

A person is writing in a notebook with a pen. In the foreground, a Bible is visible with the word "BIBLE" printed on its cover. The background is a soft-focus image of the person writing.

**A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT
YEAR ONE, QUARTER THREE**

Taming Canaan

**THE BOOKS OF
JOSHUA, JUDGES, RUTH
AND FIRST SAMUEL CHAPTERS 1-6**

**A Thirteen Lesson Bible Study
by Jeff S. Smith**

A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

Year One

Year Two

First Quarter: "In The Beginning"

1. Creation (Genesis 1-2)
2. Sin (Genesis 3-4)
3. Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-10)
4. Promises to Abraham (Genesis 11-12, 15-18)
5. Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 13-14, 18-19)
6. Abraham, Sarah and Isaac (Genesis 20-24)
7. Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25-28, 32-33, 36)
8. Jacob and Rachel (Genesis 29-31, 34-35)
9. Joseph Sold Into Slavery (Genesis 37-38)
10. Joseph Imprisoned (Genesis 39)
11. Joseph Interprets Dreams (Genesis 40-41)
12. Providence (Genesis 42-45)
13. Reunited (Genesis 46-50)

Second Quarter: "From Egypt to Canaan"

1. Call of Moses (Exodus 1-5)
2. The Nine Plagues (Exodus 6-10)
3. The Passover (Exodus 11-13)
4. Crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 14-18)
5. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 19-31)
6. The Golden Calf (Exodus 32-40)
7. Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 1-10)
8. Holy Living (Leviticus 11-27)
9. Leaving Sinai for Canaan (Numbers 1-10)
10. Loyalty and Disloyalty (Numbers 11-21)
11. Balaam and Balak (Numbers 22-36)
12. Moses's Review (Deuteronomy 1-4)
13. Moses's Final Charge (Deuteronomy 5-34)

Third Quarter: "Taming Canaan"

1. Entrance Into The Land (Joshua 1-4)
2. Jericho (Joshua 5-6)
3. Ai and Other Conquests (Joshua 7-21)
4. Covenant Matters (Joshua 22-24)
5. Failure to Drive Out Canaanites (Judges 1-2)
6. Deborah and Other Judges (Judges 3-5)
7. Gideon (Judges 6-9)
8. Jephthah (Judges 10-12)
9. Samson and Delilah (Judges 13-16)
10. Tribal Depravity (Judges 17-21)
11. The Courtship of Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 1-4)
12. Samuel's Beginnings (First Samuel 1-3)
13. The Ark of the Covenant (First Samuel 4-6)

Fourth Quarter: "The Throne of David"

1. Institution of the Monarchy (First Samuel 7-12)
2. The Reign of Saul Begins (First Samuel 13-16)
3. David and Goliath (First Samuel 17)
4. Saul Persecutes David (First Samuel 18-20)
5. David's Flight and Fight (First Samuel 21-24)
6. Abigail and David (First Samuel 25)
7. Saul's Downfall (First Samuel 26-28)
8. David's Rise (First Samuel 29-31)
9. David Becomes King (Second Samuel 1-5)
10. David's Successes (Second Samuel 6-10)
11. David and Bathsheba (Second Samuel 11-12)
12. Absalom's Rebellion (Second Samuel 13-19)
13. David's Decline (Second Samuel 20-24)

First Quarter: "Israel and Judah"

1. David's Demise (First Kings 1-2)
2. Solomon's Splendor (First Kings 3-10)
3. Solomon's Demise (First Kings 11)
4. Rehoboam and Jeroboam (First Kings 12-16)
5. Elijah (First Kings 17-19)
6. Ahab and Jezebel (First Kings 20-22)
7. Elisha (Second Kings 1-4, 6)
8. Naaman the Leper (Second Kings 5)
9. Bloody Reigns (Second Kings 7-12)
10. Fall of Israel (Second Kings 13-17)
11. Hezekiah (Second Kings 18-21)
12. Josiah (Second Kings 22-23)
13. Fall of Judah (Second Kings 24-25)

Second Quarter: "The Major Prophets"

