



JUDGES

Study Guide by Pastor Keith Hamblen



2014

Calvary Bible Church
3180 West Elm Street
Lima, Ohio 45805

Judges 1-2

TTtB outline

Deterioration (Living with the Canaanites) 1:1-3:4

Deliverance (War with the Canaanites) 3:5-16:31

Depravity (Living like the Canaanites) 17:1-21:25

Monday—prayerfully read and enjoy Judges 1:1-12, and answer the following questions.

1. What event marks the beginning of the book of Judges (1:1)?

2. Who asked the LORD as to who should go up first to fight the Canaanites, and what was the LORD's response (1:1-3)?

3. Who went up to fight with Judah, and against whom were they first successful (name the defeated king's name) (1:4-7)?

(bonus) What justice was done to Adoni-bezek? _____

4. What most significant city did the children of Judah now take, and what tribe was identified as helping them take it (and take the remaining territories in this section) (1:8-10)? _____

5. What apparently was the main people group being fought against by the Israelites at this time (1:9-10)? _____

(bonus) What famous city also was fought against (which before was named Kirjath-arba—kirjath means city and arba means four [giants])? _____

6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section (and take it with you for the day). _____

Tuesday—prayerfully read Judges 1:11-20—remember to pray for the Spirit’s help to “rightly divide the word of truth” (II Tim.2:15)!

1. What did Caleb promise to the man who took the city of Kirjath (“city”)-sepher, and who took him up on his offer (1:11-13)? _____

(bonus) What was the relationship of Othniel (“force of God”) and Achsah (in addition to becoming husband and wife)?

2. What apparently had Caleb given as a dowry (“the money, goods, or estate that a woman brings to her husband in marriage; dowry also can mean a gift of money or property by a man to or for his bride”) when he gave Achsah to be Othniel’s wife (1:14-15)? _____

(bonus) What did Achsah ask in addition to this dowry?

3. Who chose to dwell with the children of Judah (in the wilderness of Judah), and who were they (1:16)? _____

4. What other cities were taken by Judah (with Simeon, at least the first one) (1:17-18)? _____

5. What mystery (conundrum—“an intricate and difficult problem”) can be seen in 1:19? _____

6. Give something you can apply to your life, and please take it with you for the day. _____

Wednesday—prayerfully read Judges 1:21-26, and answer the following.

1. Who could not be driven out of Jerusalem at this time (1:21)?

2. What two tribes apparently were told to go up next to fight against the inhabitants of the Promised Land (1:21-23)?

3. Who went up with the house of Joseph against Bethel (1:22)?

4. What did the spies (the ones sent to “descry” Bethel in v.23) promise the man they saw come forth out of the city—and in exchange for what (1:23-24)? _____

5. What was Bethel formerly called, and what did the spared man do with that name after escaping into the land of the Hittites (1:23, 25-26)? _____

6. Please take a thought or a verse with you for the day that you can apply to your life. _____

Thursday—prayerfully read Judges 1:27-36, and answer the following.

1. What is the theme and pattern of these verses (1:27-36)?

- 2-3. List the six tribes of Israel in this section who could not completely drive out the Canaanites in their differing areas (1:27-36). _____
4. Are we told that the Israelites dwelt among the Canaanites or vice versa (that the Canaanites dwelt among the Israelites) (1:30, 32-33)? _____
5. What one tribe apparently had more success than what other tribe over the Amorites (1:34-35)? (Apparently the house of Joseph included both Manasseh and Ephraim at this point.) _____
6. Please take a thought with you for the day.

Friday—prayerfully read Judges 2:1-15, and answer the following. This set of questions probably will take a little longer (sorry), but I think dealing with them will be helpful and is worth a little extra time (maybe it won't take much longer, but I wanted to try to keep you from getting discouraged).

1. What two things did the angel of the LORD say that he had done for Israel, and what two things had he told them to do regarding the inhabitants of the land (2:1-2)? _____

2. What explanation is now given that now reveals why the children of Israel had not been able to have complete victory over the Canaanites as related in Judges 1 (2:2-3)? _____

3. What is the truth (the point) being made in 2:6-10? _____

(bonus) What literary device does the author of Judges (Samuel?) incorporate in these verses (vs.6-10)? Hint: the answer has to do with the time (chronology) of when this section occurs compared to the section immediately before it and the section after it. _____

4. What other gods are identified, that the children of Israel served (2:11-13)? _____

5. In what ways was “the hand of the LORD ... against them for evil” (2:14-15)? _____

6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section.

Saturday—prayerfully read Judges 2:16-23, and answer the following.

1. In what way (or ways) did the LORD deal mercifully with the Israelites, and what led the LORD to do this (2:16, 18)?

2-4. Give the Israelites’ (and God’s) repeated pattern during this time (2:16-19). _____

5. What did the LORD determine to do because of the people’s transgressing the covenant and not hearkening to His voice (2:20-23)? _____

(bonus) What reason did the LORD give (in v.22) for leaving the heathen nations in the land? _____

The first five judges **Judges 3-5**

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may [regard with pleasure] wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps.119:18)!

Remember to pray for Spirit-filling to understand and enjoy this study as you mark, meditate, memorize, and master these scriptures (Lk.11:13)!

