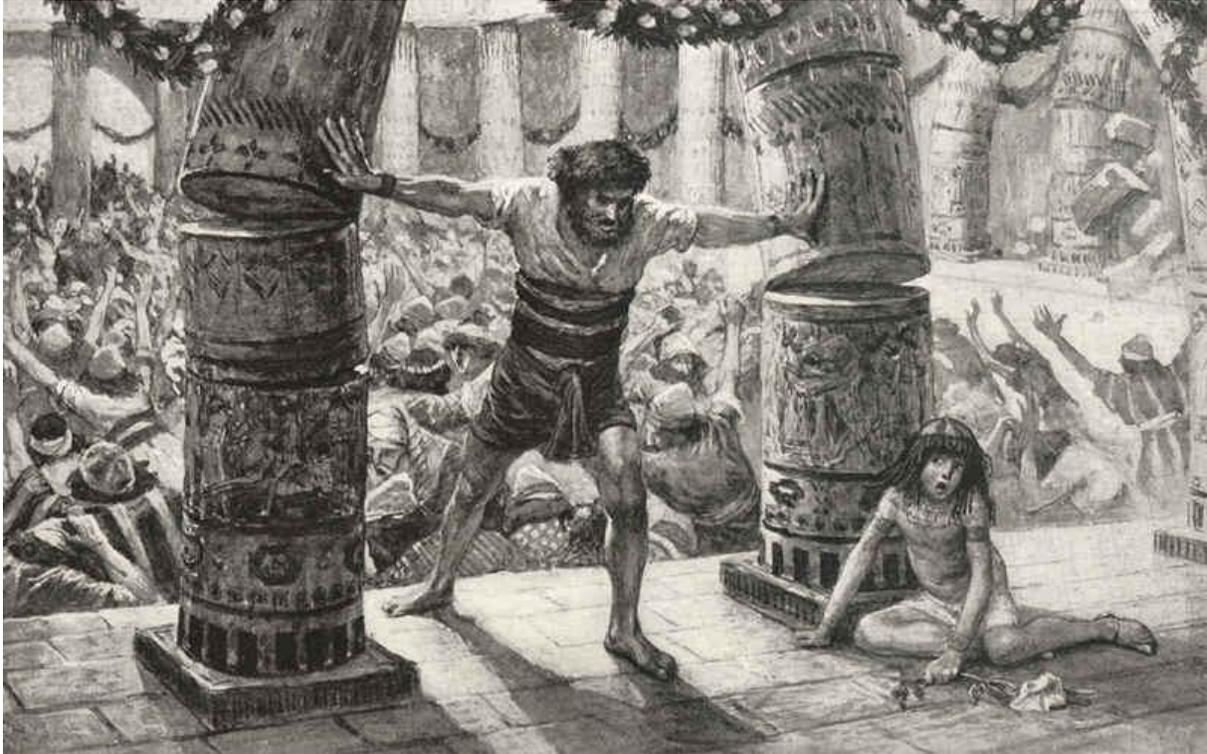


Judges



Embry Hills church of Christ

Material by Marty Broadwell

Judges Course Content

Lesson	Title
1	Introduction and Overview
2	Conditions in Israel (1:1-3:6)
3	Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar (3:7-31)
4	Deborah and Barak (4, 5)
5	Gideon I (6:1-7:8)
6	Gideon II (7:9-8:35)
7	Abimelech, Tola, Jair (9:1-10:5)
8	Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon (10:6-12:15)
9	Samson I (13:1-15:8)
10	Samson II (15:9-16:31)
11	Micah and the Danites (17-18)
12	The Crime at Gibeah (19-21)
13	Final Review / Make-up

Summary of the History of the Judges

Judge	Reference	Date (BC)	Location	Enemy	Years	Notes
Othniel	3:11	1200				
Ehud	3:14	1180				
Shamgar	3:31	1170				
Deborah	5:31	1190				
Gideon	8:28	1140				
Abimelech*	9:22	1100				
Tola	10:2	1105				
Jair	10:3	1100				
Jephthah	12:7	1070				
Ibzan	12:9	1070				
Elon	12:11	1070				
Abdon	12:14	1070				
Samson	15:20	1070				
Eli	I Sam 4:18	1100				
Samuel	I Sam 7:15	1060				

Note: These dates assume 1240 BC for the entry into Caanan and 1040 BC for the accession of Saul.
 *Self-appointed ruler, not God-appointed Judge.