1. The Book of Isaiah (Part 1)
2. The Book of Isaiah (Part 2)
3. The Book of Isaiah (Part 3)
4. The Book of Jeremiah (Part 1)
5. The Book of Jeremiah (Part 2)
6. The Book of Jeremiah (Part 3)
7. The Book of Lamentations
8. The Book of Ezekiel (Part 1)
9. The Book of Ezekiel (Part 2)
10. The Book of Ezekiel (Part 3)
11. The Book of Daniel (Part 1)
12. The Book of Daniel (Part 2)
13. The Book of Daniel (Part 3)

Third Quarter: "The Minor Prophets"

1. The Book of Joel
2. The Book of Jonah
3. The Book of Amos
4. The Book of Hosea
5. The Book of Micah
6. The Book of Zephaniah
7. The Book of Nahum
8. The Book of Habakkuk
9. The Book of Obadiah
10. The Book of Haggai
11. The Book of Zechariah
12. The Book of Malachi
13. Review

Fourth Quarter: "Wisdom Literature & Post-Exile"

1. The Book of Psalms
2. The Book of Proverbs
3. The Book of Job (Part 1)
4. The Book of Job (Part 2)
5. The Book of Ecclesiastes
6. The Song of Solomon
7. The Book of Esther (Part 1)
8. The Book of Esther (Part 2)
9. The Book of Ezra (Part 1)
10. The Book of Ezra (Part 2)
11. The Book of Nehemiah (Part 1)
12. The Book of Nehemiah (Part 2)
13. Intertestamental Period

A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

Year One, Quarter Three

Taming Canaan

A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT is designed to take a Bible class all the way through the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament in two years' time. Sacrifices were made to arrange this pace, especially in obscure passages such as some found in the Pentateuch, major prophets and wisdom literature. Topical class books can supplement the cursory study of these books at other times, however, so that no part of God's writ is slighted.

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Lesson 1: Entrance Into The Land

Joshua 1-4

1. Whose death has left Joshua to lead Israel into Canaan (Joshua 1:1-9)? According to Deuteronomy 34:9, what was special about Joshua?
2. What promise did God make him in Joshua 1:5?
3. Observing what would give Joshua prosperity? The Bible says that God does not change; how does this promise illustrate that truth?
4. According to Joshua 1:10-18, two and a half tribes will not reside in the Promised Land. Refer to Numbers 32: Whose children had a great multitude of livestock, saw the lands east of the Jordan were good for livestock and asked Moses if they could receive this land and not go over the Jordan?
5. How did Moses react to this request? How did they compromise?
6. In whose house did Joshua's spies lodge (2:1-7)? What did she do with them when the king sought them?

7. Why did she help the spies (2:8-14)? What did she ask in return?

8. Upon leaving, the spies placed a necessary condition upon their promise to Rahab (2:15-24). What was it?

9. Would she and her family be saved without meeting the conditions? What would have happened to them, had they scoffed at such a command?

10. How was Rahab an example of great faith (cf. Hebrews 11:30-31)?

11. What are the two messages the Lord gives Joshua (3:1-8)?

12. What happened to the Jordan when the priests stood in it (3:9-17)? What was the purpose of the memorial stones, according to 4:21-24?

13. (Are the two and a half tribes still with their brethren 4:1-24)? What was the stature of Joshua now?

Lesson 2: Jericho

Joshua 5-6

1. What happened to the kings in Canaan when they heard about this crossing (Joshua 5:1)?
2. What was God's next command to Joshua (5:2-8)? Why?
3. What was God's punishment of the first generation of pilgrims? Why?
4. Why did the manna stop coming (5:9-12)?
5. Is this Man deity (5:13-15)? How do you know?
6. What did the Lord tell Joshua to do (6:1-14)?

7. What were the priests to do?

8. What three commands did Joshua give Israel in Joshua 6:15-19?

9. What happened to the city's walls?

10. What would have happened if she had not tied the thread in her window (6:20-25)?

11. What curse did Joshua put on the city (6:26-27)?

Lesson 3: Ai and Other Conquests

Joshua 7-21

1. After victory, why was God disappointed in his charges (Joshua 7:1-9)?
2. Who was next on Israel's battle agenda? Were the spies impressed by the next city's size and capability?
3. What happened to Israel at Ai? What was Joshua's response?
4. What did God tell Joshua he must do (7:10-26)? What happened to Achan when he confessed? How did God respond?
5. How did Joshua plan to use the first defeat by Ai to his advantage (8:1-8)?
6. What makes the outcome of the second battle at Ai different (8:9-29)? What practical lesson should Israel have gleaned from these two battles?
7. What did Joshua do to mark this important victory (8:30-35)?
8. What did most of the other kings in the region do when they heard about Ai (9:1-2)?

