

Student Study Guide: From Genesis to Judges – God’s Faithfulness in Action

I. Recap: The First Five Books of the Bible

Genesis – The Four C’s

1. Creation

- God creates a good world and gives humans the role of partnering with Him.
- Humans are made in God’s image to reflect His character.
- **Key Idea:** Identity and calling come from representing God on earth.

2. Corruption

- Humanity rebels; Eve takes what is good in her own eyes.
- Pattern repeats later (e.g., Achan in Joshua). Sin disrupts God’s plan but cannot stop it.

3. Covenant

- God chooses Abraham and promises that through him all nations will be blessed.
- God’s plan is relational and covenantal.

4. Captivity

- Abraham’s descendants grow, then end up in Egypt, setting the stage for redemption.
- **Key Idea:** God’s faithfulness continues even through difficulty.

Exodus

- God raises up Moses to deliver His people from bondage.
- In the wilderness, God gives the Ten Commandments and instructions for the tabernacle (God’s dwelling among His people).
- **Scripture:** Exodus 40:34 – *“Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.”*
- **Key Idea:** God’s presence is central; He calls His people into covenant relationship.

Leviticus

- **Main Theme:** God is holy and calls His people to reflect His holiness.
- Holiness is relational—how we live daily matters in our relationship with God.

Numbers

- **Main Theme:** God’s people are called to trust Him, but they rebel.
- The rebellion of the twelve spies leads to a generation dying in the wilderness.
- **Key Idea:** Sin and unbelief have consequences.

Deuteronomy – Moses’ Three Speeches

1. **Retell History (1–4):** Remember God’s faithfulness despite failure.
2. **Covenant Terms (5–26):** Faithfulness produces blessing; disobedience brings consequences.
3. **Blessing and Cursing (27–30):** Life and blessing are a choice.
 - **Scripture:** Deuteronomy 30:19–20 – *“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death...choose life...loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days...”*
 - **Key Idea:** We can choose to live under God’s blessing or outside of it.

II. Into Joshua – From Wilderness to Promise

Big Question from Genesis

- How will God restore His people to the Eden blessing and His presence?

Theme

- God’s faithfulness, courage in obedience, and covenant renewal.

Author, Audience, & Date

- Traditionally Joshua (with later additions by Eleazar or other scribes).
- Audience: Israelites in the Promised Land.
- Date: Approx. 1405–1380 BC.

Purpose

- To show that God fulfills His promises, brings His people into blessing, and calls them to live faithfully in His presence.
-

Joshua 1:1–2

- Moses dies; God appoints Joshua. Leadership begins with faithfulness as a follower (Numbers 13–14).
- **Key Idea:** God calls Joshua to bring His people into the land—echoing Eden restoration.

Joshua 1:6–9

- God calls Joshua to be strong and courageous, obeying His law and trusting His presence.
 - **Key Idea:** Confidence comes from God’s presence, not the absence of challenges.
-

Joshua 2 – Spies and Rahab

- Rahab, a Canaanite, protects the Israelite spies.
- **Scripture:** Genesis 12:3 – God promises blessing to all nations.
- **Key Idea:** God’s blessing extends beyond Israel. Rahab becomes part of Israel’s story and Jesus’ genealogy (Matthew 1:5).

Joshua 3–4 – Crossing the Jordan

- A new exodus moment:
 - **Red Sea:** Slavery → freedom
 - **Jordan:** Wilderness → promised land
 - **Jesus:** Perfect fulfillment of the Eden blessing
- **Four Lessons:** God leads, gives victory, calls for remembrance, and invites trust.

Joshua 5 – Covenant Renewal

- The next generation is circumcised and consecrated for God’s mission in the land.
- **Key Idea:** Covenant relationship requires obedience and remembrance.

Joshua 6–8 – Victory and Defeat

- Jericho falls through obedience and worship.
- **Achan’s Sin:** Leads to defeat at Ai.
 - **Scripture:** Joshua 7:20–21 – *“I have sinned...when I saw...a beautiful cloak, silver, and gold, I coveted them and took them...hidden in the earth.”*
- **Key Idea:** Obedience brings blessing; disobedience brings loss.

Joshua 9–12 – The Fight Continues

- God gives supernatural victories (e.g., sun stands still – Joshua 10:12–14).
 - **Key Idea:** God fights for His people when they trust and obey.
-

Joshua 13–21 – Division of the Land

- God fulfills His promise to Abraham.
 - **Scripture:** Joshua 21:45 – *“Not one of all the LORD’s good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.”*
-

Joshua 22–24 – Joshua’s Final Speeches

- Warns against idolatry and calls for wholehearted devotion.
 - **Scripture:** Joshua 24:15 – *“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*
 - Joshua dies; Israel buries Joseph’s bones—God’s promises kept.
 - **Key Idea:** Obedience leads to life; God’s faithfulness is sure.
-

III. Judges – Cycle of Sin

- **Cycle:** Sin → Captivity → Cry → Judge Raised → Deliverance
 - **12 Judges** demonstrate God’s faithfulness despite human failure.
 - **Scripture:** Judges 21:25 – *“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”*
 - **Key Idea:** Doing what seems right to us can lead to chaos; God’s guidance is necessary.
-

IV. Key Themes Across Joshua & Judges

1. **Obedience vs. Disobedience:** Obedience leads to blessing; sin leads to consequences.
2. **God’s Faithfulness:** He keeps every promise, even when His people fail.
3. **Courage & Trust:** Following God requires faith, courage, and reliance on His presence.
4. **God’s Mission to All Nations:** From Rahab to Jesus, God’s plan includes blessing all nations.

5. **Memory & Covenant:** Remembering God's deeds and obeying His covenant shapes the next generation.