Notes to support March 23 class finishing Judges

and covering I and II Samuel

JUDGES— Overview: “stories of stabbings, cuttings, killings”; Othniel, Shamgar, Ehud, Deborah/Jael and Sisera; Gideon; Jephthah and the vow; Samson and the Nazirite vow; the horrendous story of Judges l9: hospitality or “Sodom revisited”; repetition: “so the land had rest…” “Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord” “to this day”; the pattern: Israel does what is evil, God gives the people into hands of oppressors, Israel cries to God, God raises up a deliverer, the deliverer defeats opponents, the land has rest; Ch. 5—Song of Deborah;

On March 18, we ended with Gideon

* 6: 19-23 – hospitality of Gideon to representative of the God; Gideon’s “fear” at seeing the God
* 6:25-40 – Gideon on God’s direction, destroys altar of Baal; Gideon asks for “signs” that God will be with him
* 7 & 8 – about battles Gideon fights; 8:28 “So Midian was subdued before the Israelites, and they lifted up their heads no more. So the land had rest forty years in the days of Gideon.”
* Ch. 9 – not assigned reading, but something to note: a parable about kingship: 9: 8-15
* Ch. 10 – also not assigned reading, but two judges of note: Tola (10:1-2) judged Israel for 23 yrs.; Jair, the Gileadite (10:3-5) judged Israel for 22 yrs.; the “pattern” repeated vs. 6-16
* Ch. 11 – Jephthah: he’s an illegitimate son of Gilead and his wife; Jephthah—despite being a mighty warrior—is driven away by Gilead’s legit sons; when the Ammonites attack, the brothers want J back; vs. 7; Jephthah reviews how Israel on coming out of Egypt went around the lands (vs 12-28); still war ensues; Jephthah’s vow (vs. 29-39) and the tragic end—referenced by Shakespeare in *Hamlet*
* Chs. 13 – 16: the story of Samson; things to note:
1. Manoah and his wife are barren;
2. His wife directed to follow the guides of the nazirite; Samson will be a nazirite
3. Hospitality – vs. 15-16
4. Names/naming – vs.17-18
5. Theophany -- vs. 20-23
6. Samson is not the most flawless judge!! Takes wives from Philistines
7. Genre of the “riddle” – Ch. 14, vs. 14
8. Ch. 15 – more exploits
9. Ch. 16 – the story of Delilah and Samson’s downfall; ending vs. 31 –“He had judged Israel twenty years.”
* Chs. 19-21 – under the ominous opening line of Ch 19 “In those days there was no king in Israel…”
1. A Levite takes a concubine; he’s from Ephraim, but the woman is from Bethlehem in Judah
2. Issues of staying too long and traveling; first stops in Jerusalem and is encouraged to stay there; the man refuses saying he’ll go to his own city, Gibeah, land of Bejaminites.
3. Arrives and no one takes he and the woman in; an old man eventually takes them in; repeat of the violence of Sodom—horrendous rape of the woman
4. Line of great irony “safe in Gibeah”
5. Ending line of Judges – Ch 21: 25 “In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes.”

I Samuel

Key to the next four books: the roles of

* judge (lasts until kings begin to rule);
* priest (the only one who can legitimately offer sacrifice)
* prophet (those designated by God to proclaim God’s messages/intent)
* king (the first is Saul; next David;)
* general (the men supporting the king’s troops)

Overview: Hannah, barren wife, and the “special” birth of Samuel; Samuel as Nazirite; Song of Hannah (parallel to Magnificat, attributed to Mary, Lk. 1: 46ff); Hophni and Phineas—the evil sons of Eli; Ichabod—“the glory has departed from Israel”—later in a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892, abolitionist); the Ark of the Covenant and its presence among the Philistines; Ch. 8—the request for a king and what the king might do to the people; Saul—his experience as first king; Ch. 15:22—the message about “obedience as better than sacrifice”; Saul’s failures; selection of David; David and Jonathan; watch for/note the “pro-Davidic” tone;

