

**JUDGES 1-16:
“GOD RAISES UP JUDGES TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE”
STUDY QUESTIONS (59 pts.)**

REVIEW**EXODUS**

- We studied the Mosaic Covenant that the nation of Israel made with Yahweh at Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19 and the Ten Commandments he gave them in Exodus 20.
- We examined the seven trips that Moses made up Mt. Sinai to obtain instruction from God, including the 613 laws in the Law of Moses. In Exodus 28, the calling of Aaron and his sons to be priests. Chapters 25 to 31 instructed Moses how to build the Tabernacle and Holy of Holies.

NUMBERS

- Numbers 7:89 – Yahweh’s presence in the tabernacle
- Numbers 10 – The nation of Israel leaves Sinai.
- Numbers 11:1-3 – The burning at Taberah
- Numbers 11:4-15 – The Israelites weep & long for the food of Egypt
- Numbers 11:16-29 – Yahweh appoints 70 leaders who prophesy.
- Numbers 12 – Miriam chastises her brother Moses & then repents.
- Numbers 13 – Scouts’ false report about Canaan causes a rebellion.
- Numbers 14 – Israel saw God’s miracles but rebelled – will wander for 40 years in the desert until that generation all dies.
- Numbers 16 – Korah’s rebellion.

DEUTERONOMY

In about 1406 BC, Deuteronomy 34 tells us that Moses, at 120 years of age, ascended 5,700 feet up Mt. Nebo, where the Lord showed him the promised land and he passed away.

JOSHUA

- In Joshua 1:1-3, after 40 years of wandering in the desert, Yahweh spoke to Joshua and instructed him to cross the Jordan into the promised land.
- Joshua 2 – The two spies and Rahab the harlot in the city of Jericho

- Joshua 3 – By a miracle the Israelites cross Jordan river on dry ground
- Joshua 4 – By a miracle the walls of Jericho collapse.
- Joshua 10 – Joshua commands the sun & moon to stand still.
- Joshua 10-12 – Utter destruction of every Canaanite city.
- Joshua 24 – Joshua’s farewell address at Schechem.

GOD RAISES UP JUDGES TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE

Deuteronomic Histories

Scholars believe that one group of scribes wrote what are called the “Deuteronomic Histories”: Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings. A “Deuteronomic history” follows this recurring pattern:

1. After a great leader dies, the Israelites do what is evil in the sight of the Lord,
2. They worship foreign gods,
3. The Lord hands them over to the power of their enemies,
4. They are oppressed for a time,
5. Then they remember their God and cry out to him.
6. The Lord raises up another leader or judge to deliver them.

That is the same pattern that we see throughout the book of Judges. For example, after Ehud dies, Judges 4 tells us:

- verse 1 - After Ehud’s death, “The children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord.”
- verse 2 - The Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan
- verse 3 - The children of Israel cried out to God - for 20 years Jabin oppressed them
- verse 4 - Deborah is already functioning as a judge, so God doesn’t need to raise up any new faces as he normally would.

Deborah is the only judge in the book of Judges who does NOT come to power by achieving a major military victory! Her victory came after she had already been a judge.

Chronology

Based on the more traditional estimate that the Exodus began around 1446 BC, the book of Judges covers a time period from about 1350 BC to 1020 BC.

The book of Judges begins with the death of Joshua. After his death, Israel begins to digress morally and theologically. The book ends by describing the terrible spiritual condition Israel is in.

At the end of Judges, the question that confronts the house of Israel is, “Who will save us from this situation?” The book of Ruth introduces David who saves Israel from the situation described at the end of Judges. Samuel is Israel’s final judge and first great prophet after Moses and Joshua.

1 and 2 Samuel are about the rise of a monarchy, the reign of Saul and David, his rise to power and his efforts to restore the proper worship of Yahweh. The united monarchy of Israel begins in 1020 BC with the reign of Saul and continues under David and Solomon until 922 BC, when Solomon dies and a tax revolt under Rehoboam divides the kingdom into two separate nations.

