

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE FOR 09/03/12 TO 09/09/12

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2012 Read Judges 17:1 to 18:31

The 350-year downward spiral continues in Israel. As you read today, note the evidence of that: Exhibit A-- Micah the idol worshiper. Exhibit B-- the greedy Levite. Exhibit C-- the idolatrous tribe of Dan.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2012 Read Judges 19:1 to 20:48

Maybe you thought the events of Judges couldn't get any worse! But today's reading plunges us into the sewer of human depravity. Watch to see the actions of people whose hearts have hardened beyond flint.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012 Read Judges 21:1-25

Justice demanded that all Israel hold the tribe of Benjamin accountable for the rape and murder you read about yesterday. But the civil war Israel started went far beyond justice- almost to the point of genocide. When the dust settled, only six hundred men of the tribe of Benjamin had survived. Women, the elderly, children-- all had been massacred (Judges 20:37).

Now Israel had a problem. Who could they let this tribe disappear? To make things more complicated, all of Israel's leaders had sworn an oath not to give their daughters in marriage to the Benjamites. But rather than repent of their foolish oath, they schemed until they had concocted a two-thronged solution. Chapter 21 reports it.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2012 Read Ruth 1;1-2:23

Imagine yourself traveling across a barren desert. The sun blazes down. Your lips crack. Your feet bake. And then, on the horizon, you see an oasis. Imagine standing in the water, pouring it over your head and drinking as much as you want.

That contrast pictures quite accurately the differences between the book of Judges and the Book of Ruth. We've been walking through a spiritual desert for weeks. Now it's time to take off our sandals and let the Lord refresh us with the story of his faithful love at work.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2012 Read Ruth 3:1 to 4:20

The book of Ruth takes on new meaning when you keep in mind the concept of kinsman-redeemer. The Hebrew words behind this term recurs nine times in the Book of Ruth. Boaz was Ruth's kinsman-redeemer. As such, he is a picture, or more strictly speaking a "type" of Christ. Before you read from Ruth, review the law regarding the kinsman-redeemer from Leviticus 25:25.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2012 Read I Samuel 1:1-28

Not since the prayer of Abraham for Sodom have we read such an earnest petition. The prayer you will read today came before heaven's throne with a heavy heart. But she left rejoicing. As you read, ask yourself what accounts for the change in attitude?

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2012 Join us for Bible class and worship in the morning and then catch up on any readings you missed later in the day.