

CONQUEST, SETTLEMENT, AND JUDGES

I. JOSHUA: THE ISRAELITE CONQUEST

- A. Part of “Deuteronomistic History” (Deut; Josh; Judg; 1-2 Sam; 1-2 Ki)
- B. The **Conquest**
 - 1. Preparations
 - 2. The Central Campaign: Jericho and Ai (Josh 6:6-8:29)
 - 3. The **Covenant Renewal at Shechem**
 - 4. The Southern Campaign
 - a. The deception of the Gibeonites and treaty with them (Josh 9)
 - b. Joshua’s defense of Gibeon against the five kings (Josh 10)
 - 5. The Northern Campaign
 - a. Confederacy defeated at waters of Merom (Josh 11:1-9)
 - b. **Hazor** sacked (Josh 11:10-15)
 - c. A summary of events (Josh 11:10-15)
- C. Allotment of the land to the tribes of Israel (Josh 12-21)
- D. Joshua’s farewell (Josh 22-24)
- E. Archaeology and the conquest
 - 1. Jericho and Ai: no evidence
 - 2. Cities in the south and Hazor: destruction levels

II. THE SETTLEMENT

- A. Results of the conquest
 - 1. Not all of Palestine taken
 - a. Josh 12 = List of defeated kings, not cities
 - b. Judges 1 = Land left unconquered
 - c. Some of Joshua’s victories not followed up; temporary
 - 2. There were difficulties & delays in settlement (Josh 17:12-18)
 - 3. The reason for Israel’s failure (Judges 2:1-5)
 - a. Israel did not obey the LORD’s command to drive out locals
 - b. These inhabitants remained as religious snares
- B. The nature of Israel’s settlement
 - 1. Archaeological data
 - a. Small settlements in the hill country begin about 1200 BC
 - b. Poor, unsophisticated architecture and pottery; tribes connected by central sanctuary
 - c. Canaanites/Amorites retained choice farmland (Josh 17:16)
 - 2. Models for the Emergence of Israel
 - a. Military Conquest (biblical model)
 - b. Peaceful Infiltration (slow settlement of desert tribes)
 - c. Peasant Revolt (Canaanite lower classes rebel against system; moved to hill country)
 - d. Symbiosis (settlement of indigenous nomadic pastoralists)
- C. The beginning of the Iron Age
 - 1. Other groups were becoming established: Edom, Moab, Ammon, Arameans

2. The **Philistines**

- a. Part of a larger group -- the "Sea Peoples"
- b. Migrated from Greece; destroyed Hittite Empire, Ugarit
- c. Defeated by Ramses III (1170 BC) trying to invade Egypt
- d. Settled along coast, the Philistines in Philistine plain

D. **Canaanite Religion**

1. Known from texts discovered at Ugarit on Syrian Coast
 - a. Cuneiform, alphabetic script; language similar to Hebrew
 - b. 350 tablets of Late Bronze Age (14th c.) - Religious info
2. Nature of Canaanite religion
 - a. Fertility based
 - b. Emphasis on sexuality; cultic prostitution
 - c. Polytheistic
 - d. Cyclical; "dying and rising god" represents seasons
3. Was a snare to Israel; new to farming and this land

III. **JUDGES: THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES**

A. The cycle of sin and oppression (Judges 2:5-23)

1. Israel served (worshipped) Baals (Gods) of other people (11-13)
2. The LORD was angry; he gave them over to oppression (14-15)
3. The people cried out; the LORD was moved to pity (18)
4. The LORD raised up a judge to deliver them (16-18)
5. When the judge died, the people sinned again (19)

B. Judges seem to have "judged" local areas or certain tribes

1. Geographical limits (Deborah/Barak - North; Samson - South)
2. Chronological information does not fit; must overlap

C. Israel oppressed by different types of groups

1. Indigenous people (original inhabitants of land)
 - *- Canaanites; fought by Deborah (Judges 4-5)
2. Nomadic or semi-nomadic groups
 - *-Amalekites and Midianites; fought by Gideon (Judges 6-8)
3. Recently settled groups
 - a. Moab; fought by Ehud (Judges 3:12-30)
 - b. Ammon; fought by Jephthah (Judges 10:6-12:7)
 - c. Philistines; fought by Samson (Judges 13-16)

D. **RUTH**: The line of David (Ruth)

E. The Philistine crisis: Israel demands a king

1. **Samuel** (1 Sam 1-3) fills roles of: Judge, Priest, and Prophet
2. Philistines expand into Jezreel and hill country
3. **Battle of Aphek** or Ebenezer (ca 1050 BC); Israel vs. Philistines
 - a. Israel defeated; priestly leadership killed (1 Sam 4)
 - b. The Ark captured (cf. 1 Sam 5-6)
 - c. Shiloh destroyed
 - d. Israel demanded a king to unite them
4. The people ask for a king (1 Sam 8); God chooses Saul (1 Sam 9)