A Series of Oppressors and Deliverers

Judges is about a series of oppressions from which Israel is delivered by a series of judges or great people who arise to free Israel from its oppressors:

- In Judges 1, Judah and Simeon free Israel from their Canaanite oppressors.
- In Judges 2:8, Joshua dies at 110 years of age.
- Judges 3 tells us the story of **Othniel**, a nephew of Caleb, who delivered the Israelites from eight years of oppression under the king of Mesopotamia, after which there was 40 years of peace and freedom.
- Judges 3 also tells us the story of **Ehud** the left-handed Benjaminite who used a cubit-long dagger to assassinate Eglon, the king of Moab, and delivered Israel from 18 years of oppression under the Moabites, after which there was 80 years of peace and freedom.
- Judges 4 and 5 tell us the story of a judge in Israel named **Deborah** who, together with Barak, led Israel to freedom from 20 years Canaanite oppression. Deborah’s story also includes a narrative about **Jael**, the Israelite woman who drove a stake through the brain of the Canaanite army captain named Sisera and nailed his head to the ground.
- Finally, we’re all somewhat familiar with the story of **Samson**, who was a Nazarite and also a judge in Israel for 20 years.

Judges 2:8-12 - A New Generation That Didn’t Know Miracles & Does Evil

Just before Joshua’s death, Yahweh told Joshua that there were still city-states in Canaan that needed to be conquered if the Israelites were to inherit all of the promised land.

In Judges 2:8, Joshua died when he was 110 years old. As a result, only the younger generation existed that had never seen the miracles of the Exodus or at Sinai.

So verses 11-12 tells us that the new generation “did evil” and:

. . . forsook the Lord God of their fathers which brought them out of the land of Egypt and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger.

Judges 2:16-23 - God Raised Up Judges to Guide His People

Judges 2:16 tells us, “Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods.”

The gods that other nations worshipped were as follows:

- Moabites – had a god named Khemōsh
- Ammonites – had a god named Milchum
- Philistines – had a god named Dragōn (spelled Dagōn below)
- Canaanites – had gods named Baal and Ashayrom

Judges 2:20-23 tells us that this angered the Lord and the victories over their enemies they had previously experienced under Joshua had now come to an end.

In Exodus 18, Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, advised him to establish a judicial system among the Israelites with judges who would rule over tens, fifties, hundreds and thousands of people.

With the death of Joshua, Judges 2 is simply saying that they would now rely on the judges to lead them.

Judges 3: Wicked Israel Ruled by Various Oppressors

Judges 3:5-7 says that Israel lived among “the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. They took their daughters to be wives and gave their daughters to their sons and **served their gods**. And the children of Israel **did evil in the sight of the Lord**.” So they were ruled by various oppressors:

- Verse 8 – They were **ruled by the king of Mesopotamia for 8 years**. Then they cried to the Lord and were delivered by a man named Othniel. So the Israelites had **peace for 40 years**.

- Verse 12 – But Israel did evil again, and in verse 14 **served Eglon, king of Moab, for 18 years.** But then they cried to the Lord, and God sent a deliverer named Ehud, a Benjaminite, who assassinated Eglon in his parlor and locked the door so that no one found the king for a while. Ehud then led Israel on a rampage in which they slaughtered 10,000 Moabite “men of valor.”
- So then Israel **rested for 80 years.**
- Finally, Judges 3:31 says that another deliverer named “Shamgar” killed 600 Philistine men with an “ox-goad” (a long, sharp stick like a cattle prod), and by that he delivered Israel as well.

DEBORAH FREES ISRAEL FROM THE CANAANITES

This story is found in Judges 4 and 5.

Judges 4: Deborah, Barak & Jael Defeat Jabin’s (Sisera’s) Canaanite Army

Throughout the first three chapters of Judges, **this new generation of Israelites who never saw the miracles of the Exodus or Sinai live among the Canaanites, adopt their customs, marry their children, worship their gods and generally do evil that displeases the Lord.**

As a result, Judges 4:1 tells us that **the children of Israel were sold “into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor, the captain of whose host was Sisera . . .” For 20 years, Jabin oppressed the children of Israel** because of the power he derived from his 900 chariots of iron.

But Judges 4:4 tells us that there was **a righteous judge named Deborah, a prophetess who judged Israel at the time.**

Judges 4:6-24 is **the story of Deborah the prophetess calling Barak to go with her to lead the Israelites against Sisera, the captain of Jabin’s army that had oppressed them for 20 years:**

- Verses 6-7 – **Deborah** calls **Barak** and commands him to go to Mt. Tabor with 10,000 men, and she promises Barak that God will deliver Sisera into Barak’s hand.
- Verses 8-9 – Barak: I will only go if you go with me. Deborah agreed. So they took 10,000 men to Mount Tabor.
- Verses 12-13 – **Sisera** gathered his 900 chariots and went to Mt. Tabor.
- Verse 14: Deborah to Barak: This day the Lord will deliver Sisera into your hand.
- Verse 15: In the midst of battle, **Sisera jumped off of his chariot and fled.**
- Verse 16: Barak destroyed their entire army of chariots.

