



Judges – Study Guide



Bible Reading (Other chapters may be read for extra credit/benefit)	Textbook Reading (Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)
Judges ☐ ch. 1 ☐ 2:1-3:4 ☐ ch. 6 ☐ ch. 7 ☐ ch. 8 ☐ ch. 13 ☐ ch. 14 ☐ ch. 15 ☐ ch. 16 ☐ ch. 17 ☐ ch. 18 ☐ ch. 19	Ch. 12 ☐ Main Body of Stories ☐ Appendixes

Study Guide for Judges

Chapter 1

- How is this chapter connected with the book of Joshua? What were they attempting to do at the start of this chapter? Why?
- What did the tribe of Judah do in this chapter? What indications does the author give about how successful they were and why?
- How successful was the tribe of Benjam? How successful was the tribe of Joseph? How successful were the tribes of Manasseh, Ephraim, Zebulun, Asher, Naphtali, and Dan? What does the author say about the peoples living in the land? What is significant about this?

Chapter 2:1-Chapter 3:4

- What message did the Angel of the Lord give to the people? What did He warn them about? What did He accuse them of? How is this connected with what was narrated in the prior chapter? What do you think this foreshadows in the rest of this story?
- What does the author say about the people living during the time of Joshua? How did he contrast them with the generation that followed? What did the following generation do and why? What should we learn from this? How should we work to prevent a similar thing from happening in our culture?
- What did God do in response to what the people had done? Why? Why is this significant?
- How did the “judges” come to lead the people? What did they do? How did the people respond?
- Why does it say that God saved the people through the Judges? What does this tell us about the character and ways of the Lord? How should we respond?

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- How did the people respond to what God was doing? What does this tell us about human nature? What can we do in light of this truth?
- What did the Lord say to the people at the end of this section? What was He going to do? Why? How does this foreshadow what will happen later in the story? What can we learn from this?

Chapter 6

- What did Midian do to Israel? Why? How does this fulfill what was described earlier in Judges?
- What did the prophet say to the people? How is this connected with what happened in the Pentateuch?
- What did the Angel of the Lord say to Gideon? How did he respond? What did the Angel command Gideon to do? How did he respond?
- Do you think the author was describing Gideon as a faithful man, who trusted the Lord? Why or why not?
- How did God prove Himself to Gideon? What did He command Gideon to do first? What is the significance of this? How did Gideon carry out this command? How did the people respond?
- What is significant about the way Gideon's father responded to the people? What does this say about the various gods and the people who served them?
- What did the Midianites and eastern peoples do? How did Gideon respond? Why specifically does it say that he did this? Why is that significant?
- How did Gideon test God? Do you think the author was describing Gideon as a faithful man, who trusted the Lord? Why or why not? How did God prove Himself to Gideon?

Chapter 7

- What did God say to Gideon? Why? What did Gideon say to the men as a result? What happened as a result?
- What is the point of dividing the men based on how they drank the water? How many men were left after this compared to how many started with Gideon at the beginning? Why is this significant?
- What did God say to Gideon during the night? Do you think the author was describing Gideon as a faithful man, who trusted the Lord? Why or why not? How did God prove Himself to Gideon? How did Gideon respond?
- What did Gideon and the men do with the torches and jars? What was the result? What did Gideon communicate to the rest of Israel?

Chapter 8

- Why did the people of Ephraim challenge Gideon? How did he respond?
- What did Gideon ask from the people of Succoth and Peniel? How did they respond? Why?
- What did Gideon do to Zebah and Zalmunah? Why? What did he do to the people of Succoth and Peniel? Why?
- What did the people ask Gideon to do? How did he respond? What reason did he give for this? What should we learn from this?
- What did Gideon ask from the people? What was the ultimate result of this? Was that a good thing or not? Why or why not?

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- What does this chapter say about the end of Gideon's life? How is this similar to earlier episodes in Judges? What difference does this make?

Chapter 13

- How does this chapter begin? How is this similar to the pattern seen earlier in Judges? Based on this, what should we expect to happen?
- What is significant about the appearance of the Lord to Samson's parents and his eventual birth? What instructions were given regarding Samson? Why do you think the author repeated these instructions? What did God reveal about Himself throughout this episode?
- How does the author describe Samson at the end of this chapter? What do you think this foreshadows in the rest of the story?

Chapter 14

- What did Samson request from his parents regarding Timnah? Why? How did his parents respond? What does the author tell us about this request? Why is this significant?
- What does the episode of the lion demonstrate about Samson?
- What riddle did Samson give the Philistine men? How was this related to the earlier details of this chapter?
- In the episode of the riddle and Samson's wife, do you think the author portrays Samson as a wise and discerning man? Why or why not? What is the significance of this for the larger message of Judges?
- What did Samson do at the end of this chapter? What does this demonstrate about Samson's character? What does this demonstrate about what God was doing through Samson? Why is this important?

Chapter 15

- What did Samson do to the Philistines? Why? How did they react? What did Samson do in response? How did this contribute to the mission of God's people?
- What did the men of Judah do to Samson? Why? What does this say about their character and faithfulness to God's mission?
- What did Samson do to the Philistines? What does the author emphasize about Samson's power?
- What did Samson pray? Why? How did God respond?

Chapter 16

- What did Samson do in Gaza? What do you think was the point of this episode?
- In the episode of Delilah, do you think the author portrays Samson as a wise and discerning man? Why or why not? What does this demonstrate about human nature? What is the significance of this for the larger message of Judges?
- Why does it say that the Lord left Samson? How is this related to what the Angel commanded back in chapter 13? What should we learn from this? How does it apply?
- What did the Philistines say about the capture of Samson? Do you think that was true? Why or why not?
- What did Samson pray? What was the result of this?

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Chapter 17

- What did Micah's mother do with the silver? Based on what you have read earlier in the Old Testament, do you think this was a good thing to do? Why or why not?
- What did Micah do with this idol? Based on what you have read earlier in the Old Testament, do you think this was a good thing to do? Why or why not?
- What insight did the author interject about Israel at that time? Why do you think this is significant?
- What did the Levite from Benjamin do in this chapter? Based on what was narrated earlier in the chapter, do you think this was a good thing? Why or why not?

Chapter 18

- How does this chapter begin? Why do you think the author included that insight?
- What were the Danites doing at the beginning of this chapter? Why? How did they connect with the Levite?
- What report did the spies give about the city of Laish? What did the tribe plan to do as a result of this? Was this a legitimate thing to do? Why or why not?
- What did the Danites do to Micah and his household? Based on what you have read earlier in the Pentateuch, was this a good thing to do? Why or why not? How did Micah and his friends respond? What was the end result of this episode? What do you think all of this demonstrates about the character of the men of Dan?
- What did the Danites do to the city of Laish? What do you think this demonstrates about the character of the men of Dan? Why do you think the author included this story in Judges?

Chapter 19

- What is the backstory that caused the man and his concubine to be travelling late in the evening near Jerusalem? When given the opportunity to stop for the night at Jerusalem, did the Levite do this? What reason did he give?
- Describe the reception they were given in the city of Gibeah. What does this tell us about the character of the people of Gibeah at that time?
- What did the old man from Ephraim do for the Levite and his companions? Why?
- What did the men of Gibeah demand from the homeowner? Why? How is this similar to what happened in Genesis chapter 19? What does this demonstrate about the character of the people of Gibeah? How did the homeowner respond?
- What happened to the man's concubine? What does this demonstrate about the character of the people of Gibeah? What conclusion should we draw from this?
- What did the Levite do with the corpse of his concubine? Why? What message was he trying to send? Do you think this was a good thing? Why or why not? What does this demonstrate about the character of God's people at that time? What is the significance of this?

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Study Guide for Textbook chapter 12

Contents

Main Body of Stories

- What does the textbook say this central section demonstrates about covenant failure? Why is this significant for understanding Judges? Why is this significant for understanding our own culture? Why is this significant for understanding our own lives?
- How is this central section introduced? Describe each of the three central facts it narrates in your own words. What do these things teach us about the message of Judges?
- How does the historical cycle serve as a pattern for all the stories that follow? Describe this pattern in your own words? How have you seen this in your own reading of Judges? What can we learn from this?
- Who are the major and minor judges listed by the textbook?
- What is the point the textbook makes about the moral character of the judges? How should we respond to that? What does this tell us about the character of God? How should we respond to that?

Appendixes

- What do the last five chapters of Judges demonstrate about life in Israel at that time? What point does the textbook claim the author of Judges was making? What difference does this make?
- According to the textbook, how are the narratives of the final section different from the central section? What does this teach us about Israel at that time? What should we learn from this?
- What point does the textbook make from this section about how Christians should think and live? Do you agree? Why or why not?

Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter