

BACK TO THE BIBLE

30 Days To Understanding
The Bible



30 DAYS
TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

BY MAX ANDERS

PART THREE Continued



30 DAYS
TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

BY MAX ANDERS

There are 4 main subjects in the
Judgment Era:

1. **Judges**
2. **Rebellion**
3. **Cycles**
4. **Ruth**

JUDGES: The leaders of Israel
(Judges).

The judges are the political-military
leaders of Israel who exercise
nearly absolute power because
of their office and abilities.

The 4 major judges are:

1. **Deborah**- a woman judge early in the judges era.
2. **Gideon**- defeats an army of thousands with only 300 men.

3. **Samson**- the most famous judge, whose fabulous strength has captured our imagination for thousands of years.
4. **Samuel**- a transitional Scripture, who is both the last judge and the first prophet.

REBELLION: The breaking of God's law. (Judges).

The Book of Judges records the darkest period in Israel's history, following one of the brightest eras: the Conquest Era under Joshua.

Just before Moses dies he instructs Israel (Deut. 7:1-5) to do three things:

1. Destroy all inhabitants of Canaan.
2. Avoid intermarriage with the Canaanites.
3. Shun worship of the Canaanite gods.

Israel fails on three accounts.

The breaking of God's Law and the record of Israel's subsequent moral degradation are sad.

CYCLES: Repetition of Israel's misfortunes (Judges).

Much of the Era of Judges involves a series of 7 cycles that are recorded in the Book of Judges.

Each cycle has 5 component parts:

1. Israel “sins”.
2. God disciplines them through military “conquest” by a neighboring country.
3. Israel “repents” and cries out to God for deliverance.

4. God raises up a judge who “delivers” them from bondage.
5. God “frees” the land from military oppression for the remainder of that judge’s life.

That is one cycle: sin,
conquest, repentance,
deliverance, and freedom.

When a judge dies, the repetition of Israel's misfortunes begins again.

The Israelites fall into sin again, followed by conquest, repentance, etc.

Seven such cycles are recorded in the Book of Judges.

RUTH: A model woman (Ruth)

This model woman who lives in the Era of Judges is an example of moral and spiritual strength.

Her story is one of love, purity, and commitment.

She is a living illustration of the blessings that God showers on those who live in faithful obedience to Him.

One example of God's blessings toward Ruth is that she, a non-Hebrew, is listed in the lineage from Abraham to Jesus.

LET'S REVIEW

The 4 Major Subjects in the **Judges Era**

SUBJECT:

1. **Judges:**

2. **Rebellion:**

3. **Cycles:**

4. **Ruth:**

DESCRIPTION:

The leaders of Israel.

The breaking of God's Law.

Repetition of Israel's misfortunes.

A model woman.

There are 4 main periods in the **Kingdom Era**:

1. **United Kingdom**
2. **Division of the Kingdom**
3. **Northern Kingdom**
4. **Southern Kingdom**

UNITED KINGDOM: A new monarchy (1&2 Samuel).

The twelve tribes of Israel, jealous of other nations around them, are united in their demand to God for a king.

God allows Samuel, the last judge, to anoint Saul to be the first king, beginning a new monarchy.

Because Saul is not a righteous king, God does not honor his reign or establish his family on the throne of Israel.

His successor, David, though having shortcomings, is a righteous king, and Israel prospers under him.

His son Solomon becomes king upon David's death and rules righteously at first, then drifts from the Lord.

DIVIDED KINGDOM:

A civil war (1 Kings).

As a result of Solomon's spiritual drifting, a civil war erupts upon his death, and the kingdom is divided.

There is now a northern kingdom, consisting of ten tribes, and a southern kingdom, consisting of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin.

The northern ten tribes retain the name “Israel”, and the southern two tribes adopt the name “Judah”.

NORTHERN KINGDOM: The unrighteous kingdom (2 Kings).

In the civil war that splits the kingdom, Jeroboam commands the northern kingdom of Israel.

He is unrighteous and every other king, (19 total) who succeeds him during the 250 year life of the northern kingdom is unrighteous.

Because of this unrighteousness,
God raises up Assyria to
conquer the northern kingdom
and scatter His people to
the four winds.

The unrighteous kingdom
is never restored.

SOUTHERN KINGDOM:

The inconsistent kingdom (2 Kings).

Rehoboam, Solomon's son, commands the southern kingdom of Judah.

He is unrighteous, but the southern kingdom fares somewhat better than the northern.

Lasting 400 years, its life is prolonged by eight righteous kings out of a total of twenty.

Judah's sins finally catch up to her, and God brings judgment on the inconsistent kingdom by raising up Babylonia (which has conquered Assyria) to conquer Judah.

Babylonia gathers all the leaders, artisans, musicians, and promising children, and takes them away to captivity to Babylonia.

LET'S REVIEW

4 Major Subjects in the **Kingdom Era**

SUBJECT:

1. **United Kingdom:**

2. **Divided Kingdom:**

DESCRIPTION:

A new monarchy.

A civil war.

SUBJECT:

3. Northern
Kingdom:

4. Southern
Kingdom:

DESCRIPTION:

The unrighteous
kingdom.

The inconsistent
kingdom.

There are 4 main divisions in
the **Exile Era**:

1. **Prophecy**
2. **Prophets**
3. **Exiles**
4. **Power Change**

PROPHECY: Warning of impending captivity (Jeremiah).

The northern kingdom, Israel, has been conquered by Assyria and is dispersed in 722 B.C.

During the time of the events described in 2 Kings, the southern kingdom, Judah, receives a warning of impending captivity, through Jeremiah (called the “Weeping Prophet”), who prophesizes that the nation will be taken into captivity at the hands of the Babylonians.

This happens in 586 B.C.

He also accurately prophesizes
that the captivity will last seventy
years.

PROPHETS: Encouraging faithfulness of exiles. (Ezekiel and Daniel).

There are two prophets who write books of the Bible during the exile: Ezekiel and Daniel.

Not a great deal is known about Ezekiel since his book is mostly prophetic and not autobiographical.

He foretells of national restoration and encourages faithfulness among the exiles.

Daniel's book, while a book of prophecy, is more biographical.

He is a prominent governmental leader, much like Joseph in Egypt.

While Daniel's book, personal life is an example to his people, his prophecies tend to concern the future destruction of the world.

EXILES: Assimilated into the culture (Daniel).

The Book of Daniel also gives us a glimpse of life among the exiles.

Apparently, the Jews are assimilated into the culture in which they are exiled.

They experience discrimination, which has always been true of displaced Jews. Yet, in spite of this, they seem fairly well integrated into society, and some of them achieve positions of prominence.

POWER CHANGE: Persian Empire expands (Daniel).

While the Jews are in exile in Babylonia, Persia rises to become the dominant military power of that region.

Persia conquers Babylonia (which had conquered Assyria), so now Persia rules not only her own land, but the land once dominated by Assyria and Babylonia.

The Persian Empire expands from
the Tigres River to the Mediterranean
Sea.

LET'S REVIEW

4 Major Subjects in the **Exile Era**

SUBJECT:

1. **Prophecy:**

2. **Prophets:**

DESCRIPTION:

Warning of impending
captivity.

Encouraging faithfulness of
exiles.

SUBJECT:

3. Exiles:

4. Power
Change

DESCRIPTION:

Assimilated into the
culture.

Persian Empire
expands.