- Verse 17: Captain Sisera fled to the tent of a “friendly” party that the Canaanites had maintained a treaty with for many years: Heber the Kenite, whose wife was named “Jael.”
- Verse 18-19: **Jael** went out to meet **Captain Sisera** and told him, “Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; fear not.” Jael then covered him with a mantle and gave him a bottle of milk to drink. Sisera instructed her to stand at the door of the tent and tell people that she had not seen him.
- Verse 21: When **Sisera** was sound asleep, **Jael** quietly sneaked up to Sisera with a hammer and a large spike that was used to anchor the tent. **Jael hammered the large spike into Sisera’s temple repeatedly until she had driven it out the other side of his head and fastened his head to the ground.** So Captain Sisera died. Thus, Jabin, the king of Canaan, was defeated and Israel lived in peace.

Judges 5: The Prophetess/Judge Deborah Sings Praise for Their Victory

At this victory over the Canaanites, the judge and prophetess Deborah and Barak sang praises to Yahweh, the true God.

Then in verses 14-18, Deborah sang the praises of the tribes that had fought so valiantly at Mount Tabor against Sisera’s army of 900 iron chariots.

Finally, in verses 24-26, Deborah the prophetess sang the praises of “Jael” for the way that she so effectively executed Sisera.

GIDEON FREES ISRAEL FROM THE MIDIANITES

This story is found in Judges 6 to 8.

Judges 6:1-10 - The Israelites Do Evil, But Repent – A Prophet is Sent

But just as soon there was a victory, Judges 6:1 tells us that the children of Israel returned to their wicked ways. Therefore, Yahweh gave them a new oppressor who would rule over them for seven years: the Midianites.

When the children of Israel planted crops, verses 4-6 say the Midianites came “as grasshoppers for multitude, for both they and their camels were without number” and devoured all of their crops and took all of their herds. They left absolutely “no sustenance for Israel.” And “Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites.”

Verses 6-7 tells us that then “the children of Israel cried unto the Lord.” Then in Judges 6:8-10, the Lord sent a prophet to explain why this had happened: They had worshipped other gods and had not worshipped Yahweh.

Judges 6:11-32 – An Angel Calls Gideon; Gideon Destroys Altar to Baal

This is the story of a man named Gideon, who at times in scripture is also called Jerubbaal. Judges 6:11 says that Gideon was the son of Joash the Abi-ezrite and lived in Ophrah. Gideon threshed wheat for his father by the winepress to hide it from the Midianites who were inclined to steal any piece of food they could find.

Not far away, an angel of the Lord sat down under an oak tree. When Gideon noticed his presence, the angel said, “The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor.”

Verse 13: Gideon responded to the angel, “O my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where are his miracles which our fathers told us of . . .? But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”

Verse 14: Then in this verse we get the hint that this might be more than an angel, for he is called “Lord” by the narrator as well: “And the Lord looked upon him and said, ‘Go in this thy might and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have not I sent thee?’”

Then in verse 15, Gideon asks the Lord how this will happen, pointing out that “my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.”

In Judges 6:16, the Lord answers, “Surely I will be with you, and you will smite the Midianites as one man.”

In verse 17, Gideon asked for the Lord to show him a sign that this communication he was seeing was real. So the angel told him what to do. Gideon prepared an offering of a young goat, unleavened cakes and broth in a pot.

Verse 20: The angel instructed Gideon to lay the meat and cakes on a rock and pour the broth over them. Verse 21: Then the angel touched this offering with his staff and the offering was consumed by fire. At this point, verse 22 tells us that Gideon was afraid that he had seen an angel face-to-face and might be consumed as well, but in verse 23 the Lord reassured him that he was safe and would not die. Verse 24: So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord. As of the time that Judges was written that spot was called “Ophrah of the Abi-ezrites.”

Verse 25-27: That night the Lord told Gideon to tear down the altar of Baal that belonged to the community and cut down the grove that surrounded it and offer a bull from his father’s herd as a sacrifice to Yahweh. Verse 27: Because he was afraid, Gideon did this at night and took ten men with him.

Verses 28-30: In the morning, when the men of the city saw the altar and its grove cut down to the ground and the bull that was offered upon it, they said to Joash, "Bring out your son, that he may die."

