

BIBLE MYSTERY AND BIBLE MEANING OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 7

Joshua and Judges

A history of the period when the Hebrews got possession of Canaan from 1220 to 1000 B.C

This story is given in both books of Joshua and Judges. These two versions of the conquest and settlement of Canaan differ in method and span of time. The book of Joshua indicates that the Hebrews went to the Promised Land and in less than a decade conquered the entire country. The land was then divided among the 12 tribes.

The book of Judges tells of a gradual process, including direct attacks, colonization, negotiation, and inter-marriage, which takes place over a full century. Being much earlier, the Book of Judges is accepted by most scholars as the more authentic.

However it is important to note that current archeologist discoveries have concluded that the city of Jericho was believed to have been abandoned and fallen into disrepair. Its walls were also in ruins and unproductive to the city.. There may have been a few people in this area, but the city itself was non-functioning.

In chapters 7 & 8 of Joshua they speak of the destruction of Ai, which means a heap of ruin. So, why would they destroy a city that was already a heap of ruin?

This is a great place to stop and reiterate that we are speaking about God Consciousness and that there is no separation. The outer historical facts are limited to just that. When Joshua and the Israelites entered into Canaan/The Promised Land, and were able to immediately establish a city that was for the most part abandoned and left in ruin; would that not be a great victory. To claim stake in the heart of the promised land, to bring their one God in and through their consciousness, to cleanse what erroneous expression that was still lurking within its fallen walls, and having the faith and joy to rebuild with a fresh start; is this not a victorious beginning? Ai was what was left *within* the outer ruins. And so began a era of One God in the heart of Canaan, expressing from the within to the without.

The Bible stories, to a degree, have some outer historical value to them. However it is about the metaphysical truth that is always found in all these stories that will steer us to the most important purpose of these books; and that is a spiritual enlightenment that leads us closer and closer to being more in the image of God and less of the flesh.

Often when the Bible comes into debate of its authenticity, the spiritual psychology of unfoldment into God Mind through Christ Consciousness is not factored in. Thereby establishing an equated sum that swoops right past the Omnipresent and Omnipotent, and the Omniscient God Consciousness; of which all of life is one with. There is no separation.

The utmost importance is discovering within our true innate nature and becoming aware of our personal conclusions, debates, contracts, negotiations, battles, celebrations, joys, and caring for and respecting life; before they are made manifest into the outer world. This is what all these books and their stories are about. The rest, though interesting, does not need much attention, at least not in these studies. The psychological and sociological make up of man and his

environment, is a key factor to all these stories. It is the first things first. The single being to an entire city, nation, continent, planet, and all the universe, stems from a single thought. It is here that we begin to creatively awaken or creatively stay asleep. The being called man can function very well as a animal, using only the sub-conscious. However, to awaken to the Super-consciousness/Christ Mind, to function in the midst of God Presence, it is here we awaken to a beautiful mysticism of science which we call metaphysics.

What is Jericho?

It's another name for our intellect. It is a state of consciousness or an awareness of life that is totally immersed on the outer, on the physical or visible side of life. We can use the moon as an analogy. The moon has no light of its own. It simply reflects the light of the sun. But for all appearances it appears to have it's own light. But we now know better. This is the same relationship that the intellect has to Spirit. The intellect seems to have its own wisdom and its own understanding and its own knowledge. It is highly valued in this world at this time. It has neither wisdom, understanding, or knowledge. But occasionally, Spirit expresses in some degree through the intellect. A bit distorted, but still glimpses of wisdom. In other words, just as the moon has its own place in the planetary system so does the intellect have its own place in our Spiritual journey. It is only when we allow the intellect to sit on the throne that is reserved for Truth, only when it becomes the ruler as if it knew all things in and of itself, or believes that it and only it can do all things, it is here that it becomes the only devil there is. The only tempter. This is the carnal mind or the Old Man that must be put away. This is the "I Am" of Paul's that died daily. Now, this is important. Very important. For this is the only thing that is, as the Bible states, enmity against God.

