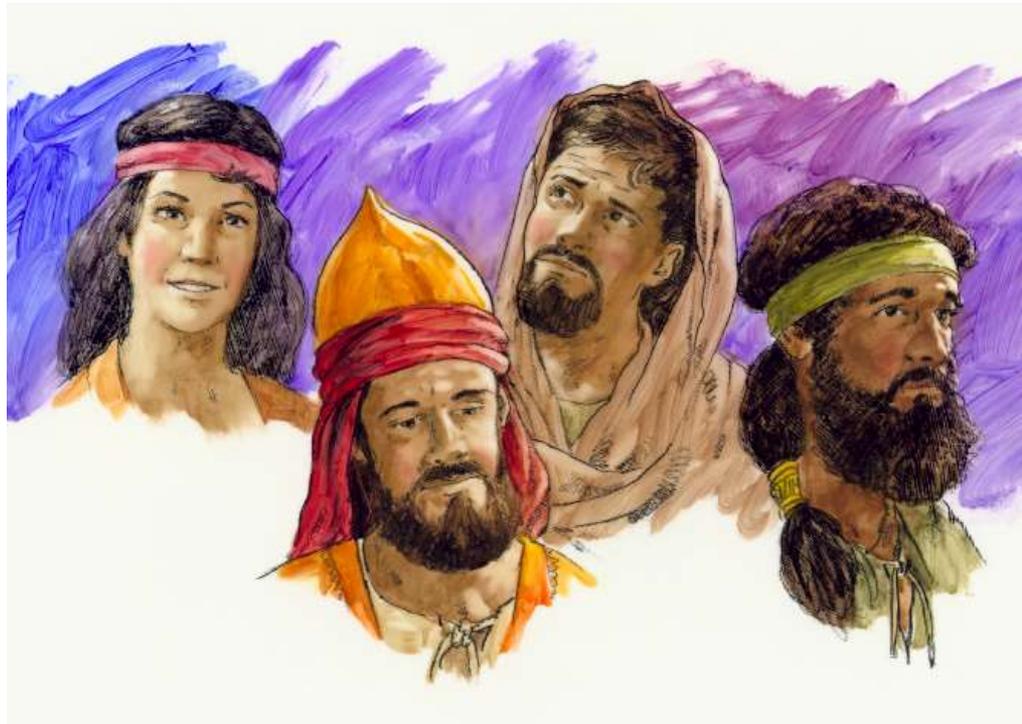


The JUDGES of ISRAEL



Some terms and facts:

- Charism – a talent given by God
- Priest – in biblical times, a priest was someone chosen to perform rituals, make sacrifices, and act as a mediator between God and man
- Prophet – someone who speaks God's word and God's will

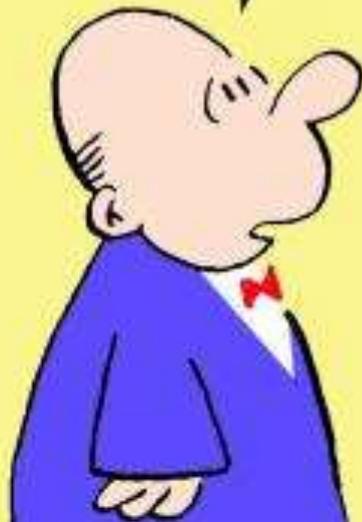
- B.C. = “before Christ” – the time in history before the life of Jesus
 - A.D. = “Anno Domini” – this means “in the year of our Lord”; this refers to the time after Jesus’ birth
- (so: Moses died around 1592 BC. Mrs. Sev was born in AD 1968) 😊



- The time from the death of Joshua until the beginning of the rule by kings is called the period of the Judges.
- This was from around 1250 BC to 1020 BC
- During this time, Israel was not united; there was no central government. The people relied on the wisdom of the judges
- Many of the judges were military leaders

- The judges were sent by God to save the Israelites from their enemies
- The period of the judges was a time for growth for God's people, who had not always been faithful to God's laws
- There are 12 judges recorded in the Book of Judges, as well as three in the Book of Samuel
- The major judges: Deborah, Gideon, Samson and Samuel

I KNEW IT WAS ILLEGAL,
YOUR HONOR, BUT I HAD
NO IDEA YOU FELT SO
STRONGLY ABOUT IT.