Luke 11:13 “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”

TTtB outline

Deterioration (Living with the Canaanites) 1:1-3:4

Deliverance (War with the Canaanites) 3:5-16:31

Depravity (Living like the Canaanites) 17:1-21:25

WJ outline

Apathy 1-2

Apostasy 3-16

Anarchy 17-21

Monday—prayerfully read and enjoy Judges 3:1-14, and answer the following questions.

1. What two (or three) reasons are given in Judges 3:1-4 for leaving the heathen nations in the land unconquered?

2. How many nations are listed in 3:5, and what two sins are connected to their presence (3:5-7)? _____

(bonus) What Bible doctrine (which is connected to the holiness of God) was not being practiced by the Israelites which led to these two sins? _____

3. In this first servitude given in the book of Judges, name the conquering king, and give the number of years the Israelites served him (3:8). _____

4. When did the LORD send the first judge to deliver the children of Israel, and what was his name (3:9-10)? _____

(bonus) What three-part “formula” for being a good judge is suggested by 3:10?! _____

5. What apparently was the timing of the children of Israel’s returning to being given to doing evil, and what heathen king was strengthened by God this second time to enslave Israel (and of what nation was he king) (3:11-14)? _____

(bonus) What other nations were enlisted to help this enslaving king, and for how many years did Israel serve this man? _____

6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section (and take it with you for the day). _____

Tuesday—prayerfully read Judges 3:15-31— remember to pray for the Spirit’s help to “rightly divide the word of truth” (II Tim.2:15)!

1. Name the second judge raised up by God to deliver His people, and name his tribe, his physical characteristic, and the king of Moab who was oppressing the Israelites (3:15). _____

2. Tell the story (in your own words) of how Ehud killed Eglon (3:16-23). _____

3. How long did King Eglon’s servants wait until they found a key and unlocked the doors of the parlor (3:24-25)? _____

4. What did Ehud do after escaping (first half of v.28), and where did he blow his trumpet, and how many Moabites did the Israelites kill (apparently at the fords of Jordan), and for how many years after that did the land of Israel have rest (3:26-30)?

5. Name the third judge, and what he became famous for (3:31).

6. Give something you can apply to your life, and please take it with you for the day. _____

Wednesday—prayerfully read Judges 4:1-12, and answer the following.

1. What Canaanite king next dominated the Israelites, when they again did evil in the sight of the LORD, and who was the captain of his host (4:1-2)? _____

- (bonus) How could you account for the fact that it was given that Shamgar was “after Ehud” (3:31), but the next section (4:1-3) doesn’t mention him before the next backsliding and servitude, but does mention Ehud? _____

2. Who judged Israel at this time (apparently during the twenty years Jabin and Sisera were oppressing Israel), and what did that mean (that she judged Israel—we are told in v.5) (4:4-5)?

3. Whom did Deborah call to lead the children of Israel against Sisera, of what tribe was he, how many men was he to take, and what was the man's answer (4:6-8)? _____

4. Deborah did agree to go up with Barak against Sisera, but she then told Barak that what would happen regarding his honor (4:9)? _____

5. Are we told why we are told about Heber the Kenite (v.11), at this point of the story (4:11-12)? _____

(bonus) Kedesh seems to be near what mountain where Barak was told to go (4:6, 9, 12)? _____

6. Please take a thought or a verse with you for the day that you can apply to your life. _____

Thursday—prayerfully read Judges 4:13-24, and answer the following.

1. Where was the army of Sisera gathered, and from where did Barak attack, and who “discomfited” Sisera (4:13-15)?

2. How many men of the army of Sisera remained alive by the end of this battle (4:16-17)? _____

3. To where did Sisera flee, and why did he flee there (apparently) (4:17)? _____

4. Tell the story of what happened next (4:18-22). _____

5. Whom did God subdue that day, and then who are we told eventually destroyed this one whom God had subdued (4:23-24)? _____

Friday—prayerfully read Judges 5:1-16, and answer the following. (This chapter is “the song of Deborah and Barak,” and is poetry, which means it sketches thoughts like a painting, and might require a little more “sanctified imagination” to answer—remember to pray for wisdom!)

1. Who was praised for “the avenging of Israel” (the victory of Israel over Jabin, 4:24), and what was the people’s part in this victory (5:1-2, also 3-5 continues the praise, developing the praise poetically)? _____
2. In whose days had “the highways [been] unoccupied, and the travelers walked through byways,” and what do you suppose that means, and what do you suppose “the inhabitants of the villages ceased” means (5:6-7)? _____

(bonus) Who apparently is leading in the singing at this point?

3. What is identified in 5:8 as causing Israel’s problem (the problem being “war in the gates [without] shield or spear [available for fighting]”)? _____
4. What three groups are identified (distinguished), one in verses 9-10, another in v.11, and another in v.12 (and maybe v.13)?

5. What tribes were identified as participating in the battle, and what did each contribute (at least please try to connect a thought with each tribe that is connected by the writers of this song) (5:14-16)? _____

6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section.

Saturday—prayerfully read Judges 5:17-31, and answer the following.

1. What three tribes didn't participate (at least an initial reading of this verse indicates that to me; one of these we don't think of as a tribe) (5:17)? _____

(bonus) What two tribes were noted for exceptional sacrifice (v.18)? _____

2. Who (or what) assisted Israel in their defeat of the Canaanites (5:19-22)? _____

3. Who was cursed for not helping the Israelites, and who was blessed for helping them (5:23-27)? _____

4. Who encouraged herself (and was encouraged by her assistants) that her son was okay (5:28-30)? _____

5. What prayer did this song make for those who love the LORD, and for how many years did the land have rest after the defeat of Jabin (5:31)? _____

(bonus) What person could this song particularly have in mind when it states (requests) “So let all thine enemies perish (hint: who was being talked about immediately before this request)”?