Judges

Lesson 1: Introduction and Overview

A. The Book

1. Definition of a “Judge” (2:16-18; 11:27)

2. Its Place in Israel’s History
Judges 1:1
Ruth 1:1
11:26; I Kings 6:1; Acts 13:19,20

3. Its Place in Hebrew Scriptures:

LAW
PROPHETS
 Former Prophets {Joshua, Judges....}
 Latter Prophets
WRITINGS

4. Time of Writing
 - a. After Shiloh (Judges 18:31, and see I Samuel 4:3, 4; 7:2)
 - b. Before Jerusalem (1:21, and see II Samuel 5:7)

B. Dates

1. Total Years listed in Text (Oppression + Deliverance + Rest) = 410.

2. Beginning: 1240 BC (Conquest)
End: 1020 BC (Accession of Saul)
 220 years

3. Answers:
 - a. Simultaneity of Judges (see 10:7)
 - b. Into Samuel’s Time (Samson)
 - c. Beginning in Joshua's time (1:1-36)
 - d. Chapters 17-21 could have occurred very early (cf 1:34 to 18:1, and 20:28 to Joshua 24:33)

4. Best Guess (see summary dates chart) is 1200 BC to 1070 BC (Othniel to Samson)

C. Structure

1. Outline

- I. Conditions in Israel (1:1-3:6)
 - Unoccupied Areas (1:1-2:5)
 - Religious/Political Cycles (2:6-3:6)
- II. The Judges (3:7-16:31)
 - Othniel* (3:7-11)
 - Ehud* (3:12-30)
 - Shamgar* (3:31)
 - Deborah* and Barak (4:1-5:31)
 - Gideon* (6:1-8:35)
 - Abimelech, Tola, Jair (9:1-10:5)
 - Jephthah* (10:6-12:7)
 - Ibzan, Elon, Abdon (12:8-15)
 - Samson* (13:1-16:31)
- III. Cultural Conditions (17:1-21:25)
 - Micah and the Danites (17:1-18:31)
 - Crime and Civil War (19:1-21:25)

2. Note Military Judges*

D. Themes and Lessons

1. The Cycle: (2:11, 14, 18, 16) Sin, Servitude, Supplication, Salvation
(see 3:7; 3:12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1; and 3:11; 3:30; 5:31; 8:28)
2. Decline
 - a. National: 5:15-17,23; 8:1-9; 12:1-6; 15:9-13
 - b. Spiritual: (Compare the stories of the four major Judges)
3. Reasons (2:1-5; 2:20,21; 2:22,23; 3:4 17:6)
4. God's Presence
 - a. Angel of the Lord: 2:1; 6:11; 13:3
 - b. Spirit of the Lord: 3:10; 6:34; 11:29; 14:6,19; 15:14

Outline & Questions

A. Incomplete Conquest (1:1-36)

1. Conquest of Southern Canaan (1:1-21)

Who selected Judah to “go up first”? (2)

Why was this appropriate? (Genesis 49:8)

Why might Simeon have been a likely companion?

How well did Judah obey the command to drive out the inhabitants?

What nations did they conquer?

Was the defeat complete? (19; see for example 1:18)

What well-known characters are mentioned?

How well did Benjamin do? (21)

Reconcile verse 8 and verse 21.

2. Capture of Bethel (1:22-26)

How did the house of Joseph defeat Bethel?

3. Catalog of Unoccupied Territory (1:27-36)

Manasseh, Ephraim, and Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants but “dwelt among them” (27-30). Locate these on a map.

How was the relationship of Asher and Naphtali to the unconquered inhabitants described? (31-33)

What happened to Dan? (34-36)

What geographic organization is followed here?

What theme is illustrated in the order of presentation?

B. Bochim: The Broken Covenant (2:1-5)

Where did the angel of Jehovah come from?

Describe the events of Gilgal (Joshua 5).

What was the national and spiritual significance of Gilgal?

Judges

Lesson 3: Othniel, Ehud & Shamgar (Judges 3:7-31)

A. Othniel (3:7-11)

What does “Aram-naharaim” mean?

To whom was Othniel related? (9)

By what power does Othniel go to war? (10)

B. Ehud (3:12-30)

Locate Moab.

What city did Eglon set up as his headquarters? (13)

What was significant about this city during Joshua’s conquest?

What was Israel’s relationship to Eglon? (16)

List some details about Ehud and his weapon (15, 16)

Why might left-handedness be an advantage in this case? (21)

What tribe is this trait associated with? (see 20:16, I Chronicles 12:2)

How did Ehud escape?

How were the Moabites trapped? (28)

C. Shamgar (3:31)

Was Shamgar’s action taken because Israel was again in trouble? (see also 5:6)

What weapon did he use?

What other strange weapons are mentioned in Judges? (15:16)

Why would this be necessary?

Analysis

1. Note the following differences between the first three judges:

Which were said to be “raised up by Jehovah”?

Which had the “spirit of God”?

Which were followed by “rest”? (11, 30)

2. Are we to admire the direct initiative taken by Othniel? (1:13, 3:10)

Was Ehud’s method to be admired? Shamgar’s?

Were Ehud and Shamgar described as saviors? (15, 31)

Outline & Questions

Read I Samuel 12:9-11. What major enemies does Samuel mention in his speech to Israel?

What judges does he mention?

A. Israel's Plight (4:1-3)

What judge does this story follow? (1)

Describe the enemy: Who? Where? How many? How long?

Locate the cities on a map.