Baloo

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- **DEBORAH**

- Prophetess and judge

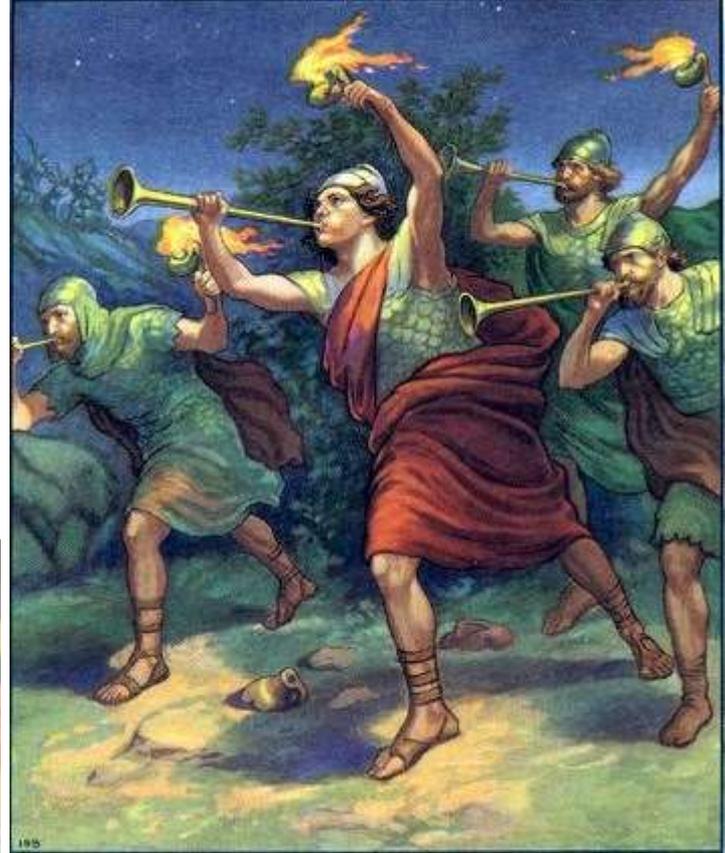
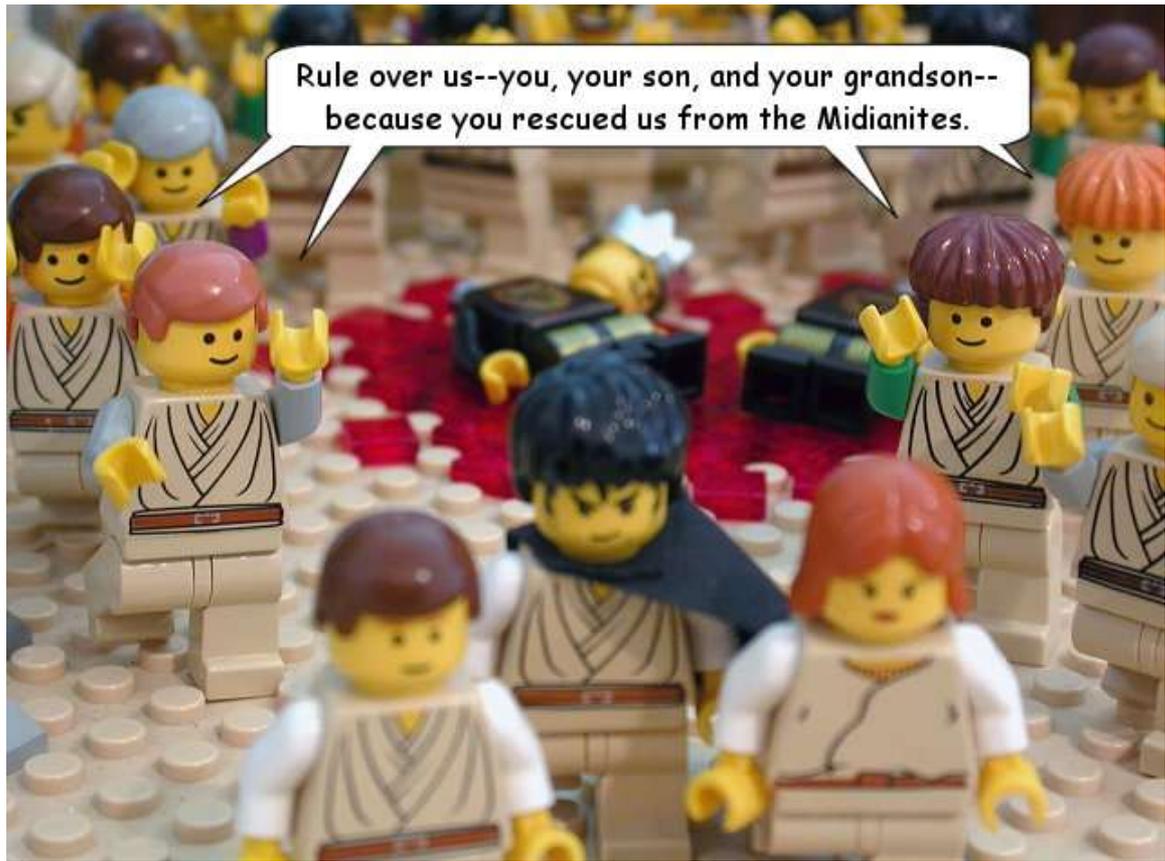
- Advised many people



