

Bible Study Exercise - Judges 1

PREFACE - SUMMARY OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES

THE DIVISIONS OF THE BOOK

Chap. 1:1-3:6 The failure of Israel to consolidate their inheritance

Chap. 3:7-16:31 The history of Israel under the Judges

Chap. 17:1-21:25 Two appendices to the book (occurred between V.9 and 10 of Chap. 2)

The two appendices illustrate the spiritual state of Israel throughout the period of the Judges. There is clear evidence in Judges 18:30 (Jonathan was the grandson of Moses) and 20:28 (Phinehas was High Priest at the time) that these two stories occurred chronologically in the period between Judges 2 verse 9 and 10.

Appendix 1

Chap. 17 & 18 **CORRUPTION OF DOCTRINE**

- (1) Micah and his gods - Corrupt worship
- (2) Failure of Dan to take their inheritance - Apostate worship established in Dan.

Appendix 2

Chap. 19-21 **CORRUPTION OF PRACTICE**

- (1) The Levite and his unfaithful concubine
- (2) Abomination in Gibeah - Civil war in Israel

THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES - "Every man did that which was right in his own eyes"

This statement occurs twice (Judges 17:6; 21:25). If the italicised words are omitted and the word "right" (*yashar* - straight) is understood correctly in its context ("There was no king in Israel..."), then it really means that because no authority stood to condemn or commend actions (Judges 18:7), Israelites saw no wrong in their actions and justified (to themselves) everything they did.

THE TYPICAL HISTORY OF THE JUDGES

1. Moses the Lawgiver dies - replaced by Joshua (Jesus) - *The Law abolished and Grace established.*
2. Joshua destroys organised resistance - "*The prince of this world cast out*" by Christ (John 12:31).
3. Way open for the tribes to take their inheritance - nothing failed of God's promise to them - *Christ's work and triumph over death opens the way for all individuals to find life.*
4. After the death of Joshua and the elders, decline set in (Judges 2:6-10) - *Prefigured apostasy of First Century Ecclesia after the Apostles.*
5. 450 years of apostasy, chaos and darkness with brief periods of revival - *Foreshadowed the ecclesia in apostasy through the "Dark Ages" with brief periods of light.*
6. Boaz and Ruth - individuals manifest faith amidst apostasy - *Faithful Jews and Gentiles uphold the Truth amid general apostasy.*
7. Samuel introduces a new era - the schools of the prophets with organised education and sound spiritual leadership - *Prefigured the revival of the Truth in the latter days - the work of Bro. John Thomas and others to firmly establish the ecclesias.*

8. The reign of Saul produces disunity, disorganisation and apathy - indifference to the Ark - *The modern "Laodicean" ecclesia with pockets of strength amid widespread apathy and indifference.*
9. Ascension of David to the throne to establish "the Kingdom of God" - Israel's worship reformed and the nations subdued - *Type of Christ "the beloved" sitting on David's throne over a purified Israel and ruling over subject nations.*
10. Solomon builds the Temple and enjoys a reign of 40 years peace - *Type of Christ building the House of Prayer for all nations and reigning in peace for the Millennium.*

OUTLINE OF THE JUDGES

"Judges" - Heb. *shophetim* - rulers; from verb: to put right and then rule.

There were **13 judges** - 12 called by God and one imposter (Abimelech).

- Numerical value of their names is a multiple of 8 and 13;
- 8 is the number of salvation (immortality) - cp. "Jesus" with a numerical value of 888 is used 888 times N.T. (excluding Revelation);
- 13 is the number of rebellion and sin (Gen. 14:4; 17:25; Mk. 7:21-22);
- "Sin brings suffering - Seeking God brings **salvation**";
- Foreshadowed too the 12 faithful apostles and one imposter - Judas.

JUDGE (TRIBE)	YEARS	MEANING OF NAME	REFERENCE	ADVERSARY	OPPRESSION
Othniel (Judah)	40	"The lion of God"	3:8-11	Chushan-Rishathaim	8 years
Ehud (Benjamin)	80	"To unify"	3:12-30	Eglon of Moab, Ammon and Amalek	18 years
Shamgar (Naphtali)		"Cup-bearer"	3:31	Philistines	
Deborah (Ephraim)	40	"Bee" (orderly motion)	Chaps. 4 & 5	Jabin & Sisera in north Canaan	(Canaanites) 20 years
Gideon (Manasseh)	40	"Hewer down"	Chaps. 6-8	Midian	7 years
Tola (Issachar)	23	"Crimson grub"	10:1-2		
Jair of Gilead (Manasseh)	22	"Enlightener"	10:3-5		
Jephthah of Gilead (Gad)	6	"He will open"	11:1-12:7	Ammon	18 years
Ibzan (Judah)	7	"Splendid"	12:8-10		
Elon (Zebulun)	10	"Oak grove" (Strength)	12:11-12		
Abdon (Ephraim)	8	"Slave" (Servitude)	12:13-15		
Samson (Dan)	20	"Brilliant Sunlight"	Chaps. 13-16	Philistines	40 years