We all go through this stage. Even Jesus did. In the Book of Luke we have this, *"And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho."* Jericho simply represents the human mind that believes it can do anything and be anything. This is the foundation on which many of the mental teachings are established and the part they stressed or emphasize in their teachings: mind as power. We go around saying "If I can only keep this thought in mind I will make this or that thing happen." And this is the state of mind that stands in the way to the Kingdom of Heaven.

CANAAN (The Land) AND ITS PEOPLE

Canaan consisted of mountains, plateaus, valleys, plains, cities / villages came to be with each changing season (the five senses in constant change functioning from the sub-conscious). Each city had its own king (Ego) who in addition ruled the adjoining areas (the five senses thought of as an independent nature, but are as one harmoniously, regardless of the outer creative expression; be it harmonious or chaotic). It is a place of unlimited well-being in which man is growing and becoming as one through faith in the One God as omnipresent Spirit.

The Israelites settled in the hill country of Canaan (a higher consciousness) which was great for agriculture. Due to the rugged terrain, the Israelites built terraces to farm sufficiently and function independently.

The Canaanites were the people who inhabited the land before the conquest and the Philistines, were a seafaring people of Greek and Mycenaean origin (abstract thoughts being gathered and made manifest upon dry land). They arrived around 1175 B.C., and settled in the coastal plain.

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

• **Joshua**- Like Jesus is derived from the word Jehovah (Jah) “ I AM that I AM”. Joshua, the I am, governs and controls the activity of thought in the inner realm. Though this name represents a higher consciousness it remains a lower realm to the name Jesus which is the completion of the Christ self.

A strong, aggressive leader whose name metaphysically means; salvation; a savior, who is transcending from the lower self into Christ Mind, and in doing so his work served the needs of his era.

History records that Joshua's (Super Consciousness-Christ Like) attacks were successful against the Amalekites (animalistic - sub-conscious). Joshua was entrusted with the care of the Tent of Meeting, which contained the Tabernacle which represents the temporal body of man. The tent itself (the outer) is easy to tear and wear out , but within are the fruits of the Divine Kingdom. He served Moses as his assistant during the desert sojourn. With this came the assurance that Joshua, as Moses, would have Divine guidance and protection.

"As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you . . . I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:5, 9)

The conquest of Canaan began with the crossing of the Jordan, an unblocking of divine mind. The Bible has three different accounts:

1. The capture and destruction of Jericho (Erroneous thoughts) , a city of strategic importance which commanded two fords of the Jordan (Shallow waters offering safe passage from the murky depths of abstract and confused thinking of duality), securing important passages.
2. One account tells of marches around the city for six days, and the collapse of the walls on the seventh (seven represents a spiritual completion).
3. Another account suggests that traitors (inner conflicts) within the city opened its gates.

Regardless of the outer situations, their dates, the archeologist's finds; we are speaking about consciousness, which begins within ourselves. All of these conflicts, errors, agreements, higher consciousness, divine mind, super consciousness; all begins within, from the depths of our deepest waters our thoughts, in the abstract, become of creative design and we mold these concepts into ideas, opinions, and decisions that may or may not manifest into the outer world, and may or may not be in agreement with each other. All this begins within before the stories of our outer conflicts and successes can be told.

The Book of Joshua records how the land was divided up between the various tribes. The Tribe of Levi did not have a specific area, but instead was placed in charge of formal prayer and religious services places of worship; from this comes the term: "the sons of Levi." Also, there was no tribe of Joseph; rather, his sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, became known as the progenitors of separate tribes but they were of their fathers house. So in divine truth there were 13 tribes of Israel not 12. This is interesting because the number 12 represents spiritual perfection; the of the Omnipresent, Omniscient, Omnipotent - I Am that I AM. However there is a hidden factor which shows upon closer investigation that there are 13 Tribes. This would explain the stories constant telling of their faith becoming weak and the flesh becoming strong, over and over. Though they reached levels of great divinity they would become cocksure and complacent, falling prey to their own design and then reaching a point of suffering that would led them back to God

Consciousness, and in doing so would come the restoration of their mind and creative expression. All we need to do is lift our eyes back up into the heaven and return to our Mother/Father's House.