- She accompanied a military leader named Barak into battle with the Canaanites

- Deborah's song of praise is one of the oldest texts in the bible (Judges 5:1-31)

- **GIDEON**
- After 40 years of peace, the Israelites turned away from God again
- The Midianites were ruling over the Israelites
- God called Gideon to save the Israelites from the Midianites
- Gideon's army was small, but God allowed them to defeat their enemy



SAMSON

THE JUDGES



- A judge ruled by anger much of the time, Samson is remembered because he came to realize that his great strength came from God alone

For years the Hebrews had no kings but were ruled by Judges. One of the Judges was Samson, who was so strong that he killed a lion with his bare hands.

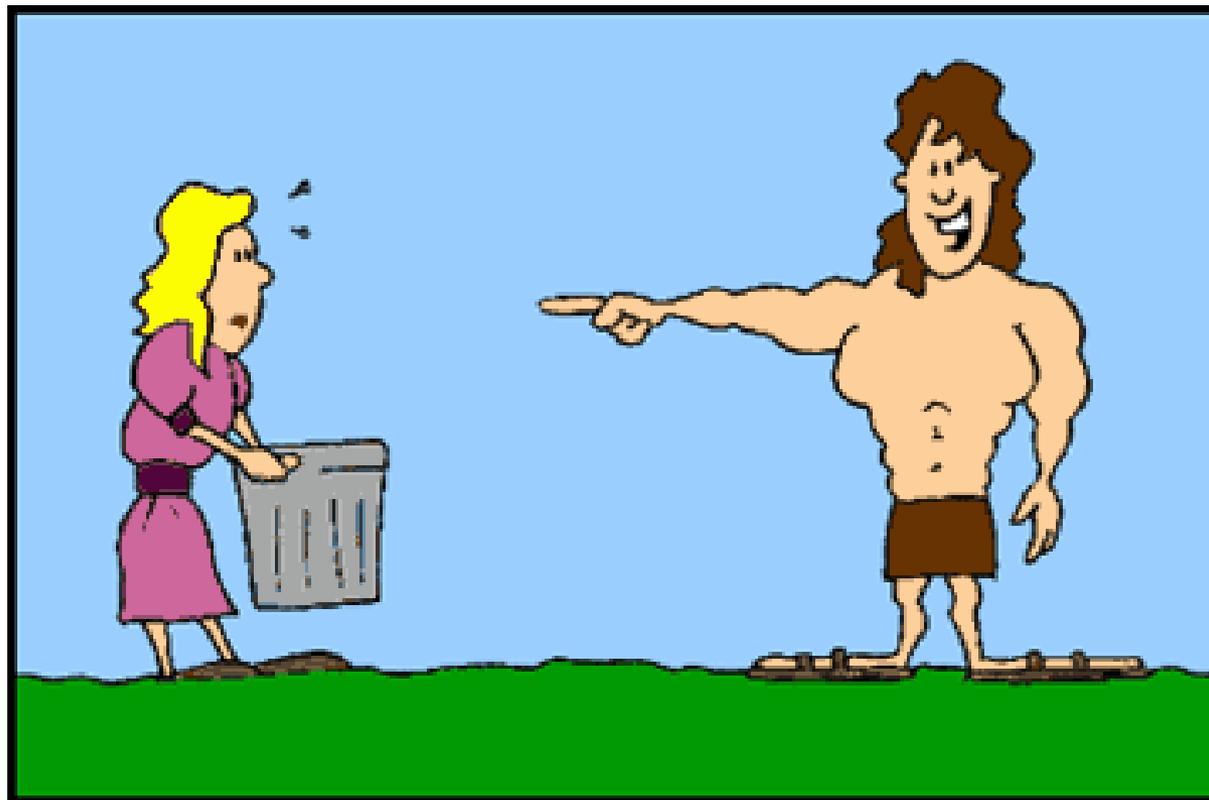
- A well-known story of Samson says that his physical strength was due to his hair, which his parents had vowed would never be cut
- Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah
- The Philistines, who had a violent history with Samson, paid Delilah to find out the secret of Samson's strength

- Delilah got Samson to reveal that his hair was the source of his strength
- One night as he slept, Delilah cut off his hair



- The Philistines seized Samson and put him into prison
- Samson was mocked by his enemies; at a festival, tied to two pillars, Samson asked God for a final burst of strength
- Samson pushed on the pillars that held up the building. The building collapsed, killing everyone inside, including Samson





(See Judges 16)

10-13-1999

OH, YOU THOUGHT THAT I SAID THAT I
WOULD LOSE MY STRENGTH IF YOU TOOK
OUT THE TRASH? ... I MEANT TO SAY
THAT THE GREAT AND MIGHTY SAMSON
WOULD ONLY LOSE HIS STRENGTH IF YOU
DID THE DISHES, MOWED THE LAWN AND
TRIMMED THE HEDGES

- RUTH

- Not a judge herself, Ruth lived in the time of the Judges

- Hers is a story of loyalty and commitment to family



- Ruth and her sister lived in a place called Moab
- A woman named Naomi had come to Moab to avoid famine. Naomi's sons married Ruth and her sister