THREE DIVINE PRONOUNCEMENTS AGAINST ISRAEL

1. Judges 2:1-3 - Period from Othniel to Deborah and Barak

The Angel at Bochim - A warning of the consequences of failing to utterly destroy the Canaanites. There was at this time a measure of solidarity between tribes but increasing fear, lack of faith and a growing disunity.

2. Judges 6:8-10 - Period from Gideon to Jair

The Prophet sent to sharply rebuke Israel for failure to respond to Yahweh's guarantee of help, and for idolatry. At this time there was disunity among the tribes. They were torn by pride and ambition; there was internal decay and disintegration and a lack of resolve.

3. Judges 10:11-14 - Period from Jephthah to Samson

The Voice of Yahweh proclaims His abandonment of Israel to the gods they had chosen to serve.

Note how Israel's continual retrogression is matched by a progressive withdrawal by Yahweh. His presence is withdrawn progressively until "There was no open vision" in the days of Eli (1 Sam. 3:1).

SIX CYCLES OF FAILURE AND REDEMPTION

"Sin brings suffering, and seeking God brings salvation"

	SIN	SUFFERING	SUPPLICATION	DELIVERANCE
1	Israel did evil... they served Baalim (3:7)	The anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. He sold them into the hand of Cushan-risha-thaim (3:8)	And when Israel cried unto the LORD (3:9)	The LORD raised up a deliverer even Othniel (3:9)
2	Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD (3:12)	The LORD strengthened Eglon, king of Moab (3:12)	But when the children of Israel cried to the LORD (3:15)	The LORD raised up a deliverer even Ehud (3:15)
3	Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD when Ehud was dead (4:1)	And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan (4:2)	But when Israel cried unto the LORD (4:3)	Deborah a prophetess, she judged Israel at that time... He called also Barak (4:4)
4	And the children of Israel did evil (6:1)	And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years (6:1)	And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites (6:6)	And there came an angel unto Gideon (6:11)
5	And the children of Israel did evil and forsook the LORD (10:6)	And His anger was hot and He sold them into the hand of the Ammonites (10:7)	And the children of Israel cried saying, "We have sinned against thee" (10:10)	Then the spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah (11:29)
6	And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD (13:1)	And He sold them into the hand of the Philistines forty years (13:1)	Possibly included in 10:15: "And the children of Israel said unto the LORD, We have sinned..."	And the angel of the LORD said, "he (Samson) shall begin to deliver Israel (13:5)

NB - Samson began to deliver Israel from Philistines oppression. The work was continued by Samuel but not finally completed until the reign of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:8). The judgeship of Samson (which was probably contemporary with Samuel for a short time) was at the close of an era. The period of the Kings was about to commence when all the tribes would gain a cohesiveness under a central administration which had not existed during the whole period of the Judges.

AN OUTLINE OF THE JUDGES AS TYPES OF CHRIST

Othniel

Redemption in the Sanctuary through the power of the Word - Salvation for the Lamb's wife -Victory over Gog and Babylon the Great by the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

Ehud

The people of God unified by "Yahweh's salvation", the Word made flesh - The Prince of this world cast out by the son of God's right hand - Eternal life brought to light by the captain of our salvation - Finally subdues all flesh.

Deborah & Barak

The work of Atonement amplified in a typical fulfillment of Gen.3:15 - Fleshly wisdom manifested in the seed of the serpent in conflict with divine wisdom manifested in the Word made flesh - The victory of the cross - The serpent destroyed in one final conflict - Final victory over the power of the serpent foreshadowed.

Gideon

Messiah's first advent - Purges his father's house - Makes acceptable sacrifice of Atonement for father's house - Ascends to heaven - Returns to resurrect and judge the household - Defeats the northern invader and purges the house of Israel.

Jephthah

Rejected by his own people - Returns at time of great national crisis - Defeats northern invader - Purges house of Judah and offers it to Yahweh - Purges scattered Israel and establishes Kingdom - Reigns for Millennium and hands back the Kingdom to God.