There are two versions of Joshua's farewell address in the closing chapters of the Book of Joshua. The renewal of the covenant with Jahveh bears witness to Joshua's devotion to God and his people, and his leadership that many followed faithfully, and of his empowering presentation of the ideals of Israel's religion.

Here we have some telling the story from what they comprehend; the outer or visible sum. However the outer cannot have existed without the inner. Regardless, according to Joshua 24:31; "And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua..." His ideals remained powerful and steadfast in the religion of Israel.

Often the stories show that a generation later much declines, simply because they were followers and did not understand the inner Christ self-waiting for each of us to awaken to and express from.

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

A judge was a leader of the people of Israel. Their position was to encourage, enforce, and govern the laws of Jahveh. It was believed they were chosen by Jahveh to guide and protect the children of Israel now that they were living in the chosen land flowing with milk and honey. Their delivered years were followed by oppressed years. A constant repeating which appears to be caused by the same behavior; becoming to comfortable with the riches of the land and to content with living off the fat of the land. Those that Jehovah had commanded to eliminate were instead made into tributaries (those that became forced labor or they paid tax to obtain protection / peace from Israel. They paid money to Israel, and Israel allowed them to stay in their land.). To resist not evil is in oneship to all we do and believe. To force others into enslavement is to be enslaved ourselves. To eliminate means from our consciousness not necessarily the death of another being.

However it is here in the Book of Judges comes an understanding in the importance of self-control; taking charge of and being responsible for our thoughts and feelings. If an individual is to ever inherit the Promised Land, which is really a spiritual consciousness, a consciousness of Truth, then this individual has to take charge of his emotional thoughts. You know what happened to Moses, he never quite took charge of his emotional thoughts.

Now, don't forget, when you read the Bible and you come across words or phrases like the Garden of Eden, the Promised Land, the Father's House, or the Kingdom of Heaven, they all refer to a Consciousness of God; a conscious awareness of a dimension of life that is unknown and unknowable and will always remain unknown and unknowable to the human mind or to a human awareness of life. Paul reminds us of this Truth when he said that illumined minds "have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." And he continues by saying that it is this knowledge that transcends human understanding are the thing of which they speak. And to further stress the point he says that the ordinary human being "receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." In other

words, that which is born of Spirit remains spiritual and that which is born of the flesh, of human hood, remains human.

We can refer to the Spiritual awareness of life as a consciousness of God, a Spiritual consciousness, a Spiritual experience or a personal realization of Truth or of Spirit, or a conscious awareness of the Presence of God. Whatever phrase you feel comfortable with, it is simply your own conscious awareness of a Presence that is Holy and Sacred.

Now, in the early days of the Hebrews, these people, like other people of early times, banded together, somewhat loosely, for protection or survival, in groups sometimes called tribes. They really weren't high enough in organizational skills and their understanding did not or could not think in terms of kings. Without attempting to sound too anthropological in the lesson, each tribe would appoint a chief or someone to act like a judge to settle disputes or any kind of problem that would arise.

There were instances when women were actually the real rulers of certain tribes. And this was during a period of time when women were considered little more than pieces of property, chattel, that could be used in transactions. Now, what are the metaphysical implications of women judges for us? It simply means that in many of us our feeling natures are the ruling qualities in our life. We often refer to certain people as wearing their feelings on their sleeves. In other circles we speak of living intuitively lives. There are those who are guided by their feelings. We tend to say, "I feel good in this place." Or we say, "I don't know why, but I don't think we should take this trip."

THE 12 JUDGES: *Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson*

DEBORAH

Deborah who was both judge and prophetess of the Hebrews, came into power at a time when they were in desperate need of a great leader of her caliber. Though they do rise above the race mind of materialism into a higher consciousness of God Mind, they still were also under the law of sin and death (duality), they needed a great strength to steer them in the right direction.

The Canaanites, materialistic and willing to obtain their outer needs at any cost to others, were under the leadership of Sisera who was like a pot boiling over, one of carnal thought, much unrest and ready to war as a means to success. They were preparing to attack the Hebrews in great numbers.

Barak, her chosen general, was the "flaming sword" that lead her people to victory. He would not claim victory without Deborah at his side. He was powerful and swift and she was a prophetess with a keen perception based on spiritual discrimination. Both had great strengths that came together harmoniously. We can find these qualities within ourselves that allows the innate self to come to an expression of great abundance; not to destroy the law but to fulfill it.

The people came to her for judgment; she held court under a palm tree between

Ramah and Bethel; both were high places of joy and power in unity with God Consciousness.

A tree, here being the Palm Tree (the palm having great significance in the Bible) signifies Knowledge and Understanding. Knowledge is life. Understanding is life. A tree represents life. It is the nerves expressing in thought, being part of a body, forming from the formlessness, connected between heaven and earth. Sitting under a tree like Deborah or receiving illumination under a tree like the Buddha, or just being close to a tree as Nathaniel simply means that these individuals were close to life. This was not just any life, but **LIFE; Living In Fantastic Energy.** This LIFE is another name for God, for Truth. They were close to the Laws of the Spirit of Life, to Divine Wisdom, to the Infinite Intelligence in which we live, move and have our being. Moses spoke these words during the feast of tabernacles; *"Ye shall take for you in the first day the fruit of a tree of honor, spathes of palm-trees, and a branch of a dense tree, and willows of the torrent; and ye shall be glad before Jehovah your God seven days". (Lev. 23:40)*

There are two accounts of the battle. Although only the central tribes responded to Deborah's call, the victory was complete and overwhelming. The central being is our core, our strongest point of strength in mind, body, and spirit. It is from there that we expand in creative might.

A heavy storm rendered the chariots of the Canaanites useless. They fled in terror and dismay. Whether the storm was a storm of nature or an expression of a mighty battle led by Barak, it was clear evidence to the Hebrews of the hand of God at work as a Divine intervention. The commander Sisera, met his fate at the hands of a woman as Deborah had prophesied. This victory gave complete power to the Hebrews over central Canaan. It was a great act of unity between Deborah, Barak, and the Hebrews in the name of Jehovah that played a major role in their victory. *"And the land had rest forty years." (Judges 5:31)*

The poetic Song of Deborah, may be the oldest document recorded in the Bible.

Judges, Chapter 5.

- ¹Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day, saying,
- ² Praise ye the LORD for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves.
- ³ Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes; I, even I, will sing unto the LORD; I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel.
- ⁴ LORD, when thou wentest out of Seir, when thou marchest out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled, and the heavens dropped, the clouds also dropped water.
- ⁵ The mountains melted from before the LORD, even that Sinai from before the LORD God of Israel.
- ⁶ In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were unoccupied, and the travellers walked through byways.
- ⁷ The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel.
- ⁸ They chose new gods; then was war in the gates: was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?