Judges 6-7

Monday—prayerfully read and enjoy Judges 6:1-14, and answer the following questions.

1. For how many years did the Midianites oppress Israel, and what preceded this Midianite oppression (6:1)? _____

2. In what way did the Midianites oppress the Israelites (6:3-6)?

3. How did the LORD respond when the children of Israel cried unto him at this time (6:7-10)? _____
4. Who appeared at this time unto Gideon, and where did he sit, and what did he call Gideon (6:11-12)? _____

5. What two questions did Gideon ask in response to what the angel said to him (6:13)? _____

6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section (and take it with you for the day). _____

Tuesday—prayerfully read Judges 6:14-21—remember to pray for the Spirit’s help to “rightly divide the word of truth” (II Tim.2:15)!

1. What two (or three) things did the LORD say to Gideon to give him courage to proceed (6:14)? _____

2. How did Gideon see himself (6:15)? _____

3. Was God’s word enough for Gideon at this time, and what two things did he ask the angel to do (6:16-18)? _____

4. What three things did Gideon bring the angel (apparently for the angel to eat) (6:19-20)? _____
5. What did the angel do with the food Gideon presented him (6:20-21)? _____

6. Give something you can apply to your life, and please take it with you for the day. _____

Wednesday—prayerfully read Judges 6:22-30, and answer the following.

1. What was Gideon’s reaction when he realized that before him was an angel of the Lord (6:22-24)? _____

(bonus) What name of God did Gideon call the altar he built?

2. What was Gideon then instructed to do, and why do you suppose the bullock the LORD instructed Gideon to take was called “the second bull” (6:25-26)? _____

(bonus) Do you suppose that “the LORD” who appeared to Gideon that night (v.25) was the same as the angel of the LORD who had appeared to him earlier (vs.12-24)?

3. What two things did Gideon do which indicated his fearfulness (6:27)? _____
4. When did the men of the city notice the altar of Baal and the grove by it were cut down, and what did they ask each other (6:28-29)? _____
5. What did they demand of Gideon's father, and what was his name (6:30)? _____
6. Please take a thought or a verse with you for the day that you can apply to your life. _____

Thursday—prayerfully read Judges 6:31-40, and answer the following.

1. Name Gideon's dad, and give the heart of Gideon's dad's argument (6:31). _____
2. Give Gideon's new name, and who gave him this name (6:32).

3. Name the enemies of Israel at this time (6:33). _____

4. What strengthened Gideon (6:34)? _____

(bonus) What remarkable turnaround happened between v.30 and v.34? (Hint: v.11 where the name of Gideon's hometown is given.) _____

5. Tell the story of what happened next (6:36-40). _____

6. Please take a thought with you for the day.

Friday—prayerfully read Judges 7:1-11, and answer the following.

1. What reason did the LORD give that the number of people with Gideon was too many, and how many men was that originally, and how many went home who claimed fearfulness (7:2-3)?

2. Who was to return home the second round of “thinning the ranks,” and how many were sent home (this requires you to do some math) (7:4-7)? _____

3. What two things were in the hands of the 300 which remained with Gideon (7:8)? _____

4. What does the next part of this story of Gideon have in common with the previous story of Barak and Deborah (7:9-10 with 4:8-9)? _____

5. What “sweet thing” about God is evident in His dealings with Gideon (and therefore we see that He will be so with us) (compare 6:12, 14-16, 34, 36-40; 7:10)? _____

6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section.

Saturday—prayerfully read Judges 7:12-25, and answer the following.

1. What was the size of the enemy army (7:12)? _____

2. Give the dream of the Midianite (or Amalekite or child of the east or maybe it was a Gypsy—we are not told) and its interpretation (7:13-14). _____

(bonus) What do we again see of the Lord's way in this story of the barley bread (v.15 with Thursday's #5 if needed)?

3. Into how many companies did Gideon divide his 300, and where did he tell them to look (7:16-17)? _____

4. What did Gideon tell his men to do and say (sequentially—that is, in what order) (7:18-21)? _____

5. Who was called to join in the pursuit of the fleeing Midianites, and what two princes did they behead (7:24-25)? _____

6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section.

Sunday—prayerfully review Judges 6-7.

Judges 8-9

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may [regard with pleasure] wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps. 119:18)!

Remember to pray for Spirit-filling to understand and enjoy this study as you mark, meditate, memorize, and master these scriptures (Lk. 11:13)!

Luke 11:13 “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”

Talk Through the Bible outline

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WJ outline

Apathy 1-2

Apostasy 3-16

Anarchy 17-21

Monday—prayerfully read and enjoy Judges 8:1-13, and answer the following questions.

1. Who accused Gideon, and of what did they accuse him (8:1)?

2. How did Gideon diffuse their challenging spirit; in other words, what did he say that caused “their anger to abate” (8:2-3)? _____

3. Who refused Gideon’s request for food aid, and what was their “reason” not to help (8:4-6)? _____

(bonus) Name the kings of Midian Gideon was pursuing (and name the princes of Midian already defeated, vs.3-6).

