

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #8 – Judges

PRAYER:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with me now as I study the Book of Judges. Remind me again of your great patience towards the Israelites and me. Please intervene in the cycles of sinful behavior with which I struggle. Send Your Holy Spirit to lead me in all I think, say or do. I pray in Your precious name. Amen.

Notes on Judges:

The Book of Judges covers quite a long period of time in period of God's people. Generally, the time frame was from 1380-1050 B.C. It covers from Joshua's death to the beginning of time of the Kings. Saul was the first King.

There are 12 judges written about in this Book. A judge was someone God chose to be a spiritual/military leader. In every case, one of the local enemies was oppressing a portion of the Israelites. The judge was used to help free the people.

As you get into the Book of Judges, you will notice that the same kind of things seem to happen over and over again. Especially with the major judges you will see this cycle:

1. Things are going well.
2. Then the people fall away from God and do evil things.
3. A foreign nation comes to oppress some of the Israelites.
4. The Israelites cry to God for help and repent of their sins.
5. God give His Spirit to a person to serve as a judge to free the people.
6. Things go well again as long as the judge is alive.

The cycle happens so many times that you wonder how slow to learn they must have been. Once again, we must remember this period was over 300 years, longer than the U.S.A. has been around. Given enough time mankind seems doomed to relive past mistakes. One of the great lessons of Judges is the amazing patience of our heavenly Father. How many times will God forgive? Look at your own life and you know there is no end to His love.

Questions:

1. In Joshua 24, the people promised to obey the Lord. Read Judges 2. How did the people break their promises?
2. The Period of Judges is also called the Old Testament Age of the Spirit. Read Judges 3:10; 6:34; 11:29; 13:25; 14:6 & 9 and 15:14. In the New Testament read Acts 1:2 & 8. How were all these things made possible?

3. Judges 3:12-30 – How did Ehud fool King Eglon when he killed him?

4. Judges 4 & 5 – What do you remember the most about the only woman judge, Debora?

5. Judges 6 & 7 – The Lord gave Gideon many proofs of His presence. Name two things the Lord did to show Gideon He really was with him.

6. Judges 7 – Gideon started out with 32,000 men to fight the Midianites. He finally defeated them with 300 men. Why did the Lord want a small number to win the battle?

7. Judges 9 – I would not call Abimelech a judge because of the way he gained his power. What was different with Abimelech and the judges?

8. Judges 11 – Jephthah made a vow that ended up costing him his daughter. He did not need to do such a foolish thing. What does this teach us?

9. Judges 13-16 – Samson is probably the best known judge. Where did he get his strength? (see 14:19; 15:14; 16:28)

Your questions on Judges...

Begin reading Ruth.