

Old Testament figures after Moses:

Joshua (Ch. 15)

- Successor to Moses - Anointed with oil by Moses before Moses' death.
- Led the Chosen People into the Promised Land - The Jordan River stops flowing when the priests carry the Ark of the Covenant into the river. Joshua leads the people across.
- Battle of Jericho: Joshua and the priests (carrying the Ark of the Covenant) circled the city for six days. On the 7th day, they blew horns and shouted, and the walls around Jericho collapsed.
- After Jericho, many cities fell to Joshua and the Israelites, despite having no army and poor weapons.
- Before Joshua died, the tribes of Israel renewed their covenant to serve and obey the Lord. This is called the covenant at Shechem.
- After Moses and Joshua, there wasn't one strong leader chosen to lead the people

The Judges (Ch 17, p. 149-151)

- Leaders during a repeating cycle of disobedience for the Hebrew people.
 - People turn away from God (disobedience, unfaithfulness, worshipping false gods, etc)
 - God sends a leader (judge)
 - People repent
 - Time of peace before people fall into sin again and the cycle repeats
- Many of the judges were far from perfect themselves: God uses imperfect people to carry out his work. (Today, too!!!)
- Judges we learned about: Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Samuel
 - **Deborah**
 - Prophet/prophetess and judge
 - She told **Barak** (military leader) to march into battle on Mt. Tabor against the General Sisera.
 - Barak wouldn't go into battle unless Deborah agreed to go with him
 - They won the battle. (Only General Sisera survived.)
 - Wrote a famous song of praise that's considered to be one of the oldest parts of the Bible
 - **Gideon**
 - Great faith in God
 - Defeated the Midianites. God told him to reduce the size of his army before going into battle and he did... and won the battle.
 - **Samson**
 - Dedicated to the Lord from a young age - had specific rules to follow including not cutting his hair
 - His hair was the source of his strength. (But Samson knew that, more importantly, his strength came from God.)
 - Tricked by Delilah (woman he loved) into telling his secret. She cut his hair while he was asleep.
 - **Samuel** (Ch 18 p. 157-158)
 - Last and greatest judge
 - Samuel was a priest and a prophet as well as a judge.
 - His mother Hannah prayed for a son and was blessed with him at an old age. (Very similar to the story of St. Anne, the mother of Mary)

- Hannah dedicated her son to the Lord. Brought him to the temple to the temple high priest Eli, who would become his teacher. (Also similar to the Blessed Mother being presented in the temple at a young age!)
 - Heard the voice of God calling to him in the night.
 - The Israelites wanted to have a **king** like the other nations. Samuel warned them about all the problems that would come from having a king, but the people were determined.
 - God directed Samuel to appoint Saul as the first king of Israel.
- **Ruth** wasn't a judge but lived during the time period of the judges. (Book of Ruth, not in Judges.)
 - Woman of great faithfulness and loyalty.
 - When her husband died, she followed her mother-in-law Naomi back to Israel and became a follower of the God of Israel. (From a different nation, but "unofficially" converted to being a follower of the one, true, God.)
 - Her faithfulness was rewarded by God because King David (and later Jesus) were her descendants. (David's great grandmother)

Kings

- Like the judges, the kings of Israel were far from perfect, but still carried out God's work in various ways.
- There are a lot of kings in the Bible, but you just need to know the first 3 (and most well-known): Saul, David, Solomon
 - **Saul** (p. 158)
 - First king of Israel
 - Anointed ruler by Samuel
 - Battled the Philistines
 - Fell into sinfulness and jealousy. "The spirit of the Lord left him."
 - He was told that his son would not become the next king as a result of his sinfulness.
 - **David** (Ch. 19)
 - Son of **Jesse**, a shepherd in Bethlehem
 - God told Samuel to go to Jesse, and that one of his sons would be the next king
 - God chose David, the youngest son
 - Played the harp for Saul to soothe him
 - Defeated Goliath, the giant Philistine with only his slingshot and no armor. Trusted God to protect him
 - Saul becomes jealous of David - tries to kill him. (Saul's son, **Jonathon** is David's friend and helps to save David's life.)
 - David eventually is anointed king. (Strong king, unites kingdom)
 - David's sin: Commits adultery with Bathsheba. King David sends her husband (military leader named Uriah) into the front lines and a dangerous battle, knowing that he will be killed.
 - The prophet **Nathan** rebukes David for his sinfulness
 - David and Bathsheba's first born son dies as a consequence of David's sinfulness.
 - Unlike Saul (who never returned to God), David repents and asks God for mercy. He is loyal to God and reigns for many years.
 - He moves the Ark of the Covenant

- Many of the psalms in the Bible are credited to King David
 - The psalms are an important example of prayer in the Old Testament
 - Written as songs or poems
 - There are 150 psalms in the Bible.
 - We still pray the psalms today in the sacred liturgy of the Mass.
- **Solomon** (Ch 19, p. 167-168)
 - Son of David and Bathsheba
 - His name in Hebrew is related to the word “shalom”. Meaning “peace” - He brought peace to Israel.
 - God told Solomon he could ask for anything; Solomon asked for wisdom (what he’s most known for!)
 - Credited with the book of Wisdom and many of the Proverbs.
 - Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem.
 - The Ark of the Covenant was moved to the Temple.
 - Towards the end of his life, he fell away from god. He had many wives (many of them pagan) and began worshiping their false/pagan gods.