9. What did the nearby inhabitants of Gibeon do instead (9:3-15)?

10. How did Joshua and the Gibeonites resolve the matter (9:16-27)?

11. Whom did the group of kings attack (10:1-11)? According to verse 11, with what weapons did Joshua and Israel prevail?

12. In what way did God heed Joshua (10:12-21)?

13. How thorough were Israel's victories (10:22-43)? Why?

14. Why was Joshua prospering as a leader (11:1-12:24)?

15. According to Joshua 13:7, what did God instruct Joshua to do with the land he had already conquered? The completion of this task will cover the next nine chapters (13:1-21:45).

16. Why did Caleb get a special inheritance (14:6-15)?

Lesson 4: Covenant Matters

Joshua 22-24

1. Why are these two and a half tribes being sent away (Joshua 22:1-9)? What did Joshua command them to heed diligently?
2. What did they immediately build by the Jordan (22:10-12)? What did the rest of Israel plan to do about this affront?
3. When Phinehas comes to rebuke them, what two events from the past did he raise as proof (22:13-20; see also 7:1; Numbers 25:3, Deuteronomy 4:3)?
4. In reality, why had they built this replica of the altar of God (22:21-29)?
5. How was the problem resolved (22:30-34)? According to verse 34, what did they name the altar?
6. What did Joshua tell Israel they would have to do with the remaining nations (23:1-13)?

7. To whom were they to hold fast? To whom were they not to cling?

8. What was their marriage law? Under what penalty was this law enforced?

9. What was Joshua's pessimistic but realistic vision of their future (23:14-16)?

10. What did Joshua summarize in chapter 24, verses 1-12?

11. Whom did Abraham's father serve? Whom did Abraham serve?

12. Joshua commands the people to "Serve the Lord" (24:14-28)! In what three ways were they to do this, according to verse 14?

13. We know their obedience to God did not last forever, but at least how long did it continue (24:29-33)?

Lesson 5: Failure To Drive Out The Canaanites

Judges 1-2

1. Who was the most recent leader of the nation of Israel (Judges 1:1-7)? What had he told them in Joshua 24:20?
2. According to Joshua 24:31, what was the result of his leadership?
3. Consider Deuteronomy 7:2-5. What did God instruct the people to do as they were taking Canaan?
4. What great city did Israel take for the first time after Joshua's death (1:8-15)?
5. Did Israel completely drive out the Canaanites (1:16-36)? Look especially at verses 19, 21, 25-36. Why do you think they followed this course?
6. What type of covenant did God want Israel to make with the Canaanites (2:1-10)?

7. According to verse three, what three results will come from Israel's mistake?
8. How could this principle apply to one who becomes a Christian?
9. Describe the new generation of Israel that appears some time after Joshua's departure.
10. What was Israel's crime (2:11-15)? What was her punishment?
11. Judges 2:16-19 provides a good introduction and general, brief summary of the Judges period. What was God's strategy for restoring His people? How did the people react to this?
12. Verse 18 describes the groaning of the judges and their oppression and harassment. What do you think were the sources of this maltreatment?
13. How did God respond to Israel's rejection of his judges (2:20-23)?

Lesson 6: Deborah and Other Judges

Judges 3-5

1. Why were the nations left in Canaan (Judges 3:1-6)?
2. What did the children of Israel do in God's sight (3:7-11)?
3. Who was the deliverer that followed their servitude to Cushan-Rushathaim? What was the result of his service?
4. Who was the next deliverer after the nation served Eglon of Moab for eighteen years (3:12-31)? What was the result of his service?
5. Who killed 600 Philistines?
6. When Ehud was dead, how did the children of Israel behave in the Lord's sight (4:1-3)?

7. Who was the next judge after a servitude to Jabin of 20 years (4:4-13)?

8. Who was her military commander? What was his condition for going to war?

9. How did Sisera die (4:14-24)?

10. What truth of holiness and confidence did the singers express as the song opened (5:1-2)?

11. What application might this have in the church, spiritual Israel?

12. What was the lament that Sisera's mother uttered (5:3-31)?

Lesson 7: Gideon

Judges 6-9

1. The children of Israel did evil in the Lord's sight (Judges 6:1-10). For what specific reasons was Israel impoverished? What did the prophet report?
2. Whom did the Angel of the Lord visit (6:11-18)? With what charge did he come? How did the next judge respond?
3. How did God convince Gideon that this was for real (6:19-24)?
4. What did the Lord instruct him to do (6:25-35)? How did he accomplish this? How did Gideon's father contend for his son's life?
5. Summarize the sign of the fleece (6:36-40).
6. What problem did the Lord have with his army (7:1-8)? Why was this a problem? How was this problem solved? How many warriors were left?
7. Was Gideon afraid of battle (7:9-18)? How was he encouraged?

8. Describe the start of the battle (7:19-25).

9. How did Gideon repay those who hindered him along the way (8:1-21)?

10. Instead of ruling over the land, Gideon wanted to do what (8:22-28)? What was the result?

11. How many sons did Gideon (Jerubbal) have (8:29-35)? Were they all born by the same mother? What did the children of Israel do as soon as Gideon was dead?

12. Whose assistance did Abimelech hire to become king (9:1-15)? What was their bloody plot? Who escaped?

13. What group of people acted on Abimelech's side (9:16-25)? Who foretells a difficult reign for Abimelech? According to verses 22-24, what did God do about it and for what reason?

14. How did Abimelech die (9:26-57)?

Lesson 8: Jephthah

Judges 10-12

1. After Tola and Jair served as judges, the children of Israel did evil in the Lord's sight (Judges 10:1-9). God was angry so he sold them into whose hands for eighteen years?
2. Summarize the exchange between God and Israel in Judges 10:10-18.
3. What was Jephthah's reputation (11:1-3)?
4. How did Jephthah respond when his people came to ask him back (11:4-11)?
5. What was his request, if victorious?
6. Why did the king of Ammon say he was fighting (11:12-28)? What did Jephthah ask of God in verse 27?

7. What was Jephthah's infamous vow (11:29-40)? How did God handle his part? How was Jephthah greeted?

8. Why was this a stupid vow to make?

9. Was Jephthah a man of his word? What did his daughter do?

10. Who contended with the judge here (12:1-7)? With what previous judge had they contended?

11. List the next three judges (12:8-15).

12. What was said of the last of these three?

Lesson 9: Samson and Delilah

Judges 13-16

1. Again, the children did evil in the Lord's sight (Judges 13:1-7). Into whose hands did the Lord deliver them for forty years? To whom did the Angel appear and with what message did he come?
2. What wondrous thing occurred that caused Manoah to fear he would die (13:8-23)? How did Manoah's wife console him?
3. What did they name their son (13:24-25)? What does that name mean?
4. What did Samson desire (14:1-4)? Why?
5. What did he do at his feast (14:5-18)? What part did his wife play?
6. How did Samson make good on his wager (14:19-20)?
7. What happened when Samson returned for her (15:1-8)?

8. What happened when the Philistines came to arrest him (15:9-20)?
9. What did Samson do when he arrived in Gaza (16:1-3)?
10. (16:4-14) With whom did Samson fall in love? What did the lords of the Philistines entice her to discover? List Samson's three lies.
11. How did Delilah finally get the truth out of Samson (16:15-21)? What did he reveal to her? What happened to him?
12. What was this festive occasion at which Samson was summoned by the Philistines (16:22-27)? What did Samson request of the lad beside him? How large was the assembled group?
13. What did Samson ask of God (16:28-31)? What happens? How had God used Samson's flaws to serve a purpose?

Lesson 10: Tribal Depravity

Judges 17-21

1. What was found in Micah's house (17:1-13)?
2. According to verse six, what was the leadership situation in Israel?
3. Who happened into Micah's house? What comment did he make in verse thirteen?
4. Who lodged with Micah now (18:1-14)? According to verse fourteen, with what were they impressed?
5. What did the army take after they were directed to Micah's house by the spies (18:15-31)?
6. Did the priest go willingly? Why or why not?
7. There are four major characters involved in Judges 19:1-21. List them and describe the role of each.

8. Who appeared at the old man's door and with what evil plans (19:22-30)?

9. Who was offered to them? What befell the concubine?

10. What tribe harbored the criminals (20:1-17)?

11. How did the battle go for Israel at first (20:18-33)? From whom did Israel seek guidance throughout the battles? According to verse thirty-five, who defeated Benjamin?

12. What was the first oath the men of Israel made at Mizpah (21:1-15)? Why did this pose a problem now?

13. What was the second oath Israel made at Mizpah? Who fell victim to this? What was done with the few remaining virgins?

14. Where did Benjamin find enough wives (21:16-24)?

15. What was the closing statement in the book of Judges (21:25)?

Lesson II: The Courtship of Ruth and Boaz

Ruth 1-4

1. In the days when the Judges ruled, Elimelech went to Moab with his wife. What was her name and those of her two daughters-in-law (Ruth 1:1-5)?
2. For what reason did Naomi plan to return to Judah (1:6-18)?
3. What did Naomi want her daughters-in-law to do? What did each do?
4. What common ceremony takes part of its vows from the words of Ruth?
5. Where did the two ladies land (1:19-22)? Did the people remember Naomi?
6. What relationship existed between Naomi and Boaz (2:1-13)? According to verses 10-13, why did Ruth find favor in his eyes?
7. What favor did Boaz show her in this passage (2:14-23)?

8. How did Naomi react when she heard about Boaz?

9. What did Naomi instruct Ruth to do (3:1-5)?

10. What did Ruth ask of Boaz (3:6-18)?

11. What two great compliments did he pay her in verses 10 and 11?

12. There was a problem—what was it? What did Boaz plan to do about it?

13. Boaz tells the man about the land Naomi had sold that he could choose to redeem and then springs the issue of redeeming Ruth on him (4:1-6). How did the nearer kinsman answer the land offer and then the Ruth offer?

14. What was the reason for this process (4:7-12)?

15. After the two are married and begin a family, where was this genealogy eventually headed (4:13-22)?

Lesson 12: Samuel's Beginnings

First Samuel 1-3

1. What was Hannah's lament (First Samuel 1:1-8)?
2. How and why did Elkanah favor Hannah?
3. What did Peninnah do to Hannah?
4. What was Hannah's vow (1:9-18)?
5. Why did Eli think she was intoxicated?
6. What cheered up Hannah?
7. After Samuel was born, what reminder did Elkanah have for Hannah (1:19-28)?
8. When did she carry through with her vow?

9. What was Samuel's job (2:1-11)?

10. Describe the character of Eli's sons (2:12-25). What were their names?

11. Why did their sin especially touch God and anger him?

12. What did the man of God predict for Eli's two sons (2:26-36)?

13. How long did it take Eli to figure out that God was calling Samuel (3:1-14)?

14. Why was Eli responsible for his sons' actions?

15. How did Eli take the news (3:15-18)?

16. What did the phrase "let none of his words fall to the ground" mean (3:19-21)?

Lesson 13: The Ark of the Covenant

First Samuel 4-6

1. What happened when the Philistines battled the Israelites (First Samuel 4:1-4)?
2. What did they think would change their fortunes?
3. How did the Philistines react when they understood the ark had come (4:5-11)?
4. Were the Philistines' fears immediately confirmed? Explain.
5. What happened to the ark? Why didn't it work as the Hebrews anticipated?
6. Why was the Benjamite covered in dirt and wearing torn clothes (4:12-22)?

7. We learn here that the Judges period did not end at the conclusion of the book of Judges. How did the messenger break Eli's heart?
8. What did the Philistines do with the ark (5:1-5)? How did God spoil their fun?
9. How did God punish the cities of Ashdod, Gath and Ekron (5:6-12)?
10. How did they plan to test God to see if he had afflicted them or if it was just a coincidence (6:1-9)?
11. How did the cows' performance prove God's hand in the affliction (6:10-18)?
12. Why did God punish the men of Beth Shemesh (6:19-21)?

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