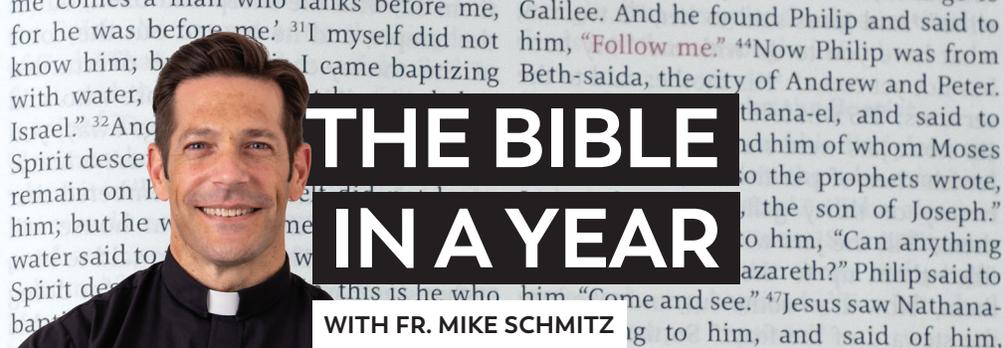


# Week Thirteen

Days 85–91



Conquest and Judges Narrative: Joshua 12–24; Judges 1–8 | Supplemental: Ruth 1–3; Psalms 129–135

## GOD WANTS US IMPERFECT PEOPLE TO BE ONE



*Ruth in Boaz's Field*  
by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld

The second half of the book of Joshua reveals God's power to bring victory to those who trust his will. It concludes with Joshua encouraging the people to continue serving God and avoid rebelling against him for other gods. The people promise to serve only God, but they break the vow. The book of Ruth includes Israelite stories of patience, fidelity, and honor.

- The week's readings include God commanding war, which can be difficult for us to understand.
- Why is this warfare so brutal? Numbers says it is because God knows his people will be tempted to live like those around them. God knows his plan for the Chosen People will not be fulfilled if they try to coexist with pagan nations.
- We strive and battle in our lives. Sometimes this is a calling, but often, like the Israelites, we strive and battle against God.
- After leading them to success in conquering the Promised Land, Joshua's final words challenge the people.
- Joshua says he knows they will fail to follow the Lord—but the Lord will not fail.
- A cycle of disobedience, distress, repentance, the Lord's intervention with a redeemer, and renewal begins.
- The twelve judges named in the book of Judges are redeemers and generals who successfully lead battles.
- In the book of Ruth, we see a side of Israelite life where worship of the Lord and belonging to his covenant matter, not ethnicity.
- When the Moabite Ruth proclaims "Your God [will be] my God," she essentially converts, becoming a member of the covenant people.
- In Ruth 3, we see the "kinsman-redeemer" (*goel*) as a defined role in the life of Israel. If an Israelite (like Naomi or Ruth) falls into slavery, loses land, or is killed, a kinsman-redeemer will rescue him or her or ensure justice (see Leviticus 25:25, 25:48; Numbers 35). A kinsman-redeemer will carry on the family name by marrying a childless widow (see Deuteronomy 25:5–10).
- David will come through the line of Ruth, as will Jesus. So, the Savior descends from a woman who begins life as a Moabite but who dies in covenant with the Lord.

