



Wednesday
March 03, 2021

Judges

1

Two snapshots illustrating the chaotic era of the judges. 17:1-21:25

- The Stories
 - Note that these stories reflect incidents that happened at some unknown time in the era of the judges.
 - Micah, the Levite, and the Danites Judges 17-18
 - The Levite and his concubine Judges 19-21
 - The reference in 20:28 to Phinehas as the High Priest would put this relatively early in the era of the judges.

2

Two snapshots illustrating the chaotic era of the judges. 17:1-21:25

- The moral climate 19:1-21:25
 - Barbaric-disregard for human life on every level.
 - Story of the Levite and his concubine 19:1-30
 - Licentious-a sense of entitlement that one may act as he or she wishes with impunity.
 - Civil war preferred over bringing the guilty to justice by the tribe of Benjamin. 20:12-13

3

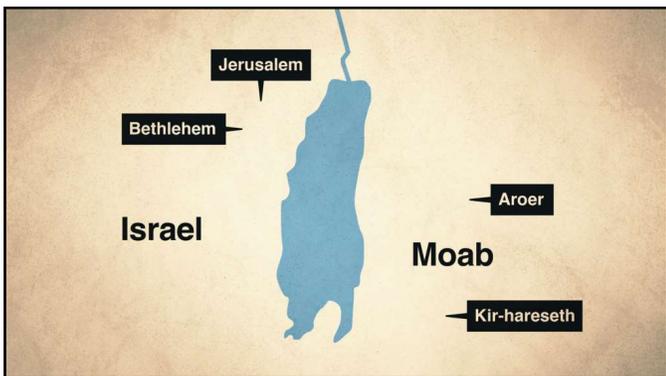
Two snapshots illustrating the chaotic era of the judges. 17:1-21:25

- The moral climate 17:5-6; 19:1-21:25
 - Adrift-"Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
 - Micah ordaining his son as a priest 17:5-6
- Securing wives for the defeated Benjaminites.
 - Another example of rash oaths. 21:1;5
 - An Israelite city could not be devoted to destruction except for idolatry. Deuteronomy 13:12-18
 - Rationalized the unethical means of providing the remaining wives for the Benjaminites. 21:20-22

4



5



6

The Book of Ruth

- As the last two stories in the book of Judges, the story which unfolds in the book of Ruth takes place at some unspecified time during the time of the judges.
- The genealogy of David at the end of the book would place it in the latter part of that era as Ruth and Boaz are David's great-grandparents.
- This story sparkles like a gem against the dark backdrop of the era of the Judges.

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The Book of Ruth

- The setting:
 - During a time of famine, an Israelite of the tribe of Judah from Bethlehem took his wife and two sons to live in Moab.
 - The famine would be a time of God's judgment between the rule of one of the judges.
 - Elimelech died there.
 - By the time ten years had passed, his sons had taken Moabite women as wives but both of them had died without fathering any children.
 - Upon hearing that the famine was over, Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem.

8

The Book of Ruth

- The setting:
 - Moab at various times was friend or foe of Israel.
 - The Moabites came from a son fathered by Lot, Abraham's nephew. This made the Moabites blood relatives of the Israelites.
 - God did not allow Israel to initiate any action against Moab as they journeyed toward the Promised Land. Deuteronomy 2:9
 - Enlisted Balaam to pronounce a curse on Israel as they traveled by their country to the Promised Land. Number 23-24
 - Oppressed Israel for 18 years near the beginning of the time of the Judges. Judges 3:12-30
 - Here it appears that Elimelech and his family were received well in Moab. Ruth 1:1—5

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The Book of Ruth

- The setting:
 - Moab at various times was friend or foe of Israel.
 - Moab is listed as one of the countries Saul fought against as enemies of Israel. 1 Samuel 14:47
 - While being pursued by Saul, David entrusted the care of his parents to the king of Moab. 1 Samuel 22:3
 - Moab listed later as a country David conquered with the detail that he killed two-thirds of the captives. 2 Samuel 8:2

10

The Book of Ruth

- Naomi's return to Bethlehem
 - The three widows set off together.
 - As Naomi reflected on the future of her daughters-in-law, she urged them to return to the home of their Moabite families and find a new husband there.
 - Naomi was aware of the religious, national and moral climate we have just examined in the era of the judges.
 - This climate made any unprotected person especially vulnerable as we will see referenced later in the book of Ruth. i.e. 2:9,22

11

The Book of Ruth

- Naomi's return to Bethlehem
 - As Naomi reflected on the future of her daughters-in-law, she urged them to return to the home of their Moabite families and find a new husband there.
 - Both protested that they would stay with Naomi but Orpah did return at Naomi's urging.
 - Ruth demonstrated an inspiring loyalty to Naomi. This reflects Naomi's faithful walk with and witness to Yahweh, the God of Israel, even in the midst of her trials.

12

The Book of Ruth

- Naomi's return to Bethlehem
 - Upon their return there were people who recognized Naomi and called her by her name that means "pleasant".
 - Yet life had been bitter for Naomi with the famine which drove them from their home and then the loss of her husband and two sons.
 - She instructed the people to call her Mara which means bitter. This does not indicate that she was bitter, only the recognition that life had been bitter for her.

13

The Book of Ruth

- Naomi shines brightly in this first chapter of Ruth
 - Naomi displays how a beautiful spirit may emerge from a hard life.
 - We are struck by her concern and care for the welfare of her daughters-in-law.
 - She had obviously represented her God well as demonstrated by Ruth's firm commitment to make Naomi's God her God and Naomi's people her people.

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