Verse 31: But Joash basically said: Are you really going to stand there and defend Baal? You're the ones who should be put to death. If he really exists, let Baal plead his own case.

Judges 6:33 – Midianites & Amalekites Camp in the Valley of Jezreel

Judges 6:1-10 told us that the Midianites and Amalekites had been like grasshoppers and had devoured every crop of the Israelites and taken every animal they could find. As a result, there was nothing left for Israel to eat and they were impoverished.

Now, verse 33 tells us that they were mobilizing again in the valley of Jezreel to launch another offensive. In response, Gideon blew the trumpet and his immediate relatives of Abi-ezrites gathered to him. Then Gideon sent messengers to Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali, and these tribes all came to meet him.

Judges 6:36-40 – A Sign That God Would Use Gideon to Save Israel

In Judges 6:36, Gideon asks the Lord for one more sign so that Gideon could know that he was truly called to lead these tribes of Israel to victory over their oppressors, the Midianites and Amalekites who had ruled over them for seven years. Gideon did not want to lead anyone to lose their lives for a cause that was not of God.

In verse 37, Gideon asked that there would first be dew upon the fleece of wool but that the ground around it would be dry. The next morning this was fulfilled.

In verse 39, Gideon said to the Lord, Please don't be angry with me but inculge me with one more test: Let the fleece be dry and the ground around it be wet with dew. The next day this was fulfilled.

Judges 7 – The Lord Trims the Number of Gideon's Army

So in Judges 7:1-3, Gideon gathered together an army of 32,000 men upon Mount Gilead. The Midianites and Amalekites were encamped in the valley of Jezreel below. Judges 6:5-6 had previously told us they had been "as grasshoppers" because there were so many of them they couldn't be counted.

And then the Lord said a curious thing in Judges 7:2:

The people who are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, 'Mine own hand has saved me.'

In other words, if they had won with 32,000 soldiers, they would have taken all the credit for themselves and given no glory to God.

So in Judges 7:3, Gideon said, "Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from Mount Gilead." Hearing this, 22,000 Israelites immediately left, and 10,000 remained.

But in verse 4, the Lord told Gideon that there were still too many because Israel would still take credit and not give glory to God. So in verses 5-6, the Lord and Gideon conducted a test. They had everyone drink from a body of water. Those who bowed down to drink would be eliminated, and those who used their hands to drink while watching the horizon would stay. Only 300 men passed this last test. So 9,700 more were sent home. Now with 300 men, they would be forced to admit that it was God's power and not their own that won the victory.

Verse 9: That same night Gideon and his servant went down in the valley to spy on their enemies, who verse 12 says once again were "like grasshoppers" or "the sand of the seaside" because they were so numerous.

Verse 16: Gideon divided his 300 men into three companies. He put a trumpet in every man's hand and gave them pitchers with lamps inside the pitchers. Verse 18: When Gideon blew his trumpet, the others would blow theirs and say, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon." They would then break their lamps and charge.

In Judges 7:20, this attack was carried out just as Gideon had instructed. Verse 21: And all the Midianites & Amalekites ran and fled from them. Verse 23: The men of Israel pursued after them.

In Judges 8:4, Gideon's 300 men pursued after the Midianites and Amalekites over the Jordan river. In Judges 8:10, it says that 120,000 men had fallen by the sword and only 15,000 of their enemies remained. In Judges 8:22, Gideon slew the last two remaining Midianite kings.

Then in verse 22 the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us . . . for thou hast delivered us from the had of Midian." But in verse 24 he responded, "I will not rule over you . . . the Lord shall rule over you."

In Judges 8:28, it says that, as a result of Gideon's efforts, Israel was at peace for a period of 40 years. Verse 30 says that Gideon had "many wives" and 70 sons, and he lived a very long life. He also had one son named "Abimelech" who was born to a concubine.

The Wickedness of Israel and Abimelech

Verse 33: But as soon as Gideon died, the Israelites began once again to worship Baal.

In Judges 9:5-6, his wicked son, **Abimelech** killed all 70 of his brothers and then made himself king over Israel. Several small groups revolted against this.

In one attack on an upstart city, Abimelech fought hard against this city to bring it into submission to his rule. But Judges 9:51-57 tells us that as he was attacking the door of a tower, a woman dropped a millstone on his head and broke his skull. Abimelech told his armor bearer to kill him, to avoid the shame of being killed by a female in this way. Judges 9:56 says this was God's retribution for the wickedness Abimelech had exhibited in killing his 70 half-brothers.

