



Lesson Summary

Israel has finally made their way to edge of the Promised Land and are camped in the plains of Moab, just across the Jordan river from Canaan. They have just wandered through the desert for 40 years and this new generation has just buried their parents and grandparents. The old generation has died off because they refused to go into the Land. Now, the new generation is ready to go, but Moses cannot go with them. Therefore, Moses delivers to Israel his final farewell sermons in the book of Deuteronomy. Today we explore the part of his sermon where he instructs Israel about their leaders. They were to appoint Judges, Priests, Kings, and Prophets whose job it is to oversee Israel and make sure that Israel lives up to their calling as a holy nation and a kingdom of priests. They were to makes sure that the people represent the LORD and do what is good in His eyes and they were to execute judgment on those who disregarded the word of the LORD. As we will see in coming weeks, these leaders would struggle to do their jobs well since they too are sinful humans who will be tempted to do what is right in their own eyes. That is why the story is looking for the ultimate Judge, Priest, King, and Prophet who is the Image-Bearer of the LORD who only does what is good in God's eyes. Only one who does it Himself can fully carry out these roles. That ultimate leader of Israel is Jesus the Messiah.

Story of the Bible Chart

We remain in the "looking for the Messiah" part of the chart. Today, we are over-viewing Israel's leaders: Judges, Priests, Kings, and Prophets. As the story progresses, we will see that Jesus is the ultimate Judge, Priest, King, and Prophet who will cause Israel and all who believe in Him to finally do what is good and right in God's eyes.

Story of the Bible Chart picture of the day:



DEUTERONOMY

RECAP/INTRO

The new generation is just across the Jordan River from the Land of Canaan, the Land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses cannot enter the land with them so in Deuteronomy he is delivering to this young generation of Israelites a series of sermons. First, he recalled their history in the wilderness and the LORD's past faithfulness so that they would trust the LORD (unlike their parents). In the next section, Moses teaches them the Law which was delivered to Israel in the book of Exodus. However, this time Moses expands his explanation of the Law to speak to their future life in the Land since they would no longer be dwelling in camps in the desert. Included in this section is expectations for Israel's leaders.

What is their purpose and how should they operate in their special roles? In this lesson we will explore these special roles in Israel and see how they will play a BIG part in God's story.

Lesson Outline

LESSON OUTLINE

Judges, Priests, Kings, Prophets



1. Judges (Deut 16:18)

- a. Judges were to be appointed in every town where Israelites would settle in the Land.
- b. Their job was to enforce justice and ensure the people in that town lived righteously.
 - i. That is to ensure that the people in their towns did not go after other gods and that people showed mercy and compassion to their neighbors.

2. Priests (Deut 17:8-13)

- a. Priests were introduced all the way back in Exodus.
- b. The priest, besides his normal duties of offering sacrifices for the people at the temple, was to assist the judge in judging the people righteously.
- c. They were to make sure that any murder case or dispute among the people was handled according to the word of God.
- d. Anyone who did not abide by the judgment of the judge or the priest would be put to death since they stand as representatives of the LORD.

3. Kings (Deut 17:14-20)

- a. Israel was to have one king.
- b. He was to be an Israelite of the LORD's choice, not the choice of the people.
- c. He was not to multiply armies, wives, or riches for himself, but He was to trust the LORD fully.
- d. He was to write a copy of the Law so that he would know it and be the example for the people of walking according to the word of the LORD.

4. Prophets (Deut 18:15-22)

- a. The prophets, like Moses, speak to the people on behalf of God.
- b. The prophet is to ONLY speak the word of the LORD and not speak anything contrary to the Law revealed to Moses.
- c. If the people failed to listen to the prophet (just as the previous generation failed to listen to Moses) they too would be put to death since they were really not listening to the LORD.

MAIN POINT:

Each of these leaders was put in place to make sure that Israel walked according to God's word and did what was good in God's eyes, not what was good in their own eyes.

FLASH FORWARD:

When Jesus came to the Earth in the New Testament, He demonstrated Himself to be the ultimate Judge, Priest, King, and Prophet to Israel. All of these roles were pointing to the Messiah and are fulfilled in Jesus alone. More on this in the future!



Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.

Ages 3-5

1. **Were the Judges, Priests, Kings, and Prophets, that God gave His special nation Israel supposed to care for His people by doing what was good and right in God's eyes?**
Yes
2. **How did the Judges, Priests, Kings, and Prophets, know what was good and right in God's eyes?**
Moses told them and wrote it down for them.
3. **Were the people to listen to the Judges, Priests, Kings, and Prophets, and follow them as they followed God and did what was good and right in God's eye and not what was good in their own eyes?**
Yes
4. **When the Promised One that the Story is looking for arrives, will He be the perfect Judge, Priest, King, and Prophet?**
Yes

Grades 1-6

1. **Were the Judges, Priests, Kings, and Prophets that God gave His special nation Israel supposed to care for His people by doing what was good and right in God's eyes?**
Yes
2. **How did the Judges, Priests, Kings, and Prophets know what was good and right in God's eyes?**
Moses told them and wrote it down for them.
3. **Were the people to listen to the Judges, Priests, Kings, and Prophets and follow them as they followed God and did what was good and right in God's eye and not what was good in their own eyes?**
Yes
4. **When the Promised One that the Story is looking for arrives, will He be the perfect Judge, Priest, King, and Prophet?**
Yes
5. **How will the story show us that the Promised One, the Messiah, is the perfect Judge, Priest, King and Prophet?**
He will perfectly follow God's instructions given through Moses and do only what is good and right in God's eyes.