

Week 19: May 12 (May 5–May 11)

- Judges ends on an bleak and ominous note: “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.”
- Begin Ruth: a story that begins with immigration, aliens residing in another land
- To Naomi Ruth says, “Where you go I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried.”
- Do you remember God’s law about leaving some of the field unharvested for the “poor and the foreigner”? (Lev. 19:9/Feb. 26) Ruth is able to glean.
- Boaz takes Ruth as his wife - how?
- Ruth and Boaz have a child - Obed, whose father will be Jesse, father of David.
- Begin Samuel: Hannah is childless, prays for a child, and offers her child to God as a nazirite - dedicated to God. Samuel is born
- Hannah’s prayer - compare it to Mary’s prayer: (March 14, p. 242)
- “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening”
- Israel loses the Ark to the Philistines - bad news for Dagon
- Ark eventually is returned to the Israelites; “then all the people of Israel turned back to the Lord.”
- Why, in the hymn “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”, do we sing that we will “raise my Ebenezer”?
- The Israelites go to Samuel: “Appoint a king to lead us, such as all other nations have”
- Samuel responds with “be careful what you wish for” - a king will inevitably rule with a heavy hand
- The Israelites are adamant: “We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations...”
- Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin, is God’s choice for king
- Samuel to Saul: “The Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.”
- Jesus, the Samaritan woman, and “living water”
- “A time is coming and has now come when the true worshiper will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshiper the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”
- “I do not accept glory from human beings, but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. I have come in

my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him."

- The story of the feeding of the 5000 is a bit different: here a boy "has five small barley loaves and two small fish"
- "Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force..."
- "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."
- "The word of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent"
- "I am the bread of life"
- "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me."
- For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life"
- "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them"; But what about those people who say it's up to us to profess our faith in Jesus?
- "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remain in me, and I in them." Disciples respond, "This is hard teaching. Who can accept it?"
- "The Spirit gives life...The words I have spoken to you - they are full of the Spirit and life"
- Proverbs 14:29 - "Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly."
- Proverbs 14:31 - "Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God."
- Proverbs 15:1 - "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly."