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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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God's Place for His Covenant People

Joshua 1:1-9; Judges 2:11-19; Ruth 4:14-17

A generous and faithful God gives His people a land (Josh. 1:1-9)

1 After the death of Moses the Lord's servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, who had served Moses: 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now you and all the people prepare to cross over the Jordan to the land I am giving the Israelites. 3 I have given you every place where the sole of your foot treads, just as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will be from the wilderness and Lebanon to the great Euphrates River—all the land of the Hittites—and west to the Mediterranean Sea. 5 No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or forsake you. 6 "Be strong and courageous, for you will distribute the land I swore to their fathers to give them as an inheritance. 7 Above all, be strong and very courageous to carefully observe the whole instruction My servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go. 8 This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to recite it day and night, so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. 9 Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Scriptural Cross-References

Rom 8:28-32

Ps 37:4-11

John 3:21-24

A rebellious people reject God's rule (Judg. 2:11-19)

11 The Israelites did what was evil in the Lord's sight. They worshiped the Baals 12 and abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They went after other gods from the surrounding peoples and bowed down to them. They infuriated the Lord, 13 for they abandoned Him and worshiped Baal and the Ashtoreths. 14 The Lord's anger burned against Israel, and He handed them over to marauders who raided them. He sold them to the enemies around them, so that they could no longer resist their enemies. 15 Whenever the Israelites went out, the Lord was against them and brought disaster on them, just as He had promised and sworn to them. So they suffered greatly. 16 The Lord raised up judges, who saved them from the power of their marauders, 17 but they did not listen to their judges. Instead, they prostituted themselves with other gods, bowing down to them. They quickly turned from the way of their fathers, who had walked in obedience to the Lord's commands. They did not do as their fathers did. 18 Whenever the Lord raised up a judge for the Israelites, the Lord was with him and saved the people from the power of their enemies while the judge was still alive. The Lord was moved to pity whenever they groaned because of those who were oppressing and afflicting them. 19 Whenever the judge died, the Israelites would act even more corruptly than their fathers, going after other gods to worship and bow down to them. They did not turn from their evil practices or their obstinate ways.

Scriptural Cross-References

Rom 7:14-25

Hosea 3:1-5

Heb. 11:32-34

A gracious God promises to restore His people from the nations (Ruth 4:14-17)

14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Praise the Lord, who has not left you without a family redeemer today. May his name be famous in Israel. He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. Indeed, your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." 16 Naomi took the child, placed him on her lap, and took care of him. 17 The neighbor women said, "A son has been born to Naomi," and they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Scriptural Cross-References

Titus 2:11-14

1 Peter 5:8-10

(Adapted from "The Gospel Project"™: LifeWay Christian Resources Volume 1, Number 2 Winter 2012-13)

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

Why are most of us tempted to think, I would have done better? How does the Bible challenge the idea that we would do better?

What are some promises that God has made to us today? Do we live according to these promises? Why or why not?

What are some of the good gifts of God that people squander? How does our sin cheapen God's good gifts (creation, sex, family, etc.)?

If you had to guess by the book's name (Ruth), who often receives the most attention when this book is talked about? Now look at verse 14. Where does its emphasis fall?

SERIES: God's Story - Part 1
NEXT WEEK

The Kings: God Raises Up Kings to Lead His People

- 2 Samuel 7:11b-16
- 2 Samuel 7:18-24
- 1 Kings 8:54-61