

LESSON 10: JUDGES

From Joshua 1:1 to 24:36 and Judges 1:1 to 21:25

Joshua led God's people, the Israelites, into the land that God had promised to give to them. There was a lot of land. There were many towns and cities there. Joshua helped the people find new homes. Each of the family groups had their own place to live.

After Joshua died, judges led the people. Whenever there was a problem, God raised up a judge to lead and protect them. There were thirteen judges in about 300 years.

One of the judges was Deborah. She would sit under a palm tree and make decisions whenever there was a quarrel between the people. She also led the people into battle. She and her helper Barak sang a song of praise to God, "May those who love God be like the sun coming out with warmth. And let the land be at peace for forty years."

Another judge was Gideon. One time, the Midianites attacked God's people. There were 135,000 Midianite soldiers and only 32,000 Israelites. God told Gideon that he would win, but that he had too many soldiers. Gideon sent all but 300 soldiers home. At night, groups of soldiers went on three sides of the Midianites. They blew trumpets, shone torches, and shouted, "For the Lord and for Gideon!" The Midianites were so surprised and confused that they ran away!

One of the judges was Samson. God told him to never cut his hair. Because he obeyed God, Samson was stronger than any other man. He kept the enemies away. One time, a beautiful woman named Delilah, who was sent by the enemy, asked Samson to tell the secret of his strength. At first, he didn't tell her, but she said, "If you love me, you will tell me." So Samson told his secret. While he was sleeping, Delilah had someone cut his hair. When Samson woke up, he was as weak as any other man. The enemies captured him, took out his eyes, and put him on display so everyone could make fun of him. After a long time, when his hair grew back, he cried out to God to repent. He became strong again. One day in a temple of the idols, he pushed the pillars down. He and 700 of the enemies died that day.

Circle all correct answers.

1. Who was in charge of the people of Israel after they settled in the land that God had promised them?
 - A. Presidents.
 - B. Governors.
 - C. Judges.
 - D. Mayors.

2. What was the job of these leaders?
 - A. Protect the people.
 - B. Take the people back to Egypt.
 - C. Make decisions for the people.
 - D. Build a palace to live in.

Match the judge to what he or she is known for.

3. ___ Deborah A. Let himself be tricked by a beautiful woman.
4. ___ Gideon B. Sat under a palm tree making decisions.
5. ___ Samson C. Led 300 soldiers against an army of 135,000

6. How many judges led God's people?

7. For about how many years did judges lead the people of Israel?

8. Here are the names of the other judges: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Abimelech, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon.

EXTRA QUESTIONS (Lesson 10)

Read more of the story of Gideon in Judges 6:11 to 7:25.

9. Which part of the story shows that he was humble?

10. What was the first thing Gideon did to show that he was brave?

11. What part of the story shows that Gideon wanted proof?

12. Why did God only want 300 soldiers to help Gideon?
