

Judges

1 – Judges 1—After Joshua’s Death

Who led Israel after the death of Joshua? Why was Judah and Benjamin unable to drive all the Canaanites out of their land? Also the tribe of Manasseh, Ephraim, Zebulun, Asher, Naphtali, Dan? What will be the result?

2 – Judges 2—A New Generation

Who is “the angel of the LORD”? How do you know? See [Exodus 20:2](#). What is the promise? The curse? What happened with the “next generation”? Why is this so significant? What was God’s blessing of raising up judges? Why did the LORD allow the Canaanite nations to remain?

3 – Judges 3—Othniel, Ehud And Shamgar

What happened because of the inter-marriages? (v.5-6) Note the cycles: sin, judgment, return to the Lord, deliverance. What other “refrain” is repeated in each of these cycles?

4 – Judges 4-5—Deborah & Barak

What is the significance of God calling Deborah as His judge? Why did Deborah send for Barak? Why did Barak only go if Deborah went with him? From the song of Deborah, how did the LORD defeat the chariots of Sisera? (see 5:4-5, 20) How is Jael remembered?

5 – Judges 6-7—Gideon During The 7 Years

the Midianites oppressed Israel, when did they “cry out to the Lord” for help? (see v.7-10) How long does it take us sometimes? What qualifications did Gideon have when God called him? What qualifications do we have? (see v.14) Note the 6 times that Gideon asks God for a sign! Why did God honor all 6 requests of Gideon? What was the only reason that Gideon and Israel were successful? What does that teach us?

6 – Judges 8—Troubles For Gideon

Ephraim was one of the 12 tribes of Israel (relatives!) Why were they so upset? The men of Succoth and Peniel were also relatives (tribe of Gad). Why wouldn’t they help? How did Gideon retaliate? What difference to you see in Gideon in this chapter compared to Ch. 6-7? How was this a bad change? Yet, how did God continue to bless Israel through this sinful judge? How does God continue to work in our lives through leaders like Gideon? When we are like Gideon?

7 – Judges 9—Abimelech

Who was Jareb-Baal (look back to 6:32) How was this judge the very opposite of God’s desire? Why does God allow such leaders to be “successful” for a time? What was the curse that Jotham (his brother) put upon him? (v.16-20) How did God fulfill this curse? What does this strange store teach us about Jesus?

8 – Judges 10:1-11:40—Tola, Jair, Jephthah

Note these three cover 63 years of Israel’s history! Why so much about Abimelech and so little about these first two? Did you note what was absent from these first two’s description of their accounts? (see v.6) What do we finally read in v.10? Again, what was God’s answer? (v.11-14) Why this repetition as we read in Judges? How is Jephthah’s life similar to Abimelech? Different? How would Jephthah have known the history of Israel (v.14-27), why was this important? What do we know in v.29 that has been missing with many of the recent Judges? Why is this significant for them and for us as well? But what foolish vow did Jephthah make? Why did he make the vow?

9 – Judges 12—Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

Again, Ephraim causes trouble (refer to Ch. 8) – family feud! What pattern is in the “judgships” of these three judges? What phrases are missing? Why are these three included? How do they help point us to Jesus?

10 – Judges 13—Samson’s Birth

(The pattern is back! See 2:16-19) How was Samson different? How was he the same as the other judges? [With Samson’s birth, recall this for the birth of Samuel, and Jesus’ birth] How did Samson’s early life so hopeful? (v.24-25)

11 – Judges 14-15—Samson’s Marriage & Revenge

What do we know about the Philistines? How did God use the sinful lust of Samson to bless His people? What should Samson have learned about this woman before marrying her? What does this teach us about courtship? Note v.19 in spite of Samson’s sinfulness! What does God’s Word teach us about vengeance? How does this account of Samson teach us about God’s grace, mercy and patience? How is this such good news for us today?

12 – Judges 16—Samson’s Weakness

How strong was Samson? (physical strength vs. moral and spiritual strength) What foolishness did Samson demonstrate? (compare v.16 with 14:17) How had Samson treated the LORD? Why did the Lord leave Samson? (v.20)

13 – Judges 17—Everyone Did What They Wanted - Part 1

How many different ways did Micah show his unbelief in the true God? What was the purpose of the priests? How was this one a false priest? What false hope did Micah have? (v.13) How was this a false hope?

14 – Judges 18—Everyone Did What They Wanted - Part 2

How would it have been different if Israel had a king? (Who WAS Israel’s king? even / especially during the time of the Judges – also today!) Why could the Danites get away with so many sins? How much good did Micah’s idol and priest do him?

15 – Judges 19—Gruesome Messages

(This gruesome account is Ch. 19-21 – an indication of how far away from the Lord the Israelites had strayed! – worse than many of the Canaanite cities the Lord destroyed!) Why did God allow this to happen? Why would a Levite have a concubine? What is so terrible about Gibeon? What happened to Sodom and Gomorrah? Why didn’t this happen here? (v.30 “nothing like this has ever been seen or done”!)

16 – Judges 20—Worse Than A Family Feud!

What is so ironic about “all the Israelites (except the tribe of Benjamin) ... assembled before the LORD in Mizpah? What about when the Israelites went to Bethel and inquired of God? (v.18) How did the LORD answer their prayers? Why were the Benjamites “successful” for the 2 days? Who defeated Benjamin? (v.35)

17 – Judges 21—“In Those Days Israel Had No King.”

How did they get around the oath of no one giving their daughters to the Benjamites as wives? How moral was all of this? Why did God allow this to happen? What does this teach us about God’s patience / His covenant promises / His love? What kind of marriages did these Benjamites have? How does this compare to marriages today?