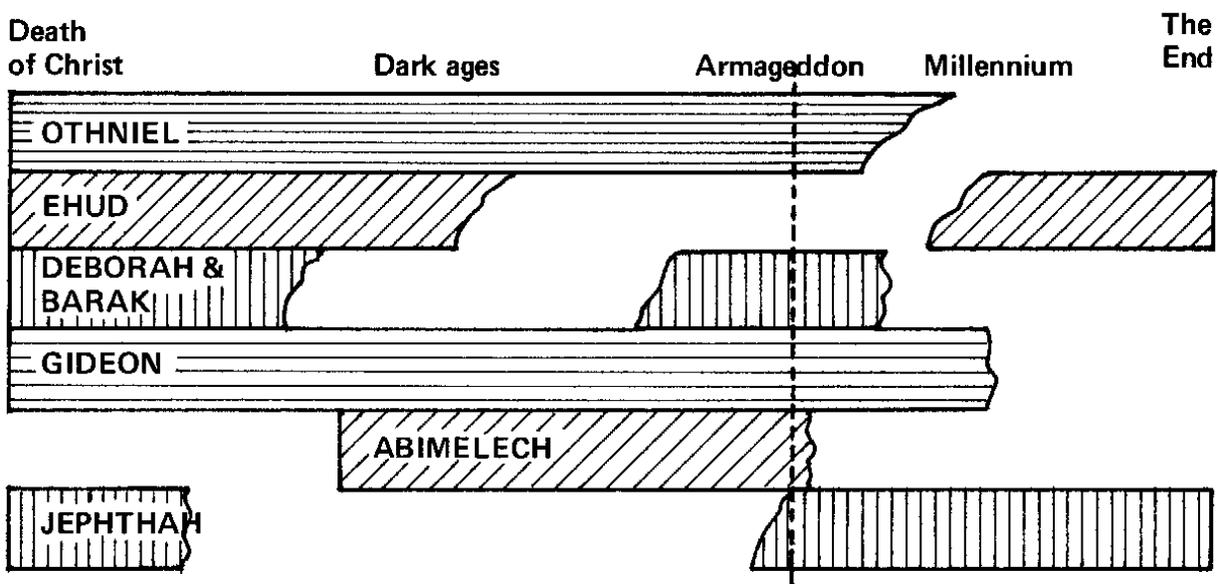
Samson

Messiah announced by an angel as a Nazarite - Made strong by divine power - Delivers his people - Delivered up to Gentiles - Betrayed for silver - Ridiculed before death - Burst the bonds of death to vanquish foe.

"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" - Luke 24:27

MESSIAH IN THE JUDGES

The periods covered by the types in the book



Bible Study Exercise – Judges 1:1-15

Some hints:

- With most studies we start with a blank sheet. In this exercise we have provided chapter division summaries and suggested by underlining and numbering what words/phrases in each verse need to be looked at closely. Moreover in the Bible marking column we have asked questions that may prove helpful to the student. However, you will need to do your own spadework by looking up the meanings of words, other translations and most importantly of all exercising your mind on the text for long enough until it yields its secrets.
- Use a reliable concordance (either book, e.g. Strong’s or electronic, e.g. e-Sword) to check the meaning of words and the accuracy of the translation.
- Always use Scripture to interpret itself. Comparing spiritual things with spiritual as revealed throughout Scripture is the key to “rightly dividing the Word” – 1 Cor. 2:10-13.
- Some space has been provided below for your notes.