SAMSON FIGHTS THE PHILISTINES

This story is found in Judges 13 to 16.

Samson the Nazarite

Judges 13:1 says, **“And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines forty years.”**

Judges 13:2 says that a man named “Manoah” was of the tribe of Dan, lived in Zorah and had a wife who was barren (could not have children). An angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said:

“Thou shalt conceive and bear a son . . . drink no wine or strong drink . . . no razor shall come on his head, for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb. And he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”

Note: In Numbers 6:1-21, a “Nazarite” is one set apart for a special purpose. In that chapter it says that a Nazarite shall not drink wine or strong drink, no vinegar, wine or liquor. A Nazarite shall never cut his hair. He shall be holy. He can never touch a dead body, even his father or mother or brother or sister when they die. He “is holy unto the Lord.”

Then in Judges 13:8-20, the angel appeared once again, this time to both Manoah and his wife, and he gave the same instruction.

Then in verse 24 it says “the barren woman” had a son and called his name “**Samson.**” It also says, “the child grew and the Lord blessed him. And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him . . .”

Samson and the Philistine Woman From Timnath: Samson Kills 30 Men

In Judges 14, Samson the Nazarite falls in love with a Philistine woman from Timnath. This was a time of arranged marriages.

Samson went to Timnath and saw a Philistine woman that he was determined to marry. He returned home and instructed his parents in verse 2 and 3, “Get her for me to wife . . . for she pleases me well.” His parents thought it was odd that he would not marry an Israelite woman, but verse 4 says “this was of the Lord” because the Lord “sought an occasion against the Philistines.”

So the three of them traveled to Timnath, and on the way a young lion roared at them. In Judges 14:6, the “Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him.” Samson picked up the lion and simply tore him into parts killing him instantly. Samson went on to Timnath to talk with the woman. On his return trip, he saw that the lion’s carcass contained a swarm of bees and honey, which he took home for his parents to eat.

It was the custom to offer a feast when a young man was to marry a woman. At the feast, Samson gave the Philistine guests a riddle to solve. If they could solve the riddle, he would pay them a large sum of “thirty sheets and thirty change of garments.” If not, they’d have to pay him. They had seven days to give him the answer.

Verse 15: The Philistine men threatened the woman and said they would burn her and burn down her father’s house if she did not obtain the answer to that riddle and give it to them by sundown of the seventh day, the last day of the feast. The woman wept and told Samson he didn’t care about her or her family because he wouldn’t tell her the answer. On the seventh day, Samson relented and finally told her the answer, which she conveyed to the Philistine men. When he saw that the woman had betrayed him, Samson was furious.

Evidently, the Lord was using this entire situation to accomplish his purposes. Judges 14:19 says, “And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle.” So he paid his debt by killing some Philistines.

But then in the last verse of Judges 14 we find that the woman’s father changed his mind and gave Samson’s fiancé away to a friend of Samson’s to be his wife.

Samson Enraged: Burns Philistine Cornfields, Kills 1,000 Men With the Jawbone of an Ass, But Then Serves as a Judge in Israel for 20 Years

In Judges 15:1-3, Samson came to her father to claim her as his wife, but the father-in-law told him the sad news that he had already given his daughter to a friend of Samson's to marry. Samson was enraged.

In Judges 15:5-6, Samson killed 300 foxes. He then tied several tails together and used these as "firebrands" to set the Philistines' cornfields on fire. The Philistines were told that Samson did this. As a result, in verse 6 the Philistines burnt his alleged father-in-law to be and the daughter with fire.

In Judges 15:7, Samson told them he would be avenged. In verse 8, Samson killed many Philistines with a "great slaughter." He then went to the top of the rock at Etam to sit and think.

Verses 9 and 10: Then the Philistines descended on Judah to seek revenge. Judah asked why they were doing this. The Philistines explained it was because of the injury Samson had inflicted on them.

In Judges 15:11-14, then 3,000 men of Judah came to Samson at the rock at Etam and asked Samson, Aren't you aware that the Philistines are rulers over us?

Samson replied, I just did to them what they did to me. The 3,000 men of Judah said, We are come to bind you and bring you to the Philistines. And when he arrived all tied up, the Philistines "shouted against him."

