Notes to support March 18 class on Joshua and Judges

For Joshua

1.The note on “historical books” – p. 319

1. Ch. 3 – about carrying the ark of the covenant into the Jordan/the people sanctifying themselves
* The priests will carry the ark
* 3.4 – boundaries
* The covenant reinforced vs. 9-13
* Parallels to the Red (Reed) Sea – the Jordan waters “cut off” for Israelites to pass through on dry ground
1. Ch. 4 – the stones – frequent reference in Joshua – as markers and means of remembrance
2. Ch. 5 – second circumcision (for those who hadn’t been in the Wilderness/after the escape from Egypt); these being circumcised are those who didn’t “perish, not having listened to the voice of the Lord” (5:6)
* A theophany for Joshua (5.13-17) parallels to Moses and the burning bush
1. Ch. 6 – the siege of Jericho
* Priestly-like directions: on the 7th day – 7 times…
* Rahab and family are allowed to escape 6:17, 22-25
* “devoted to destruction” (language of Holy War)—objects not to be coveted
* An oath/curse – 6:26
1. Ch. 7
* Fears about going against Ai (Joshua pleading/complaining to God – another Moses parallel – vs. 6-15
* Repeated phrase: “the hearts of the people melted…”
* The problems of “coveting” – breaking the covenant; Achan (of the tribe of Judah) and his failures
1. Ch. 8 – military ploy in the taking of Ai
2. Ch. 9 – the cunning of the Gibeonites; they save their lives, but become perpetual indentured servants to the Israelites
3. Ch. 10 – the 5 Kings of the Amorites
4. Chs. 11-13 – descriptions of the total and rapid destruction; the “subject” of these chapters or the broader motif – the God of the covenant is giving this land to the Israelites; yes, this is problematic – but the dominant motive of covenant theology emphasizes that the God, having promised to Abraham and all the descendants of Abraham, the land is fulfilling God’s part. The people have to carry through on theirs; this means absolute and total fidelity to the covenant and all God asks
5. Ch. 20 – establishing cities of refuge in the land now taken for the various tribes of Israelites
6. Ch. 23-24 – Joshua’s farewell address references to all the God has done for them (vs. 3), remaining steadfast/avoiding syncretism (vs. 6-16); Ch. 24 – reviews the “history” from Abraham on; key dialogue about “choosing the Lord” – vs. 14-25; quotable quote “but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

For Judges

Opens in Ch. 1 with several references to “And … did not drive out …” – repeated failures to “rid the land” of the peoples living there

1. Ch. 2: 2 “I said…’do not make a covenant with the inhabitants of this land; tear down their altars’” -- but the people haven’t obeyed…
2. Ch. 2: 10 – new generations who do not know the Lord
3. IMPORTANT pattern – Ch. 2: 11-23: the Israelites do what is evil in the sight of the Lord—worshipping other gods; the Lord gives them over to be conquered; the people cry out to God; God gives them judges; while the judge lives and God is with the judge, the people are delivered from the hands of their enemies. When the judge dies, the people again falter; the repeated line of “and the land had rest…”
4. Ch. 3 – starts naming the judges
* Othniel – 3.9
* Ehud (left-handed judge) -- 3. 15-30 – story of King Eglon
* Shamgar – 3:31
* Deborah (note, a woman!!) Ch 4: 4-11
1. Ch. 5 – Song of Deborah
2. Ch. 6: 12- 8: 35 -- Gideon