<p style="text-align: center;">Judges 1</p> <p>1) <u>¹Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, ²Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?</u></p> <p>2) And the LORD said, <u>³Judah shall go up</u>: behold, I have delivered the land into his hand.</p> <p>3) And Judah said unto <u>⁴Simeon</u> his brother, <u>⁵Come up with me into my lot</u>, that we may fight against the <u>⁶Canaanites</u>; and I likewise will go with thee into thy lot. So Simeon went with him.</p> <p>4) And Judah went up; and the LORD delivered the Canaanites and the <u>¹Perizzites</u> into their hand: and they slew of them in <u>²Bezek</u> <u>³ten thousand</u> men.</p>	<p><u>Two basic misconceptions – Reasons for Israel’s failure highlighted</u></p> <p>¹ What is unusual about the way the Book of Judges begins?.</p> <p>² There are two basic misconceptions in this appeal. What are they?: (1); (2)</p> <p>³ Why does God choose Judah to go up?</p> <p>⁴ Why is the meaning of his name significant in this context, and is there a time in Simeon’s future relevant here?</p> <p>⁵ Why would Judah ask Simeon to join them?</p> <p>⁶ What do individual Canaanites represent in the context of Israel’s inheritance of the Land?</p> <p><u>Judah victorious over Adonibezek but fail the test of obedience</u></p> <p>¹ What might Perizzites represent in the context?</p> <p>² List the meaning of the name.</p> <p>³ What does this number represent in Scripture?</p>
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<p>5) And they found ⁴<u>Adonibezek</u> in Bezek: and they fought against him, and they slew the Canaanites and the Perizzites.</p> <p>6) But Adonibezek fled; and they pursued after him, and caught him, and ⁵<u>cut off his thumbs and his great toes</u>.</p> <p>7) And Adonibezek said, Threescore and ten kings, having their ⁶<u>thumbs</u> and their ⁷<u>great toes</u> cut off, gathered <i>their meat</i> under my table: ⁸<u>as I have done, so God hath requited me</u>. And they brought him to ⁹<u>Jerusalem</u>, ¹⁰<u>and there he died</u>.</p> <p>8) Now the children of Judah had fought against Jerusalem, and had taken it, and smitten it with the edge of the sword, and set the city on fire.</p> <p>9) And afterward the children of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites, that dwelt in the ¹<u>mountain</u>, and in the ²<u>south</u>, and in the valley.</p> <p>10) And Judah went against the Canaanites that dwelt in ³<u>Hebron</u>: (now the name of Hebron before was ⁴<u>Kirjatharba</u>;) and they slew ⁵<u>Sheshai</u>, and ⁶<u>Ahiman</u>, and ⁷<u>Talmaj</u>.</p> <p>11) And from thence he went against the inhabitants of ⁸<u>Debir</u>: and the name of Debir before was ⁹<u>Kirjathsepher</u>:</p>	<p>⁴ List the meaning of his name and consider what he might represent spiritually.</p> <p>⁵ In reprisal (v.7) but what is wrong with this approach? Judah falls into a trap here that was to characterise their approach to religion into the future. What are the false principles here (Clue – the approach bears Judah’s name)?</p> <p>⁶ What does the thumb represent in the spiritual realm?</p> <p>⁷ What role do big toes play in life, and what might they represent in the spiritual realm?</p> <p>⁸ Is this view correct?</p> <p>⁹ What is the meaning of the name and its significance in the spiritual realm?</p> <p>¹⁰ In what tribe was Jerusalem located? Who lost control of it and why?</p> <p><u>Judah’s southern campaign – Caleb and Othniel take Hebron & Debir</u></p> <p>¹ To what part of the Land does this refer?</p> <p>² Check the word. What region is involved?</p> <p>³ What is the meaning of Hebron and why might be its significance in this context?</p> <p>⁴ The name refers to 4 important inhabitants. Who/what do they represent in the spiritual realm?</p> <p>⁵ Meaning of the name is significant. Why?</p> <p>⁶ Meaning of the name is significant. Why?</p> <p>⁷ Meaning of the name is significant. Why?</p> <p>⁸ The meaning of the name suggests a future role (in the type). Why?</p> <p>⁹ The meaning of the name suggests the present role for a significant place</p>
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<p>12) And ¹⁰<u>Caleb</u> said, He that smiteth Kirjathsepher, and taketh it, to him will I give ¹¹<u>Achsah</u> my daughter to wife.</p> <p>13) And ¹²<u>Othniel</u> the son of ¹³<u>Kenaz</u>, Caleb's ¹⁴<u>younger brother</u>, took it: and he gave him Achsah his daughter to wife.</p> <p>14) And it came to pass, when she came <i>to him</i>, that she ¹⁵<u>moved</u> him to ask of her father ¹⁶<u>a field</u>: and she lighted from off <i>her</i> ¹⁷<u>ass</u>; and Caleb said unto her, What wilt thou?</p> <p>15) And she said unto him, Give me a ¹⁸<u>blessing</u>: for thou hast given me a ¹⁹<u>south</u> land; give me also springs of water. And Caleb gave her the ²⁰<u>upper springs</u> and the ²¹<u>nether springs</u>.</p>	<p>in the Divine plan. Why?</p> <p>¹⁰ What is the meaning of his name and why is this significant in relation to his origins?</p> <p>¹¹ Does the meaning of her name suggest anything in relation to the type?</p> <p>¹² The meaning of the name as given by Gesenius is highly significant in the type.</p> <p>¹³ List the meaning of the name.</p> <p>¹⁴ What was the actual relationship of Caleb and Othniel?</p> <p>¹⁵ Meaning of the word. What might this suggest about character?</p> <p>¹⁶ Check the Hebrew text.</p> <p>¹⁷ Look up the word. Of what is it a symbol?</p> <p>¹⁸ Why does Achsah see springs in a field as a blessing?</p> <p>¹⁹ Meaning of the word.</p> <p>²⁰ To what does this refer? What is its significance spiritually?</p> <p>²¹ To what does this refer? What is its significance spiritually?</p>
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