- ⁹ *My heart is toward the governors of Israel that offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless ye the LORD.*
- ¹⁰ *Speak, ye that ride on white asses, ye that sit in judgment, and walk by the way.*
- ¹¹ *They that are delivered from the noise of archers in the places of drawing water, there shall they rehearse the righteous acts of the LORD, even the righteous acts toward the inhabitants of his villages in Israel: then shall the people of the LORD go down to the gates.*
- ¹² *Awake, awake, Deborah: awake, awake, utter a song: arise, Barak, and lead thy captivity captive, thou son of Abinoam.*
- ¹³ *Then he made him that remaineth have dominion over the nobles among the people: the LORD made me have dominion over the mighty.*
- ¹⁴ *Out of Ephraim was there a root of them against Amalek; after thee, Benjamin, among thy people; out of Machir came down governors, and out of Zebulun they that handle the pen of the writer.*
- ¹⁵ *And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah; even Issachar, and also Barak: he was sent on foot into the valley. For the divisions of Reuben there were great thoughts of heart.*
- ¹⁶ *Why abodest thou among the sheepfolds, to hear the bleatings of the flocks? For the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.*
- ¹⁷ *Gilead abode beyond Jordan: and why did Dan remain in ships? Asher continued on the sea shore, and abode in his breaches.*
- ¹⁸ *Zebulun and Naphtali were a people that jeopardized their lives unto the death in the high places of the field.*
- ¹⁹ *The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money.*
- ²⁰ *They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.*
- ²¹ *The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon. O my soul, thou hast trodden down strength.*
- ²² *Then were the horsehoofs broken by the means of the pransings, the pransings of their mighty ones.*
- ²³ *Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.*
- ²⁴ *Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above women in the tent.*
- ²⁵ *He asked water, and she gave him milk; she brought forth butter in a lordly dish.*
- ²⁶ *She put her hand to the nail, and her right hand to the workmen's hammer; and with the hammer she smote Sisera, she smote off his head, when she had pierced and stricken through his temples.*
- ²⁷ *At her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay down: at her feet he bowed, he fell: where he bowed, there he fell down dead.*
- ²⁸ *The mother of Sisera looked out at a window, and cried through the lattice, Why is his chariot so long in coming? why tarry the wheels of his chariots?*
- ²⁹ *Her wise ladies answered her, yea, she returned answer to herself,*

³⁰ *Have they not sped? have they not divided the prey; to every man a damsel or two; to Sisera a prey of divers colours, a prey of divers colours of needlework, of divers colours of needlework on both sides, meet for the necks of them that take the spoil?*

³¹ *So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. And the land had rest forty years.*

GIDEON

•**Gideon**- *Meditating on spiritual judgment, removed from a mind of duality, and filling one's mind in God's light, open and receptive to truth, dispersing all darkness and limited thinking. Dwelling where Jehovah reigns. Destroyer; moving with great force or violence; a furious warrior.*

Although the Hebrews were masters of central Canaan, there was no organized government above the tribal level to unify the nation. Another crisis arose when the Midianites began to harass the Hebrews, stealing their crops and killing those who resisted them. There was danger that certain groups would become discouraged and revert to their wandering life.

A new deliverer appeared in the person of Gideon, who had been visited by an angel of Jehovah under an oak tree. Gideon offered him food. This offering is a greeting of deepest respect, to honor the presence of a great holiness in divine expression of the essence of LIFE itself. The oak tree represents great strength and protection. Tress are the nerves that connect the earth and the heaven; the formless and the formed; expressions of thoughts in harmonious unity. they connect the entire organism and therefore they are the principle thought process producing the fluidity of generated expressions in goodness and beauty.

In the Hebrew language this was to bid under the shadow of the Almighty - Elohim (the Formless God. To see, feel, and know God beyond the God in expression as physical LIFE). In this awareness he was blessed in God's Peace and Fearlessness. He was called Jurebbaal, meaning a contender with Baal, the formless guardian master.

(Look up trees in the Metaphysical Bible Dictionary)*

The angel represents his higher consciousness attuned to the oneship of life he is feeding his higher driven self rather than the lower self.

Gideon was in part driven by the experiences of certain events that took place in his life, coupled by a desire to avenge the death of his brothers (thoughts of the flesh) whom the Midianites had killed, Gideon became one of the great early Israelite leaders.