But then verses 14-20 say:

"The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands. And **he found a new jawbone of an ass**, and put forth his hand and took it, and **slew a thousand men therewith** . . . And he was sore athirst and called on the Lord and said . . . **and now shall I die for thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised? But God clave a hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water thereout**; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived . . . **And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.**

SAMSON KILLS THOUSANDS OF PHILISTINE ROYALTY

The Philistines occupied what is referred to as Gaza. Samson often went to visit Gaza. Judges 16:4 tells us that in the valley of Sorek lived a woman named “Delilah,” who Samson loved. The Philistine men told Delilah to try and find out what was the secret of his strength.

In Judges 16:6-20, Delilah is unrelenting and presses Samson over and over to tell her the secret of his strength. Samson teases her by making up three different stories, none of which turn out to be true. Each time, anticipating that Samson would be weak and helpless, Delilah had Philistine men waiting in secret to then capture Samson.

Finally, on the fourth try in Judges 16:17, Samson tells Delilah the truth, that he is a Nazarite and his hair has remained uncut. So while he is sleeping with his head on her lap, a man comes in and cuts Samson’s hair. In verse 21, the Philistines put Samson’s eyes out and bind him with fetters of brass and throw him in a prison house.

Then in Judges 16:23, a while later thousands of lords and royalty of the Philistines gather for a celebration in a spacious building to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon to rejoice over this victory. On the roof alone, 3,000 people were partying.

It was a time of great celebration, and they called for blind Samson to be brought to the party so they could make fun of his weakened condition and celebrate their victory. By this time Samson’s hair had grown out. He asked the boy who was guiding him by the hand to show him the two central pillars that held up this entire edifice.

In Judges 16:28, Samson called to the Lord and said:

“O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.”

In verses 29-30, Samson pushed upon the two pillars of that building and Samson prayed, **“Let me die with the Philistines.”** Verse 30 says, “And the house fell upon the lords and all the people that were therein. **So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.**” And he was buried in the same place as his father, Manoah.

QUESTIONS

NOTE: If a question is worth two points, you need to give me two answers. If it's worth three points, I'm looking for three answers, etc. So always pay attention to the number of points!

Judges 2: God Raises Up Judges to Lead His People

1. When Joshua died at 110 years of age in Judges 2:8, according to verses 11-12, how did the object of worship change for the younger generation that had not seen God's miracles in the desert? (1 pt.)

2. In Judges 2:16, what leaders did God raise up who tried to talk Israel out of worshipping other gods? (1 pt.)_

3. The time under Joshua's leadership in the book of Joshua had been a pattern of one victory after another as Israel rapidly expanded its control over the promised land. But in Judges 2:20, Israel is told that "These people have transgressed my covenant." What covenant that was made in Exodus 19 is verse 20 referring to? (1 pt.)

4. According to Judges 2:21-23, what would change about Israel's successes in war? (1 pt.)

Exodus 18: The Judicial System Established by Moses

5. In Exodus 18:12-27:
 - a. Who advised Moses to create a judicial system? (1 pt.)

 - b. In Exodus 18:21, Moses created judges to act as rulers at four different levels, thus creating an appellate court system. What were those four levels (numbers of people)? (4 pts.)

Judges 3: Israel's Repeated Unfaithfulness, Oppression & Deliverance

6. In Judges 3:5-7, what happened to Israel's faith in Yahweh? (1 pt.)

7. According to Judges 3:8 & 14, how many years did the king of Mesopotamia and the king of Moab hold Israel under their control? (1 pt.)

8. In Judges 2:10, what was it that the new generation of Israelites never saw Yahweh do that caused them to worship other gods? (1 pt.)

The Canaanites Oppress Israel

9. According to Judges 4:1, how many years were the children of Israel oppressed by Jabin, king of the Canaanites? (1 pt.)

10. Who was the righteous judge in Judges 4:4-6 who called Barak to rise up as military leader to defeat their Canaanite oppressors? (1 pt.)

11. In Judges 4:6-7, what did Deborah the prophetess promise Barak if he would be faithful and perform his duty as a military leader against the Canaanites who had oppressed them for 20 years (a promise reiterated in verse 14)? (1 pt.)

12. We read that Captain Sisera of the Canaanite army abandoned his iron chariot and fled the battle. He fled to what he thought was a friendly person's tent. At the tent he was met by a woman named "Jael." In Judges 4:18-21, what did Jael do that resulted in Sisera's death? (2 pts.)

The Midianites Oppress Israel

13. Judges 6:1 starts this repeated cycle of disobedience, oppression and deliverance over again by saying, "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord delivered them into the hand of _____ for seven years." (1 pt.)
14. Judges 6:2, because of the Midianites the people of Israel sought refuge from their oppression in what places? (1 pt.)
15. In Judges 6:3-5, how much of Israel's crops and herds would the Midianites and Amalekites leave behind for Israel to sustain itself? (1 pt.)
16. In Judges 6:5, it also says that the Midianites "came as _____." (1 pt.)
17. In Judges 6:6, it says that "Israel was _____ because of the Midianites." (1 pt.)

Gideon's Army of 300 Men Rally Various Tribes to Defeat 120,00 Midianites

18. Judges 6:11 is where the story of Gideon begins in a village called Ophrah. In verse 11, why did Gideon thresh his wheat by a winepress? (1 pt.)

19. In Judges 6:12, the heavenly messenger "appeared" unto Gideon was called "the angel of the Lord." This angel said, "The Lord is with thee, thou _____ ." (1 pt.)

20. When Gideon asked in verse 13 where God's miracles were, this person that Gideon called "lord" told him simply in verse 14, "Go in this thy might and thou shalt _____ from the hand of the Midianites; have not _____?" (2 pts)

21. When Gideon asked for a sign in Judges 6:17-24, what sign did the angel give to him to show his power? (1 pt.)

Gideon Destroys the Altar to Baal

22. In Judges 6:25-32, Yahweh told Gideon to "throw down" an altar and grove that was dedicated to worship what god? (1 pt.)

23. In Judges 6:30, what did the men of the city want to do to Gideon? (1 pt.)

24. How did Gideon's father, Joash the Abi-ezrite, respond to these men in verse 32? (1 pt.)

The Midianites & Amalekites Gather in the Jezreel Valley

25. In Judges 6:34, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon and he blew a trumpet to summon his more immediate relatives who were descendants of what man? (1 pt.)
26. In Judges 6:36-40, Gideon asked for two more signs before he might possibly lead men of Israel to their deaths in fighting against Midian. What were those two signs? (2 pts.)
27. In Judges 7:1, Gideon gathered men from several tribes to the well of Harod on the south side of a hill called "Moreh," and on the north side of that hill were the Midianites in the valley of Jezreel. Then the Lord said something very strange to Gideon in verse 2. He said, "The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel _____ against me, saying '_____.'" (1 pt.)
28. In Judges 7:3, Gideon said whoever is afraid may go home. How many men went home at that point, and how many remained? (2 pts.)
29. But in Judges 7:4, the Lord strangely concluded once again that 10,000 men was too many. What was the test that 9,700 men failed in verses 4-6 of this chapter? (1 pt.)
30. In Judges 7:6-7, how many men passed this final test? (1 pt.)
31. So on that very same night, Judges 7:9-22 tells us that each of the 300 men had what two objects in their hands? (2 pts.)

32. After defeating the Midianites in the Jezreel valley, Judges 7:23-8:10 tells us that these 300 men gathered reinforcements from various tribes and pursued the armies of the east until Judges 8:10 tell us how many died who from the army of the east that had originally gathered in Jezreel? (1 pt.)

33. According to Judges 8:28, how many years of peace and freedom from oppression did this bring as Gideon ruled a judge in Israel? (1 pt.)

34. In Judges 8:30, how many wives did Gideon have, and how many sons did Gideon have? (2 pts.)

The Philistines Oppress Israel

35. In Judges 13:1, we start the cycle of disobedience, oppression and deliverance all over again. In verse 1 it tells us, "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines _____ years." (1 pt.)

36. In Judges 13, we read the story of a Danite named "Manoah" and a companion that is simply called "his wife," a woman who was barren. In Judges 13:3-7, an angel of God appears to the wife. In verses 8-25, the angel appears to both Manoah and his wife. They were told that they would have a son who would be a Nazirite (see Numbers 6 to understand this). Therefore, what dietary restrictions was the wife instructed to follow because her son would be a Nazirite? (1 pt.)