4. The men of Penuel answered Gideon as the men of Succoth— what did Gideon say he would do to his “rejecters” in each of these two cities, after returning in victory over Zebah and Zalmunna (8:7-9)? _____

5. How many troop did the Midianites have originally (compared to Gideon’s 300); and, how long did it take for him to finish defeating them (8:10-13)? _____
6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section (and take it with you for the day). _____

Tuesday—prayerfully read Judges 8:14-35—remember to pray for the Spirit’s help to “rightly divide the word of truth” (II Tim.2:15)!

1. How many leaders of Succoth did Gideon return and punish; and, how did he teach them (8:14-17)? _____

2. Who was afraid to kill Zebah and Zalmunna, and who slew them instead, and what did he then take after killing them (8:18-21)? _____
3. When the men of Israel asked Gideon to be their ruler (and his sons after him), Gideon refused and said who “shall be their ruler” (8:22-23)? _____ Apparently instead of being their ruler, what did Gideon ask (8:24)? _____

4. What other spoil apparently also was given to Gideon, and what did he do with at least part of it (8:26-27)? _____

5. Where did Gideon finish his days, how many sons did he have, how many wives, and what was the name of the son born to his concubine in Shechem (8:28-32)? _____

(bonus) Evaluate the leadership of Gideon based on 8:33-35.

6. Give something you can apply to your life, and please take it with you for the day. _____

Wednesday—prayerfully read Judges 9:1-20, and answer the following.

1. Who took **initiative** to make himself a leader, and what age group did he first approach to help him in his vision (9:1-3)? (In using this term “initiative” in a bad light, I don’t want to give an important quality which we need to develop in ourselves and in our young people a bad name!) _____

2. What were the first two actions taken by Abimelech upon being given support by the men of Shechem (9:4-5)? _____

3. What was told to Jotham which led to his standing on Mount Gerizim, and crying out his fable to the men of Shechem (9:6-8)? _____

4. List the four plants in Jotham's story, and who was the bramble (9:8-15)? _____

(bonus) Assign a possible identity to each of the first three plants! _____

5. Give a brief interpretation of the parable (9:15-20). _____

6. Please take a thought or a verse with you for the day that you can apply to your life. _____

Thursday—prayerfully read Judges 9:21-29, and answer the following.

1. To where and why did Jotham run away (9:21)? _____

2. For how many years did a good relationship exist between Abimelech and the men of Shechem, and what caused an evil spirit to end that good relationship, and why (9:22-24)?

3. What do you think was told Abimelech in 9:25? _____

4. Who became the new favorite of the men of Shechem, and what was his first activity with them (9:26-28)? _____

(bonus, takes some thinking) In Gaal's trash talk in v.28, who apparently was being rejected in his saying "serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem"? _____

5. Zebul was the ruler (mayor?) of the city of Shechem (his first mention is in v.28; he perhaps was not at the party, and obviously from what follows was mentioned unwisely by Gaal who perhaps was drinking too much, not that we need to be drinking too much to be saying too much). Do you suppose Abimelech heard Zebul's words "Increase thine army, and come out" (9:29-31)—why or why not? _____
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6. What does story this tell us about God (His attributes)? Hint: consider vs.23-24. _____

Friday—prayerfully read Judges 9:32-45, and answer the following.

1. When did Zebul advise Abimelech to prepare his troops (set them in array) to attack the city, and when did he counsel Abimelech to attack the city ("set upon the city") (9:32-33)? _____
2. Did Abimelech take Zebul's advice; and, who was the first one up the next morning (along with Zebul) to look out the front gate and see suspicious activity (9:34-36)? _____
3. Tell what happened next (9:36-38). _____
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4. Gaal led the Shechemites, first in attacking Abimelech, then in fleeing back into the city. What did Zebul do (apparently the next morning, v.42) to Gaal and his brothers upon their return back into the city (9:39-41)? _____
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5. What happened the next morning when the people Zebul thrust out of the city went out into the field (9:42-45)? _____

6. Why do you suppose we are given such detail as is in this story? Does this tell us anything about God? _____

Saturday—prayerfully read Judges 9:46-57, and answer the following.

1. Where did the men of the tower of Shechem go for protection (or to hide or escape apparently), and what did Abimelech do (9:46-49)? _____

2. Where did Abimelech's rampage take him next, and what was his strategy here (9:50-52)? _____

3. What ended Abimelech's attack of Thebez, and apparently saved the people there from a gruesome end (9:53-55)?

4. What is the reinforced point of this story (9:56-57)? _____

5. Take a break with this question, you've worked hard again this week.

6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section.

Sunday—prayerfully review Judges 8-9.

Judges 10-12

These questions have a lot to do with “what does it say?” I have tried (a little) to be thinking in terms of the attributes of God—“how do these attributes come through in these stories in Judges?”

Monday—prayerfully read and enjoy Judges 10:1-5, and answer the following questions.

1. Who followed Abimelech to defend (deliver) Israel, and what was his genealogy (10:1)? _____

2. Where did Tola live (and was buried), and how long did he judge Israel (10:2)? _____
3. Who followed Tola as judge, and what was his region, and how long did he judge Israel (10:3)? _____
4. What number would we associate with Jair, and why (10:4)?

5. **What does this section tell us about God (or what can we infer about God from this is section)** (10:1-5)? _____

6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section (and take it with you for the day). _____

Tuesday—prayerfully read Judges 10:6-18—remember to pray for the Spirit’s help to “rightly divide the word of truth” (II Tim.2:15)!

