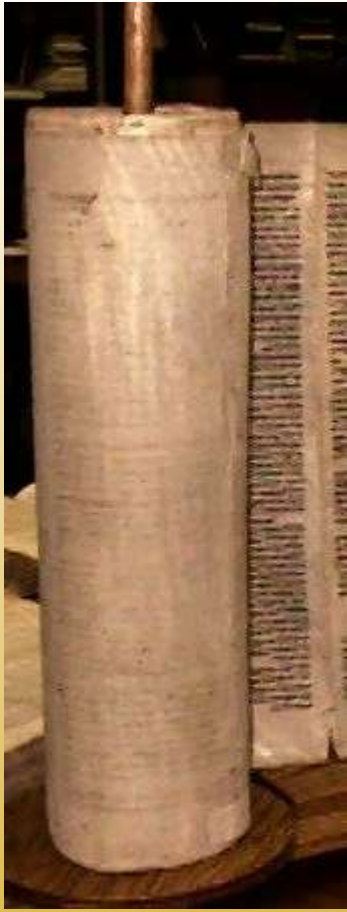




Old Testament Survey

Week 10

Judges



Old Testament Survey

Chronology of Judges is difficult

- After Joshua, until Samuel (Acts 13:20)
- About 350 years
- Eli and Samuel, last two judges
- Book of Judges: about 300 years



Old Testament Survey

Concurrent book: Ruth

Ruth 1:1 *In the days when the judges ruled...*



Old Testament Survey

Israel was a theocracy

- No successor to Joshua
- Israel ruled by God
- Only God made laws
- Justice administered by judges
- This was God's plan for governing Israel!



Old Testament Survey

Where did the judges come from?

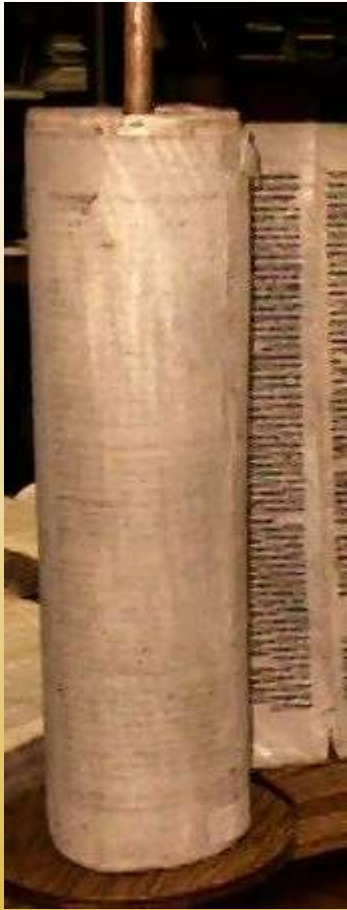
- Jethro's advice: Ex 18:19-23
- Judges under Moses: Deut 1:15-18
 - 1000's, 100's, 50's, 10's
- Judges under Joshua: Deut 16:18
 - in every town



Old Testament Survey

Not an inferior system of gov't

- Jdg 17:6 *In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.*
- Only problem: often saw fit to do evil
- Eventually Israel asked for a king
- God was not pleased (1 Sam 8:4-7)

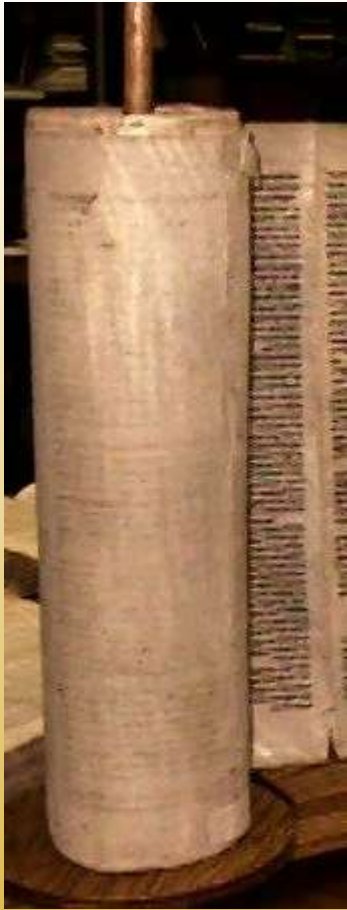


Old Testament Survey

Judges through the ages

According to Jewish historians:

- Judicial system traced back to Jethro
- Civil cases heard by 3 judges
- Higher cases heard by court of 21 judges
- Highest court: Sanhedrin (71 judges)
 - evolved by time of 2nd Temple



Old Testament Survey

Seven deliverers in Judges

God raised up to deliver Israel:

- Othniel – deliverance from Aram
- Ehud – deliverance from Moab
- Shamgar – from Philistines
- Barak and Deborah – from Canaan



Old Testament Survey

Seven deliverers (continued)

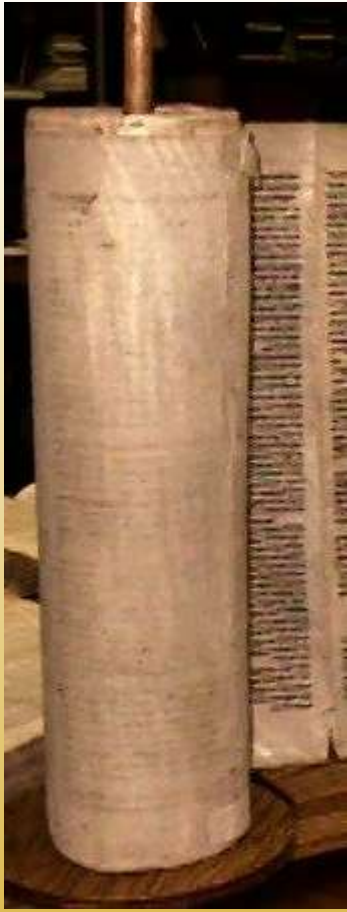
- Gideon – from Midian
- Jephthah – from Ammonites
- Samson – began deliverance from Philistines (Jud 13:1, 5, 15:20)



Old Testament Survey

Other judges of Israel

- Tola – rose to save Israel (Jud 10:1)
- Jair – 30 sons, 30 donkeys (Jud 10:3)
- Ibzan – 30 sons, 30 daughters
(Jud 12:9)
- Elon – led Israel 7 years
- Abdon – 40 sons, 30 grandsons,
70 donkeys



Old Testament Survey

After Joshua

Jdg 2:7 The people served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel.



Old Testament Survey

Next generation

Jdg 2:10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.



Old Testament Survey

Judah and Simeon (Judges 1)

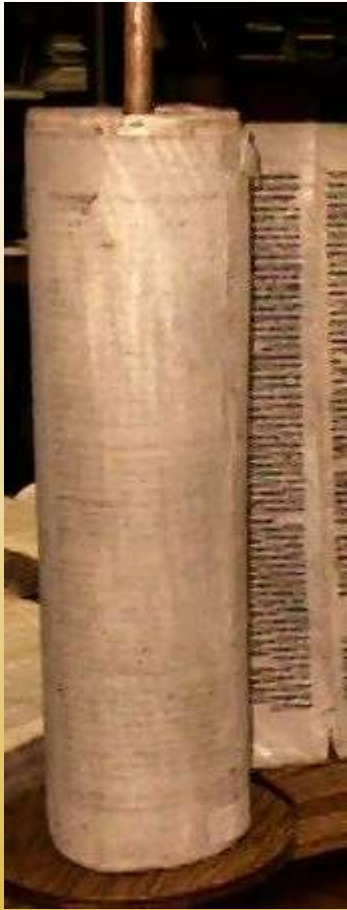
- Helped each other drive out Canaanites
- Did not totally destroy them all



Old Testament Survey

Angel of the LORD at Bokim

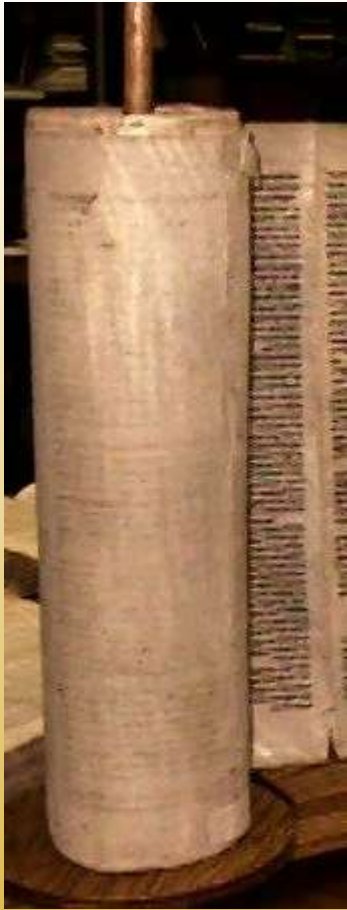
- Rebuked Israel for disobedience
 - no covenants with pagans
 - break down altars
- *Jdg 2:3 Now therefore I tell you that I will not drive them out before you; they will be thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you."*



Old Testament Survey

Judges 3:1-6

- God left nations in midst
 - to test Israel
 - so they could learn war
- Israelites intermarried with nations
- God gave them over to Aram 8 years
- Raised up Othniel to deliver them
 - see Othniel, Joshua 15:16-17



Old Testament Survey

Ehud and Eglon (Judges 3:12-30)

- Israel conquered by Eglon king of Moab
- Subjected 18 years
- Ehud kills Eglon
- Moab became subject to Israel
- Eighty years of peace

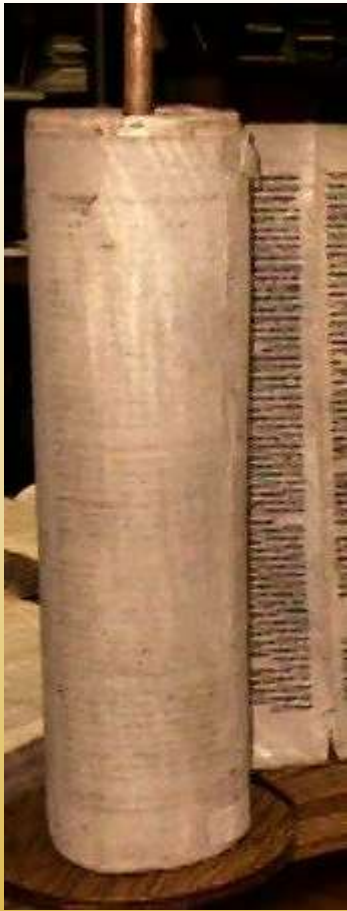


Old Testament Survey

Israel subjected to Jabin 20 years

Judges 4

- Deborah calls for Barak to deliver
- Barak insists Deborah go also
- God delivers Israel by a woman
- Jael drives tent peg through Sisera's head



Old Testament Survey

Compare translations Judges 5:2

NIV: When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves- praise the LORD !

KJV: Praise ye the LORD for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves

Literal: For the loosing [of locks of hair] in Israel; for the willing offering of the people, bless Jehovah!



Old Testament Survey

Judges 5:2, Unique kind of war

- *“The meaning is, 'for the fact that the strong in Israel put forth strength.', to prove one's self willing, here to go into the battle of their own free will, without any outward and authoritative command”*
 - K&D Commentary of OT
- God directed the attack
- Spoke through the prophetess Deborah
- Fought by those who were willing



Old Testament Survey

Oppressed by Midianites

Judges 6

- Israel did evil
- Midian cruelly oppressed Israel
- Angel appears to Gideon
- Hiding in winepress



Old Testament Survey

Calling of Gideon

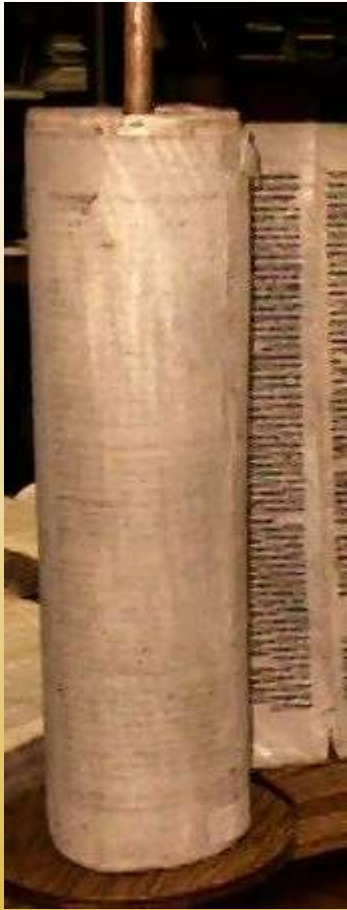
- *“Go in the strength you have”*
- Gideon requests a sign
- Offers young goat, unleavened bread
- Consumed by fire!



Old Testament Survey

God tests Gideon

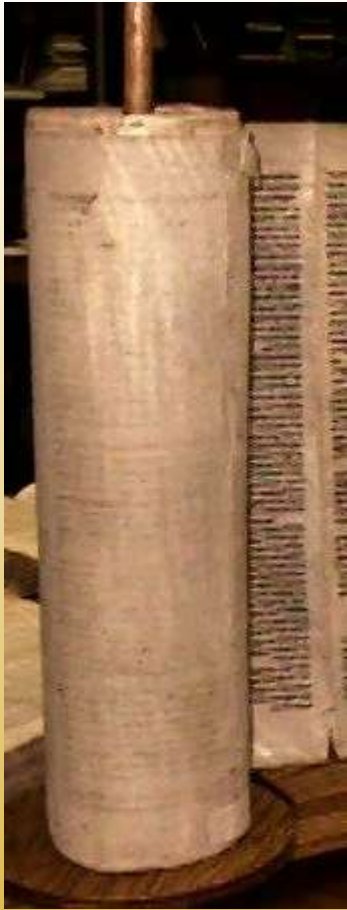
- Tear down his father's altar to Baal
- Cut down his Asherah pole
- Build proper altar
- Burn Asherah pole
- Sacrifice bull over fire
- Gideon obeys (but at night!)



Old Testament Survey

Preparing for battle

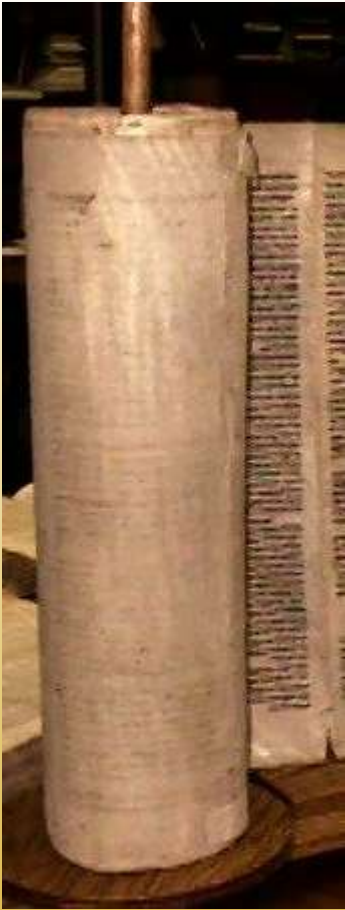
- Gideon summons men with trumpet
- Gideon tests God
 - Dew on fleece, not ground
 - Dew on ground, not fleece



Old Testament Survey

More preparation for battle

- God reduces fighting force
 - fearful allowed to go home
 - lap water like a dog
 - reduced to 300 men
- God encourages Gideon
 - listening to enemy's dream