37. In Judges 13:24, what was the son's name? (1 pt.)

Samson, the Nazarite & Judge, Kills 1,000 Philistines & Burns Their Crops

38. In Judges 14, Samson went to Timnath and saw a Philistine woman that he was determined to marry. This was a time of arranged marriages. He returned home and instructed his parents in verse 2 and 3, "Get her for me to wife . . . for she pleases me well." His parents thought it was odd that he would not marry a Philistine, but verse 4 says "this was of the Lord" because the Lord "sought an occasion against _____."
_____." (1 pt.)
39. On their way to Timnath, they encountered a young lion. The Lord's Spirit came upon Samson. What did Samson do in verse 6 with that lion? (1 pt.)
40. In Judges 14:8-9, on his way back from Timnath, what did Samson find in the carcass of the lion, and what did he do with that thing he found? (2 pts.)
41. At the feast to celebrate Samson's engagement to the woman of Timnath, Samson wagered that 30 Philistine men who were there would not be able to solve a riddle within seven days: "What is sweeter than honey and stronger than a lion?" The men threatened his fiancé that they would burn her and her family if she didn't solve the riddle and give the answer to them by the seventh day. Samson's fiancé begged him to tell her the answer, but Samson would not give her the answer to the riddle until the evening of the seventh day. She immediately told the Philistines. As a result, Samson owed them payment for the wager. When Samson found that she had told the secret, he was furious. Samson then killed 30 men at Ashkelon and paid his wager with the property he obtained from these dead Philistines. What is strange about Judges 14:19 when it says that before he killed them, "the Spirit of the Lord came upon him"? (1 pt.)

42. Judges 14:20-15:2 tells us that Samson's future father-in-law then double-crossed Samson and gave his engaged daughter to another man to be his wife. In Judges 15:4-6, what did Samson do in response, and in verse 6 what did the Philistines do to the father-in-law and his daughter as retaliation for Samson's actions? (2 pts.)
43. In Judges 15:7-8, how did Samson respond to the Philistines killing his father-in-law and the father-in-law's daughter? (1 pt.)
44. Then in Judges 15:9 a large number of Philistines encamped in Judah's territory. In verse 11, 3,000 men of Judah came to Samson and asked, "Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What have you done to us?" How did Samson respond to this in verse 11? (1 pt.)

Samson Kills 1,000 Philistines and Becomes a Judge in Israel

45. So in Judges 15:12-14, the 3,000 men of Judah bound Samson with two new cords and transported him to the Philistines where verse 14 says, "The Philistines shouted against him." But then verse 14 tells us that "the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him." What happened next in verses 14-15? (1 pt.)
46. After so much killing, Samson was dying from thirst. In Judges 15:19, what miracle did God provide to give Samson the water he needed? (1 pt.)

47. In Judges 15:20, how many years did Samson serve as a judge in Israel after this dramatic series of events? (1 pt.)

Samson & Delilah: Samson Kills Thousands of Philistine Royalty

48. In Judges 16:1-4, Samson spent the night with a Philistine harlot. During the night, a large number of Philistine men surrounded the house and waited until morning when they would kill Samson. At midnight, Samson arose. What does verse 3 say he carried on his shoulders from Gaza to the top of a hill that looked out over the city of Hebron? (1 pt.)
49. Judges 16:4 is the beginning of the story about Samson and Delilah, a Philistine woman who lived in the valley of Sorek. The “lords of the Philistines” told Delilah to “entice” Samson to tell her the secret of his strength and they would give Delilah what? (1 pt.)
50. On three occasions in Judges 16, Delilah implores Samson to tell her where his supernatural strength came from. Three times, Samson toyed with Delilah and gave her false explanations, misleading her each time. Finally, on the fourth attempt, Judges 16:16 says that he was “vexed unto death.” At this point, Samson finally relented and told Delilah where his strength came from. Judges 15:17 tells us that he gave her a sincere explanation that he was a Nazarite and if his hair was shaved he would lose his strength. In Judges 16:19, what did Delilah do to cut Samson’s hair? (1 pt.)
51. What did the Philistine men do to Samson in Judges 16:21? (1 pt.)
52. After a period of time, Judges 16:23 says that the Philistines threw a massive party for thousands of royal guests to offer a sacrifice to their god Dagon and celebrate what event? (1 pt.)

53. In Judges 16:25, why did these Philistine royal lords call for Samson to come from the prison to this party? (1 pt.)

54. Just on the roof of this massive building alone, how many men and women were gathered according to Judges 16:27? (1 pt.)

55. As Samson stood between two major pillars of that building, Judges 16:28 says he uttered a prayer: "O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God . . ." Then in verse 30 as he held the two pillars what did he say to God? (1 pt.)

56. In Judges 16:30, how many Philistines did he kill that day in comparison to the number he had killed over the course of his life? (1 pt.)

57. Then Judges 16:31 ends the chapter by repeating what was said in Judges 15:20. What did these two verses say about Samson? (1 pt.)