

# PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES

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JUDGES

STUDY GUIDE



# JUDGES

## SCRIPTURE READING

The Book of Judges

## THEME

For everyone to do right in his own eyes is certain to bring forth the judgment of God, but when repentance is evident, God intervenes in behalf of His people.

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The book of Judges records the military heroes or deliverers who led the nation of Israel against her enemies during the period between the death of Joshua and the establishment of the kingship.
- B. The book of Judges spans nearly four centuries. It is believed to cover the period of time from about 1380 to 1050 B.C.
- C. According to Acts 13:20, the time period of the judges spanned 450 years, excluding the prophet Samuel.
- D. At this time, the government of Israel was a loose confederation of tribes without a God-ordained leader to guide them; consequently, the people tended to rebel and fall into worship of false gods time and time again.
- E. Without a leader, "everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
  - 1. This principle describes the spiritual state of Israel during this time period.
  - 2. It also reveals the detrimental effect that comes from lack of leadership.
- F. The book of Judges records the actions of Israel as they set aside God's law and did what was right in their own eyes.

- G. The result of abandoning God's law is corruption within and oppression without.
- H. The book of Judges reveals the repetitious actions of Israel as she sins and incurs the judgment of God, repents and cries out to God, receives a deliverer from God, then reverts to her sinful ways.

## II. INCOMPLETE POSSESSION OF THE PROMISED LAND

- A. The book of Judges opens with the continuing conquests of Israel and her failure to conquer the land given unto her by God. (Judges 1:1-36)
- B. Israel's lack of persistence and her failure to rely totally upon God resulted in cohabitation with her enemies.

## III. GOD'S JUDGMENT ANNOUNCED BY AN ANGEL

- A. Because of Israel's disobedience, God sent an angel to pronounce His judgment upon the nation of Israel. (Judges 2:1-6)
- B. After hearing the angel's pronouncement, the nation of Israel wept. (Judges 2:4)

## IV. THE DEATH OF JOSHUA

- A. Joshua was one hundred ten years old when he died. (Judges 2:8)
- B. While Joshua was alive, the nation of Israel followed God. After the death of Joshua and his generation, the nation of Israel ceased to follow God. (Judges 2:7-13)

## V. THE RESULT OF ISRAEL'S UNFAITHFULNESS

- A. When the nation of Israel forsook God and began to worship idols, God became angry with them and delivered them into the hands of their enemies. (Judges 2:11-15)
- B. The Lord raised up judges to deliver them out of the hands of their enemies, but Israel would not remain faithful to God. (Judges 2:16-19)

- C. Because of Israel's disobedience, God refused to drive her enemies out of the land and used the enemy to test the faithfulness of the nation. (Judges 2:20-23)

## VI. ENEMY NATIONS WHO OCCUPIED THE PROMISED LAND

- A. The Philistines, Canaanites, Sidonians, and Hivites remained in the Promised Land. (Judges 3:1-3)
- B. God used these enemy nations to test Israel's loyalty to Him. (Judges 3:4)
- C. The Israelites intermarried with these nations and began serving their gods. (Judges 3:5-6)

## VII. JUDGES OF ISRAEL

- A. Othniel is recorded as the first judge of Israel. (Judges 3:7-11)
  - 1. Othniel was a son of Kenaz and nephew of Caleb.
  - 2. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Othniel and through his leadership, the nation of Israel was delivered from the oppression of the king of Mesopotamia.
  - 3. The nation of Israel experienced forty years of peace under Othniel's leadership.
- B. Ehud is recorded as the next judge of Israel. (Judges 3:12-30)
  - 1. Eglon, the king of the Moabites, allied with the people of Ammon and Amalek to defeat the Israelites. He ruled them for eighteen years.
  - 2. When the Israelites cried out to God because of their oppression, God raised up Ehud to deliver them.
  - 3. Ehud, the son of Gera, was left-handed. He was a descendant of Benjamin.
  - 4. The tribute paid by the Israelites to King Eglon was carried to the king of Moab by Ehud.

