

BBS Study Week Syllabus

The Deliverance of Israel ~ Judges and Ruth (5) OLD04b



Overview

Continuing one of the most exciting episodes of Israel's history, from the time of Joshua to that of Samuel. This module examines the books of Judges and Ruth in the contexts of the history of Israel and of God's purpose for the whole of mankind, considering also the relevance of its message in light of contemporary events and culture.

This is one of our Old Testament Modules forming part of our *Applied Biblical Studies* course. Students working towards a British Bible School award will receive 5 Module Credits upon completion of all given assignments.

Module content

- Recognising and understanding context are important in our study of Scripture, and we will begin by considering the historical, cultural and theological settings of the books.
- The geography of the once-holy land plays a significant part in the history of Israel, so we will explore the terrain and see how this affected this turbulent part of Israel's history.
- The lives and exploits of prominent characters will be examined as examples of those who lived and served God by faith.
- Memorable events recorded in the book will be explored with a view to helping students understand their real significance in the story of God and his people.
- The subject of Biblical archaeology will be considered in light of a number of sites featured in the books.
- The relationship between the text and the student of Jesus today will be explored as we consider some of the missional aspects of the book.

Module outline

Unit 1 - An introduction to the book of Judges

Unit 2 - The story begins

Unit 3 - Gideon and sons

Unit 4 - Jephthah and Samson

Unit 5 - Closing chapters

Unit 6 - The book of Ruth

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module the student will:

- be very familiar with the events and characters that shaped this part of the history of Israel
- have a deeper understanding of the significance of the role these events played in the history of God's dealings with mankind
- be better equipped to engage with some of the ethical issues raised within the Books of Judges and Ruth
- have some insight into the geography and archaeology of the land of Israel
- have come to understand more of the relationship that these men and women had with God, and how we might well learn from their examples within our contemporary contexts.

Student assignments

These are optional but are required for those wishing to complete all Learning outcomes and attain Module credit towards a British Bible School award. Details of assignments will be made known during the Study Week. Assignments are due to be submitted by 10th February 2020. For further guidance, please consult the Student Handbook available on our website.

1. Attend all sessions of the Study Event (this is expected of all who enrol on the Module).
2. Read assigned book and write *brief* personal assessment.
3. Compose and submit **one** of the following:
 - a. A 300 word article, intended for publication, on an aspect of the Book of Judges or Ruth.
 - b. A 4 to 5 minute audio recording or podcast on an aspect of the Book of Judges or Ruth.
4. Write a 2,000 word essay on any one of the following: *
 - a. "The conquest of Canaan and spiritual warfare"
 - b. "The righteousness of God in the Book of Judges"
 - c. "Samson - hero or villain?"
 - d. "On making and breaking vows"
 - e. "The Song of Deborah and Barak and other songs"
 - f. "Israel and its idolatry"
 - g. "Ruth, and the Messianic hope"

For further guidelines, please consult the Student Handbook. Assignments should be submitted by e-mail to study@britishbibleschool.com with "ECP assignment" in the Subject field and your name clearly indicated. Assignments should generally be submitted within six months of the completion of class sessions at the latest.

* You may, if you would prefer, write two x 1,000 word articles on two of the topics listed. Please supply word count. Word limits are to be observed +/- 10%.

Learning and assessment

Applicable to entire Module OLD04a - including completion of additional assignments.

Assignment	Time allocation	Outcome
Class presentations	18 hours	18 x 1 hour sessions
Reading plus assessment	6 hours	As assigned
Article/recording	6 hours	Choice of options
Essay (including reading)	20 hours	2,000 words
Total	50 hours	

Cost

The cost for the week will be £150. This is all inclusive and will include accommodation, food, bedding and study materials.

Details of week

Dates: Monday to Friday, 4th - 8th November 2019

Location: Bassenfell Manor, Bassenthwaite, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4RL

Teachers: Patrick Boyns, John Griffiths, Jack Paton and Steve Whitehead

Programme - 4th - 8th November 2019

Monday:

17.00 - Arrivals	16.45 - Session 6
19.00 - Tea/dinner	18.00 - Tea/dinner
20.00 - Introductions	19.00 - Possible evening session
22.00 - Goodnight	20.00 - Evening activities
	22.00 - Good night

Tuesday - Thursday:

07.30 - Morning devotions
08.00 - Breakfast
09.00 - **Session 1**
10.15 - **Session 2**
11.15 - Morning coffee
11.45 - **Session 3**
13.00 - Luncheon
14.00 - **Session 4**
15.15 - **Session 5**
16.15 - Afternoon Tea

Friday:

07.30 - Morning devotions
08.00 - Breakfast
09.00 - **Final Session**
10.15 - Pack up
11.00 - Departure

Class schedule

I. An introduction to the book of Judges

- A. An introduction to the book
- B. An historical and geographical context
- C. The conquest of Canaan

II. The story begins

- A. The message of the book
- B. Othniel , Ehud and Shamgar
- C. Deborah and Barak

III. Gideon and sons

- A. The oppression of the Midianites
- B. The life and exploits of Gideon
- C. The rise and fall of Abimelech

IV. Jephthah and Samson

- A. Jephthah and the Ammonites
- B. The vow of Jephthah
- C. Samson and the Philistines
- D. The rise and fall of Samson

V. Closing chapters

- A. Micah and the Levite
- B. Gibeah and the Benjamites

VI. The book of Ruth

- A. An introduction to Ruth
- B. Ruth and Naomi
- C. The marriage of Ruth to Boaz

Additional notes

Weather permitting, we may alter the programme one afternoon to allow for an excursion/ walk in the area.

Evening activities are yet to be finalised, but we anticipate times of enjoying each other's company in a more relaxed atmosphere.

All meals will be provided. Refreshments will be available throughout the week in the tea/ coffee bar. Participants are invited to bring along homemade cakes or biscuits to share with others if they so wish.

There is wi-fi available at the manor, though students will be asked to keep devices muted during class sessions.