Old Testament Survey

The victory

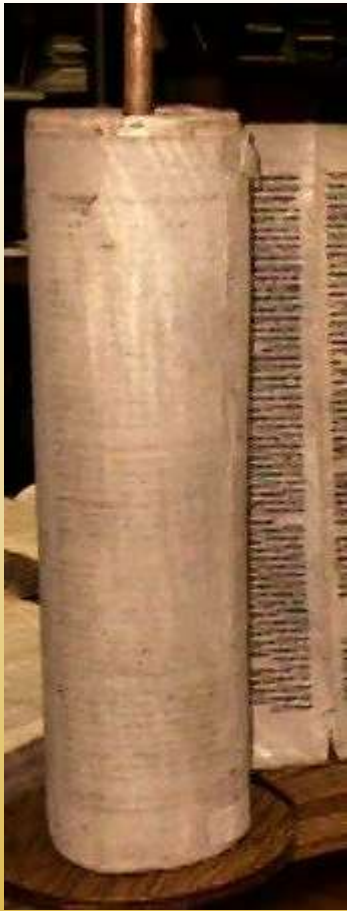
- Trumpets, jars, torches, shouting
- Midianites turned on one another
- Pursues and captures leaders



Old Testament Survey

Gideon - the good and the bad

- Refused to become king
 - *"I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The LORD will rule over you."*
- But made an ephod from the gold
 - Priestly garment? or graven image?
 - Became a snare
- Heb 11:32 faith "hall of fame"



Old Testament Survey

Abimelech becomes king by force

- One of 71 sons of Gideon (Jerub-Baal)
- Killed 69 brothers (Jotham escaped)
- Abimelech became ruler
 - of Sechem
 - by default, of Israel
 - usurped rule of God
- God brings down Abimelech
 - killed by Sechemites after 3 years



Old Testament Survey

Deliverance by Jephthah

Judges 10:6-11:40

- Israelites did evil (Baals etc)
- God punished by Philistines
 - 18 years
 - Got rid of foreign gods
 - God could bear their misery no more



Old Testament Survey

Ammonites camped in Gilead

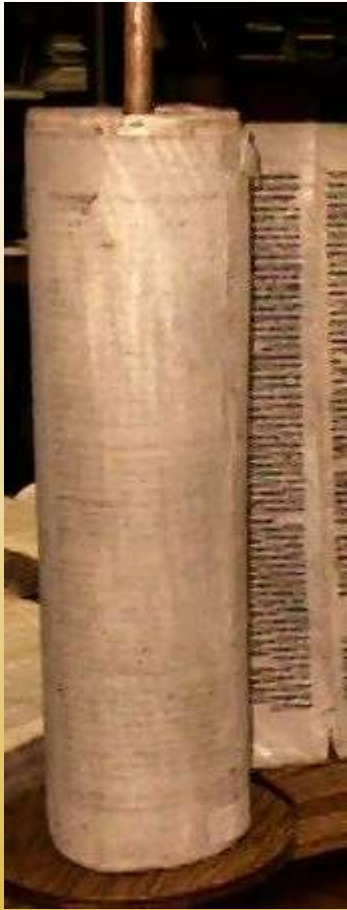
- Jephthah's brothers appeal for help
- Jephthah makes a vow to God
 - *“If you give the Ammonites into my hands, whatever comes out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in triumph from the Ammonites will be the LORD 's, and I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering.”*
- God gave a decisive victory



Old Testament Survey

Jephthah returns victorious

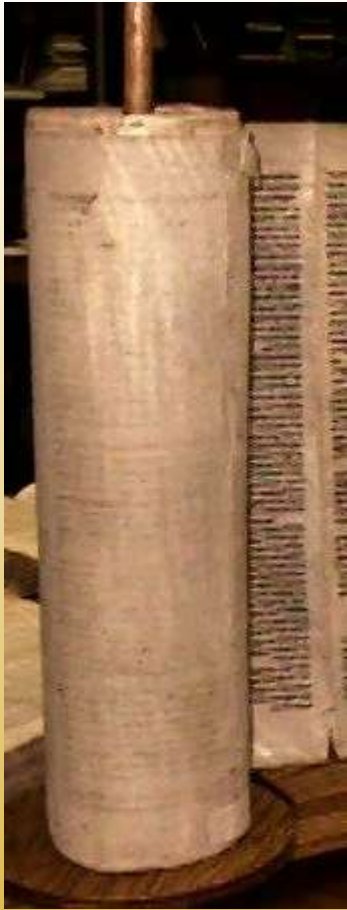
- Daughter comes out of house
- His only child
- She agrees he must keep vow
- Allowed her 2 months to mourn
- *After the two months, she returned to her father and he did to her as he had vowed.*
- Jephthah a hero of faith, Heb 11:32



Old Testament Survey

Birth of Samson (Judges 13)

- Announced by an angel
- Nazirite (Num 6)
 - set apart to God from birth
 - *“He will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”*

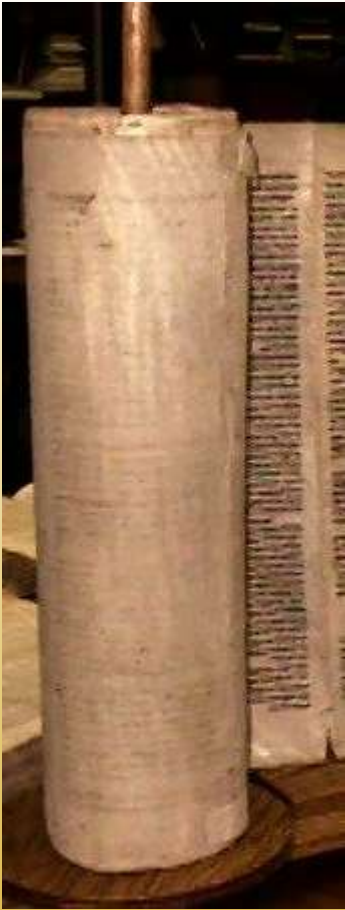


Old Testament Survey

Samson and Philistine wife

Judges 14 - 15

- married, then given to a friend
- revenge: foxes, fire in grain fields
- Philistines burned wife and her father
- Samson slaughters many
- Men of Judah hand over Samson
- Samson kills 1000 with jaw of donkey



Old Testament Survey

Samson and prostitute

- Surrounded by men of Gaza
- Samson leaves at midnight
- Tears doors and beams from city gate



Old Testament Survey

Samson and Delilah

- Philistines ask Delilah to find secret of Samson's strength
- Samson deceives her
 - tie with 7 fresh undried thongs
 - tie with new unused ropes
 - weave hair tight with loom and pin
- Finally tells truth
 - cut hair



Old Testament Survey

Samson's Victory in death

- Captured, eyes gouged out
- Hair grew back
- Toppled pillars of temple
- *Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.*



Old Testament Survey

Samson the enigma

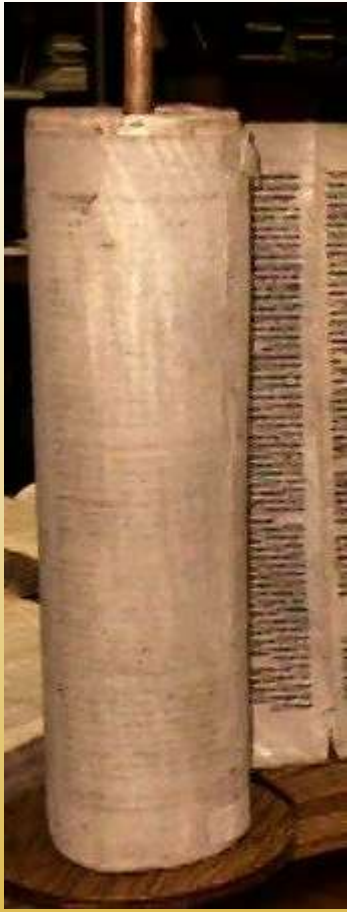
- Many unrighteous acts
- Many parallels to Christ
- Heb 11:32 a hero of faith



Old Testament Survey

Last 5 chapters

- Events probably happened earlier
- Micah, introduction of idolatry
- Vengeance on Benjamites
 - Israel indignant over evil
 - Battle directed by God
 - Benjamin crushed
 - Israel mourned Benjamin



Old Testament Survey

Next week

1 Samuel

Israel gets a king