B. Deborah calls Barak (4:4-10)

Who and where was Deborah?

Did she already have respect in Israel?

Who and where was Barak?

What was Deborah's plan?

Who commanded it?

Did she plan to go?

Why did she go?

What did she prophesy? (9)

C. Heber, the Kenite (4:11)

Who were the Kenites? (see 1:16)

Where is Zaananim? (Joshua 19:33)

D. The Battle (4:12-16)

Where did Sisera set up for battle? Why? (13)

Who "discomfited" Sisera? (15)

What assistance was Barak given? (see 5:4, 5, 20-22)

How did Sisera flee?

What other tribes took part? (see 5:14, 15, 18)

Which knew but did not join? (see 5:16, 17)

Which are not mentioned?

E. Sisera's Death (4:17-24)

Where did Sisera flee to? Why?

What reassurances (explicit or implied) did Jael give Sisera?

Describe his death.

What else is known of the Kenites? (see II Kings 10:15; Jeremiah 35)

F. Song of Deborah (5:1-31)

1. Praise of Jehovah (1-5)

What role did the people play? (2)

Who is given the praise? (2-5)

How is the presence of Jehovah described? (4, 5)

From what locations does He come?

2. Israel's Plight (6-8)

List the descriptions of Israel before deliverance. (6-8)

3. Israel's Present Peace (9-11)

Who are those who are instructed to rehearse the acts of Jehovah? (10-11a)

Why do you think this would be important?

4. Participation of the Tribes (12-18)

Verses 12-18 are a list of participants and non-participants.

Who led? (12)

What kind of people were they? (13)

What occupations are implied? (14-15a)

Who is Machir? (14, Genesis 50:23)

What did Reuben do? (15b-16)

Who is Gilead? (17, Joshua 22:9)

What tribes committed the most? (18)

5. The Battle (19-22)

What additional information is supplied in 5:20-21 about further assistance to Barak's armies?

6. Curse of Meroz (23)

Why is Meroz cursed? (23)

7. Jael's Deed (24-27)

What additional details do 5:24-27 add to the account in 4:17-22?

Was there great shame in this kind of death? (see 9:54)

8. Waiting for Sisera (28-30)

What was Sisera's mother's concern (in this imaginary story)? (28-30)

What comfort was she given?

9. Conclusion (31)

How long did this victory last? (31b)

Analysis

1. Note the number and location of tribes that either participated or were aware of the battle with the Canaanites. Is this an indication of some level of national unity?
2. Consider the tactical wisdom of charging the charioted army of Sisera from a mountainous region out onto a plain.
What were Barak's chances?
Was the battle won by a miracle? By an act of God?
What is the difference?
3. Did Jael act by divine authority or power?
Are we to admire her treachery?
Is she praised by Deborah? (24) By God?
Did she accomplish God's purposes?

Outline & Questions

A. Israel's Plight (6:1-10)

1. Midianite Oppression (1-6)

How long did Israel have rest (5:31b)?

How long did Midianite armies oppress them?

Describe the oppression.

How large were the armies of the Midianites, Amalekites, and children of the East? (see also 7:12; 8:10)

What was the unique vehicle they employed? (v 5; 7:12)

How far did they come? (4)

What was Gideon's personal loss? (8:18,19)

2. The Prophet (7-10)

What was the message of the prophet?

B. The Call of Gideon (6:11-32)

1. The Appearance of the Angel (11-18)

Where was Gideon when the angel appeared? Why? (vs 11)

How is Gideon addressed? (vs 12)

Note the alternating certainty and pessimism in the angel and Gideon (vs 11-17).

Do you think Gideon's family was the poorest in Manasseh? (see vs 25, 27)

What did Gideon request of the angel?

2. Gideon's Sacrifice (19-24)

Did he get it?

3. Gideon Cleanses his own House (25-32)

Did it fill him with courage? (vs 27)

C. Assembling an Army (6:33-7:14)

1. The Call for Soldiers (33-35)

What tribes answered Gideon's call (v 34, 35)?

Who was not called? (see 8:1, 5)

How many came? (see 7:3b)

2. Gideon's Request for a Sign (36-40)

What sign did Gideon request? (vs 37)

Why might he have asked for another the next night?

3. Selecting an Army (7:1-8)

Where did Gideon and the people meet? (vs 1)

Do you think the Midianites knew they were there? (see 7:14)

Describe the two "thinning" methods used to reduce the army.

What did Gideon's men collect before sending the rejected soldiers home? (vs 8)

Analysis

1. Do you think Gideon's neighbors would have reacted so strongly if he had simply worshipped Jehovah without destroying the Baal altar?

2. Consider the difficulty in serving God in an evil environment. How did Gideon deal with his own background, family, neighbors, nation?

How did God prepare him for leadership?

3. What caused Gideon's doubts and fears in each case?

Did God supply reassurance?

Were the reassurances related directly to his doubts and fears?

4. Did Gideon seem to have a personal relationship with Jehovah?

Did it influence all his actions?

What mistakes did Gideon make?

Outline & Questions

A. Assembling an Army (cont.) (6:33-7:14)

1. The Midianite's Dream (7:9-14)

Why did Jehovah send Gideon into the camp of the Midianites? (vs 9, 11a)

Describe the dream and its interpretation. (vs 13, 14)

B. The Battle (7:15-25)

1. Preparation (15-18)

What were Gideon's words to his army? (15, cf to vs 9)

2. Midianites put to Flight (19-23)

Describe their tactics.

Do you think the noise was a single blast or continuous? (see v 21)

3. Assistance of Ephraim (24, 25)

Who was called to secure the Jordan crossings? (vs 24)

C. Final Victory (8:1-21)

1. Trouble with Ephraim (1-3)

What was Ephraim's complaint? Was it well-founded?

2. Trouble with Succoth, Penuel (4-9)

Contrast the complaints of Ephraim and the Danite cities. (vs 1 and 6)

Contrast Gideon's response. (vs 2, 3 and 7, 9)

3. Defeat of Midianite Kings (10-12)

Who were Oreb and Zeeb, then?

How were they different from Zebah and Zalmunna?

Outline & Questions

A. Abimelech's Rise to Power (9:1-6)

Is it possible that Abimelech's mother's family and the men of Shechem were not Israelites? (8:31; 9:2, 27, 28)

Describe Abimelech's background. (8:31)

What argument did Abimelech use to enlist the support of the men of Shechem? (2, 3)

What support was given? (3)

How was it used? (4, 5)

What was the extent of Abimelech's rule? (see 6, 41, 46?, 50?)

B. Jotham's Parable (9:7-21)

On what other occasions was Mt. Gerazim used for public speeches? (Joshua 8:30-35; Deut. 11:29,30)

What was Jotham's parable?

What three kinds of trees are asked to be king?

What is implied about the usefulness of kingship? (9, 11, 13)

Of what use is a bramble or thorn bush? (see Ecclesiastes 7:6; Judges 2:3)

C. Treachery Against Abimelech (9:22-33)

1. Insurrection of Shechem (22-25)

How is Abimelech's office described? (22)

What was the first sign of rebellion in Shechem? (25)

2. Gaal's Boasting (26-29)

Describe the festival in the house of Baal-Berith. (27)

What argument did Gaal use to sway the men of Shechem? (28)

Does it sound familiar? (see vs 2)

Who was Hamor? (see Gen 33:18, 19)

What was Gaal's boast? (29)

3. Zebul's Warning and Plan (30-33)

Who was Zebul?

What plan did he suggest to Abimelech? (32-33)

D. Abimelech's Vengeance (9:34-57)

1. Against Gaal (34-40)

What was Abimelech's advantage over Gaal? (35-38)

How did Zebul help Abimelech? (36, 38, 41)

2. Against Shechem (41-49)

Who was defeated the next day? (42-45)

Describe Abimelech's strategy against the men in the fortified house of El-berith. (46-49)

How many people died? (49)

3. His Death at Thebez (50-57)

What was Abimelech's strategy to be at Thebez? (50, 52)

How did he die? (53, 54)

What was the effect on his followers? (55)

Who was described as "wicked"? (56, 57)

E. Tola and Jair (10:1-5)

Locate the home country of Tola and Jair.

Do these men appear to be military judges?

How did the towns in Gilead come to be called Havvothjair? (see Numbers 32:41)

Analysis

1. What does the story of Abimelech illustrate about the moral, social, and spiritual conditions in Israel? (see Judges 2:3)
2. What influences caused these conditions?
3. Was Abimelech right to assume kingship?
4. Were Gaal and the townspeople right to oppose him?
5. Did they oppose him because of his cruelty to the other sons of Jerubbaal?
6. Was their method of opposition to be admired? (see 9:25, 27)
7. Was Abimelech right to destroy the Canaanite city of Shechem and the house of Baal?
8. Who in the story is to be respected?
9. Who was responsible for the events? (9:23, 56, 57)

Outline & Questions

A. Israel's Condition (10:6-9)

How many false gods are mentioned in describing Israel's apostasy? (6)

From which side were they oppressed? (7)

How long, and to what extent, did Ammon oppress Israel?

B. Israel's Cry for Help (10:10-16)

What did the children of Israel confess? (10)

How many nations had Jehovah delivered them from? (11, 12)

What suggestion did Jehovah first give? (14)

What evidence of repentance was shown? (15, 16)

C. Jephthah's Deliverance (10:17-11:40)

1. The Selection of Jephthah (10:17-11:11)

As the children of Israel assembled together against the Ammonites in Gilead, what were they lacking? (18)

How is Jephthah first described? (11:1, and compare to 6:12)

Compare Jephthah's family situation and rise to leadership to Abimelech's.

Why did his brothers seek to recall him? (8)

Whom did Jephthah predict would deliver Ammon to him? (9)

Who was called on as a witness to all the agreements made? (10)

2. Jephthah's Messages to the King of Ammon (11:12-28)

What was the root of the disagreement between the Israelites and Ammonites? (note "my land" in vs 12, 13)

What was the territory in question? (13)

Trace the history of the ownership of this territory.

Who did Israel take the land from? (22, 23)

Did Israel take any of the Ammonites' land? (Numbers 21:24)

How long had Israel had it? (26)

Whom did Jephthah credit with these victories? (21, 23, 24)

Who would decide who was right on this occasion? (27)

3. Victory over Ammon (11:29-33)

What moved Jephthah to action? (29)

What vow did he make? (31)

What was the outcome of the battles?

4. Jephthah Carries out his Vow (11:34-40)

What was Jephthah's attitude toward his vow? (35)

What was his daughter's attitude toward his vow? (36)

Did he carry it out? (39)

D. Trouble with Ephraim (12:1-7)

What was Ephraim's complaint? (12:1, and compare to 8:1, 2)

What was Jephthah's counter-charge? (2)

Who does Jephthah remind them had delivered Ammon into his hands? (3)

Describe the battle and the method of discrimination between forces. (4-6)

How long did Jephthah judge Israel? (7)

E. Ibzan, Elon, Abdon (12:8-15)

What are the locations, tenure, and interesting facts given about these three?

Analysis

1. Jephthah, more than any other character in Judges, lived and spoke always "before Jehovah" (e.g. 11:11). What is there in his life that might have produced this godliness?
2. What examples of temperance, patience and forgiveness do you see in Jephthah's life?
3. Does Jephthah's method of warfare compare favorably with the instructions given in Deuteronomy 20:10-12?
4. How do you reconcile Jephthah's sacrifice of his daughter with an otherwise faithful life? What parallel to Gideon do you see in this sacrifice? What does this suggest about the religious conditions in Israel?

Outline & Questions

A. The Birth of Samson (13:1-25)

1. Appearance of the Angel to Samson's Mother (1-7)

What were the conditions in Israel? (31:1, 10:7, 14:4, 15:20)

Describe the angel's message to Samson's mother. (3-5)

What did the Nazarite vow entail? What was its purpose? (see also Numbers 6:1-9)

2. Appearance to both Manoah and his Wife (8-20)

What did Manoah request of Jehovah? (8)

What was Manoah's primary concern? (12)

How did Manoah and his wife learn that the angel was of Jehovah? (19, 20)

What name did the angel use? (18, see also Isaiah 9:6)

3. Birth and Growth of Samson (21-25)

How did Samson's mother conclude that they would not die as a result of "seeing God"? (22, 23)

How was Samson's motivation described? (25)

Do you think Samson had a godly upbringing? (see also 14:3)

B. The Incident at Timnah (14:1-15:8)

1. The Engagement (14:1-4)

What seemed to be the main attraction for Samson in choosing a wife? (3)

Did this seem a wise choice for him?

What purpose was Samson's betrothal to the Philistine girl at Timnah to serve? (4)

2. The Lion and Honey (14:5-9)

Through what power did Samson kill the lion? (6)

What vow did he break by taking the honey? (8, 9)

Why would he not have told his parents? (9)

3. The Riddle and Answer (14:10-20)

The feast was an ordinary custom (10), but what unusual precaution is taken? (11)

What did the groomsmen use to motivate Samson's bride to betray him? (15)

What pressure did she apply to Samson? (16, 17)

By what power did Samson get the garments? (19)

Why did he not return to take his bride? (19)

Where did he go? (19)

4. Samson's Vengeance on Timnah (15:1-8)

What was Samson's motivation for burning the fields?

How did the Philistines react? (6)

Whom did they blame? (7)

What was Samson's motivation for the "great slaughter"? (7, 8)

Analysis

1. What was to be Samson's purpose? (13:5)

Did he make a good use of his time?

Describe his appearance. (14:11; 16:24, 25)

Describe his personality. (14:2, 3; 14:19b; 15:7; 15:18; 16:16)

Describe his opinion of himself. (16:7, 11, 17)

Was he called a "judge"? (15:20)

2. Samson uses riddles and puns. What does this add to the story or tell you about the personality of Samson?

Was there anything wrong in telling a riddle to the young men of the Philistines?

What kind of pitfalls did this present him?

3. What advantages was Samson given by being born to his parents?

What did they do to help him?

Is there any advantage being born to parents who are Christians? If so, what advantages do they provide?

What does this suggest about the kind of home in which you would want to raise your children?

Outline & Questions

A. The Slaughter at Lehi (15:9-20)

1. The Men of Judah Deliver Samson (9-13)

Who came to get Samson? (9-11)

Who helped?

2. The Battle at Lehi (14-20)

What weapon did Samson use? (15)

By what power did he kill the 1,000 men? (14)

How did Samson receive water after the battle? (18)

B. The Incident at Gaza (16:1-3)

Why did Samson go to Gaza? (1)

How did he escape the city? (3)

By what power?

C. The Downfall of Samson (16:4-31)

1. Delilah's Attempts to Discover his Secret (4-17)

Where did Delilah live? (4)

How was she motivated to betray Samson? (5)

Describe the three unsuccessful tries to weaken Samson. (7-14)

Who was waiting in the inner chamber each time?

Did they come in?

How did Delilah coax Samson to reveal his secret? (15-17)

2. Samson's Capture (18-22)

Describe his capture. (18-22)

What was the real reason Samson had lost his strength? (20b)

3. Samson's Death in the House of Dagon (23-31)

By what power did he destroy the temple of Dagon? (28)

Who took care of Samson's burial?

Analysis

1. Compare Samson's life to the history of Israel with respect to:
 - prophetic selection

 - dedication and unique characteristics

 - occasional greatness

 - frequent weakness and defeat

 - eventual destruction, with blessing

2. Samson is a study in the subtle lure of temptation and its destructive power. Despite his physical strength, Samson was undone spiritually by giving into temptation. What was his major weakness?
 - Note the consequences of giving into temptation in the life of Samson: Did he become weaker or stronger by allowing himself to be tempted? Did he receive freedom or enslavement as a result of his flirtations?

 - Why might Samson have thought he could overcome temptation? What are some things that lull us into thinking temptation will not affect us? What are some steps we can take in order to avoid being tempted or in order to deny temptation?

 - Where is God's focus? (1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Peter 3:4) What does that suggest about our own character and that of those with whom we associate? What mistake did Samson make in his choice of close companions?

 - Is our use of leisure time important? Is it just our time to enjoy? What can easily happen if we do not use it wisely?

3. Did Samson take his vow seriously? What is true of commitments we make? What commitment do we make to God?

Outline & Questions

A. Micah's House of Gods Established (17:1-13)

1. The Origin of the House of Gods (1-7)

What had happened to the Ephraimite woman's silver? (2)

What had she done to recover it? (2)

What was her vow when her son returned it? (3)

How much did she "return to God"?

What was done with this money? (5, see also 18:14, 17)

2. The Levite Becomes Micah's Priest (8-13)

What was the Levite from Bethlehem looking for? (8, 9)

What made him decide to stay with Micah? (10, see also 18:4)

How did Micah describe the relationship? (10)

What was the relationship in reality? (11)

Why did Micah feel that he would be blessed? (13)

B. Migration of the Danites (18:1-31)

1. Initial Visit with Micah (1-6)

Why were the five Danites traveling through Ephraim? (1)

Where were they from? (2)

What made them stop at the house of Micah? (3)

What religious purpose does the "house of gods" seem to serve? (5, 6)

2. The Danites Discover Laish (7-10)

On what basis did the Danites evaluate Laish? (7, 10, compare Numbers 13:27, 28)

3. Micah's Images and Priest Stolen (11-26)

What was the Danites' interest in Micah's house? (14)

What was their greeting? (15)

Their appearance? (16)

Their action? (17)

Why did Micah's priest decide to go with them? (19, 20)

How did Micah and his neighbors react? (21, 22)

What did the Danites ask them? (23)

What threat was issued? (25)

Why did Micah turn back? (26)

4. City of Dan Established (27-31)

Describe the capture of Laish (27, 28)

What new name was it given? (29)

How long was the graven image there? (30, 31)

Analysis

1. List the sins of:

Micah and his mother –

The Levite –

The Danites –

2. What was the root of all these problems? (17:6; 18:1)

Who should have been king? (I Samuel 8:7)

What value system was followed?

On what basis were decisions made?

17:10

18:14

18:19

18:26

18:7

3. How did Micah describe the images? (18:24)

How did the characters establish religious authority?

Did they recognize Jehovah? (18:10)

Describe the religious practices they followed.

17:3

17:13

18:5, 6

Outline & Questions

A. The Incident at Gibeah (19:1-30)

1. The Levite's Journey (1-9)

Why was the Levite traveling to Bethlehem-Judah? (1-3)

How was he received there? (4-8)

In what part of the day did he finally leave? (9)

2. The Stay in Gibeah (10-21)

Why did he not stop at Jebus? (12, see also 1:21)

How were they received at Gibeah? (15, 18)

How difficult would hospitality have been? (18, 19)

Who took them in? (16, 20, 21)

3. The Crime that Night (22-30)

Describe the violence of the men of the city. (22, 25, 26)

What had been their intent? (22, see also 20:5, and compare to Genesis 19:4-8)

What were they offered? (23, 24)

How did the Levite address his concubine in the morning? (28)

What did he do with the body? (30, and compare to I Samuel 11:6, 7)

B. The Battle against Benjamin (20:1-48)

1. Israel Gathers (1-11)

Who came to Mizpah? (20:1, 3; 21:8, 9)

What vows were taken? (20:8-10; 21:1, 5)

2. Benjamin Gathers (12-16)

What request was made of Benjamin? (20:12, 13)

How did they respond? (14-16)

How many and what kind of soldiers gathered? (15, 16)

3. The First Engagement (17-21)

How many soldiers did Israel have? (16)

Did they consult Jehovah? (18)

Who was to lead? (17, and compare to 1:2)

How did the battle go? (21)

4. The Second Engagement (22-25)

What were Jehovah's instructions on the following day? (23)

How did they fare? (25)

5. The Third Engagement (26-48)

a. Appeal to Jehovah (26-28)

Describe their third appeal to Jehovah at Bethel. (26-28)

Who was Phinehas? (see Numbers 25:1-25)

What promise is given? (28)

b. Summary of the Battle (29-35)

c. Details of the Battle (36-48)

What strategy was followed? (29-35, and again in more detail in 36-46)

How many Benjamites perished? (35, 46)

How many escaped? (47)

What was done to the cities (city?) of Benjamin? (48)

Was this appropriate? (see Deuteronomy 13:12-18)

C. Finding Wives for Benjamin (21:1-25)

1. Recounting of the Oath (1-6)

Did Israel seem sorry for Benjamin? (21:1-3, 6, 15)

What dilemma did they have? (21:1, 7)

2. Destruction of Jabesh-Gilead (7-12)

What solution was found? (7-12)

3. Wives supplied to Benjamin (13-24)

a. From Jabesh-Gilead (13-15)

b. From Shiloh (16-24)

What other way around their oath was used? (16-24)

D. Concluding Statement (21:25)

What summary statement concludes the book? (21:25, and compare to 19:1)

Analysis

1. What details of these stories in Chapters 17-21 suggest an early date in the time of the Judges?

20:28

20:1, 11; 21:6, 13, 15

20:18

18:1 (1:34)

2. Compare the sins in this story to the moral decline described in Romans (compare 19:1, 2, 22; 20:14 to Romans 1:24, 26, 28).

Note the descent to violence associated with hedonism.

3. The Benjamites did well in the battle, considering their numerical inferiority. What other men of Benjamin were noted warriors?

Judges 3:15

I Samuel 9:1, 2

I Chronicles 8:40; 12:2

What special weapons did Benjamin use? (compare to I Samuel 17:49)

What was Israel's battle cry? (Judges 5:14, Hosea 5:8)

Could all of this be a fulfillment of Genesis 49:27?

4. What was the role of Jehovah in the battle against Benjamin? (20:1, 18, 23, 27-28)

Why did He send Israel to defeat for two days?

What explanations can you give for God bringing about enormous losses on both sides?

Judges

Lesson 13: Review of Judges

1. What is the meaning of the term “**judge**” in the book of Judges? (2:16-18; 11:27)
2. Number the Judges in order. Circle the “**military**” Judges.

Abdon	Elon	Othniel
Abimelech	Gideon	Samson
Deborah	Ibzan	Samuel
Ehud	Jair	Shamgar
Eli	Jephthah	Tola

3. What are the four phases of the cycle that Israel underwent during the time of the Judges?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
4. List the **four major** Judges, and give their tribe, enemy, characteristics, and nature of the victories given to them.

Judge	Tribe	Enemy	Characteristics	Type of Battle (unique events)
-------	-------	-------	-----------------	--------------------------------

5. Evaluate the story of each of the major Judges with respect to the following items. Identify any trends you may discover.
 - national prominence and respect before delivering nation
 - size and composition of fighting force
 - degree of personal faith required
 - nature of God’s role in the deliverance of the nation
 - personal character (strengths and weaknesses)

6. Compare Samson’s life to Jephthah’s life with respect to:
- family background and upbringing
 - self discipline
 - oath-keeping
 - intelligence
 - long, happy life after judging
7. Compare Samson’s life to the history of Israel with respect to:
- prophetic selection
 - dedication and unique characteristics
 - occasional greatness
 - frequent weakness and defeat
 - eventual destruction, with blessing
8. List the sins in the stories of “Micah and the Danites” (chapters 17-18) and the “Crime at Gibeah” (chapters 19-21) which match the sequence of moral decline in described in Romans chapter 1:

Description in Romans chapter 1

Sins in Judges

Changed the glory of...God into an image... (v 23)	<i>Micah made idols</i>
Given up to lusts of their hearts...dishonor bodies (v 24)	
Given up to vile passions (men with men...) (v 26)	
Given up to base mind...do things not fitting (v 28) (murder, violence, unmerciful, untrustworthy)	
Approve of those who practice them (v 32)	

Lessons from Judges

Just finished a class on Judges and thought it would be good to go over some of the spiritual lessons learned from the judges throughout that class