5. Ehud made a double-edged dagger approximately eighteen inches long and placed it under his clothes on his right thigh.
  6. After presenting the tribute to King Eglon, who was a very fat man, Ehud sent away those who had carried the tribute.
  7. Ehud told King Eglon that he had a secret message for him, and the king sent everyone out of the room.
  8. The king was sitting upstairs in his cool, private chamber. After everyone had left the room, Ehud stood up and walked over to the king.
  9. With his left hand he took the dagger from his right thigh and stabbed King Eglon in the belly. The dagger went in to the hilt, the fat closed over the blade, and the king's entrails came out.
  10. Ehud left the room through the porch, closing and locking the doors of the upper room behind him.
  11. After Ehud left the house, the servants went to check on King Eglon, but when they saw that the doors were closed and locked, they assumed he was using the bathroom.
  12. Having waited a long period of time, King Eglon's servants unlocked the door and found him dead.
  13. During the delay, Ehud escaped to the mountains of Ephraim, called the Israeli army together, and led them into battle against the Moabites.
  14. They killed ten thousand valiant soldiers of the Moabite army and subdued the Moabites.
  15. After the defeat of Moab, Israel lived in peace for eighty years.
- C. Shamgar, the son of Anath, was also recorded as a judge of Israel. He killed six hundred Philistine men with an ox goad. (Judges 3:31)

- D. Deborah is the only woman recorded as a judge of Israel. (Judges 4:1- 5:31)
1. Once again, Israel turned away from God and He allowed Jabin, the king of Canaan, to rule over them for twenty years.
  2. The Canaanite army had nine hundred chariots of iron, and the commander of King Jabin's army was Sisera.
  3. Deborah, who was a prophetess, judged Israel at this time. She was married to Lapidoth.
  4. Deborah would sit under a palm tree between Ramah and Bethel, and the children of Israel would come to her seeking the judgment of God in certain matters.
  5. One day Deborah sent for Barak, the son of Abinoam, who resided in Kadesh of Naphtali.
    - a. When Barak arrived, Deborah said to him, "Has not the Lord God of Israel given unto you a commandment, 'Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun; and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude at the river Kishon: and I will deliver him into your hand'?"
    - b. Barak refused to go to battle unless Deborah accompanied him.
    - c. Deborah agreed to go with him, but declared that he would not receive any glory for the defeat; Sisera would be delivered into the hands of a woman.
    - d. Just as Deborah had prophesied, Sisera mobilized his troops and came out against Barak.
    - e. Through divine intervention, the Israeli army defeated the army of Sisera.

f. While the Israeli army pursued and destroyed his army, Sisera left his chariot and ran for his life.

(1) Sisera ran to the tent of Jael, who was the wife of Heber, a Kenite.

(2) There was peace between Heber and Jabin, so Sisera felt safe.

(3) When Jael saw Sisera, she went out to greet him and invited him into her tent. When he came in, she covered him with a blanket.

(4) Sisera asked Jael for some water, and she brought him milk.

(5) He asked Jael to stand at the door and watch for him. If anyone asked if a man was there, she was to say no.

(6) Sisera was tired and went to sleep. Jael took a tent peg and a hammer, went quietly over to Sisera, and drove the tent peg through his temple into the ground. He died.

(7) When Barak arrived, Jael went out to meet him and told him that, if he would come with her, she would show him the man he was seeking.

(8) Barak followed Jael into her tent and saw Sisera lying dead with the tent peg through his temple.

g. The Israeli army grew stronger and stronger until it finally destroyed the Canaanite king.