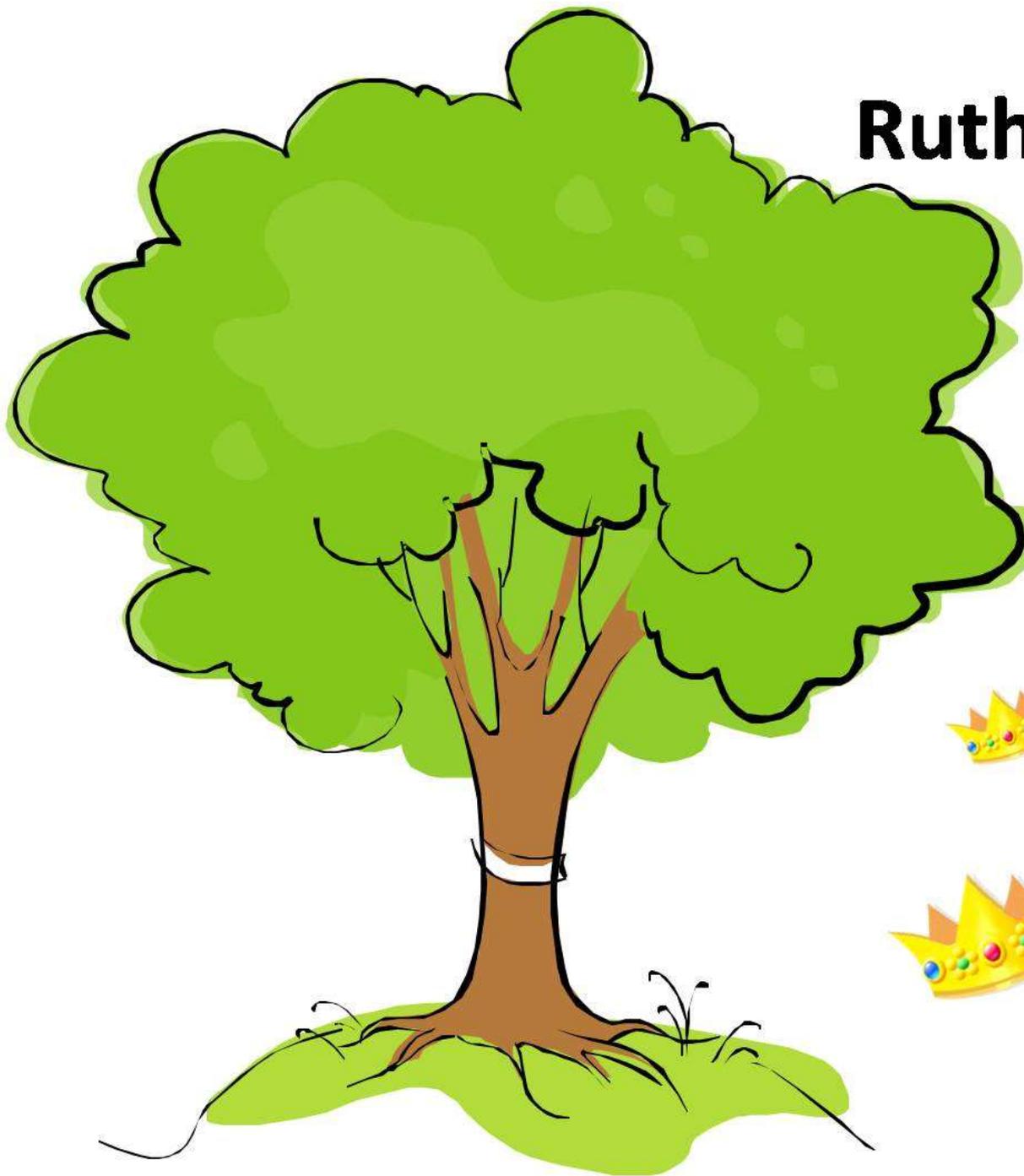


- When Ruth's husband died, Naomi decided to return to Israel; she told Ruth to stay in Moab with her people
- Ruth was committed to taking care of her mother-in-law. She said: "Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God, my God."
- Ruth went to Israel with Naomi

- In Israel Ruth married a man named Boaz. They had a son who would become the grandfather of King David



- Thus, Ruth is an ancestor of Jesus
- Ruth's story starts a transition from the time of the judges to the time of the kings



Ruth married **Boaz**



Obed



Jesse



David



Jesus



- **SAMUEL**

- The last judge was Samuel. He was known as a prophet as well as a judge

- His mother, Hannah, had prayed for a son, and God rewarded her faith



- Samuel was judge over all Israel (beginning to unify)

- Under the previous judge, Eli, the Philistines had attacked Israel and had taken the sacred Ark of the Covenant
- After Eli died, Samuel became judge; the Ark was returned

- Samuel was a spiritual leader rather than a military leader



- Through Samuel, the people were made ready for the time of the kings



Thanks to Mikel Rice (See [John 4:13-14](#))

09-08-2000