- I. God is looking for servant-leaders
 - a. Jgs 2:11-19 – the cycle
 - b. Notice vs 19
 - c. When the judge (leader) died, the people returned to sin
 - d. Those who refused to look to God could at least be led to him by someone who would stand up for righteousness
 - e. Jgs 2:10
 - f. Why would a generation arise “who did not know the Lord, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel”?
 - g. The leadership God is looking for isn’t just public leadership
 - h. Private leadership can take many forms
 - i. In the church
 - ii. In marriages
 - iii. In homes
 - iv. At school
 - v. At work
 - vi. At play
 - i. Jgs 4:4-9
 - i. How do we choose to respond to our brethren who are weak?
- II. We have no excuse for inaction
 - a. Fear – Gideon
 - i. Jgs 6:23-27
 1. Was Gideon afraid?
 2. Did he act anyway?
 3. Did he use good sense or act recklessly?
 - ii. Jgs 7:2-8 (8:10), 9-15
 1. Was Gideon still afraid?
 2. What about the 300?
 3. Did they act anyway?
 - iii. We can be afraid today as well
 1. Afraid to speak up
 - a. Non-Christians
 - b. Christians
 2. Afraid to stand out in a crowd
 - iv. Where does our encouragement come from?
 1. Gideon had Divine intervention for support
 2. Our Divine support is built-in, so to speak
 3. We have the Scriptures that tell us about heroes of faith such as Gideon
 4. We have the church to give us examples of faith and to encourage us to build our own faith

- b. Mistakes – Samson
 - i. Jgs 14:1-3, 19, 15:15-19, 16:1-5, 17, 23, 24, 28-30
 - ii. Heb 11:32
 - iii. How close did Samson approach perfection?
 - iv. Did God still use him?
 - v. Was he counted a hero of faith?
 - vi. Do we have mistakes in our past?
 - vii. Do we make mistakes now?
 - viii. Our mistakes can make it harder for us in this life and can hurt our influence with some, but we are expected to overcome those obstacles and continue to act in faith.
 - ix. Heb 11:6, Rom 14:23
 - x. Rather than struggle to understand how Samson is a hero of faith, we should be encouraged that, in spite of his failings, he is remembered centuries later as faithful.
 - xi. Rom 5:20,21

III. Give God the glory for His work

- a. Jgs 3:28, 4:6, 7, 14, 15, 5:1-5, 7:15, 8:3, 11:9, 32, 33, 12:3, 15:18, 16:28
- b. Were these to be commended for their faith?
- c. Who made their faith possible?
- d. David Maxson in a class or sermon mentioned that we are to praise God in our praise of our brethren.
- e. “I thank God for your faithfulness / health / ability / etc.”

IV. The influence of one

- a. Micah and the Danites
- b. Rom 5:18,19
- c. Each one of us can be a faithful “one” in other’s lives but only by the power of God through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- d. If you wish to submit to God and allow Him to use you as His own, then come forward as we stand and sing.

Judges Review Quiz

1. Define “Judge” (2:16-18; 11:27)
- *2. Give three reasons why the total years listed in the text may be more than the actual elapsed time.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- *3. What are the three major sections of the book?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
4. List the Judges in order. Underline the “military Judges”.
5. List the four major Judges, and give their tribe, enemy, characteristics, and nature of the victories given to them.

Judge	Tribe	Enemy	Characteristics	Type of Battle (unique events)
a.				
b.				
c.				
d.				

6. For each character in the book of Judges on the left, write the letter(s) of the fact(s) on the right that correctly describe that character.

Jair	A. relative of Caleb
Othniel	B. son of a concubine
Abimelech	C. assassin
Ehud	*D. had 40 sons, 30 grandsons, 70 donkeys
Shamgar	E. used an ox-goad
Jael	F. “son of a king”
Abdon	G. “the lion of God”
Ibzan	H. fought Philistines
	I. killed his brothers
	J. not a judge
	K. a Benjamite
	L. had 30 sons, 30 donkeys, 30 cities
	*M. had 30 sons, 30 daughters: all married
	N. fought Mesopotamia
	O. Moab was his enemy.

7. Number the events below, from chapters 17 and 18, in chronological order.

- ___ Idols made, Micah's son appointed priest
- ___ Danites ask for advice from the priest
- ___ Danites spy out Laish
- ___ Silver stolen
- ___ Idols stolen
- ___ Priest hired by Ephraimite
- ___ Priest hired by Danites
- ___ Micah threatened by Danites
- ___ Laish destroyed by Danites

*8. List the sins in the stories of “Micah and the Danites” (chapters 17-18) and the “Crime at Gibeah” (chapters 19-21) which match the sequence of moral decline in described in Romans chapter 1:

<u>Description in Romans chapter 1</u>	<u>Sins in Judges</u>
Changed the glory of...God into an image... (v 23)	<i>Micah made idols</i>
Given up to lusts of their hearts...dishonor bodies (v 24)	
Given up to vile passions (men with men...) (v 26)	
Given up to base mind...do things not fitting (v 28) (murder, violence, unmerciful, untrustworthy)	
Approve of those who practice them (v 32)	

9. Describe the consequences of the sins of the men of Gibeah and Benjamin in the Israelite nation.
10. What is the repeated theme-verse of chapters 17-21?
11. What is the message of the book of Judges?