

Discipleship University Bible Reading Guide

Early Old Testament Foundations: Judges 1-18

For class to be held April 16, 2016

Judges 1-3: The Failure to Complete the Conquest and the Early Judges

1. Judges 1 appears to be a summary of all of Judah's conquests and repeats some of what was already in Joshua. Why did they fail to drive out the inhabitants of the lowland? _____
2. Who did the Benjaminites fail to drive out and where did they live? _____
3. Most of the tribes failed to drive the Canaanites out of some settlements in their territory. What were they able to force upon many of these Canaanite villages? _____
4. What happened to the tribe of Dan in their territory? _____
5. What did the Angel of the LORD tell Israel would be the result of their failure to obey the command to drive out all the Canaanites and break down all their altars? _____
6. Judges 2:11-19 is a summary of what happened over and over throughout the book of Judges. What are the 3 steps that will repeat as a cycle? 1. _____. 2. _____. 3. _____
7. When Israel intermarried with the Canaanites, served their gods, and the LORD allowed Cushan-Rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia to rule over them for 8 years, then who did God raise up as a judge and deliverer? _____. How long did he judge Israel and keep them in peace? _____
8. After this period of peace, who oppressed Israel for 18 years? _____
9. How did the fact that Ehud was left-handed play a part in him delivering Israel?

10. From whom did Shamgar deliver Israel? _____

Judges 4-5: Deborah and Barak

1. What did Jabin and Sisera have that was too much for Israel to fight against? _____
2. By what river were Barak's soldiers to meet Sisera's forces and receive a victory from God? _____
3. How many of Sisera's men escaped and lived? _____. Who killed Sisera? _____
4. In Deborah's song in Judges 5, she refers to the River Kishon as the "waters of _____."
5. How long did Israel have rest under the judgeship of Deborah and Barak? _____

Judges 6-9: Gideon and Abimelech

1. Why was Gideon threshing wheat in a winepress? _____
2. Why did God choose Gideon, who was from the weakest clan in Manasseh and was the least in his father's house? _____
3. How did God ask Gideon to demonstrate his rejection of idols and commitment to God? _____
4. Were Gideon's tests of God with his fleece motivated by faith or a lack of faith? _____
5. Why didn't God want Israel's army to be very big? _____
6. How did God deliver Israel from the Midianites? What actually happened? _____
7. What serious mistake was committed by the inhabitants of Succoth and Penuel? _____
8. Gideon was noble in refusing to be made king, but what sin did he fail to resist when he had power? _____
_____. How did Gideon cause people to follow idolatry? _____
9. Who killed 69 of his 70 brothers and was made king in Shechem? _____
10. How did Jotham's prophecy against the men of Shechem come true? _____

11. How did Abimelech's cruelty finally come back on him? _____

Judges 10-12: Several Other Judges

1. What people oppressed the Israelites east of the Jordan? _____. What made Jephthah a very unlikely Judge of Israel? _____
2. What are the two possibilities for how to understand what Jephthah may have done with his daughter? _____
3. Why did Jephthah's army kill thousands of the tribe of Ephraim? _____

***Suggested Reading, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 53 (pages 543-559)

Judges 13-16: Samson

1. What evidence is in chapter 13 that the Man of God/Angel of the LORD was truly God? _____
2. Why was Samson's wife given to his best man? _____
3. Why did Samson destroy the Philistine wheat crops, olive groves, and vineyards with hundreds of foxes with tails lit on fire? _____. What was the Philistine's response to this? _____. How did Samson retaliate? _____
4. What was the end result of Judah handing Samson over to the Philistines as a tied up prisoner? _____
5. How many years was Samson judge of Israel? _____. Is it possible most of those years were good? _____
6. How can we explain Samson telling Delilah what would cause him to lose strength when it was obvious that the Philistines were going to pounce on him as they had already tried three times? _____
7. What was the real cause of Samson's loss of strength? _____
8. What was different about Samson toward the end of chapter 16? _____
9. Why do you think God gave a man great strength like this only once? _____

***Suggested Reading, *PP*, chapter 54 (pages 560-568)

Judges 17-18: Micah the Ephraimite, the Danites, and the Phony Priest

1. What did Micah's mother make for him? _____. What did Micah do to one of his sons? _____. Why was this wrong? _____
2. Why did Micah offer a salary to the young traveler from Bethlehem of Judah to stay with him? _____
3. Why were Micah and the young man wrong to do this? _____
4. What kind of religion were they practicing? _____
5. Why weren't Micah and the Levite stricken by God? _____
6. Why did the 600 Danites leave their tribal territory? What were they planning to do? _____
7. Why did Micah's phony priest and his idols go with the Danites? _____
8. Although Micah gathered a band of men to pursue the Danites, why did he give up even getting his idols back? _____
9. What does Judges 17-18 tell us about the spiritual condition of Israel during the later period of the Judges? _____