1. How many “sets” of false gods did the Israelites begin serving in their evil (and forsaking of the LORD and not serving Him) (10:6)? _____

2. In this sixth apostasy (and servitude), into whose hands did the LORD sell (enslave) the Israelites (10:7-8)? _____

(bonus) Where did these enemies begin to enslave Israel, and then to where did their enslaving spread (10:8-9)? _____

3. How did the LORD respond to the children of Israel this time when they cried out unto the LORD the confession of their sins (10:10-14)? _____

(bonus) **What does this tell us about God?** _____

4. What two or three things did the Israelites do or say in addition to their initial confession when the LORD told them to go elsewhere for help (10:15-16)? _____

5. What did the people and princes of Gilead begin calling for, when the Ammonites encamped against them in Gilead (and the Israelites were in Mizpeh) (10:17-18)? _____

6. Give something you can apply to your life, and please take it with you for the day. _____

Wednesday—prayerfully read Judges 11:1-27, and answer the following.

1. Where did Jephthah come from, and where was he living at the time of the beginning of this story (11:1-3)? _____

2. Who sent for Jephthah to return to Gilead to lead them against the Ammonites, and what did he ask, if he were to lead them successfully (11:4-11)? _____

3. What do you suppose it means in 11:11 that “Jephthah uttered all his words before the LORD in Mizpeh”? _____

4. What did Jephthah try before battle (physical fighting) (11:12-13)? _____
5. What did Jephthah obviously know in his continuing diplomacy with the Ammonites (11:14-27)? _____

(bonus) Which kings did Israel ask permission to pass through their lands? _____

(double bonus) What sophisticated thought did Jephthah present to the king of Ammon in vs.23-24?! _____

(triple bonus) **How did Jephthah reveal his God-centeredness in this chapter?** _____

6. Please take a thought or a verse with you for the day that you can apply to your life. _____

Thursday—prayerfully read Judges 11:28-40, and answer the following.

1. Who began the fight between the children of Israel and Ammon, and what worked this will to initiate (begin the fight) in him (apparently) (11:29)? _____
2. What was Jephthah’s awful vow (11:30-31)? _____

3. Who came forth to meet Jephthah when he did return victorious (11:32-34)? _____
4. Whom did Jephthah appear to blame for the grief he was now facing (11:35)? _____

(bonus) Why do you think he reacted this way? _____

5. For how long did Jephthah’s daughter “bewail her virginity” (11:37-39)? _____

(bonus) What do you think it means “bewailed her virginity”?

6. What does story this tell us about God (His attributes)? Or—give something you can apply to your life. _____

Friday—prayerfully read Judges 12:1-7, and answer the following.

1. Who reproached Jephthah for not calling them to go with him to fight Ammon (12:1)? _____

2. Jephthah seemed to first attempt to resolve differences through diplomacy (see his attempt here, and remember his attempt with the Ammonites in 11:12-28)—was he successful in pacifying the Ephraimites here (12:2-4)? _____
3. Who was guilty of name-calling (12:4)? _____
4. What (now famous) test did the Gileadites (followers of Jephthah) give the Ephraimites who were attempting to flee back to their homes (apparently) (12:5-6)? _____

5. For how many years did Jephthah judge Israel (12:7)? _____
6. Take a thought with you for the day from this passage. _____

Saturday—prayerfully read Judges 12:8-15, and answer the following.

1. Who was the next (the tenth?) judge, and where was his home (12:8)? _____
2. What distinguishing fact was chosen to record about him (12:9)? _____
3. Name the next judge (from Zebulon), and how many years did he rule (12:11)? _____
4. Name the twelfth judge, and how many sons and nephews did he have (who rode on seventy donkey colts) (12:13-14)? _____

5. Take a break with this question, you've again worked hard this week.

6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section.

Samson **Judges 13-16**

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may [regard with pleasure] wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps.119:18)!

Remember to pray for Spirit-filling to understand and enjoy this study as you mark, meditate, memorize, and master these scriptures (Lk.11:13)!

Talk Through the Bible outline

Deterioration (Living with the Canaanites) 1:1-3:4

Deliverance (War with the Canaanites) 3:5-16:31

Depravity (Living like the Canaanites) 17:1-21:25

WJ outline

Apathy 1-2

Apostasy 3-16

Anarchy 17-21

These questions have a lot to do with “what does it say?” I have tried (a little) to be thinking in terms of the attributes of God—“how do these attributes come through in these stories in Judges?”

Monday—prayerfully read and enjoy Judges 13:1-12, and answer the following questions.

1. What is connected with the LORD’s delivering the children of Israel into the hands of the _____ for _____ years (13:1)? _____

2. Who appeared unto the wife of Manoah, and what is left out between 13:1 and 13:2 which is part of the usual pattern in the book of Judges? _____

3. The unnamed wife of Manoah is spotlighted in this story—in what ways can you see that attention is drawn to her (13:2-12)?

(bonus) What evidences can be seen in this passage that Manoah was responsible in his leadership? _____

4. How did Mrs. Manoah identify (describe) the angel of the LORD (13:6)? _____

5. **What are some of the things this section tells us about God (or what can we infer about God from this section) (13:1-12)?** _____

6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section (and take it with you for the day). _____

Tuesday—prayerfully read Judges 13:13-25—remember to pray for the Spirit’s help to “rightly divide the word of truth” (II Tim.2:15)!

1. What three things did the angel of the LORD repeat to Manoah regarding the earlier instruction he had given to his wife (13:14)? _____

2. What did the angel refuse to tell Manoah (13:17-18)? _____

3. Did Manoah honor the angel's direction of 13:16, that he would not eat of Manoah's food ("bread") and that any burnt offering was to be offered unto the LORD (13:19)? _____
4. Are we told how Manoah knew that "the man" was "an" angel of the LORD (13:19-22)? _____
5. While Manoah appears to be the leader in the family, is there any indication that the woman had more spiritual insight (or was more reasonable) than he, on at least a particular point (13:22-23)? Explain. _____

6. What important facts to this story (I see two or three) would be omitted from this Study Guide if we neglected to ask any questions regarding the final two verses of this chapter (13:24-25)? _____

Wednesday—prayerfully read Judges 14:1-20, and answer the following.

1. The first event recorded in Samson's life is his seeing a woman in Timnath who pleases him, and he asks his father and mother to get her for him, "for she pleases me well" (14:4). What was his parents' first response (14:3)? _____

(bonus) What is the irony in Samson's request, given the fact that we know he is being raised up to be a judge to deliver the children of Israel from bondage (hint, 3:6)? _____

2. Where was the young lion who "roared against" Samson (14:5-7)? _____

3. The story of Samson recorded here proceeds with Samson's continuing to be pleased with the woman of Timnath, and his continuing to pursue her, and his parents' cooperating with him. What does this reveal about their parenting? _____

4. This appears to be a wedding feast made by Samson (v.10) in Timnath. How many days was the feast, and on which day did the Philistines threaten the woman to find out the answer to the riddle, and what did they threaten to do to her if she didn't (14:12-15)? _____

5. How many times is the LORD or the Spirit of the LORD mentioned in this chapter? _____

(bonus) What does this chapter seem to reveal about Samson and friends? _____

(double bonus) What famous literary line comes from this story (hint, 14:18)?! _____

6. What does this story tell us about our precious, wise, all-powerful, and loving God?! _____

Thursday—prayerfully read Judges 15:1-20, and answer the following.

1. What did Samson do to the Philistines at this time in response to his supposed father-in-law's giving his wife to somebody else, and what was burnt up (15:1-5)? _____

2. Why do you suppose Samson sought further harm on the Philistines after these Philistines punished the family that had betrayed him in 15:6-8? _____

3. How many men of Judah went to Samson to confront him about the Philistines coming against them (to hurt them); and, in one word, what is Samson’s justification for burning up the Philistines crops, when he says, “As they did unto me, so have I done unto them” (15:7-11)? _____

4. What did the Judeans promise they would do to Samson and would not do (15:12-13)? _____

5. What did Samson find as a weapon, and how many Philistines did he kill with it (15:15-16)? _____

(bonus) How was this weapon also used (vs.17-19)? _____

6. Did Samson have any spirituality (that we can see from this story)? Or—give something you can apply to your life.

Friday—prayerfully read Judges 16:1-15, and answer the following.

1. What seems to have been Samson’s great weakness (16:1, 4; also 14:1-4)? _____

(bonus) Where were the Philistines’ waiting for Samson during the night when he carried away the doors of the gate of the city (vs.2-3)? _____

2. Who bribed Delilah to entice Samson to reveal the source of his great strength (16:5)? _____

3. Give the threefold sequence of what Samson told Delilah wherein his great strength lay, and who was with them hiding while she was enticing him (16:7-15)? _____

4. What lines (arguments, words) did Delilah use to entice (try to get) Samson to tell his secret (16:5-6)? _____

(bonus) Was it wrong for Samson to tell the secret of his strength? (Was his uncut hair the secret of his strength?) Was he disobeying God to tell Delilah? Do you suppose the Israelites knew the secret of his strength (did they know his Nazarite vow)? Was there a connection with that vow and his strength? _____

5. Give something you can apply to your life; or, what does this passage tell us about God? _____

6. Take a thought with you for the day from this passage.

Saturday—prayerfully read Judges 16:16-31, and answer the following.

1. What vexed Samson's soul (16:16)? _____

2. What detail in 16:18 also indicates that Delilah was a shrewd woman? _____

3. What did the Philistines do with the weakened Samson (16:21, 25)? _____

4. What one spiritual activity is recorded of Samson—twice (16:28, 15:18)? _____
5. What is the maximum number of Philistines Samson slew (16:30, 27)? _____
6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section.

Sunday—prayerfully review Judges 13-16.

No king in Israel Judges 17-19

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may [regard with pleasure] wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps.119:18)!

“In those days *there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*” Judges 17:6

Remember to pray for Spirit-filling to understand and enjoy this study as you mark, meditate, memorize, and master these scriptures (Lk.11:13)!

Talk Through the Bible outline

Deterioration (Living with the Canaanites) 1:1-3:4

Deliverance (War with the Canaanites) 3:5-16:31

Depravity (Living like the Canaanites) 17:1-21:25

WJ outline: Apathy 1-2 / Apostasy 3-16 / Anarchy 17-21

The final five chapters of Judges are difficult (to understand what is going on), and the following questions also on the surface might seem difficult—some of them do take some thinking, like the very first one. But they are not too difficult for you (believe me!), but some of them might take a moment or two longer to ponder!

Monday—prayerfully read and enjoy Judges 17:1-13, and answer the following questions.

1. After identifying a main character, a man of mount Ephraim whose name is Micah, where does this story pick up—that is, what has happened before what is recorded in these first five verses of Judges 17? _____

2. How does Micah's mother respond to Micah's confession of guilt (17:2-4)? _____

 3. What did every man do in those days (modus operandi for all of the Israelites apparently), and what made this possible as indicated by 17:6? _____

 4. A Levite from Bethlehem-judah was traveling through mount Ephraim to "find a place" (apparently to live and work), and happened upon Micah's place. What did Micah offer him (17:7-10)? _____

- (bonus) Whom did the traveling Levite replace apparently (vs.5 with 11-12)? _____
5. Scofield writes that this chapter gives us a "striking illustration of all apostasy [falling away from God and His ways]. With his entire departure from the revealed will of God concerning worship and priesthood, there is yet an exaltation of false priesthood." **Can you identify any signs of apostasy in this chapter?** _____

 6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section (and take it with you for the day). _____

Tuesday—prayerfully read Judges 18:1-16—remember to pray for the Spirit's help to "rightly divide the word of truth" (II Tim.2:15)!

1. **What was true in those days in Israel regarding leadership,** and what tribe still had not found a place in Canaan to call their home (18:1)? _____

2. Five men went out from Dan to search out the land for a home, and as they traveled, by whose house did they pass, and whose voice did they recognize, and what counsel did they ask him (18:3-5)? _____

3. What three or four things made Laish an easy target for the Danites (18:7)? _____

4. When the five Danites returned to report to their brethren what they found, what did they suggest would keep their brethren from going up to take the land, and who did they say had given them this land of plenty (“a large land”) (18:9-10)? _____

5. How many armed men went up to attack Laish, and what did the five spies tell them was in the house of Micah as they passed by it (18:11, 14)? _____

6. What lesson could we take with us for the day, as part of our “meditating day and night” (Ps.1:1-3), possibly from v.10? _____

Wednesday—prayerfully read Judges 18:17-31, and answer the following.

1. Who confronted the five men as they were stealing Micah’s false worship paraphernalia, and what was their response to him (18:17-18)? _____
2. Identify “the little ones and the cattle and the carriage” of 18:21 (best you can). _____

3. Who protested the carrying away of the manufactured gods and the priest, and what was Micah's tone (or response) when he was asked "What is your problem?" ("What aileth thee?") (18:22-25)? _____

(bonus) What startling admission did Micah make regarding his gods? _____

4. Who did the Danites say might run upon Micah and his small company if he didn't get quiet, and what convinced Micah to say no more (18:25-26)? _____

5. What next happened at Laish (18:27-29)? _____

(bonus) The "kidnapped," formerly-unnamed priest is now named—what is his name? _____ Yet perhaps this is not the formerly-unnamed priest's name—why? _____

6. **What do you suppose is the point of the last line of 18:31,** and how can this be applied to our lives?! _____

Thursday—prayerfully read Judges 19:1-15, and answer the following.

1. What clause is repeated in 19:1 which also is in 18:1, and what geographical areas also are repeated in 19:1 which also were involved in the preceding story (see 17:8)? _____

2. For how long did the Levite’s “unfaithful concubine” leave him, and where did she go, and who was happy to see the deserted husband (19:2-3)? _____
3. The son-in-law stayed three days, doing what; and, how many extra days did the father-in-law persuade him to stay, doing the same things (19:5-10)? _____
4. Where did the servant request their party to stay at first, and what reason did his master give for declining (19:10-12)?

5. Where did the party (man, concubine, servant, two donkeys) end up staying, and to which tribe did this city belong (19:14-15)? _____
6. **Evaluate one of the characters in this story** (the man, the concubine, her father, the servant). Or—give something you can apply to your life. _____

Friday—prayerfully read Judges 19:16-30, and answer the following.

1. Identify the man who eventually gave the travelling party a place to stay (19:16-21). _____

(bonus) In v.18 the Levite told the old man that he was passing toward mount Ephraim, “going to the house of the LORD.” What problem might there be with this (see 18:31)? _____

2. What seems to be a characteristic of the Levite, as we see what the old man and he give themselves to that evening (19:21-22 with 19:4-6)? _____

3. How do the scriptures identify the men of the city who demanded of the old man that he bring his guest out to them, and what strange and abominable counter-offer did he give them (19:22-24)? _____

4. When did the concubine return, and does it appear that “her lord” was looking for her the next morning, and what sentence in these verses indicates she was dead (19:26-28)? _____

5. What was left out of v. 29 given the response of those who “saw it” in v.30? _____

6. Take a thought with you for the day from this passage.

Saturday—prayerfully review the outlines of Judges, and write one from memory. Also, **recite from memory Judges 17:6.**

6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section.

Sunday—prayerfully review Judges 17-19.

**Every man did that which was right
in his own eyes (21:25)
Judges 20-21**

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may [regard with pleasure] wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps.119:18)!

“In those days *there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*” Judges 17:6

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Apostasy 3-16

Anarchy 17-21

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Monday—prayerfully read and enjoy Judges 20:1-11, and answer the following questions.

