3rd Quarter – Week 11

(Transition from Conquest to Covenant – The Need for Judges)

Day 1 **Joshua 20 -21**	**Key Thoughts:** ● Israel is transitioning from the conquest to keeping their covenant with the Lord. Cities of refuge are created previously spoken of by Moses. Due legal process is a part of the new nation. The six cities are placed in a manner that anyone was never more than a half day's journey from justice (20:1-9). ● The Levites are spread throughout the nation. They do not receive a continuous territory but given dwelling places and pasture in 48 cities. A healthy corporate commitment is demonstrated and spiritual maturity through the giving of the portions of land (21:1-3). ● A detailed historical breakdown of the assigned areas in the cities is recorded including the three major Levite clans (21:4-42). **Jesus Christ:** Jesus is the ultimate refuge for sinners.
Day 2 **Joshua 22**	**Key Thoughts:** ● The Eastern tribes are blessed by Joshua for keeping their promise to help secure the promised land. Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh are released to return to their home. They are encouraged to serve the Lord and use the wealth they have obtained for good (22:1-9). ● Before crossing over the Jordan to return to their land, the Eastern tribes built an altar. The other tribes believe this is a signal of turning from God to worship another god. The tribes prepare to go to war but first send a diplomatic delegation. They discover the purpose of the altar was a reminder to the tribes of Israel that they were a part of the Nation despite their location. A disaster is avoided as all the tribes are united in their commitment to the Lord (21:10-34). **Jesus Christ:** Jesus, as God, knows our hearts. Men must be careful to gather the facts before making judgment.
Day 3 **Joshua 23-24**	**Key Thoughts:** ● Joshua gives a farewell charge to the leaders in his advancing age. He reminds them of every victory was by the hand of a sovereign God. He implores them to obey and love the Lord your God. He warns them to beware of the false gods. Any spiritual compromise will lead to snares and eventual eviction from the land (23:1-16). ● Joshua gathers the entire nation to review their history. It all began with Abraham, shifted to their deliverance from Egypt, and now included a land they did not provide but God did. Joshua calls on them to choose whom they will serve (24:1-15). ● Joshua reminds them of the need for God's enablement for spiritual service. The death of Joshua at 110 years of age and his burial is recorded (24:16-33). **Jesus Christ:** Jesus proclaimed every person is either with Him or against Him (Matt12:30).

Day 4 **Judges 1-2** *What on Earth Is God Doing?* Read pages 30-31	**Key Thoughts:** ● The Book of Judges is a summary of Israel's oppressions and defeats as they fail to obey the Lord. Judah takes the lead in the next phase of taking the Promised Land. They are to drive out the remaining enemies. They experience initial victory, but fail to complete the task out of a fear of the chariots of iron (1:1-20). ● The spread of compromise begins as the remaining tribes allow the Canaanites to live with them (1:21-36). ● The Angel of the Lord, Jesus Christ, appears and warns them of their sin. They repent and avoid judgment. A summary of what will become the pattern of Israel is given. It will be a continual pattern of failure to remain true to the Lord (2:1-23). **Jesus Christ:** The appearance of Jesus as a Christophany in Judges 1 is a reminder that Jesus Christ will be the ultimate answer to men's failures and sin.
Day 5 **Judges 3-4**	**Key Thoughts:** ● The pagan nations which remained in the Promised Land test Israel's obedience. Israel fails and intermarries and worships false gods (3:1-6). ● King Cushan -Rishatharim takes control as judgement from God. Othniel is the first Judge who delivers Israel and brings 40 years of peace. Once again, Israel falls into sin and King Eglan of Moab oppresses them for 18 years. Ehud, the second judge, assassinates the king and rallies Israel to defeat the Moabites. Another judge, Shamgar, kills 600 Philistines in protection of Israel (3:7-31). ● Israel falls into sin again and King Jabin of Canaan rules with terror for 20 years. God raises up Deborah and Barak to deliver Israel with Deborah taking a strong lead. When the enemy commander, Sisera is killed, King Jabin's rule is ended (4:1-24). **Jesus Christ:** Sisera's crushed head is a picture of Jesus crushing the head of Satan (Gen. 3:15).
Day 6 **Judges 5**	**Key Thoughts:** ● Chapter 5 is "Deborah's Song". It is a poetic presentation of the victory God gave. It begins with a call to praise God's power (5:1-5). ● The song then shifts to the oppression caused by idolatry but follows with the deliverance God provides (5:6-11). ● Deborah then distinguished between the tribes who faithfully gathered to fight and those who were indifferent (5:12-23). ● The song concludes with the crushing of the enemy and the bright future of those who would be faithful (5:24-31). **Jesus Christ:** Jesus Christ demands complete surrender from His followers but they will find the perfect rest and eternal victory.