6. The fifth chapter of Judges is a song that Deborah and Barak sang after the defeat of Sisera and his army.

7. After the defeat of King Jabin's army, Israel had forty years of peace. (Judges 5:31)

E. Gideon (Judges 6:1-8:35)

1. The Israelites once again did evil, and the Lord allowed the Midianites to oppress them for seven years. (Judges 6:1-6)
2. When the Israelites began crying out to God because of their oppression, He sent a prophet to them who warned them against worshipping the gods of the Amorites. (Judges 6:7-10)
3. The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon while he was threshing wheat in a winepress, wherein he was hiding from the Midianites. (Judges 6:11)
4. The angel told Gideon that the Lord was with him, and he called Gideon a mighty man of valor. (Judges 6:12)
5. Gideon responded by asking, "If the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us, and where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about?" (Judges 6:13)
6. God instructed Gideon to go in the might that he possessed and he would deliver Israel from the oppression of the Midianites. God assured Gideon that He had sent him for this purpose. (Judges 6:14)
7. Gideon felt inadequate for the task, but God encouraged him and promised the defeat of the Midianites. (Judges 6:15-16)
8. Gideon asked the angel for a sign. (Judges 6:17-24)
  - a. Gideon prepared an offering for the Lord and laid it on a rock.
  - b. The angel touched the offering with the end of his staff, and fire came forth from the rock and consumed the offering.
  - c. Gideon feared for his life, but the angel assured him that he would not die.
9. God commanded Gideon to tear down his father's altar of Baal and the wooden image beside the altar and to build an altar to God. Gideon obeyed, but not everyone was pleased with his actions. (Judges 6:25-32)

10. When the Midianites, Amalekites, and the people of the East assembled together against Israel, Gideon summoned the armies of Israel to go against them. (Judges 6:33-35)
11. Gideon sought reassurance by putting out a fleece and asking for a sign regarding the fleece. (Judges 6:36-40)
12. After God's confirmation with the fleece, Gideon mobilized his troops for battle, but God told him He had too many soldiers. (Judges 7:1-2)
13. The fearful were instructed to return home. Twenty-two thousand soldiers returned home, leaving Gideon with an army of ten thousand. (Judges 7:3)
14. God told Gideon that his army of ten thousand was still too large, so He gave Gideon instructions for choosing the army He desired. (Judges 7:4-6)
15. God promised Gideon that He would deliver Israel with the remaining three hundred soldiers. The other ninety-seven hundred soldiers were sent home. (Judges 7:7-8)
16. Through the dream of an enemy soldier, God gave Gideon another sign of his eminent victory. (Judges 7:9-15)
17. Gideon took the three hundred soldiers, divided them into three companies, armed each soldier with a trumpet, pitcher, and torch, and instructed them to follow his example, which resulted in the defeat of Israel's oppressors. (Judges 7:16-22)
18. When the enemy armies began to run, other Israeli soldiers came together, pursued them, and captured and killed two princes, Oreb and Zeeb. (Judges 7:23-5)
19. Gideon received a reprimand from the men of Ephraim because he did not include them in the initial battle. (Judges 8:1-3)

20. Gideon and his three hundred soldiers were tired and hungry from their pursuit of the fleeing armies. He petitioned the men of Succoth and Penuel for provisions for his army, but they refused. Gideon declared that, when he defeated his enemy, he would return and punish them. (Judges 8:4-9)
21. Gideon and his three hundred soldiers overtook and defeated the enemy armies. (Judges 8:10-12)
22. Gideon returned to Succoth and Penuel and punished those who had refused to help him. Afterwards, he killed the two kings of Midian, Ziba and Zalmunna. (Judges 8:13-21)
23. When Gideon returned home from battle, the men of Israel tried to persuade him to rule over them, but he refused. (Judges 8:22-23)
24. Gideon made an ephod from the golden earrings taken from those slain in battle and set it up in the city as a memorial, but Israel viewed the ephod as a god and worshipped it. (Judges 8:24-27)
25. The defeat of the Midianites brought forty years of peace for the Israelites. (Judges 8:28)
26. After the death of Gideon, Israel returned to idol worship. (Judges 8:29-35)

