

Part 2: JUDGES OF ISRAEL

Lesson 5: JEPHTAH THROUGH SAMSON AND WICKED ISRAEL, JUDGES 11-21

Judges 11	JEPHTHAH	<u>ELEVEN</u> - <u>A' LEAVIN'</u> THE HOUSE
Judges 12	SUMMARY	TWELVE - TWELVE JUDGES (Jephthah-Abdon)
Judges 13	SAMSON	Thirteen - unlucky number = "WORST" JUDGE
Judges 14	RIDDLE	<u>Fourteen</u> - " <u>for me</u> SHE'S GOOD "
Judges 15	REVENGE	<u>Fifteen</u> - <u>f</u> oxes, <u>f</u> ire, and <u>f</u> resh jawbone
Judges 16	DELILAH	<u>Sixteen</u> - " <u>shave him</u> <u>clean!</u> "
Judges 17	MICAH	<u>Seventeen</u> - <u>sil</u> ver <u>sh</u> rine of micah
Judges 18	DAN	<u>Eighteen</u> - <u>g</u> reat <u>sin</u> of dan
Judges 19	CONCUBINE	Judges 19 = genesis 19
Judges 20	BENJAMIN	<u>Twenty</u> - <u>empty</u> Benjamin
Judges 21	RESTORATION	Twenty-one - "CATCH ya' ONE!"

1. What similarities exist between the stories of Abimelech and Jephthah? (Judg 10:17–11:11) Jephthah seemingly wanted to find a diplomatic solution to the conflict between the Israelites and the Ammonites (vv. 12–13). To what does Jephthah appeal in his reply to the Ammonite accusation? (vv. 14–28) How did the king of Ammon respond? (v. 29)
2. Jephthah is best known for his foolish vow (Judg 11:29–40). What was the vow, and what was the result? (NOTE: The vow of Jephthah illustrates the continued downward spiral of Israel, even its later judges doing what seems right to them.)

3. Who were the next three judges? (Judg 12:8–15)
4. What is the name of the last judge in Judges? What does this name mean? Summarize the events surrounding his birth (Judg 13:1–23). What was this judge supposed to be from birth? (v. 5) What did God do for him as he matured? (vv. 24–25) (OPTIONAL: Judges 13:24–25 may serve as a pattern of description for what other Old and New Testament characters?)

5. Why did Samson choose a Philistine woman to be his wife? (Judg 14:3, 7) What did he kill on his way to Timnah, and what did he later eat out of its carcass? (vv. 5–6, 8–9; cf. v. 5) (OPTIONAL: Why was this act of eating specifically wrong for Samson?) He used these events to propound a riddle for the Philistine wedding guests (vv. 12–19). How did they **DISCOVER THE ANSWER TO SAMSON’S RIDDLE?**
6. Why did Samson burn the standing grain of the Philistines? (Judg 14:20–15:8) How did he slaughter them at Lehi? (vv. 14–17) How did Samson feel after the fight, and what did God do for him? (vv. 18–19) (NOTE: The **NAME “EN-hakkore” MEANS “FOUNTAIN OF HIM WHO CALLED OUT.”**) **WHAT OLD Testament people and event(s) does Judg 15:18–19 seem to echo?**

7. Samson came to love another Philistine woman. What was her name? (Judg 16:4) (OPTIONAL: What does her name mean?) She enticed Samson to reveal what to her? (v. 5) Why did she do so? When she finally ascertained the secret, what did Samson assume? (v. 20) What happened to Samson? (vv. 21–31)

8. Judges shifts away from the story of the judges in Judg 17–21 and describes the continued downward spiral of Israel. Why might the author of Judges highlight the failures of Ephraim and Dan (and Levi) in Judg 17–18?

9. What Old Testament story does Judg 19 resemble? (Gen 19:1–11) What tribe and city in Israel attempted to rape the Levite and actually raped and murdered his concubine? (Judg 19:14–16; 20:4–6; cf. Hos 9:7–9; 10:9) What Old Testament character would later come from this same tribe and city? (1 Sam 9:15–16; 10:25–26)
10. What was result of the events of Judg 19? (Judg 20:14) When the Israelites (finally) inquired of God, God punished the guilty parties (vv. 18–48). How many Israelites died altogether? (vv. 21, 25) How many Benjamites died? (v. 35, 44–46) How did Israel prevent the total destruction of Benjamin? (21:1–23)

CHALLENGE: God is not pleased when we do what is right in our own eyes but is not scriptural. We should learn from the bad example of Israel in Judges. As you plan your days this week, first inquire of the Lord. Before you make a decision, **ASK YOURSELF, "IS THIS RIGHT IN THE EYES OF GOD, OR ONLY IN MINE?"**

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