1. At the end of the previous chapter (20:29-30), the Levite sent a gory message “into all the coasts of Israel.” Where did all the children of Israel gather in response, and what phrase indicates that their motivation was good (20:1)? _____

(bonus) There is a phrase in this verse which is used even today to indicate from one end (of the country) to the other—what is that phrase? _____

2. How many were “the chief of all the people,” and what was their occupation (at least in this verse) (20:2)? _____

3. Who answered the question “How was this wickedness?” (“What happened?”) (20:3), and after recounting the horrible incident, what did the man request (20:4-7)? _____

4. The Israelites said that none would return home until they went up by what against Gibeah (20:9), and what would 10% of their people do (20:10)? _____
5. What expression is used repeatedly to express that the Israelites were united in their determination to avenge this wrong (vs.1, 8, 11)? _____
6. Give something you can apply to your life from this section, or give something revealed about God in this section. _____

Tuesday—prayerfully read Judges 20:12-24—remember to pray for the Spirit’s help to “rightly divide the word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15)!

1. Who would not listen to whom, _____ and how were the ones who committed the heinous (wicked) acts described (20:12-13)? _____

2. How many fighting men did the children of Benjamin have, including the soldiers of Gibeah, and what special skill did 700 of these have (20:15-16)? _____
3. What wise thing did the Israelites do before going into battle, and did they implement (put into practice) what they learned (20:18-20)? _____

(bonus) Where was the house of God at this time (see 18:31)?

- _____
4. Who defeated whom on the first attack, _____ and how many were killed, _____ and what wise thing did the defeated do, _____ and what happened the second time (20:21-25)? _____
 5. Why do you suppose the Israelites who inquired of the Lord were defeated by their brethren who were defending the wicked men of Gibeah? _____
 6. What lesson could we take with us for the day, as part of our “meditating day and night” (Ps. 1:1-3), possibly from the defeat of the “good guys”? _____

Wednesday—prayerfully read Judges 20:26-37, and answer the following.

- 1-2. What was different about the third time the children of Israel went up to the house of God (20:26-28)? (I see four or six things.) _____

3. What was different about the Israelite strategy this time (at least before it was not said that they did this) (20:30, 32)?

(bonus) What two roads are identified in the battlefield?

4. How many chosen men out of all Israel came against Gibeah (apparently these were the “liers in wait”), and what did the fighters of Gibeah not realize (20:34)?

5. How many Benjamite soldiers were killed that day, and who else of that side died (20:35, 37)?

(bonus) Was it okay for the Israelites to trust the liers in wait, as it is stated in v.36?

6. Do you see anything in this section you can apply to your life?!

Thursday—prayerfully read Judges 20:38-48, and answer the following.

1. What prearranged signal did the Israelites have to communicate that the city was entered, and what was the name of that city (told earlier in the chapter) (20:38)?

2. How many men of Israel apparently were killed by the Benjamites before they (the Benjamites) realized that they were in trouble, and what is written which could be taken to indicate that even these were not killed (20:39)?

3. There are two “theys” in 20:42—what are the antecedents of each? _____
4. To where did the still surviving Benjamites flee (the _____ of _____), and how many Israelites pursued them (_____), and how many Benjamites were killed (_____), and how many survived (_____), and how long did these survivors stay in the rock of Rimmon (_____ months) (20:45-47)?
5. What in general did the Israelites smite and destroy of the Benjamites (20:48)? _____
6. What does this section reveal about God, or give something you can apply to your life. _____

Friday—prayerfully read Judges 21:1-13, and answer the following.

1. What had the Israelites agreed upon at their first gathering in Mizpah (20:1) that they felt was called for after the wickedness at Gibeah (21:1)? _____

2. Where did the people assemble, and what was their grief (21:2-3)? _____

3. What two concurrent (at the same time) issues (dilemmas) were present which needed to be addressed by the Israelites (21:5-7)? _____

4. What was the solution which arose out of the two dilemmas (20:8-14)? _____

5. Where was the house of God mentioned in 20:2, _____ now located in 21:12; and, what problem still remained after giving the Jabesh-Gilead virgins to be wives to the Benjamites (21:14)? _____

6. Take a thought with you for the day from this passage.

Saturday—read Judges 21:15-25, and answer the following.

1. What continued to grieve the Israelites regarding Benjamin (21:15-18)? _____

2. What was held every year, and where was it held, according to Judges 21:19? _____

3. Where did the daughters of Shiloh (21:21) live originally (see 21:19-23)? _____ Where did these daughters end up living (21:23)? _____

4. What was not guaranteed to each man “in the war,” and why did the Israelites not give their daughters as wives to the needy men (21:22)? _____

5. What happened after the men of Benjamin captured wives (21:23-24)? _____

6. Say 21:25 from memory (or at least thoughtfully read through it three times).

Sunday—prayerfully review Judges 20-21.

**“In those days, there was no king in Israel:
every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (21:25)!**
Judges Review

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may [regard with pleasure] wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps. 119:18)!

Remember to pray for Spirit-filling to understand and enjoy this study (Lk.11:13)!

Please read three chapters a day this week to reread and enjoy this wonderful book of Judges (government, authority). Embed it in your soul, that it may be worked out in your life (remember the invitation at the end of the sermon on the mount, Mt.7:24-27). Memorize 21:25 and the three-part outline (**1-2** pattern of apostasy, **3-16** the judges illustrate the pattern, **17-21** confusion and disaster resulting from apostasy).