

Judges

Lesson #1, Chapters 1-5

After the death of Joshua Israel entered into a new phase of history which continued until Saul was crowned king of Israel. During this time period, which lasted about 350 years, God raised up judges from among the people who were often needed to lead the people to deliverance when they were oppressed by their enemies. The book of Judges doesn't reveal who its author was, but Jewish tradition attributes it to Samuel.

Chapters 1-5

1. Read Chapters 1-5. After reading each chapter, briefly summarize the details of the chapter below. Please be aware that the events of some of the chapters are not strictly chronological, but shift back and forth between the time of the judges and Joshua's time. Next, in 1-2 sentences write out the theme of the chapter. Remember, a theme is just summing up the main point or the big idea of the chapter. Then, look for a verse in that chapter that best reflects the theme of the chapter. Finally, create a 3-5 word title for the chapter.
 - a. Chapter 1 summary, theme, key verse, and title.
 - b. Chapter 2 summary, theme, key verse, and title.
 - c. Chapter 3 summary, theme, key verse, and title.
 - d. Chapter 4 summary, theme, key verse, and title.
 - e. Chapter 5 summary, theme, key verse, and title.

Chapter 1

2. How often in Chapter 1 does the Bible record that the sons of Israel did not drive out the inhabitants of land in the different territories for each tribe?

Chapter 2

3. Chapter 2:1-5 follows the train of thought begun in Chapter 1. Though the Israelites had conquered much of the land, there were still Canaanites living among the Israelites. What did God have to say about this state of affairs in 2:1-5?
4. Judges 2:6 introduces a time shift as the writer takes us back to the days when Joshua was alive. Judges 2:6-9 corresponds to Joshua 24:29-31. What important piece of information is included in 2:10 which gives us insight into the time after Joshua's death?
5. According to 2:11-15 why was God angry with Israel? See also Josh. 24:19-27.
6. God did not have Joshua appoint a successor to lead the people, instead God raised up judges for the nation. What was the purpose of the judges according to 2:16-19?
7. What purpose were the Canaanite nations now supposed to play in the lives of the Israelites according to 2:20-23?

Chapter 3

8. Why were the nations left in the land according to 3:1-4?

9. Which nations were left in the land (3:3)?

10. Judges 3:5 begins ominously, *And the sons of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites*. What happened to Israel because they lived among these people (3:6-7)?

11. Because they had defied the Lord and broken their covenant with Him, they were chastised by the Lord and enslaved to the King of Mesopotamia. But God, in His mercy, raised up Othniel to be the nation's deliverer and judge. What do you learn about this judge from 3:9-11 and Josh. 15:16-19?

12. What interesting facts do you discover about Ehud in 3:15-16?

13. What innovative way did Ehud come up with for delivering Israel from the Moabites (3:17-30)?

Chapter 4

14. What was the state of affairs for Israel after Ehud's death in 4:1-3?

15. List some of the distinct characteristics of the next judge (4:4-5).

16. It has been said that Israel had sunk so low spiritually that the best man for the job was a woman. Though there was a crisis in the male leadership at that time, Deborah was a uniquely gifted leader for the nation. How does Barak's response to God's plan for conquering Sisera seem to support this idea? Read 4:6-8.

17. What is the consequence for Barak's lack of faith and courage (4:9)?

18. Describe the role of the other woman in this chapter from 4:11-22.

Chapter 5

19. List 5 facts about life in Israel during Deborah's judgeship that she mentions in her song in Chapter 5.

20. Why is Jael a blessed woman according to 5:24-27?

21. How is the conclusion to Deborah's song in 5:31 a reminder to us to view things from God's perspective rather than from man's?

22. We must remember the words of 1 Cor. 10:11 which says: *Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.* What lessons or reminders have you learned from the first 5 chapters of Judges?