the lesson he is trying to teach them?

\* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

### MARCH 20 JOSHUA 16-19

**Today's reading** involves more distribution of Israel's new land to its various tribes. Much of this land was not yet fully occupied by Israel (Joshua 18:1-3). Apparently the allotment of this portion of the land was intended to motivate the remaining landless tribes to take over the territories God was giving them.

**Date:** about 1400 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Joshua 18-19

**Kids' Reading\*:** Joshua 22

### MARCH 21 JOSHUA 20-22

**Today's reading** completes the story of Israel's settling in the promised land with assignment of cities to the Levites, some of which were established as cities of refuge. After this, the tribes that had chosen land east of the Jordan River, having fulfilled their responsibilities to the rest of Israel, are blessed by Joshua and return home—but not without a moment of national crisis.

**Date:** about 1400 BC (possibly a little after 1400 BC in Joshua 22)

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Joshua 20 • Joshua 22

**Kids' Reading\*:** Joshua 24

### MARCH 22 JOSHUA 23-24 • JUDGES 1

**Today's reading** finds Joshua now an old man (Joshua 23:1). In his final speeches to Israel, he (like Moses before him) calls Israel to remember all that God has done for his people and to respond with exclusive devotion to God. The people promise to do so. Then we begin the book of Judges, which opens with Israel facing the challenge of fully driving out the peoples still living in the promised land.

**Date:** during or after about 1400 BC (Joshua 23-24); Joshua dies at the age of 110 • perhaps roughly 1400-1385 BC (Judges 1)

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Joshua 24 • Judges 1

**Kids' Reading\*:** Judges 2

### MARCH 23 JUDGES 2-3

**Today's reading** continues Israel's story in two parts. Judges 2:1 to 3:6 provides an overview of the next 350 or so years. During this time, Israel fell into a dangerous cycle: they disobey God, suffer at the hands of their enemies, appeal to God for help, and are rescued by God through a judge whom God raises up—and then they become complacent and fall into evil again. Judges 3:7-31 draws us into this cycle through the book's first stories of some of these judges: Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar, whose influence covers a period of almost 150 years.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

**Date:** Judges 2:1 to 3:6 summarizes the period of about 1400 to 1052 BC • Judges 3:7-31 covers perhaps roughly 1385-1239 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Judges 2-3

**Kids' Reading\*:** Judges 3

### MARCH 24 JUDGES 4-5

**Today's reading** introduces the next—and only female—judge, Deborah. As Israel repeats its cycle of evil conduct leading to oppression from enemies and then to a desperate return to faith in God, God sends the prophet Deborah to prompt a man named Barak to lead Israel into battle against its oppressors. Barak hesitantly agrees, Israel is saved, and Deborah and Barak celebrate God's victory.

**Date:** perhaps roughly 1259-1199 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Judges 4-5

**Kids' Reading\*:** Judges 4

### MARCH 25 JUDGES 6-8

**Today's reading** presents the story of the next judge, Gideon. Reluctant at first, Gideon is finally persuaded to lead Israel's men into battle against another oppressive, and numerically superior, enemy. God grants Gideon a miraculous victory, but that's not the end of the story. In the aftermath of the conflict, Gideon finds himself at odds with fellow Israelites from the tribe of Ephraim and the town of Sukkoth. After forcefully demonstrating his dominance over them, Gideon turns down the suggestion that he become Israel's king, only to position himself as a religious leader—and one who leads Israel into idol worship.

**Date:** perhaps roughly 1199-1152 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Judges 6-7

**Kids' Reading\*:** Judges 6

### MARCH 26 JUDGES 9

**Today's reading** continues Gideon's story after his death by following the life of his illegitimate son, Abimelek (which means "my father is king"). Abimelek aspires to kingship himself and does, in fact, become king of Israel for three years. But in his hunger for power he is extraordinarily cruel, his reign goes badly, and in the end God repays him—and to some degree, Israel—for his wickedness.

**Date:** perhaps roughly 1152-1149 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Judges 9

**Kids' Reading\*:** Judges 7

#### Parents' Guide

PG preview for young children

Josh chapter 20 (T)

Josh 22:12-20 (T), 33 (T)

Jud 1:1-25 (V)

Jud 2:17 (S)

Jud 3:21-22 (V), 24-25 (T), 29 (V),  
31 (V)

Jud 4:15-16 (V)

Jud 5:28-30 (T)

Jud 6:3-6 (V)

Jud 7:22-25 (V)

Jud 8:7-21 (T, V), 27 (S), 33 (S)

Jud 9:20 (V), 25 (V), 39-40 (V), 43-  
45 (V), 49-55 (V)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

Jud 4:21-22 (V)

Jud 5:26-27 (V)

Jud 9:5 (V), 18 (V), 24 (V), 56 (V)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing  
none

C = Circumcision  
N = Nudity  
S = Sexuality  
T = Dark/Sensitive Themes  
V = Violence