I Sam 1: Elkanah – a good husband, vs. 8

* 1:11 – Hannah promises her son will be a nazirite; vs 12-18 – Hannah’s prayer
* Ch 2: 1-10 – Song of Hannah (in CFW, Mary is given words of praise, a similar format, in Luke 1:46-55)
* Ch 2: 12 – Samuel remains with Eli, to “minister to the Lord”
* Ch 2: 12-17, 22-25 –Corrupt sons of Eli – Hophni and Phineas
* Ch 2: 18 – Elkanah & Hannah blessed with 3 sons and 2 daughters
* Ch 2: 30-36 – demise of Eli’s priestly family line
* Ch 3 – Call of Samuel; vs 19: “the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground”
* Ch 4: Philistines warring against Israel; Hophni and Phineas presume on their own to take the Ark of the Covenant with them – violating a boundary—Israel is defeated; H & P die; Ark is captured; Eli dies (vs 18); signature line, vs. 21: “the glory has departed from Israel…” (meaning of the name Ichabod)
* Ch 5 – what happens when the Ark of the Covenant is in the hands of various Philistine groups
* Ch 7: 3-16 – when Samuel is judge
* Ch 8 – beginning of the request for a king; vs. 4-5 “You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways…”; Samuel struggling – telling God that the people want a king; vs. 10-18—Samuel warning the people what a king will do to them
* Ch 9 – the call of Saul; Kish is Saul’s father; vs. 7-8 – hospitality; vs. 9 – an example of commentary; vs. 15-18 – God reveals the plan to anoint Saul as king;
* Ch 10 – story of Saul’s journey to the kingship; the Israelites are fearful of threats by the Ammonites
* Ch 11 – Saul leading the conquest of the Ammonites
* Ch 12 – Saul reviewing the Israelites history leading to the request of a king; vs. 14 and following the “if…/but…” realities
* Ch 13 – Saul is initially successful; failure comes quickly – he offers sacrifice, when Samuel delays in coming – vs. 8-15
* Ch 14 – Saul’s son Jonathan goes into the Philistine garrison; vs. 24 ff – Saul’s rash oath about no one eating – Jonathan doesn’t hear it; Jonathan eats some honey…; vs 49-50 – introduces Saul’s children and his general: Abner, son of Ner
* Ch 15 – Saul’s next directive from God via Samuel – “utterly destroy the all they have…” (Amalekites); Saul alerts the Kenites – so they can escape (remember Jael, wife of Heber, the Kenite who killed Sisera); Saul spares Agag (Amalekite king) and the best of the sheep, cattle etc. – he plans to offer these as sacrifice; Samuel issues major proclamation: vs 10-23; vs. 22: “obedience is better than sacrifice…”; Saul begs God’s forgiveness to no avail..
* Ch 16 – Call of David, son of Jesse (Bethlehemite); vs 7 – key line: “for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks to the heart”; vs. 13 – the Spirit of the Lord now with David; evil spirit plagues Saul; David, player of the lyre, brought into court of Saul;
* Ch 17 – the famous David and Goliath (of Gath – a giant Philistine) saga; genre of the folk hero; women sing of David “killing his ten thousands” – Saul’s jealousy;
* Ch 18 – friendship of Jonathan (son of Saul) and David; vs 29-30 – example of commentary
* Ch 19 – various plans of Saul to kill David
* Ch 20 – Jonathan’s attempts to save/protect David
* Ch 21 – David on the run… Ahimelech, priest, reluctantly provides “bread of the Presence” for David and his men;
* Ch 22 -- Doeg (an Edomite) betrays David, and is commissioned to kill Ahimelech and all the priests; only Abiathar escapes
* Ch 23-24 – the David-Saul chase; 24: 4-15 – David explaining he won’t attack the “Lord’s anointed”
* Ch 25 – of Nabal (described as “surely”) and his wife Abigail; vs. 43 – David’s wives – foreshadowing of troubles in his line
* Chs 26-27 – more of the Saul pursuing David
* Ch 28 – the medium (witch) of Endor – vs. 7-14; tries to summon Samuel (from the dead)
* Ch 31 – death of Saul

II Samuel

Overview: David learning of the death of Saul and Jonathan: key line: “How the mighty have fallen”; the strife between Abner and those of Saul’s kingdom and Joab, David’s commander and the followers of David; Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan and his role in David’s kingdom; the prophet Nathan and his challenges to David, especially after David arranges for the death of Uriah, husband of Bathsheba; key line “You are the man” II Sam. 12:7; Amnon, David’s oldest son, raping his half-sister, Tamar; Absalom’s pursuit of Amnon; Absalom’s jockeying for the kingdom; Ahithophel, counselor to Absalom; Shimei cursing David for the “blood of the Household of Saul”;