

**Subject: Know Your Bible – Part 3**

**Scripture: Luke 24:13-27**

Jesus based His teaching and His earthly ministry on the Scriptures. He read from Scripture, quoted Scripture, and pointed to the accuracy and divine authority of Scripture. In this text Jesus appeared to some of His disciples on the road to Emmaus on the day of His resurrection. What did He say to them? He explained what the Scriptures said about Him, beginning at the first of the Old Testament and then working His way through it. Everything had been fulfilled by Him exactly as it was written.

See Luke 24:44-49. Later in this chapter Jesus referred to the Scriptures in the same way. In verse 27, Jesus opened the Scriptures. In verse 45, He opened their understanding of the Scriptures. Here we see the best teacher (Jesus), teaching from the best book (the Bible), and teaching on the best subject (Jesus). There is no other teacher like Jesus. There is no other book like the Bible. There is no other subject like Jesus. Many people can open the Scriptures and teach, but only Jesus can open the heart and mind to understand the Scriptures. Although Jesus could have revealed new truth, He preferred to explain old truth. How grateful we should be for the old truth in God's Word. Every time we come to the Scripture we need for Jesus to be both our teacher and our lesson.

Last time we looked at the first five books, Genesis through Deuteronomy. These five books tell the story from creation to the nation of Israel camping on the border of Canaan and preparing to enter and take possession of the land. It is called the Promised Land because God promised it to Abraham and his descendants.

**The History of Israel: Joshua through 2 Samuel**

These first five historical books continue the story of Israel where it ended in Deuteronomy (1405-971 BC). These books tell about the occupation and settlement of Israel in the Promised Land (Canaan) the dark and difficult days of the judges, and the transition from judges to the monarchy.

**Joshua is the book of conquest**

The people of Israel were led out of bondage by Moses and they were led into Canaan by Joshua. He and Caleb were the two spies who believed God and encouraged Israel to trust God and enter Canaan in spite of the majority opinion (Num. 13-14). The book covers approximately 15 years (1405-1390 BC).

**Joshua 1-5:**            Invasion of the land

**Joshua 6-12:**        Conquest of the land

**Joshua 13-22:**      Division of the land

**Joshua 23-24:**      Joshua's challenge to the people

God enabled Israel to overcome their enemies and occupy the land.

Joshua stressed God's faithfulness to His promises and warnings (Josh. 23:14-16).

## **Judges is the book of disobedience and defeat**

Israel did not destroy all the Canaanites and worshiped false gods.

Judges records seven cycles of misery and mercy over a period of 350 years (often called Israel's Dark Age). God sent foreign armies to oppress Israel. Israel then repented and pleaded for God's help. God used different judges (leaders) to deliver them. This disappointing cycle repeated itself.

***Judges 1-2:*** Israel living among the Canaanites

***Judges 3-16:*** Israel fighting against the Canaanites

***Judges 17-21:*** Israel living like the Canaanites

The best known judges (deliverers) are Gideon (6:11-8:32) and Samson (13:1-16:31). Gideon was a reluctant leader whose army was reduced from 32,000 to only 300 troops so God would receive the glory from their victory. Samson was physically strong but morally weak.

Judges describes a time of anarchy and apostasy in Israel (Jdg. 21:25).

*Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*

## **Ruth is the book of redemption**

This is a beautiful love story that took place during the dark days of Judges (Ruth 1:1).

***Ruth 1-2:*** Ruth's love is demonstrated

***Ruth 3-4:*** Ruth's love is rewarded

Ruth moves from widowhood and poverty to marriage and wealth. The story is a lovely picture of what Christ does for us in salvation.

Ruth's kinsman-redeemer, Boaz, is a picture of Christ our redeemer.

- 1) A kinsman-redeemer had to be related
- 2) A kinsman-redeemer had to be able to redeem
- 3) A kinsman-redeemer had to be willing to redeem

Ruth is a story that begins with loss and ends with gain; it begins with sorrow and ends with joy; and it begins with death and ends with birth. God gave Ruth and Boaz a son named Obed, who became the grandfather of David.

## **1 and 2 Samuel are books of transition, triumph, and tragedy**

During this period Israel changed from a theocracy (rule by God) to a monarchy (rule by a king). 1 Samuel 8:1-7 reveals the factors in this transition:

- The prophet Samuel was too old to continue as a leader
- Samuel's sons were morally unfit to replace him
- The nation of Israel wanted to be like other nations
- Israel rejected God as their ruler

**1 Samuel** traces the lives of three important leaders:

*1 Samuel 1-7:*        Samuel (Israel's faithful prophet)

*1 Samuel 8-15:*     Saul (Israel's first king)

*1 Samuel 16-31:*    David (Israel's second and greatest king)

Israel got the king they wanted (Saul), but soon learned they didn't like what they got. Saul was their poor choice of a king, but David was God's perfect choice.

**2 Samuel** focuses on the life and leadership of David:

*2 Samuel 1-10:*        The triumphs of King David

*2 Samuel 11-22:*     The troubles of King David

*2 Samuel 23-24:*    The last days of King David

David's sin against God involving Bathsheba and Uriah was a tragic turning point in the story. God graciously forgave David's sin, but his sin had serious consequences for David and the nation.

1 and 2 Samuel provide historical background for David's psalms. David wrote 75 of the 150 psalms contained in the Book of Psalms.

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## Joshua through 2 Samuel

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