Gideon was offered leadership. The Hebrews were beginning to realize the need for an established and unified government, with a ruler of strong leadership who could govern them. Gideon made a very important truth clear to the Hebrews: *"I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the Lord will rule over you."* (Judges 8:23)

JEPHTHAH

It was the east side of the Jordan where we find Jephthah leading the Israelites in Gilead against the Ammonites. East represents the within; bringing to the land and its people inner wisdom and rich abundance, substance, and understanding. The east supplies a means for a Holy life and the consciousness principle of like produces like. *Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, (Matthew 2:1)*

Although a rude chieftain, Jephthah was a loyal worshipper of Jahveh, holding to good, to perfection (Jahveh). He knew the I AM is first in thought and then the deliverer and judge of Israel. This name represents judgment set free from race mind and rises up to its rightful place as the victor and the judge of Israel.

Driven from home as a young man by his family, because his mother was a prostitute, he became the leader of a band of outlaws. His popularity grew, however, and the Hebrews of Gilead finally asked him to save them from the Ammonites. His journey placed him in a position either to fall pray to being a victim and an outlaw or to see life from outside the normal sociological stature of his community. He developed skills that he otherwise would have never found. Here again we have an example of moving beyond the error of duality thinking. What appears as negative in the outer world of the flesh is an illusion. Jephthah was experiencing in his journey skills to becoming a great leader and evolving more and more in God Consciousness (Jahveh) and coming less in the consciousness of the erroneous flesh.

Jephthah made a solemn pact with Jahveh on the eve of battle, that if he were victorious, he would sacrifice the first person to meet him upon his return. One can imagine his grief and horror when, as conqueror, he returned home to be met by his daughter and only child.

There was no thought of not keeping his vow, although the death of his daughter deprived Jephthah of all hope of descendants.

Again we see man becoming and evolving more in Christ Mind, but still of the flesh. His vow to sacrifice the first person upon his return was a thought conjured from living in separation, going in and out of his higher awareness to his lower awareness. As mankind evolved in Christ Mind and made manifest the Christ Jesus it was made very clear that such things as sacrifice is a sin. In all we say and do in Christ Mind, there can be no such word or state of mind where the word sacrifice could ever exist.

The message was made clear to him when he saw his daughter first that there should be no sacrifice. That is an abomination to God. Jephthah was unable to see this and paid the price dearly.

Jephthah's judgeship lasted six years, during which the Gileadites fought and defeated the tribe of Ephraim. There was no other notable accomplishment, but Jephthah was loyal to Jahveh according to his own beliefs, and considered himself to be His agent.

SAMUEL

Samuel was a Nazarite of a different making and the last Judge before Israel started to have kings. He dwelled in high places of consciousness. The Nazarites were people who by choice lived outside of the worldliness and were free from its race mind ideas. Samuel moved and lived in divine ideals of his era. He lived in the victory of God as one living in the understanding of the Law of Expression. He was a man of God Science (God Wisdom) trusting the deep inner voice expressing the larger realization of man's greater potential.

Samuel was the son of Elkanah and Hannah, devout worshippers of Jahveh. He was consecrated from birth to the service of the Lord. At the age of two Samuel was ministered unto Jehovah through the care and guidance of Eli, a high priest of Israel, who was in charge of the temple at Shiloh, a place of peace of mind, goodness, tranquility, rest, etc...

Samuel's vital role in Hebrew history, which lasted for many decades, provided a transition between Judges to a United Israel under a king's rule. His people deeply respected him as both a prophet and as a man of supreme leadership. He anointed both Saul and David.

Assignment

1. Are there more than one version of how the Hebrews got possession of Canaan? If so what is the significant difference?
2. What was the greatest danger that confronted the Hebrews?
3. In 50 words or less give a metaphysical interpretation of the Song of Deborah.
4. What is a judge?
5. Pick any two of these judges and give a metaphysical interpretation of their personal consciousness with Jehovah.
Deborah • Gideon • Jephthah • Samson • Samuel
6. Again we see, as in the 12 tribes, that we have 12 Judges, but in the tribes, Samuel makes 13. What is the metaphysical meaning to this?