F. Abimelech (Judges 9:1-57)

1. Abimelech, who was the son of Gideon's concubine, conspired with the men of Shechem and was made king after his father's death. He killed sixty-nine of the seventy sons of Gideon, but Jotham escaped. (Judges 9:1-6)
2. Hearing that all of his brothers were killed, Jotham went up on top of Mount Gerizim and spoke a parable against Abimelech and the men of Shechem. (Judges 9:7-21)

3. After Abimelech had reigned over Israel for three years, contention arose between him and the men of Shechem. The curse of Jotham was experienced, both by the men of Shechem, who were killed by Abimelech, and Abimelech, who was killed by a woman who dropped a millstone from the wall of the city and crushed his skull. (Judges 9:22-57)

G. Tola (Judges 10:1-2)

1. After the death of Abimelech, Tola, a descendant of Issachar, became the judge of Israel. (Judges 10:1)
2. Tola judged Israel twenty-three years. (Judges 10:2)

H. Jair (Judges 10:3-5)

1. After the death of Tola, Jair, who was a Gileadite, judged Israel for twenty-two years. (Judges 10:3)
2. Jair had thirty sons who rode on donkeys, and each son had his own town. (Judges 10:4)

I. Jephthah (Judges 10:6- 12:7)

1. Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, but he was the son of a harlot. He was driven from his father's house by his two half-brothers. (Judges 11:1-2)
2. After fleeing from his half-brothers, Jephthah became the leader of a raiding party. (Judges 11:3)
3. When the Ammonites declared war against Israel, the elders of Gilead sought the help of Jephthah. (Judges 11:4-6)
4. Jephthah agreed to help Israel on the condition that he be made ruler after the Ammonites were defeated. (Judges 11:7-11)
5. Jephthah's attempt to end the dispute between Ammon and Israel peaceably was unsuccessful, so Jephthah made a vow to the Lord and led the army of Israel into battle against the Ammonites, defeating them. (Judges 11:29-33)

6. When Jephthah returned home from the victory, he was met by his daughter, whom he set apart unto God because of the vow he had made unto the Lord. (Judges 11:30-40)
  7. The Ephraimites opposed Jephthah because they were not included in the defeat of the Ammonites; consequently, Jephthah defeated their army as well. (Judges 12:1-6)
  8. Jephthah judged Israel six years. (Judges 12:7)
- J. Ibzan (Judges 12:8-10)
1. After the death of Jephthah, Ibzan, who was from Bethlehem, became the judge of Israel. (Judges 12:8)
  2. He had thirty sons, thirty daughters, thirty sons-in-law, and thirty daughters-in-law. (Judges 12:9)
  3. He judged Israel seven years. (Judges 12:9)
- K. Elon (Judges 12:11-12)
1. After the death of Ibzan, Elon the Zebulonite judged Israel. (Judges 12:11)
  2. Elon judged Israel ten years. (Judges 12:11)
- L. Abdon (Judges 12:13-5)
1. After the death of Elon, Abdon became the judge of Israel. (Judges 12:13)
  2. Abdon had forty sons and thirty grandsons; each one had his own donkey. (Judges 12:14)
  3. Abdon judged Israel eight years. (Judges 12:14)
- M. Samson (Judges 13:1-16:31)
1. Because they did evil in the sight of the Lord, Israel was under Philistine oppression when Samson was born. (Judges 13:1)

2. Samson's birth was supernatural and was announced by an angel of the Lord.
  - a. Manoah, who was from the tribe of Dan, lived in Zorah. Because his wife was sterile, they had no children. (Judges 13:2)
  - b. One day an angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah's wife and told her that, although she had been barren, she was going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. (Judges 13:3)
  - c. She was told not to drink wine or eat anything unclean. (Judges 13:4)
  - d. By the command of the Lord, Samson was to be a Nazarite from birth. (Judges 13:5-7)
    - (1) By Hebrew definition, Nazarite means separated or consecrated.
    - (2) A Nazarite was not allowed to cut his hair, drink wine, eat any fruit that came from the vine, or go near a dead body.
  - e. Manoah's wife told him that a man of God, whose countenance was like that of an angel, had visited her and told her that she was going to become pregnant. She admitted that she had not asked him where he lived, nor had she asked his name. (Judges 13:6)
  - f. Manoah prayed and asked God to allow the man of God to revisit them and tell them what they were to do concerning the child. God honored his request. (Judges 13:8)
  - g. The angel appeared the second time, and Manoah's wife ran to get her husband. (Judges 13:9-11)
  - h. When Manoah met the angel, he said, "Let your words come to pass." (Judges 13:12)
  - i. Asked by Manoah about the lifestyle of this promised son, the angel reiterated the words he had spoken to Manoah's wife. (Judges 13:13-14)

- j. Manoah requested that the angel stay and eat a meal. Although the angel stayed, he did not eat, nor did he tell Manoah his name. (Judges 13:15-18)
  - k. Manoah prepared a young goat and a grain offering and offered it upon a rock to the Lord, at which time the angel ascended in the flame that came from the offering. Manoah and his wife fell to the ground in worship. (Judges 13:19-20)
  - l. This incredible event made Manoah realize that the one with whom they had spoken was an angel of the Lord, and he feared for his life. (Judges 13:21-23)
  - m. True to the angel's message, Manoah's wife gave birth to a son and she named him Samson. (Judges 13:24)
  - n. Samson grew, and the Lord blessed him. The Spirit of the Lord began to move upon Samson. (Judges 13:25)
3. When Samson became a man, he disregarded his parents' wishes and decided to marry a Philistine woman from Timnah. (Judges 14:1-3)
  4. Samson's parents did not realize that God was going to use this event against the Philistines. (Judges 14:4)
  5. On the way to visit his perspective wife, Samson was attacked by a lion. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he killed the lion with his bare hands. His parents were unaware of Samson's deed. (Judges 14:5-6)
  6. Later when Samson revisited his perspective wife, he saw that the carcass of the lion was filled with bees and honey. He took the honey from the carcass of the lion and ate some. He took some to his parents as well, thus dishonoring his separation as a Nazarite. (Judges 14:5-9)

7. As was the custom, Samson gave a feast for the young men to celebrate his coming marriage. At this time, Samson told a riddle and made a wager with the young men. (Judges 14:10-14)
8. The young men could not interpret the riddle, so they threatened to kill Samson's fiancée and her family if she did not tell them the riddle. She persuaded Samson to tell her the answer to the riddle, and she told the young men. (Judges 14:15-17)
9. On the seventh day, the young men gave Samson the answer to the riddle; he realized that he had been betrayed by his fiancée. (Judges 14:18)
10. To pay off on his bet, Samson went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of their men, taking their clothes and giving them to the young men with whom he had made the bet. (Judges 14:19)
11. Because Samson left the celebration and did not consummate the marriage, the father of his fiancée gave her to another man and they were married. (Judges 14:20)
12. At the time of the wheat harvest, Samson went down to visit his fiancée and consummate the marriage. (Judges 15:1)
13. When he learned she was married to someone else, he refused her father's suggestion of marrying her younger sister and he vented his anger on the Philistines by turning loose into the wheat fields three hundred foxes with one hundred fifty torches tied to their tails. (Judges 15:2-5)
14. The Philistines responded by killing Samson's fiancée and her father. (Judges 15:6)
15. Samson retaliated by killing many Philistines. (Judges 15:7-8)
16. Afterwards, the Philistine army came up against Judah. The men of Judah negotiated with the Philistines and turned Samson over to them. (Judges 15:9-13)

17. When the Philistines came to take him, the Spirit of God came upon him and he broke the ropes with which he was bound, picked up the jawbone of a donkey, and killed one thousand Philistines. (Judges 15:14-17)
18. After his great victory, Samson was very thirsty. God supernaturally provided water for him. (Judges 15:18-19)
19. Samson went down to Gaza and had a sexual affair with a prostitute. When the men of Gaza learned that Samson was in the city, they surrounded the place and waited for morning so they could capture him. Samson stayed hidden until midnight. Then he got up, went outside, pulled up the posts that held the city gates, and carried the entire gate assembly to the top of a hill. (Judges 16:1-3)
20. Samson fell in love with a woman who lived in the Valley of Sorek; her name was Delilah. (Judges 16:4)
21. The lords of the Philistines offered her a great sum of money if she would find the source of Samson's strength and reveal it to them. (Judges 16:5)
22. Delilah immediately began pressuring Samson to reveal to her his source of strength. He lied to Delilah three times, but the fourth time she approached him, Samson revealed to her the true source of his strength. (Judges 16:6-20)
  - a. Samson's first lie was, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man."
  - b. Samson's second lie was, "If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man."
  - c. Samson's third lie was, "If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

- d. Finally, Samson told Delilah the truth of his strength: "No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazarite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man."
23. Each time, Delilah tested Samson's strength by telling him the Philistines had come against him. Every other time he had successfully met the challenge, but the fourth time, after revealing his true source of strength, Samson was helpless against the Philistines. (Judges 16:20-21)
24. The Philistines captured Samson and put out his eyes. They took him to the prison in Gaza, where he became a grinder. During this time, his hair grew. (Judges 16:21-22)
25. When the lords of the Philistines decided to celebrate the defeat of Samson and sacrifice to Dagon their god for delivering him into their hands, they brought him into the temple to mock him. (Judges 16:23-25)
26. Samson asked the lad who was leading him to let him feel the pillars that supported the temple; the lad honored his request. (Judges 16:26)
27. Samson prayed to God and asked for a restoration of his strength so he could avenge himself for the loss of his sight. God honored his request. Samson pushed down the pillars that supported the temple, killing more people than he had killed in his lifetime. He died with the Philistines. (Judges 16:27-30)
28. Samson's brothers and family members came down to take his body and bury it with his father and mother. (Judges 16:31)
29. Samson judged Israel twenty years. (Judges 15:20; Judges 16:31)
- N. Although he is not mentioned in the Book of Judges, Eli judged Israel forty years. (I Samuel 4:16-18)

- O. Although he is not mentioned in the Book of Judges, Samuel was also a judge; he was the last judge of Israel. (I Samuel 7:6; I Samuel 7:15-17)
- P. In I Samuel 12:11, the reference made to Bedan suggests that he, too, was a judge in Israel.

#### VIII. MICAH'S IDOLATRY (Judges 17:1-18:31)

- A. Micah, who lived in the mountains of Ephraim, stole eleven hundred shekels of silver from his mother but returned the silver after his mother placed a curse upon it. (Judges 17:1-2)
- B. His mother took two hundred shekels of the silver and gave it to a silversmith to make a carved and molded idol. (Judges 17:3-4)
- C. Micah had a shrine in his house with an ephod and household idols. He consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest. (Judges 17:5)
- D. At this time, Israel had no king, and everyone did what was right in his own eyes. (Judges 17:6)
- E. A young Levite man who had been living in Bethlehem of Judah left Bethlehem and came to the mountains of Ephraim. When Micah learned of his coming, he invited the young Levite to live with him and become his personal priest. The Levite accepted Micah's invitation. (Judges 17:7-12)
- F. Micah interpreted this incident as good fortune that would result in God's blessing. (Judges 17:13)
- G. At this time, the tribe of Dan was seeking to occupy their inheritance. They sent five men of valor as spies to the land. They came to Micah's house and stayed with him for a period of time. They learned of the Levite who lived with Micah and asked him to inquire of the Lord for them. (Judges 18:1-6)
- H. The five men left Micah's house and went to Laish. There they observed how the people were living and how vulnerable they were. (Judges 18:7)

- I. When the spies returned home giving their report, six hundred men from the tribe of Dan went to destroy Laish and occupy their land. (Judges 18:8-12)
- J. As the small army came to the mountains of Ephraim, the five spies told them of Micah's shrine and its contents. (Judges 18:13-14)
- K. The five spies, accompanied by the six-hundred-man army, took the contents of the shrine and the Levite priest and headed to Laish. (Judges 18:15-21)
- L. When Micah realized what had happened, he and his neighbors pursued and overtook the army of Dan, but he was no match for their forces so he returned home. (Judges 18:22-26)
- M. The army from Dan continued their journey. Arriving at Laish, they destroyed its inhabitants, burned the city with fire, and occupied the territory. (Judges 18:27)
- N. After rebuilding the city, the children of Dan set up the images taken from Micah and made Jonathan, the son of Gershom who was the son of Manasseh, their priest. His sons continued as priests until Dan went into captivity. (Judges 18:28-31)

IX. A LEVITE'S CONCUBINE (Judges 19:1-20:48)

- A. A Levite living in the remote mountains of Ephraim had a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah who was unfaithful to him. She went back home to her father and remained there for three months. (Judges 19:1-2)
- B. The Levite took his servant and traveled to Bethlehem for the purpose of reconciling with his concubine. (Judges 19:3)
- C. Upon the Levite's arrival, the father of his concubine met him and lodged him in his house for three days. (Judges 19:4)
- D. Intending to return home, the Levite arose early in the morning on the fourth day. The father of his concubine detained him, so he stayed another night. (Judges 19:5-7)

- E. The Levite rose up early on the fifth day and prepared to return home, but once again the father of his concubine detained him until late in the day. He tried to persuade the Levite to spend another night, but he refused and began his journey home. (Judges 19:8-10)
- F. When the Levite, accompanied by his servant and concubine, came near to the city of Jebus, the servant recommended that they enter the city and spend the night. The Levite, however, was determined to go to Gibeah, a place that belonged to the Israelites. (Judges 19:11-12)
- G. They journeyed to Gibeah and sat down in the open square of the city because no one would invite them to their home. (Judges 19:13-15)
- H. An old man from the mountains of Ephraim who was staying in Gibeah came in from the field and invited the Levite and his company into his home. (Judges 19:16-21)
- I. Certain perverted men of the city of Gibeah came to the old man's house and demanded that he turn over his guest to them for homosexual activity, but he refused and offered his virgin daughter and the Levite's concubine. (Judges 19:22-24)
- J. The Levite's concubine was given to the men, and they sexually abused her all night. When the morning came, they let her go. She returned to the door of the old man's house and died. (Judges 19:25-28)
- K. When the Levite realized his concubine was dead, he placed her on one of the donkeys and returned home. (Judges 19:28)
- L. Once home, the Levite took a knife and cut his dead concubine into twelve pieces, sending one piece of her body to each tribe of Israel. (Judges 19:29)
- M. When the body parts of the concubine arrived at the various tribes, they were astonished. No one had ever witnessed such an act. They consulted with one another as to what action they should take. (Judges 19:30)

- N. The tribes of Israel assembled their armies, which consisted of four hundred thousand foot soldiers, at Mizpah. The leaders questioned the Levite concerning the death of his concubine. He gave a detailed account of the incident that took place in Gibeah. (Judges 20:1-6)
- O. After hearing the Levite's report, the Israelites came up with a strategy that would punish the men of Gibeah for this atrocity. (Judges 20:7-11)
- P. Men were sent throughout the tribe of Benjamin to bring attention to the crime that had been committed and to request that the perpetrators of the crime be brought forth and killed. (Judges 20:12-13)
- Q. The tribe of Benjamin refused the request of the Israelites and assembled their army against them. (Judges 20:14-16)
- R. The Israelites consulted God before going to battle against the Benjaminites. The Lord instructed them to "send Judah first." (Judges 20:18)
- S. The Benjaminites came out to battle against the Israelites. Israel prepared for the battle at Gibeah, but the Benjaminites killed twenty-two thousand Israeli soldiers. (Judges 20:21)
- T. The Israelites encouraged themselves and again formed a battle line at the same place they had previously fought. (Judges 20:22)
- U. Once again, the Israelites consulted with the Lord before engaging in battle; once again, the Lord instructed them to go out and fight against Benjamin. (Judges 20:23)
- V. The Benjaminites killed eighteen thousand Israeli soldiers in this battle. (Judges 20:24-25)
- W. After the second defeat, the Israelites went to the house of God and wept and fasted and offered burnt offerings to the Lord. (Judges 20:26)
- X. Once again, the Israelites consulted the Lord through Phinehas, the son of Eleazar and grandson of Aaron. The Lord told them to go against the Benjaminites and, this time, they would defeat them. (Judges 20:27-28)

- Y. This time, the Israelites set an ambush around Gibeah. The remaining Israeli army engaged in battle against the Benjaminites. When the Benjaminites came against them, they retreated and the pursuing Benjaminites were drawn away from the city, allowing the ten thousand choice soldiers lying in ambush to come between the army of Benjamin and the city. (Judges 20:29-32)
- Z. The Israeli armies caught the Benjaminites in an ambush and killed twenty-five thousand, one hundred Benjaminite soldiers. The ambush party went against the city of Gibeah, killing its inhabitants and setting the city on fire. When the Israeli army saw the smoke ascending from the city, they turned and began to attack the Benjaminites. Only six hundred Benjaminites were able to escape. (Judges 20:33-48)
- X. WIVES FOR THE BENJAMINITES (Judges (21:1-25))
  - A. The Israelites had taken an oath at Mizpah that they would not give their daughters in marriage to a Benjaminite. (Judges 21:1)
  - B. After the defeat of the Benjaminites, the Israelites gathered at the house of God and wept for the loss of the tribe of Benjamin. The next morning they built an altar and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord. (Judges 21:2-4)
  - C. The Israelites took inventory of all who were represented and discovered that no one from Jabesh Gilead took part in the battle. Because of the great oath that had been made concerning anyone who did not go against the Benjaminites, the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead were killed, with the exception of four hundred virgins. (Judges 21:5-12)
  - D. The Israelites sent word to the remaining six hundred Benjaminites, who were at the rock of Rimmon, that their intent was not to harm them. The Benjaminites responded by returning to their land, at which time they were given the four hundred virgins for wives. (Judges 21:13-14)

- E. The remaining two hundred Benjaminites were instructed to go to Shiloh and hide in the vineyards and wait for the virgins of Shiloh, who would come out and dance in celebration of the feast. Each man was to run and take a girl to be his wife, then return home. When the girls' fathers complained, the Israelites pleaded in behalf of the Benjaminites, and the problem was resolved. (Judges 21:15-22)
- F. After the Benjaminites had taken their wives, they returned to their own land and rebuilt their cities. (Judges 21:23)
- G. The Israeli army dispersed and went home. (Judges 21:24)

## XI. SUMMARY

- A. There are eighteen recorded judges, including one woman, in the Book of Judges; in addition, the Bible reveals two more judges, Eli and Samuel.
- B. Israel repeatedly turned her back on God but then cried out to God when He punished them.
- C. Each time the Israelites cried out to God, He raised up a deliverer.
- D. After the death of the deliverer, Israel would revert to her old lifestyle and begin worshipping idols.
- E. Not all the judges of Israel served God with a pure heart.
- F. In the era of the Book of Judges, everyone did what was right in his own eyes; consequently, Israel did not serve God.

## XII. CONCLUSION

- A. The Book of Judges has much to teach through the examples and principles it reveals.
- B. We must learn from these examples and realize the importance of serving God with a pure heart.

- C. God's mercy and patience are certainly manifested in this time of "everyone doing what was right in his own eyes."
- D. God's judges were those who gave the judgment of God to the people and executed the judgment of God against the enemies of Israel.