

Part 2: JUDGES OF ISRAEL

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

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 (i.e., that which is not scriptural). We ought to 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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Lesson 6: The Book of Judges and the New Testament

1. The Judahites led the way in the conquest. They worked together with other Israelites (Simeonites) and even with Gentiles (Kenites). How might the portrayal of Judah in Judges preview Jesus and Christianity?
2. The sin-bondage-call-deliverance cycle of Judges parallels the sinfulness of humanity and the salvation that is available in Christ. Find at least four New Testament passages that show that everyone has sinned, become enslaved to sin, must call on the Lord for salvation, and that Jesus is the ultimate deliverer.

3. **THE FIRST JUDGE OF ISRAEL WAS OTHNIEL. THE NAME “OTHNIEL” PROBABLY MEANS “LION OF GOD” (OR “GOD IS A VIOLENT FORCE”). WHAT NEW TESTAMENT** character was, as Othniel, from the tribe of Judah, was pictured as a lion, was empowered by the Holy Spirit, and delivered the people of God from their enemies?

4. The Spirit of the Lord is mentioned seven times in Judges (3:10; 6:34; 11:29; 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14). Each time the Spirit prepared and empowered judges to fight for Israel. (NOTE: The verbs associated with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the judges is not consistent.) How does the Spirit strengthen us for the spiritual battles that we face today? (E.G., Eph 6:17–18; Phil 1:19–20)

5. **JEPHTHAH WAS THE EIGHT JUDGE OF ISRAEL. HIS NAME MEANS “HE WILL OPEN” (OR “HE WILL RELEASE”). JEPHTHAH WAS OF QUESTIONABLE PARENTAGE.**

Outcasts rallied around him. He sacrificed his only child. He was a man of faith (Heb 11:32–34). What New Testament character might Jephthah preview? Explain.

6. **THE NAME “SAMSON” MEANS “SUN.” THE BIRTH OF SAMSON WAS MIRACULOUS.**

An angel announced it. Samson was a Nazarite from birth. The Spirit of God empowered him. The closest companions of Samson (i.e., his brides and his friends) betrayed him. Samson cried out to God when he was thirsty and feared of falling into the hands of Gentiles. He sacrificed himself to destroy the enemies of God. He was a man of faith (Heb 11:32–34). What New Testament character(s) might Samson preview? Explain.

CHALLENGE: If your spiritual life is (privately or publicly) spiraling out of control, God is waiting for you to cry out to him for deliverance. He has raised up the ultimate savior and judge, Jesus Christ. Repent of your sins and beg for mercy. He will save you. If your spiritual life is steady, thank God every day this week for the forgiveness and freedom that you have in the Lord.

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